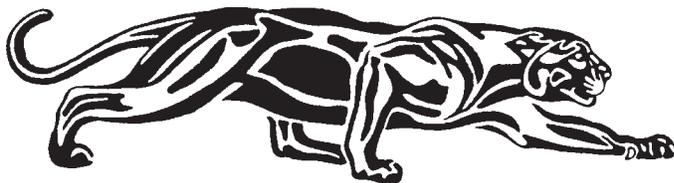


# Raymore-Peculiar School News



Published for patrons and friends of the  
 Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District  
 April 16, 2010

## Voters defeat district's tax levy proposal

School district voters on April 6 defeated a proposal seeking an 80-cent operating tax levy increase. Election results on election night showed 4,746 "no" votes and 1,635 "yes" votes.

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** sent an email message this week to all employees. He said, "The failure of the tax increase proposal, combined with state budget cuts and the current economic condition, are seriously impacting the district's budget. We still do not know the full extent of the state's funding reductions for this year and next year. The financial picture for the district has changed even during the course of this school year."

In the message, he outlined changes and budget cuts implemented so far and announced plans to provide updates as additional decisions are made.



## Oath of office

**Leo Anderson**, left, and **Joe Anthuis** were sworn in during an organizational meeting on April 15 to serve three-year terms on the Ray-Pec School District Board of Education. Anderson was elected and Anthuis re-elected in the April 6 election.

## News Briefs

### Voters elect Anderson and Anthuis to board

Congratulations to **Leo Anderson**, who was elected April 6 to the Ray-Pec board of education, and to Board President **Joe Anthuis**, who was re-elected. They are elected to three-year terms on the board.

Election results show these vote totals:

- Anderson - 2,737 votes
- Anthuis - 2,467 votes

Also running were:

- **Harry Gurin** - 2,377 votes
- **Chad Heggem** - 2,008 votes

Board member **Sharon Shores** did not run for re-election.

### Board elects officers at reorganization meeting

The Ray-Pec Board of Education had its annual reorganization meeting on Thursday, April 15. During the brief session, which preceded the regular meeting, the board certified the April 6 election results.

School Board Secretary **Pam Steele** administered the oath of office to **Leo Anderson** and **Joe Anthuis**. They will serve three-year terms on the board.

The board will also re-elected Joe Anthuis to serve as board president. The board elected Kyle Gillespie to serve as vice president.

The board re-elected **Pam Steele** to serve as board secretary and Ray-Pec Chief Financial Officer **Kendra Hutsell** to serve as board treasurer.

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*"Through collaboration among parents, students, staff and the community,  
 the Raymore-Peculiar School District will ensure that each student masters specific and challenging  
 learning objectives that maximize achievement and lead to lifelong productivity."*

## News Briefs

### Blood drive on Monday

The Ray-Pec High School student council is sponsoring a blood drive Monday, April 19, in the auxiliary gym at the high school. The drive benefits the Community Blood Center so all blood stays in the area.

There are many appointments available later after 2 p.m., but please email Teacher **Doug Brown** (dbrown@raypec.k12.mo.us) so you have a confirmed appointment.

### Raymore Day at the K

Raymore Day at the K is Sunday, April 25. The Kansas City Royals will host the Minnesota Twins. Game time is 1:10 p.m.

Students from Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen intermediate schools will be singing the national anthem before the game.

To order tickets, stop at the Raymore Chamber of Commerce office at 1000 W. Foxwood Dr.

### Project Grad to host Clay Target Shoot

Project Grad will host a Benefit Clay Target Shoot Saturday, April 17, at Powder Creek Shooting Park, 8601 Monticello Rd., Lenexa. The registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$75 for 50 sporting clays. The fee is \$65 for Ray-Pec High School students.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. Lunch and an auction/raffle is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact: Eric Arnold at 816-892-1500 or [earnold@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:earnold@raypec.k12.mo.us); or Dan Olsen at 816-331-8808 or [dolsen1@comcast.net](mailto:dolsen1@comcast.net).

#### Non-discrimination notice

The Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Terri Jamison, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078. 816-892-1300.

## Opening night is tonight, April 15 Ray-Pec High School presents 'Pippin'

The Raymore-Peculiar High School Theatre Department announces the upcoming performance of Pippin, the school's third production of the season. Composed by Stephen Schwartz, composer of such audience favorites as Godspell and Wicked, Pippin is an award-winning musical comedy.

The show follows the life of Pippin, son of Charlemagne and a prince of the Holy Roman Empire. Pippin longs to find a deeper meaning to existence than the worldly comforts his royal life affords him. This quest for meaning takes him to the battlefield, the political arena, and on a host of other adventures. Placed in a highly theatrical setting, this production is sure to entertain everyone. Pippin features a cast of Ray-Pec's talented singers, dancers, and actors. The Leading Player will be played by **Ben Jones**. Pippin will be portrayed by **Seth Jones**.

Other portrayals include:

- **Mike Nolan** as Charlemagne
- **Hayley Farrell** as Fastrada
- **Alden Stockam** as Lewis
- **Bridget Hoffman** as Berthe
- **Nicollette Thompson** as Catherine and
- **Dane Schnake** as Theo.

