

Last week's wintry blast has morphed into spring-like temps **Feeling buried by the weather?**



Tony Curtis, who works on the school district carpet crew, was helping with snow removal last week. This picture was taken on Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the back doors of the north high school building. Employees in the Ray-Pec Buildings and Grounds Department were clearing parking lots, driveways and sidewalks in preparation for the eventual return to school.

Snow make-up days

Wow! We've now missed nine days due to inclement weather. The first make-up day was Monday, Feb. 7. The next make-up day will be Friday, Feb. 18.

Remaining make-up days for students will be: Friday, April 29; Wednesday, May 25; Thursday, May 26; Friday, May 27; Tuesday, May 31; and Wednesday, June 1.

State law requires school districts to make up the first six days missed due to inclement weather and then to make up one day for each additional two days missed.

Employee calendars

A revised district calendar is posted on the web site. Revised employee calendars are available from the Human Resources Department. For teachers, the current final work day is Monday, June 6. For information, contact **Nicole Osborn** at nosborn@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Welcome

Please welcome these new co-workers to the Ray-Pec school district:

- **Kimberly Miceli**, child nutrition
- **Cynthia Lees**, custodian
- **Laura Villarreal**, lunchroom monitor, Bridle Ridge
- **Joy Thomas**, child nutrition

The board of education on Jan. 25 approved hiring these employees.

Retirements

The board of education on Jan. 25 approved these retirements, effective June 30:

- **Terri Jamison**, assistant superintendent, human resources
- **Sharon Owen**, assistant principal, high school
- **Roy Smith**, custodian
- **Janine Albright**, teacher, high school

News Briefs

No school on Feb. 21

Reminder: Ray-Pec students are not in session and the district is closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of the President's Day holiday.

School board meeting

The Ray-Pec school board is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the board of education meeting room at the Administrative Services Center, 21005 S. School Rd. The meeting is open to the public.

MSHSAA recognizes several Ray-Pec groups for scholastic awards

The Missouri State High School Activities Association recently named several groups at Ray-Pec High School that achieved the association's scholastic achievement award. The groups are listed below with their average grade point averages.

Recognized for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement:

- Boys Junior Varsity and Varsity Soccer Team, 3.39;
- Girls Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball Team, 3.56; and
- Prowlers Varsity Dance team, 3.62.

Recognized for Distinguished Scholastic Achievement were:

- Boys Junior Varsity/Varsity Tennis Team, 3.10;
- Girls Freshman/Junior Varsity/Varsity Softball Team, 3.19;
- Combined Group Junior Varsity/Varsity Cross Country, 3.18; and
- Girls Junior Varsity/Varsity Cheerleading, 3.10.

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.



'Crazy for You'

Rehearsals are under way for the Ray-Pec High School performances of the musical "Crazy for You." Here, seniors **Seth Jones**, left, and **Conner Branson**, rehearse a scene. Due to weather-related cancellations, the production is taking place one week later than originally scheduled. You can see the show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17; Friday, Feb. 18; and Saturday, Feb. 19; and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20. For reservations, call 892-3999, ext. 2400. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for students. Free child care will be provided. To read about the show and the cast and crew, go to the News and Announcements section of the district web site.

Raymore-Peculiar High School
Presents Fine Arts Department
CRAZY for YOU
Raymore-Peculiar Academy Theatre
Feb 17-19, 2011
Feb 20, 2011



Literacy update

Karen Hurst, Ray-Pec's Director of K-6 Curriculum and Assessment, standing at right, discussed the Literacy Needs Assessment that took place during fall 2010 in the Ray-Pec School District. Here, Hurst is presenting to the Ray-Pec Student Success Council during its Jan. 27 meeting. She also reviewed the work of the literacy task force. The Ray-Pec Student Success Council includes staff members and patrons.

Student Success Council looks at CSIP, mission and literacy

The Ray-Pec Student Success Council was one of the first groups this year to review the district mission statement and begin initial brainstorming to create a district vision statement and develop collective commitments.

Dr. Kevin Daniel, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services, said the process will ultimately include community leaders, district-level departments, building leadership teams, administrators, Team Ray-Pec, the Professional Development Committee, the Superintendent's Cabinet and the Board of Education.

Daniel said he is trying to help staff and patrons make a personal connection to the mission statement.

