

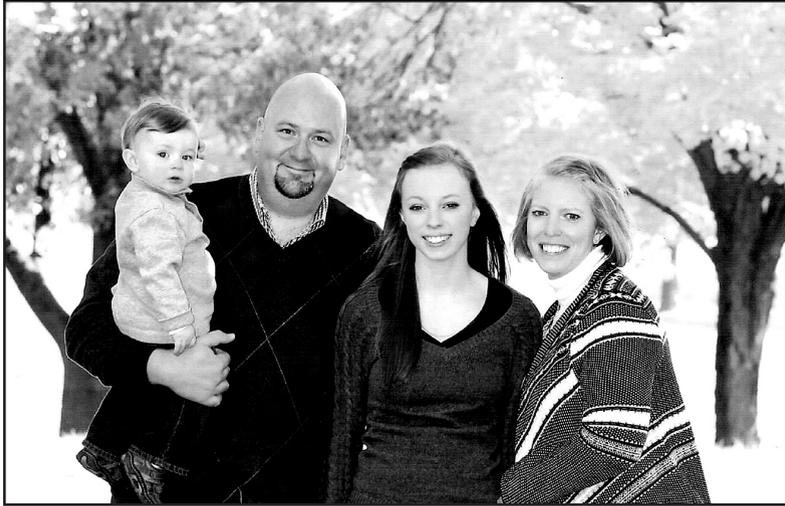


November 19, 2015

# THE GROWLER

Odessa High School, Odessa, Missouri

## OHS Principal, Buffie McConville, has School Spirit



**Buffie McConville, OHS principal,** loves spending time outdoors with her family.

**By McKenzie Wixon & Bianca Woodward**

Buffie McConville, OHS's new principal, is working hard to increase school spirit.

McConville first intended to be a police officer, but while training decided to enter the field of counseling. She started working in schools as a social worker/counselor before getting her first administrative job at Smith Cotton High School in 2006. She returned to OHS in 2008 where she served as vice principal.

"I never doubted achieving it. I just wanted to be smart about my goals. I enjoy being around the students the most. It's why I love coming to work every day!" McConville said.

McConville's day begins at 6 a.m. and sometimes goes long into the evening. She said that her job entails many things: she checks on students grades, supports teachers and even has big plans for decorating the school.

"She's into all aspects of her job, whether it's the classroom or the activities," Mat Vleisides, OHS activities director, said. "She gets into it all. I think that's why the atmosphere around here is so positive--because of how she leads."

One of the many things she is improving is school spirit. McConville started with small things like all-school breakdowns at assemblies where everyone participates in a group cheer at half-court and bulldog paw decorations in the hallways. She has also implemented a new spirit stick award for the teachers.

But, does it really make a difference?

"Yeah! I think it's really awesome that everyone is getting involved," Lauren Dowell, senior, said. "I think it has a lot to do with Mrs. McConville putting herself out there."

"She asks me how the season's going. She's really

happy for us," Tyrel Wagner, senior quarterback, said.

McConville's support doesn't end with the students; it spreads through the staff as well. As vice principal, she started a monthly award system for the teachers and continues to add awards, such as the spirit stick, as head principal.

"She makes it fun to come to work because she has her expectations, but we know those expectations," Amber Barkley, OHS P.E. teacher and volleyball coach, said.

McConville and her husband, Brent, are family-oriented. They have both a three-year-old son, Ben, and a daughter, Ellie, who is a junior.

They spend as much time as possible outdoors. Some of her hobbies include gardening, sewing and monogramming.

She also loves handwritten letters, as her grandmother sends a letter to someone every day. She tries her hardest to do the same.

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*"She's definitely one of the most genuinely kind and caring people I've ever met."...Lauren Dowell, senior*

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"She's definitely one of the most genuinely kind and caring people I've ever met," Dowell said. "She cares what you need, what you want and what your grades are. She cares a lot about us and our school."

## OHS Presents *Honk! The Musical*

**By Makena Dye**

The Ugly Duckling, played by Alec Maple, senior, mopes around on stage by himself in the spotlight just longing to be accepted. He begins singing the song "Different" about how different doesn't have to be bad but could actually be good.

OHS will present *Honk!* at 7 p.m. November 19, 20 and 21 in the OHS auditorium with Harry Hamblin, OHS music teacher, and Sarah Renfrow, OHS drama teacher, directing. The musical is an adaptation of the famous Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale written in 1843. The musical debuted in 1993 and incorporates a message of tolerance. The book and lyrics are by Anthony Drewe, and the music is by George Stiles.

