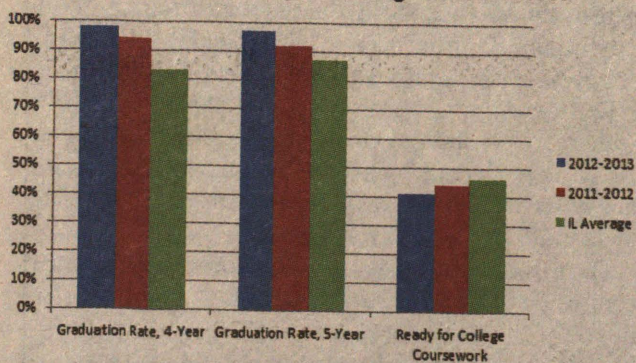
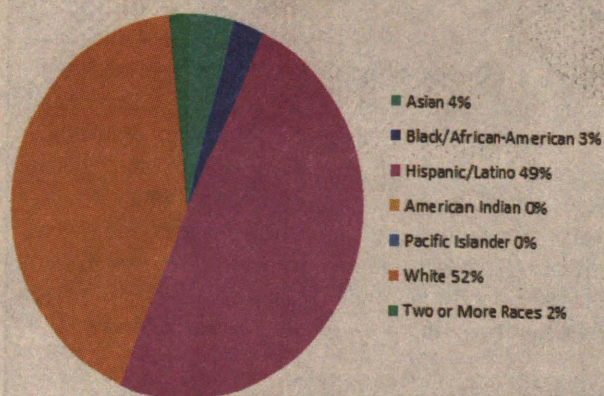


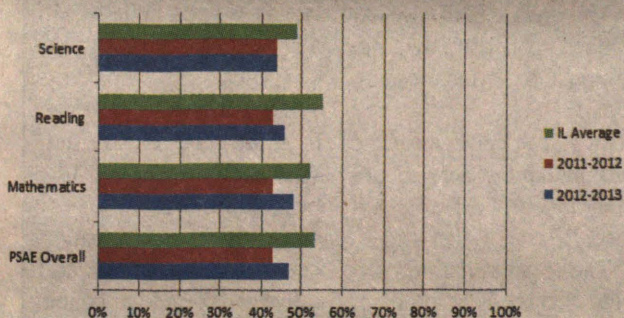
Are students ready for college and careers?



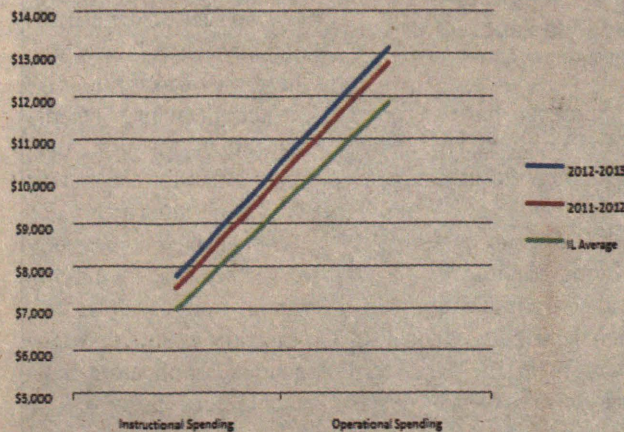
What are the demographics of students?



How do students perform on measures of academic success?



How much is the district spending per student?



*Instructional spending: average per-student spending directly related to the students
**Operational spending: average per-student spending related to overall school operations

Annual report gives insight to school

Report card grades courses, student readiness, spending, among other categories

By Guadalupe Blanco
Editor in Chief

While the school has excelled on several categories on the annual Illinois Report, there are also areas of concern where the school has not met standard levels.

Divided into seven portions, the report card compares last year's academic year, 2012 to 2013, to the previous year, 2011 to 2012.

The report card also compares the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years and then compares to the Illinois average.

One of the categories that was scored was whether or not students were ready for college and careers, specifically how long it took students to graduate, and how they were scoring on standardized tests.

According to the survey, 98 percent of students graduated within four years during the 2012-2013 school year, up from the 94 percent the school received in during 2011-2012.

In that same category, the Illinois average graduation rate was 83 percent of students.

During the 2012-2013 school year, 97 percent of students graduated in five years, up from 92 percent.

The Illinois average for five year graduation was 87 percent.

However, in terms of students being ready for college coursework, only 41 percent of students were meeting or

exceeding college readiness benchmarks on the ACT, which was down from the 44 percent achieved in 2011-2012, and not meeting the Illinois average of 46 percent.

In relation, the measure of academic success was only 47 percent overall in the PSAE, 48 percent for math, 46 percent in reading, and 44 percent in science.

The 2011-2012 averages were lower, at 43 percent, 43 percent, 43 percent, and 44 percent respectively.

Illinois averages were 53 percent for PSAE overall, 52 percent for reading, 55 percent for math, and 49 in science.

Despite the lower scores of PSAE performances for the school, the report card also highlighted the positive that the school has done.

Instructional spending, which is directly related to how much money is spent on teaching between students and teachers, was \$7,763 last year, and \$7,490 during the 2011-2012 school year, while the Illinois average was only \$6,974.

Operation spending, which is the spending for all of the school's operations, including instructional spending, was also up from the 2011-2012 school year.

In 2011-2012, the school spent \$12,802, and spent \$13,132 during 2012-2013.

Again, the Illinois average was the lowest, with only \$11,842 being spent per stu-

dent.

Other fields of interest were the available courses, programs, and resources that were offered at the school.

Some of the sub-categories included academic courses, school awards, career development courses and programs, physical education, health and wellness, athletics, and other programs.

Under academic courses, AP courses, including English, mathematics, sciences and Spanish were noted as courses of recognition.

Also on the list were French and German classes, studio art, and early childhood education.

There were also many courses that teach career development that received recognition.

Some of these programs included computer concepts and software applications, web page and interactive media development, and communication technology.

