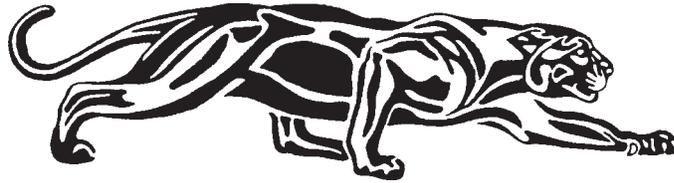




Raymore-Peculiar School News



Published for patrons and friends of the Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District
April 30, 2010

Focus on credit recovery, remediation District announces Summer School plans

Due to uncertainty about state funding for summer school, the Ray-Pec School District will not offer summer school in the same format as in past years.

The district has been waiting for more information from the state before sending enrollment information home. But, it could be May before we know the extent of the state funding for this program. This timeframe makes it difficult for the school district and families to plan. Currently, legislators are discussing funding core classes only.

This year, students entering grades 10-12 may enroll in credit recovery classes. Summer school for credit recovery will be a full day. No bus transportation will be provided.

There will be no driver's education classes, but the district plans to make available a list of some driver's education options for parents.

For students entering grades 1-9, the district will target and invite the students who are academically at risk or would most benefit from the additional instruction. There will not be classes this year for incoming kindergarten students. Summer school will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon and will not include lunch or bus transportation.

Students who qualify for summer school will receive letters of invitation to participate. The dates for summer school are tentatively set for Monday, June 7, through Thursday, July 1.

Note: As required by law, transportation will be provided for students who have extended school year plans.

Offering summer school only to those students in academic need is a drastic departure from the Burst of Learning summer school program the district offered last year.

Peculiar Spring Festival is Saturday, May 1

The 10th Annual Spring Festival is free to the public with fun for the whole family from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on the grounds of Peculiar Elementary. Enjoy food, vendors, Silent Auction, rides, games, Bingo, Cake Walk, Trivia Challenge, stage events, and music by The Outtakes Band (5 to 7p.m.).

Pancake breakfast

The Peculiar Lion's Club is hosting an "all you can eat" Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 1, in the Peculiar Elementary School Cafeteria in conjunction with the Peculiar Spring Festival.

Cost is \$5 for adults (13 and older), \$3 for children (4-12), and children under 3 are free. Includes pancakes, sausage, coffee and orange juice. All proceeds benefit Peculiar Elementary PTA.

First ever Patriot 5K Run/Walk is May 1

Attention runners and walkers: Get ready for the first Patriot 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 1. The run/walk will begin at 8 a.m. at Peculiar Elementary, with registration beginning at 7 a.m. Take advantage of \$5 off all registrations through April 29.

All ages and family members are welcome.

Registration includes a pancake breakfast and t-shirt. For more information, go to www.runkansascity.com or contact Leah Eve at leaheve@yahoo.com or 816-803-5550.

The run/walk is a benefit for Peculiar Elementary School in conjunction with the Peculiar Spring Festival.

RSVP today for Band Extravaganza

The Ray-Pec Band Extravaganza is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, in the high school commons. The band has extended the final reservation date for the event. You now have until today, Friday, April 30, to make reservations.

The Extravaganza includes a dinner catered by Outback Steakhouse and musical performances by the students who qualified for state. You can participate in a silent auction for baskets of items from local businesses. The evening will end with performances from the middle school and high school bands.

The cost for the meal is \$10 per person, and \$3 for children under age 5. For more information, or to make reservations, go to: www.raypecband.org.

"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."

Three championships and best actress

Theatre students win at state speech/debate tournament

Congratulations to Raymore-Peculiar High School students on a successful weekend at the state Speech and Debate Tournament April 23-24 in Columbia.

Ray-Pec won the state championship in Readers Theatre for the fifth time over the past 10 years.

Students performed the piece, "Alice's Adventures with Poorly Cooked Cafeteria Seafood." It's a retelling of the Alice in Wonderland story with a contemporary twist. During Readers Theatre, students are judged on interpretation, and the pieces are performed without costumes or sets.

The Readers Theatre included these students: **Shawn Adams, Amanda Allen, Todd Bowles, Veronica Creamer,**

Bridget Hoffman, Charles Koons, Sara Lancaster, Mandy Lange, Taylor Lininger, Alex Miller, Nick Pasternak, Dane Schnake, Ron Stephenson, Aidan Swanson, Nicollette Thompson, Jacob Trumbo, Sarah Unruh, Jayson Wellman, Marie Whelan and Markeyta Young.

