



A trip to the North Pole



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Kids from the community participates in holiday inspired activities at the National Honor Society organized event.

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

For young children and their families, commons was transformed into the North Pole with the choir singing Christmas carols, students dressed as elves, and the tables lined with different holiday activities during WeGo to the North Pole Saturday.

Club Green made ornaments out of recycled materials and Steppers face painted and taught kids how to step.

The high school and middle school choirs sang Christmas carols and Art Club decorated wood-burned ornaments. Habitat for Humanity painted birdhouses, and SkillsUSA gift wrapped.

A favorite activity among many students and children was the cake walk.

"I like seeing all the little kids smile and be happy when

they win cookies," senior Kaitlyn Tynczuk said.

Another favorite was the snowball fight.

"I had fun at the snowball fight," three-year-old Chase Ferreiro said.

Senior Hailey Lenahan's godfather, Dennis Heatley played Santa.

According to Heatley, he was glad to be there and enjoyed seeing the children's smiling faces the best.

"I think (WeGo to the North Pole) takes people away from reality for a little bit," Heatley said. "When they think about this they're not thinking about anything else going on, just people being happy."

Many students and teachers running the event agreed with Heatley.

"Christmas is all about the kids, making them happy and doing something they enjoy

without a lot of money, especially with the economy today," art teacher David Exner said.

That being said, many of the young children that went with their families enjoyed the numerous activities offered.

Children also thought the holiday activities were a good way to get into the Christmas spirit.

Overall, WeGo to the North Pole proved to be a success.

"I'm looking around and seeing a lot of smiling faces, so I'd say based off that it's a success," Exner said during the event.

Students also agreed being a part of the day put them into the Christmas spirit.

"I think it's a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, especially since the first snow was the other day, it really brings the Christmas spirit to one place," junior Braeden Austgen said.

All in all, WeGo to the North Pole showed students, teachers, and young children and their families the true meaning of community and Christmas.

"It's a great way to be involved with the community," Tynczuk said. "It's about helping out some kids who don't get to celebrate Christmas; it's nice to share something."

Plenty of preparation and planning was put into making the event a success.

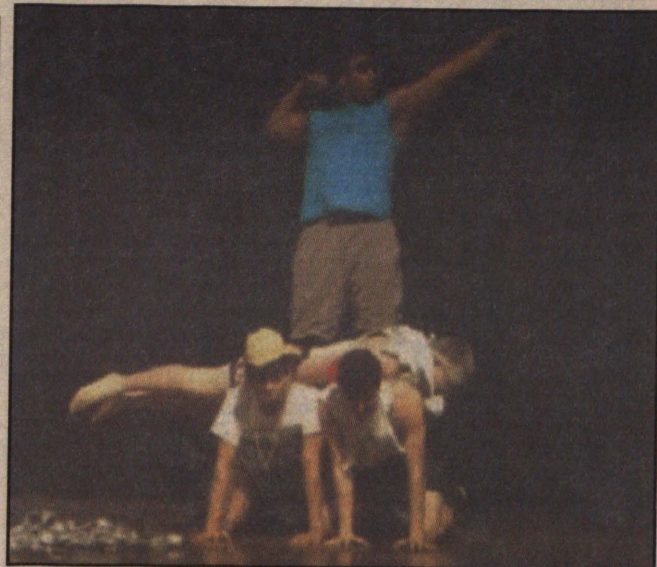


Photo courtesy of Alex Marano

Seniors Alex Marano, Ryan Sammons, Joel Griffith, and Luis Medina show off their dance skills at the variety show

Southern charm Undiscovered talents shines at the country-themed variety show

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Hidden talents revealed themselves at this year's country-themed variety show.

The show featured acts ranging from beat boxing to lip syncing to dancing.

"Sadly, this was my first variety show in my four years, but I think it went extremely well and I was really proud of all the talent we have at WeGo," FBLA treasurer Rachel Johnson said.

FBLA sponsored the Dec. 8 show.

The night started off with a step routine performed by sisters, senior Jessie and sophomore Sophia Bass.

As the night continued, the sisters were followed by singing, dancing, and guitar playing.

The dance crew Slack Status took the stage with an energetic performance.

Adding to the talent of the night, FBLA members acted as emcees for the evening.

"The best part of being an emcee was getting to show off my country side; we all have a little redneck in us," Johnson said.

Sophomore Paris Reed "P-

Red" wowed the audience with his beat boxing.

"P-red killed it with his beat boxing, he seemed to be a real crowd pleaser," Johnson said.

The band Sunday Slip n' Slide, featuring senior Mac Kwasnik and junior Jacob Somen, closed the show.

"I thought the (the show) was fantastic, we got the crowd involved in our musical experience," Somen said.

The two both agree the adrenaline rush is the best part of performing.

"We really liked going last, since we had the loudest instruments we really went out with a bang," Somen said.

Students in the audience were also impressed by the talent of their fellow students.

"I thought the show was really good. I learned that a lot of students have talents that I didn't know about," senior Kristi Hendrickson said.

FBLA adviser Maria Wirth was also pleased with how the evening went.

"The show was very successful, and as usual, it all came together in the end," Wirth said.

FBLA raised approximately \$650 which will be donated to the March of Dimes.

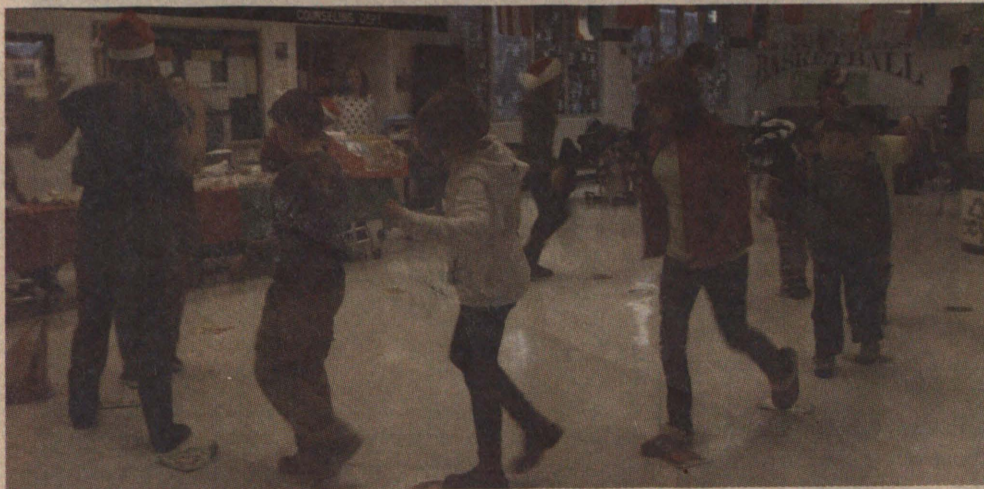


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

The cake walk dominates the children's attention at Wego to the North Pole.

INSIDE Saving lives

The InterAct Club partnered with LifeSource to hold the biannual blood drive. One hundred sixteen students donated -- NEWS, page 2.



Disappointed

Republican candidates' scandals have been overshadowing political agendas. As elections near voters should rethink their choices of prospective presidential candidates--see PERSPECTIVES, page 6.

Resolutions

Students admit their New Year's Resolutions as Jan. 1 approaches but will they follow through? Need tips to help --see CENTER SPREAD, pages 8-9.

American ball

Students from Knox Grammar School in Australia came to play against the freshmen, sophomore, and JV boys basketball teams --see SPORTS, page 15.



Donating to save lives

Although goal not reached, InterAct happy with blood drive

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

One hundred sixteen students helped save 348 lives on Nov. 30 at the InterAct blood drive that LifeSource sponsored.

According to InterAct adviser Gavin Engel, someone needs blood every 2 seconds worldwide.

Although InterAct did not reach their goal of 140 units, they still received 116 units.

"(The blood drive) was pretty successful; we were a little shy of our goal but happy we got more than 100 units. That is always good," Engel said.

The donating process includes drinking a lot of fluids beforehand, filling out paperwork, donating, and stopping at the refreshment table afterwards.

Students understand the importance of donating

blood.

"You never know when you or someone you know might need (blood) which is why I think it's important," junior Kelsey Wolf said.

Many students also are looking for opportunities to help out.

"Someone else has problems which require them to need blood and I don't so I might as well help them out. There is plenty of (my blood) to go around and people need it," junior Max McMahon said.

Others want to do what is right for society.

"I like to save people's lives and (donating) is good for the society," senior Emily Vilano said.

Students enjoy the fact that they are able to help their community through the school.

"I like to help people any chance I get, and to do it at

school and with friends is a great way to give back to the unfortunate," junior Akeem Asani said.

Donating is not an easy process for all students.

"I passed out (afterwards) and it was the weirdest feeling ever, I couldn't feel my hands and I didn't remember what happened when I woke up," junior Molly McGhee said.

Even though McGhee's experience was not ideal, she did not regret her decision.

"It feels good to know that I saved three people's lives," McGhee said.

Junior Ashley Bannon attempted to donate for the third time after two bad experiences.

"The first time I passed out twice and the second time I passed out once because I am scared of the needle. People need blood and I have enough so I think it's important to keep trying," Bannon said.

InterAct will hold their spring blood drive on April 13.

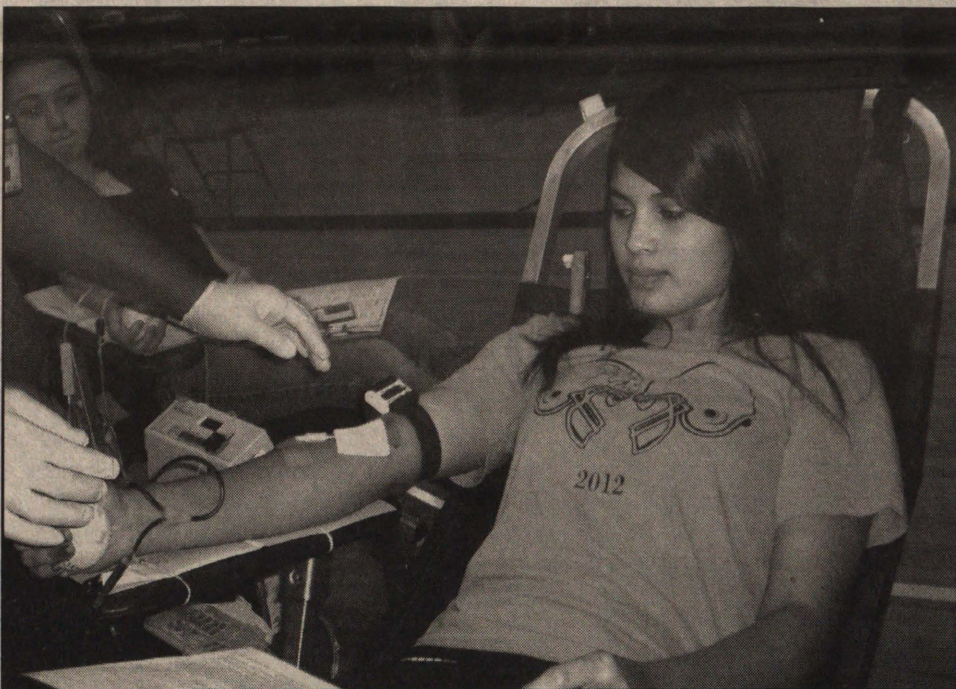


Photo by Keyuri Parmar

Junior Bryer Serrato watches as her blood is being taken during the InterAct blood drive on Nov. 30. The blood drive received 116 units.