In addition to those portions, the report card also gave insight into the school's learning conditions, and a 5Essential survey.

The 5Essential survey is a new tool for the report card that will provide the opportunity for students and teachers to share their thoughts on essential learning conditions.

Students and teachers have already taken part in the survey, but the results of those surveys will not be available until the 2013-2014 report card.

The latest version of the report card is available to view on the school website and on www.illinoisreportcard.com for more information.

Photo illustrations by Guadalupe Blanco
Information from Community High School At-a-Glance Report Card

INSIDE

All fired up

Members of The Ink are getting a head start for "Louder Than a Bomb," by changing focus, getting more students involved--see **News** page 2.

Disservice to those who serve

Veterans Day should include a moment of silence at the start of the day for those who served. It was missing here. Read Our View--see **Perspectives**, page 3.



Addicted to trouble

Despite advances in research and many campaigns, students still might not be aware how harmful drug use can be --see **Center Spread**, page 4.



Postive change

The Chicago Blackhawks have had continous changes in their lineup which help improve their overall playing--see **Sports**, page 8.

Upcoming show ends 'wait' for first thriller

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

For the first time WeGo Drama will put on a suspenseful thriller play with "Wait Until Dark".

"We've never done a thriller before, and it is full of many effects," director Mark Begovich said. "(Wait Until Dark) is a suspenseful thriller about a blind woman who is being terrorized by some criminals because they want something they think she has."

This year's theme for WeGo Drama, "See... Think... Act... Differently" connects to the play because there is someone who has a disability, Begovich said.

Since "Wait Until Dark" is a thriller, it is a different type of rehearsal process.

"This show pushes not just our actors on stage, but our crew offstage with a variety of different things," Begovich said.

For example, getting used to the fake blood the actors use on stage.

Actors also agree on how different the show is.

"It is very different from anything we've done here and anything I've ever been in," senior Lindsay Fiegle said.

Since it is a different type of show the actors faced challenges during rehearsals.

"One of the challenges the

actors have faced is the pacing in the show. The pacing is a little bit more important than other shows," senior Josué Munoz said. "There is a sense of building tension to reach the climactic moment at the end."

To overcome the challenge the actors have been working very hard hard to master performing a thriller.

"There are pretty intense violent moments, the actors practice every single day for safety reasons," Begovich said.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Weyrauch Auditorium.

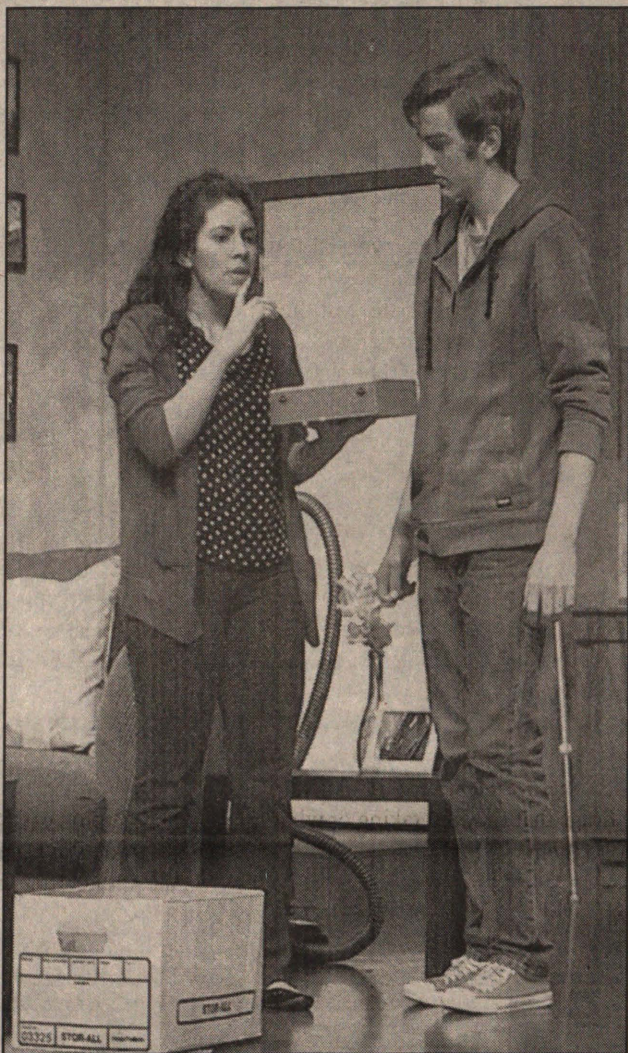


Photo by Alexandra Garibay

Junior Jasmin Juarez, right, and sophomore Robert Bradley grow closer in "Wait Until Dark" as their characters start to rely on each other.

What's going on? Head start to high scores

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

During the one day ACT seminar, students will learn tips to improve in all four subtests, and take shortened practice tests.

Students looking to prepare for the ACT and PSAT can sign up for two different programs to help get ready.

Registration is in person with test coordinator Jill Holubetz by Dec. 13 or online at www.exceedge.com by Dec. 20.

There is also a one day course offered on April 5.

The eight week session will be held Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. from Jan. 28 to March 18 for \$255.

The one day course is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs \$89.

Both courses will be held at school.

Locals lead students

By Hector Cervantes
Contributing Writer

Student Council is preparing for the student leadership program on Thursday in honor of American Education Week.

The community leaders will teach students about leadership and education when they come in.

Some of these leaders are Winfield Public Library trustees Cindy Keck and Mary Vanco, as well as alderman Lori Chassee and Carol Stream Public Library trustee Nadia Sheikh.

"I hope students can learn qualities of a good leader in the hopes of them being a leader one day," adviser Candace Fikis said.

Kicking off can drive

By Rodolfo Gonzalez
Contributing Writer

This year's Skills U.S.A. canned food drive will begin on Dec. 2 and close on Dec. 13.

"The can drive is for the Humanitarian Service Society in Carol Stream," adviser Brittney Bauer said.

The Humanitarian Service Project is a program designed to alleviate hun-

ger and poverty in Kane County.