Also during its Jan. 27 meeting, the Student Success Council learned about the revision process planned for the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. In addition, **Karen Hurst**, Director of K-6 Curriculum

and Instruction, discussed the Literacy Needs Assessment that took place last fall. To see a Power Point presentation of the Literacy Needs Assessment, go to www.raypec.k12.mo.us/boarddocs and select the January 2011 Board of Education meeting.



The Jan. 27 meeting of the Ray-Pec Student Success Council included a review of the district mission statement and some brainstorming to create a district vision statement and collective commitment statements.

EXCELLENCE HAS A NAME



Jennifer Ogren

Undergraduate Degree: Physical Education

Hometown: Raymore, Mo.

High School: Raymore-Peculiar High School

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU PLAN ON DOING FOR YOUR STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

I plan on helping them in any way possible to help them succeed in the classroom, and coming in early to school and staying late to help those students who are struggling in class.

WHAT DOES BEING A TEACHER MEAN TO YOU?

Being a teacher means that I have the opportunity to influence a student's life that may need that stable person in their life, to help that student who needs someone outside of their home life to listen to them talk about their day or what problem they are having at school.

 The University of South Dakota
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Ogren, a student at the University of South Dakota and a graduate of Ray-Pec High School, was featured by the University of South Dakota School of Education for dedication to the field of education. Above is a poster that was created and displayed at the University.

Jennifer Ogren featured on poster

University of South Dakota recognizes Ray-Pec graduate

The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D., recently recognized **Jennifer Ogren** as part of a program titled "Excellence Has a Name." Through the program, the university's School of Education recognizes students who are impacting the lives of others.

Jennifer is a graduate of Ray-Pec High School and is the daughter of Jerome Ogren, teacher at Ray-Pec East Middle School.

The faculty and staff at the university selected students for their dedication and devotion to the field of education.

The university created a poster about each honoree. The posters were framed and hung in the hallway in the Delzell Education Center on the USD campus. The poster

about Jennifer is shown above.

The poster includes Jennifer's response to the question "What does being a teacher mean to you?"

She said: "Being a teacher means that I have the opportunity to influence a student's life that may need that stable person in their life, to help that student who needs someone outside of their home life to listen to them talk about their day or what problem they are having at school."

When asked "What's one thing you plan on doing for your students in your classroom?," she said: "I plan on helping them in any way possible to help them succeed in the classroom, and coming in early to school and staying late to help those students who are struggling in class."

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Spring picture days

Picture days for class and individual pictures are scheduled at the elementary and intermediate schools. Here are the dates:

- **Early Childhood**, Feb. 22
- **Bridle Ridge**, Feb. 23
- **Peculiar**, March 1
- **Shull Elementary**, March 8
- **Stonegate**, Friday, March 11
- **Eagle Glen**, March 25

The schedule and order form with pricing information is located on the district web site: www.raypec.k12.mo.us. Go to the "For Parents" tab.

Creekmoor Art Show

March 4 is Creekmoor Elementary School's "Greatest Art Show on Earth." The art show features circus themes in two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects using paper, paint and clay. The school will show creations of clowns, food, performers and animals. Viewing follows this schedule: kindergarten and first grade at 6 p.m.; second grade, 6:30 p.m.; third grade, 7 p.m.; and fourth grade, 7:15 p.m. Jessie Cartwright is the art teacher at Creekmoor.

Try the Instrument Night

Any current fifth grader interested in being in sixth grade band next year is invited to attend "Try the Instrument Night" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. It is important to attend if your student is even slightly interested in joining band next year. This night is dedicated to helping students find the instrument that best suits them. For more information, contact Beginning Band Teacher Jennifer Gibson at jjgibson@raypec.k12.mo.us or check out a flyer at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1858>.

Black History Month

Ray-Pec High School will celebrate Black History Month from 1:30 to 2:41 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the south high school auditorium. Students may purchase tickets for \$1 to attend the program. It will include music, poetry, dancing and more. For more information, contact Teacher **Matt Majors** at: mmajors@raypec.k12.mo.us or Teacher **Patricia Hayes** at: phayes@raypec.k12.mo.us.



Ray-Pec Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle, left, and Belton Superintendent Dr. Andrew Underwood, second from right, met recently with legislators in Jefferson City to discuss the Missouri public school foundation formula. Legislators pictured, from left, are Rep. Chris Molendorp, R-123; Rep. Rick Brattin, R-124; and Sen. David Pearce, R-31.