Negotiations continue

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

Negotiations between the teachers and Board of Education continue as they try to reach an agreement on the teachers' contract.

Since Feb. 28 the negotiating teams have been trying to come to an agreement.

One concern is the teachers won't receive a lane change. A lane change is an increase in salary after a teacher has completed more classes. Before taking classes, the classes

must be approved by the administration in order to qualify for lane changes.

The negotiating teams met on Nov. 30 where the Board of Education offered a counterproposal.

Emotions are running high as the process drags out.

"Generally speaking, in society today there is negative teacher talk. There is a lot of teacher bashing just in society today. It can just be disheartening to see so many people doing so many wonderful things and that is the

talk in the community that you live in; it kind of breaks your heart," Daneels said following the Nov. 1 board meeting.

Parent Colleen Umphrey spoke out at the board meeting.

"The teachers are doing a great job and if you start losing them, you lose everything," Umphrey said.

President of the Teachers' Association Kristina Mallon and president of the Board of Education Katherine Doremus declined to comment.

Another meeting was held on Tuesday, the results of which were not available as of press time.

What's Happening?

T-shirt sales for Angola

By Lorena Orizaba
Contributing Writer

WeGo 2 Africa raised \$300 by selling shirts for \$10 during all lunch hours.

They sold 50 percent of their stock.

Shirts will not be on sale again until Jan. 23.

For the past seven years WeGo 2 Africa has sold t-shirts to raise money to build schools in Angola while providing living, learning, and leadership to

students.

The money raised goes to Rise International and they identify an area in Angola that is in need of a school and that is where they build it. The goal is to raise \$4000 to build a new classroom in the new school.

"Our community leadership class came up with the design," senior Megan Taddeucci said. "We thought about what WeGo to Africa was and about what would engage people."

Film lovers come together

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Calling all movie buffs, Film Club is welcoming new members.

"Some students were discussing film and having a great discussion and wanted to continue that," adviser Mark Begovich said.

Film Club meets about

once a month to go to a movie and discuss it afterwards with a critical eye.

The next film club event will be in January and permission slips will be available after break.

Students interested in joining Film Club can contact Begovich or officers junior Luke Jaconis and Dan Stompor.

Senior places at regionals

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

SkillsUSA had regionals on Dec. 9 at the Technology Center of DuPage with senior Aubrie Sole placing in her category.

Seven students competed at regionals.

Sole won third place in preschool teaching assistant out of about 15 students.

"(In my event), we were given our children story and had to make a lesson plan for preschoolers to do," Sole

said.

Sole was satisfied with her win.

"I was surprised because it was my first time competing in that competition," Sole said.

SkillsUSA adviser Brittney Bauer believed that this year wasn't as good as last.

"We did a lot better last year, and less people won this year, but we have a smaller amount in the (club) this year," Bauer said.

Japanese anime

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

Those who are interested in the Japanese culture can join the Anime Club.

Anime is a Japanese cartoon, short for animation, that has a wide range of genres.

It can range from non-fiction to fantasy.

"There about 30 members in the club and anyone is welcome to join," adviser Sandra Wilson said.

Meetings are held once every two weeks on Mon-

day in room 181.

"I'm learning a lot about the Japanese culture. All of this is so new for me because I've never been exposed to this," Wilson said.

Meetings consist of watching a 30 minute clip of an anime episode or movie, and then discussing the clip afterwards.

"Look out in the announcements for the meeting dates after break, because we plan to pick up after the semester and we would love to have more people," Wilson said.

Hands-on experience for students

Students enjoy play time with preschoolers at Wildcat Preschool

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Play time is not just for children anymore when students get the chance to work with preschoolers in Wildcat Preschool.

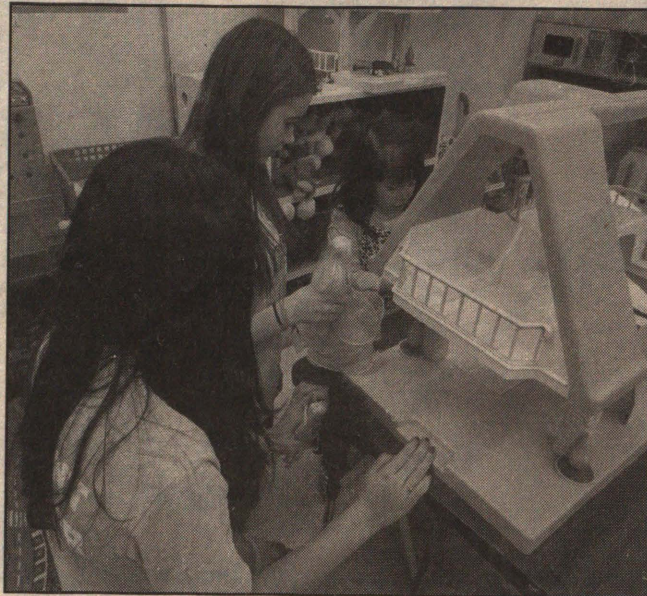
"(Students) have hands-on experience with children. They apply what we've learned in the classroom to real life situations. If they want to be a doctor, a nurse, or want to work with children they get practice," consumer science teacher Brittney Bauer said.

er said.

Wildcat Preschool is for child development 1 students to get familiar with preschoolers from Nov. 29 to today. There is an a.m. session from 8:55-10:35 a.m. and a p.m. session from 12:20-2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Child development 1 gives students a chance to know what it's like to be a preschool teacher.

"I teach (students) how to develop a lesson plan, we practice the lesson together,



Sophomores Monique Goti, left, and Courtney Harding play Barbies with preschooler Sofia Ventamilla during Wildcat Preschool.

Photo by Liz Ramos

and then they're on the computer for a week to find lessons based on the theme,"

Bauer said.

Preschoolers enjoy the time that they spend with the students and don't want their parents to pick them up.

"(My favorite thing about Wildcat Preschool is) eating at snack time and when I play," said preschooler Jordan Fikis, who is the daughter of social studies teacher Candace Fikis.

Preschooler Sofia Ventamilla, daughter of secretary Martha Ventamilla, likes making new friends and play making.

"I like to play with Barbies," Ventamilla said.

Students have as much fun with the preschoolers as the preschoolers have with them.

"I like playing with them during free play and group time when we sing the welcome song," sophomore Devan Orr said. "It's really fun

and the kids are fun to talk to."

According to Bauer, a lot of students don't want preschool to end because they enjoy it so much.

Preschoolers and students do different activities during the program.

"They do gross motor activities, parachute, Hula-Hoop, hop scotch, group time where we sing songs and play games. This year the theme is animals so we'll be doing lesson plans based on animals," Bauer said.

Junior Maegan Daniels enjoys doing activities with the preschoolers and was head teacher for a week.

"(Being head teacher) is kind of stressful because I'm the only one but it's kind of fun because I get to control it," Daniels said.

To go with the animal theme, Daniels had the preschoolers make lions using brown paper and macaroni noodles.

Students will have the opportunity to get college credit in the child development class which Bauer hopes will tempt more students to sign up.

"I don't want them to be intimidated because there's college level reading but I know students want to have a fun class but they have to work hard since it's college level," Bauer said.

Preschoolers range from 2 ½ to 5 year olds who are potty trained and come from the community and staff members. Applications are available on the school website.



Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior and advanced child development student Karla Cortes, left, plays with toy animals with preschooler Brandon Romero.

Academic break snowballs

Students have a chance to have some fun after finals at the annual Snowball outing

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

With stress mounting as finals approach, students have the opportunity to take an academic break right after finals at Snowball on Jan. 20-22.

Located at Lorado Taft in Oregon, Ill. Snowball functions as a drug and alcohol prevention program which influences teenagers to make smart decisions.

"There's a myth that high schoolers drink and party, and kids (who attend Snowball) get to see they're not the only ones that don't drink or party and get to feel positive,"

adult director Jared Winqvist said. "It helps to get students to feel positive and help them to network for positive alternatives to partying."

Building new relationships are also a benefit that comes out of Snowball.

"(Snowball) is about building new friendships and foundations to help you make positive lifestyle choices," adult director Krysta Schoenbeck said.

Three ways that students participate in the program include being a team director, a team leader, or a participant.

Teen directors are usually experienced leaders that work on an equal level as the

adult directors, and teen leaders run small groups and help organize the event.

Senior Cassie Thill is a teen director this year and has attended the program every year.

"At snowball, I get to meet a lot of new people and teachers at a different level and share new experiences that I never would have gotten before," Thill said.

Students who want to go to Snowball can get applications in the counselor's office which is based on a first come, first serve basis.

"Every year, Snowball has met its capacity of around 100 students and the pro-

gram's really grown in both popularity and as a result, size," Winqvist said.

At Snowball, students get to be a part of team-building activities, whole group talks, mini talks, and speakers present large talks.

The topics that are presented depend on what everyone wants, and every year is different.

Both Winqvist and Schoenbeck enjoy putting together Snowball every year even though the program is strictly voluntary.

"It's an incredible amount of work, but it's worth it. I'm always amazed at all the good students there are at West Chicago," Winqvist said.

Schoenbeck also appreciates the new relationships that are formed from the program.

"(Snowball) rejuvenates me. I enjoy meeting new students and creating friendships with students and teachers at the school," Schoenbeck said.

Winqvist and Schoenbeck encourage students to go to Snowball.

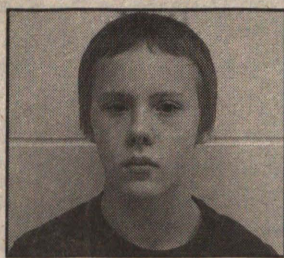
"We've never had a kid with a negative experience, and students should go even if it's out of their comfort zone. At Snowball, kids get to see that other kids are going through the same stuff. We have people from every clique just develop a lot of friendships, and Snowball helps to break apart the cliques," Winqvist said.

Thill wants students to be able to open up about what they learn at Snowball with other students.

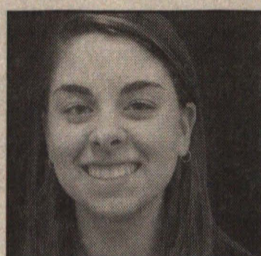
"I'm hoping for students to bring back what they learn and share it with people here and just have a good time," Thill said.

Was 14 years fair for Blagojevich?

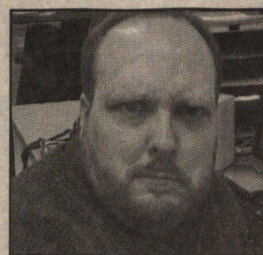
After 18 corruption convictions, former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was sentenced to 14 years in prison. On Dec. 7, Blagojevich didn't show much reaction to the sentencing but his lawyer argued for a shorter term. Blagojevich, at first, denied all accusations, then he apologized for all the crimes he committed.



