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THE GROWLER

Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri

OHS Interact serves school & community



OHS Interact steering committee members front left, Keiton Johnson, treasurer; Shelby Brown, secretary; Abigail Williams, president; Trace Kelly, vice president; and Hannah Begemann, communications officer. Back, Crisa Seals, and John Carmody, sponsors.

by Kaleigh Snow and Nikole Smith

Students and teachers joined with the Odessa Rotary Club to create a new student club, OHS Interact. The club began its planning phase last year and officially formed for the 2019-20 school year. Sponsors, John Carmody, OHS math teacher, and Crisa Seals, OHS Special Education teacher, will work with the 30 new members.

Students' understanding the importance of helping others was why Hannah Spaar, News Editor of *The Odessan* and *Focus on Oak Grove*, and several other Rotary members reached out last fall to Brad Briscoe, OHS principal, and Bob Brinkley, former superintendent, to begin the student chapter.

"Last spring, we held our first interest meeting and formed an eight-person steering committee who worked on the club bylaws and the ideas for this year's service projects," Spaar said. "Five of those steering committee members went on to be officers, and a

sixth is a club member."

Rotary members then contacted teachers to sponsor the club. Finally, students were initially recruited because of their leadership ability and interest in service, but the club is still open to all students who want to join.

"I think starting an Interact chapter at OHS is important because it is a way for community members to help our youth grow into being good citizens and active community members," Spaar said.

Spaar said that in the last few years, teenagers have mentioned to her that young people don't think they can make a difference in the world. She hopes the Interact Club helps students learn to look for ways to make the world better and to make a positive difference.

"My hope," Spaar said, "is the members carry that into their lives, becoming involved in their future communities, including ours here in Odessa, through service clubs, public service roles and more."

Interact is Rotary International's service club for high

school students. Student clubs are sponsored by local Rotary clubs that provide support and guidance. Odessa Rotary has a three-person committee dedicated to OHS Interact. Spaar is the committee chair, and the other members are Dawn Jennings and Dennis Hisek.

Interact clubs are about developing leadership skills while having fun, serving the community and learning about the world. Interact clubs organize a minimum of two projects every year, one that helps the school or community and one that is international.

"I would like for this club to be an outreach from our school and maybe complete projects with other schools," Seals said. "I would like for our members to grow personally and understand the importance of service to others and to promote leadership."

Spaar said her main goal is to see the club succeed, and she is encouraged by how the officers have taken charge.

"Every single one of them (the officers) has impressed me with their leadership and vision for the club," Spaar said.

Spaar also is encouraging the officers to pursue a presidential citation in the future by completing activities beyond the two service projects that are required. They won't be eligible this year because the club was not chartered by the beginning of the Rotary year.

"I'm encouraging the board to do all the activities required," Spaar said, "so that next year and the following years, when it really counts, it seems easy."

The club has a few ideas for future service. Rotary See **INTERACT**, page 3

Junior varsity volleyball ends season undefeated



Teagan Sumy, junior JV volleyball player, jumps up to hit the ball. The team ended the season 14-0.

by Brittany Affolter

OHS JV volleyball team ended the season 14-0 on October 24 at Pleasant Hill. The team defeated the Roosters 2-1 under the direction of new coach, Carmen Herzberg, who teaches seventh grade math at OMS.

This team, according to Herzberg, has good chemistry, and it shows on and off the court.

"This team has good energy," Herzberg said. "They are always exciting and upbeat, so it's fun to go to practice."

Herzberg taught for a year and was an assistant coach at Maple Valley Anthon Oto in Iowa before she and her husband, Travis, moved to the Buckner area in June.

"I was so excited when I got the call from Odessa," Herzberg said. "As they started talking to me about coaching, it was just icing on the cake."

Herzberg said she was nervous at the beginning of the

season but soon was able to mesh with the team.

"These girls were so inviting," Herzberg said. "At first, I was really shy and awkward, but once I got to know them, I was able to open up. Since then, I feel like we all blend really well."

According to Lexi Adamec, freshmen middle, the team had specific goals for the season.

"Our goals were to cover all of our holes and open spaces, to always have good attitudes and to go undefeated," Adamec said.

Adamec said she believed her team achieved their goals for the season.

Maddy Ellis, junior outside hitter, said her personal goals for the season were to improve her passing and to have more accuracy on her hits.

