



Volume XVI, Issue 4:
December Issue

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The Talon is a student publication of Ooltewah High School. We welcome articles and photos from students, teachers, and readers.

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Student Generosity Feeds Area Families

By Aaliyah Austin

The Great Turkey Race was very successful in gathering and delivering an abundant amount of goods to area families. With the support of the school, the Leadership class, under the direction of Mrs. Angie Mergen, was able to gather many nutritious foods, including 75 gallons of milk, orange juice, pie shells, dozens of eggs, small bags of potatoes, turkey pans, 16 slices of cheese, and 78 turkeys. Donations amounted to \$6,278 and over 4,000 cans and grocery items. The Leadership class traveled to 79 deserving families to deliver these much anticipated supplies. Leadership student Herman Odens commented, "The Great Turkey Race has been an amazing experience that has not only benefitted our community but has also enlightened us to our mission of service." The Turkey Race is not only about giving food to the needy, it's about coming together as people to ensure the greater

good of others. Second block classes competed enthusiastically for the prizes given to the winning groups. The first place position went to Mrs. Briggs and Mr. Hitchcox's class. The second place class was Mrs. Chilcote's. Third place went to Ms. Wilhoite's class. Weekly prizes were given to the winners, and the ultimate prizes include dress down passes and breakfast.

The Great Turkey Race has been an important part of OHS traditions for the past 25 years, and its success is largely due to the hard work and dedication of OHS students.



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SCHOOL CALENDAR

December

9-13: EOC Testing
15: Carols by Candlelight Concert (3 & 7 PM, Doubletree Ballroom)
17: Exams, Blocks 1 & 2
18: Exams, Blocks 3 & 4
19: Make-up Exams
20: Last Day Before Christmas Break
12/23 - 1/9: Winter Break

January

9: First Day Back to School for students
18: Faculty In-service, No classes for students
29: Red and Gray Game/Winter Sports Pep Rally

April

14 - 18: Spring Break

May

1: Class Night/River Boat
3: Prom
17: Graduation
24: Last Day of School

Marching Band Wows Crowd at Macy's Parade

By Noah Goforth

The Ooltewah Marching Band has once again made the entire community proud with their outstanding performance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Their rendition of a musical medley combined colorful costumes and clever choreography. Despite NBC's Al Roker mispronouncing "Ooltewah," for a few glorious minutes OHS was definitely on the national stage.

The Band's trip to NYC was over a year in the making. The Band members themselves put in months of practice. Parents and students

raised funds to finance the \$1,500 cost of sending each student on this amazing experience that included side trips to a Broadway show, museums, and landmarks.

Many people work behind the scenes to make the show a huge success. Band Director Joel Denton arranged the music with his son Alex. The Munchkin costumes and others were designed with the help of Tyler Edrington, Donna Rudolph, Cynthia Morton, and James Smith. James Smith also did the staging for the dance production, which was more like a theatre production than like that of a typical marching band.



Mr. Denton had additional support from his two percussion instructors, Alex J. Ford and Heather Hall. Two Middle School Band Directors, Adam Miller and Tracy Lynn Coats, also helped to organize this massive production.

Principal Jim Jarvis and his

wife Amelia accompanied the Band on the trip and also gave an interview to our local NBC station.

Congratulations to Mr. Denton and the Band members on another spectacular performance.



November Students of the Month



**Left: Joseph
Adams**



**Right: Judy
Taylor**

By Vianey Guterrez

Congratulations to Judy Taylor and Joseph Adams who have been named Students of the Month for November.

Judy Taylor serves as treasurer of the Freshmen Class. She enjoys singing and writing. Her favorite subject is CAD and she is interested in going into medical microbiology. She also enjoys helping the local community with clean-ups. Judy stated, "My father is my role model because he is a hard worker who always tries his

best." Judy was nominated by her CAD teacher Karen Haynes who said that "Judy is a very confident, outgoing freshman. She volunteered and helped a new student ease into my class at the end of first quarter. She always gets her work done on time, if not early, and catches on very quickly. She always keeps the class in line, so to speak."

Joseph Adams is also a freshman and a member of the track and cross country teams. He also enjoys creative writing, reading, and cars. Joseph commented, "I would enjoy writing for a living, but it is very diffi-

cult. More realistically, I would like to pursue a career in the medical field, but I'm not certain. I have plenty of time to decide." Joseph would like to attend Vanderbilt for its excellent pre-med program. Joseph said, "My role model is Henry Ford. He didn't follow the road most traveled, and he was a genius and worked hard to reach his goals."