Other characters are played by members of the ensemble, which consists of **Shawn Adams, Connor Branson, Kelli Bullard, Kristen Galant, Britta Henkle, Hayley Keith, Mandy Lange, Elyssa LeMay, Nellie Maple, Nic Ruby, Megan Segars, Robert Smith, Aidan Swanson, Josh Wagner, and Jayson Wellman.**

Working behind the scenes are:

- Director **Todd Schnake**
- Music director **Stephen Rew**
- Scenic designer/technical director **Karla Penechar**
- Choreographer **Treva Farrell**
- Student choreographer **Hayley Farrell**
- Production assistant **Pam Schnake**
- Assistant Directors for the show are **Erin Highland, Ron Stephenson, Sarah Unruh, and Michaela Wiehe.**
- Stage Managers are **Katie Donahoe, Taylor Lininger, and Jacob Trumbo.**
- The Master Electrician is **Ron Stephenson.**
- Props Masters are **Sonia Jacobson and Rebekah Youmans.**
- Costume Chiefs are **Amanda Allen and Ellie Fowler.**
- Make-up Chiefs are **Sarah Unruh and Hayley Farrell.**

#### Performances:

7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15  
7:30 p.m. Friday, April 16  
7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17  
2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18

#### Reservations:

Call the ticket reservation line,  
892-3999 ext. 2400.

#### Tickets:

\$5 for adults  
\$4 for students.

## Art show, auction and reception Ray-Pec Art-Topia art showcase begins

The Raymore-Peculiar High School Fine Arts Department announces the opening of "Ray-Pec Art-Topia," a time for art appreciation, consisting of three main events: 1) art showcase and sale, 2) silent art auction, and 3) art awards reception.

The Art Showcase will premiere from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15, in the front foyer of the high school. It will also be open from 6 to 8 p.m. April 16 and 17, and from 1 to 3 p.m. April 18, in conjunction with performances of "Pippin." The Art Showcase will also be on display from 6 to 8 p.m. April 20-21, 25-27, and 29-30. The gallery features the works of visual art students in grades 9-12. All are welcome to peruse the artwork. Artwork is for sale at the artist's discretion.

The Silent Art Auction begins April 25 in conjunction with the Excellence in Education Banquet held at the high school patio commons. All proceeds will be donated by student artists to the Ray-Pec Art Club Scholarship, which is awarded to a senior artist pursuing a college degree.

The concluding event of Ray-Pec Art-Topia is the Art Awards Reception. This event is also open to the public from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 29 in the patio commons. Student artists will be rewarded for their year-long efforts spanning from silk-screen printing to wheel-throwing. Awards include: Top Ten Teacher's Pick, and awards from area art competitions and shows.

For more information about purchasing art, contact Teacher **Laura Richardson** (816-892-1427 or [lrichardson@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:lrichardson@raypec.k12.mo.us)).

## News Briefs

### Pancake breakfast to benefit Prowlers

You are invited to an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Applebee's restaurant in Belton.

Tickets are \$5 in advance or at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Ray-Pec High School Prowlers dance team.

### Creekmoor's Got Talent

Creekmoor Elementary will have its first ever "Creekmoor's Got Talent" Talent Show at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 23. Many acts are lined up for your enjoyment, including a special performance from some members of the teaching staff. The guest judges will be Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**, newly-elected school board member **Leo Anderson** and Principal **Kelly Vines**. There is no admission fee, but the PTA will sell refreshments and will also have Otis Spunk Meyer cookie dough available for purchase.

## Ray-Pec announces Teacher of the Year finalists

Here are the 10 finalists for the 2010 Teacher of the Year:

- **Lindsey Adamczyk**, Early Childhood
- **Valerie Collom**, Raymore Elementary
- **Emily Dahmer**, Ray-Pec Middle School
- **Rebecca Gooding**, Eagle Glen Intermediate School
- **James Huffman**, Stonegate Elementary School
- **Sarah Newkirk**, Timber Creek Elementary School
- **Rebecca Oshel**, Creekmoor Elementary School
- **Jamin Swift**, Ray-Pec High School
- **Jennifer Vacca**, Bridle Ridge Intermediate School
- **Kelli Yahnig**, Peculiar Elementary School.

### Banquet to honor Teacher and Support Staff finalists

A banquet to honor the finalists for Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Employee of the Year is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at Ray-Pec High School. Make plans to attend this event, which celebrates excellence in education. The cost is \$20 per person. To RSVP, contact **Pam Steele** at [psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us) or 816-892-1311.

## Support Staff Employee finalists announced

Here are the 10 finalists for 2010 Support Staff Employee of the Year:

- **Jeanette Braden**, teacher associate at Eagle Glen Intermediate School
- **Deanna Brucker**, custodian at Ray-Pec Middle School
- **Barb Fredrickson**, teacher associate at Creekmoor Elementary School
- **Jennifer Johnson**, nurse supervisor, Eagle Glen Intermediate School
- **Stella Marr**, paraprofessional at Eagle Glen Intermediate School
- **Lanette McClendon**, paraprofessional at the Middle School
- **Cassie Passeur**, paraprofessional at Creekmoor Elementary School
- **Linda Portman**, Technology
- **Patty Purtle**, kitchen manager at Ray-Pec High School
- **Jill Resendiz**, paraprofessional at Timber Creek Elementary





### ***'Pirates, The Musical'***

On March 18, third and fourth graders at Timber Creek Elementary School presented "Pirates, the Musical." **Zane Lady** portrayed the King of the High Cs, left, and **Peter Dyreng** played the stowaway. The photo at right shows part of the ensemble chorus performing one of the numbers from the show.

## *News Briefs*

### **High School schedule**

The school board on April 15 reviewed a draft of the high school schedule for 2010-2011. Ray-Pec is changing from an eight-block schedule to a seven-period schedule for students in grades 9-12.

The schedule lengthens the school day by 11 minutes. School would begin at 7:25 a.m. and end at 2:41 p.m.

The schedule also has a weekly late start on Wednesday to allow teachers to have collaboration time on a rotating basis. Students will have different options during the 30-minute time period. Those options include advisement, tutoring, and spending time in the gym, library, or cafeteria.

You can view the schedule by going to the district web site: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us/boarddocs](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/boarddocs) and selecting the April 15 regular meeting. Look under the Superintendent's Comments.