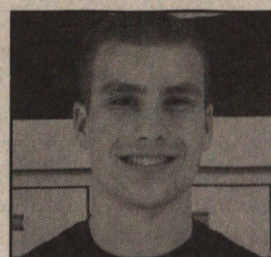
Freshman
Tommy Svetska
"It was fair because he was taking money."



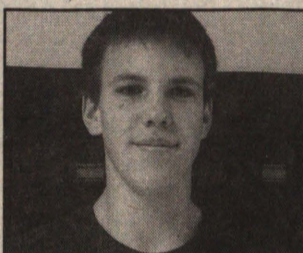
Sophomore
Jaina Parat
"It was fair because he got caught, which is fair enough."



Teacher
Brad Larson
"It was fair because he'll be in jail for a long time. What he did was very serious and he is held responsible for his decisions."



Senior
Dan King
"It was fair because what he did was morally wrong."



Junior
Jon Sanders
"Yes, because he was doing something for himself."

Compiled by Liz Ramos and Ryan Weier

Turning the page for kids

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Children in the community will benefit from the new book drive.

Students in English teacher Amanda Cordes' critical reading classes are doing a service learning project called Stories for Shortys.

According to Cordes, between the ages of 1 to 5, children who do not participate in any type of reading will find themselves at a disadvantage at school in the future.

To counter the concern, Cordes' classes are hosting a book drive so that new or gently used children's books



Photo by Kristina Manibo

Stories for Shortys is a Service Learning Project for English teacher Amanda Cordes' critical reading class. Cordes reads from one of the donations.

can be donated. The books will go to teen parent groups and local community members.

Books can be donated in the English office 308 or 313. The last day to donate is Tuesday.

Conference for drama

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Thespians head off to the Illinois High School Theatre Festival at Illinois State University Jan. 5-7.

Theatre Fest is a two and a half day conference for theater, drama, and film students open to all high schools over Illinois and the largest

and some even have college auditions.

Students involved in Theatre Fest also see the importance of the conference.

"I can borrow from other performers and become a better performer myself, it's cool to see shows performed by people my own age," senior Noah Strayve said.

Other benefits include creating bonds with other students that share the same interests.

School holidays no longer school decision

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

The school can no longer make its own decision as to when and when not to have school concerning holidays.

In the past, waivers were given out annually by the Illinois State Board of Education and they allowed the school to take off any of the five state holidays.

The five state holidays include Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Casimir Pulaski Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and Columbus Day.

State law now indicates that the school can only ask for two of those days to have school and it needs to be done in a public hearing at school board meetings.

This needs to be done to explain why a day was chosen, ask the public for their opinions and comments, and for everyone to vote on continued usage.

The school had a public hearing for school attendance to be allowed on Veteran's Day and Casimir Pulaski Day.

"We go through this process because within the public institution we want to keep interruptions of instruction minimum," Supt. Lalo Ponce said. "We pick the days we pick because it follows the curriculum well and keeps things running smoothly."

Ultimately, the local school board decides whether or not there is school on two of the five state holidays that are given.

Upcoming events

- Holiday Orchestra Concert- Tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium
- Winter break- Dec. 21- Jan. 3
- Institute Day (No school attendance)- Jan. 13
- Martin Luther King Day (No school attendance)- Jan. 16
- FAFsA night- Jan. 18
- First semester finals- Jan. 18-20
- Snowball- Jan. 20-22
- Early Dismissal (Noon)- Jan. 27
- Winter Jazz Concert- Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

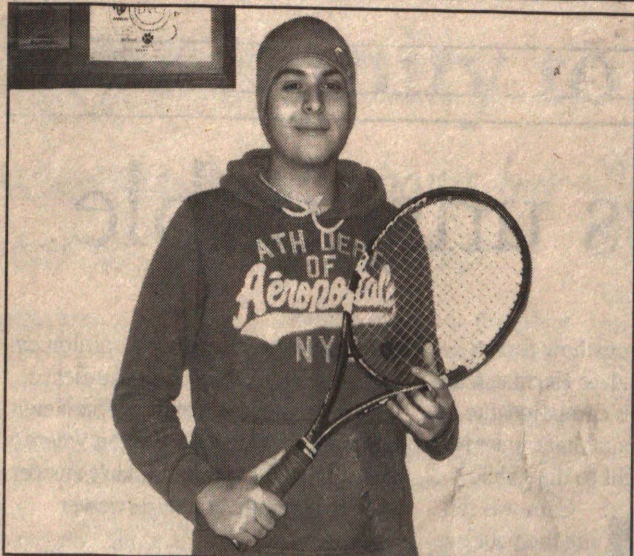


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Being involved in tennis and more than five other extracurricular activities has earned senior Noe Munoz November Student of the Month.

Ace of success

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extracurricular activities, and community involvement. Students must be nominated by at least one staff member, and the final selection is made by the student activities director and committee made up of additional staff members.

Balancing a sport and more than five other extracurricular activities has earned senior Noe Munoz the title of November Student of the Month.

What was your reaction when you found out you were Student of the Month?

It's a great award. I felt good when I got it.

What extracurricular activities or sports are you involved in?

I am in tennis, (the vice president of) SkillsUSA, Interact Club, and National Honor Society (NHS). I already got my 20 hours done over the summer. I am also in Spanish NHS and the vice president of Habitat for Hu-

manity. On Thursdays, I volunteer at PADS.

What are your plans for college?

Wherever I go, whether it be (University of Illinois or University of Illinois at Chicago), I plan to study engineering. I want to be a civil engineer. I want to construct my own (architecture) or bridge and see it constructed before my eyes. If that doesn't work out, I am thinking of being an entrepreneur and learning how to be a better investor and learn about the stock market because that's where the money is.

Who is your inspiration?

My parents. My goal is to not only make them proud, but to do better and not just work to make money, to enjoy life.

What do you like about high school?

(I like) that it's the last four years you get of enjoying the lack of responsibility and to have fun. Once you leave, you have to work, start a career, go to college or the military. What I don't want to do is just simply live, but enjoy.

Finals schedule

It's not too early to start thinking about finals. This year there is a change in the finals schedule. It is after Martin Luther King Day instead of before.

Wednesday, January 18

Period

0- 7:00 a.m. – 7:50 a.m.

1- 7:55 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

2- 9:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

3- 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Thursday, January 19

Period

4/5/6- 7:55 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

6/7/8- 9:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

9- 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Friday, January 20

Period

10- 7:55 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.

Putting the weight on

Decision made for weighted grades to begin next semester

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

After four months of heated debates weighted grades will take affect next semester.

Weighted grades are an extra point in a student's grade point average for any honors or advance placement classes.

However, the high school's weighted grades committee is also trying to make it accessible for capstone classes for kids who aren't solely about core academics.

Also under consideration is

whether or not classes without an advance placement or honors title should be graded with a weighted scale.

"The main goal as a committee is to reach every type of student we can and try to give them the best possible chance," Jennifer Culbertson, English teacher and committee member, said.

Many teachers are concerned about the negative effect weighted grades could have on students' work ethics.

The argument is that the student won't try as hard be-

cause if they were to get a B in a weighted class on their report card it would count as an A.

"That's one of the few ways I can see it potentially hurting a student individually; just by de-mantling their work ethic and hurting them in the long run," Culbertson said.

In a larger spectrum the pros outweigh the cons concerning weighted grades according to the committee.

According to a committee survey, 23 of the most attended school for the class of 2009 only six of them unweigh the grades.

"The perception is that colleges unweigh grades, however the majority of schools do not unweigh grades along with looking at the course rigor and extracurricular activities," Culbertson said.

Hair raising brings money

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

No Shave November raised about \$300 for the St. Mary's Food Pantry, and three students won gift cards as a result of not shaving for the entire month.

"We raised the money through contributions, Pep Club donations, and selling t-shirts," Pep Club adviser Mitch McKenna said.

After school on Nov. 30, students who participated were supposed to go to commons to be judged, have a picture taken, and receive their prize.

However, only a few students attended the judging.

Since there was a lack of people, all students present received the prize which was a Buffalo Wild Wings gift card.

Juniors Ryan Lakics and Vishal Disawar, and freshman Michael Carroso were announced as the winners along with a female who wished to remain anonymous.

English teacher Mark Begovich went to the judging but didn't win, however, he was satisfied with knowing that the event was for a good cause.

"I didn't shave at all and wimp out. I did it because it was for a cause and to raise awareness and money. The least I could do was feel uncomfortable with an itchy beard which is nothing in comparison to what other people go through," Begovich said.

Junior Vishal Disawar also

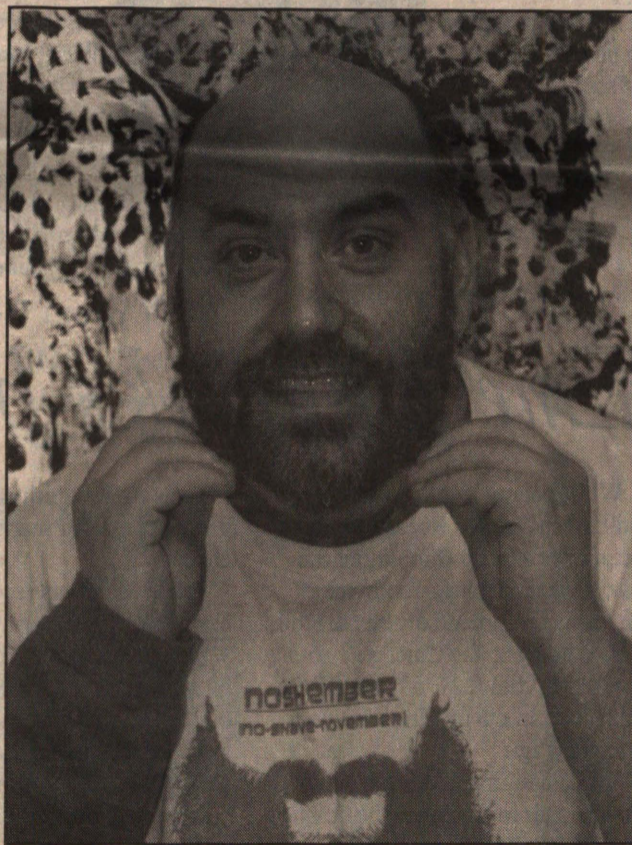


Photo courtesy of Mitch McKenna

English teacher Mark Begovich shows off his beard in commons during the judging of No Shave November.

participated as the event was for a good cause.

"I knew I could do it, and I heard it was for a good cause, so I thought I might as well," Disawar said.

According to Pep Club adviser David Jennings, the original plan was to have a picture of everyone's face up on Wildcat Weekly and have students vote on them, however, there weren't enough people.

Although not many people came to commons to get their pictures taken, McKenna knows students still participated.

"I know a lot of kids did it

because I saw it in the hallways, but they just didn't come forward," McKenna said.