"My passing and hits are See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 3

New OHS history teacher enjoys interacting with students

by Ashley Overcast

Miles Hochard, OHS social studies teacher, enjoys traveling so he can see the history in person. He has traveled to Costa Rica, Cancun and more than ten other countries in Europe gaining first-hand history knowledge that can be shared with students.

Hochard, while new to the district, is not new to education. He has seven years of experience and taught at Liberty North High School before coming to OHS where he is also a football coach. Hochard, who played football in college, is the JV offensive coordinator, and he coaches receivers and corners.

However, Hochard didn't always want to be in the education field. He originally planned on becoming a lawyer and was accepted into several law schools. He joked that he changed his career path to teaching because of the money, fame and glamour. In reality, he said he changed his original course because he wanted to be able to make an impact on a daily basis. Teaching and coaching give him that opportunity.

"I love Odessa," Hochard said. I like the small town community, the culture and how supportive it is."

"Coach Hochard has been a tremendous addition to our already outstanding coaching staff," Mark Thomas, OHS head football coach, said. "He brings great enthusiasm, a strong base of knowledge, an outstanding ability to teach, and a passion for football and coaching in general."

Hochard grew up in Farley, which had a population of approximately 250 people. In high school he was a four-time varsity football letterman, a two-year varsity wrestling letterman, a Science Club member and was part of the yearbook committee. He was on the 2005 state championship football team at West Platte High School.

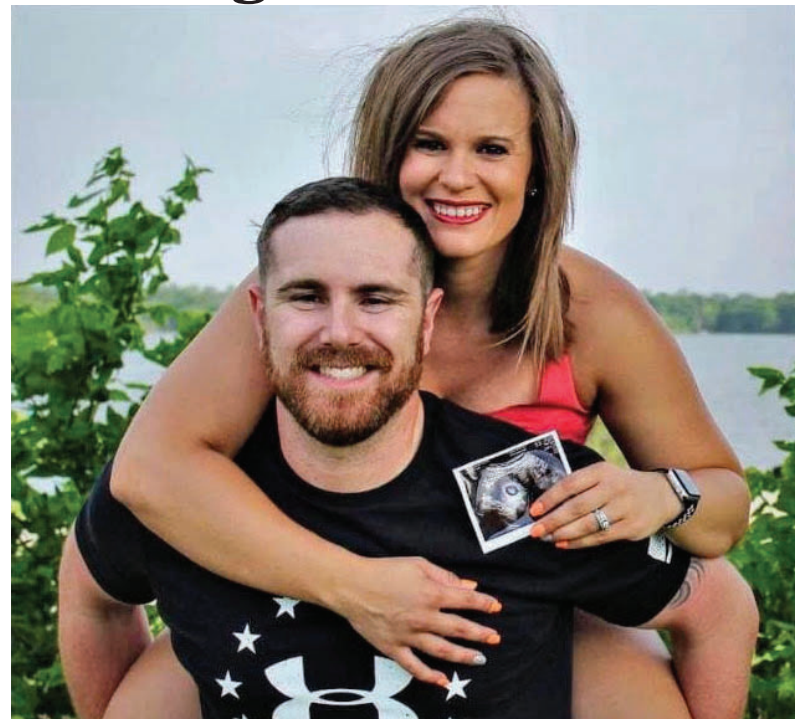
Hochard received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration from William Jewell in 2012. He also played football at William Jewell. He received his Master's in Education in Secondary Edu-

cation from Rockhurst University in 2016. He obtained alternative certification during his first few years of teaching when he worked at Tonka, Southwest, Blue Valley North and Pembroke as he worked on his master's degree. He will finish his Educational Degree Specialist in Principalship in May of 2020 from Arkansas State.

"Coach Hochard is a fantastic addition to our Social Studies department," Terry Stever, department head, said. "He is full of energy and always inspiring the students and teachers alike. He brings enthusiasm for the subject and is a great teacher."

Before coming to Odessa, Hochard taught middle school physical education, athletic strength training, international relations and contemporary issues.

Hochard and his wife of two years, Katelyn, live in Liberty. When not taking care of their two dogs, Titusa, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, and Tiberius, a corgi chow mix, he and his wife enjoy powerlifting together for the competition and to stay in



Miles Hochard, OHS history teacher, and his wife, Katelyn, are expecting their first child, Easton Colt Hochard, in early January.

shape. However, their lives are about to change as they are expecting their first child, Easton Colt Hochard, in early January.