History teacher Brian Hitchcox, who nominated Joseph, explained, "Joseph is an energetic and bright kid who is motivated to lead our class discussions and ex-

cel in a challenging environment. He has a great sense of humor, but, at the same time, knows when to be serious and to be a good leader in our class. He has shown himself to be an academic risk taker and hard worker. I expect great things from him in the future."

Both Judy and Joseph are outstanding examples of our great Freshmen class at OHS. We know they will continue to be leaders in the classroom and the community.

2014 Yearbooks On Sale Now

All OHS households will be receiving a letter from Bal-four Smart-Pay with instructions on how to order a 2014 Owl Yearbook. Yearbooks are \$80 for a plain cover book and \$85.46 for a book with your name engraved on the cover. You can pay with credit card or check. You can mail in your payment or pay online at www.smart-pay.com, or order by phone at 1-800-853-1337. Ordering early will ensure that your book will be waiting for you in August.

Remember - Yearbooks make great Christmas gifts!

Last Chance To Purchase Yearbook Ads

Yearbook staffers are currently selling business and personal ads for the 2014 Yearbook. Prices range from \$35 for an ad the size of a business card, \$50 for a quarter page, \$100 dollars for a half page, and \$200 dollars for a full page.



Contact any Yearbook Staff Member or Mrs. Pitts in Room 109 if you are interested, as spaces are filling up fast.

Ms. Wilhoite to Retire at Mid-Year

By Marina Bethune

After forty-one years in the classroom, **Ms. Teresa Wilhoite** has decided to retire at the end of the semester. She has taught for eight years at Ooltewah High School after coming here after retiring from teaching at Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe. Most recently, she has taught Family and Consumer Sciences and Child Development. She has two children and one granddaughter with whom she plans to spend more time after retiring.

"I'm going to miss the interactions I've had with students and peers over the years the most," she commented. She recalled her most memorable moment at OHS was when "Mr. Robbs punk'd me. He called me to his office saying a parent had made all types of accusations and complaints. It turned out he was joking, and her son was not even in my class."

Ms. Wilhoite reflected upon her years at OHS, "Ooltewah has been very rewarding to

me, and I have truly enjoyed my time here working with faculty, students, and administration," she says.

Ms. Wilhoite commented on how much her field of Home Economics Education has changed over the years. "Forty years ago, when I first started teaching, the emphasis was on clothing construction, food preparation and service. The traditional student was female. Wedding planning was a big part of the Family Living classes. Students planned weddings, decorated cakes, and catered events. Career planning and postsecondary goals were nonexistent. Today Career Planning is a unit in each class with a job shadowing opportunities also."

The sewing units went from tailoring a suit to making pajama pants and boxers. The emphasis today is on wardrobe planning, clothing selection and care, and appropriate clothing for job interviews.

The food classes emphasized basic "from

scratch" food preparation principles.

Today's food lab is centered on the working families and time management, using convenience foods and time saving appliances.

Choosing healthy food and portion sizes are focused upon in weight management across the life span. Recipes are collected from favorite web sites instead of cook books.

The Baby, Think It Over Program has reinforced the responsibilities of parenting and the internet has given a wealth of information on positive parenting styles.

Money management has become a necessity. To stay out of debt and to 'pay you first' (save money) for



financial independence has become an integral part of the curriculum.

'Who Moved My Cheese?' is used to illustrate how to adapt to change. I feel the curriculum of Home Economics/Family and Consumer Sciences has changed to meet the needs of our changing students."

We thank you, Ms. Wilhoite, for all you have done for OHS, and we wish you a happy retirement.

Peigen/Players Named to Best of Preps

By Melissa Dennis

Congratulations to Head Volleyball Coach Elaine Peigen upon being named *Chattanooga Times Free Press* Best of Preps Coach of the Year. This honor caps an amazing season for the Lady Owls, as Peigen's team won her a Twelfth District Crown and a Ninth Regional Championship. During her 21-year career as OHS Head Coach, she has taken ten teams to State Tournaments and coached runner-up teams in 2001 and 2007. Peigen credited this season's success to the "good chemistry" of the 2013 team.

Junior Hitter Courtlyn Ison was named to the Best of Preps First Team. Courtlyn was District 5-AAA Co-MVP and led the District and Region 3 Championship Team with 464 kills and 175 blocks.

Senior Hitter/DS Sloan Sullivan was named to the Second Team, and Sophomore Setter Hanna Matthews was named to the Third Team.



Hanna Matthews



ABOVE: Coach Elaine Peigen

RIGHT: Courtlyn Ison



Sloan Sullivan



Football Season Ends In Playoffs

By Shanya Elliott and April Bell

The Ooltewah Owls Football Team started off the playoffs ready and eager.

