



Step with heart, sole

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

After hours of practice and dedication, Steppers qualified for state on Saturday after a performance at Arlington High School.

A date for state has not yet been set.

"Qualifying for state was indescribable. Just watching my team celebrate and being more united than ever is something I would never forget. We might have not won DVC but once again, we qualified for state and were going to bring it," junior Saharay Terrazas said.

Even with the amount of competition, the team still believes they will do well.

"We're going to have a lot of competition, really good competition. Hopefully we place and go to nationals," sophomore Janelle Castro said.

The team kept a positive mentality to qualify for state.

"We have everything it takes to compete and do an amazing job," junior Kathy Landazuri said.

For the performance, the team selected a military

theme.

"We just kind of brainstormed at the beginning of the

season and thought what would be something that we wanted to bring. We wanted to honor the service men and women so we thought we'd bring all four branches of the military," coach Emma Garcia said.

During the routine, some of

the steppers had an individual role.

"At first you're nervous and everything. It's really fun. Once I got out there I started shouting my saying, I didn't even think about it. For a minute I thought it was just me in a room shouting at a window," Landazuri said.

At state, the team will be judged on time, formations, syncopated steps, ripples, rotations, facials, transitions, as well as their precision on hand movements and alignment.

Along with qualifying for state, the team also placed third at DVC on Dec. 12.

"I feel they did a very good job. They brought their all and I think we did great. We placed third place so I'm proud of them," Garcia said.

The crowd was amused by the Steppers' routine.

"We did everything we had to do. A lot of teams cheered us on that weren't from our school. A lot of people said they were entertained with our steps," Terrazas said. "It was great because we were all unified and we're not only unified in DVC. We're unified as a team in practices."



Photo by Sarah Szremski

Chamber choir performed on ABC 7 Wednesday morning. Choir director Brandon Fantozzi takes them through practice.

From choir room to live TV performance

By Darcy Akins
Perspectives Editor

December is a time for holiday cheer, shopping, baking, and for chamber choir to be featured on the news.

Members of chamber choir will be singing on ABC 7 news Wednesday morning.

"The channel contacted us. They called us and asked if we wanted to perform and I was like sure, we would love to," chamber choir director Brandon Fantozzi said.

The scale of this opportunity has not escaped the singers' minds either.

"I think, for all of us, this is a really big opportunity and exciting opportunity," junior James Nevitt said.

While being on TV is undoubtedly a new and scary experience, most of the singers say that they were more excited than nervous.

"I would say I'm nervous and excited, because it's nice that our school is getting some recognition on TV, and I'm

also nervous because we want to do our best," sophomore Natalie Wagner said.

Some say not being able to actually see the audience will help them.

"I think when you perform in front of an audience where you can see the people that is more scary than performing behind a camera," Nevitt said.

As far as working hard to prepare for the performance, Fantozzi said some practice routines have changed.

"I think it demands a level of professionalism that maybe they don't always think about in performances. We're going to do a couple of different activities in terms of rehearsal that we don't typically do," Fantozzi said.

Although this performance is on a larger scale than other performances, the choir still wants to present the best performance they can.

"Every performance we give, we want to give our best. We're always working hard," Fantozzi said.



Photo by Liz Ramos

At DVC on Dec. 12, the Steppers place third. After their competition at Arlington Heights High School on Saturday, the team qualified for state.

INSIDE

Frosty Fest

National Honor Society hosted a children's fair with multiple holiday games and activities to get children in the holiday spirit --see **NEWS**, page 2.



Apocalypse?

The Mayan long count calendar coming to an end has worried many people and made them believe Friday will be Dooms Day. Learn the truth --see **Center Spread**, page 8.

Summer Runner

Band Summer Runner becomes a known local band as they begin playing at pubs around town. Their goal is to begin recording soon --see **Lifestyles**, page 10.



Winning streak

With a five game winning streak under their belt, the Wildhawks are attempting to achieve more by improving on the amount of penalties they take during each game --see **SPORTS**, page 15.

Special guest to perform

By Darcy Akins
Perspectives Editor

Café Express Yo' Self will not only be about the students sharing this month, but also it's special guest.

"We actually have a special guest coming, to our café which is on Thursday. Robbie Q Telfer (is coming) and he is a poet whose poems we actually read in our classes," Creative Writing Club adviser Amanda Cordes said.

The students are very excited to have the opportunity to meet a poet.

"He is a wonderful poet and a fantastic speaker. He really exemplifies what it means to be a spoken word artist," sophomore Julia Dieter said.

The show is on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the LRC.

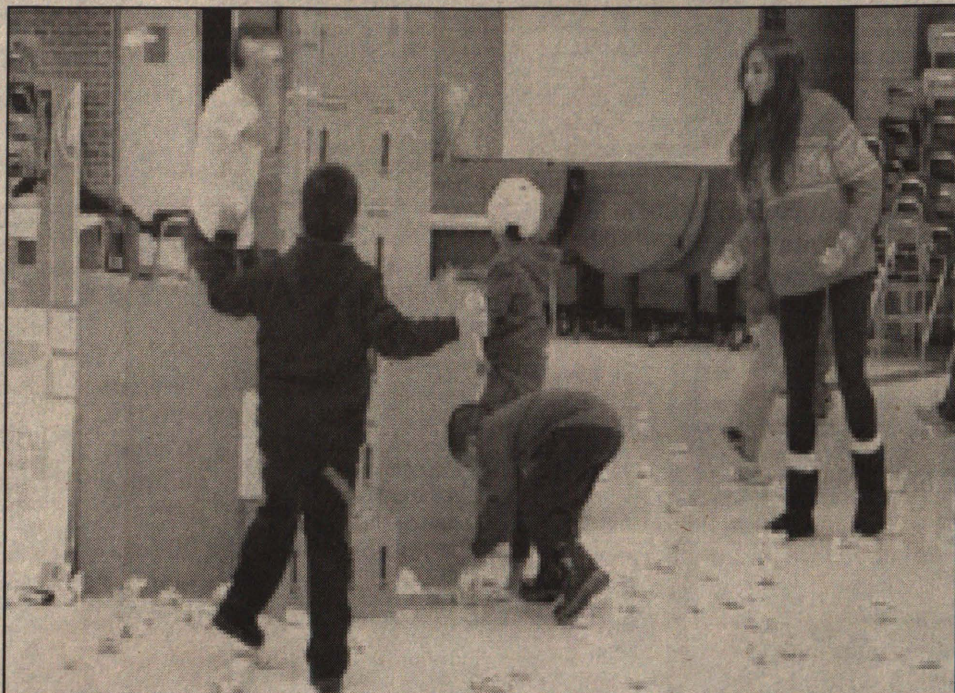


Photo by Ericka Hauptman

During Frosty Fest, senior Lindsay Zaiya joins in with Frosty Fest participants for a snowball fight.

Fun for all at Frosty Fest

By Ericka Hauptman
Contributing Writer

With Christmas right around the corner, WeGo to the North Pole kicked off with some holiday spirit on Saturday.

NHS students and NHS

sponsor Nick Caltagirone put together the event for the community together.

"Frosty Fest is a place where the whole community can gather together and all just play and have fun and enjoy each other's company," senior Lindsay Zaiya said.

With help from Student Council, FBLA, Art Club, We-go Buddies, Skills USA, a brass quintet and the Ready program, they put together an event for kids of all ages.

At the Frosty Fest kids and parents participated in a snow ball toss.

"My favorite is the snowball fight," Alex Ventimilla, a Frosty Fest participant, said.

Not only did they have snowball fights but they had pin the nose on Rudolph, Christmas bingo, a cake walk, and ornament decorating.

The Art Club did face painting and hand paintings.

Senior Jason Wiedmyer made his first appearance playing Santa Claus, who stayed in character while he took pictures with the kids.

Bringing together the community is what Frosty Fest is meant to be about, according to Caltagirone, and with free admission it turned out to be a hit.

"Frosty Fest is something that's really nice to do for the kids in our elementary feeder districts," Caltagirone said.

With the leadership skills and getting involved by the students, giving back to the community and organizing an event, Frosty Fest turned out to be a great hit among the community according to Caltagirone.

"Although no money is being raised, the fundraising from other events sponsored the Frosty Fest," Caltagirone said.

Snowball continues after budget cuts

By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

Funding cuts have not prevented Snowball members from reaching their goal of going on their trip.

According to activities director Marc Wolfe, the Education Foundation no longer funds Snowball, forcing the students to raise money to supplement their budget.

According to adviser Krysta Schoenbeck, the grant from the foundation went

from \$7,000, to \$5,000, to \$2,000 in the past four years. Now it has been completely cut.

Funds from previous years which were still in the account have been used to make the trip to Lorado Taft possible.

"We started planning at the beginning of the year. We began looking for speakers and booked Lorado Taft," Schoenbeck said.

Some changes may be made this year.

"The funds being cut affect how many speakers we get, the costs for students, and how many days we go for," senior director Jessie Hansen said.

Having funds cut isn't a major problem in some people's eyes.

"We are gifted with many cheaper motivational speakers whose stories are just as good so I don't think we will have a problem with the speakers this year," senior director Jared Baranowski said.

Snowball members are attempting to do more fundraisers such as selling candy and working concessions.

This experience benefits students in multiple ways.

"It's a great program to help students form relationships. It allows us to form a sense of community in the school," Schoenbeck said.

This year's directors include, Hansen, Baranowski, and seniors Ashley Gaughn, and Alex Alvarez.

At Snowball, students learn to not look at age as a barrier from being friends with someone.

"People should go because it's such a great experience and you make so many new friends across the different grade levels. We forget about the age difference and you become friends without the barriers," Hansen said.

Snowball takes place Jan. 18-20 and costs \$120 per student. Applications are due Friday.

Contracts still under negotiation

Meeting on Saturday led to some resolutions

By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

After a meeting on Saturday the West Chicago Community High School Support Staff and administration have resolved some dilemmas with the contract but a final contact has yet to be drafted.

"(The meeting) was okay, we've scheduled another meeting for Jan. 5," administrative assistant and support staff spokesperson Monica Piszczek said.

The support staff had given the administration a proposal and received one in return after the meeting. The support staff plans on discussing the new proposal at the next meeting.

"It was more successful than the last meeting. They made one concession towards one thing we were looking for," Piszczek said.

Some aspects of the contract that the support staff has been fighting for all along are still on the table.

"We are still discussing salary and longevity," Piszczek said.

Both sides discussed together with the federal mediator.

"We had a very good meeting on Saturday with both sides and the mediator," Board of Education member and spokesperson Tony Molinaro said.

Although there are still problems, progress has been made.

"There are still issues with salary and insurance but a lot of progress has been made on work issues," Molinaro said.

The administration is optimistic more detail was presented at this meeting compared to previous ones.

"We started delving into issues with more detail and had a question and answer session which was very helpful," Molinaro said.

Hearing both sides helped clarify some points.

"(The question and answer session) helped a lot. We needed some points clarified as far as salary and schedule go and the placement on it," Piszczek said.

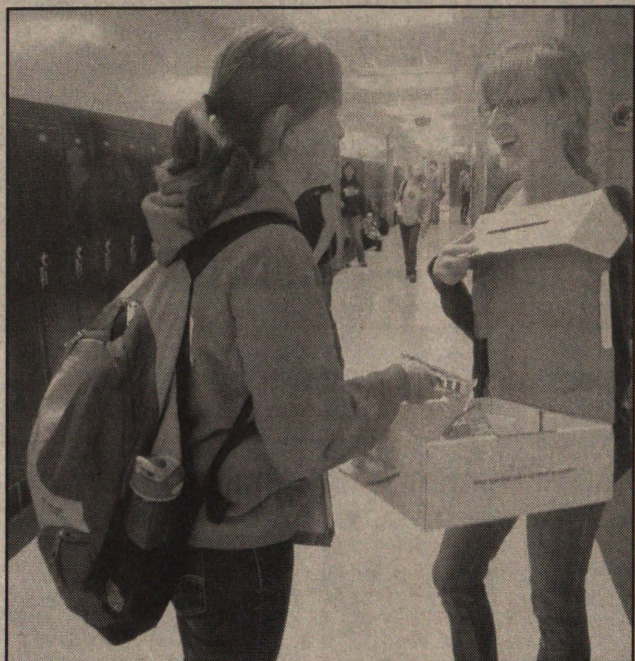


Photo by Keyuri Parmar

To raise money for Snowball, senior Jessie Hansen, right, sells candy to senior Katie Yackey.

Best performance leads to success for speech team

By Sam Schweih's
Reporter

Speech team has captured other schools' attention after the best performance of the year on Saturday at Metea Valley High School in which the team placed third overall with five tournament champions and two members placing second.

"This past Saturday was the best weekend of speech competition we have had as a team since I took over the team here at West Chicago," speech team coach Paul Lichy said. "For our team this

is a huge victory. We have raised some eyebrows of schools who will be seeing us when we host the regional tournament this February."

Seniors Marco Garcia and Gaby Hernandez placed first in dramatic duet acting.

"I felt really excited to hear my placing. We worked really hard so seeing it pay off was really accomplishing. It felt really satisfying, and I was really proud of ourselves," Hernandez said.

Junior Josué Muñoz placed third in poetry and first in dramatic interpretation.

"It was my first time to fi-

nals for both events so it was a win for me. To have taken first and third in one tournament is something I am definitely proud of," Muñoz said.

Senior Dan Stompor placed second in prose reading.