### **Accredited with Distinction in Performance**

The Raymore-Peculiar School District was recognized for receiving Accreditation with Distinction in Performance by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education during a banquet March 25 at the University of Central Missouri. Receiving the award on behalf of the district was Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle**, second from left. Presenting the award were Tony Stansberry, left, DESE area supervisor for the Greater Kansas City District, and, third from left to right, Julie Blaine, director, Central Regional Professional Development Center at UCM; Gerri Ogle, DESE associate commissioner for administrative and financial services; and the Rev. Stan Archie, member of the Missouri State Board of Education.

## Cross Country team plans 5k fun run, Lucky 13.1 half-marathon for June 19

The Ray-Pec High School Cross Country team will once again sponsor a 5K walk/run and the Lucky 13.1 Half Marathon road race.

The event is scheduled for 7 a.m. Saturday, June 19. It will start and finish at Panther Stadium.

Medals will be awarded to those finishing the half-marathon. Awards will also be given to the overall winner of each race and age group, with additional recognition to the top 3 per age group.

Registration Fee:

- 5K Walk/Run: \$20 (\$25 after 6/5)
- Half -marathon: \$35 (\$45 after 6/5)
- \$5 discount for RayPec faculty
- \$2 discount for RayPec Alumni

The fee includes T-Shirt (not guaranteed to late entries), one raffle ticket, and finishers medal (for the half-marathon only). Online Registration/Information is available at:

[www.RayPecCC.com](http://www.RayPecCC.com) or [www.Active.com](http://www.Active.com)

## News Briefs

### Mr. RP is coming April 26

The Ray-Pec High School Mr. RP pageant is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 26. The cost is \$5 to attend, and all proceeds will benefit Special Olympics.

### Walk for Heart

The Walk for Health is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, June 5. The four-mile walk begins and ends at Research Belton Hospital, U.S. 71 and M-58. It is a fundraiser for the Research Belton Foundation. Each walker is asked to obtain sponsors to donate to the foundation.

If you'd like to form a team of walkers or participate in the walk, contact Communication Director **Michele Donahoe** at 892-1314 or [mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us).



### MAP Girl to the rescue at Bridle Ridge

On March 29, Bridle Ridge Intermediate School had a kick off assembly for the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests. It was called "The Adventures of MAP Girl." The play was based on MAP Girl saving Bridle Ridge students from the "Evil Testra" who was trying to get students to use bad test-taking strategies. MAP Girl (**Gina Cleveland**) was joined by her side kicks, Terra (**Cathy Pittman**) and Nova (**Elizabeth Breier**). The team fought off the Evil Testra (**Cindy Zornes**) and her side kicks Constructive Response (**Tracy Weeks**), Multiple Choice (**Melissa Darby**) and Performance Event (**Dan Garrison**). The staff ended the play by everyone joining in to the song "Testbusters" sang to the tune of "Ghostbusters." Pictured above, from left to right, are: Cindy Zornes, Gina Cleveland, Melissa Darby and Cathy Pittman.

Teacher **Elizabeth Breier** portrayed the character Nova, a sidekick to the heroine, MAP Girl, in a skit at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. The play ended with students learning the correct test-taking skills and learning how to do well on the MAP test.



Here are the winners of the Ray-Pec Sunrise Optimist Club's essay contest for 2010. Pictured from left to right are: **Catie Laylin**, third place winner; **Lacy Couch**, second place winner, and **Brooke Phillips**, first place winner.



Here are the winners of the Ray-Pec Sunrise Optimist Club's oratorical contest for 2010. Pictured from left to right are: **Abigayl Hockett**, third place winner; **Makayla Dunscombe**, second place winner, and **Kelsei Bowie**, first place winner.

## Ray-Pec Optimist Club honors essay, oratorical contest winners

The Raymore-Peculiar Sunrise Optimist Club recognized the winners of its 2010 essay and oratorical contests at a dinner March 30 at Carnegie Village in Belton.

The winners of the club's essay contest are: first place, **Brooke Phillips**; second place, **Lacy Couch**, and third place, **Catie Laylin**.

The topic for this year's essay contest is "The Internet: Today's Evolution or Tomorrow's Menace?"

The winners of the oratorical contest are: first place, ; second place, **Makayla Dunscombe**, and third place, **Abigayl Hockett**.

The topic for this year's oratorical contest is "Cyber Communications: Progress or Problem?"

The first place winners each received a medallion and a check for \$75; each second place winner received a medallion and a check for \$50, and each third place winner received a medallion and a check for \$25.

The Raymore-Peculiar Sunrise Optimist Club has been conducting service projects for young people each year since 1980. For information, contact the club at Post Office Box 513, Raymore, MO 64083 or visit the club's website at [www.RayPecOptimistClub.com](http://www.RayPecOptimistClub.com).

## Students excel in Optimist Oratorical Contest

**Kelsei Bowie**, a freshman at Raymore-Peculiar High School, recently won the West Missouri Zone 12 Optimist oratorical contest. She was sponsored by the Raymore-Peculiar Sunrise Optimist Club. Winning second place was Kiersten West, who was sponsored by the Lee's Summit Evening Optimist Club. Third place went to Itohan Amayo, who was sponsored by the Kansas City Southside Optimist Club.

The topic for this year's contest is "Cyber Communication: Progress or Problem?" Kelsei advanced to a regional contest April 11 in Harrisonville. The winner of the West Missouri Optimist District's four regional contests will compete May 1 in Branson. The first place winner at the district contest will receive a \$2,500 scholarship; second place, a \$1,500 scholarship; and third place, a \$1,000 scholarship.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with more than 100,000 adult and youth members in more than 3,000 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Europe.



