



The Growler

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Kindergarten Class Enjoys Dr. Seuss's birthday

By Angela Boutross

McQuerry Kindergarteners celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday during the first week of March. Dr. Seuss's birthday was on March 2, but the kindergarteners enjoyed activities all week long.

Each day of the week, a book was read aloud to the class, and on Thursday Jenny Hand and her kindergarten class read *The Cat in the Hat*. To dress up, the kids made whiskers, ears, and noses during their arts and crafts time.

Hand said, "Throughout the day on Thursday, the class read poems about cats in hats and did word work with the word 'at'."

Maddy Martin, kindergartener, said, "My favorite part about *The Cat in the Hat* Day, were the bow-ties and bellies."



Kynleigh Barkley, Brooklyn Burks and Breanna Triplet, kindergarteners, dressed up as The Cat in the Hat for Dr. Seuss's birthday celebration at McQuerry.

OMS Collects Money for Fossett Family

By Alison Brown

OMS Honor Society members recently collected money for the family of Devin Fossett in his memory.

"I think this in some small way helped the students deal with the loss of a friend and classmate."... Julie Carver, Honor Society sponsor

Fossett, a 12-year-old

seventh-grader at OMS, drowned on March 3 after falling through the ice at Holiday Lakes while hunting.

Julie Carver, Honor Society sponsor, said, "We started collecting money in the morning after hearing students express how they wanted to do something to help out. I think this in some small way helped the

students deal with the loss of a friend and classmate."

Donations were collected from March 12 through 14. Students, staff and parents sent in over \$2000 in donations.

"I really appreciate how everyone in the community pulled together to help the family in this difficult time," said Carver.

Pageant of Bands Fundraiser is Success

By Emily Reynolds

Odessa Band Boosters held the annual Pageant of Bands fundraiser on March 15 in the OHS gym. Over \$4000 was raised at the pageant to support the band program.

Performances were held by the sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands, the OHS Jazz Band, the Woodwind Ensemble (grades 7-12) and the OHS Symphonic Band.

Dani Stilwell, OHS senior, conducted the Woodwind Ensemble as part of her senior project. Stilwell composed an original piece of music called *Quiet on the Countryside* and then taught the music to the performers.

In between performances, donated baked goods were

auctioned off. Brian Henning, auctioneer, volunteered his time. There was also a chance to bid on whipped cream pies which could be thrown into the face of a teacher.

Pie in the face recipient options this year were Jeremy Meyer, band director, M. J. Orf, assistant band director, Sonja Putnam, Guard coach, Sherry Billings, OMS principal, Billy Cobb, OMS activities director, and Mat Vleisides, OHS activities director. The "winners" were Meyer, Orf and Putnam.

Also at the pageant, orders were taken for pillows and bags which are made from the old marching band uniforms.

"They are amazing," Meyer said. "I see this hitting Odessa as a major fad!"



"Going once, going twice... sold in support of the band!"; Odessa Band Boosters held the annual pageant of the bands fundraiser on March 15 in the OHS gym earning over \$4000.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Peek Flies over OHS

By Haley Dye

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Peek retires from the military after 25 years of serving his country. He served for eight and a half years in the United States Marine Corps, and the rest of his service was in the Missouri Air National Guard. Peek graduated from UCM with a degree in Aviation Technology. After retiring from the military, he will continue to work for American Airlines.

Peek and his wife, Tammy,

have four children. Blake is 21 and wrestles at the U.S. Naval Academy. Jordan is 19 and attends Missouri State University. Garrett is a freshman at OHS, and Caroline is a seventh grader at OMS.

From a young age, Peek knew that he wanted to fly airplanes. Military service was in his blood because his father spent time in the Army. So, Peek dedicated his time to flying a C-130.

"I felt like I owed something of myself for being able to live in a country where we have so much," said Peek.

Peek's oldest son, Blake, is also interested in a military career and is currently in the U.S. Naval Academy.

"My last military flight was the day I flew over Odessa," said Lieutenant Colonel Peek. As the aircraft commander, he chose

to fly over his hometown. Peek called OMS and OHS to tell them he was flying over, so his two youngest children could see him fly for the last time.

"I highly respect my dad for being in the military and serving his country," said G. Peek. He said that he was glad that his dad was retiring, so they will have more family time.