Stompor tied with senior Abe Fernandez for first place in oratorical declamation.

"It was a relief to hear about my placing. It was great to win, but Dan is my friend so it was great to see him win as well," Fernandez said.

Sophomore Noah Watkins placed second in impromptu

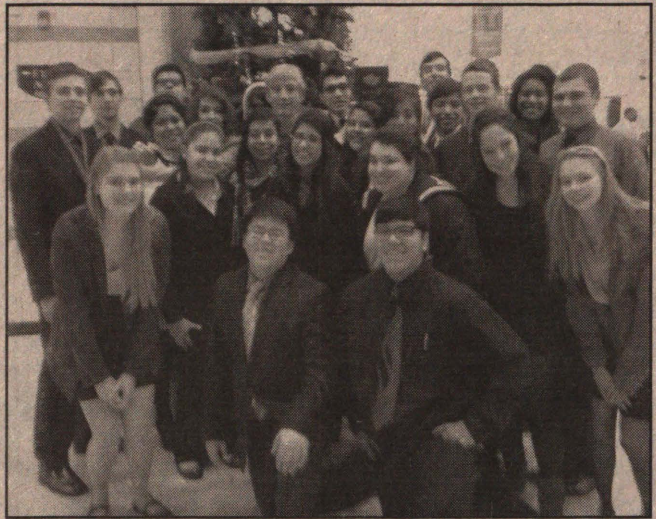


Photo courtesy of Mark Begovich

With five tournament champion and two members placing second, speech team celebrates their best performance of the year.

speaking.

"I was really excited to hear my placing because I was up against speakers that have been speaking longer than me," Watkins said.

The school is hosting regionals this year on Saturday, Feb. 2.

"It is a huge honor for us. We are really excited," Lichy said.



Photo by Sam Schweih's

With a new process to earn money from Booster Club, head football coach Bill Bicker is happy to receive \$2,204.91 from Booster Club president Patti Zaputil.

New process for clubs, sports to receive money

By Sam Schweih's
Reporter

To receive money from Booster Club, sports and clubs must follow a new process of volunteering at concessions.

In the fall concessions, Booster Club raised \$13,153.66.

Booster president Patti Zaputil came up with the new process of clubs and sports teams setting up hours to volunteer at indoor and outdoor concession stands to earn money.

"We give 90 percent of profits to the clubs that volunteer, depending on the hours they serve and 10 percent of the profit goes to Boosters," Zaputil said.

However, this is not how the process was in previous years.

"Boosters changed our volunteer process and funds distribution process in order to share the wealth and make

sure we could staff concessions. A financial incentive to volunteer is that your club or sport or activity would earn a portion of concessions earnings based on volunteer hours," Zaputil said.

SkillsUSA earned the second most money of the clubs with \$1,865.81 and 132.5 volunteer hours.

"The money is for fall conference, state and nationals (if we attend nationals)," SkillsUSA adviser Brittany Bauer said. "We are happy with the money we earned."

Earning the most money was the football team with \$2,204.91 and 90.5 volunteer hours, which includes almost \$1,000 for football parking where parents volunteered.

"I think we were able to do this because we really have an outstanding group of parents who are dedicated to providing an outstanding experience for their children," head football coach Bill Bicker said.

Talent from stage to stage

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Studio 94 New Director's Showcase is taking its talent from the school stage to the state stage at the nation's largest non-competitive theater festival.

Over 4,000 students and staff from the state attend the fest, being held at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Jan. 10-12.

"(The Illinois High School Theatre Fest) is three days for high school students to attend workshops, college auditions, and see other work performed from all over the state," WeGo Drama adviser Mark Begovich said. "Many schools want to perform, so it's a huge honor that all our shows from the beginning of the year were selected to be featured."

Directors for the showcase are seniors Dan Stompor and

Cat Canestrelli and junior Josué Muñoz

New Directors underwent a process in August to be chosen to present at Theatre Fest.

"After preparing our showcase we invited three representatives from the Illinois High School Theatre Festival to watch our program," Muñoz said. "They selected us amongst several others in attempt to get a variety of genre and style for the attendees to enjoy their Theatre Fest experience."

New Director's Showcase will perform "Red," "Not My Cup of Tea," "Talk To Me Like The Rain And Let Me Listen," and "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon."

"We will be performing the four shows in unison twice, in front of an audience of other theater students and adults from high schools around the state. We also will be running a workshop about

the directing process for other students," Stompor said.

According to Begovich, the 25 students attending the fest will prepare by rehearsing the shows, as well as visiting U of I to rehearse and become familiar with the surroundings.

"I was so proud and happy for them. They have worked incredibly hard," Begovich said.

Directors are also proud of their achievement.

"I feel accomplished. I know that we all worked very hard, the cast, crew, and directors, and I am so proud of us all," Canestrelli said.

Students look forward to performing, even if it will mean repeating shows.

"I am, without a doubt, excited and proud to be representing our theater program as well as our school," Muñoz said. "It's another opportunity to get our name out there. But normally you do a show, and after closing night you move on. It feels like a step back, but that doesn't take from the excitement."

Attendees agree it will be a way to get better recognition as well as a learning experience.

"Getting a chance to perform for a crowd so dedicated to the arts is exciting and a fantastic way to put WeGo on the map. As an individual, it is pushing me to work harder and raise the performing stakes up another notch," Stompor said.

Attendees of the fest are excited to immerse themselves in a world of theater.

"It's a place where the theater geek can escape the pressures of high school and enjoy a weekend of pure theater," Muñoz said.

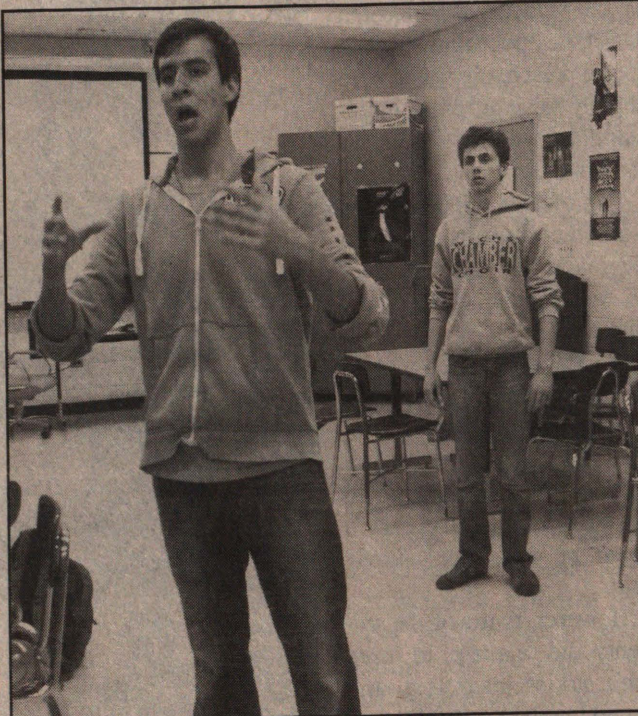


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Studio 94 New Director's Showcase will compete in the theater festival. Junior Josué Muñoz, front, rehearses with senior Dan Stompor for the theater festival.

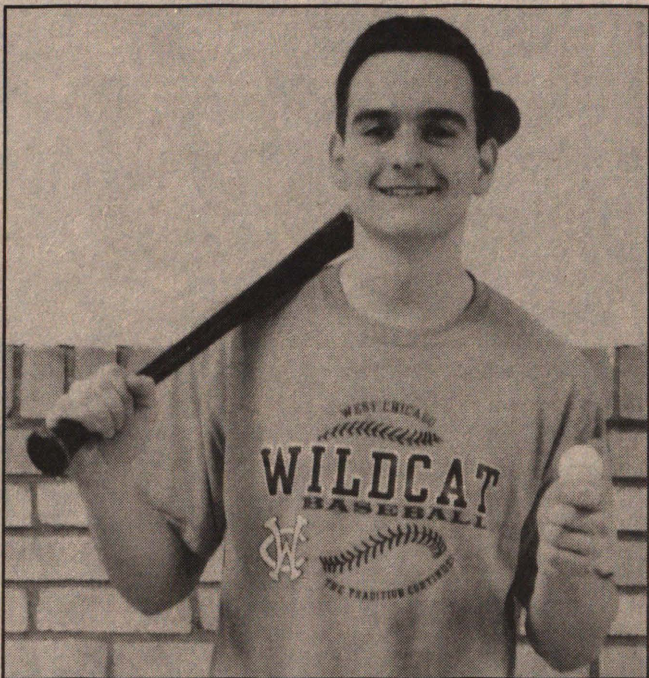


Photo by Sam Schweih

With his involvement in multiple extra-curricular activities, senior Matt Wenz earns November Student of the Month.

Leading the way to achievement

By Sam Schweih
Reporter

Student of the Month is based on a solid academic history, commitment in extra-curricular 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.

Even though he's in extra-curricular activities and two sports, senior Matt Wenz

was surprised to hear he was November Student of the Month.

"I was happy and it is cool that one of my teachers took the time to recommend me for the award," Wenz said.

Along with being in many extra-curricular activities, Wenz plays baseball and was captain of the golf team.

"I am president of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), captain of the Life Smarts team, member of National Honor Society

(NHS), and a member of Student Council," Wenz said. "I am also an Eagle Scout."

Wenz's family has always supported him in everything he does.

"I wouldn't be who I am today without (my family)," Wenz said.

Studying accounting, business and working for a public accounting firm is what Wenz plans to do in his future.

"I am going to college at Creighton, Augustana, or Butler. They have great internship opportunities and have many aspects similar to a large university," Wenz said.

Wenz plans to work his way up the management ladder or open his own business.

Gallop to new activities

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Equestrian Club isn't just horsing around this holiday season, with new activities planned such as baking horse cookies, decorating stockings, and going on a sleigh ride.

In the past, they have gone horseback riding, had a personal tour at Danada, and are planning more events as well.

"Right now (senior president Kelsey Wolf) is trying to contact a lady to see if we can go behind the scenes of a race track," junior vice president Teresa Mendoza said. "I am also trying to get ahold of the Noble Horse Theatre to check their dates."

The club also has its largest turnout this year of about 10 members, as opposed to five members from last year.

Having more members helps with being able to ride more, as there are more people to help pitch in and pay.

"It definitely makes meetings and events more fun," Wolf said. "People are excited to be there and meet other 'horsey' people and talk about experiences with each other."

According to Wolf and Mendoza, the club sells brownies and Rice Krispies as a fundraiser to be able to ride more often.

Meetings are every other Thursday at 7:15 a.m. in room 144.

Bringing big kids to the preschool

Speech communications puts on best performance for storytelling to children

By Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

Turning from the traditional classroom speech, the students of the speech communications class were given the opportunity to read to the Wildcat Preschool.

"I had heard of other classes that have a preschool program, and (had) incorporated into other curriculum areas," speech communications teacher Paul Lichy said. "I was looking through other resources and expanded it out to be children's stories, short stories, anything that would be interesting to young kids with the purpose of utilizing what we were trying to teach in the speech class."

According to Lichy, many of the students were excited to get the opportunity to read to the preschoolers, but were slightly hesitant after understanding what it meant to read to them.

Part of the hesitation came from the students trying to figure out how use their voices to keep the preschoolers interested.

"(Kids) don't have a lot of filters, and they don't always buy into the socially acceptable manners that we have. If they don't like it, they'll tell you. If it's boring, they'll yawn in your face," Lichy said.

However, many of the students did manage to keep their stories interesting, and found it to be a rewarding experience.

"Seeing the little kids was definitely the best part of

reading to them," senior Collette Salinas said.

In order to arrange the story reading, Lichy was in contact with child development teacher Brittney Bauer, and was pleased to find it a success for both classes.

"I can't tell them what's going to happen because I don't know. If it's just me in my classroom, I can tell exactly what's going to happen A through Z," Lichy said. "When we're going into someone else's room with someone else's schedule, and someone else's students,

there is a whole other set of circumstances. I think (my students) did a good job of handling it."

Despite not being completely sure of what was in store when they went to perform, the students entertained the children.

"(They were) laughing at points when they were supposed to, or sharing when they had a random thought like 'My mommy has a goat!'" Lichy said. "That's a sign of excitement. They're making a connection and that's always a good thing."

Not only did Lichy see the interest of the audience, but it was also made reading more fun for both parties.

"It was interesting to see the little kids listen to the stories, and the best part of the experience was getting a smile back from them," senior Jose Guzman said.

According to Lichy, many of the students were able to make the connection with the preschoolers, and capture their interest.

In the end, it was not only a learning experience for the speech students, but also a fun opportunity for the preschoolers.

"Little kids always remember when the big kids come and talk to them or play with them," Lichy said.