**Kelsei Bowie**, a student at Ray-Pec Freshman Center, center, recently won the West Missouri Zone 12 Optimist oratorical contest. She was sponsored by the Ray-Pec Sunrise Optimist Club. Also pictured are Itohan Amayo, left, sponsored by the Kansas City Southside Optimist Club, and Kiersten West, right, sponsored by the Lee's Summit Evening Optimist Club.

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# Ray-Pec High School journalism students win All-State awards

On April 6-7, 22 journalism students from Ray-Pec High School attended Scholastic Journalism Day in Columbia, Missouri at the University of Missouri.

Overall the journalism department won 15 All-State awards – more than the Ray-Pec journalism department has ever received.

The students on the trip were Seniors **Andrew Miller**, **Lacy Couch**, **Brittany Boyd**, **Catie Laylin**, **Shelby Allen** and **Nichole Phillips**; Juniors **Jake Sapp**, **Jesse DeFrain**, **Karli Faudel**, **Kramer Pruitt**, **Lauren Sperry**, **Emily Hurd**, **Megan Arthur**, and **Haleigh McDaniel**; and Sophomores **Tabitha Folkert**, **Emily Rapp**, **Meghan Duane**, **Lauren Brown**, **Alesha Hall**, **Allison Hammell**, **Simone Rall**, and **Kaitlyn Sheppard**.

J-Day is an opportunity for journalism students from Missouri high schools to meet and hear key note speakers, attend break-out sessions, and be recognized for their outstanding achievements. This year Steve Serrano, radio personality from Mix 93.3 was the guest speaker. Students could attend two break-out sessions with high school publication advisers, MU students, and professionals in the field of journalism. Students are then recognized in an award ceremony. J-Day is sponsored by the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association.

*The Panther Times* newspaper is led by Editor in Chief **Lacy Couch**.

The Panther Yearbook is led by Editors in Chief **Andrew Miller** and **Nichole Phillips**.

Both high school publications are advised by **Stefani Russ**. Russ was elected to the MIPA state Board of Directors at the annual J-Day organizational meeting.

- Senior **Gage Roe** won a Show Me award, the highest award given, for individual newspaper sports writing.
- Senior **Lacy Couch** won a Superior award for individual newspaper regular column writing.
- Senior **Courtne Burgess** won a Superior award for individual newspaper feature writing.
- Senior **Ie'Shia McDonald** won a Superior award for individual yearbook Organizations Design.

- Senior **Brittany Boyd** won a Superior award for individual yearbook best overall coverage.
- Junior **Emily Hurd** and **Brittany Boyd** won a Superior award for individual yearbook Student Life Design.
- Junior **Haleigh McDaniel** won a Superior award for individual yearbook Student Life Design.
- Juniors **Jake Sapp** and **Emily Hurd** won a Superior award for individual yearbook Sports Design.
- **Jake Sapp** won a Superior award for individual yearbook Academic Reporting.
- Sophomores **Rachael Smith** and **Maddie Gross** won a Superior award for individual yearbook Sports Design.
- Senior **Shelby Allen** won a Show Me award for photo journalism Sports Action and a Superior award for photo journalism Color.
- Senior **Michelle Knippa** won a Superior award for photo journalism Academic Coverage and a Superior award for photo journalism Sports Feature.
- *The Panther Times* received an Excellent Rating in MIPA over-all newspaper/newsmagazine contest.



## Journalism Day

These journalism students from Ray-Pec High School attended Scholastic Journalism Day April 6-7 at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Overall, the journalism students won 15 All-State awards.



**Touch-A-Truck**

The Ray-Pec Parents as Teachers program had a family activity called “Touch-A-Truck” on March 23 in the parking lot at Timber Creek Elementary School. Children and their families could see a fire truck, ambulance, construction Bobcat, three different trash trucks, a school bus and the Cass County Library bookmobile.

*News Briefs*

**Seniors may audition to perform at graduation**

Auditions to perform at graduation are scheduled for April 29. They will be held in the choir room after school. Contact Teacher **Janine Allbright** at [jallbright@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:jallbright@raypec.k12.mo.us) for more information. Any senior wishing to audition needs to schedule a time with Mrs. Allbright. She is located at the high school in room 223.

**Order your own pink RP ‘Find a Cure’ shirt**

Looking for some different Ray-Pec spirit wear? DECA has \$5 Pink Find a Cure T-shirts in sizes Small- XLarge. Contact Teacher **Kim Schrader** at [RPHS at: kschrader@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:kschrader@raypec.k12.mo.us).



**The inside look**

The Ray-Pec Parents as Teachers program had a family activity called “Touch-A-Truck” on March 23 in the parking lot at Timber Creek Elementary School. These children are exploring the inside of an ambulance.

## News Briefs

### Prowlers at state

Congratulations to the Ray-Pec Prowlers for their performance at the 2010 state competition. The Prowlers dance team placed second in jazz, third in pom, and fourth overall.

### Color guard tryouts

Attention students currently in grades 8-11: Are you interested in performing during halftime of Panther home football games and competitions around the state?

If so, try out for the Ray-Pec High School Color Guard. Try-out clinics are from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 19, 21, 26, and 27 in the Freshman Center gym. Try-outs are April 28 in the Freshman Center gym, starting at 4:30 p.m.

For information, contact Color Guard Director **Amber Hess** at [ahess@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:ahess@raypec.k12.mo.us).

### Peculiar festival features Food Fear Factor event; and Mr./Miss Sunshine

The 10th annual Peculiar Spring Festival is once again hosting a "Mr. and Miss Sunshine Contest" for children ages 2-4 years and a baby contest for children ages 3-24 months.

For the second year, the festival will have a "Food Fear Factor" event for youth ages 5-17 years.

To register or for more information, contact Joelle Orrange at 657-2555 or via email at [joelle.orrange@jjmj.net](mailto:joelle.orrange@jjmj.net). Registration is required for all contests. Deadline to register is April 26.