Hamblin and Renfrow chose this musical because they thought it would be fun for the cast, audience and directors. The directors carefully selected students who knew how to read the script with excitement and make the script come alive. Hamblin considered their singing abilities and if they had the confidence to carry off a big part.

Hamblin has been working to prepare the cast and crew for opening night. Renfrow is currently on maternity leave but has been helping from afar. She will return to help put the finishing touches on the production as well.

"I definitely feel the message of the story. It's the story of The Ugly Duckling. Growing up, I was made fun of for being different. As I got into college, things changed. I found a lot more acceptance; then, life became a lot more fun," Hamblin said.

Hamblin said the play is appropriate for all ages, and he is expecting a lot of families to come and enjoy the show. He hopes to fill the auditorium all three nights.

"I want them to perform their best, entertain the audience and for everyone to have a good time. The students have been working hard and making progress. It is going to be a lot of fun," Hamblin said.

November 18 will be preview night for teachers and their families. There will also be a preview for students during BEST (date to be determined).

"I think I'm obligated to say that this is my favorite musical since I'm the main character," Maple joked.

Maple said he is looking forward to opening night. He has participated in school musicals and plays for the past three years. He said that he only got into musicals because his sister hounded him until he agreed. Even though his sister pushed him to do them, he is glad that he chose to participate because music is important to him.

## OHS Will Phase in Soccer by 2017-2018 School Year

By Sarah Shelton

Students cheered when they found out that soccer would begin with the 2017-18 school year.

"I am so happy because now I play in a league, and we have to travel a lot," said Noble Kleoppel, OHS freshman and U15 Eagles soccer player. "It won't be like that with school soccer because it will finally be official."

An OHS soccer program will begin with the 2017-18 school year after the school board's unanimous vote at its October 13 meeting.

Mat Vleisides, athletic director, has worked hard on surveying, gathering data, making phone calls, and organizing data for the Board of Education.

"I'm excited for the opportunity for our kids. It's going to give more of our kids an opportunity to compete as an Odessa Bulldog and work

hard to build a program from scratch. I am excited for this new chapter to begin for our kids," Vleisides said.

Kylin Grubb, senior and former kicker for the OHS football team, has received an 83 percent scholarship to play soccer at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Grubb has played league soccer for years and was offered this scholarship during her sophomore year.

"I'm extremely excited for the future athletes," Grubb said. "It's a lot like football. It's physical, it's contact, and it requires 11 players."

Grubb also said, "Coach Vleisides has worked so hard to get soccer here, and now that it is coming, I pray and I hope that it survives."

Adam Couch, OHS graduate and Mayor of Odessa, said, "The school board and Mr. Brinkley should be commended for giving this opportunity serious consideration and ultimately supporting it unanimously."



Happy Thanksgiving!  
-From The Growler  
Staff



**Row, Row, Row you boat...Second grade boys pose in carved out canoe at Van Meter State Park field trip (front to back): Cole Chapman, Jace Lyman, Jaden Hollingsworth, Chanze Gillenwater, Bryson Smith, Ace Oldham, Daniel Porter, Denton Geier, Jansen Todd and Tavian Wilson.**

## Second-graders Visit Van Meter State Park

By Sara Fossett

Ten second grade boys climb into a large Indian canoe and pretend to be paddling down the river in search of buffalo as they gain a better understanding of Native Americans.

Second-graders visited Van Meter State Park in Miami, Missouri, on October 15 and 16 to gather background information before beginning the Native American Curriculum Unit.

Students spent the day learning about buffalo and the daily life and culture of Native Americans. Students also went on a nature hike

where they had to find items that did not belong on the trail.

Park agents taught about the Missouri Indian Tribe and even shared objects made from bison fur, bones and horns.

"We learned bison have thick skin," Keegan Stahlke, second grader, said.

The students also explored a Native American lodge filled with items the Indians used in their daily lives.

"We were able to sit in a canoe that held 12 kids," Jeffery Wood, second grade teacher, said.

At the end of the day,

students played board games to review items they learned.

In previous years, the students have visited Powell Gardens; however, Van Meter State Park fit the curriculum, so the second grade teachers decided to give it a try. The park does not have an entry fee, so that was an added bonus.

"Hopefully, when we start the unit, they will have a lot of background, so they can have input in what is going on in class as well as having a better understanding of Native Americans," Wood said.