Hayley Farrell and **Seth Jones** won the state championship in Duet Acting, performing "Spring Awakening."

Dane Schnake won the state championship in Storytelling, performing "The Soldier and Death." Dane is the first Ray-Pec freshman to win an individual events championship in the history of the competition.

Ray-Pec placed fourth with its One-Act Play, and **Hayley Farrell** was named

"Best Actress" in the state One-Act competition. Students performed the piece, "And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson." This is the fourth time in the past seven years that Ray-Pec has made the final four in this event, and has previously won two state titles.

In other individual events:

- **Dane Schnake** placed fourth in humorous interpretation,
- **Nellie Maple** placed fifth in poetry interpretation, and
- **Markeyta Young** placed eighth in oratory.

Congratulations also to theatre teachers **Todd Schnake, Karla Penechar** and **Pam Schnake**.

News Briefs

Sympathy notice for Abigail Espinoza

The district extends sympathy to the family and friends of **Abigail "Abby" Espinoza**, who passed away Friday, April 23. Abby, 14, was an eighth grader at Ray-Pec Middle School.

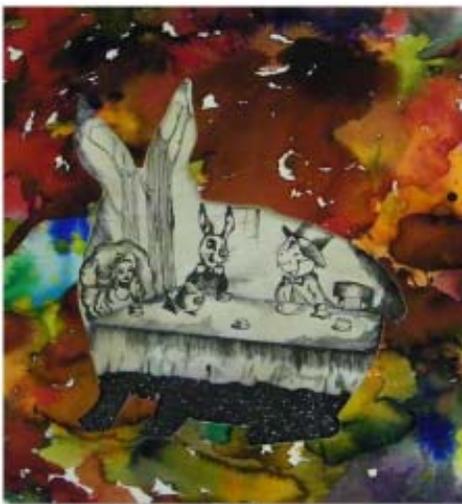
Visitation was Tuesday, April 27, at Abundant Life Baptist Church in Lee's Summit. The funeral service was Wednesday, April 28, at Abundant Life Baptist Church in Lee's Summit.



Abby Espinoza

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.



"Wonderland" – **Maddie Johnson**
21" x 21" Mixed Media

An example of watercolor an illustration.



"Emergence" – **Taylor Gillespie**
21" x 28" Mixed Media

An example of Xerox transfer, monoprint and watercolor.

Silent auction features student artwork

The Raymore-Peculiar Optimist Club and the Ray-Pec High School Art Department are sponsoring a silent art auction.

The two pieces, "Wonderland," a mixed media piece by Junior **Maddie Johnson**, and "Emergence," a mixed media piece by Senior **Taylor Gillespie**, will be on display in the foyer of the high school for viewing. Viewing is from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. or by appointment. Both artists plan to attend college majoring in art.

Bidding began April 25 and ends at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 13. Minimum bid is \$75. Bids can be made by emailing Laura Richardson, HS Fine Art Department Chair at Lrichardson@raypec.k12.mo.us. For more information contact: **Laura Richardson**, Raymore-Peculiar High School, 816-892-1427.

All proceeds will be used to fund the Annual Ray-Pec High School Art Competition and Art Exhibit Invitational. This event is held during the fall at Ray-Pec High School. All Cass County and Kansas City area high school art departments are invited to participate.

Ray-Pec bowling team qualifies for state

Congratulations to the Ray-Pec varsity bowling team, which qualified for state by placing second at zone finals April 25.

After 10 rounds of competition, Ray-Pec placed second with a pinfall total of 3465, missing first place by just one pin. The Oak Park Northmen, last year's state champions, took first with 3466 pins.

The state finals will be Saturday, May 29, at the West County Lanes in St. Louis.

Team members are: **Josh Scudder, Taylor Wilson, Connor Zimmerman, Austin Camp, Tim Vogel, Josh Lager, Justin Lager, and Amber Vogel.**

Eagle Glen students win art show awards

Congratulations to Eagle Glen Intermediate School students who won awards from the Cass County Student Art Show, sponsored by the Harrisonville Fine Arts Association from April 20-26.