In the future, Jennings hopes to make No Shave November more of a fundraiser.

"In the future years, we're going to connect No Shave November and food pantry donations more," Jennings said.

McKenna was happy with how the event turned out.

"I think since it was the first year of officially doing it, we wanted it to be fun. Next year, hopefully, will have a larger turnout," McKenna said.

Perspectives

Our View

Republican candidates unsuitable for candidacy

"Poor people have no work ethic and instead of attending school they should be the janitors of the school," Republican candidate Newt Gingrich said.

When one breaks this statement down it comes off as illogical and his view on poor kids is completely insensitive because he thinks they're only good enough to be janitors.

It's illogical because one of the most important ways to get out of being poor is through education.

So instead of making these poor kids stay in school to have a fighting chance, you're going to take away their main shot of opportunity away?

How is that going to benefit any part of society?

Honestly the idea is horrible, and it's hard to understand why someone could actually feel this way.

In addition to the lack of intel-

ligence that was presented, Gingrich doesn't seem to have a high level of morals either.

In the past Gingrich filed for divorce while his now ex-wife was struggling to survive cancer.

Talk about doing something at the wrong place at the wrong time; clearly there wasn't much thought put into his decision.

It's clear that things be-

come complicated in a relationship and not everyone knows what's going on, but when someone needs all the support they can receive and instead they get divorce papers, that doesn't make any sense.

The scariest part about all of this is that Gingrich is leading in opinion polls at 31 percent as the Republican candidate for president, that

speaks volumes about some people in this country.

It's also humorous how former presidential candidate Herman Cain had to suspend his campaign due to the amount of sexual harassment cases being brought to the public.

Cain was telling the public that he was helping support the women financially and that there was no sexual relationship.

Unfortunately for Cain more and more cases kept being brought up about his life in the past as a chief executive officer.

It would've been frightening to have a man with that much "unknown" history in such a high position of power.

What's ironic is that before he suspended his campaign, he was leading in a few opinion polls.

Interesting, a man with alleged sexual assault charges, and a man who thinks poor people should become janitors and leaves his wife while she's fighting cancer were and are doing so well in the race right now.

Also let's not forget about Mitt

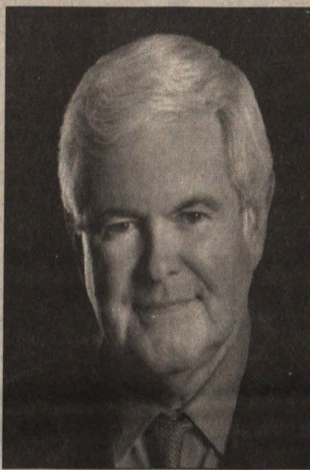
Romney who changes his opinion every time depending on his audience, and when confronted by a Fox News reporter with the question on where his real beliefs stand, couldn't answer it and demanded the interviewer move on.

Rodney also made an obnoxious, childish bet at the Republican debate on Saturday, betting \$10 thousand that

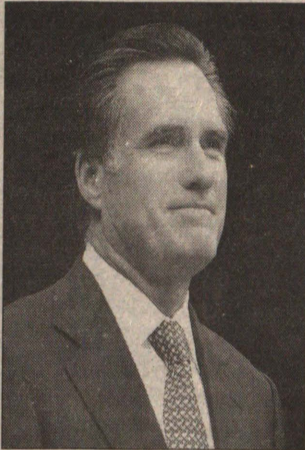
candidate Rick Perry misquoted him about something he had said in his book

People need to be informed on who these people are and if someone like this is really worthy of representing our country as a whole and being the commander in chief.

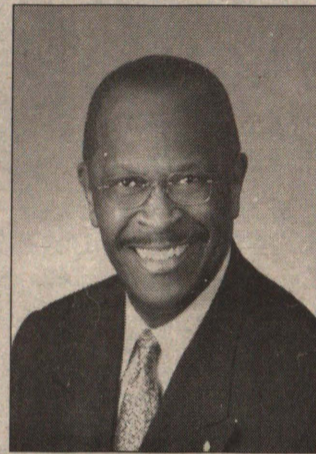
It's looking like there isn't going to be too much competition when it comes to obtaining the title, President of the United States.



Newt Gingrich



Mitt Romney



Herman Cain

Energy drinks have negative health effects

While energy drinks such as Red Bull, Monster, and Rockstar may be helpful for a boost throughout the day, like other things, too much of anything can potentially be harmful.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Emily Merchant, 21, of Lake of the Hills, had an energy drink incident two years ago.

While designated driving pub-hopping friends in England, she downed four Red Bulls, leaving her with a bad case of the shakes for hours.

According to a study done in the journal "Pediactrics," energy drinks have about three times as much caf-

feine as colas, which can put some people at risk for serious health effects.

While Merchant recovered from her incident, others haven't.

In fact, emergency room visits involving energy drinks have been on the rise since 2005, many being a result of combining the drinks with alcohol or drugs, however 56 percent being due to the consumption of the beverages alone.

Sure, energy drinks have their benefits, and have become increasingly popular among the young crowd.

According to Dr. Todd Zimmer-

man medical doctor of EmergiKids for the Alexian Brothers Health System, kids use the beverages as a sort of crutch, to give them a jolt for a game or sporting event or keep them awake during school.

These may be positives, however consuming too much can cause dangerous or uncomfortable conditions, such as heart palpitations, light-headedness, dizziness, feeling faint, headaches and vomiting.

In other words, drinking one or two energy drinks a day for a boost is potentially harmless but eight to 12, not so much.

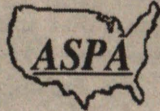
Daniel Evatt, a researcher at John Hopkins University suggested the beverages be sold with warning labels, which could be a good idea for young people who don't necessarily know their caffeine tolerance.

They may be addicting, however energy drinks should still remain available to anyone.

People should know to control themselves, know their limits, and not become addicted, especially to something that can cause health damage.

Energy drinks are potentially harmful and should be considered with precaution before drinking.

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THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned editorials represent the views of the majority of the staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although staff members may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish a letter. Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Laura Kuehn at lkuehn@d94.org or delivered to room 319 before or after school.

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Facebook deficiencies in privacy settings

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Connie Kim

Perspectives Editor of the Wildcat Chronicle Studies at Community High School

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What's on your mind?

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Connie Kim Social medias such as Facebook have been accused of not providing the privacy that users agreed to when they signed up for an account. Recently, the Federal Trade Commission, whose motto is 'protecting America's consumers', became fed up by the misleading Facebook privacy settings. According to the Chicago Tribune, the FTC said that Facebook deceived consumers by telling them they could keep their information on private, and then repeatedly allowing it to be shared and made public. On Facebook, subtle changes are continuously being made while users are unaware. An example is in December 2009, information that was meant to be kept private was made public. From there on, the FTC has located eight counts of privacy violations since, which was stated in www.washingtonpost.com. Just recently Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, had private photos accidentally released. Because of the instability of privacy, Facebook agreed to 20 years of privacy audits with the audits every two years according to www.chicagotribune.com. Google and Twitter have already signed deals with the FTC with similar agreements. However, will that be any more effective? In two years, many things can happen. Facebook completely changed its appearance, Twitter became increasingly popular, and social medias are updating more often. These days, it has become ridiculously easy to find out everything about a person by just clicking onto their profile. However, privacy settings have been reformed and includes a section that allows a person to choose who sees what information and who can't. As they say about the Internet, don't put up anything that you wouldn't want others to see. Internet privacy is a joke and can easily be breached, especially on Facebook.

17 minutes ago · [Comment](#) · [Like](#)

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Brandon Jackson



Keyuri Parmar



Kristina Manibo

Behind the scenes in jail

Halley Lenahan

I know that looking back on high school I can say that one thing I learned my senior year is that I most definitely don't want to go to jail.

My sociology class took a trip to the DuPage County Government Complex to observe court hearings and tour the jail recently.

Walking through the judicial office, I was overwhelmed with an unsettling feeling as I realized how busy the courtrooms seemed to be.

We got the opportunity to observe many differ-

ent cases; we even saw a couple of people get taken into custody.

Seeing someone get arrested was a humbling experience because you could feel the emotions they were feeling knowing everything had just been taken away from them.

After we observed the court we walked over to the county jail to meet with a sergeant who explained the way the jail works and the daily routine the inmates follow.

He warned us that the things we were going to see might be discomfoting but I don't think anyone was fully prepared for what we experienced.

A stale chemical smell in the air surrounded us as we walked down the bland narrow hallways that seemed to close in on us.

Harsh fluorescent lights made it impossible to feel comfortable while walking through the jail.

As we continued we observed a group of inmates in a cell block dayroom.

The dayroom is a meeting room surrounded by cells with a couple of stainless steel tables in the

middle for the inmates to socialize at and is under constant supervision.

When we approached the glass doors separating us from the inmates they immediately ran up to the glass to get a closer look at us.

Some made comments to the girls in the class and one even advised us to stay away from drugs.

This was probably the most eye opening experience of the day because the inmates we observed looked to be about the same age as us.

We continued to make our way through the jail and observed the holding cells and suicide watch cells.

As we walked past the suicide watch cell the piercing look the inmate gave us was chilling.

The inmate's look alone sent a shiver up my spine and left me feeling unsettled until I was sure we were out of his sight.

By the end of the tour we were left with what was probably the best deterrent for teenagers to stay out of trouble.

A look into the life of an inmate in a county jail only made me wonder what it was like for those in more serious facilities.

I can safely say that a mug shot is one picture I never want to be in.

Freshman
Veronica Zbilski
"No, because if you drink too many it's bad, but everything in moderation is okay."

Sophomore
Jillian Staton
"An excessive amount is, but drinking them occasionally is fine."

Students Speak

Compiled by Keyuri Parmar

Do you think energy drinks are bad for your health?

Junior
Nicole Riojas
"I guess because of all the sugar, but they help in a way because they give you energy to do things."

Senior
Brad Larson
"Yes, they are because the key to them is sugar, and sugar is obviously a bad thing."

Resolution Stats

40 to 45% of American adults make one or more resolutions each year.

How many resolutions maintained as time goes on:

Past the first week - 75%

Past two weeks - 71%

After one month - 64%

After six months - 45%

*Stats from www.proactivechange.com

Resolution Stats

34% of people set resolutions related to money

38% set resolutions related to weight

47% set resolutions related to self-improvement or education

31% set resolutions related to relationships

*Stats from www.steveshapiro.com

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

By Giuliana LaMantia
Reporter

As the holidays roll around, people begin to think about New Year's and a fresh start. While New Year's resolutions can be hard to keep, school psychiatrist Susana Pichardo gives tips to stay motivated into the new year.

"It gives people something to look forward to and feel better about themselves," Pichardo said. "Most of the times New Year's resolutions are for the better of the person's self.

According to Pichardo, people feel more motivated during New Year's to set a goal or make a change as opposed to any other time since many people participate in it. Although most begin very on task, Pichardo explains how many people come back from vacation and into reality, and realistically do not make the time to fulfill their goals.