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# JV Tennis Sophomores Take Second in Doubles Bracket



**Only Sophomores...** Tausha Hurley and Mikaylee Hobson, sophomores, took second place in the JV tournament in the number two doubles bracket.

By Sydney Shackles  
"Peace, Love, Happiness,"

## Odessa R-7 Sport Records

JV Girls Tennis

7-5

JV Volleyball

11-14-1

C-Team Volleyball

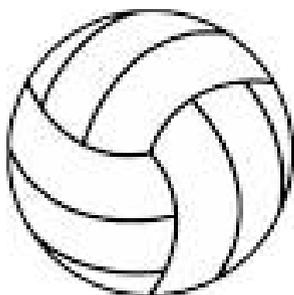
7-14-1

JV Softball

4-7-1

C-Team Football

7-2



shouts Allan Twilligear, head tennis coach, as his team shouts back, "Tennis!" This is the way every tennis practice ends.

"I had a college band instructor who ended practices this way, and it just stuck with me. It was a tradition that I wanted to continue with my tennis team," said Twilligear.

JV tennis team ended the season 7-5 with Twilligear saying he was pleased with the team's progress.

Twilligear said that Emily Woods, junior, was the most improved. She spent time off-season working on her skills and moved up the most

spots, ending the season as the number one JV player.

Twilligear said that even though most of the players were new to the sport and lacked experience, they enjoyed learning to play tennis. The team gained skills and had fun at the same time according to Twilligear.

The JV tournament was a stand out this year with Tausha Hurley and Mikaylee Hobson, sophomores, taking second place in the number two doubles bracket. The doubles were ranked first through third for the round robin plan according to their top scores in the tournament, so number two doubles had the second best scores.

"Tennis is good stress

*"Tennis is good stress relief..." Tausha Hurley, sophomore,*

release, and I like to play with other people," said Hurley.

Shelby Tate and Katelyn Geary, sophomores, placed fifth in number one doubles. Caroline Peek, freshman, placed sixth in number two singles, and Rylan Buxton, sophomore, placed seventh in number one singles.

The most motivational person on the team, according to Twilligear, was Hurley. She was the most positive and upbeat

person on the team. She got along with everyone and pushed the other girls to work harder.

Fifteen girls made up the

## C-Team Football Steps Up and Makes Plays

By Kinly Grubb

OHS C Team football ended the season with a 23-18 win against Grain Valley, bringing them to 7-2 for the season.

The successful season included wins against the following: St. Pius, 25-0; Clinton, 34-0; Higginsville, 26-8; Holden, 39-8; Excelsior Springs, 25-6; and Pleasant Hill, 7-0.

Ryan Robinson, C Team head coach, said that Oak Grove was the toughest opponent.

"They consistently play the hardest, are very disciplined and are well-coached," Robinson said.

"We were focused on beating Grain Valley to finish the season 7 and 2," Robinson continued. "The team had a couple of aspects they needed to fix to become a well-oiled machine that's ready for the next level."

The C Team boys have been stepping up and making plays consistently in every game.

"The beauty is that all of our players have the potential to move up, but it will be up to them to maximize their reps and gains between now and

team, and Twilligear said, "It was fun to hangout and joke between matches with the girls."

then," Robinson said.

According to Robinson, if the athletes can continue to prove their skill and passion, they will have opportunities to earn a varsity spot.

Travis Huseman, assistant coach, said the team is made up of 11 players on the field at a given time, and if each player does his part, then the team comes together as a whole and functions like it was meant to.

"Just do your 1/11th, and if we all do our 1/11th, we make one," Huseman reminded the boys repeatedly in practices.

Robinson agrees with Huseman's philosophy and used it to maximize what the team accomplished. In fact, Robinson said that the team ended with the best record in the past seven years.

"I think we have improved a lot on teamwork and blocking. Brandon Spiers, our sophomore lineman, was a team leader and blocked well," Tyler Barney, freshman, said. "I played half back and middle linebacker, and I hope to play the same positions next year."

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## OMS Football Learns to Trust

By Seth Bayless

OMS football team ended the season October 19 with a 14-0 win against Harrisonville, bringing their record to 5-1. The B Team also won 14-6, bringing their record to 4-0-1.

Kirk Gross, head coach, along with Don Aulbert and Christopher Herring, assistant coaches, led the team.