These fifth graders won awards: **Samantha Shakes**, first place; **Zachary Patterson**, second place; and **Grant Bosley**, Judges Merit Award.

These sixth graders won awards: **Jasmine Nissanka**, first place, and **Brayden Roberts**, second place.

The Harrisonville Fine Arts Association honored **Cheryl Schmidt**, Eagle Glen art teacher, as the Outstanding Art Teacher of the Year, based on the performance of her students at this year's show.

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 or www.Active.com

Optimists honor excellence in education

Congratulations to students honored at the 22nd annual Excellence in Education Banquet on April 25 at Ray-Pec High School. The annual event is sponsored by the Raymore-Peculiar Sunrise Optimist Club. These students were honored for their academic achievements.

Seniors: Ashley Bishop, Nikolas Bravo, Megan Brigance, Kelly Capper, Mary Chambers, Samantha Forrest, Megan Fox, Kristen Galant, Benjamin Jones, James Kennedy, Aaron Kuhn, Elyssa Lemay, Shelby Lueckenotto, Erik Morris, Andrew Mueller, Colten Niswonger, Zachary Norman, Pritesh Patel, Clinton Quade, Raul Quinones, Bethany Roth, Rebecca Sibert, Rachelle Spurgeon, Laprichianna Tabron, James Taylor, Ashley Trigger, and Ethan Williamson.

Juniors: Eric Carlson, Terrial Collins, Anthony Elleman, Elizabeth Fowler, Bridget Hoffman, Emily King, Taylor Lininger, Rafael Lozano, Deanna Millard, Hannah Redding, Paul Sappington, Keton Schroeder, Amanda Squires, Aidan Swanson and Marie Whelan.

Sophomores: Rebecca Barron, Haley Crane, Kristen Grantham, Abigayl Hockett, Amanda Johnson, Zachary Miller, Nathan Parke, Megan Settle, Michaela Wiehe, and Kellie Wilson.

News Briefs

Ray-Pec baseball team to play at T-Bones site

The Ray-Pec varsity baseball team will play Truman High School at 6 p.m. Monday, May 3, at the T-Bones Stadium at The Legends. Admission is free, and you do not need a ticket.

Ray-Pec Fashion Show is Friday, April 30

The fifth annual Ray-Pec Fashion Show will be at 7 p.m. Friday, April 30, in the High School auditorium. This year's theme is "Dream" and will feature student-made projects, as well as merchandise from Maurice's, Gennaio, Amelia's, David's Bridal, and Men's Wearhouse. Tickets are \$5 at the door. All proceeds go toward future shows and the development of a scholarship fund.

Peculiar Spring Festival features contests

The 10th annual Peculiar Spring Festival will include 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. Registration is required for all contests.

Diversity Appreciation Night is May 5

You are invited to attend Diversity Appreciation Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, at Ray-Pec High School. The event will include student artwork on display, entertainment by students, and cooking demonstrations.

Registration starts May 5 for Early Childhood

Registration will begin Wednesday, May 5, for the Ray-Pec Early Childhood Education classes for the 2010-2011 school year. The Ray-Pec School District offers a tuition-free pre-kindergarten program two half days a week. Read more: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=74>

News Briefs

RSVP deadline is May 6 for teacher, support staff recognition banquet

May 6 is the deadline to RSVP for the banquet to honor the finalists for Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Employee of the Year. The banquet is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at Ray-Pec High School. The cost is \$20 per person. To RSVP, contact **Pam Steele** at 816-892-1311 or psteele@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Teacher of the Year finalists announced

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

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

Support Staff Employee finalists announced

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

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

Earth Day at Shull



Before . . .

This photo shows the area outside the entrance to Shull Elementary School before students added plants and flowers to the area on April 21.



During . . .

Shull Elementary School kindergartners beautified the flower beds outside the school on April 21 as part of an observance of Earth Day. Kindergartners from **Pat Mabary's** and **Lori Glenn's** classes brought in more than 200 annual plants. They filled planters and flower beds outside the school. Students in **Elizabeth Oldham's** fourth grade class, along with several parent volunteers, served as "planting mentors." The group also trimmed more than 15 volunteer trees (many over 6 feet tall) and bushes to clean up the area in front of the building.

News Briefs

Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate, a religious ceremony honoring the Ray-Pec High School graduates, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 58 Highway & Johnston Parkway, Raymore. The ceremony includes an address to the class. It is optional for seniors and family members. Seniors should arrive at the church at 6:15 p.m. wearing caps and gowns.