### Project Grad Poker Run

Project Grad will host a 125-mile Poker Run on Sunday, April 25. The run begins at the Lions Club in Peculiar, Mo., with five stops along the way ending at Applebee's in Belton. Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. April 25. The registration fee is \$25/\$10/\$5, up to five hands total.

For more information, or to sign up in advance, call Jeff at 816-510-4321 or Phil at 816-305-6195. Free event T-shirts will be available while the supply lasts.



### Haircut for Ms. Hofmann

Third grader Charles Phillips cuts the hair of Principal Michelle Hofmann, with the assistance of Kelli Heggem, a professional stylist who also has a student that attends Raymore Elementary School. Charles' name was drawn from among third graders who had completed various practice activities for the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests. Fourth grade students who completed the activities were allowed to vote on a haircolor for Ms. Hofmann. The winning hair color was blond, and Hofmann promised students that she will arrive at school on April 12 with blond hair. Hofmann plans to donate the hair to "Locks of Love," an organization that makes wigs for children who lose their hair or have no hair.



### Donation for 'Locks of Love'

Raymore Elementary School Principal Michelle Hofmann holds the two braids that were cut off on April 6. She will donate the hair to "Locks of Love."

## News Briefs

### Prowlers dance team members announced for 2010-2011 school year

Here are the Prowlers Varsity Dance Team members for 2010-2011:

- Seniors **Maegan Burlison, Alex Miller, Dejaun Rice** and **Chasity Tyus**;
- Juniors **Jessica Gonzalez, Hannah Hegarty** and **Melody Roberts**;
- Sophomores **Britta Henkle, Sabrina Justesen** and **Chelsea Shaffer**; and
- Freshmen **Delaney Ardito, Maci Hodges, Melanie Parker, Shelby Scrivener**, and **Joy Sharp**.

Counselor **Cheryl Gray** is the head coach of the Prowlers dance team.

### Peculiar to conduct test of severe weather siren on first Wednesdays

To conform to testing of other municipalities in the area, the Peculiar severe weather siren tests will be on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am. The first test will be May 5, 2010.

### Shull cookbook

The Shull Elementary School Family Cookbook, with more than 220 recipes, is available for \$10. Contact Marla Jones at [shullcookbook@aol.com](mailto:shullcookbook@aol.com) or 816-322-4692.

### Booth space available at Peculiar festival

The 10th annual Peculiar Spring Festival is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 1, on the grounds of Peculiar Elementary School. To submit an application for booth space to sell crafts or promote a business, please send an email to Tracy at [fourcaskeys@msn.com](mailto:fourcaskeys@msn.com), with "Spring Festival" in the subject line. Each booth space measures 10 feet by 10 feet at a cost of \$60. Booths are free for certain non-profit organizations. Canopies, electricity and other needs are available at additional costs. Applications received after March 31 will have a \$20 late fee.



### Children's Literature Festival

Payton King, a fourth grader at Shull Elementary School, reads poetry with author David Harrison. Payton was part of the Shull Elementary Twain Team, a group of fourth graders who read six or more of the Mark Twain nominee books for this year. On March 16, the Twain Team participated in the Children's Literature Festival at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. They listened to authors David Harrison, P. J. Petersen, and Sneed Collard III.



### Author autograph

Mara Davis and Mattison Derby, fourth graders at Shull Elementary School, get an autograph from author P.J. Peterson. Mara and Mattison were part of the Shull Elementary Twain Team, a group of fourth graders who read six or more of the Mark Twain nominee books for this year. On March 16, the Twain Team participated in the Children's Literature Festival at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. They listened to authors David Harrison, P. J. Petersen, and Sneed Collard III.

## News Briefs



### Ray-Pec students compete in gymnastics

Three Ray-Pec students, all sisters, excelled at the Kansas State Gymnastics meet on March 19 and qualified for regional competition in April. Pictured, from left, are: Kellie Wilson, a sophomore at Ray-Pec High School; and Lauren Wilson, eighth grade; and Morgan Wilson, seventh grade; who both attend Ray-Pec Middle School. At the Kansas State meet, Kellie competed in the Level 9 Senior age division and took third place in the all-around competition. She placed second on floor exercise, and third on bars and beam. Lauren competed in the Level 9 Junior age division and placed second in the All-around competition. She placed first on floor, second on bars and third on beam. Morgan competed as a Level 8 gymnast and placed first in the All-around competition. She placed first in all four events. At the regional competition, Lauren placed sixth in the All-around competition, which qualifies her for the Western competition in Des Moines, Iowa. Morgan will compete in regional competition this weekend in Colorado Springs, Colo. The girls take Gymnastics at the Diamond Gymnastics Academy in Overland Park, Kan.



### Superintendent stress relief

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** takes a break on the playground at Peculiar Elementary School.

### Freshman orientation set for Aug. 3, 2010

The date for Freshman Orientation has changed. Due to scheduling conflicts, the freshman orientation was rescheduled from April 13, to Tuesday, August 3. Parents of students who will enter ninth grade in the fall, please plan to attend. The meeting will information about many of the new opportunities that will be available for your son or daughter during the 2010-2011 school.

### Boys golf team finishes well at tournaments

Ray-Pec boys golf is off to a good start with a fourth place finish out of 19 teams at the Truman Invitational, 10th place out of 24 teams at the Lee's Summit Invitational, and a seventh place finish out of 26 teams at the Ray-Pec Invitational.

So far, the team is also 4-0 in head-to-head matches. Individual medals have been won by varsity golfers **Conner Weise** and **Jake Keith**. A junior varsity medal was won by **Jake Meireis** at the Ray-Pec tournament.