"Miles is a kid magnet," Brad Briscoe, principal, said. "His engaging teaching style and

ability to forge quality relationships with students allows him to maximize the learning experience in his classroom. His room is full of energy on a daily basis creating a positive learning environment for all students."

Program encourages McQuerry families to read together

by Anna Bradley & Emma Austin

McQuerry Elementary students who struggle to enjoy reading are getting help from Humphrey the hamster through a school reading initiative. The mystery-solving hamster has been grabbing the students' attention as they try to solve mysteries along with Humphrey.

Students and faculty are participating in a Whole School Read Program, developed by Daniel Armstrong, principal, to provide connections between students and their families.

The program was modeled after the One School, One Book program; however, Armstrong decided to create his own version of a reading program to give him more freedom. He chose the book *Mysteries According to Humphrey*, because

he found the books for a good price allowing books to be purchased for each family represented in the school.

Armstrong created a calendar that he sent home with the books. The calendar maps out how many pages families are supposed to read together each night, so the whole school is on the same page. Teachers also read and reinforce the pages the next day at school.

"I think it's a great opportunity for kids and parents to read together," Armstrong said. He also said he hopes to bring more excitement for reading into the school.

Humphrey, the main character, is a hamster. In the book, it is almost Halloween, and the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane is missing. Humphrey has to solve the mystery, a big one.

This might be hard, but Humphrey is smart. And the "Case of the Missing Mrs. Brisbane" is only one of the mysteries Humphrey has to unravel. Each chapter in the book contains its own mystery.

Nicole Madsen, kindergarten teacher, said the program has created a fun environment. Madsen said the hardest part for the kindergartners is that they are used to picture books, and this is a chapter book. However, she said it is helping them learn to use their imaginations. She said her students love trying to figure out the mysteries and enjoy being "little detectives."

Cooper Bradley, second-grader in Rebecca Miller's class, said, "My favorite thing about the book is that there are a lot of mysteries, and

Humphrey tries to figure them out. It makes it interesting." Cooper also said he thinks it is "cool" that the whole school is reading the same book, and he would like to read another book like this again.

"We enjoy reading Humphrey together as it is such a great mystery book," Candice Bradley, Cooper's mom, said. "It has kept Cooper's attention and keeps him eager to read. He also enjoys going to school and listening to the questions Mr. Armstrong asks about the book. Cooper struggles to find literature that he truly enjoys and keeps his attention, but this book has definitely kept his interest."

Armstrong said he would love to choose a different book and encourage family reading again next year.

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OHS Interact club plans to assist internationally

INTERACT, from 1 members and club sponsors are working to have students help local service clubs and non-profits with their events. Their first major service project will be to partner with McQuerry Elementary for National Read Across America Day. Interact members will read books to the children to help promote literacy. Club members will continue to work together to create service projects to benefit the community.

"I'd like to see us do one community project and clean up some areas of the town," Carmody said. "Maybe we could do a holiday project also. I would like to contact the state of Missouri and see if we can get involved with them somehow."

Interact members are also hoping to participate in an international project to benefit Puerto Rico. Odessa Rotary has been in contact with Puerto Rican Rotary looking for a project that would help provide agricultural aid after hurricanes damaged the area.

Spaar said she believes an international understanding is important for young people. She has experienced world cultures through her travels and is excited to pass some of that knowledge on to students.

"I think we're all better when we understand and re-

spect other people," Spaar said. "I think this is a way to show students the world beyond Missouri while also showing that people are people, wherever they are."

To help raise money for service projects, Interact members have been working concession stands and will soon kick off other fundraisers.

"The steering committee (made up of officers and sponsors) talked about possibly doing a bake sale or a dinner to raise funds," Seals said.

The members also play a quarter game at every meeting to raise money. Members bring quarters and give them to the club officers. Then, in return, they get to ask a question to a member of their choice. This raises money and helps the members get to know each other.

Interact officers are Abigail Williams, president, Trace Kelley, vice president, Shelby Brown, secretary, Keiton Johnson, treasurer, and Hannah Begemann, communications officer.

"I hope to get the club off to a great start, get more people involved and make things fun," Williams said. "I want to have a major role in this important new club for Odessa. I want to not only help our community, but the world."