Siren testing in Peculiar

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 a.m. The first test will be May 5.

Retirement picnic

There will be a potluck picnic to honor Teacher **Gini Hahn** upon her retirement from the school district. Gini is a teacher at Timber Creek Elementary School. The picnic is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. May 14 at the outdoor classroom at Timber Creek Elementary.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Everyone attending is asked to bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP by calling 892-1950 by May 8.



Mock crash

The realistic appearance of this scene made an impression on Ray-Pec High School students who observed the mock crash scenario on Wednesday, April 21. Students from Alternative Impact, Drama Club and Student Senate participated with teachers and school staff in the planning and implementation of the mock crash. Also participating were personnel from the Peculiar Police Department, West Peculiar Fire Protection District, South Metro Fire Protection District and an area funeral home. The event included two mock crash scenarios - the first for the junior class, and the second for the senior class. Drama students portrayed the victims, witnesses and the drunk driver of the second vehicle. Following each enactment, the students attended a short assembly that included a music video, facts about accidents involving teenagers, and four students from each class reading their own obituaries.

Open mic for poetry

Fourth graders at Creekmoor Elementary recently participated in Creekmoor's Inaugural Coffeehouse, an Open Mic Poetry Reading.

The Creekmoor Elementary gym was transformed as students performed a variety of their original poems from acrostics to cinquains, couplets to quest poetry. Soft lighting, coffee, muffins, cookies, and sounds of jazz added to the ambiance as students snapped their appreciation celebrating the work of peer poets. Teachers also read poems and sang original creations. A few students were so inspired that they have chosen to submit their poems to a regional poetry competition for judging. The PTA helped and designated some of the proceeds to go to Creekmoor's fourth grade end-of-year graduation party.



Creekmoor Coffeehouse

Two students perform their poetry at the Creekmoor Coffeehouse.

Career included 18 years at Ray-Pec Jeffi Jessee to retire at end of 2009-2010

Jeffi Jessee, assistant superintendent for special services, is retiring, effective at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

Jeffi announced her retirement earlier this year, and the action was approved by the Board of Education at its Feb. 18 meeting. She will continue serving as assistant superintendent for special services through June 30.

Jeffi has worked for Ray-Pec for 18 years. She came to the district in 1992 as Director of Special Services. At that time, there was a superintendent, one assistant superintendent and her position. The district had a high school, a junior high school, three elementary schools, and about 3,000 students.

She began her career with five years in the Oak Grove School District as a K-12 teacher of students with behavior disorders. She then moved to the Raytown School District, serving one year as a teacher of students with behavior disorders and three years as a behavior interventionist. She was a process coordinator for three years in the Grandview School District, and then came to Ray-Pec as Director of Special Services.

During her tenure, she has spearheaded the effort to expand and improve services available to Ray-Pec's special needs students.

"I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to develop and work with a great staff of people who offered ideas and suggestions for change, growth and improvement," Jeffi said. "We have been able to benefit from the skills and talents of our entire department over the years, and due to their investment, we have developed great programs, like our Transition program, the Life Skills program, started an Early Childhood program and started a Special Olympics chapter."

Under her leadership, the district has received excellent reviews on its Missouri School Improvement Plan from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Ray-Pec also has identified and used local experts to train and support staff members.

The special education staff at Ray-Pec has a great reputation and relationship with colleagues in other districts, and Jeffi explained that school districts will sometimes collaborate on projects or programs. The Cass County Cooperative is one example of this collaboration.

Throughout her career, Jeffi has been active in local, state and national special education groups. She has served on the MO-CASE board of directors as editor of its newsletter for 12 years. During this time, the newsletter received multiple awards from the national organization, and Jeffi also received the MO-CASE Recognition Award. She has also been involved in Kansas City LASE for more than 20 years, and has served as its president and treasurer.

Jeffi said that she does not have definite plans yet for retirement.

"I'll read all those books that have taken a backseat to work-related reading," she said. "My husband has been semi-retired for a few years, so we will now have the flexibility to do some traveling."

As part of budget reductions and re-alignment district-wide, Jeffi's position is not being replaced for 2010-2011. Her duties and responsibilities will be covered by several people.