### Middle School student wins at gymnastics

Congratulations to **Rylie Hoffman**, a seventh grader at Ray-Pec Middle School who is the new 2010 Regional All Around Gymnastic Champion. She also placed first on bars and third on vault. The regional competition was April 11 at the Overland Park Convention Center and included gymnasts from six states: Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and North Dakota.

### Last day of school is now May 28

The district has missed six school days due to inclement weather. One snow day was made up on Friday, Feb. 12. The other snow days will be made up on May 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28.

High school graduation remains, as scheduled, on Friday, May 21, at the Community of Christ Auditorium in Independence.

# News Briefs

## Athletic Booster Club

The Ray-Pec Athletic Booster Club provides financial support for athletic teams at the Ray-Pec middle and high school levels.

The booster club provides funding beyond the school district's budget to enhance the curriculum and experiences of Ray-Pec student athletes. The booster club helps fund uniforms, equipment, and special event fees, as well as the building of new school facilities.

These funds are generated through membership dues, concession sales, spirit apparel sales, the annual golf tournament and other activities.

There are many volunteer opportunities for people interested in providing support and assistance.

For more information, contact Ron Sevart, Ray-Pec Athletic Booster Club president, at 816-322-8391.



## Support for Project Grad

Raymore Wal-Mart Store Manager Randy Dosch, at right, presents a \$1,000 check to support Ray-Pec Project Graduation. Accepting the check are the Project Grad Chairman Julie Osborne, left, and Co-Chairman Sisie Folkers.

## Young poet is inspired by story of Harriet Tubman



### *The Nightmare That Came True*

Slavery  
Black People  
Plantation  
Hate!  
Families Separated.  
No More Love!  
Finally,  
Freedom!

### **Barefoot**

Barefoot,  
Cold Nights,  
Blistering Winds . . .  
Hate,  
Come to a Stop.  
White People,  
Surrounded!  
No Place to Hide!  
Quick!  
Go Underground!  
No Place to Run!  
Go!!! Go!!! Go!!!  
Hurry, Fast!  
Made it Home.  
Safe

### **Look Out!**

Start.  
Look,  
See,  
Goooo!  
Might make it!  
Run! Run! Run!  
Look out!  
Hide under a bush!  
Bees!  
Jump into a lake!  
Swim!  
Wait, go back!  
SAVE FAMILY!  
Did it!  
Almost there!

### **Freedom**

Tick Tock  
Freedom!  
Tick!  
Tock!  
We need!  
Freedom!  
Tick!  
Tock!  
Where is  
Freedom!!  
We need Help!  
Harriet Tubman!

Emma Menzel, a second grade student at Shull Elementary School, wrote four poems about freedom. Elaine Riley, a second grade teacher at Shull, read a story to her students about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Emma asked if she could write a poem, and within moments had written the first of four poems.



## Children's Literature Festival

Thirteen lucky students at Peculiar Elementary School were chosen to attend one day of the Children's Literature Festival at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. On March 16, the students got to hear real authors and illustrators tell about their craft, and the students also had the opportunity to ask questions. Eileen Christelow, Barbara Robinson, and Claudia Mills shared their expertise and funny antidotes with students. The students were escorted by Library Media Specialist **Joyce Webb** and Library Media Assistant **Sheri Dyreng** (pictured here with the students). Attending were: **Skylar Setzer, Chaz Taibi, Noah Novak, David Stutzman, Carissa Beaman, Maddie Eshleman, Kiara Galloway, Miranda Howe, Brandon Tygret, Shelby Martinez, Michael Rexroad, Paige Hackley, and Alisa Cahoon.**

Eileen Christelow tells about her work during the Children's Literature Festival in March at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. The group of students from Peculiar Elementary attended on March 16. Christelow was one of three authors and illustrators the students met during the trip. They also met Barbara Robinson and Claudia Mills.



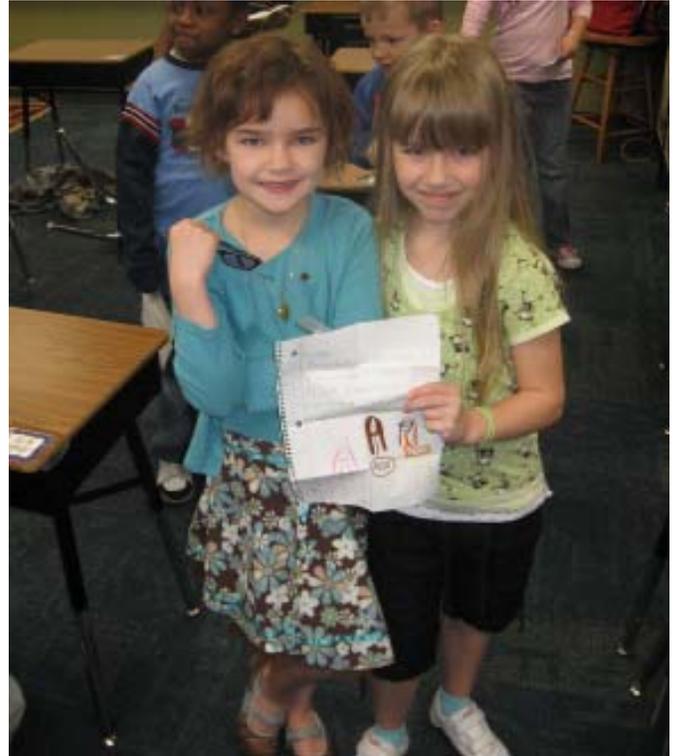
## Creekmoor Art Show

The Creekmoor Elementary School annual Art Show was March 5 in collaboration with an evening performance by the first grade students. Artwork from students of all grades blanketed the hallways with texture, color and a spectacular display of ability.