Students who donate will be entered in a raffle to win a \$25 gift card for Starbucks or iTunes.

Extra credit is also given to those who donate, but with each teacher deciding how much.

A three can donation counts for a detention and a five cans donation counts as a P.E. make up.

Mixing art and history

By Kyle Paup
Perspectives Editor

Students have received the chance to be creative with their recent class project in topics.

"The focus question for Nation-Building is 'How are industrialization, imperialism and nationalism inter-related?' We constantly refer back to this as

they consider new material (and) evidence," teacher Christopher Lukas said.

While teaching them more about the unit, the project was also a new activity for the students.

"We enjoyed it because we got to look up (information) from the Internet, post it, and make a drawing about it," sophomore Salvador Garcia said.

Performing 'for the vine'

By Megan Provenzale
Contributing Writer

Tryouts for this year's FBLA Variety Show, "Do it For the Vine," were held Nov. 14 and 15.

"It's nice to see all that WeGo has to offer," senior officer Doug Murphy said.

After the auditions, "Do It For the Vine" will feature 12 performances.

"It gives kids a chance that are not in choir or not in band, a place to showcase their talents," FBLA adviser Maria Wirth said.

The winner will receive a \$50 prize, and half of the proceeds raised during the night will be donated to the March of Dimes.

"Do it For the Vine" will be Dec. 12 in the auditorium at 7 p.m.

Getting all fired up for 'Bomb'

Club gets early start on way to prepare for event

By Guadalupe Blanco
Editor in Chief

Members of The Ink are warming up to put together their team for this year's "Louder Than a Bomb."

"Louder Than a Bomb" is based in Chicago, and is the world's largest youth poetry festival.

While the event has been around since 1991, the school's team is still relatively new to competing.

"This is our third year competing, and we have returning artists who know what to expect. We'll be bringing more experience," adviser Tara Deleon said.

According to adviser Amanda Cordes, the preparations are still in its early stages.

"Right now, we just had our first meeting for Louder Than a Bomb, and we also talked about topics that would be discussed (at the competition)," Cordes said.

A focus for this year is the change in mindset.

"We've kind of rebranded ourselves. The focus in the past was putting events together, but our meetings are more writing oriented (now). We lost a lot of seniors, but we've gained lots of talent," Cordes said.

Gaining the new talent

from members will also help the team when they compete on Feb. 28 and March 2.

"The points aren't the point," Cordes said. "I (want) to go to the competition feeling more confident, and feeling like, 'yeah, we've got this.'"

Although there are a limited number of students who will compete on the team, anyone is eligible to try out.

"Be ready to be committed. We'd love to have people, and we do have (lots) of students come. It's an awesome way to make 'you,'" Deleon said.

Students who are interested in auditioning need to sign up outside of room 321 before Thanksgiving break, and have a piece that is typed, memorized, original, and with personal meaning.

Auditions will be held on Dec. 3, 4, and 5 after school in room 321.

Perspectives

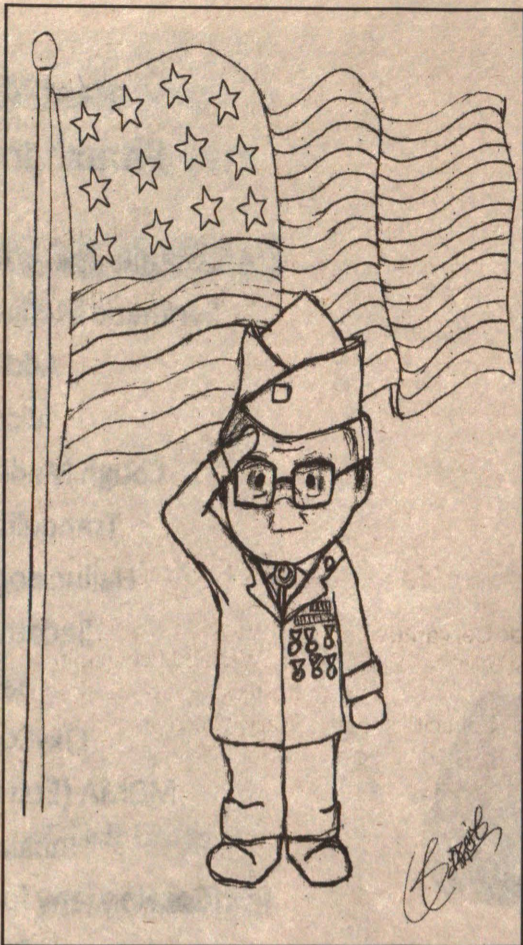


Photo illustration by Maria Garcia

Meaning of Veteran's Day lost

November 11 is a day to appreciate those who are risking or have given their lives to support our country, yet the school did not take part in this.

On this day, veterans are supposed to be honored for their hard work and dedication to our great nation and are given the proper respect that they deserve.

Where was this though throughout the school? It was nonexistent.

The school did not take any sort of time to honor those who have risked everything that they have to protect our country and the lives of all of those in it.

A simple special honor over the announcements at the beginning of the day or having each teacher talking about it for the first few minutes of their classes would have been appropriate. Just the slightest mention would have been nice.

The daily announcements would be a good place to acknowledge Veterans Day, but even that forum was neglected.

If students did not wake up in the morning realizing the significance of this day, went to school, came home, and gone to bed, they would never have even realized what they missed. And that is unacceptable.

That is the honor that West Chicago has given

to all of these brave soldiers, letting the students either neglect or forget this day entirely.

Every teacher in the school would have had the time to at least mention the day with a simple 'Happy Veteran's Day,' so why was this honor not given?

Do we as a school have this little pride in our country and those who protect it by making personal sacrifices every day?

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, schools can decide whether or not to hold school, but if school is held, "the school board or other applicant is authorized to take (the) actions provided that the persons honored by the holiday are recognized through instructional activities conducted on that day."