Jeffi Jessee

News Briefs

High School's Mr. RP pageant raises \$1,250 for Special Olympics

Congratulations to the 2010 Mr. RP, **Jayson Wellman**, a junior.

The Mr. RP pageant on Monday, April 26, at the high school raised \$1,250 for Special Olympics.

Kendall Chambers, a junior, won the award for best talent; Senior **Ron Stephenson** won the Question and Answer portion of the pageant, and Senior **Mike Nolan** and Sophomore **Alden Stockam** won the entourage category.

Driver's ed options

The Ray-Pec School District will not offer driver's education classes this summer during summer school. For a list of other driver's education options, go here: www.raypec.k12.mo.us/summerschool

Seniors can purchase Project Grad tickets

Project Graduation Committee members are continuing to register all seniors for the Project Graduation Celebration.

The cost is \$5, unless the student's parents participated in the buy-out, and then there is no additional cost.

Seniors over age 18 can sign their own waiver. Those under age 18 can pick up a waiver form and return it along with the \$5 payment to **Tina Misner**, activities secretary, in the front office.

Seniors can bring a guest, but must purchase a ticket for \$35 and have a signed waiver for the guest. For information, contact: Julie Osborne at chair@raypecprojectgrad.com or Sisie Folkers at:

co-chair@raypecprojectgrad.com

Diversity newsletter

The latest issue of the Diversity Newsletter is available on the district web site. It has been posted to the website on the Diversity page. The link is www.raypec.k12.mo.us/diversitynewsspring10.



The Whiffenpoofs visit Peculiar Elementary

The Whiffenpoofs of Yale visited Peculiar Elementary on April 15 for a special concert during their Missouri tour. Every year, 14 senior Yale men are selected to be in the Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest and best-known collegiate a cappella group. During their performance year, the "Whiffs" tour internationally as well as through the United States, and regularly perform for presidents and celebrities. Scott Hillier, brother of Peculiar Elementary music teacher **Erin Hillier**, brought the Whiffenpoofs to Peculiar as part of his hometown tour of western Missouri.

News Briefs

Volunteers needed for seniors' barbecue lunch

Parent volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and clean up at the senior barbecue on Wednesday, May 19. Volunteers would need to arrive at the high school around 10:30 a.m. If you are interested and available to help, please contact **Debbie Dragoo** at 892-1404.

Wanted: BBQ donations

Donations are needed for the May 19 barbecue lunch for high school seniors. Last year, the lunch included: hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, pre-packaged cookies, bottled water and canned soda. The lunch will serve about 400 seniors. If you would like to donate any items, contact **Dianne Harmon** at 892-1409 or **Debbie Dragoo** at 892-1404.



Temporary Whiff

The Whiffenpoofs of Yale visited Peculiar Elementary on April 15 for a special concert. Third grader **Taylor Bates** filled in as temporary member for a few minutes.

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 Wednesdays 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 and selecting the April 15 regular meeting.

Look under the Superintendent's Comments.

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 informational meeting will explain about many of the new opportunities that will be available for your son or daughter during the 2010-2011 school.



Delegates pictured representing Raymore-Peculiar High School at the FBLA State Leadership Conference are (left to right): **Kelly Capper**, **Ben Jones**, **Larry Flanagan**, **Ashley Bishop**, **Clint Quade**, and **Aidan Swanson**.

Ray-Pec FBLA students compete at state

Members of the Raymore-Peculiar High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter attended the 2010 Missouri FBLA Leadership Conference April 18-20 in Columbia, MO.

Winning recognition at the state conference were: **Ashley Bishop**, first place, Spreadsheet Applications; **Clint Quade**, first place, Help Desk; **Brandon Clark**, fourth place, Desktop Applications Programming; and **Kelly Capper**, **Ben Jones**, and **Aidan Swanson**, fifth place, Entrepreneurship Team.

First place winners are eligible to attend the National Leadership Conference July 14-17 in Nashville, Tenn.

FBLA is a career and technical student organization for all high school students participating in business programs. More than 2,750 members and advisors, representing 426 schools statewide, met to elect state officers, transact business of the state chapter, participate in leadership and career workshops, and compete in the state leadership awards program.

Former Ray-Pec exchange student dies in auto accident

We are sorry to inform you of the death in the Ray-Pec family. **Yajaira Murillo**, a foreign exchange student from Venezuela who attended Ray-Pec High School during the 2007-2008 school year, was in an automobile accident Saturday evening, April 17, near her home in Maturin, Venezuela. She died Sunday, April 18, from her injuries.