Lieutenant Colonel Peek said that the hardest part about serving his country was being away from his family. However, he said that his wife is strong and supported him every step of the way.

Peek participated in numerous military operations over the years, along with humanitarian relief missions after Hurricane Katrina and the Chile earthquake.

OHS Ovation Takes Second Place

By Aubrey Banhart

OHS Ovation, show choir, placed second in their division and seventh overall on March 1 at the Smith-Cotton High School Show-Me Classic. Ovation is directed by Scott Harvey, OHS music teacher.

The 46 members of Ovation entertained the audience with their "Post-apocalyptic Rock" theme. The show featured the following songs: *Radioactive*, *Awake and Alive*, *Final Countdown*, *Four Minutes*, *Black Parade*, *Shadows of the night*, and *Carry on my Wayward Son*.

This year's show was creative and different from previous years, so according to Harvey, it was difficult to act out exactly what they wanted the show's storyline to portray. Although it was a challenging show, most judges were impressed and pleased with

the performances according to the score sheets.

Due to inclement weather, the season seemed short to the members. They were unable to attend two of their scheduled competitions due to snow.

Ovation has 14 senior members graduating this year: Paige Bradbury, Gabriel Cozart, Isaac Doster, Ashley Fike, Maryssa Heiden, Nelson Hurley, Tristin Kesemann, Allison Maple, Christina Martin, Josey Milner, Ciara Royeton, Zach Shobe, Lonnie Todd and Becca Wacker.

Harvey said, "I would like to thank April Morris (parent) and Sarah Esser (OHS Drama teacher) for putting all the time and hard work into the materials for the show. I would also like to give a big 'thank you' out to the best crew that I have ever had."



Lieutenant Colonel Edward Peek, father of Garrett Peek, OHS freshman, retired from the military after 25 years of service.

McQuerry Carnival Raises Money for PTO

By Marley Shackles

McQuerry held their annual fundraising carnival on March 21 raising over \$6000 for the Parent Teacher Organization. The theme was "Candy Land."

Children could purchase T-shirts and punch cards for the event. Punch cards were then redeemed for games and prizes. Children could win hats, noise putty, pixie sticks, and many other prizes. Sallie Baker, PTO member, organized the event.

Baker said, "The teachers really seemed to enjoy

interacting with the kids and seeing them get excited. In all, the carnival was a big success thanks to the many parents, teachers and volunteers who helped."

Baker said that she would like to thank Jennifer Johnson, PTO parent, and her family for donating the majority of the decorations.

"Many thanks to everyone who helped including the businesses," said Baker.

Funds raised will be used towards purchasing Wi-Fi for the school.



Ryder Jiron, sophomore, and Sean Morris, junior, perform their Ovation post-apocalyptic rock themed show.



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R-7 Sports and Clubs

OHS Students Enjoy the Sport of Rodeo

While winter sports come to an end, the spring rodeo season is just beginning. Several OHS students sit out the school spring sports season to pursue their rodeo dreams.

Ethan Gerren, OHS sophomore, has competed in the sport of rodeo for 1 1/2 years. While Gerren is just getting started, he has clocked a full ride and is now working on improving his scores.

"I ride bulls, and I can't wait for the spring season to start again," said Gerren.

Michaela Schmoeger, OHS senior, competes in Missouri High School Rodeo. She currently competes in the breakaway roping and hopes to finish well in the standings in her final year of high school.

Morgan Williams, sophomore at OHS, has also made quite a career out of rodeo. "I've been riding since I was four. I fell in love with it on the first day," said M. Williams.

Williams has already achieved three state titles: twice in the barrel racing and once for the all-around. She

also placed 10th out of 150 contestants across the United States, Canada and Australia in barrel racing.

"Rodeo is very time consuming. You have to have patience, especially when you're working with a 1,200 pound teammate who doesn't understand English. My twin sister, Hannah, also competes in rodeo with me," M. Williams said.

H. Williams, also a sophomore at OHS, has been competing along with Morgan ever since they were four. The girls started out competing in the Missouri Kansas Youth Rodeo Association. Then they progressed to the Junior High Division of the Missouri High School Rodeo. As high school students, they now compete in Missouri High School Rodeo.

Earning two state titles, H. Williams was number one in goat tying and ribbon roping. She ended up placing 6th out of 150 contestants across the United States, Canada and Australia.