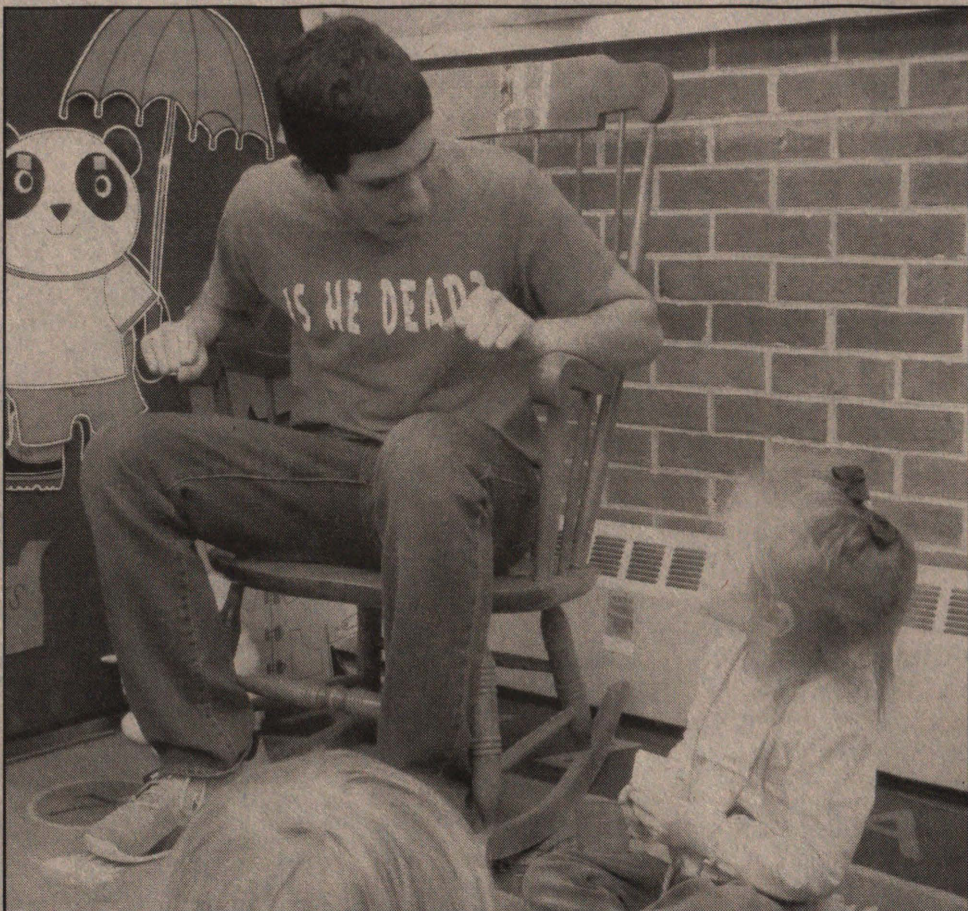


Photo by Guadalupe Blanco

Instead of reading the book of the classic 'Three Little Pigs,' senior Luke Jaconis memorizes and enthusiastically tells the story to children from the Wildcat Preschool.

Setting the standard high

By **Guadalupe Blanco**
Lifestyles Editor

Setting the standards for civic programs across the country is no easy task, but the government program has managed to do so, and received recognition for it.

Part of this recognition came not only from when government teacher Mary Ellen Daneels spoke to Congress about the civics program, but also from an article in Social Education Magazine.

"It was a great honor for the students to be recognized for their hard work and what they've done to empower others around them to be good citizens," Daneels said.

Some of the recognition was earned from the mock elections that are held at the school.

"Voting is a right that many people have sacrificed and died for in this country in the last 100 years," Daneels said. "It should not be taken for granted because one vote can make a difference."

For this election year, students worked with the Mikva Challenge, an organization that helps campaign for the candidates.

"It's something that's built up over time. It began with

the government teachers becoming registrars and registering kids to vote," Daneels said. "It's getting our kids involved in a real way with elections and voting."

One of the reasons so many student voters registered was the excitement that had been building up.

"There was a clear difference between Obama and Romney's visions for the country, so I think that made it very exciting for students to take a stand and make a choice as to which perspective they supported," Daneels said.

Additionally, there have been schools across the state

and country that have started to follow the civics program's lead.

According to Daneels, there are schools in Wisconsin that have adopted the school's government simulation, and adapted it, as well as a school in Las Vegas that has integrated the whole program into its curriculum.

"West Chicago is famous around the country for what kids do with civic education. They don't really care what I teach; they want to know what the kids can do. That's a pretty easy job I have to go to different places and brag about what the students do," Daneels said.

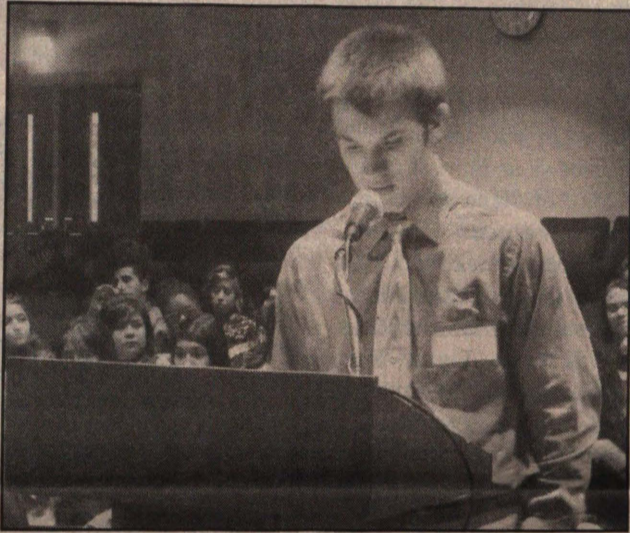


Photo by Liz Ramos

During the government simulation senior Mitch Carnes represents democrats as the Democratic Floor Leader.

What's happening?

Explore ideas

By **Sarah Szremski**
Reporter

Philosophy Club gives students a chance to explore ideas and theories of philosophy.

"Some students who had hoped there would be a philosophy class this year asked if I would consider doing a club since they didn't have the class this year," adviser Nick Caltagirone said.

Caltagirone taught the

class last year and agreed that it would be a good idea to make it a club.

"It's an amazing experience to learn more about something I already love and to argue my ideas with others who may or may not have the same views," senior Abe Fernandez said.

Philosophy Club meets every two weeks on Thursdays in room 177 after school to discuss and argue different philosophic ideas.

Striking new club

By **Sarah Szremski**
Reporter

To get better at bowling and to hang out with friends, or just to have a good time outside of school, join the Bowling Club.

"It's time away from school to hang out with teachers and friends and to relax," freshman Jake Watkins said.

Adviser Lauren Stewart was approached by two freshmen with the idea for Bowling Club.

"I'm not going to deny a simple request to give our students the opportunity to do something they really en-

joy while representing our school. Plus, I like seeing our students play a part at WeGo," Stewart said.

Although Stewart wants the members to have a good time in Bowling Club, she also wants them to walk away having learned something she believes to be important.

"I want my students to learn to find pride in WeGo. I'm incredibly proud of all of the students here, and I want them to share in the same pride," Stewart said.

Meetings are on Tuesdays after school in room 311, they go to Bowling Green for \$5.

Two students receive national honor

By **Liz Ramos**
Co-Editor in Chief

Out of about 34,000 students in the nation, seniors Tim Linhardt and Sam Rylowicz earned the title of being a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship program.

In order to be named a Commended Student, Linhardt and Rylowicz placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"It's a great honor. It's exciting," Rylowicz said. "It's always nice to have a little bit of recognition for what you've done. It's nice to have

someone say you're doing a nice job."

Receiving the honor has proved their hard work over their four years in high school.

"I've been taking a lot of honors classes which have helped me prepare for this test," Linhardt said. "I was happy. It was exciting. It's a good thing to put on scholarships."

Rylowicz was excited to hear he was a Commended Student.

"It was a cool honor. I didn't know exactly what it was at first but it was an honor to have it," Rylowicz said.

For college, Rylowicz plans on attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Chicago, or Carnegie Mellon University to study physics.

"They're fantastic institutions. I would love to attend any of the schools on my list right now. I'm really happy with my opportunities right now," Rylowicz said. "I think the National Merit helped on applications."

Linhardt plans on studying computer engineering.

"If I can get enough scholarships, I plan on attending the University of Iowa," Linhardt said.

Editors write their way to victory

By **Sarah Szremski**
Reporter

Three editors from the Wildcat Chronicle went to their first on site competition in San Antonio and came back with awards.

Senior editors Giuliana LaMantia and Liz Ramos received excellent ratings for their stories they wrote in the JEA write offs competition in November.

"I'm really proud of how they handled themselves at an on-site competition. It's really difficult to compete on-site and the fact they did so well speaks of how they perform as journalists," adviser Laura Kuehn said.

They participated in three different competitions with 1,734 other journalism students.

For her feature story, Ramos had to write about a one-eyed bulldog that was a rescue dog from the San Antonio Bulldog Rescue.

"It really caught us off guard when they told us the dog could paint. I didn't see

that coming at all," Ramos said.

With a time constraint and the pressure of the competition, Ramos didn't expect to receive an award.

"When I found out that I had received an excellent status on my story, I was ecstatic. I never thought that I would receive an award for the work I did and it was an absolute honor," Ramos said.

For LaMantia's commentary piece, she was given a

packet of articles and had to write a column on why technology should be allowed in school.

"I was surprised to find I had won an award for my competition. I was incredibly excited and proud, I felt accomplished," LaMantia said.

Senior editor Keyuri Parmar competed in reviews, but did not place.

"I didn't know what I was reviewing so at 4 p.m. they brought us out and they told us to get on this boat. It was a tour cruise and they brought us around the river walk throughout San Antonio and we had to take notes, then they gave us an hour to write," Parmar said.

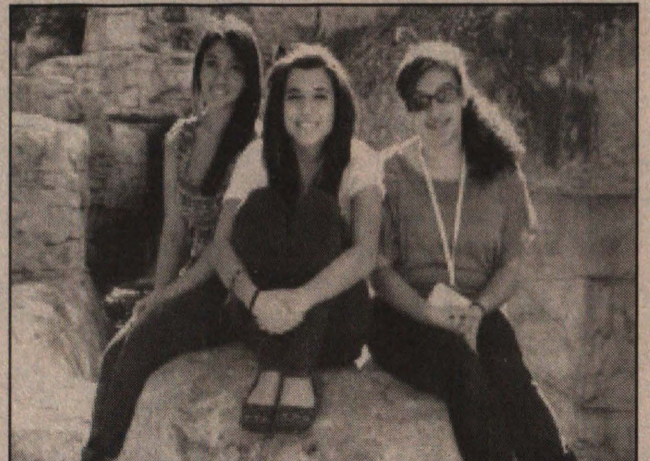


Photo courtesy of Laura Kuehn

During their trip to San Antonio, senior editors, from left, Keyuri Parmar, Giuliana LaMantia, and Liz Ramos competed in the JEA write off competitions. Ramos and LaMantia received excellent ratings on their stories.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

To raise money, WeGo Drama and Creative Writing team up to perform at Barnes and Noble. Senior Farrel Lewis gives a high-five to an audience member.

Holiday spirit through club collaboration

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

Donned in balloon hats WeGo Drama and Creative Writing Club welcomed customers with smiling faces at the doors of Barnes and Noble at Geneva Commons.

The clubs worked together to promote themselves in the community and raise money for WeGo Drama at the Nov. 29 event.

According to WeGo Drama adviser Mark Begovich, he had done this event before at past schools, and decided to try it out again.

"It's a great thing to do to help out the school and promote it in the community," Begovich said.

Much planning and preparing had to go into creating the event.

"We had to do a lot of advertising so we could spread the word," senior drama member Gaby Hernandez said.

Students and staff were able to support the school by purchasing items from Barnes and Noble, in which a small percentage went towards the theater program.

Creative Writing Club did not receive any of the funds, but were happy to bring Café Express Yo'self to the community and join WeGo Drama.

"It's a good chance to be noticed outside the school," senior Creative Writing Club member Ryan Lakics said.

Overall, students and staff from both clubs enjoyed getting their name out to the public.

"I think (this event) was

to raise awareness on how much these clubs do and how awesome they are," Creative Writing Club adviser Tara Deleon said.

Another prominent part of the night was senior drama member Josh Brown's performance of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

According to Brown, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" was one of his favorite books.

"It's always fun to make a child happy, I have always prided myself in working well with kids," Brown said.

The event, which also consisted of arts and crafts for kids and a cold reading from Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" by senior Aaron Morde and senior Drama member Melinda Elmazi, drew in numerous students and staff members.

"(It's a good way) to come and support the school and see what's going on and become more involved," audience member senior Stephanie Martinez said.

Off to see the inauguration

By Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

For junior Janaki Thakker, hard work and campaigning has paid off as she will be attending President Barack Obama's inauguration festivities, as well as the swearing in ceremony on Jan. 21.

After submitting an essay to the Mikva Challenge, Thakker was selected as one of 12 students who won a trip to Washington D.C. for inauguration activities from Jan. 18-22.

"I started off by going to Wisconsin to campaign for my community leadership class. Afterwards, we were given the opportunity to go to the inauguration if we did enough community service hours or campaigning hours, as well as writing an essay," Thakker said. "I wrote an essay, and I had enough hours, and I ended up winning."

However, with so many other students also competing, Thakker was completely

surprised when she found she had been selected to go.

"I expected someone else to be able to go, but I was extremely surprised and happy that I had gotten the opportunity," Thakker said. "It was just the icing on the cake, the campaigning part being the cake, and the icing just being me going to the inauguration."

Even though Thakker's essay was what allowed her to go the Capitol, she says that it was community leadership teacher Mary Ellen Daneels who was a tremendous help.

"Without her, I wouldn't

have gone campaigning. She was definitely the leader in helping us get through this, and having this opportunity," Thakker said.

When Thakker goes to the inauguration, she has high expectations for the trip.

"I hope to meet some candidates that have been running for Senate, as well as seeing some historic monuments, and lastly, seeing (Obama) inaugurated into office once again," Thakker said.