Yajaira was in her second year of a five-year law program in Puerta La Cruz, on the northern coast of Venezuela. She had hoped to return to the United States to further her education. During her year at Ray-Pec, Yajaira took art and music classes and participated in choir and junior varsity soccer. She had fond

memories of her adventures in the United States. She leaves behind loving parents, a 3-year-old brother, and friends and relatives.

Yajaira's host parents are collecting cards, notes, photos or other memorabilia from her U.S. friends and classmates to forward to her family in Venezuela. The hope is to provide some measure of comfort by sending Yajaira's family a reminder of how many lives she touched while she was here. If you would like to send a card or note to Yajaira's family, please send to:

Nestor Murillo and Ruth Saavedra, c/o Dave and Brenda Weston, 21617 S. Carter Rd., Peculiar, Mo 64078.



Yajaira Murillo

News Briefs

Find a Cure t-shirts

Looking for some different Ray-Pec spirit wear? DECA has \$5 Pink Find a Cure T-shirts in sizes small- to X-large. Contact Teacher Kim Schrader at kschrader@raypec.k12.mo.us.

International Club has t-shirt fundraiser

The Ray-Pec High School International Club is selling t-shirts to raise money to provide a scholarship. Payment is requested when you place your order, and t-shirts can be delivered to other schools. To view the shirt and order form, go to: www.raypec.k12.mo.us/internationalclub

Last day of school is now May 28

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

Walk for Health

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 participate in the walk, contact Communication Director **Michele Donahoe** at 892-1314 or mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Shull cookbook

The Shull Elementary School Family Cookbook, with more than 220 recipes, is \$10. Contact Marla Jones at 816-322-4692 or shullcookbook@aol.com.

Discounted massages

Mention Project Grad when booking a one-hour massage with Unwind Massage. You will receive the massage at a discount, and \$5 will be donated to Project Grad. The offer expires May 7. Unwind Massage is located inside All is Vanity Salton, 17211 S. 71 Highway, Belton. Call massage therapist Bonnie Lesmeister at 816-678-6112.

Barger accepts position as Lee's Summit Director of Assessment, Data Analysis

Christiana Barger, Ray-Pec Director of 7-12 Assessment and Curriculum, has been offered and accepted the position of Director of Assessment and Data Analysis in the Lee's Summit School District, effective July 1, 2010.

She will continue in the assessment and curriculum position through June 30 at Ray-Pec.

This was Christy's first year in the Ray-Pec School District.

In announcing her new position to colleagues at Ray-Pec, Christy said, "You have extended such a warm welcome to me, and I believe strongly in the people here and the work we are doing."

"There are many great opportunities and much work to be done in 7-12 curriculum and assessment between now and July 1. I am excited to continue that work with great focus for Ray-Pec this spring and early summer."

Before coming to Ray-Pec, she had been an assistant principal at Lee's Summit High School from 2003-2009.

At Lee's Summit, she is replacing Pete Muenks, who is retiring in June.



Christiana Barger



Helping the Easter bunny

Students from the Raymore-Peculiar Freshman Center Job Skills Class helped stuff eggs for the Raymore Parks and Recreation annual Easter Egg Hunt earlier this month. Pictured, from left, are: Freshman **Haley Whetstine**, **Linda Bass**, Director of Special Education, Freshman **Brittany Garrett** and Freshman **Daniel Atteberry**.

News Briefs

Ray-Pec has signing event for 13 athletes

On April 21, Ray-Pec High School had a signing event for student athletes:

- **Sam Wagner**, boys soccer, Maple Woods;
- **Courtney Morgan**, softball and cheerleading, Avila;
- **Daniel Breit**, wrestling/football, Lindenwood University;
- **Alex Stockam**, football, Missouri Valley;
- **Josh Stockman**, boys basketball, North Central Missouri College;
- **Shelby Osborne**, girls soccer, Blue River Metropolitan College;
- **Tony Jones**, boys basketball, Johnson County Community;
- **Kelsey Rutledge**, girls soccer, Johnson County Community;
- **Taylor Gillispie**, girls soccer, McPherson College;
- **Elizabeth Lewis**, girls tennis, Augustana College;
- **Ryan Johnson**, baseball, Seminole State College;
- **Jordan Jobs**, baseball, Ottawa State University; and
- **Hayley Keith**, dance, Avila University.