Of course though, as long as a single teacher briefly mentions this day for a single moment, this law is not being broken, but does that make it right? Even one lesson being taught in one class is not enough.

The school should be able to at least take a short time out of the day to honor the warriors of our country on the one day of the year that gives them direct credit for what they do.

This is a very easy fix, and as long as we try to care enough, we can give them the proper honor.

Lack of knowledge bringing students down

Student drug abuse issues need attention

Drug use appears to be a more common occurrence among teens, and that's a really big problem that needs to be addressed.

While using drugs isn't anything new to high school students, it has become so popular and common among teens that it lends itself to other problems.

According to an article by the Daily Herald, the DuPage County Coroner's office reported, there have been 38 confirmed, heroin-related deaths in DuPage County by Sept. 24. At one point over the summer the county had 15 heroin deaths in 17 days.

Health problems are the main concern about people taking drugs.

According to drugfreeworld.com, some of the long term effects include memory loss, loss of appetite, hallucinations, depression, respiratory problems, and tooth decay.

Some users don't realize the severity of the effects of the drugs that they are taking or what it will even do to them.

Our school needs to do a better job at teaching kids the consequences to their lives when they chose to take drugs, other than just in health class.

Health class is a good way to start and get basic information out, but is that really helping any-

thing?

According to the West Seattle Herald, 7th and 8th graders at Cascade Middle School formed an Above the Influence group in response to the legalization of marijuana for those 21 and older.

Members of the group encourage others in the school to avoid the use of drugs, particularly marijuana.

Our school should be more proactive in trying to put a group together like this and not just saying, "Don't do drugs."

A group like the one the Cascade Middle Schoolers formed could be put in place to help students receive information about what drugs actually do to you.

Also, information could be provided as to how to help yourselves or other loved ones.

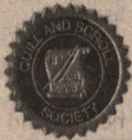
Another option could be just a short presentation offered to the public about warning signs if they think someone they know could be using drugs. General information offered in a more personal way besides being in a classroom could help to get the point across.

The school needs to be more proactive in teaching students that drug use isn't 'normal', and only bad things come from getting wrapped up in drugs.



Photo illustration by Guadalupe Blanco

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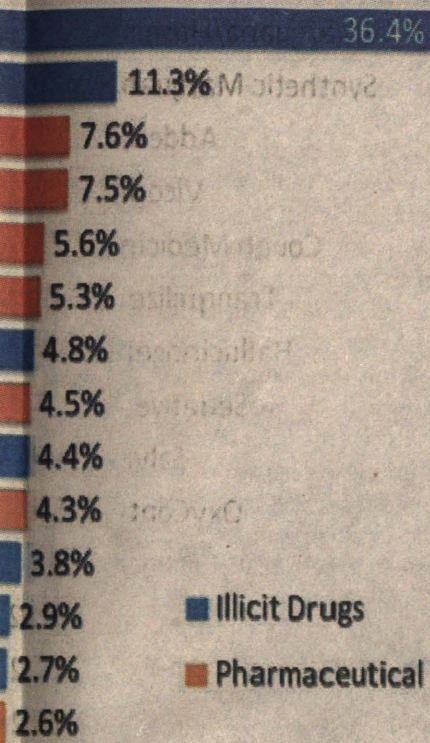
THE WILDCAT CHRONICLE is the student newspaper at Community High School. It is a public forum for freedom of expression and encourages readers to express their views. The Chronicle publishes eight times a year, with the student editorial board making the decisions concerning paper's content. Unsigned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

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

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oting, snorting

Use of Illicit Drugs and Pharmaceuticals among 12th Graders



Michigan, 2012 Monitoring the Future Study

hotlines, counseling options in your area. Call the National Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Service at 1-800-662-4354 or visit us online at www.findtreatment.gov

Marijuana still a harmful drug

By Kyle Paup
Perspectives Editor

Everybody always says that marijuana is bad for you and that it will do damage to you when you get older. The truth is though, whenever you use these substances, you are putting your life on the line.

Behind China and India, the United States had the third most marijuana related deaths during 2012 out of all the countries in the world with over 10,000,000 deaths, according to www.mmyvoficial.org.

Marijuana is currently the most commonly used drug in the country, and over 30 percent of the population has used it, according to www.pbs.org.

Any sort of marijuana consumption can result in pain, suffering, damage to organs, and even death.

There is no such thing as a safe time to use these sorts

of drug, and there is no safe way to obtain them. No matter what you do or how hard you try, these drugs are dangerous.

According to www.cnn.com, in December 2012 a teenage girl and her friend bought synthetic marijuana at a gas station themselves and smoked it. With this, one girl entered a coma and had to be kept alive through a breathing tube. She barely survived the incident.

In 2010, this synthetic marijuana led to over 11,000 emergency room visits. Most of the victims ranged from ages 12 to 17, according to www.cnn.com.

Illinois is already the fifth leading state in the nation for marijuana arrests with tens of thousands of people being arrested yearly, according to www.mpp.org, so legalizing any form of it will likely only cause more issues.

Overdoses prompt fathers into action

case," Roberts said. Roberts, along with Brian K, founded HERO, after his fathers lost sons to heroin in 2010.

Heroin is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the poppy plant, according to www.drugabuse.gov. My son died from a heroin overdose. He thought he could control (his use)," Roberts said.

His sons were not the only kids experimenting with heroin in Homer Glen. It seems several small groups of kids in Homer

Glen became acquainted with, and tried, heroin," Roberts said. "Several went to drug treatments and a few died from drug overdoses."

Being a retired police officer inspired Roberts to start HERO.

"When my son passed away, I saw how many people will be hurt, I just thought 'I have to do something'," Roberts said.

HERO also does events in towns and schools to spread awareness about drugs.

"We're definitely out there, telling kids to be careful and to have the courage to tell people if they have a problem," Roberts said.

Roberts noticed how his son, Billy, had been fatigued and sleeping a lot but he figured it was because his son was working so hard.

Billy had at some point told his parents about his use of heroin.