"I went into the final round sitting third in the average. If I would have had one more run like I did before, I would have won the national title. But coming that close to it just makes me want it more," said H. Williams.

Mary Williams, OHS counselor and the mother of Hannah and Morgan, has been with them every step of the way. "It's hard trying to explain to those who don't rodeo how much time it really takes. It's more than just driving somewhere on the weekend. The kids work hard seven days a week, training and caring for the horses. When they get home after school, they stay outside riding until the sun goes down," said Williams.

These rodeo athletes have to be as dedicated as athletes in school sports. They must put in hours of practice and spend hours traveling to events to compete and hopefully rack up points for end of season awards.



Morgan Williams, sophomore, competes at the national level in barrel racing in Gallup, New Mexico.

OHS Freestyle Club Has 30 Members

By Morgan Williams

OHS Freestyle Club, sponsored by Kirk Gross, OHS health teacher and head wrestling coach, is underway with 30 members.

Gross said, "Anyone can join."

Freestyle club offers off-season training for Greco-Roman wrestling. In order to join, participants must have a wrestling USA card. A couple of fees are also involved: participants pay \$36 for insurance and a \$20 coaches' fee for the Missouri Valley coaches.

Twenty members are from Odessa, and the other members are from Lexington, Higginsville and Holden as well as a couple of students from Missouri Valley.

Greco-Roman wrestling is practiced worldwide and has an ancient history. Wrestlers are scored for their performance in two three-minute periods which can end in a pinfall. This style of wrestling does not allow holds below the waist which makes it different from freestyle wrestling. So, the emphasis is on throws.

OUE 5K Reading Group Underway

By Zach Smith

OUE students are joining the new 5K reading group which began meeting on March 3. The group meets from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. on Mondays. The group has approximately 28 members.

During the meetings, members read a book of their choice for approximately 20 minutes, and then they run together. Most students are

approximately half-way through their first books. When the weather allows, the group runs outside on the school grounds. The group's goal for the year is to run the equivalent of a 5K.

Robin Smith, Gayle Bainbridge and Crissa Cockrum, third grade teachers, and Valarie Stark, fourth grade teacher, are the club's sponsors. According to the club's sponsors, the students

seem to enjoy the running.

"I really enjoy the club a lot. It is fun. I would recommend this group to anyone who likes to read and run with friends," said Brett Duncan, fifth grader.

Smith said, "The group is large enough to line the walls of the third grade neighborhood in OUE when they are all sitting in a row."



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The Wind Rises Portrays Dream of Young Boy

By Ben Holbert

The Wind Rises – released in Japan as *Kaze Tachinu* – is a 2013 Japanese animated historical drama film. The film was released in February of 2014 in the United States. The film is a fictionalized biography of Jiro Horikoshi (1903–1982), who was the designer of the Mitsubishi A5M and its successor the Mitsubishi A6M Zero. Both planes were used by the Japanese in World War II. The film was directed by Hayao Miyazaki, who also made such works as *Spirited Away* and *My Neighbor Totoro*.

The film starts in the year 1918, where we see the dream of a young boy, Jiro Horikoshi, as he climbs onto his roof and starts to fly in a plane that is shaped like a bird. Jiro's dream is to fly planes, but he knows that he cannot fly because he needs glasses. In another dream that we see shortly thereafter, Jiro meets Giovanni Battista Caproni who is an aeronautical engineer. When Jiro sees some of Caproni's inventions, he too is inspired to become an aeronautical engineer and make planes of his own. We next see Jiro five years later when he is studying at university to

become an engineer. While on a train back to the university, The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 hits the region. This is when Jiro meets a young girl traveling with her maid. The maid has a hurt ankle due to the earthquake, and Jiro assists in taking the young girl and the maid back to the girl's family's estate. The story continues from there, seeing many failures, a couple of successes, and the blossoming of something sweet and beautiful.

The voice actors in the movie included Joseph Gordon Levitt, Emily Blunt and John Krasinski. Put into the role of Jiro, Joseph Gordon Levitt did a great job playing the character of someone who goes through life with a dream, but while trying to make the dream come true, meets with many failures before he succeeds. Emily Blunt, who played Naoko Satomi, also did a good job in her role, portraying the character of Naoko very well.

The film was a good piece which made viewers have to think. The plot, as well as the performance of the voice actors, and the animation itself makes this film get a well-deserved 9 out of 10.