OMS students get to meet with author



Sam Gillespie, eighth-grader, participates in a Skype session with author Dusti Bowling, in the OMS library.

by Amelia Burch and Liberty Hobson

Odessa Middle School students crowded around Dusti Bowling, author of *The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*, and her pet bird on October 15 in the OMS library. The fourteen students who read her book participated in a meet and greet, but Bowling was in Arizona. The Skype session was made possible by the technology available at OMS.

Susan Lefman, OMS librarian, saw on Twitter that the author posted an opportunity for schools to be awarded one of several free Skype sessions.

"I talked to Mrs. Malizzi (Kendra Malizzi, OMS principal), and we went back and forth to work out the details,"

Lefman said. "It just so happens, we got our session on Teen Read Week."

According to Lefman, the Skype session helped students feel more connected to the book by talking with the author. Students were able to ask the author questions and hear about her inspiration.

"I loved this Skype call," Emily Bischoff, OMS student, said. "Dusti Bowling is inspiring, and her life is part of the book. She has had some sad moments in her life, but she has gotten over them."

Cactus, as Bowling calls it, is about a young girl named Aven Green, who was born without arms. Through this story, Green forms friendships with two other characters who have challenges in their lives. One is overweight and the other has Tourette's Syndrome. However, together, they are able to find friendship, face obstacles and come to terms with their social differences.

Bowling explained to students how she got the inspiration for the book. "I have to go all the way back in my life to 2008," Bowling said. "I got a phone call about my cousin who was serving in the war in Iraq." She said she was told that he was in a coma, had been severely injured, was going to lose his arm and both of his eyes.

"I did a lot of research about what his life might be like with only one arm," Bowling said. "I also found that despite having been reading children's books my whole life, I had never seen a character with a limb difference." Bowling said after that, she always had it in her mind that someone should write a story with a character like that. So, she decided to do just that.

After the book was published, many people with disabilities, including parents of children with disabilities, reached out to Bowling telling her how amazing it was for them to have a character like them that they could relate to.

Lefman said the book can help students accept themselves and others for who they are.

Bowling lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, with her husband and three daughters, a dozen tarantulas, a gopher snake named Burrito, a king snake named Death Noodle and a cockatiel named Gandalf the Grey. Since Bowling was a little girl, she said she loved to read.

"Books were just the most important thing in the world to me," Bowling said.

She wrote her first novel in 2017 and hasn't stopped writing since. Many books of hers have won awards, such as the Golden Kite Award.

JV volleyball players share great bond

VOLLEYBALL, from 1 going well," said Ellis. "I see myself as a key leader for Odessa volleyball next year. I feel like I am good at bringing excitement on the court and motivation to the team."

According to Ellis and Adamec, the team bonded well. They chose to show their unity by drawing matching 'tattoos' on their left wrists before each game. "We would always find either a pen or a sharpie and put something on our left

wrists before every game. If we forgot to do it, then it just threw everything off," Adamec said.

Adamec said it can be tough for freshmen when first playing high school volleyball, but she said she had some advice.

"Don't be intimidated by the upperclassmen because they will be good, but you have to remember that you're not a senior," Adamec said. "You are the freshmen. You are the 'baby' so you are not expected

to be as good as them."

Herzberg said the most memorable game of the season was on October 5 in the Grandview Tournament.

"We had to play Saint Pius and Ray Pec as our last two games, and it was really the first time that our JV girls were actually challenged. It was fun to see them and how they handled that," Herzberg said. The team ended up beating Ray Pec for the championship in three sets.

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OMS science teacher uses race car to teach



Ethan Beauchamp, Aiven Miller and Haiden Dyon, OMS seventh-graders, learn about force and motion with Stacy Behrman's race car. Behrman, OMS science teacher, enjoys racing as a hobby.

by Makenzie Harget

Odessa Middle School science students crowded around a blue race car with the hood up and listened to the engine roar as they enjoyed a chance to get outside and connect what they were learning in the classroom to the real world.

Stacy Behrman, OMS science teacher, has been teaching his students about force and motion. Forces they are studying include gravity, air resistance and friction. Behrman, who is in his tenth year of teaching in the district, decided to use his racing hobby to enrich his curriculum and help build interest for his students. So, he brought in his drag race car to school.