"People tend to go with what would be stereotypical of themselves," Pichardo said. For example, an impatient person would make a resolution to be more patient, or a college student to not procrastinate as much.

"People tend to go with what (others) criticize about them," Pichardo said. "People not only want to fulfill themselves but fit in with everyone else as well." Pichardo suggests making to do lists, setting dates and deadlines, leaving reminders with post it's on mirrors, using a planner, or having a trustworthy person to help with motivation to help stay on task.

However, commitments are tough, and according to Pichardo, most people do not follow through, since it is easier to give up than to have to motivate yourself.

"You should do it during a time of year you're really inspired," Pichardo said. "A favorite season or time of year you're really inspired," Pichardo said.

"I think it'd be helpful for people to make goals and resolutions during a time when they have more time for themselves to get it done," Pichardo said. Although difficult, Pichardo sees the true fun and positivity in a New Year's resolution.

"It's an opportunity to make a change in a positive way," Pichardo said. "It's meant to make you feel good and boost your self esteem."

Pichardo also encourages students to create a New Year's resolution.

"I think people should be encouraged to do a New Year's resolution," Pichardo said. "I think they're a good idea because giving something new a try can have a positive experience on one's life."

Get a

Give back to
the community

BUILD
FRIEND
AND C
KNOW
BETTER

Don't Procrastinate

Get six pack a

Year's Resolutions

a job

Be happy :)

Get straight A's

D MORE
DSHIPS
GET TO
V PEOPLE
R

Find a New
Year's
Resolution!

**Score or assist one
goal in every soccer
game**

tiniate

*Start eating
my vegetables*

Don't worry so much!

abs

*Get enough money to
go to Vegas for spring
break!*

*Meet Morgan
Freeman*

*Anonymous contributions from distributed surveys

Features

People brought together for the holidays



Photo By Lorena Orizaba

Site manager Ken Walker runs a Christmas program at St. Mary's every Christmas.

By Lorena Orizaba
Reporter

With the holidays just around the corner everyone starts thinking about presents for family and friends.

But for Ken Walker, site manager of the St. Mary's Food Pantry in West Chicago, the holidays are not only about presents bringing people together, but of coming together to help one another and make a difference in many families.

Walker runs a program at St. Mary's with this mission

in mind.

The program does not have an official name since it is not a big program, but it still makes a difference in some people's holidays.

"This program is important because we have the chance to follow God's mission to help the less fortunate," Walker said.

Every year Walker provides presents for low income families in the community.

"People who are guests of our pantry and have a need can qualify for this program,"

Walker said.

Two major sponsors provide the presents: Winfield Township and Central DuPage Hospital, along with some private donors.

People can also walk in and drop off anything they want to donate.

Need has more than doubled in three years. St. Mary's Food Pantry alone served 200 families each month in 2008. This year the number has increased to 561 families per month.

This means even more

Two can make a difference

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

What began as a couple helping feed 35 people in the community during the holidays has grown to an organization helping 1,000 people in DuPage County.

Floyd and Karrol Ketting opened Humanitarian Service Project 33 years ago and are still very involved. Floyd is the CFO and Karrol is the executive director.

Humanitarian Service Project helps families throughout the county yearly and has various projects for

Yambrovich said.

Families will also receive food for the holidays.

"Each family will get a month's worth of groceries which will be 100-250 pounds of imperishable items such as boxed items, an assortment of canned fruits, bread, meat products, and frozen turkey with the holiday trimmings," Yambrovich said.

Although DuPage is a wealthy area, not everyone

who need the most help get it.

"Humanitarian Service Project only has five full time staffers which shows the organization is based on volunteers. We've had over 22,000 people from the community involved," Yambrovich said.

For the Christmas Offering presents and food are hand delivered to families.

Throughout the 35 years the organization has existed

Many citizens of DuPage and Kane are in need; many are struggling to pay their mortgage, rent, or electric bill.'

-- community outreach coordinator Paul Yambrovich

different times of the year. Their holiday project is a Christmas Offering which helps 350-400 families and 1,200 children.

"We coordinate this project to give each child five to six toys which are donated and beautifully wrapped," community outreach coordinator Paul

living there is fortunate.

"We live in an area that is well off. The wealth of the county is high on national levels. Many citizens of DuPage and Kane are in need; many are struggling to pay their mortgage or electric bill," Yambrovich said.

Humanitarian Service Project makes sure the people

have run many projects, such as one for children's birthdays to make sure they receive presents, one for senior

citizens, and a summer project to help students who receive free meals at school during the school year but don't get their nutritional needs over the summer.

Volunteers are welcome throughout the year. For more information go to humanitarianservice.org or call (630) 221-8340.

applicants for the Christmas program and according to Walker, donations decreased this year compared to last year.

Over 90 families applied to the Christmas program this year.

"The way this works is people will come in and sign up as if they were getting food and if they applied for the Christmas program then they will receive a special card that will allow them to pick the presents," Walker said. "The parents are the ones that choose the presents. Each member in the family is given a present."

The program began five years ago when someone dropped off a gift at the pantry to pass on and it has grown from there throughout the years.

"That is the original concept and we try to make it better every time," Walker said.

This year the program has a twist.

In addition to the Christmas program, 40 additional children are being selected to receive a present at Christmas.

This new program is being sponsored by employers of

Jel-Sert.

"The children will be selected by need and age," Walker said "It is all about the children, I love children, I am a children person."

Unfortunately, another program that provided a toy for every child no longer runs.

In previous years, Community High School's assistant principal asked students to donate stuffed toys and she would then donate them to St. Mary's Food pantry as presents for children.

This program stopped with her retirement.

"Sometimes there are not enough donations for everyone and that is not a good feeling for me," Walker said.

Presents will be passed out couple days before Christmas.

Winfield Township will call each of the participating families to let them know when are where to pick up the presents.

Donations are always welcome.

St. Mary's Food Pantry is located at 163 Garden St. in West Chicago.

You can reach the pantry at 630-293-4958.

Food Pantries

Food pantries in the area that would appreciate donations for the holidays:

New Life Bilingual Church
PO Box 157 464 Ann St.
West Chicago, IL 60186
630-231-3684

Interfaith Food Pantry Outreach Center
345 S. President St.
Carol Stream, IL 60188
630-665-6426

Feeding Northwest DuPage Lutheran Church of the Master
580 Kuhn Rd.
Carol Stream, IL 60188
630-665-5188

Church of Christ
350 E. James St.
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-2062

Wayne Township
27W031 North Ave.
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-7173

St. Vincent DePaul Society St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
0S233 Church St.
Winfield, IL 60190
630-668-0918

Opportunity to shine

Orchestra teacher shows her talent at holiday concert

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Rather than teaching the students how to shine, orchestra teacher Allison Zabelin will get the opportunity to shine herself at the Fox Valley Baroque Christmas concert.

"I started playing violin when I was 4. I started playing the viola in sixth grade. I thought they were very beautiful to look at and listen to," Zabelin said. "I like the way they can express emotion of all sorts."

Zabelin's parents have inspired her to keep playing the violin and viola.

"I'd say my parents really kept me involved and interested. As a 4 year old, it was my idea to play and since

I started and up to this point in my life there were times I wanted to quit, but they knew playing was a passion of mine so I kept doing it. Playing was a really big passion of mine," Zabelin said.

Not just her parents have pushed Zabelin to keep playing the violin and viola, but her love for music.

"I always have loved entertainment, watching concerts and plays, and I always

liked being able to provide entertainment to people and feeling a rush while doing it," Zabelin said.

Zabelin has been performing in the Fox

Valley Orchestra since it began two years ago and is a principle player.

"(The Fox Valley Orchestra) has been giving the principle players an opportunity for a solo and I auditioned for a spot to be principle,"

Zabelin said. "I'm very

excited. I get to dress up in an evening gown and perform in a beautiful concert hall in front of many many people, probably hundreds I say."

Zabelin will perform a Viola Concerto in G Major.

"I like that two of the movements are fast and two are slow, so I like that they really give me an opportunity to show my versatility as a player," Zabelin said.

Zabelin is looking forward to throwing herself

into the moment during the concert.

"I'm playing from memory so just closing my eyes and feeling the music," Zabelin said.

When Zabelin sees someone she knows in the audience, different feelings rush through her.

"My family, many friends, and hopefully many of my

West Chicago music students (will come to see me perform). I feel a little extra nervous but mostly extra excited to let people who know me from one setting see me perform in another," Zabelin said.

Before a performance, Zabelin feels a rush of excitement with nervousness but while she's performing, it's a different case.

"While I'm playing I am in the zone. I just feel the vibrations of my instrument, listen to the music I'm creating with the orchestra, and enjoy," Zabelin said.

Students are able to purchase tickets from Zabelin for \$10.

"I'll have tickets available to buy and I encourage [students] to see not only a really excellent orchestra but their teacher as a soloist," Zabelin said.

The concert is Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Crimi Auditorium at 407 S. Calumet Ave. in Aurora. Tickets are also available at www.foxvalleyorchestra.org.



Raising spirit

By Connie Kim
Perspectives Editor

Raising school spirit since the 1950s, Pep Club has a goal to make the year enjoyable for students as well as benefit the school and community.

"Pep Club is an organization whose main purpose is to increase school spirit and make it fun to be a wildcat," co-sponsor David Jennings said.

Jennings co-sponsors Pep Club along with Mitch McKenna.

The club takes charge of many activities and events that happen throughout the year.

"(Pep Club) organizes school-wide pep assemblies, powder puff, homecoming week and taking care of homecoming court, No Shave November, and Mr. Wildcat when there are enough participants," Jennings said.

Jennings relates happiness to being a part of why he enjoys being a co-sponsor of the club.

"There's nothing better to be a part of something that puts a smile on 2,000 faces. If we have a successful pep assembly, people are happier for the rest of the day. For at least 40 minutes, people can forget about what's bumming them out and have a smile on their faces," Jennings said.

Senior Alex Hund enjoys hearing about the ideas at meetings which Pep Club

has when they're about to coordinate an event or assembly.

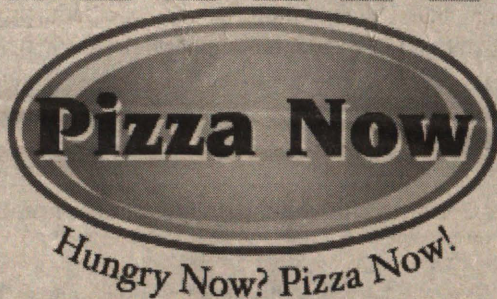
"We have meetings usually the week of assemblies where we just kind of sit around and marvel at the things that run through McKenna's and Jennings's heads," Hund said. "(They) start by talking about their ideas that they've been thinking of during the week. Then we have to decide how we are going to make the ideas work since they're usually crazy and hard to pull off like the hermit crabs," Hund said.

Anyone is welcome to join Pep Club, however, Jennings has seen a recent pattern in previous years.

"It's open to anyone, but we tend to see more juniors and seniors who want to participate, and the seniors usually run it," Jennings said. "This year, the club has around 20 students with a core of about eight or nine students."