To read about these student athletes, go to: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1169>



Special Olympics basketball

Ray-Pec Special Olympics basketball players in grades 5-12 participated in the area basketball tournament Feb. 6 in Blue Springs. The students were proud to earn medals from participating.



Ray-Pec Special Olympics

This is the first year for the Ray-Pec School District to have students participate in Special Olympics. Students in grades 5-12 competed in bowling during the fall, basketball during the winter, and track and field events during the spring.



Coaches

This is the first year for the Ray-Pec School District to have students participate in Special Olympics. Coaches for the teams are **Catie Howlett**, teacher at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School, left, and **Cara Hornbeck**, teacher at the Ray-Pec Freshman Center.

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 Severt, Ray-Pec Athletic Booster Club president, at 816-322-8391.



Freshman Center Students of the Month

Here are the April Students of the Month from the Ray-Pec Freshman Center. In the back row, from left: **Jake Edmonds**, **Trevor Lininger** and **John Sellmeyer**. In the front row, from left: **Rachel Niswonger**, **Emma Howlett** and **Mikaleh Price**.



Students honored for virtue of self-control

Peculiar Elementary School recognized students who were outstanding in their efforts to show self-control during the month of March. In the back row, from left, are: **Wonder Gaucin**, **Jade Davis**, **Marshall Gicante**, **Gary Beatty**, **Shayla Hilbers**, **Austin Weedon**, and **Talmage Kelley**. In the middle row are: **Jase Hadley**, **Raven Johnson**, **Amanda Votava**, **Cloi Aggus**, **Tyler Wagner** and **Elizabeth O'Donnell**. In the front row are: **Alexandra Feedback**, **Hannah York** and **Maddie McKinnis**.

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. 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.



Major Saver contribution

Angelo Balistreri of Major Saver, center, presents a check for \$32,155 from the recent Major Saver card sale. Half of the money, or \$16,077.50 will go to the Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation. The rest of the money goes to individual elementary and intermediate schools based on the number of cards sold at each school. Pictured, from left, are: **Jerrod Fellhauer**, principal of Shull Elementary; **Pam Steele**, executive secretary to the superintendent and board of education; **Michelle Hofmann**, principal of Raymore Elementary; **Rob Weida**, principal of Peculiar Elementary; Balistreri from Major Saver; **Lisa Hatfield**, principal of Eagle Glen Intermediate School; **Lovie Driskill**, principal of Timber Creek Elementary; **Kelly Vines**, principal of Creekmoor Elementary; **Doug Becker**, principal of Stonegate Elementary; and **Jamie Mackender**, principal of Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. Students in grades K-6 sold Major Saver cards, which offer discounts at local restaurants and businesses.



Rotary Club Student of the Month

Mark Cox, president of the Belton-Raymore Rotary Club, left, congratulates **Nick Misner**, the club's Student of the Month for April from Ray-Pec High School.

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, 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 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.

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. 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. 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.



School librarians attend conference

District Librarians attended the annual Missouri Association of School Librarians conference April 18-20. All attended workshops on a variety of topics, including promoting reading, using technology, collection development and writing curriculum. Pictured, from left, are: **Joyce Webb**, Peculiar Elementary School; **Heather Poland**, Timber Creek Elementary School; **Jana Stidham**, Creekmoor Elementary School; **Theresa Kientz**, Ray-Pec Freshman Center; **Sherri Mullen**, Raymore Elementary School; **Genese Wright**, Ray-Pec High School; **Amye Dunning**, Eagle Glen Intermediate School; **Angela Wilke**, Shull Elementary School; and **Brenda Sehorn**, Stonegate Elementary School.

Panther Cub Academy enrolls for fall, summer

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

For more information, contact Director **Marie Davis** at 892-1943 or 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

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. In the body of the message, type "Subscribe RP Update." You may enroll yourself by following a link at: 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.

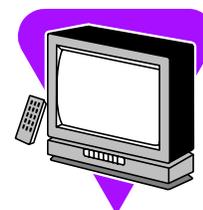
The Ray-Pec School District provided the following programs and activities, which were selected and designed to address district CSIP objectives for student achievement and safe and productive learning environments.

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*



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