Legislators join school superintendents to discuss Missouri foundation formula

Ray-Pec School District Superintendent **Dr. Jeff Kyle** and Belton School District Superintendent Dr. Andrew Underwood joined Sen. David Pearce, Rep. Rick Brattin, and Rep. Chris Molendorp at a dinner and workshop on the Missouri public school foundation formula recently in Jefferson City. The dinner and workshop were sponsored by the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA).

The Missouri public school foundation formula is the mechanism by which school districts receive state funds to operate their schools. It is the largest single appropriation from general revenue in the state budget.

The 2011-12 school year is slated to be the sixth year of a seven-year phase-in of the current formula.

Dr. Chris Straub was the presenter for the workshop. Dr. Straub is a former public school superintendent. He is now an adjunct professor who teaches school finance for the education doctorate program at St. Louis University and for the education specialist program at the University of Central Missouri.

Dr. Straub explained the formula theory, the various factors that are included in the formula and the mechanics of the foundation formula.

He shared examples of how funds are distributed to three school districts:

- one district that is currently on the formula,
- one district that is funded under the "hold harmless" category and
- one district that receives small school funding.

Bruce Johnson, MASA President and Superintendent of the Stanberry R-II School District said the purpose of the meeting was purely educational.

"We truly appreciate the time the legislators took to join us for this dinner and workshop," Johnson said. "We believe it is extremely important that our legislators fully understand the school foundation formula as they begin their deliberations in the coming months."



Perfect attendance

These five employees of the Buildings and Grounds Department had perfect attendance during the first quarter of the school year. Pictured from left, are: Melvin Horner, warehouse and receiving; Bill German, maintenance; Mike Harris, custodian at the south high school; Josh Everitt, custodian at the south high school; and Don Hobbs, custodian at the south high school.

News Briefs

Sympathy

The district extends sympathy to **Kendra Hutsell** on the death of her mother. Kendra is the chief financial officer for the district.

Father-Daughter dance

The Ray-Pec High School band presents its eighth annual Father/Daughter Dance from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, in the gym at the Ray-Pec High School north building (former middle school). All girls in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to attend with their father or grandfather, older brother, uncle, family friend, etc.

At the door, admission is \$21 for a couple, with \$10 for each additional daughter. Admission includes one complimentary photo per daughter, entry into prize drawings, and light refreshments. For more information, contact Jennifer Scrivener at 816-679-8369. A flyer with the ticket form is available at <http://www.raypecband.org/RayPecBand/Home.html>.



Gold medalists

These Ray-Pec students received gold medals at the Special Olympics basketball tournament on Feb. 5 in Blue Springs. They competed in the Senior 3 on 3 event. Pictured, from left, are: Andrew Phelps, Kenton Golubski, Daniel Rashaw, and Brandon Garrett. Coaches are teachers Catie Howlett and Cara Hornbeck. Watch for more Special Olympics pictures in the next issue of Raymore-Peculiar School News.

Ray-Pec seeks nominations for Teacher and Support Staff Employee of the Year

The Ray-Pec School District is seeking nominations for the 2011 Teacher of the Year and the 2011 Support Staff Employee of the Year. This year, a combined banquet is scheduled for May 4 to honor finalists in both awards programs.

To nominate a teacher

Anyone may nominate a teacher by submitting a letter of nomination by March 9. A candidate must:

- be a full-time teacher,
- be returning to teach in 2011-2012 in the district,
- have completed three or more years teaching in the Ray-Pec district, and
- be effective and innovative in the classroom.



Once nomination letters are submitted, the district will determine if candidates meet additional criteria for attendance, positive evaluations and participation on school or district committees.

Ten finalists will be selected, and a panel of judges from outside the district will select the winner. The Teacher of the Year will receive a cash award and other prizes, and will be nominated to represent the district by participating in the Missouri Teacher of the Year program.

Send nominations to: Ray-Pec Teacher of the Year program, Administrative Services Center, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078, or to **Michele Donahoe**, Communication Director, at mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us or rpupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us.