Hund joined as she thought being a part of the club would be fun.

"I joined Pep Club because I have always loved our assemblies, and I thought having a hand in planning them would be hilarious," Hund said. "Before the pep assemblies are my favorite part. We get out of class early and get to play around with all the props while setting them up to make sure they work properly," Hund said.



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with the purchase of a Pizza

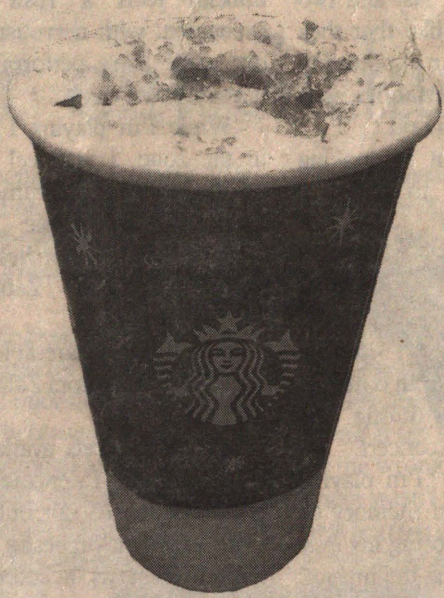
Entertainment

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December 15, 2011

Wildcat Chronicle

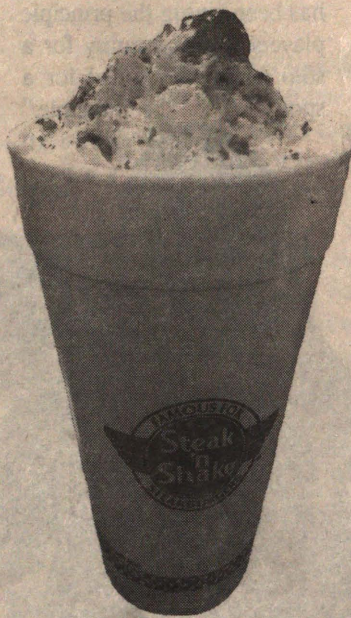
Have a cup of cheer: *New holiday drinks make the season bright*



Starbucks

The caramel brulée is a delicious alternative for those who can't stomach another peppermint drink. Warm espresso, steamed milk, caramel sauce, and whipped cream are very reminiscent of the caramel macchiato; but with a catchy name like caramel brulée, it fills your tummy with holiday joy.

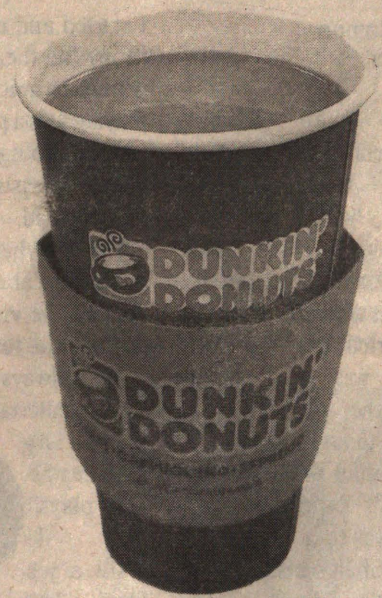
Starbucks offers two other holiday favorites: the eggnog latté, and the peppermint mocha latté for \$3.75.



Steak 'n Shake

Steak 'n Shake's peppermint chocolate chip shake is a creamy, cool delight of candy cane goodness. Refreshing yet satisfying to the sweet tooth, it is heaven for mint lovers. The only downside would be that its extreme richness makes it difficult to finish.

The other seasonal flavor shakes are white chocolate and eggnog for \$3.49.



Dunkin' Donuts

The peppermint mocha latté at Dunkin' Donuts is a seasonal hot drink to keep you warm during the cold season.

The peppermint flavor isn't overpowering, which makes the drink a nice, simple blend of espresso, whipped cream, and peppermint flavoring topped with mocha drizzle. This smooth latté is \$2.89.

Compiled by editors Giuliana LaMantia, Kristina Manibo and Carly Tubridy

Photos by Kristina Manibo and Hailey Lenahan

Concerts and films to watch

Rockin' through January

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

B96 SoBe Lifewater Jingle Bash- This concert will be taking place at the Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, Dec. 17. Tickets are \$25 to \$289. The concert will feature Enrique Iglesias, Selena Gomez, Joe Jonas, Karmin, LMFAO, Jason Derulo, Cobra Starship.

The Maine- American rock band's concert will be at The Bottom Lounge, 1375 West Lake St., Chicago, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45

to \$85.

Alkaline Trio- The metal band will be at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., Chicago; on Dec. 31 at 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$92 to \$500.

Miranda Lambert with Chris Young- This country singer's concert will be at the BMO Harris Bank Center 300 Elm St., Rockford, on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$72 to \$270.

Rise Against- The punk rock band will perform on Jan. 27 at the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion, 525 South Racine Chicago



Photo courtesy of Derrick Stump

Popular country singer Miranda Lambert will perform the night of Jan. 12 at the BMO Harris Bank Center.

at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 to \$199.

Jason Aldean with Luke Bryan- This country rock concert will be in Assembly Hall at University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, 1800 S. 1st St., Champaign on Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 to \$330.

Lady Antebellum- This country pop concert will be at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum, 101 South Madison St., Bloomington, at 7 p.m. The concert will be on Jan. 29. Tickets are \$77 to \$195.



Photo courtesy of Atlantic Records

Pop artist Bruno Mars will perform at the B96 SoBe Lifewater Jingle Bash Saturday, along with LMFAO, Jason Derulo and others.

Stay warm at the movies

By Hailey Lenahan
Reporter

Arthur Christmas: ★★★ Santa's son Arthur uses Santa's high-tech equipment for an urgent mission to be sure Christmas goes off without a hitch.

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (Dec. 16): Famous detective Sherlock Holmes and his partner Watson engage in a battle to save all of England.

New Year's Eve: ★★ From the director of Valentine's Day, New Year's Eve follows the lives of several New Yorkers as their

stories intertwine on New Year's Eve.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Dec. 21): Journalist Mikael Blomkvist receives help from a young computer hacker in his search for a woman who has been missing for 40 years.

Darkest Hour (Dec. 25): Five young people in Russia pull together to defeat an alien invasion.

Hugo: ★★★★★ Set in 1930, an orphan living in the walls of a Paris train station is trying to solve a mystery of his late father.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Actress Noomi Rapace and actors Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law star in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," premiering Friday.

Close ties emerges from small team

By Kristina Manibo
Entertainment Editor

Despite only four girls from West Chicago competing on the Wheaton Warrenville Co-op gymnastics team, the girls have a lot of support for one another.

"I honestly wish more girls would join. Our school doesn't really know we even have a gymnastics team because it's [combined] with Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South," said senior Caitlin Lawson, who has been on the team for two years. "The other girls from West Chicago and I basically stick together. We talk to the rest of our teammates, but during conditioning or partner exercises I end up choosing a Wego girl because I feel closer to them."

Junior Aubrey Wolsfeld enjoys having a small team.

"I like the closeness of being in a small group of girls that go to Wego. I feel it unites us as a team and strengthens our relationships," Wolsfeld

said. This is her first year.

Though four seems like a small number, it's actually more than last year.

"It's so different from last year because now there are four Wego girls, last year there were only two. It's cool to dress up on competition days and see the other girls in the hallway and scream out," Lawson said.

One of Lawson's strengths is her confidence.

"My strengths are to stay motivated, and remind myself why I'm here. I hold my head up high, and at meets I'd have to say I'm the loudest one screaming for our team," Lawson said.

Something that holds her back is "getting frustrated at the things (she) can't do, or getting injured," according to Lawson.

"I'd say we need to improve on supporting one another as a team overall. I give so much advice at each practice, it's crazy. I would consider myself a leader and a motivator," Lawson said.

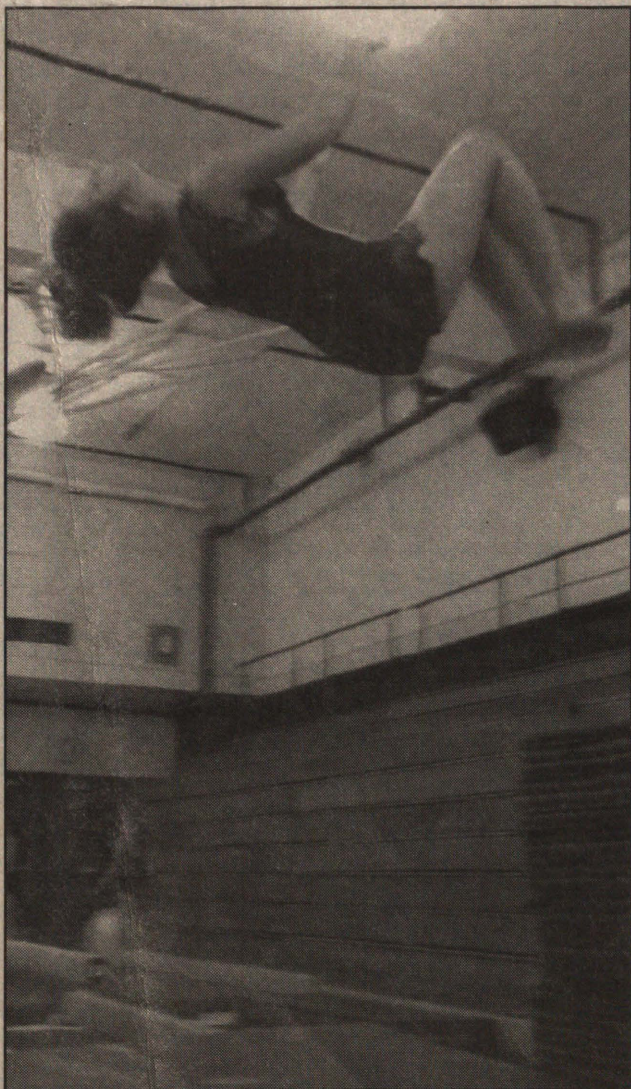


Photo by Kristina Manibo

Senior Caitlin Lawson flips during practice. Lawson stays confident in her team and tries to support and motivate them.