Josey Milner Releases New Single *Cowgirls*

By Hannah Gurney

Josey Milner, OHS senior, has just released a new country music single titled *Cowgirls*. The song is currently 6th on New Music Weekly and 88th on Music Row. The song is still climbing and has surpassed her previous single on the charts. The top 80 songs are sent to several record labels.

Milner has been singing with her band for three years, but she has been singing since she was a little girl. She started singing the national anthem at rodeos and was later invited to the National Steel Guitar Convention in St. Louis when she was fourteen. It was there that Milner was approached by a well-respected artist who told her that she needed to consider a singing career.

When Milner informed her parents that she wanted to give it

a try, her parents loved the idea and supported her all the way. Milner and her mom then began doing research, holding auditions and taking recommendations for a band.

Milner said, "There are instances where I will be gone for long periods of time due to radio tours or shows. If you have a goal, you have to be completely dedicated, passionate, and determined. Signing takes a lot of time and effort and at times can be challenging. But as long as you are dedicated then your hard work will eventually pay off."

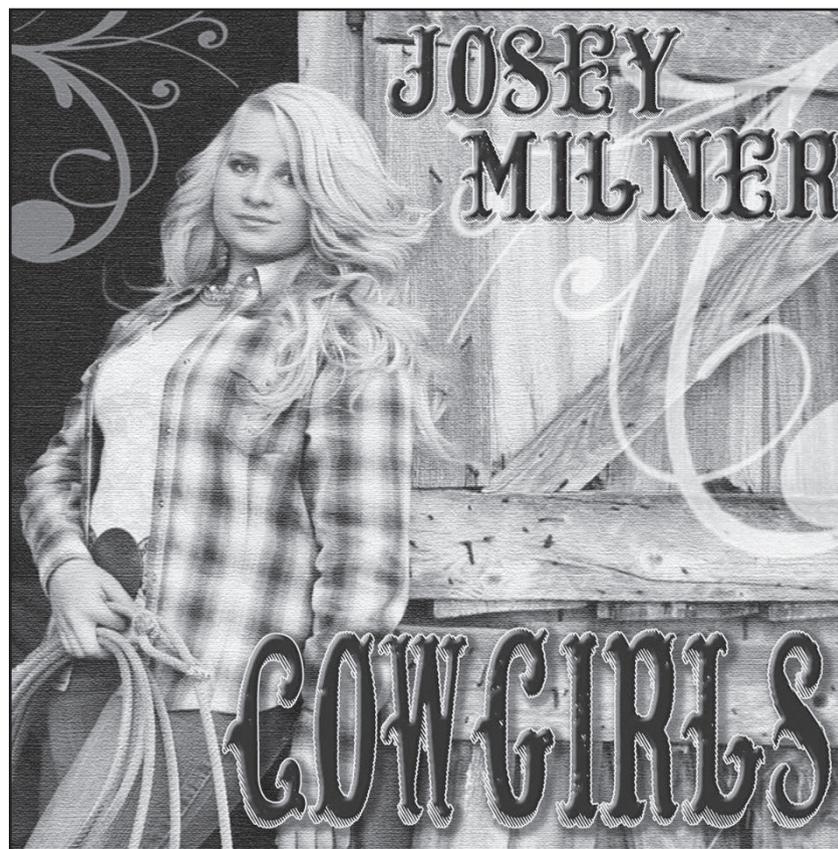
Milner is a spokesperson for *Angels and Doves*, a national anti-bullying organization, and in September of 2012 she released an anti-bullying song titled *Not Pretty Enough*. She has recently become a patient ambassador

for the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Both of Milner's singles can be found on iTunes.

When Milner isn't singing or releasing singles she enjoys hanging out with friends, baking and playing with her one-year-old corgi, Opry. Milner is also involved in OHS Chamber Choir and Ovation, the OHS show choir, National Honor Society and is even a straight A student.

Milner plans on attending University of Central Missouri and earning a bachelor's degree in graphic design. She also plans to continue making music and take that as far as she can.

Milner can be followed on twitter (Josey_Milner), Instagram (joseymilner) and on Facebook (facebook.com/joseymilner). She can also be found as a character on the virtual game *A Better World* on Facebook.



Josey Milner's new country music single titled *Cowgirls* is climbing the charts. Milner is a senior at OHS.

The Growler Staff wishes you a great Easter full of candy and fun!