To nominate a support staff employee

You may nominate any full-time or part-time employee who has worked a minimum of one year for the district. Examples of employees eligible for this award include those from the following areas: accompanist, accounts payable, buildings and grounds, child nutrition, crossing guards, lunch monitors, media assistants, para-professionals, Panther Cub Academy, payroll, safety and security, secretaries, teachers aides and technology employees.

Administrators, teachers, counselors and librarians are not eligible.

Ten finalists will be honored at the May 4 banquet, and one will be announced as the winner. The Support Staff Employee of the Year will receive a \$500 cash award, a plaque and a banner for his or her building or department. A photo of the winner will hang in the Administrative Services Center.

Nominations can come from staff members, parents, students or patrons. The program is intended to honor and show appreciation for support staff employees who make a difference.

Send a letter of nomination by March 9 to: Support Staff Employee of the Year program, Administrative Services Center, P.O. Box 789, Peculiar, MO 64078. You may also email nomination letters to: Michele Donahoe, Communication Director, at mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us or rpupdate@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Creekmoor night at Culver's

Come let Creekmoor Elementary fourth graders and parents serve you dinner at Culver's from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22. A portion of all proceeds, dine in and drive through, will benefit the fourth grade classes. Contact Julie Phillips at julies0903@yahoo.com or 816-277-4890 with questions.

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Physical night is Feb. 28

Students who will be in grades 7-12 for 2011-2012 and plan to participate in school athletics, should attend the annual physical night at the high school. Physical Night is from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 28 at the south high school. Check-in at the main commons. The cost is \$15 per athlete (make check payable to RPHS athletics). Licensed physicians will be on hand to conduct a physical that meets the Missouri State High School Activities Association requirements for participation in school athletics. The physical will be valid from Feb. 28, 2011, through the 2011-2012 school year. A copy of the physical form is available on the district web site under Ray-Pec High School and athletics. If you have questions, please contact: Dan Schwarz, head athletic trainer at dschwarz@raypec.k12.mo.us; Tina Misner, administrative assistant for activities and athletics, at tmisner@raypec.k12.mo.us; or Tom Kruse, activity/athletic director, at tkruse@raypec.k12.mo.us.

Find us on Facebook

Ray-Pec has more than 2,500 fans on Facebook.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Check out the posts or become a fan of the Ray-Pec School District on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/raypec

Software discounts

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.



Marketplace

This is the place to advertise items to sell or trade, or to seek items you wish to buy. Employees and their immediate family members may place ads in the Marketplace at no charge. Business ads are limited to 25 words and must include a contact name. Employees may not list school telephone numbers in a business ad. As with any purchase or service, employees should seek references before buying or hiring services.

Video of The Outtakes

The Outtakes, a local classic rock band that includes Bridle Ridge teacher **Dan Garrison**, will be filming a video on Feb. 26 at Jerry's Bait Shop, 302 SW Main St., in Lee's Summit. The band is scheduled from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and would love to have a room full of friendly faces for the filming.

For sale: Commercial lawn mower

For sale: Commercial lawn mower. 52-inch Gravelly zero-turn hydrostat walk-behind mower. 17 hp Kawasaki motor, electric start, 6 years old, 522 hours on the unit. Well-maintained, great condition, ready to mow. \$2,000. Call **Bob Zaner** at 721-7031.

Need help organizing?

Start your new year neat and clean by letting me bring order to your disorder. I can help you with your organization needs. Call **Laura Goodwin**, (361) 249-6864.

Want to buy a house

We are looking to buy a house in the Raymore-Peculiar-Harrisonville area. We can assume your note or purchase outright. Looking for a house with 3+ bedroom, 2+ bath, family room, garage, basement?, barn?, ranch-style preferred. Slight fixer-upper is ok. Contact me at: grandpa_lon@yahoo.com.

For sale: Mission loft bunk bed

For sale: Mission loft bunk bed. Great condition. Approximately 5 years old. Great for ages 6-14. \$350 OBO. Call **Kevin Daniel** at 816-935-0428.

Experienced babysitter

Let me babysit for your children. Available evenings or weekends at reasonable rates. Experienced. I am 16 years old with driver's license. Daughter of Ray-Pec employee. Contact **Emily Wescoat** at 816-808-7444.

For sale: Spinnet piano

Cable-Nelson Spinnet Piano with bench. Good Condition. I can send pics if needed. \$450. Call **Sandy Gowen** 816-519-0038 or sgowen@raypec.k12.mo.us

House for sale by owner

For sale by owner - Realtors welcome. Custom-built 6-year-old home. 4 large bedrooms, 3 full baths, 3-car oversized garage.