"By the time he talked to me about having tried heroin, he had already tried it a few times, and like many kids he liked the feeling it gave him," Roberts said.

Although Roberts knew about his son's drug use it was difficult to get him to stop.

"We watched over him far more closely but occasional use was difficult to detect so

when he weakened and tried it again, we missed it," Roberts said. "Slowly, this very seductive and lethal drug began to overpower Billy's resolve to not use, because this drug is so powerful it took him."

Since Roberts watched his son's death due to heroin, he realized just how dangerous heroin is.

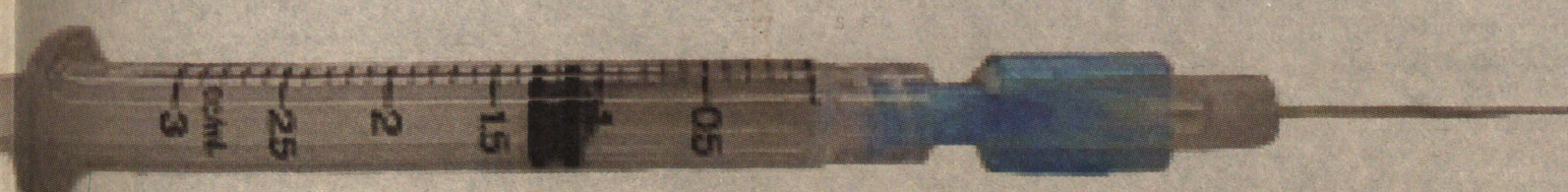
"I always tell kids that heroin and crystal meth are extremely dangerous drugs," Roberts said. "This particular drug is so deadly; it's something you should never experiment with."

Succumbing to peer pressure is also something Rob-

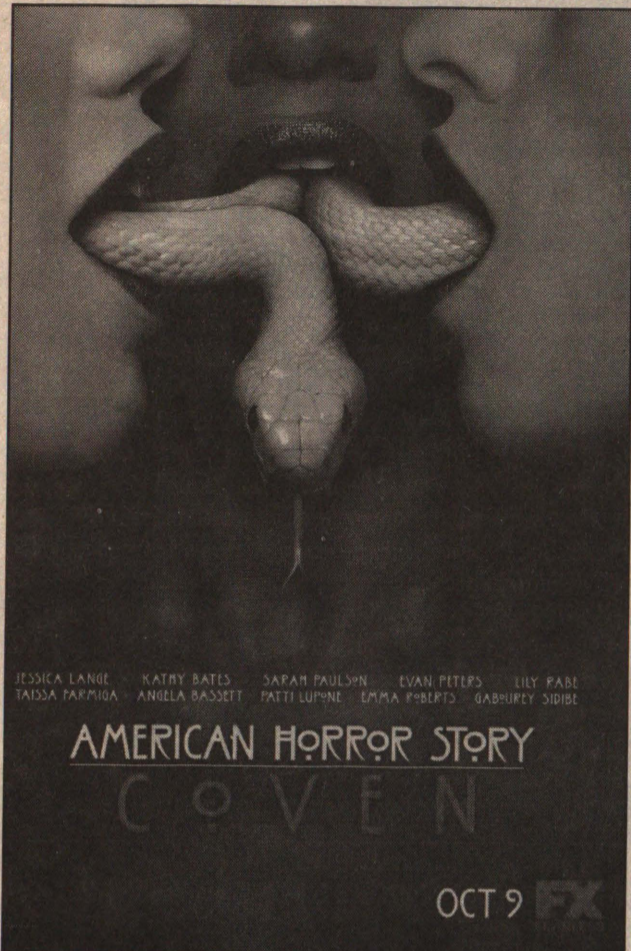
erts realizes about teens. "Friends who do drugs, will tell each other 'Oh, yeah, do drugs, it's okay'," Roberts said. "I wish someone would have said something to my son like, 'don't go near that, don't do it.'"

As dangerous and deadly as heroin is, there is an estimated 9.2 people in the world who use heroin, according to www.drugfreeworld.org.

"Once you do heroin everything is gone. Family and friends, all because of that one bad decision," Roberts said. "That's what I tell kids, you could lose your life, or you could lose everything."



Nightmares tackled in season 3 of horror story



By Guadalupe Blanco
Editor in Chief

“American Horror Story” has always chosen to steer from the typical horror story plotlines, instead choosing to tackle the true nightmares of the world, no matter the sensitivity or brazenness of the situation.

Season three, “American Horror Story: Coven,” is no different, artfully taking cue from the past and using it to bring to life some of the most awful ordeals from the past, ranging from slavery, voodoo, family, and oppression.

One of the first notable aspects of the show is the opening sequence, which reminds viewers of previous seasons, but far differs and presents an idea of what is to come.

In the sequence, the now-recognizable theme drifting in in black and white frames that have been filmed with a lack of stable camera techniques to create a dynamic sense of instability and a lack of reality.

Some of the shots include tribal rituals and sacrifices, a reappearing procession of an “inversed” Klu Klux Klan, and even levitating bodies.

Each frame, according to co-creator Ryan Murphy in an interview for the Hollywood Reporter, will reveal hints as to how the series will unfold, and as the series progresses, viewers will be able to understand how each of the frames relates to the series.

As an anthology series, “American Horror Story” presents unrelated plots each season, but with the same actors.

The third season opens between two instants that show a dramatic difference of a world in the 1800s and today’s modern society.

In the present day, the concerns of a so-called invention of the imagination, witches are sent to a private school where they are taught to control their problems in the outside world.

It is a dark, if not dramatic turn from the past, which the series shifts back and forth between, where public image was everything, and secrets were stuffed in the dark, to preserve status.

Perhaps the darkest of the

secrets is the one that belongs to Delphine LaLaurie, a serial killer who relishes not only in living the high life, but also in her serial killer antics, particularly to the slaves she owns, and even her own family.

Matching up LaLaurie’s antics is the allure and lust of wanting to be the “Supreme,” the most powerful witch within a coven in the current New Orleans.

