



Oak Glen High School alumnus Eric Chaffin helps dedicate the Chaffin Luhana Foundation Media Center on Friday. The foundation donated \$25,000 to the high school for the expansion of its media center. Behind him are (from left) Principal David Smith and several students. (Photo by Stephen Huba)

OGHS launches media center

By **STEPHEN HUBA**

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NEW MANCHESTER — Twenty-six years ago, Eric Chaffin was a teenager flipping pizza dough for Roma's Pizzeria owner Jeff Davis.

On Friday, the 1989 Oak Glen High School graduate was back at his alma mater to dedicate a media center that bears his name.

"The place looks great. I look forward to seeing the continued progress," said Chaffin, whose Chaffin Luhana Foundation gave the school a \$25,000 grant in the spring for the media center's expansion.

A plaintiff's attorney whose law firm has offices in New York City, Pittsburgh and Weirton, Chaffin said the grant was a way to give back to the school that launched him into the world.

"The media centers will help enable the kids to enhance their computer science and media skills in a fast-growing technology environment," he said, "and we are excited to be able to contribute to their futures."

The money was used to outfit the room with new furniture, new flooring, new book shelves, new books, two catalog stations and 30 HP Stream 11 laptop computers, said English teacher and media specialist



Oak Glen High School students enjoy the newly-opened Chaffin Luhana Foundation Media Center, prior to Friday's dedication ceremony. In the foreground is a display for "Banned Books Week" developed by senior and media assistant Kami Koper. (Photo by Stephen Huba)

Lissa Dulick, who spearheaded the project.

"The kids love the seating arrangements and being able to spread out and do their work," she said.

What's more, part of the grant went

toward the purchase of equipment for the school's broadcast center, including a camera, a tripod, lights, microphones, cables and a green screen,

Center

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said Morgan (Martin) Bricker, an English teacher and Bear Facts Media adviser.

Bricker was among several dozen students, alumni, teachers, school board members, administrators and guests who attended Friday's dedication ceremony.

"Without (the grant), we'd still be in a roomful of old books. We're not. We're in a space that kids are thriving in, and they're hungry for it," she said. "They're here all the time, and they're always asking what we're doing next because it's interesting to them. That, to me, is success."

While the media center opened at the beginning of the school year, it became fully operational this week. With the laptops now available, Dulick said the center is becoming busier every day.

"We now have a full day booked for Monday," she said.

A senior English class has been using the space in collaboration with an art teacher, researching the "modernization of myths and fairytales in literature, art and pop culture," Dulick said.

Teachers can schedule class time in the media center, while students can use it for group work, leisure reading, tutoring and collaboration, she said.

The center currently has 1,000 books, 150 of which have been checked out since the start of the school year, she said. By Thanksgiving, the center expects to have several magazine subscriptions.

Dulick also has applied for a grant to cover the purchase of 25 Kindle Fire e-readers, which could be used for research, leisure reading, classroom work and digital newspaper subscriptions.

Assisting her with the day-to-day operations of the media center is a coterie of five student media assistants: seniors Mikayla Crane, Alec Swiger and Kami Koper, junior Morgan Harris and sopho-

more Lindsey Smith.

"We basically keep the place up and running," Swiger said.

All five are treating the media assistantship as an internship in which they will build up a portfolio, in addition to using the center for their own studies and enjoyment.

"My honors English class comes in here sometimes, and we use the Smart Board," Harris said.

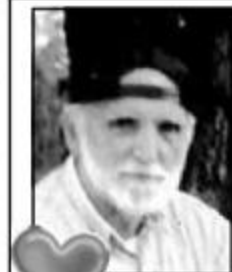
OGHS Principal David Smith praised Dulick and Bricker for their efforts, as well as Assistant Principal Carla Carinci-Bell, social studies teacher Ted Arneault, and math and technology teacher Julie Zoellers.

While the \$25,000 grant represents Phase 1 of the media center project, there are more phases to come, he said.

"In time, our media and

broadcast centers will be the best that the state has to offer," he said. "We want to provide our students with the opportunity to search the world from the comfort of those chairs they're sitting in today. ... Through technology and guided instruction, we will be able to give our students an up-close look, for example, at the Grand Canyon."

An open house for the general public will be held from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 21.



In Loving Memory of

John Horner

Missing you on
your birthday
today & everyday!
Forever in Our Hearts

10/3/42 ~ 11/11/09

In Loving Memory of
Dustin Bachus



10/3/80 ~ 9/1/12

We're sending birthday wishes,
in care of Heaven above
For it's the birthday of
the precious one we love.
There will be no birthday cake
or lovely presents given
But our prayers and love we'll send
in care of God in Heaven.
Angels gathered around God's
throne, Please sing
"Happy Birthday"
to our dear one, So he won't
feel as though he's gone.

Always in Our Hearts,
Dad, Nancy, Brandy,
Wade and Family