Photo courtesy of Janaki Thakker

After participating in the Mikva Challenge with Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, left, junior Janaki Thakker has the opportunity to go to President Barack Obama's inauguration.

Change in conferences leads to chain reaction

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

It's official.

On Nov. 27, the Board of Education accepted the invitation to join the Upstate 8, with competition beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.

"I think we fit in very well. There's opportunity in the future up against new schools," Athletic Director Doug Mullaney said.

Joining the Upstate 8 was more convenient for the school than staying in the Metro Suburban Conference (MSC) because of transportation and diversity in skill levels, according to Mullaney.

Before being accepted into the Upstate 8, the school was accepted in the MSC and left the DVC.

"We want a better existence for our school. We

want kids to be proud of our school. We want kids to be excited for their game on Friday night," Mullaney said.

After the MSC discovered the school pursued further interest in the Upstate 8, the MSC decided to rescind their acceptance of the school on Oct. 26.

"The administration, Board of Education, principal, and athletic director has to think what's best for our school. (Accepting the Upstate 8's offer to join their conference) will affect the future of West Chicago, not just the people now," Mullaney said.

The changes don't stop at the school though.

After Upstate 8 accepted the school, Upstate 8 sent invitation requests to Glenbard East and West Aurora High School who are current mem-

bers of the DVC to join their conference as well in hopes of the conference growing from a 14 school conference to a 16 school conference.

"I think the administrators in the DuPage County area are looking at making competitions more equitable," Mullaney said.

If Glenbard East and West Aurora were to accept Upstate 8's offer, the decision wouldn't be finalized until 2013.



Photo by Liz Ramos

After weeks of confusion, the school accepts Upstate 8's invitation to join their conference affecting all sports in the 2013-2014 school year.

Perspectives

Wildcat Chronicle

December 20, 2012

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Enough is enough

After shooting in Newtown, people realize United States needs stricter gun control

After the tragedy at Newtown, Conn. comes an important question: what does the United States do to control gun violence?

Twenty six lives were taken on Dec. 14 as 20-year-old Adam Lanza entered Sandy Hook Elementary School with a semi-automatic rifle.

The 26 victims ranged from the age of 6 to 56 with 20 of the victims being children and six being adults.

According to the New York Times, Lanza took shots at a distance then at close range, hitting each victim more than once but others at least 11 times.

Lanza retrieved the semi-automatic rifle from his mother's house after killing her.

With the Newtown shooting, something about gun control needs to be done.

First, legislators need to stop fearing the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The gun lobby, which is run by the NRA, has given over \$21 million to Congress since 1990 with 86 percent of the money going to Republicans who are generally pro-guns, according to www.csgv.org.

Since the shooting in Connecticut, 31 pro-gun members of the Senate refused to comment on "Meet the Press" on Sunday and the NRA kept quiet until Tuesday.

Others are standing up to the NRA, like West Virginia Democratic Senator Joe Manchin who is an "A" member of the NRA and one of the most prominent gun rights advocates in the Senate to speak about assault weapons in the wake of the shooting, according to CNN.

Manchin believes America has changed and enough is enough.

Hopefully, other politicians will stand up to the NRA.

On Tuesday, the NRA commented on the Newtown shooting saying they were shocked, saddened, and heartbroken and is prepared to make sure an incident like the Newtown shooting will never happen again, according to CNN.

This is progress, but there must follow through.

Remember the movie theater

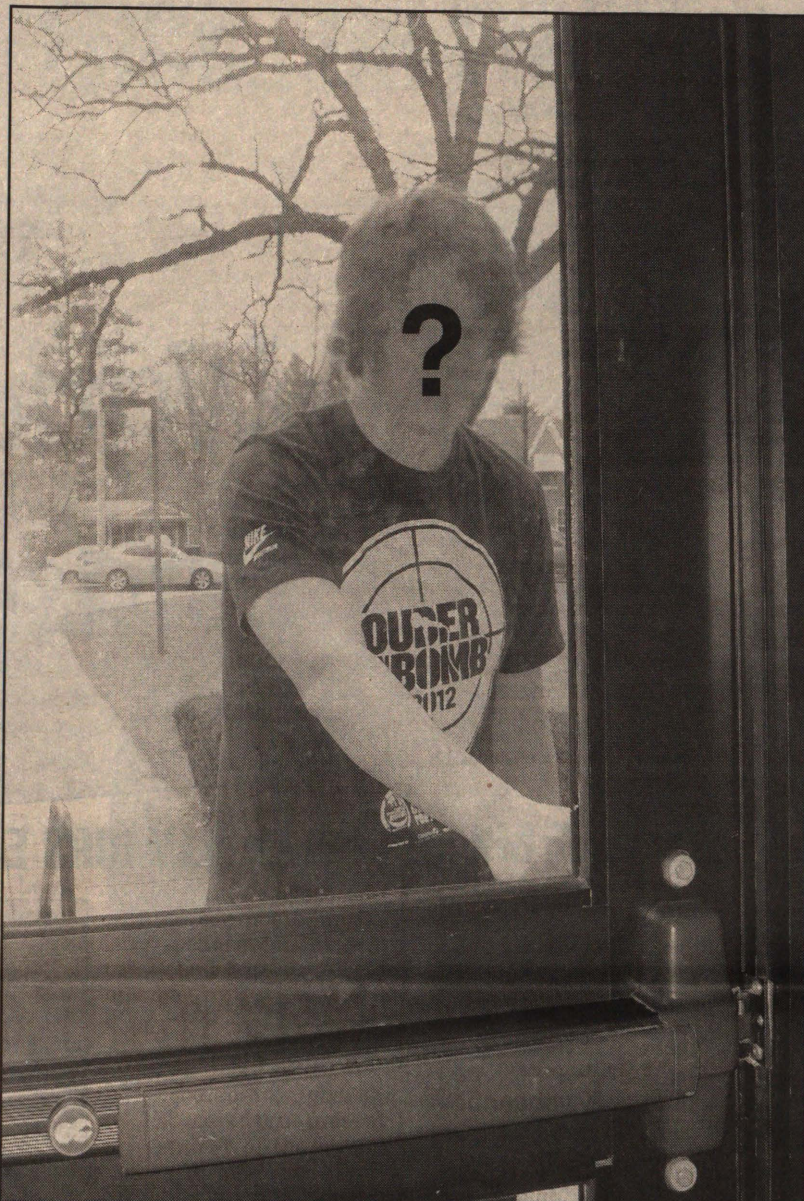


Photo illustration by Sarah Szremski

shooting in Aurora, Colo. this past summer? Or maybe the Columbine High School shooting in 1999? Or even 18-year-old Sammy Chavez who planned a shooting at his high school in Oklahoma just 24 hours before the Newtown shooting? Or the Virginia Tech shooting that took 32 lives? Or the Northern Illinois University shooting in which Steven Phillip Kazmierczak took a pump-action shotgun and killed five students?

In all of these instances, the guns used were powerful guns that shouldn't be available to the public but are sold anyway.

According to www.csgv.org, due to the Gun Show Loophole, crimi-

nals, domestic abusers and those with mental health issues can legally buy guns, including handguns and assault rifles, without undergoing background checks.

The Gun Show Loophole is a loophole in the law that allows individuals not "engaged in the business" of selling firearms to sell guns without a license and without processing any paperwork, according to www.csgv.org.

Forty percent of gun sales nationwide take place without a criminal background check.

Yes, every citizen has the right to bear arms but to what extent? Why do some people believe it's okay to keep a semiautomatic rifle in their

house?

There is no need for a rifle of that caliber to be in someone's home or out on the street. Not even the police use semi-automatic rifles.

After the Newtown shooting, President Barack Obama said to the families in Newtown, "We can't tolerate this anymore."

These tragedies must end, and to end them, we must change. We will be told that the causes of such violence are complex, and it is true. No single law, no set of laws can eliminate evil from the world or prevent every senseless act of violence in our society. But that can't be an excuse for inaction. Surely we can do better than this."

The government is not saying they want to ban guns, but they are saying there should be something done about the rising problem of gun related violence occurring throughout the United States.

In the year to date there have been 2,364 shootings in Chicago, 39 in the past seven days, 178 in the last month, according to Chicago Police Department crime statistics.

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, the number of gun related deaths has steadily increased, coming close to motor-vehicle-related deaths, ruining a common argument from the NRA that cars kill too, so we should ban them.

Between 1968 and 1991, motor-vehicle-related deaths decreased from 54,862 to 43,536 while firearm-related deaths increased from 23,875 to 38,317.

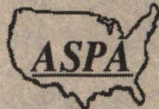
If the rising number of gun related deaths has increased doesn't prove there's a problem concerning guns, then maybe the number of innocent lives lost each year to guns can.

According to www.csgv.org, eight children die from gun violence every day.

Getting rid of guns all together isn't a solution because many people want guns, but getting rid of the unnecessary guns like semi-automatics and looking for a better future can.

Save the next group of Newtown children.

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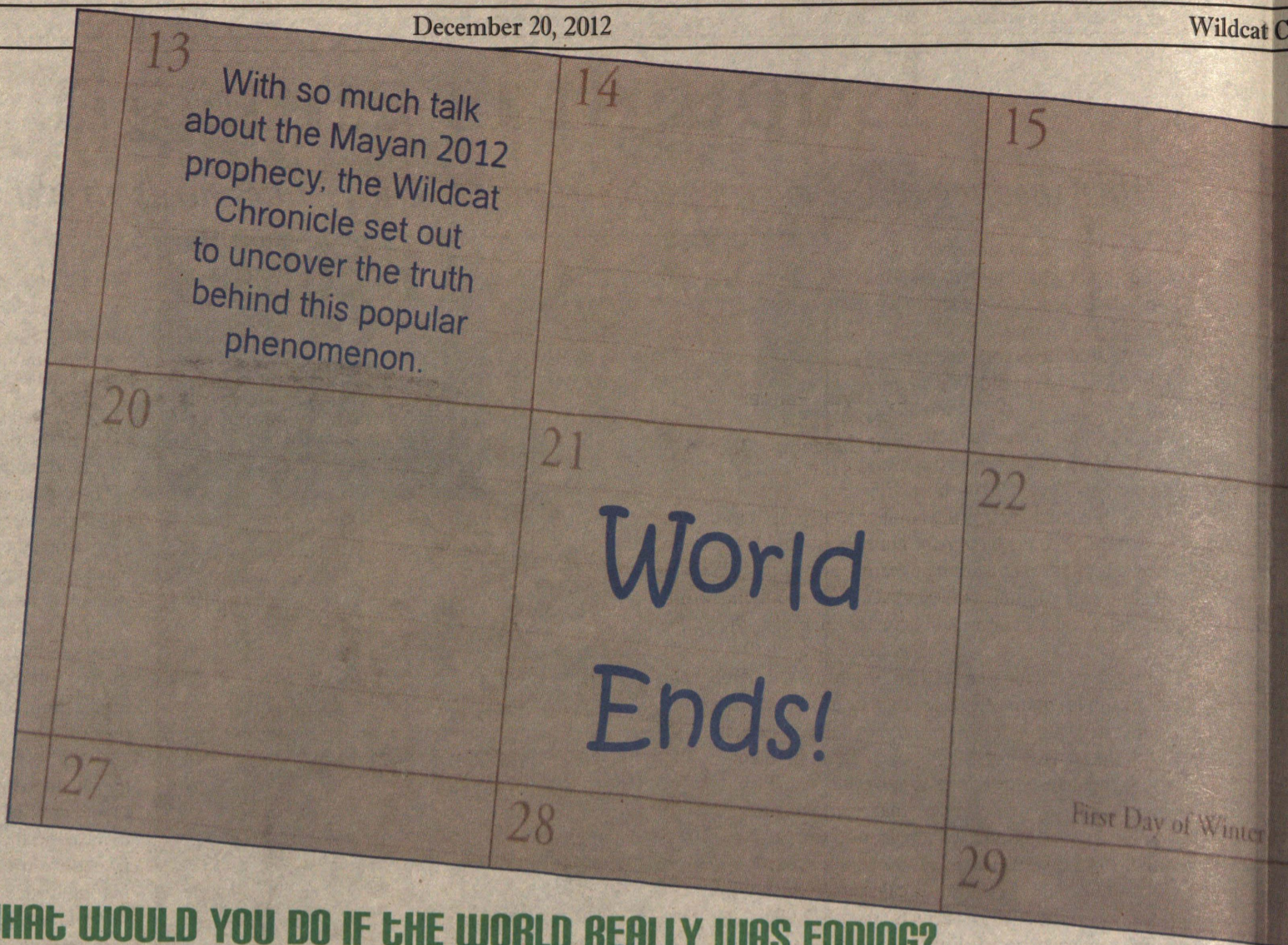


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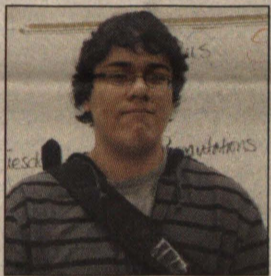
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although staff members may withhold a name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and may refuse to publish 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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WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THE WORLD REALLY WAS ENDING?



FRESHMAN

"I would blow off school and do other things like charity and go to church. I would also tell my friends goodbye."
-Arturo Reza



SOPHOMORE

"I would eat every food I love and call my friends and family telling them I love them. Then I would go to Six Flags and go on as many rides as I could."
-Magali Rubo



JUNIOR

"I would try to skydive. If something goes wrong, we are all going to die anyway."
-Matthew Laka



SENIOR

"I would not take anything for granted and I would live every moment I have."
-Angelica Casimiro

WORLD ENDING UNLIKELY

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

With the end of the world coming just around the corner, many students believe they will live to see another day.