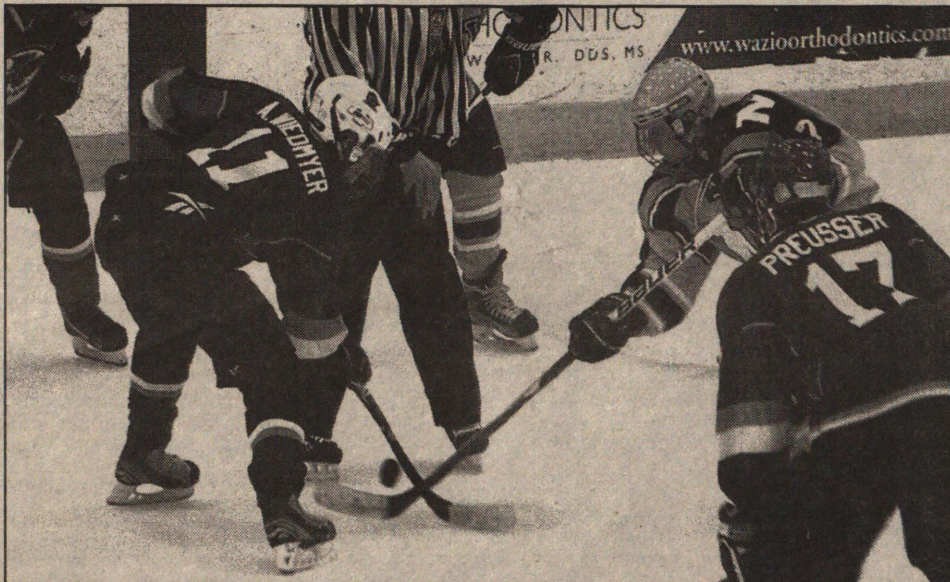


Photo by Carly Tubridy

Senior captain Austin Weidmeyer faces off against Neuqua Valley on Dec. 4. The boys kept focus and won 5-0.

Redirected focus helps team play at higher level

By Carly Tubridy
Editor in Chief

The Wheaton Wild West hockey team is on the rise; their only obstacle to overcome is their mentality.

"Their mentality is the only thing stopping them from being as good as those top level teams," head coach Dave Dyson said.

Now that the team has gotten to know one another, the focus has switched from bonding to their game.

"The beginning of the year was a lot about having fun, but now they're really starting to get an intensity in their mentality," Dyson said.

Recognizing the necessity to get serious, St. Francis senior captain Eric Bacon

and assistant captains senior Austin Wiedmyer and junior Ryan Cooper helped the team get down to business.

"The guys owned it and with the leadership, they have started to focus more and it is really showing," Dyson said.

A team meeting was held to enforce the team's new-found focus.

"Truthfully the only thing that is setting us apart from the top teams is our lack of focus so now we will be able to win these big games against the top teams. So we will keep on enforcing the seriousness in the locker room during games and make sure at practice kids are going their hardest until we make it to the state championship," Cooper said.

Their focus is transferring to the games. On Dec. 2 the boys took on Naperville North, who is ranked higher than them, and won.

The boys are not only starting to play with the high level teams, but they are not letting themselves be brought down to other teams' levels.

"[Dec. 4] we played to our full potential instead of playing down to Neuqua Valley and we killed them 5-0," Cooper said.

With another Naperville school coming up, the team has to maintain their discipline to be sure to play their best.

The boys take on Naperville Central on Saturday at 7:10 p.m. at All Seasons Ice Arena in Naperville.

Short team does not stunt growth

By Keyuri Parmar
Features Editor

Fears that their size would cut them short have not materialized for the girls basketball team.

With a 5-2 record overall and 2-0 in the DVC, the girls are standing tall.

Maturity has helped the team overcome their size weakness.

"We are a mature team with seven seniors and are getting better each game," head coach Kim Wallner said.

The girls agree.

"Each game has been better than the game before; by the middle of the season we should be at our full potential," senior Emily Warkins said.

Naperville Central will be one of the toughest teams to beat during the season.

"They have a really tall team especially compared to our short team; we have a potential to beat them. By then we will have (knowledge) of what we can and cannot do," Warkins said.

According to senior Allie Tapanes, the average height of the team being 5 foot 6 inches might affect the team in the future even though it is not currently.

"[The short height] has shown in games but we have been able to pull out. It is not a huge factor as of now," Tapanes said.

Senior Claire Monroe admits rebounding has been more difficult to a certain extent on a shorter team but

scoring has not been an issue for them.

Because of the team's height, they have been given an underdog status.

"I think we can get passed [the underdog status] which has been a misconception," Warkins said.

Despite their height the girls have a strong offense, a fast team, and good shooters such as Monroe, senior Liz Reyes and junior Laura Panacali, according to Tapanes and Warkins.

The girls are working to improve on all fundamental aspects of the game as well.

"We are continuing to work on our defense and rebounding," Wallner said.

On Saturday the girls will take on Bartlett High School in Bishop gym at 3 p.m.

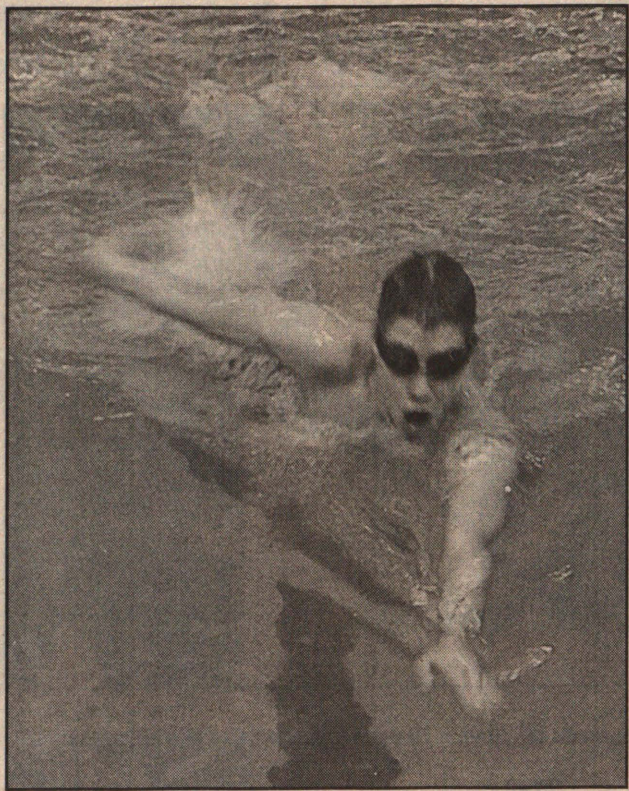


Photo by Giuliana La Mantia

Junior Aaron Fagalde practices during one of new coach Nicole Cleveland's practices.

Kicking off the season with a new coach, athletes

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

With new members and a new coach, boys swimming is kicking off a new season on a positive note.

"It's a different start than usual because we have a new coach and new freshmen," senior captain Marcus Delatorre said. "A lot of us swam in the summer so we've gotten a lot better."

New coach Nicole Cleveland has been working hard to prepare the team for upcoming meets.

"We've been doing a combination of dry land activities, weight room, and a lot of yardage so far, as well as drill work to keep focus on technique," Cleveland said.

Cleveland came about coaching at the school through connections with previous coach Nick Parry.

"I've been swimming my whole life and wanted to continue with the sport through coaching," Cleveland said.

The guys realize differences between Parry and Cleveland's coaching.

"It's different because she gives different workouts than our old coach and a different mentality than before. There's less rests with harder sets and more distance," Delatorre said.

Despite the differences, the boys enjoy Cleveland.

"She swam in college and

she knows what she's talking about, if we listen to her we'll go far," junior Jack Eichenberger said.

Some goals of Cleveland's for the season are to have a state qualifier, improve on time and technique, and to help the athletes gain a better understanding for what it means to be a thoughtful swimmer.

"For this season, (we hope) Jack (Eichenberger) and (Sophomore Aidan Culloton) qualify for state in the 100 and time drops for everyone else, and a lot more people completing the season without dropping. There were a lot of people not finishing last year," Delatorre said.

With hard work and positivity, the goals are not so out of reach for the boys swim team.

"We have some new freshmen and everyone else has been training for a while," junior Jack Eichenberger said. "It looks like we have a promising future and we'll maybe send some people to state."

While the guys enjoy the coaching, Cleveland enjoys working with the team as well.

"They're a great group of guys working hard every day," Cleveland said. "We may be small but it means we can pay attention to what needs to be fixed in great detail. It's been fun. Getting to know them has been great too."

New students feel welcome on team

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Being a new student is hard enough but the boys basketball team has welcomed seniors Jajuan Cosby and Luke Wiesboeck to the team with open arms.

"The new school is weird because everyone stares at me but the team made me feel at home. I can't play until January but I hope to play with them at regionals and maybe even state," Cosby said.

Due to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) rules Cosby is ineligible to play until January.

Cosby and Wiesboeck get along with the other players on the team.

"I have no problem with anyone especially [senior] Justin Mundt because he's the first person I met," Cosby said.

The team helped Wiesboeck adjust to being at a new school.

"It took a little while (to adjust) but it's better now. The team helped me to show me around a little bit," Wiesboeck said.

Wiesboeck and Cosby both bring something different to the team.

"Luke's a little quieter. He kind of keeps to himself a little more. Jajuan hangs out with the guys and it seems like he's always been here. They both have two different personalities but they're good additions," coach Kevin Baldus said.

Learning to play at the varsity level will be a challenge for Wiesboeck.

"He's an important part of that second team in practice that pushes the starting group. It doesn't get a lot of attention from fans and other people but he's an important part of the group. Once he learns how to play at the varsity level I'm sure he'll be able to get to the point to play and earn some minutes," Baldus said.

Cosby brings an element to the team that they don't have according to Baldus.

"He's extremely fast and quick and he can break a defense down with just a dribble. He has a good understanding of how to play basketball. He's been successful before he came here and he understands how to play at a varsity level," Baldus said.

Baldus doesn't like that

Cosby is ineligible to play until January.

"I don't like it but it is what it is. It might be a blessing in the fact that by the time he's eligible to play he'll be able to step in and do well as opposed to someone who was just thrown in the game," Baldus said.

A family feeling, the team's attitude, and determination are qualities that Cosby likes about the team.

"(The team) puts themselves through a lot just to be on top and they stick together just like a family. There are no arguments and if there are, by the end of practice they're best friends," Cosby said.

Cosby and Wiesboeck weren't discouraged to tryout for the team even though they were at a new school.

"Basically anything with basketball encourages me. I just hope that when I come back we develop a great team chemistry," Cosby said.

Cosby played on Guilford High School's team but didn't like the way the team played.

"I played on their team but I never played serious just because of the selfishness of one player. Everybody was worried about their points instead of the team. It won't happen here, especially with me, because they pass that ball and everyone comes together," Cosby said.

Wiesboeck was homeschooled in Arkansas before he came here and has played basketball since seventh

grade. He believes he can help the team out in many ways.

"I'm not doing as good right now because I'm getting used to the plays but I think I'll do better. I'm more physical, stronger, and taller," Wiesboeck said.

Bringing opportunities to the court is a strength that Cosby has.

"I open up the court for more opportunities for people to score. I can score when I want to but this team has great players so there's no need for me to score every time," Cosby said.

Cosby's family is an inspiration for Cosby on the court.

"I've been playing (basketball) since second grade and they've been there the most. Especially my mom, she's a single mom and she would break her back just so I could get what I want so basketball is just a way that I can pay her back," Cosby said.

After the death of one of Cosby's brother, his brother has played a big role in the improvement of his skills.

"I really have no weaknesses now because since my brother passed, I have no weaknesses. It used to be my attitude but now I hope to make my brother proud, my mom happy, and have better plans to support my family," Cosby said. "Everything I do on the court, every time I score I look up. My brothers kept me out of trouble and kept me in working hard on the court."