Fiona Goode, the reigning Supreme, is battling the realization that her time as the big bad witch is coming to an end, and one of the new, young, beautiful witches will soon succeed her.

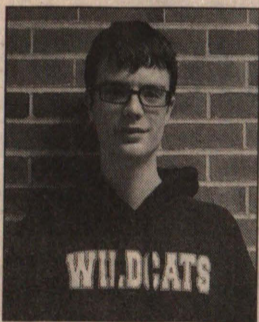
While the plotlines and effects up the horror effect, the real strength of the show lies in the casting and actors, who go from strength to strength, and bring in flair and cunning to a show that could potentially teeter on borderline distasteful.

Ultimately, “American Horror Story: Coven” isn’t anything like scary movies that have defined a whole genre of film and television.

It proudly boasts the melodrama of the interweaving plots, and throws in brazen humor in a sickly, if not smart manner.

Photo courtesy of FX
Golden Globe nominated TV show ‘American Horror Story Coven’ is on Wednesdays 10 p.m. on FX.

From traditional time for family to holiday madness



By Kyle Paup
Perspectives Editor

Thanksgiving is a holiday dedicated to giving thanks for the blessings that we have, yet has seemingly been taken over by the rush of shopping plans and sales.

Since President Roosevelt changed the date in 1939, the fourth Thursday of November has been a day of turkey, football, and celebrating a historic moment in our nation’s history. Or at least it should be.

Black Friday, the famous day after Thanksgiving, has been known as the unofficial day to mark the shopping season for Christmas since 1924.

Of course, many stores around the nation take advantage of this day by putting out their best sales of the year

and making Black Friday a crazed day for Christmas shopping.

With all of the excitement for cheap buys and sales, Black Friday has almost become a holiday of its own.

The issue with this is it is taking away from the real holiday at the time, Thanksgiving.

Instead of celebrating the pride of our country and giving thanks for our blessings, it would seem that more citizens are more concerned about their wallets than anything else.

People sometimes even line up as early as days before Thanksgiving comes itself.

So basically, instead of spending time with family and loved ones, these people are waiting to get “the good deals.”

Some stores even open on Thanksgiving day with Black Friday deals a day early such as Old Navy, Toys ‘R Us, Wal-Mart, Kmart, and Sears, who by doing this are further encouraging the madness.

Thanksgiving used to be a special day of thanks, but that ideal seems to have been

forever lost due to this infamous day following it.

To make matters worse, Black Friday sometimes even ends in violence, thefts, and even deaths.

According to securityinfowatch.com, last year an unidentified man at a Wal-Mart store attempted to steal two DVD players. In an attempt to stop this man, he was accidentally killed in a struggle against two store workers and a security guard.

This is only one of many deaths related to Black Friday incidents.

In 2008, shoppers broke down the doors to a Wal-Mart and trampled a worker to death in the process, according to nymag.com.

Being trampled to death by crowds has been an occurring accident over the later years of Black Fridays history as well. Not only is it wrong to be more focused on getting good deals on holidays instead of celebrating them with your family, it is seriously dangerous.

Black Friday is a great way to save money, but at the same time be careful.

WEGO DRAMA See...Think...Act DIFFERENTLY 2013-2014 PRESENTS THE SUSPENSEFUL THRILLER

WAIT UNTIL DARK
BY FREDERICK KNOTT

NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23
7:00 PM

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
326 JOLIET ST. WEST CHICAGO

\$5 STUDENTS/\$8 ADULTS

FOR INFORMATION WEGOTHEATRE.COM

THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS MOMENTS OF VIOLENCE
WAIT UNTIL DARK IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

Setting goals to win

By Kyle Paup
Perspectives Editor

After already seeing improvement from the players, boys basketball intends on having a season strongly in their favor.

"Our goal is to get to the point where instead of simply competing in games, we're winning the games that we are involved in," head coach Bill Recchia said. "Last year we competed in most of our games and that would be my step forward for our program (that) instead of just competing, we're winning our games."

The road to achieving this goal is long, yet straight forward at the same time.

"(We plan to) continue hard work and doing the little things that are important to win a ball game. Realizing that every single possession is important (too)," Recchia said.

Hard work has already started to pay off for the returning players from last year.

"We will do better than last year. I'm really hoping for our team to be around .500, that

would be a big improvement from last year," senior John Konchar said.

Practice over the summer has helped Konchar improve and get ready for the season.

"I think I have improved on several different aspects of my game, especially my free throw shooting because last year I shot terribly and I've been working on that over the summer," Konchar said.

When asked if there were any challenges so far with the team, Recchia replied confidently saying that there were none.

"It's a great group of young men and they're eager to work hard. I look forward to watching them improve as the season goes," Recchia said.

The players are also confident that the season will go well for them.

"I think the team has some good talent this year, we have depth and a lot of different people can score. We have very little experience on the varsity level but if we all work together we could win some games," Konchar said.