"That's kind of silly that people think that everything will be wiped out in one day," senior Mandi Sivak said, referring to Friday when the Mayan calendar runs out.

Some students think end of the world theories are crazy.

"I think there is no such thing as the end of the world in 2012. I think people are just making things up and trying to scare people so they react to those kind of things," freshman Sydney Weiss said.

Many people believe the Mayans predicted the end of the world, but students disagree.

"I think the Mayans just ran out of room on their rock calendar so I don't think the world is really ending," sophomore Andrew Steininger said.

Some students believe the world won't end but just in case, students should live with no regrets.

"I don't know. I hope the world doesn't end, but if it does we have to live life like the world is going to end and have no regrets, so I have a lot of stuff I have to do," senior Davis Steinbrecher said.

Although most don't be-

lieve the world will end, some don't have much hope for the future.

"I hope the world does end because honestly, I see no hope for humanity. I don't see a good future for us.

Our generation is so messed up and our kids are going to be so messed up," junior Lizzie Borek said.

Others believe an event will occur on Friday but the world won't end.

"I think something is going to happen but the world isn't going to end. Something in history is going to happen," junior Vicky Mendez said.



*Photo Credit: Late Classic Maya, possibly Bonampak/Lacanha area, Mexico or Guatemala. Hieroglyphic Altar, A.D. 650/700. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Baker, 1971.895. Courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago.

HOW WILL THE WORLD END?

IT DEPENDS WHO YOU ASK

By Giuliana LaMantia
Center Spread Editor

While the Mayan prophecy of 2012 may be the most popular "end of the world" idea, there are numerous other theories as to how Mother Earth is going to fry.

According to www.deathandtaxesmag.com, various religions have their own beliefs.

Christians believe Jesus will descend to Earth, take those who believe in him to Heaven and leave the rest to seven years of hell on Earth as a chance to redeem themselves before ending the world.

In Hinduism, it is believed the Earth is in the last of four cycles, in which the universe will then be destroyed and regenerated.

The Hebrew bible believes the Messiah will return to Earth and restore all Jews to their homeland where they will live in joy and peace forever.

Buddhism states the life-span is currently shrinking and that it started at 80,000 years and will gradually make its way down to 10 years. Afterwards, this will spawn a fight to the death, where the survivors will live longer and happier, to the point where the life span will reach 80,000 years once again and repeat the cycle.

Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad will tell of the Day of Judgment, and the Quran states catastrophic earthquakes will rip the earth apart.

More ideas were found on www.listverse.com.

THE END OF THE WORLD: FACT...OR FALLACY?

By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief
And Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

For the past decade, rumors about the Mayan calendar have been told. With so much talk about the world ending on Friday the truth is still unclear.

According to Archaeology magazine, there are three Mayan calendars: Tzolk'in, a 260 day cycle, the Haab that approximates the solar year, and the Long Count calendar which is a 1,872,000 day cycle.

In the Long Count system, the days were represented by the number of days since the start of the Mayan era, with the first number suggesting their belief of the creation of the world.

The Tzolk'in, or divine calendar, was divided into two-week lengths, and the "years" were not counted in this part of the calendar.

In the Haab calendar, which what was used by the common people, the year was a total of 365 days, and had "extra" or Uayeb days that were considered bad luck.

After each of these cycles end, a new cycle within the same calendar begins.

"This dooms day prophecy is based around the fact that the Long Count calendar is going to end on Friday," Spanish teacher Brittney Blanchard said.

Additionally, when the cycles of Haab came to an end every 52 years, it was a time of public panic as the people thought that the world would end.

According to www.history.com, the Mayans believed that when the world didn't end, the gods had granted them a 52 year extension to live.

When it came to predicting time and important dates in the future, their 13th baktun (394 year cycle), closed on



Late classic Maya; Mexico or Guatemala. *Royal Profile*, A.D. 650/800. Ada Turnbull Hertle Fund, 1970.423. Courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Dec. 21, according to an article in "The Week."

Modern Mayan communities in Guatemala have Daykeepers who keep track of the calendar cycles and perform rituals to keep the cycles going.

"(The Mayans) were so advanced in math and astronomy that they were able to predict solar eclipses and other things, which is why people think they predicted the end of the world too," Blanchard said.

The Mayans believe the world dies every day when the sun sets and it is the Day-

keeper's job to make the cycle continue and to make sure day will come again, according to Archaeology magazine.

No end was predicted by the Mayans, just an end to a cycle.

"The Mayan calendar doesn't say it is going to be the end. Their calendar is cyclical so this is going to be the end of this cycle," Gill said.

In Spanish 3, Gill and Blanchard explain how the end of each cycle of the Mayan calendar brings enlightenment to the world.

"I don't know what the end

of the cycle will bring. I have read that it might be energy shifts and swings, movement of the earth, or continually evolving in advancements in science," Gill said.

Our calendar begins a new cycle every year just as the Mayan's will.

"A comparison is New Year's Eve. Our calendar ends every year bringing resolutions, shifts in opportunity, and a new beginning," Gill said.

In the past, other talk of the world ending has occurred and this seems to be another belief to add on to the list.



SENIOR

ot take things for
I would like to enjoy
ent I have until then."
Casimiro

ORLD END?

CK

Some believe in the mysterious Planet X.

Planet X is supposedly 100 times larger than Earth and will eventually make its way into the solar system.

Those who believe this theory think Planet X will reverse Earth's poles, cause it to stop rotating, or push it into the sun.

Also related to outer space, a theory exists that a comet will hit Earth, causing extinction of every living organism.

Others believe technology will lead to the fall.

As technology becomes smaller and smaller, some believe someday nanotechnology will reign on Earth, and eventually all atoms, including humans, will turn into nanobots.

Only time will tell which theories, if any, are real.

Lifestyles

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December 20, 2012

Wildcat Chronicle

Desire for change leads to formation of a band

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

Wanting to see a change was what brought up and coming band Summer Runner together in 2010, taking them from their first song to their first gig.

Humble Beginnings

Consisting of twins Ahmad and Akeem Asani, and John Draughon, the trio of seniors brought numerous sounds to create their own unique style.

"We all really enjoy the same music, and we'd go to local shows but no one was really representing the music we really enjoyed or liked to listen to, so we decided to make our own band and bring it to the people," Ahmad said. "It's kind of focusing on the 'you want to see the change, you've got to be the change' mentality."

Summer Runner brought the change Dec. 1 during their first gig at Pub Yahoo in Carol Stream.

"It was really exciting to finally get to bring our music to the people. We were really thankful and happy to see all our friends and family there," Ahmad said.

After seeing numerous local bands, the boys were happy to be the ones performing.

"It was really fun actually being on stage and having people watch us rather than the other way around," Akeem said. "I liked watching local bands but I always wanted to be the one playing, so it was really fun to get to share our music."

Although they were nervous, the support of their family and friends helped create a memorable first-performance experience.

"We were a little nervous at first but seeing all our friends cheering for us is very humbling, so we started to (chill out) a little bit, and it was a lot of fun," Akeem said.

Performing to Recording

Besides starting to book gigs, Summer Runner is also working with senior Luke Smith of Visceral Records.

"(Recording) is kind of a long process because we don't get to go in very often," Draughon said. "We're all busy, so we're getting it done as fast as we can, and the goal is to have it done as soon as possible, at the latest, the end

of the school year."

Recording, booking gigs, using social media, word of mouth, and finding news outlets are some of the ways the boys are trying to get their name out there.

Help Along the Way

Another way is by befriending local bands such as the Taillight Years and Spectators for support and constructive criticism.

Something that puts Summer Runner at an advantage is having Draughon, who also plays bass in the Taillight Years along with its three other members, seniors Brian Berger and Jake Seeman, and junior Kevin Seeman.

"It's a lot of fun because music is a big part of my life, so the more music I can do, the more fun it is," Draughon said. "With Taillight Years I just play bass, but with Summer Runner I play guitar and sing and play keyboards. It spices it up, and it's a lot of fun playing with both bands."

Draughon and the rest of the members of the Taillight Years have helped Summer Runner in recording and booking gigs.

"(Taillight Years) are showing us the ropes, knowing them has helped us a lot," Akeem said. "It's always nice to know somebody who knows what they're doing."

Not only has the Taillight Years helped Summer Runner, but contributed to inspire them to create a band.

"Taillight Years was a big influence to me because I've

always really been into music and trying to play it, but I always thought you (couldn't) go far with a high school band," Ahmad said. "Taillight Years totally changed that idea for me. They're headlining House of Blues which is ridiculous. They showed me if you work hard you can really achieve what you want to achieve."

Besides having the support of friends like Smith and the Taillight Years to help Summer Runner in the playing and recording process, others also helped contribute, including their band name.

"It started off with the idea of our friend (senior Heather Mullins)," Draughon said. "She does cross country, and she was talking about summer running. I thought that sounded cool, so I told Akeem I had a band name idea, Summer Running, but he thought I said Summer Runner, and we thought, 'wow, that really flows well.'"

Music and Lyrics

If listeners were to take anything away from their music, the group hopes it would be to not take life too seriously.

"Lyrically it's going to be different, but musically it's more of a have fun kind of thing. We're trying not to take this too seriously because it's for fun," Ahmad said. "We're just trying to let people have a good time, but we also want to have some serious songs. Life's not all about being happy all the



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

In order to prepare for their next performance, seniors Ahmad Asani, left, and John Draughon rehearse several of the band's songs.

time. Sometimes the darker or sadder moments get you thinking or change who you are, so we're trying to capture all these different sounds."

Although it may be for fun, the boys hope to stick with Summer Runner for a while.

"We're really busy right now, so we're trying to do our best to get as many gigs as possible and show our music locally, but when we're older we're definitely going to try to stick together, especially through college," Akeem said.

Even if going to different schools puts a strain on the band staying together, the group knows music will always play a huge role in their lives.

"If we don't stick together, we all plan on doing our own thing musically," Ahmad said. "We all know music is a big part of our lives."

Looking Ahead

As for the near future, Summer Runner is working on having its debut album ready by the end of the school year, booking at least one gig a month, and hope to perform at the Beat Kitchen or Bottom Lounge in Chicago.

Looking back, the guys enjoy seeing how they have changed since they began.

"It's cool to see where our first stuff is and how we've evolved as a band," Akeem said.

One of their favorite memories was the first song they wrote.

"My favorite song is the first song we ever wrote, 'Circus Funeral,'" Draughon said. "It wasn't really anyone's personal idea. Different parts came from different people."

Like many other aspects of their lives, the writing of their first song truly helped to inspire and encourage Summer Runner.

"Writing that song was a revelation. We were trying to write a song, but it just wasn't clicking, and all of a sudden that song came about," Ahmad said. "From then on songs have just been coming, and it was a revelation of a moment because it was like, 'oh we can do this, it's possible to write music that we really like.'"



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Summer Runner, which consists of seniors Akeem Asani, left, Ahmad Asani, and John Draughon get together to practice for upcoming concerts.

Unexpected painter leads to inspiration

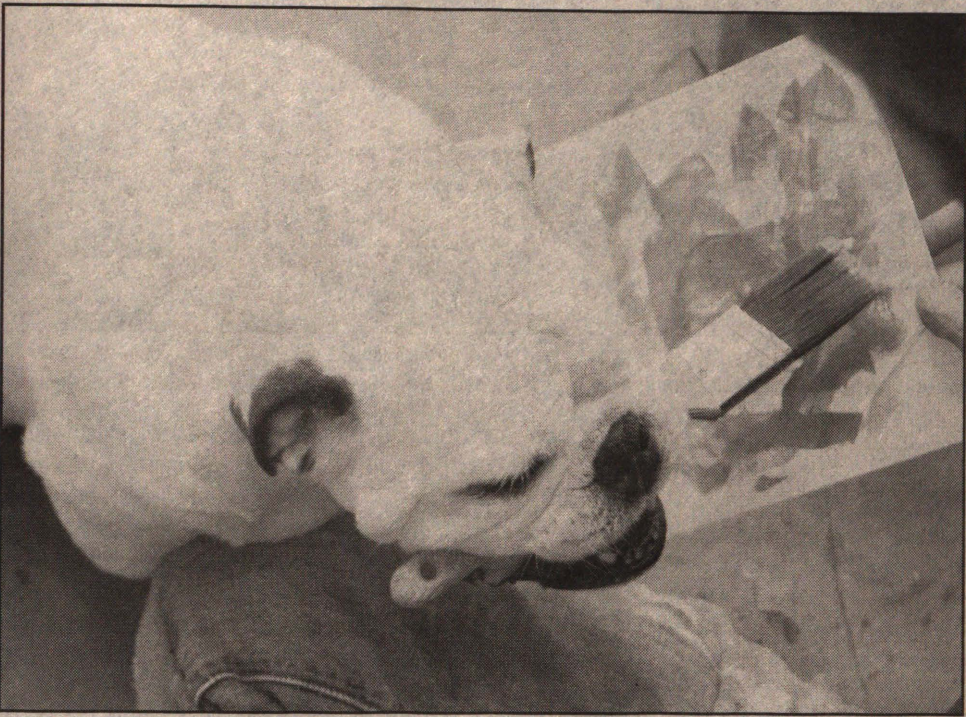


Photo courtesy of Jessica Stone

Despite suffering years of abuse, Piper was able to find a loving family, and recover from the trauma through her hobby of painting.