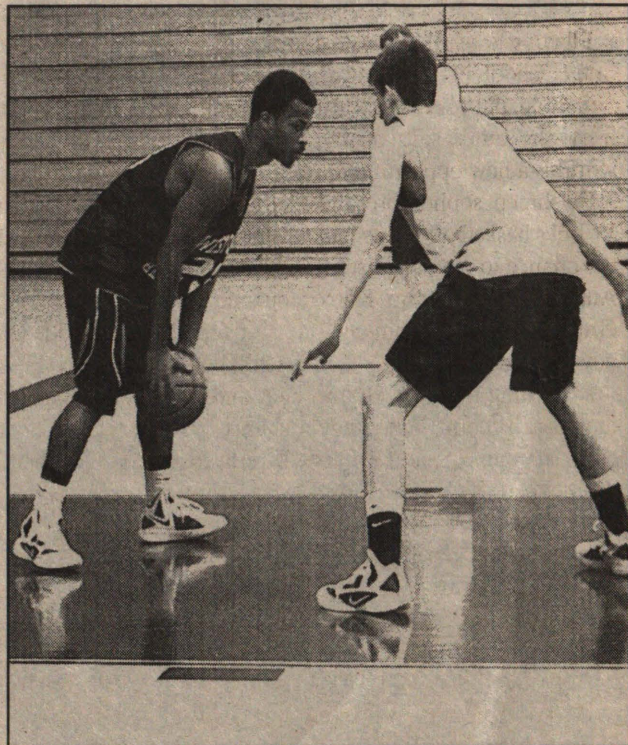


Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Jajuan Cosby, left, practices with the varsity team but can't play until January. Senior Justin Mundt, right, was the first person that Cosby met.

Honorable ending

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

After signing with the University of Illinois to play volleyball, having a DVC champion title, and being player of the month, Julia Conard can add the All Star game to her long list of accomplishments in her volleyball career.

"It's a really big honor and I was floored to find out," Conard said. "It was a rewarding experience. Meeting all these girls that were extremely talented and having the opportunity to play at such a high level was awesome."

The All Star game was Dec. 3 at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills.

Conard's team lost 3-1 with Conard having one kill, three blocks, and one dig.

"It was pretty tough trying to hit around the six foot middle blockers, but I tried my best," Conard said. "The atmosphere was amazing. There were cameras everywhere and the stands were packed with people."

With everyone being an all star, Conard believes she'll be a better player once she steps off the court.

"One of the [all stars, Meghan Niski] has been my teammate and other girls I see all the time in conference. It's definitely an intimidating



Photo by Liz Ramos

Senior Julia Conard goes for a kill at the All Star game on Dec. 3. Conard believes it was an honor to be invited to play.

atmosphere but it feels good knowing I've got great players to back me up," Conard said.

Niski being on the other team brought a little friendly competition to the court.

"We're actually on opposite teams. I think it'll be a lot of fun. I think there's competition in that but it's all friendly competition," Conard said.

According to Conard, playing in the All Star game was a great way to end her volleyball career at the school.

"I think it's a great way to go out if [the team] couldn't have made it to state. This was just as rewarding to me personally," Conard said. "I want to thank my family, all the coaches I've had through club and a special thank you for coach [Kris] Hasty."

Tides change as enthusiasm rises

By Brandon Jackson
Reporter

With a gaining sense of pride, wrestling at the school is building momentum.

In the past there has been a lack of enthusiasm and methods are changing for the better according to varsity coach Humberto Ayala.

"Seventy-five kids are on the team this year which is a good number for us and we're looking really tough," Ayala said.

The team is ranked 25th in state.

"I think that that's amazing because we weren't well represented the past few years and it was such a dramatic increase," Ayala said.

On Saturday Hinsdale Central is hosting a 30-team tournament.

"This is going to be a tough tournament, and I'm expecting to do well. It's going to be a good measure on how we perform concerning other teams," Ayala said.

To prepare for the tournament the team will continue to practice hard and stay focused on the goal.

"I think the season is going to go extremely well, we have some tough individuals such as seniors Franky Correa, Guillmo Galvan and Dan King who are going to bring a lot to the table," Ayala said.

Junior Robert Svestka and sophomore brother Tyler are going to be key figures for the team as they made it to state last year.

"This year I believe the fan base is increasing because of our success, and I think that is causing a new sense of pride," Ayala said.

The Wildcats are hoping to finish in the top half of the DVC.

"That's a goal in it of itself, just to compete in the DVC. It's going to take hard work, but we'll be able to get it done," Ayala said.

An anticipated rivalry will be between West Chicago and Glenbard North.

"It's going to be really interesting to see how we compare against the best, because that will give us the most accurate representation on what we need to work on as a team as well as where we stand with the other competitors," Ayala said.

Half way around the world *Aussies come to play American ball*

By Liz Ramos
News Editor

Playing a team from another school in the state is one thing, but playing a team from the other side of the world is a new opportunity.

Freshmen, sophomore, and JV boys basketball teams had the chance to play against an Australian team from Knox Grammar School from Sydney on Dec. 7.

According to Knox Grammar coach Dom Finlay they came to the U.S. for a cultural experience and because the U.S. is where some of the best basketball is played.

"The teams just appreciate getting to know new people and playing a hard level of basketball," Finlay said.

JV coach Brian Wheeler believes that the Wildcat win of 41-35 was a confidence booster for the team and showed how hard they worked in practice.

"The game was fun. I was pleased with the way we played. I think we're learning what it takes to play at the varsity level. The first half was a little ragged but the second half, we controlled the game," Wheeler said.

The Australian team has a different style of basketball in which they drive the ball to the basket and kick it to the outside for the 3-point shots.

"It's really interesting. The whole game play is different and I'm happy I had the chance," Knox player Scott Muirhead said. "The game was alright. You always want to win but they were good."

Not just the players and coaches were excited for the game but so were the students.

"I know our kids enjoyed it. I can't tell you how many people around school asked me about the game. I think it's the first time the students were more excited for the game than the coaches and to

see a different style of play," Wheeler said.

Senior Alex Weier enjoyed playing and getting to know the Australian players.

"(The game) went great. We got a win. It was awesome getting to know new people and seeing their style

of play," Weier said. "I've talked to a few of (the Australian players). They're definitely nice and they're cool to get to know."

With all the travel and a game the night before, the Australian players were tired which Finlay believes could be a reason for not playing as well.

"(The game was) not too good but I had fun so it was alright. The atmosphere is really good. I like the players

here and the people are really good," Knox player Josh Lakmaker said. "I just love playing here and it's a different culture so it's an amazing experience."

Knox players want to come back to the U.S. as soon as possible.

"I love (the U.S.). Everybody is really friendly. I definitely want to come back as soon as possible just to catch up with the people and see new things," Muirhead said.

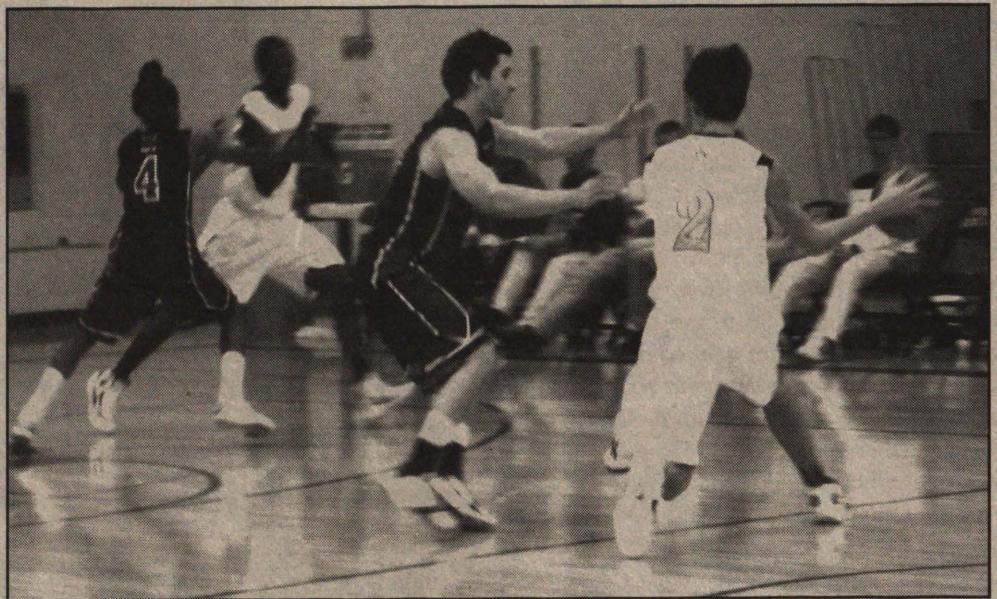


Photo by Liz Ramos

Knox Grammar School came all the way from Sydney, Australia to play basketball. Sophomore John Konchar attempts to maneuver around his opponent during the game on Dec. 7.

Wolfpack

While there are no blood oaths involved, the Wolves have bonded

Story and photos by Carly Tubridy

Family comes in many forms for the Chicago Wolves and makes a big difference to the team.

"Definitely, [we are close as a team]. There are single guys that hang out together, that do things together, that lift together. Married guys do the same things. Our wives hang out together; the kids hang out together, so if you come in the season and you don't know anyone by the end of it you're all family," right winger Mark Mancari said.

General manger Wendell Young likes to be involved with the players and not just sit up at a desk and make decisions.

"I want them to be like my kids. I want to kind of be friends with them and let them know that they can come to me at any time but when I speak I still have authority and I still get respect back," Young said.

Their real families feel the impact from their adopted family's lifestyle.

"The hardest part for that is more so on my wife because she's here and my family stays back home. When I get called up and I have to go to Vancouver or wherever I go, it's hard on her. But she's been great, she's been at it for five years now; she's becoming a veteran and she's finding things to do," Mancari said.

Even for the guys that aren't married, being away can be difficult.

Center Kevin Doell played overseas in Finland and Sweden.

"It's definitely difficult. My girlfriend was in grad school and wasn't able to come. I was pretty much on my own over there," Doell said.

Skyping kept Doell motivated during his long time away.

"Six months away from everyone and the days start to get long," Doell said.

People may not realize the huge impact that family has on a player.

"[Your family] is there supporting you, they're there when you're struggling, when you're injured and that makes a huge difference to have people that pick you up and put you back in," Mancari said.

Sometimes the game will completely uproot a player's life.

"I spent most of my career in Manitoba, Winnipeg. They got a NHL franchise this year which ended up a having the American Hockey League team to move out of there. It was pretty tough. My wife and I built a home there. So to move out of there, to move out of your comfort zone is a little different after being there so many years," captain Nolan Baumgartner said.

Despite the difficulties, the players understand and accept the unpredictability of their job.

"It's part of the game and what we signed up for. We can be moved at any time traded at any time," Baumgartner said.



"Six months away from everyone and the days get long," center Kevin Doell said.



During Future Journalist Media Day high school students attended a press conference with professional sports journalists and had the opportunity to watch a practice and talk with the players.

Their next game is Thursday at 6 p.m. at Charlotte.