## Goodies with Grandparents

On March 10, Creekmoor Elementary School celebrate its annual Goodies with Grandparents day. Students and their grandparents, or special friends, came to school early to enjoy a variety of breakfast treats and shop at the book fair.



### MAP messages

Students in Andrew Dean's first grade class at Creekmoor Elementary School surprised Rebecca Oshel's third grade class with notes of encouragement, taped under their chairs, to do well on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing. In the photo at left, John Barnes finds his note. In the photo at right, Sydney Stidham, first grade, and Faith Swenson, third grade, are new writing MAP buddies.



### Read Across America

On March 2, Timber Creek Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Day. People from the community and the school district visited the school to read Dr. Seuss books to classrooms. Many students dressed up like characters from Dr. Seuss books. Students also completed trivia sheets about Dr. Seuss.

## News Briefs

### Superintendent's Blog

Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** has a blog. A blog is an online journal, or "web log." To read Dr. Kyle's blog, go to the district web site: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us). There is a link on the left side of the home page for "Superintendent's Blog."

### New post office box

The Raymore-Peculiar School District has a new post office box. Please send correspondence to: Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078. Mail sent to P.O. Box 366 will be forwarded for a few months.

### Recycling program

Recycling bins are now available throughout the school district. Smaller bins are placed in classrooms and offices, and larger bins are available in cafeterias and other locations.

You may commingle your recyclables in the bins. This means that you may place aluminum, paper, plastic, and cardboard in the same container. Please do not place glass in the recycling bins.

Town and Country will sort the recyclables at its plant in Harrisonville.



### Movies for Black History Month

Ray-Pec Freshman Center Principal **Eric Arnold** makes announcements to students during lunch. During February, the Ray-Pec Freshman Center used technology to observe Black History Month by showing biographies of well-known African-Americans during lunch time. In addition, students read the book "To Kill a Mockingbird" during the month of February.



### Movies for Black History Month

During February, the Ray-Pec Freshman Center used technology to observe Black History Month by showing biographies of well-known African-Americans during lunch time. You can see the screen at right.

### Ray-Pec Foundation offers discounts on software programs

You may purchase software at special prices through the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation.

Go to [www.raypec.k12.mo.us/foundation](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/foundation), and click on the software purchase link on the left. Select the sign-in link at the top. If you previously registered, you should still be registered. If not, click on the "register" tab. If you have



questions, contact **Pam Steele** at [psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us) or 892-1311. Students, parents and patrons may also order the software, but they should send an e-mail to Pam Steele to obtain a registration code.

## News Briefs

### Job openings

Employment opportunities in the School District are posted at the Administrative Services Center and on the district web site at: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us).

If interested in a position, obtain an application in person or on-line, complete it, and submit it to: Ray-Pec Schools Human Resources, 21005 S. School Rd., P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, Mo. 64078.

You may also sign up via the web site to be notified when job openings are posted.

### Find us on Facebook

Find us on Facebook! You can now become a fan of the Raymore-Peculiar School District on Facebook.



It's free to create an account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Search "pages" for the Raymore-Peculiar School District.

### You can follow Ray-Pec, RP boys basketball and Project Grad on Twitter

You can also view Ray-Pec information and become a follower of Ray-Pec School District news updates by clicking on "join today" at <http://twitter.com/raypec>.

You can follow Ray-Pec boys basketball on Twitter. Go to: <http://twitter.com/rpbasketball>. You can view the basketball information at that web site, and you can sign up to receive "tweets" on your cell phone.

You can also follow Ray-Pec Project Graduation on Twitter. Go to: <http://twitter.com/rpprojectgrad>. You can view the Project Graduation information and sign up to follow Project Grad.

To learn more about Twitter, visit [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com). You can create an account and view a video. Twitter is a free online service. Through Twitter, users may update family, friends or professional peers in 140-character messages delivered to cell phones or through the Internet.



### Freshman Center Students of the Month

Here are the March Students of the Month at the Ray-Pec Freshman Center. In front, from left, are: Jordyn Ferro, Kylie Bain and Jason Henkel. In the back, from left, are: Quincy Johnson, Trae Hodges and Bridgette Sappington.

### Panther Cub Academy enrolls for fall, summer

Panther Cub Academy is taking enrollment the week of April 12-16 for its summer and fall programs. Please call 892-1943 to set up an enrollment appointment.

Enrollment packets will be available to parents when they visit the program. Enrollment is not complete until all paperwork and a \$40, non-refundable fee has been paid. The fee holds the child's spot.

The Panther Cub Academy offers year-round educational experiences for children ages 3 to 5 who are potty trained. Panther Cub Academy is located on the lower level of Raymore Elementary School at 500 S. Madison St., Raymore.

Panther Cub Academy is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Panther Cub Academy is closed for inclement weather if Ray-Pec schools are closed. It is also closed:

- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Good Friday
- President's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day, and
- Ray-Pec winter break and spring break.

Tuition is \$110 per week for full-time status, or \$30 per day with a two-day minimum. A non-refundable enrollment fee of \$40 is required.

Panther Cub Academy provides nutritious snacks, but does not provide breakfast or lunch. Children may bring their own breakfast or lunch, or they can open a lunch account with the school district. When school is not in session, Panther Cub children must bring breakfast and/or lunch.

To read more about Panther Cub Academy, visit the district web site at: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us/panthercub](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/panthercub)

For more information, contact Director **Marie Davis** at 892-1943 or [mdavis@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:mdavis@raypec.k12.mo.us).

## Standard Complaint Resolution Procedure for Improving America's Schools Act Programs

This complaint resolution procedure applies to all programs administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

A complaint is a formal allegation that a specific federal or state law or regulation has been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by school district personnel or by Department of Education personnel.