"We've been talking about speed, acceleration, and forces," Behrman said. "All of that relates to drag racing."

Students got a chance to get up close to the race car and even sit inside the cage.

"It looks really cool, and it's super loud," Cayden Fain, seventh-grader, said, while inspecting the car.

"I like racing, and seeing his car was really cool," Bryce Howard, seventh-grader, said.

When Behrman first bought the car, a 1966 Chevy II, it originally wasn't a race car. He added a roll cage and did all of the paint and body work on it to make it come together.

Behrman used to race every weekend, but now only races when he can. He said 2018 was a really good year for him. He and his brother raced in two different classes. They ended up winning and advanced to the semifinals with both of them taking home a cash prize.

"It was one weekend I will never forget," Behrman said.

Behrman said that he is looking forward to a racetrack being added to the Odessa area in 2020.

"I definitely plan on racing at the new I-70 Motorsports Park next year," Behrman said. "I have been following and supporting the building efforts and can't wait until it opens." Behrman said he hopes students will come out and support him.

"Mr. Behrman does an excellent job of transferring his students' learning to real-world application," Kendra Malizzi, OMS principal, said. "He has a gift for incorporating hands-on learning into his daily instruction for our students. The OMS students and staff can't wait to see him race his car at the track. I think he will have a huge cheering section complete with signs."

Learning about different forces and motion now with the race car as a visual will help prepare the students for an upcoming assignment, "The Roller Coaster Project", that Behrman assigns every year. Students have to make a roller coaster track out of anything they can get their hands on. Most students try building with popsicle sticks, hot glue and different types of candy.

The main goal for this project is for students to understand how the forces they learned about react on real objects. Students will be graded on how well they explain what forces act on the roller coaster and how it relates to Newton's Laws.

OHS adds new Becoming A Teacher class for seniors

by Cali Meierarend

Odessa High School seniors now have the chance to try out a possible career in teaching while still being in high school to see if it is something they want to pursue in college. This will be a step towards career-readiness for students who want to become teachers.

The new practical arts class, Becoming A Teacher, a dual credit course offered through UCM, is taught by Amanda Drinkwater, OHS Spanish teacher.

Drinkwater, who has a teaching and administrative background, has taught at OHS for the past three years. She wanted to offer this class to OHS students because she taught it previously at William Chrisman and felt like it would benefit OHS students.

Drinkwater said this is a chance for students to take a class to allow them to see if they would like to continue this career path in the future. She said one of her goals is to teach students the good things about the profession and to grow more people into it. Having students come back and teach at OHS is another one of her goals.

Students can pay the fee to receive college credit or take the class for free without enrolling in the dual credit.

Becoming A Teacher (BAT) class, offered first semester, is a weighted course open to seniors with a 3.0 grade point average. Students will earn three college credit hours while learning about teaching including lesson planning, assessments, ethics, legal issues, classroom culture and career opportunities. Students will start a portfolio which will continue into the second semester.

During the second semester, students are enrolled in Cadet Teaching Internship, also a dual credit course through UCM, and will earn one credit

hour. Students must maintain a B average in BAT and be a member of Future Educators of America (FEA) to participate in the internship. During the internship, students will observe a teacher, work with students and even teach mini-lessons in two chosen grade levels for two six-week internships. Students will complete a portfolio and reflective journal based on their experiences.

"Most colleges don't allow you to teach in front of students until your senior year," Drinkwater said, "so this class is a great opportunity because you teach in front of students your second semester."

Drinkwater said she enjoys roleplaying with the students. She said it is fun to get a chance to play the "bad kid" and have the students in the class figure out what they would do in that situation as a teacher.

Early in the semester, students were able to participate in a web-chat about the educational systems and teaching opportunities abroad. Drinkwater's two friends, Jeff and Shanna Tempel, who are based in Kiev, Ukraine, worked with her in Independence. Drinkwater and J. Temple were assistant principals, and S. Tempel was a counselor.

Students are currently working on bulletin boards in the OHS hallways. Drinkwater supplies students with materials, and students create their own bulletin board either in the morning during Bulldog Block or after school. Some topics have been kindness, the solar system, the Eiffel Tower, famous women from history and sign language.

During the semester, students will complete portfolios with tabs on several topics: educational philosophy, effective instruction, governance and finance, multiple intelligences and positive classroom environments to prepare for their second semester internships.

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