

Spring has finally arrived

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Spring has sprung as the Horticulture Club sells the plants and flowers they grew during their annual spring plant sales.

Each month Horticulture Club works on a project. In November the club arranged the floral design for the staff's Thanksgiving dinner and in December the club decorated and planted a tree.

Horticulture Club's project for April and May is to sell the plants and flowers that they grew.

"The club began planting in late January and half of what they sell is from seeds and the other half is from bud seeds," adviser Corrie Stieglitz said.

This year's brutal winter did not stop the plants from growing.

Horticulture Club sold pansies and violas at the staff sale on April 12.

"We sold \$150 in 10 minutes of selling plants and we really appreciate the staff buy-



Photo by Hector Cervantes

Moving on from the harsh winter, Horticulture Club is embracing the spring season.

ing from our club to support us," Stieglitz said.

Horticulture Club will sell at West Chicago's Blooming Festival downtown on May 17 and will sell at a Mother's Day pancake breakfast on May 10.

"We want to grow as much plants as we can and we

would like to help the people at the sales on choosing what to buy," sophomore president of Horticulture Club Moises Perez said.

Selling the flowers and the plants is important to Horticulture Club.

"The money that we sell for

the sale will go back into the horticulture fund. Everything we do in Horticulture Club is free from the homecoming parade, end of the year dinner and the club shirts. Selling the plants helps replenish the money spent throughout the year," Stieglitz said.

The money Horticulture Club uses is crucial for the club.

"If the (spring plant sales) doesn't happen, then nothing gets paid," Stieglitz said.

Horticulture Club is eager to sell at the rest of their sales.

"We hope for good weather, rain or shine we are determined to sell the plants while having a good time," Stieglitz said.

Students in Horticulture Club learned a lot from watching the plants grow.

"I learned to move plants from the roots and that the different types of soil that makes the plants grow," freshman Steven Olivera said.

The club also experienced transplanting, pinching and pest control while members of Horticulture Club find planting a fun activity.

"I enjoy the environment and getting dirty and having a lot of laughs," sophomore vice president and treasurer Arturo Reza said.

Horticulture Club enjoys seeing the plants grow.

"It calms me down. I like the feeling of the dirt between my fingertips and seeing the development of the plant," Stieglitz said.



Photo by Kyle Paup

Editors Alexandra Garibay, left, and Katelyn Fohner, right, won honorable mentions in a competition in San Diego.

Chronicle editors place in national competition

By Kyle Paup
Editor in Chief

Two Wildcat Chronicle editors won honorable mentions in their writing categories at the Journalism Education Association National write-off competition in San Diego.

At the conference 1,100 students competed. Only 436 won awards.

"During the competition we had 30 minutes of listening to the presenters about the topic we were writing about. During then we could write notes, then we had 70 minutes

to write out our story on paper," center spread editor Alexandra Garibay said. "It was a lot harder than I thought because you have to write everything out with a pen and paper as opposed to typing it. I was shaking most of the time because of how nervous I was because I kept thinking I wasn't going to have enough time, but I'm glad it all paid off in the end and I got an honorable mention."

The conference was held April 9-12.

Being the last year that journalism will be available as

a class, the two winners are proud to finish the Chronicle off strong.

"The newspaper has always won awards, but knowing this is the last competition we competed in and being able to win just goes to show how important journalism is. There were schools there with over 50 students there and we had two and we both won. Obviously we've been taught well from Mrs. Kuehn," sports editor Katelyn Fohner said.

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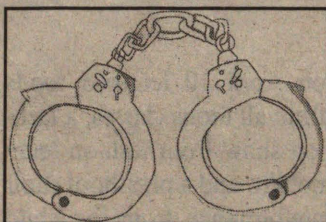
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Traveling Abroad

French students had the chance of a lifetime to travel to the city of love and learn a new culture-- see **News** page 4

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Mistakes made in the past can haunt juveniles later on in life due to Illinois' juvenile justice system -- see **Perspectives** page 5



Impact of social media

Facebook and Twitter are two of the most popular social media sites that help promote schools --see **Lifestyles** page 8

Signing day

Three WeGo athletes commit to colleges, while two sign to continue playing for the next four years --see **Sports** page 12

New coach hopes to improve attitude within players

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

Ted Monken will be the new football coach next year, bringing with him several years of experience coaching high school and even college football.