Any parent or guardian, surrogate parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, or other person directly involved with an activity, program, or project operated under the general supervision of the Department may file a complaint. Such a complaint must be in writing and signed; it will provide specific details of the situation and indicate the law or regulation that is allegedly being violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted.

The written, signed complaint must be filed and the resolution pursued in accordance with local district policy: The Board recognizes that situations of concern to parents/guardians or the public may arise in the operation of the district. Such concerns are best resolved through communication with the appropriate staff members and officers of the school district, such as the faculty, the principals, the Superintendent or the Board.

The following steps are proper procedures to be followed by persons with questions or complaints regarding the operation of the school district:

Matters concerning individual students should first be addressed to the teacher.

Unsettled matters from (1) above, or problems and questions concerning individual schools, should be directed to the principal of the school.

Unsettled matters from (2) above, or problems and questions concerning individual schools, should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent.

Unsettled matters from (3) above, or problems and questions concerning the school district, should be directed to the Superintendent.

If the matter cannot be settled satisfactorily by the Superintendent, it should be brought to the Board of Education. Questions and comments submitted to the secretary of the Board in letter form will be brought to the attention of the entire Board. If necessary, a Board hearing will be scheduled to resolve the complaint. However, the decision of the Board shall be final.

The Board considers it the obligation of the professional and support staff of the district to field the questions of parents/guardians or the public.

If the issue cannot be resolved at the local level, the complainant may file a complaint with the Missouri Department of Education. If there is no evidence that the parties have attempted in good faith to resolve the complaint at the local level, the Department may require the parties to do so and may provide technical assistance to facilitate such resolution.

Any persons directly affected by the actions of the Department may file a similarly written complaint if they believe state or federal laws or regulations have been violated, misapplied, or misinterpreted by the Department itself.

Anyone wishing more information about this procedure or how complaints are resolved may contact local district or Department personnel.

## News Briefs

### Activity telephone line

Call 892-3988 for daily activities and sports information updates and cancellations. Call after 1 p.m. for weather-related cancellations.



### Text messages

To sign up for text message alerts from the School District, visit the district web site at: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us)

There is a link on the left side.

Each subscriber must self-enroll and submit an authorization code that will be provided during the enrollment process. Allen Bank and Trust of Raymore is sponsoring the service.

### RP Update

To receive e-mail news from the school district, send a message to: [rpupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us](mailto:rpupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us). In the body of the message, type "Subscribe RP Update." You may enroll yourself by following a link at: [www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us)

## Safe and Drug Free Schools Federal Grants Title IV Annual Report

School districts in Missouri are required to present an annual report to the public describing school programs that were funded with Title IV, Safe and Drug Free dollars, and to identify how these programs support the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) objectives.

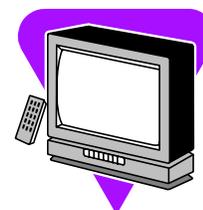
The Ray-Pec School District provided the following programs and activities, which were selected and designed to address district CSIP objectives for student achievement and safe and productive learning environments.

Stop Violence Now programs on bully prevention, prevention of violence in school, prevention of substance, alcohol and tobacco abuse and anger management skills were presented throughout the school year.

Funds also supported instructional supplies and materials for classroom and small group guidance lessons with students. Small groups and some after-school groups focused on such topics as: stress management, friendships, diversity, tolerance, peer pressure, conflict resolution and building social skills.

At the secondary level, funds also helped support an online alcohol education program to help tutor students to make good decisions regarding social pressures dealing with alcohol use or experimentation.

Title IV funds also helped support the mentoring program "Together We Can," which provides adult mentors for elementary students. Adult volunteers meet with students on a weekly basis to offer assistance with school work, or just be a friend to a student identified at-risk socially or academically.



*For more news and information  
about the  
Raymore-Peculiar School District,  
check out:*

*Comcast Cable Channel 15*

*and our web site at:  
[www.raypec.k12.mo.us](http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us)*



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# Raymore-Peculiar School District Public Notices

## Children with Disabilities

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. The Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include: autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness, and young child with a developmental delay.

Raymore-Peculiar School District assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State of Missouri in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program. Raymore-Peculiar School District assures personally identifiable information collected, used or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

The Raymore-Peculiar School District has developed a Local Compliance Plan for implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District, Administrative Services Center, 21005 School Road, Peculiar, Missouri, 816-892-1300, during business hours.

This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

## Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of the Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District to make our services, facilities, programs and accommodations accessible to all individuals, including individuals with disabilities. The District continues to upgrade its facilities in accordance with its ADA Transition Plans.

If a disability prevents you from fully using our facilities or enjoying our services and programs, we would like your input and ideas on how we can better serve you.

Please direct your input in writing to:

ADA Coordinator, Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District  
P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078

## Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title XI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, P.L. 93-112, and Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the regulations hereunder, it is the policy of the Ray-Pec School District that no person shall, because of age, sex, race, disability or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any district education program or activity, including employment. Written policies about the rights and responsibilities of employees and students are available for inspection at the district's administrative offices. Inquiries about protection against discrimination under the above-named acts may be directed in writing to: Dr. Terri Jamison, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Raymore-Peculiar School District, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078.

## Notification of Asbestos Plans

Asbestos Management Plans for the Raymore-Peculiar School District include two components: a general plan for the entire district and a specific plan for each school. The entire plan is located at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd., Peculiar, MO 64078. Each school office has a copy of plans for that school. Plans may be viewed during regular business hours. To view plans, make an appointment with the Asbestos Program Manager at least one (1) working day in advance. Any request to view the plan must be honored by the Asbestos Program Manager within five (5) working days of the receipt of such request. Document copies are available from the Administrative Services Center at a cost of 25 cents per page.



## Raymore-Peculiar School News

Raymore-Peculiar School District  
21005 S. School Rd., P.O. Box 789  
Peculiar, MO 64078