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

Starting as an unwanted and unappreciated rescue dog with special needs, Piper turned into an inspirational artist, not just for owner Jessica Stone, but the world.

Stone adopted Piper in October 2011 from the San Antonio Bulldog Rescue.

"The best thing I've ever

done in my life is adopt rescue dogs," Stone said. "Piper is an example of how remarkable rescue, special needs, and adult dogs can be."

Through Piper's art and personality, Piper has put smiles on faces worldwide and helps other dogs nationwide, according to Stone.

"Piper is a reminder that all of us have the ability to inspire, create, love, and be

good at something when given a chance, love, and encouragement," Stone said.

Although Piper has a missing eye, and hip and limb problems restricting her movement, she continues to be a loving dog with silly wiggle dances, funny noises, and a squishy face with a desire to paint.

"Piper's first attempt in painting introductions was a

success. She didn't run away with the brush. She didn't splatter paint, she just stayed in place and worked her magic while I held paper in front of her," Stone said.

Piper's paintings have gone as far as South Africa and Australia where 10 percent of the sales go to the San Antonio Bulldog Rescue, and various products to other rescues, auctions, and fundraisers.

"Before Piper and her painting career, we couldn't afford to make donations. This unloved and rejected one-eyed dog blossomed into a beautiful role model who touches hearts and helps others just from a few people believing in her," Stone said.

To become the successful one-eyed painting bulldog took eight years, and she was self-taught without a single painting lesson.

"When a man surrendered Piper to Teresa (Dalton) of the San Antonio Bulldog Rescue, he claimed to be afraid of her," Stone said. "Piper was grumpy, growly, and would charge at you if you raised your voice or startled her. Piper showed signs of abuse and seemed like she never knew love and affection."

Between Piper and Stone came an instant unbreakable bond.

"Jeff (her husband) and I and our beloved rescue pit-bull Roxie drove from Austin to San Antonio to meet Piper," Stone said. "We fell in love with her at first sight."

Dalton knew the Stone family was right for Piper once they came in to see her in the shelter.

"I called her one day and the very same day Jessica and Jeff came to meet Piper. As soon as Jessica walked through the door she was on the floor with her. It was like an immediate connection between the two. It was really touching. I knew right then that this was the right family for Piper," Dalton said.

Stone believes that although both Piper and Roxie have been a lot of work, in the end, they have been worth all of it.

"I can't imagine a day without them, and it breaks my heart to know that we (missed out) on so many happy years without Piper," Stone said tearfully. "The people who neglected, abused, and abandoned these remarkable girls missed out on so much but made our family so lucky."

Learning from honest Abe

By Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

Known for his famous Gettysburg Address, "Abraham Lincoln" shared this speech and others with the students in the speech communication class.

Max Daniels, along with his wife Donna, have been perfecting their impersonations of Abraham and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln for the past 26 years.

While it seems that both were naturals to taking on the historical figures, it took work to embody both people, according to Max.

"I think from my point of view, because I was born and raised in the South, I didn't know that much about Mr. Lincoln to begin with. I had to really study for about a year to get the background that I needed," Max said.

Not only did they have to research both Lincolns to understand the individuals, but they also had to learn about the time period, and how to integrate themselves into the character.

"I think, that the real secret is being able to take your personality, and fit the char-

acters. It makes the character more alive for you," Max said.

After watching the speeches, students were able to ask questions and learn what makes a better speaker and ask about the Daniels' experience portraying the historical figures.

"Portraying actual historical figures, I feel a sense of responsibility to portray them accurately, to portray them respectfully. I feel that sense of responsibility to not mess up or embarrass myself or them," Donna said.

As far as learning to conquer the fear of speaking, both offered options.

"You have to step out of your comfort zone. It's simply getting over an innate fear of being rejected by the public," Max said. "You have to cowboy up or cowgirl up and do it. There's no formula. (For me), I just take a deep breath and step out and do it. Each time you do it, it never gets easy, but it gets easier."

For Max, learning to efficiently communicate is important and even more important when courage is needed.

"As many times as I've given this speech, I always wonder how it's going to be received. But I just go out and do it the way the way I think (Lincoln) would have done it," Max said about the Gettysburg

Address.

In addition to working up courage to perform, practicing is another piece of advice for those who have to present a speech, according to Donna.

Once that fear and practice is mastered, then the speech can be enjoyed.

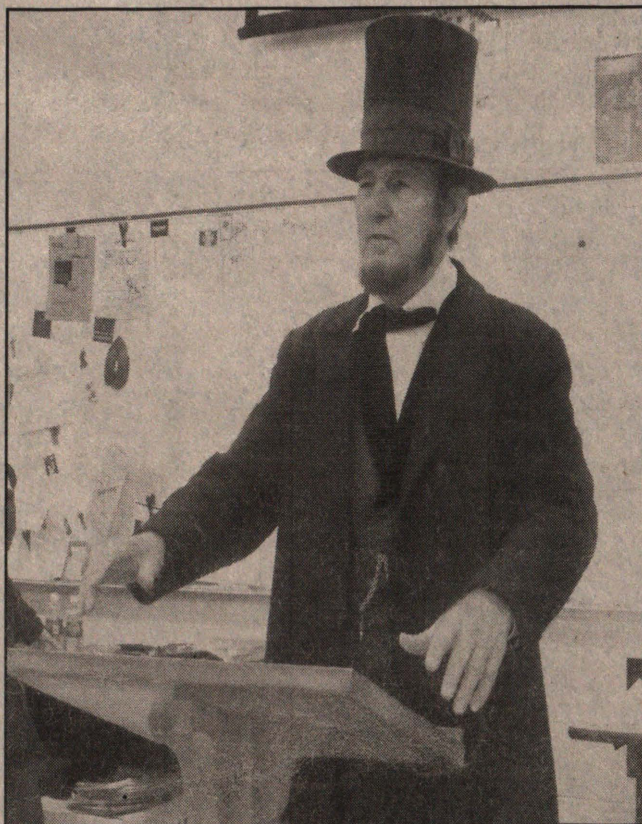


Photo by Guadalupe Blanco

In addition to giving the Gettysburg Address, Max Daniels as Abraham Lincoln gave two other speeches and advice on public speaking to the speech communication class.

"The most gratifying thing for us is when our public speaking and portrayals of historical figures teach in an entertaining way and in a way that's not dry and boring and dusty, but in a way that's more alive and more real," Donna said. "What we hope to do with our portrayals is make the history of this time real and relevant and interesting."

Luckily for the pair, they have found success with their performance and performed for various venues.

"I've always said that you can be invited to anywhere once. Getting invited back is the trick. We've been very fortunate and blessed that it has been very well received," Max said.

With their invitation from speech teacher Paul Lichy, who saw the couple perform as a student, they say it is one of their greatest accomplishments.

"I think the highest compliment we ever receive at a school is when a student years later says (he) remembers us," Max said. "A young man who saw us as a student and has devoted his life to teaching and invites us back to talk to his students, it doesn't get any better than that."

Fashion, technology, social media: A year in review

By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

When looking back on 2012, a lot of different trends come to mind, whether it is technology, fashion, or YouTube videos. Here are some trends that stood out throughout the year:

Technology

Tablets: With new tablets popping up everywhere, it seems to be one of the most popular gadgets. The top tablet was Apple's third generation iPad. With the new mini iPad (\$136) out for sale, the popularity is bound to go up. The next most popular tablet was the Toshiba Excite and Samsung Galaxy Tabs, according to www.irbusinessedge.com

4Ultrabooks: This is a sub-

notebook, according to Intel. A more compact laptop with a longer lasting battery life hit the markets. They have become more popular and the battery life benefit is definitely a plus.

Call of Duty: Black Ops II (\$59.99): When the new Call of Duty came out, it caused excitement for many. This videogame has become an addiction. It made \$500 million within the first five hours of being released and has become the biggest entertainment launch in history, according to www.gameinformer.com.

Fashion

Leather boots (\$40-\$60): Whether it's tall boots, booties, boots with heels, or regular boots, leather seems to be a popular trend with them all



Photos by Liz Ramos, Darcy Akins, Guadalupe Blanco, www.taylorswift.com

Boots, mini iPads, Black Ops II, and Taylor Swift's "Red" were among the trends this year.

for the fall season. They can be added to an outfit to add more style and are comfortable, as well.

Toms (\$44-\$85): Although Toms have been popular for women for a while, they have recently become popular for men as well. They can wear them with almost anything in their wardrobe.

Quarter zip, pullover sweaters (\$25-\$45): These sweaters have become common attire

for a lot of men. It can be casual or classy depending on the rest of the outfit.

Social Media

"Gangnam Style": What began as a popular YouTube video emerged into a top hit on the radio that is everywhere. Whether it's the dance, the song, or the man in the video, everyone has heard of it.

Taylor Swift's album "Red" (\$16.99): Taylor Swift

has once again created another album about an ex which has become a best seller. Her most popular song on the album is "We Are Never Getting Back Together."

One Direction: Although boy bands hadn't been popular since middle school, One Direction made a breakthrough with their song "What Makes You Beautiful." This was the beginning of the new boy band trend.

Keep warm, busy

By Sam Schweih's
Reporter

Over the holidays, Chicago has fun activities for all ages to spread Christmas spirit, instead of sitting on the couch watching holiday movies.

Jingle Jazzin' at the Shedd Aquarium

Located at Chicago's Museum Campus, this is a holiday twist on the summer concert series.

There will also be food and a holiday breakfast buffet.

Jingle Jazzin' goes through Sunday.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children.

Winter Wonderland at the John Hancock Center

The team at the John Hancock Center are celebrating 40 years of holiday displays,

including the Winter Wonderland holiday train.

In addition, Santa will also be making a special guest appearance.

Winter Wonderland is open through Dec. 31.

Winter Wonder Fest at Navy Pier

There will be a playground with indoor ice skating, inflatable slides, train rides, attractions and much more.

Winter Wonder Fest is open through Jan. 6.

Millennium Park Ice Skating

More than 100,000 skaters have shown up annually.

Skates to rent are \$10.

Ice skating is open every day to the public for free through mid-March.

Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza

This is a traditional holiday market based on German markets.

International vendors of crafts, ornaments, toys, German food, drinks and sweets participate.

Christkindlmarket is open through Monday.

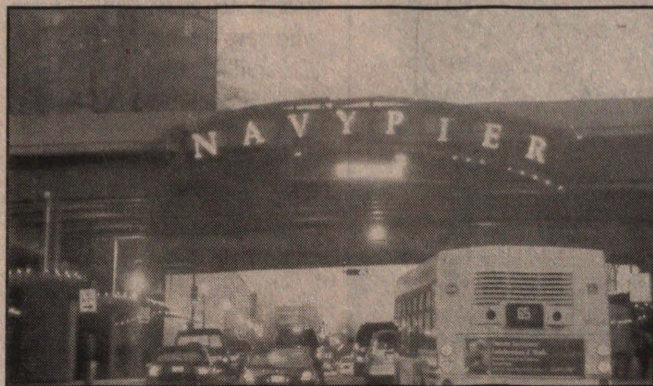
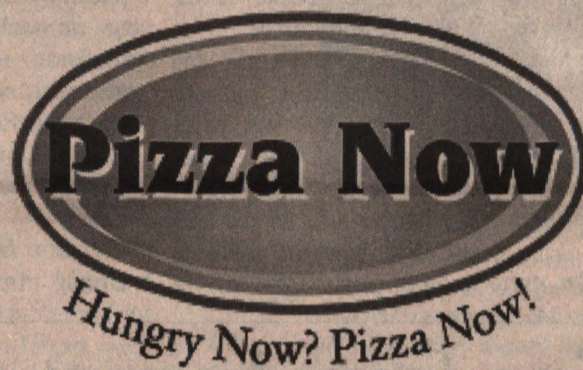


Photo by Liz Ramos

Among the various activities available to do during break, one option is to go to Winter Wonder Fest at Navy Pier.



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Sports

Wildcat Chronicle

December 20, 2012

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Using new tactics to improve team

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

Boys swimming coach Nicole Cleveland is adopting new tactics to improve endurance and motivation on the team from the start of the season.

"I'd like to see a state qualifier," Cleveland said. "They would be the first one on the men's side in about a decade. I would also like to see one of our swimmers break a pool record."

One way Cleveland is trying to achieve these goals and overall improve the team is by cutting JV morning practice.

"They're new swimmers, so no matter what, you'll see vast improvement," Cleveland said. "For a varsity swimmer, if you take away morning practice, they would decline rapidly."

Cleveland feels getting rid of morning practice for JV will help draw in more team members.

"We are trying to encourage people to join by not scaring them by having to come at 5:30 a.m. every morning," Cleveland said.

Another strategy Cleveland is adopting to keep the boys focused is not choosing who the captains will be right away.

"I'm going to see who is showing positive leadership in the first two meets and make a decision," Cleveland said. "I'm trying to motivate seniors to be excited for senior year. I also want to try to have people who don't think they can be captains to step up." The boys feel this method will help improve the team.

"It benefits the team by not allowing anyone to become distracted, but focus on their goals and improvements," junior Tony Resendiz said. "If I was trying to become captain I would become a figure of leadership and understanding by leading the team in times of good or bad and having an understanding of

any conflicts a teammate or the team might have and trying to find the solution."