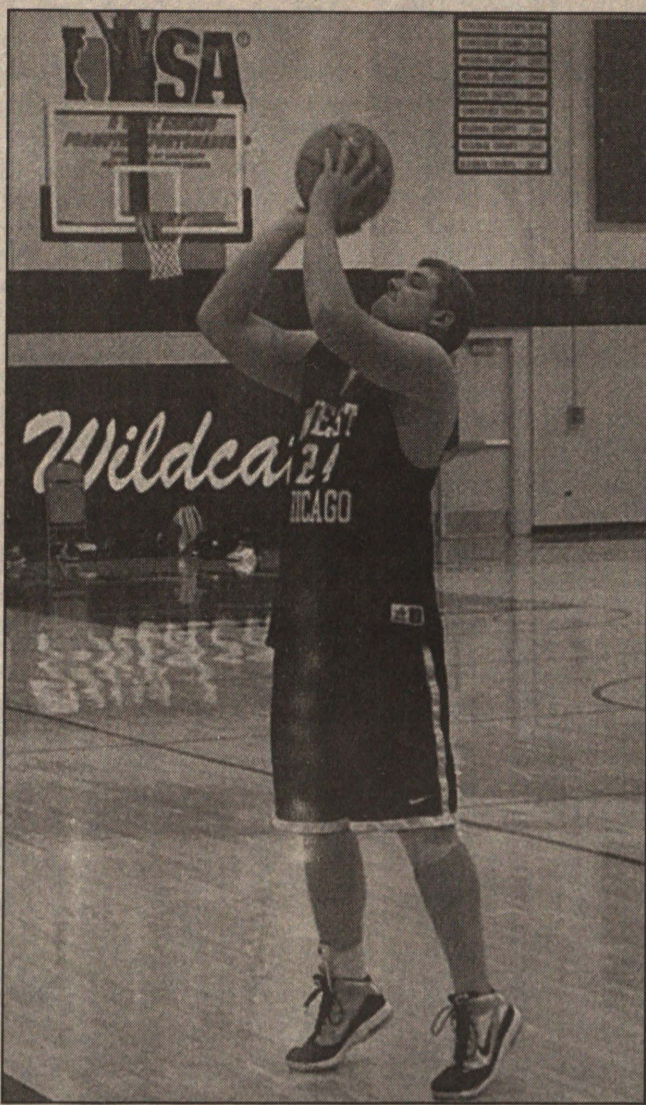


Photo by Kyle Paup
At practice, senior Ethan Doell practices shooting free-throws and shooting form.

Changes leaves team adjusting

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

With a new coach and goals set, the wrestling team is ready for the season.

New head coach Roberto Torres might be new to coaching in the school, but he has coached wrestling for six years.

Torres coached at East Aurora High School for three years, Metea Valley High School for one year, Neuqua Valley High School for one year, and at Naperville North High School for one year.

"Being a first year head coach has is already very awarding," Torres said. "It is very surprising how wrestlers will step up to meet expectations and accomplish what they need to accomplish in and outside of the classroom."

Having a new coach brings positivity to the team.

"I hope we can go downstate and I think that's very possible this year with our new head coach," junior Alex Maltese said.

Goals have been set from the team this year.

"Goals are making sure that the whole team works hard this year and make sure we can get as many team and individual wins as we can and hopefully send some kids down state," Maltese said.

The coach also has goals for the team.

"I have two major goals for the season which would be to build unity and pride in our 'WeGo' wrestling program as a whole, and also to instill a passion and value for the sport of wrestling and value the sport for what it is," Torres said.

Wrestlers already have plans in order to help them overcome any challenges they might face during the season.

"(We will overcome challenges) with a lot of hard work and dedication from all of our wrestling kids," Maltese said.

If a challenge ever surfaced the coach would also be ready to handle it.

"When it is time to face my first challenge I will resolve the challenge by taking a step back and looking at the challenge to resolve the situation by keeping in mind the vision of the program as a whole in the future," Torres said.

New changes merge with old techniques

By Guadalupe Blanco
Editor in Chief

Sticking to tried and true methods as well as bringing in some new techniques led the girls swim team to personal bests and success.

"At the end of each season, we do what is called a taper, which is kind of like a progressive resting for that one meet. Our JV team did very well, they had 100 percent best times, and ended up taking sixth place. Our varsity team took seventh," varsity Nick Parry said.

Receiving the personal records at the championship was gladly received.

"I always hope that our team does well at any meet, so my expectations are always high. Our JV girls were tapered for the (Upstate Eight Championship) so I was expecting them to (achieve) season best times," senior captain Paulina Konopko said. "Our JV team swam (their) best times, which is great, because there were many teams who didn't accomplish that."

Adjusting to the new conference has also been a focus.

"The new conference is definitely a change. We have made a statement this year in battling back and forth with the Bartlett swim team," senior

Jill Staton said. "We were the first group of girls to swim at that meet in representation of the West Chicago/Batavia co-op swim team. This only helped motivate our girls to do well and earn our place in the conference."

Even with the addition of new swimmers, the team still works hard to do well.

"The new conference is different from the old one because we swim against a lot of teams that place at state. Before every

meet, we go in with the mindset that we will win our heats and the meet all together," senior Alyssa Ushman said.

By joining with the Batavia swimmers, the team has also gained opportunities to be more competitive.

"It helps us be more competitive," Parry said. "For example, we added a meet this year that we wouldn't have been able to go in past years because the team was never big enough."



Photo by Kyle Paup
Girls on the swim team practice their breststroke using kickboards during practice.

By improving and being supportive, the team has also grown closer.

"Every practice and every time we lift really lead up to how well we are going to do. Coach Parry is really the mastermind behind everything. He writes the sets we are going to do and tells us how much we need to lift, and without him we wouldn't have been so successful," Stanton said. "On the team, the girls are not just only your teammates, but truly become your family."

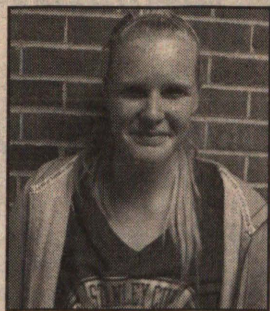
As a family, the swimmers want to do the best as a whole, according to Konopko.

"We're working hard to get even better and even faster. Ultimately, we want to get as many girls qualified to state as possible," Konopko said.

Even though the season is coming to a close, all the effort that has been put in is what will show at sectionals.

"The thing about swimming is that there's not much you can really change from one day to the next that's really going to make that much of a difference. What these girls did at the end of August plays a direct role in how they do in the middle of November," Parry said. "Swimming, you have to take a long range plan and idea, and everything builds to just this one meet."

New players and line-ups benefit Blackhawks



By Darcy Akins
Sports Editor

With hockey season in full swing, the Chicago Blackhawks are doing well due to many changes, and some fans including me, are happy with what we are seeing through the season so far.

As an avid Blackhawks fan,

I watch season in and season out for the upcoming players that will be joining the team, and it seems that this year's team is much younger than that of previous years I have seen. Many young players have been moved up and had more playing time.