"I've bounced around a lot and had great experiences," Monken said.

His recent experience was being the football coach at College of DuPage.

Although the football team has struggled in the past, Monken plans on changing people's attitudes.

"The number one thing you have to do with a school that has had a little bit of struggles is that you have to change the culture," Monken said.

Starting with the players themselves.

"Make the guys believe they can win. When some-

thing doesn't go well they have to understand they have to fight their way through it instead of in the back of their mind saying 'oh, here we go again. We're going to lose this one too'," Monken said. "That's the hardest job. It's not about the plays you call or the defense you run, it's about the players believing that when things go wrong we're going to find a way to get through it and find a way to win in the end."

Monken also acknowledges the Upstate Eight conference the team will be playing in.

"The conference we are going to be in is putting us on a playing field with more of an even opponent, we have a fighting chance," Monken said. "If we just do our job and play good football we have a chance to win on Friday nights."

Coming into West Chicago

has been a positive experience.

"I'm excited coming into West Chicago, everybody I've met here has been fantastic," Monken said. "Kids are great, they're eager and they

want to get to work."

Not only will Monken be the football coach next year, he will also be a gym teacher.

"I'll be full-time in the building and looking forward to it," Monken said.

Monken looks forward to changing the football program and people's opinion.

"I can't wait to get things going in the summer, and I look forward to next fall for sure," Monken said.

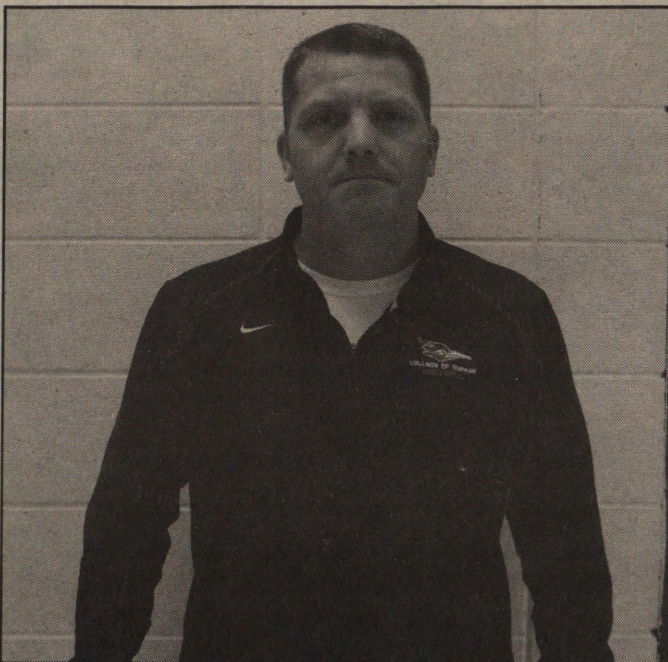


Photo by Alexandra Garibay

New football coach Ted Monken hopes to improve the team by promoting a top priority of having a good attitude.

Competing for a new design

By Sarah Denning
Lifestyles editor

As the class of 2013-2014 comes to an end, students have a chance to design new spirit wear.

Student Council adviser Christopher Lukas has made this a contest.

"I believe the Squad and the shirt each year gives students a chance to show off their school spirit by coming together as one," Lukas said.

Like assemblies, grades will compete to see who will be the overall winner, and have their design on the front of the new Squad shirts.

There will be one winner in each grade level who will win a Squad T-shirt and then Student Council will vote for which design will be the overall winner and win a hoodie.

Students have until May 7 to submit designs to rooms 175, 186 and 310.