The swimmers plan to strive for captain status.

"I think waiting to pick captains will further motivate us to do our best. I will continually work hard to be captain," senior Jack Eichenberger said.

Seniors also feel it will be a good way for them to set an example for the underclassmen.

"I think it will benefit us by allowing the best of us seniors to truly step up and set a positive example for everyone," senior Aaron Fagalde said. "I personally will be putting my everything into every race

and constantly cheering on my teammates."

Endurance training is one of the main focuses of this season, with three morning practices a week consisting of mainly weight lifting, and one morning a week of pure swimming.

The first meet was Dec. 4 at Naperville Central.

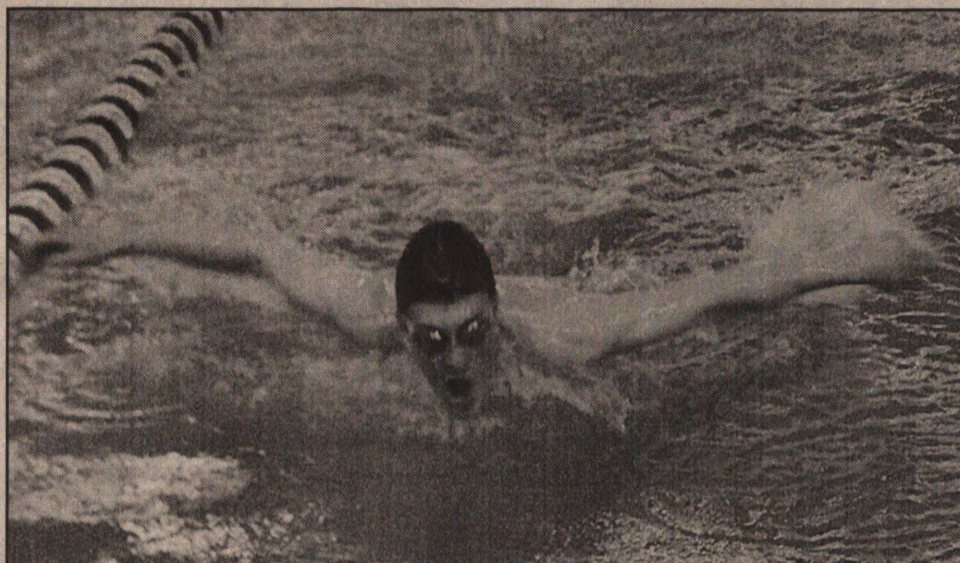


Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

At practice, senior Jack Eichenberger perfects his butterfly stroke for the meet on Saturday at Wheaton College.

Attempting to achieve more

Improvement on penalties leads to a more optimistic outlook

By **Keyuri Parmar**
Co-Editor in Chief

With a current five game winning streak, the only aspect preventing more success is the amount of penalties the Wildhawks are taking.

Currently the Wildhawks are 21-8.

"The assembled group of talent is among the best we have ever had, the question is

whether they can come together in a meaningful way to achieve more as a team," coach David Dyson said.

Not dealing with the penalties now may affect the team in the future.

"The amount of penalties we get is hurting us now and has the potential to hurt us even more later in the season when the stakes are higher," Dyson said.

Even when playing well, the penalties affect the team's concentration.

"When we are playing 5-on-5 we are very difficult to beat, but we have a habit of taking ourselves out of rhythm and focus by taking bad penalties," Dyson said.

Also, hurting the Wildhawks is a smaller team.

"We just need to stay out of the box because when we start making penalties we lose players. We only have 15 so when we get in the box our players get exhausted," senior Ryan Cooper said.

The team has reduced its penalties but could still improve.

"I would say we're on the road to cutting back on our penalties but we can still improve because there is always room for improvement," Cooper said.

At the game on Sunday against York, the boys overcame their weakness for the most part.

"I made one (penalty) and we got a few in the third but we played pretty good throughout the game. We did well on keeping the penalties down," Cooper said.

Other teams are aware of the Wildhawk's tendency to hit people.

"As a team we are very physical, and we have a lot of speed. Players on the other team always know they will be hit if they have the puck," Nielson said.

But penalties don't slow the team down too much.

"We play great team defense and have excellent goal tending (Kyle Nielson). We have a ton of team speed and can skate with anyone," Dyson said.

Over winter break the Wildhawks will play in the Blackhawks Charities Holiday Hockey Classic tournament with the top 20 high school teams in the state.

The first game of the tournament will be on Dec. 26 against Fenwick at Edge East rink at 1:30 p.m.

Success at state

By **Giuliana LaMantia**
Center Spread Editor

Music and iced tea were two essentials which helped senior Maya Skorupski place fourth in the 100 backstroke at the state meet, setting a new school record.

Skorupski finished the 100 backstroke in 56.03 seconds which broke her previous record of 56.37 seconds Nov. 16 and 17.

Skorupski was proud of her achievement.

"It felt great placing, I would have liked to place a little better than fourth, but I can't complain, because it was a great experience," Skorupski said.

Despite the fact that she had been aiming for top three, Skorupski was still satisfied with her times and was proud of the entire team.

"Our 200 medley relay placed twenty-first, which is about 14 places better than last year, and I placed twenty-second in the 50 free which was also about 12 places better than last year," Skorupski said.

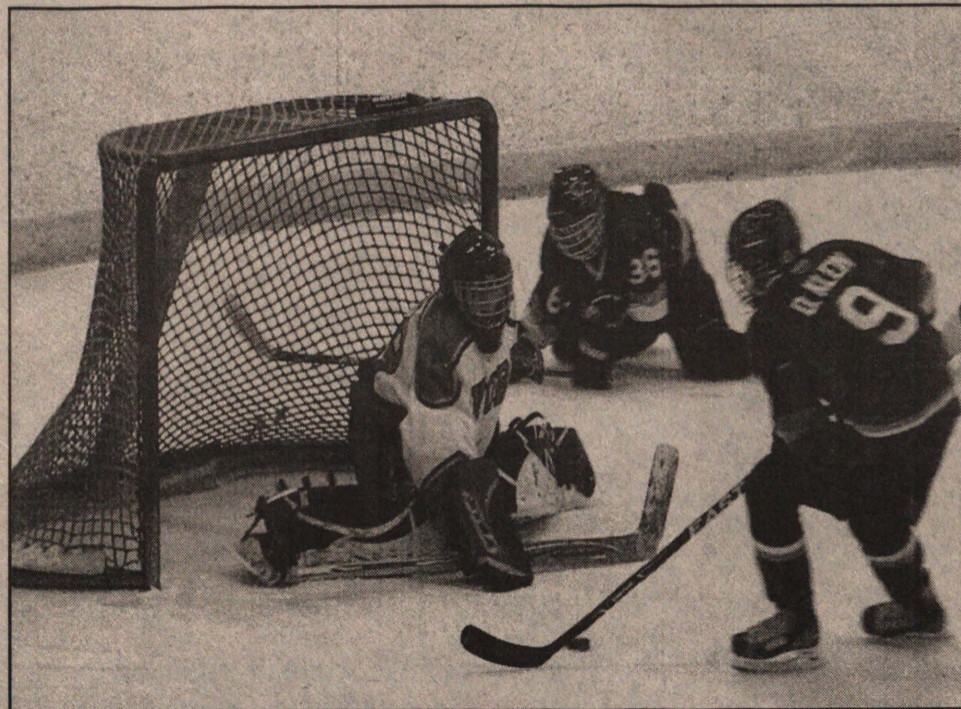


Photo by Keyuri Parmar

The Wildhawks shutout York Sunday 3-0, extending their winning streak.

Dedication leads to signing

By Liz Ramos
Co-Editor in Chief

After years of dedication to their sports, seniors Andrea Skipor and Kristyn Bossle officially signed on Nov. 14 to universities they plan on attending after graduating.

With seven years of volleyball under her belt, Skipor

verbally agreed to sign with Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga. in July.

"I was very excited and kind of speechless. I feel like it's an honor because I get to take my volleyball skills to the next level," Skipor said. "My family was very excited because I'm basically getting a full ride and they know all I

want to do is play volleyball."

Columbus State University will have a new volleyball program in 2013, leaving Skipor excited and ready to play.

"I haven't met (the team) yet because we are all freshmen because it is a brand new program in 2013," Skipor said. "I'm excited for it because I like a challenge and me and three other girls are the top four so it'll be exciting for my freshman year."

Skipor chose Columbus for multiple reasons.

"It's in the south, there's a great coach, and I wanted a different experience than everyone else that plays in college because they don't get the opportunity to be the all freshman team," Skipor said.

Sixteen years of being in gymnastics has paid off for Bossle as she had verbally agreed to sign with Illinois State University in April.

"I was really excited. It was a huge accomplishment for me. I've been working for this all my life and then I finally got the end results of getting a scholarship," Bossle said.

Being a part of club during her gymnastics career will be

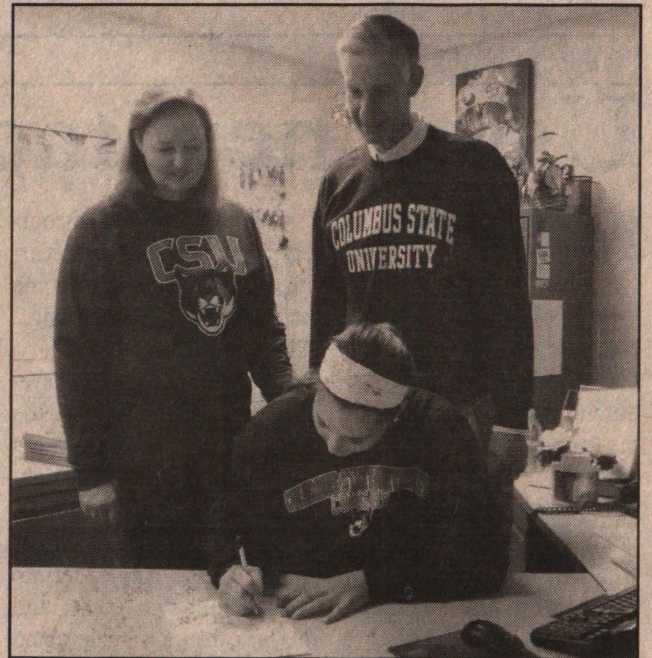


Photo by Liz Ramos

In July, senior Andrea Skipor decided to sign with Columbus State University; she made her decision official on Nov. 14.

different from being on the team at Illinois State University.

"It's a huge opportunity and it's going to be a wonderful time being a part of that team," Bossle said. "It'll be different because right now club is a more of an individual sport in which you compete for yourself but in college it's a major team sport and you compete as a team."

Having a family member at school with her and on the team will be beneficial.

"My sister is on the team right now. She'll be a senior when I'm a freshman. It's going to be fun because I already know a lot of the team and my sister can help me out," Bossle said.

Bossle chose Illinois State University for many reasons.

"It was in my top three when I was being recruited and I knew my sister would be there so it made it better and they were the first ones to offer me so I knew it was the right fit," Bossle said.

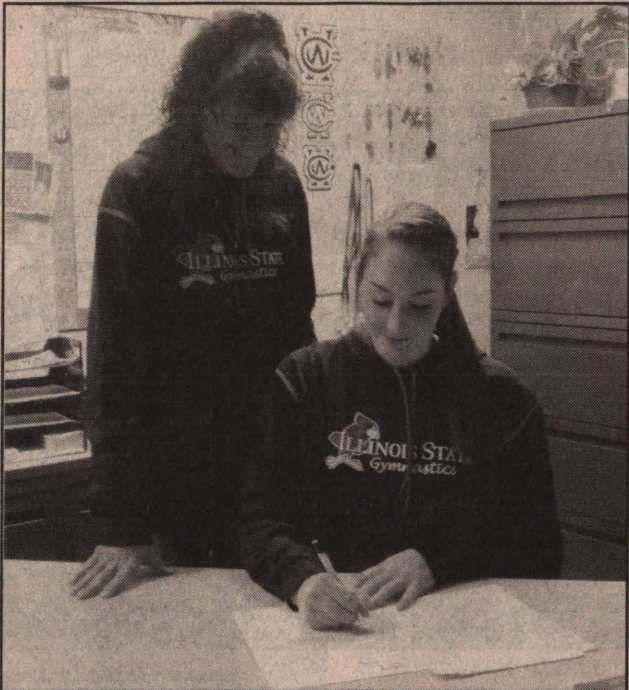


Photo by Liz Ramos

After 16 years of gymnastics, senior Kristyn Bossle signed with Illinois State University on Nov. 14.

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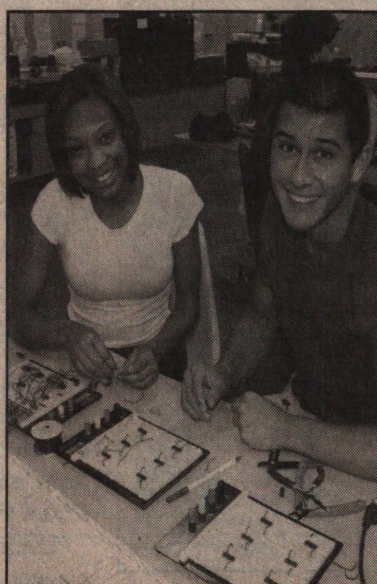
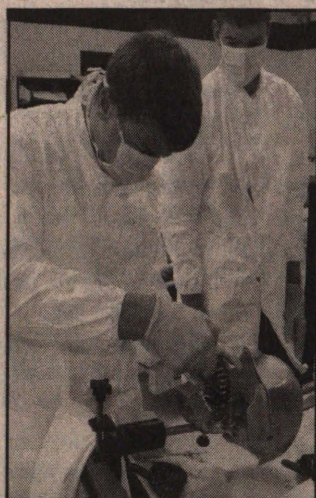
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Photo by Liz Ramos

Cheerleaders perform at the basketball game on Dec. 14 during halftime which helps them prepare for competition.