The team gained wins over Sedalia, Oak Grove, Excelsior Springs, Pleasant Hill and Harrisonville. The most memorable game, according to Gross, took place on September 29 when the Bulldogs took on Oak Grove. The Bulldogs were down 13-0 at the start of the fourth quarter. After scoring, the Bulldogs ended up coming back and taking the game on a two-point conversion.

"Trust, that's our motto,"

Gross said.

According to Gross, all players have improved overall on the team aspect and have come together and learned to trust those around them which can help them develop skills for later in life.

Gross stated that the team's biggest strengths are having the ability to use players beyond the starters and the diversity of the players.

"We can pass the ball, we can run the ball, and our special teams are good," Gross said.

Gross also said, "Our toughest opponent has been ourselves." He said that the players have to focus on having a good practice and keeping a good mindset before they can face down other teams.

Overall, Gross said that he was confident about the end

of the season, and that he was happy to end the season on a win.

Team members are: Cade Adams, Garrett Austin, Mason Baker, Robert Bettinger, James Bice, Colby Brown, Sergio Bruno, Tanner Burns, Eliyh D'obron, Tyler Fields, Lincoln Fisher, Trenton Frizzell, Kloe Grubb, Hunter Hattok, Luke Heller, Nick Husemann, Zach Landsberg, Luke Malizzi, Matt Meador, Josey Meierarend, Jackson Nelson, Brendon Onka, Bryley Ray, Corbin Ryun, Nolan Schulte, Garrett Sims, Ethan Uhrlaub, Xavier Walsh, Carter Westerhold, Colby Wilson, Jakob Wimberly and Nick Wright. Team managers are Justin Griffith, Gavin Gross, Bryce Palmer and Tyler Bellmyer, freshman.

## OHS FFCLA Attends Regional Meeting

By Eli Munsterman

FCCLA members attended the regional meeting on October 15 in Sedalia. FCCLA, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, is sponsored by Tonya Mallinson, OHS FACS teacher.

The regional meeting opened with the introduction of officers followed by the presentation of colors, as well as the singing of the National Anthem. Other activities included a devotion, the welcome, a skit that went along with the theme of the year "Oh the Places You'll Go With FCCLA," entertainment, a community service project presentation, club business

and motivational speaker, Ryan Moran.

"The Regional Meeting was a good experience for this club," According to Mallinson. "The motivational speaker, Ryan Moran, did a great job of connecting with the student body to get them involved, as well as talking to them about the importance of having a positive attitude every day, regardless of any situation."

Mallinson said Moran spoke on how important it is to be accepting of everyone and not be afraid to try new things because you never know if you'll discover a hidden talent.

"This message hit home with our FCCLA group because this is what we're all about," said Mallinson.

FCCLA has moved more toward promoting leadership and giving back to the community, whereas in the distant past, it had a Home-Economics focus.

FCCLA participates in many service projects to help OHS and the Odessa community, such as assisting with the Foundation Gala, hosting bake sales, helping with Trunk-or-Treat and presenting Food Power, a nutrition program held at OUE.

"FCCLA has taught me to put the needs of others before my own and that even the smallest helpful actions can change somebody's world," Emily Reynolds, FCCLA president, said.

Reynolds encourages everyone to join FCCLA and says she enjoys being able to make a positive difference in the community.

## OMS Volleyball Ends Season Undefeated

By Alec Munson

OMS volleyball A Team ended the season 15-0 with a final win against Higginsville.

The B Team also had a winning record 11-4; losing against the Oak Grove Panthers and the Holden Eagles, as well as two losses in a tournament.

Nicole Search, head coach and McQuerry kindergarten teacher, said the A Team had made several standout points during games by

making good plays, having quick sets and jump-serving well. This year's team was different from previous teams that Search coached because they had a strong knowledge of volleyball.

Search also said that the B Team had good serves, digs and passes. As for special goals, Search said the A Team's goal was to run plays, and the B Team's goal was to keep improving.

Search said all players made "bounds of

improvement." The most improved A Team player, according to Search, was Danielle Wildschuetz, and the most improved B Team player was Carsyn Schloman.

"To improve, I worked harder on my approach," Wildschuetz said.

Christi Fieth, assistant coach, noted that Wildschuetz had a positive attitude toward herself as well as for the game and the players. Fieth teaches sixth

grade math and English Language Arts.

Team strengths, Search noted, were that they had previous knowledge of the game of volleyball and good ball placement. The team's weakness was that they took a while to get started.

Search said that their toughest opponent was Grain Valley because their volleyball team had good players and a "very knowledgeable foundation."

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