In the first round, Stone Memorial came to The Nest to do battle with the Owls. The Owls started off slowly, scoring only 7 points in the first quarter. Then the Owls offense exploded in the 2nd quarter for 33 points. The Owls then closed the game with a 4th quarter receiving touchdown by Sophomore Blake Smith. The Owls ended the game with a 47-7 victory.

In the second round, the Owls had a rematch with District rival East Hamilton. The game started off in

East Hamilton's favor, and the Hurricanes led at halftime 16-6. The Owls came back with a fierce 3rd quarter and it was all tied up 19-19 late in the 4th quarter. Then with less than a minute remaining in the game, East Ham running back Matt Milita caught a pass and took off down the field for the game-winning touchdown. The final score was 26-19 in favor of the Hurricanes. In all, for the Owls it was a hard-fought season that ended in early disappointment, losing in only the second round.

Our Owls have fought valiantly all year, and we are proud of them all.

Two Chosen to TN All-Star Team

Two outstanding Owls Seniors have been chosen to play in the Tennessee All-Star game in Cookeville on December 13th. Defensive Tackle David Strickland and Left Tackle David Nobles will represent the East Team in a game that will be broadcast locally and across the state.

Congratulations, guys!



David Strickland



David Nobles



Two Elected to STEM Student Council

By Lexi Arterburn

Junior **Jiboey Abraham** and senior **Akila Washington** have been chosen to serve on the first Southeast Tennessee STEM Student Council, which is composed of 42 students representing six counties in the Southeast Tennessee region. These students will be learning much about careers related to science, technology, engineering, and math, as well as finding ways to serve in their local communities using STEM technology.

These students will be meeting at STEM School of Chattanooga, located on the Chattanooga State campus on Amnicola Highway. At their first meeting in November, they met with a small group of STEM professionals and began brainstorming about group projects to help their local communities.

STEM is an innovative approach to education focused on giving students real-world learning experiences in science, technology, engineering

and math. Through STEM, students learn to think critically, work collaboratively, and implement solutions. The Southeast Tennessee STEM Innovative Hub expands STEM education for all students in our region. By uniting K-12 schools, colleges, non-profits, and business partners in a cooperative effort, they leverage resources and give students educational experiences that will prepare them for the STEM job opportunities of the future.



Swim Season Underway

By James Gouge

Head Swim Coach Ken Buchanan and Assistant Ashley Howe have put together an extraordinary team of 15 young athletes. Practices take place from 3-4 P.M. daily at the Ooltewah Swim Center.

The Swim Team hosted its first meet at the Ooltewah Swim Center on November 17. The Owls took the lead in a three-way victory against EHHS and Silverdale. Julia Dergunov, Jack Marshall, Chase Cumbelich, and Spencer Watkins all won two events, scoring 18 points each. Clay Cumbelich and Trip Binns assisted their fellow swimmers by scoring 16 points apiece, resulting in OHS scoring a total of 192 points.

On December 3, McMinn County HS hosted a swim meet at the YMCA in Athens, Tennessee. Ooltewah finished in second place with 126 points. Julia Dergunov, an OHS swimmer, took first place in the 200 and 500 yard freestyle, with a state cut in the 500. Jack Marshall, placed first in the 200 yard and the 500-yard Freestyle. Trip Binns placed first in the boys' 100-yard Freestyle with a time of 59.7 seconds.

OHS took first and second place in the girls' 100-yard Breaststroke with the help of Anastasia Kalistrutlova and Hannah Smith. The girls' and boys' 200 Free Relay Teams had taken first place in the event, and the girls' 400 Free Relay Team also took first place. Taking Second Place in the 100 Free Style was Sara Davidson. Spen-

cer Watkins also took second place in the 200 Free Style. Meredith Childress came in second in the 100-yard Butterfly.

The team traveled to the Adairsville HS Invitational on Dec. 7. Julia Dergunov won High School Girls' High Point Winner. She had first places overall in three events. Sara Davidson was High School Girls' High Point Runner-Up with two first places and one second. Jack Marshall was High School Boys' High Point Winner, with two firsts and one third. Jack Marshall, Bianna Norman, Meredith Childress, and Sara Davidson all had State qualifying times in this meet.





Art Club News

Art Club students had fun decorating the windows at the Ooltewah Wal-Mart to put everybody in the Christmas spirit.



Winner of this years Skate Graphic Contest

Julie Karnauch
Ooltewah High School
Grade 12



RIGHT: Senior Julia Karnauch's design was awarded the Skate Graphic Contest sponsored by the Comfort Skateshop in Chattanooga, TN.