Working hard to improve

By Darcy Akins
Perspectives Editor

Although cheerleading placed sixth in DVC, the team is working hard to place well in their next competition on Saturday.

"At DVC we beat our rival team Glenbard North, so that was amazing even though we didn't place in the top third, we were still excited to beat them," junior Olivia Wilson said.

With many competitions and events still to come, the

cheerleading team is practicing even harder to meet their goal of placing in the top five teams.

"We have been practicing a lot and we've improved a lot, our goal is usually to place in the top five," coach Allyson Passarelli said.

Not only have the girls been practicing hard to recover from placing 11th at a previous competition, but they have also changed their first routine to help increase their chances of winning.

"We always work hard, but during competition season especially because we only have about a week in between every competition, and a lot to change and work on," Wilson said.

In their upcoming competitions the team is hoping to place in the top five, and land all of their stunts and tumbling to do the best that they can.

Pushing ahead

By Guadalupe Blanco
Lifestyles Editor

Despite getting off to a slow start in the season, the boys wrestling team is not only pushing ahead, but leading with its key wrestlers.

"We've gotten off to a slower start than expected. Our current record is 5-4 and a large part of that is due to the fact that many of our starters have been injured," coach Humberto Ayala said.

In the first few matches, the team has not been able to perform at its best, but is still working hard to improve.

"We are going to continue to focus on our technique and conditioning. Some of our younger wrestlers will have to continue to step up," Ayala said.

While the team has faced obstacles as many of the wrestlers are injured, Ayala has seen individual improvements in players such as senior John Carlos, junior Tyler Svetska, and sophomore Tommy Svetska.

"Tyler Svetska is currently the only wrestler on the team with an undefeated record of 11-0, and Tommy and John are two of the hardest workers in our room," Ayala said. "Their hard work has definitely been displayed during their matches."

While Ayala says he has seen improvement in the boys, Svetska feels that there is still much space for improvement.

"We haven't had a full line up all season because of ineligibility and injuries, so we

won't be our 100 percent until January," Svetska said.

As far as the rest of the team for the season, they are not focusing on the losses, but on how they can use it as motivation to improve.

"We need to be showing up to practice, and actually practicing," Svetska said. "(Then) we can make it down state and actually place this year in the top five."

Working harder at practice and remaining healthy to stay competitive in upcoming meets are what Ayala feels the team needs to be focusing on for now.

"We (started) with 80 wrestlers, and now we're down to 34. Hopefully, we can get more wrestlers, have harder practices, and make it to state," Carlos said.

Overall, the team is looking to future matches as opportunities to win, rather than dwelling on the past.

Fighting inexperience

By Keyuri Parmar
Co-Editor in Chief

Injuries and inexperience are battles the girls basketball team are fighting to gain more wins.

Currently the girls are 1-7. "So far, the season is going okay. We haven't been pulling a lot of wins, but we're definitely building and improving as a team," junior Natalie Warkins said.

As of now the team's defense needs improvement.

"As a team, our goal is to really focus on defense, especially because we're so small. We all need to develop our knowledge of the game and smart decisions as well," Warkins said.

Only two of the varsity girls have had previous experience playing varsity and are currently played often in games.

"Regarding experience, we only have one returning starter this year, and only one other girl getting real varsity time, so we definitely lack some varsity experience," Warkins said.

The team has been working on breaking down fundamentals, adding new skills, preparing for teams by scouting the opponents and watching film.

Two varsity players were not playing due to injuries.

"We have two main injuries, senior Ashley Nevitt tore her ACL during our summer season and we still don't know when she'll be back. Junior Shelly Molskow broke her leg early in the fall, but was actually just cleared

(Dec. 4), so we're excited to have her back," Warkins said. "Other than those two, we have a couple ankle sprains here and there, but nothing serious."

Minor injuries have kept some girls out of practice and playing for a couple days as well.

Junior Kelsey Windish had a hand injury and sophomore Jenna Forman twisted her ankle but were only out for a couple of days, according to

Wallner.

Gimre believes injuries don't hurt their capability of winning.

"I think that sometimes it hurts us because the girls can't play as much with their injuries so sometimes we can't have them in games as much but I don't think it necessarily hurts our level of play," Gimre said.

Injuries are a motivation for younger players to attempt to fill others' shoes.



Photo by Giuliana LaMantia

Senior Bri Hofman, left, tries to guard junior Ashley Stefan during practice on Tuesday.

Wolf Pack on the Prowl

Leadership and tight bonds bring success

Compiled by Chronicle Reporters

The Chicago Wolves are fighting for their third place seat in their division with new leaders and a tight-knit team.

After playing hockey for a year with the Wolves and 16 years professionally, Nolan Baumgartner was asked to join the coaching staff this past summer.

"The number one reason why I took the (coaching) job was that over the summer the job got offered to me for three years and I had already played for 16 years. I still wanted to play, but it was an opportunity I couldn't really pass up so I decided to retire and take the job," Baumgartner said.

Coaching is a new experience Baumgartner is trying to get used to.

"I played with some of these guys last year and played against (some of) the other guys," Baumgartner said. "To come in and be a coach all of a sudden, it's just a different side of it. I'm still their friend, but it's on a different level now."

The players responded well to Baumgartner's new position.

"On the other side, the guys have been great about it. I think I was worried about it coming in, but the guys responded well to me being on the other side of things, not playing but coaching," Baumgartner said.

Baumgartner helps players improve so they can get further in their career.

"I just try to pass the

knowledge on that I got from other guys and coaches in my career. I've learned a lot of things along the line. More so for the younger guys that come up, I just pass some of the things on that I learned," Baumgartner said. "Hopefully they listen a little bit, take it into account and use it towards their game to better themselves and try to get themselves into the NHL."

Watching the game from the bench allows Baumgartner to consider what the guys on the ice are thinking about.

"The games are fast when you're on the ice, but when you start watching for specific things you miss a lot too because you're always focused on one thing. You have to learn on how to watch more than one thing at once," Baumgartner said.

Along with having a new coach, right

winger Darren Haydar was voted captain by the team.

"It's a great honor for all the players who have come through the Chicago Wolves organization captain seat. There are a lot of great players and it's a great honor to hold," Haydar said.

As captain, Haydar has some obligations to uphold.

"(I) just make sure everyone is on the same page

and following team rules and guidelines and make sure everyone is prepared for the next game," Haydar said.

Haydar has three alternate captains to help him.

"(My alternate captains) are great. Andrew Ebbett, Andrew Gordon, and Guillaume Desbiens, they're all definitely qualified, have been in the league, and know what it's about," Haydar said.

The feelings that run through the players on the ice are unique because of the bonds they share.

"There are not too many feelings like getting out on the

ice in the middle of the game with all the guys and winning the game, you can't get that anywhere else," Ebbett said.

Although this is true, certain aspects of the team need more improvement than others.

"I would change out special teams if we could keep scores on our power plays," right winger Zack Kissian said.

Penalty shots are Kissian's specialty.

"It's not pressure taking so many (penalty shots), it's putting in a lot of dedication and I know I've gotten lucky a couple times," Kissian said.

Although, Kissian is one of the best penalty shooters on the team, he also takes his fair share of penalties himself.

"Yeah, penalties have definitely affected the team. I'm going to try to stay out of the box in the next game," Kissian said.

To make up for the extra penalties, the team has multiple positive factors as well.

"We have depth, a lot of players who are accomplished at this level and we have good goal tending," Haydar said.

The team's close bonds and talent will lead them to the goal: playoffs.

"We're very lucky to have a lot of guys who enjoy each

other's company. Teammates become like family all the guys have to sacrifice for each other if they want to make it far and into the play offs," right winger Gordon said.

Younger players get support and guidance from older guys.

"It is fun. Obviously, I'm just starting my pro-career learning a lot. They're a lot of older guys on the team which help me out one on one," Kissian said.

Cooperation between the players is the key to success or any improvement in left winger Brett Sterling's eyes.

"Hockey is a team sport. You can't do it without your teammates. I don't care how good one guy is. If your teammates are not good you're not going to do anything," Sterling said.

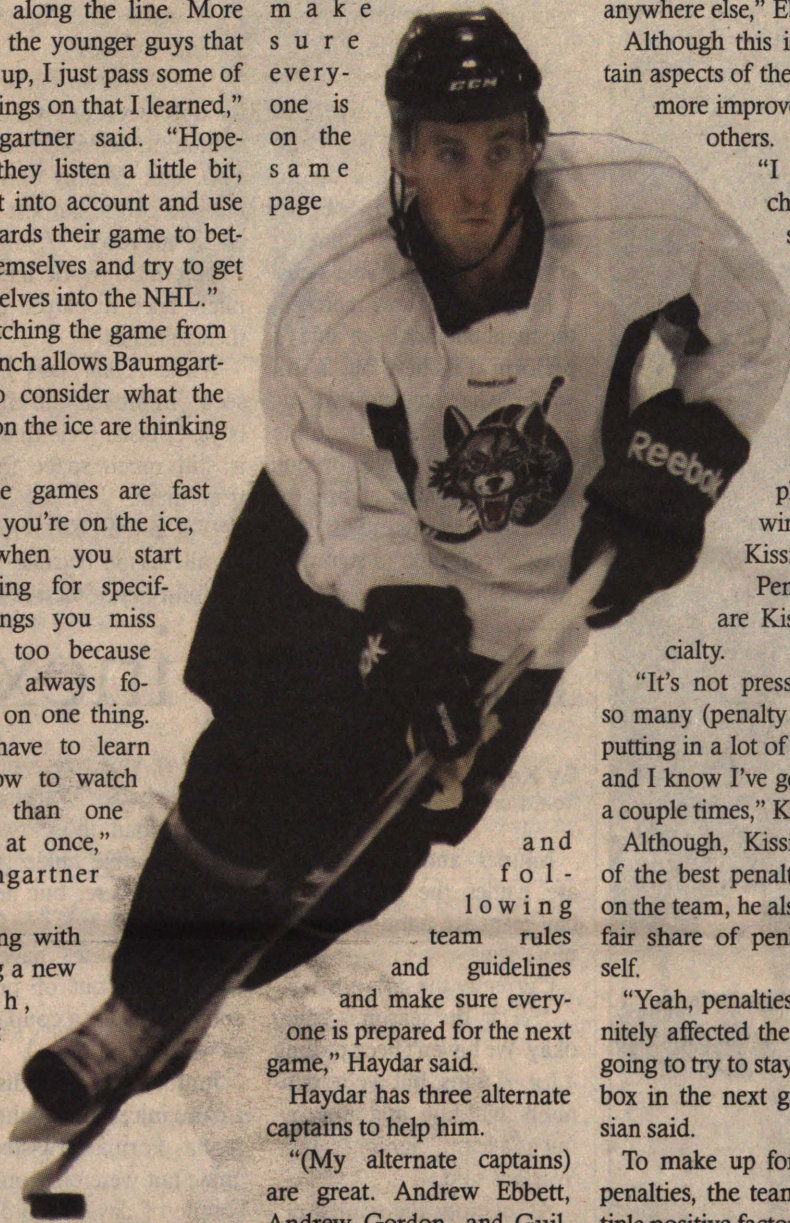
Close bonds form when so many hours a day are spent with the team.

"I'm at the rink from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every day, six days a week. If we have road trips we're on the bus for two to three hours. I probably spend as much time with them as much as anybody else excluding, my wife and dog. That's about the only people I spend more time with," Sterling said.

Being on the team is a priceless feeling.

"I'm so glad to be back in Chicago. I love the organization and the way they treat you here. (Nowhere else) treats you like this," Sterling said.

Contributing Chronicle reporters: Keyuri Parmar, Liz Ramos, Giuliana LaMantia, and Sam Schweih

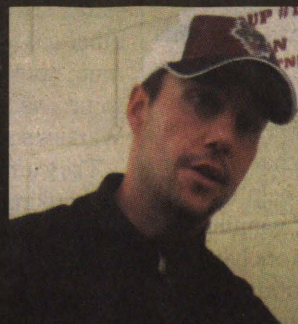


Inspiration from the Wolves



Andrew Gordon

"It's one of those stress relievers walking into the locker room and seeing all those smiling faces."



Andrew Ebbett

"There are not too many better feelings than being out on the ice during an intense game. You just don't feel it anywhere else. I think when you're out on the ice in the middle of a game you're with your 28 teammates battling to get that win at the end of the night. You don't really get that anywhere else."



Brett Sterling

"It's a sacrifice. I've been playing since I was 4 years old and I'm 28 now. It's been a lot of years playing hockey, no weekends, holidays cut short. It's tough but it's worth it in the end. It's only for a short period of time in the grand scheme of things. I get to play a game for a living. It's not a bad life right now."

Assistant coach
Nolan Baumgartner

"It is a great honor to have the guys look up to you in that way and respect you and respect what you've done over 16 years. It was a great feeling and it was nice to do that."