This could help the Hawks because younger players typically bring many benefits like speed. However, they also bring lack of experience in playing at the NHL level.

Forward Brandon Saad for example, at age 20, is in his prime and quickness is definitely on his side. He's also had some great assists like the one to Patrick Kane against

the Minnesota Wild on Oct. 26. Currently his record is six goals and eight assists.

Relying a lot on the younger players seems to be working out all right for the team as their record is 14-4-4, but it wouldn't hurt to give some of the veterans more ice time. Someone I'd like to see on the ice a little bit more is Marian Hossa.

Last year during the NHL lockout, Brandon Pirri, Brandon Saad, and Ben Smith all played together on the team that feeds into the Hawks, the Rockford Ice Hogs.

These several younger players got used to playing together which has aided the Hawks

new line ups.

That is one change head coach Joel Quenneville is embracing a lot this season, the change in the lines of players that are on the ice together.

Many of the players who are used to playing together such as Bryan Bickell and Jonathon Toews are now being switched around and they are hardly ever on the ice at the same time.

Even though some players have been moved around in lines, it seems to be helping the overall play of the team.

Coming off being the Stanley Cup Champions, a tremendous amount of pressure is being put on the Blackhawks

to perform well this year. Some fans expect them to do as well as they have been doing in the past few seasons.

Not to mention, because of the NHL lockout last year, and the amazing 24 game win streak, fans and spectators are wondering if they can live up to that again this year.

With the changes that they are making, I think they are going to do very well this season. Even though some of the changes have been ridiculed by fans since the beginning of the season, the changes are working out good for the team. However, even if they don't, their true fans will stick by their side.

Our Thoughts

Compiled by Darcy Akins

What do you think about Coach Quenneville's use of young players and new line ups?



Editor in Chief
Guadalupe Blanco
"I think that if he is going to start using new players, it should be a slow transition, so that all the players can get used to the changes."



Center Spread Editor
Alexandra Garibay
"I think the younger players would be faster and bring more to the table than the older players."



Perspectives Editor
Kyle Paup
"I like the fact that Coach Quenneville is switching up the players that play together. It will make them better."

Team prepares for competition

By Kyle Paup
Perspectives Editor

Cheerleading has been

adapting to a new varsity coach and is preparing for their first competition.

"The transition from JV to

varsity has been the biggest struggle. There are a lot of new responsibilities that I have to take on as far as games and performances and competitions," head coach Meghan Klein said. "Other than that it's been very fun (and) very exciting. (It has also been) very time consuming, but I'm enjoying it and it's a good change for me."

The number of practices the team goes through has also increased this year.

"We're working very hard. We've increased our practice schedule (because we are) just very driven. We have a new mind set this year and we are looking forward to our first competition season and simply building from there," Klein said.

Even though the amount of practices rising can be difficult for the players, it seems to be benefiting them with their cheerleading talent.

"We've been practicing a lot, which isn't always easy,

but we've been getting really good thanks to it," sophomore Allison Wagner said.

Despite the benefits of this increased schedule, difficulties come with it as well.

"Some things that we are struggling with are just working around everyone's busy schedule. I have a lot of girls who are in multiple activities,

so providing time for other sports or clubs that they're in (can be a challenge)," Klein said.

The team has already performed their first showcase where friends and family could see their progress, according to Klein.

Competitions for the cheer team start in December.

Making strides with hard work

By Katelyn Foehner
Contributing Writer

After overcoming a few obstacles in the beginning of the season, the poms team is working hard to compete in the Upstate Eight.

"I think our season is going well, we're rising above the obstacles that have been thrown our way," junior Lizzy Mastroianni said.

Although the team has suffered a few set backs, they have worked hard and are preparing for their first competition.

"I encourage the school to come watch our team kick butt this year," junior Nici Theodosias said.

The team has practiced since July on their hip-hop routine and is hoping for a better outcome than last year.

After placing third out of eight teams this past summer at camp, the team hopes to score higher this time.

"We're hoping to place, all the girls have been working so hard," senior Cristin Zaputit. "We hope to do better in the Upstate Eight than the DVC."

Last year the team overall placed last in the DVC.

The first competition at Palos Hills/Eisenhower is Saturday.

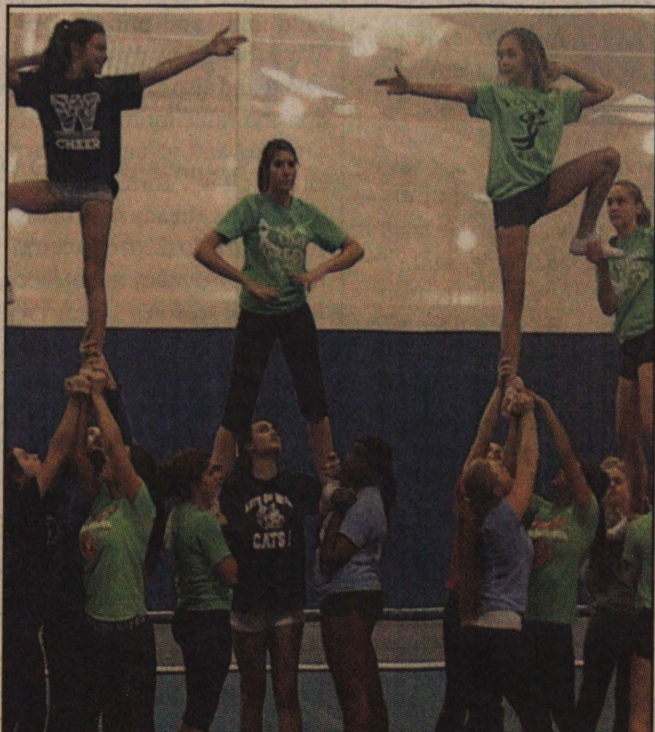


Photo by Kyle Paup

During practice, the varsity cheerleading team practiced their mount. The teams competitions start in December.