3,000 feet of upgrades. Custom window treatments, finished walkout to common area. Decorator's dream. Call Paula at 816-898-4903.

Lia Sophia jewelry

Need gift ideas? Let me help. I love Lia Sophia jewelry. Great hostess rewards. Lifetime guarantee. Contact **Wanda Gordon** - Independent Consultant, 816-803-7067 or LiaSophia.com

For sale: Pop-up camper

For sale: 1987 Starcraft pop-up camper. Great condition, new tires, A/C, sleeps six comfortably. \$1,200. Camping gear can be purchased separately. Contact **Rhonda Weis** at 816-674-2750.

For sale: Bakugan bedding sets

For sale: Bakugan bedding. Two full-size sheet sets and two full-size comforters. Less than 1 year old. \$15 for each set. **Amanda Wallace**: awallace@raypec.k12.mo.us or in the evening, call 506-5090 or 816-732-5366.

For sale: Firewood

For sale: Seasoned oak firewood, split and delivered for \$200 a cord. Contact **Steve Hatfield** at shatfield@raypec.k12.mo.us.

For sale: Desk, microwave cart

For sale: "Student" desk with 4 drawers and detached bookshelf with 2 shelves. Great for kid's bedroom. Medium brown wood grain. 36 1/2" wide, 74" high, 15 3/4" deep. \$25. Microwave cart with drawer and storage cabinet, on wheels. White with oak trim. 23 3/4" wide, 45 1/2" high, 15 1/4" deep. \$20. Pictures available. Contact **Carol Brandt**, 816-318-9655 or cbrandt9999@comcast.net.

For sale: 800 Polaris 4-wheeler

For sale: 800 Polaris 4x4 with winch. 70 hours. Silver anniversary. \$5,500 OBO. Call Daniel at 913-526-7570.

Do you like Silpada jewelry?

How about 1/2 price Silpada jewelry? If you are interested in 1/2 price retired pieces and some current catalog pieces, contact **Karen Moore**, kmoore@raypec.k12.mo.us or 331-0602.

Painting and deck staining

Interior/exterior painting and deck staining. Contact **Dan Rangel** of Rangel's Painting at 816-718-6652.

Letter jacket sewing

Letter jacket patch sewing available for less than the area competition. Contact **Kerri Reed** at kreed@raypec.k12.mo.us. I will send you a price list itemized per patch. Jackets can be brought to the high school.

Need a gift?

Scentsy Warmers and Wax are the perfect gift. Safe around kids and pets. No harmful pollutants! 80+ scents. Over 100 warmers, for any decor. Call **Eva Flannagan**, 816-204-1853, www.scentsifiedsisters.com

Antique furniture restoration

Antique furniture restoration. I have school employee references. For information, contact **Randy Norcross** at 816-258-2371.

Scentsy Wickless Candles

Take a Scentsy Warmer or Plug-In, add one of 80+ fragrances, and enjoy! For the latest styles and scents: <https://england.scentsy.us/Home>. Contact **Macey England** at mengland@raypec.k12.mo.us.

I love to clean!

Let me clean for you. Schedule now for a neat, professional job. 26 years of experience. References available. Free estimates. Call **Linda McNeil**, 816-509-5296. Bonded.

Silpada Jewelry

New 2010-2011 Silpada jewelry catalogs are in! Host a party and your jewelry is free! Contact **JoAnn Tinney** at jrt.bling@live.com, 816-806-2194, or mysilpada.com/joann.tinney.

Got kitchen tools?

Need quick and easy meal ideas? The Pampered Chef can help! Contact **Karla Heinrich**: karlaheinrich@juno.com or 331-7782. Place orders online 24/7 at: www.pamperedchef.biz/chefkarla.

I Run Errands for You

Need help with errands? Automotive appointments, licensing, deliveries, shopping, transportation, house sitting, more. Contact **Jay Johnson** at 816-721-1349 or go to: <http://irunerrands4u.com>.

The Communique

The Communique is published for Ray-Pec employees while school is in session. For information about the newsletter, call **Michele Donahoe**, Communication Director, at 892-1314, or e-mail: mdonahoe@raypec.k12.mo.us