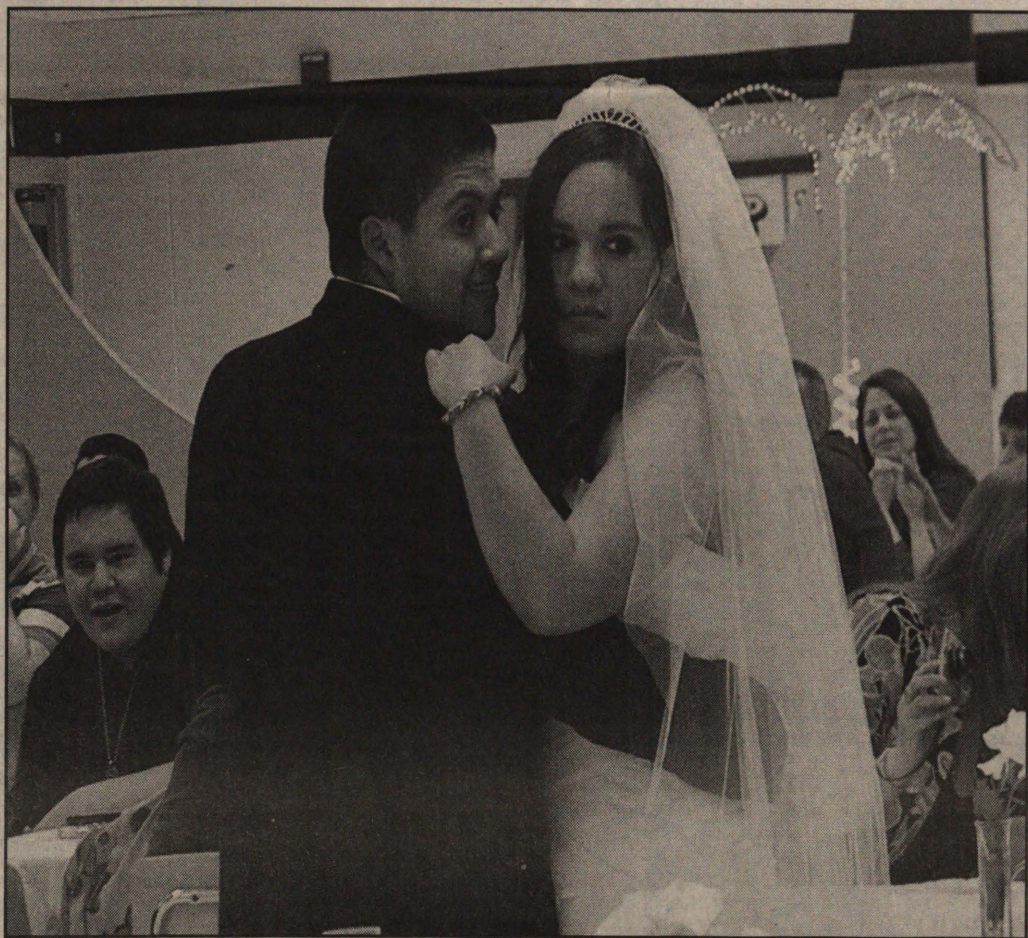


Photo By Sarah Denning

Groom Johnathan Castillo and bride Cecelia Santiago share their first dance as a married couple during the annual mock wedding.

Night on the beach: annual mock wedding brings joy and tears

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

Juniors Cecelia Santiago and Johnathan Castillo were the happy bride and groom for contemporary life's mock

wedding.

"I was looking forward to just being with the whole bridal party and pretty much doing the wedding," Santiago said.

Family Consumer Night

on April 10 featured foods from all foods classes, a fashion show from fashion technology, and a preschool choir performance from the child development class, in addition to the wedding.

"Now this isn't there to tell everyone they have to get married, but if you want to plan a wedding you would know how you can actually make a career out of being a wedding planner or a D.J.," contemporary life teacher Patricia Clifford said.

When it comes to choosing who will play which role, Clifford has it all planned out.

"I ask them after they view last year's (wedding) movie what positions they would like, because I'm certainly not going to give them a job they don't like," Clifford said.

When Clifford picks the bride, she sees who would be good for the job and then by trick of the hat, they're chosen.

"So, if they seem to be a mature, responsible person, then (their names) go in the hat and then I just literally pick from the hat," Clifford said.

The wedding opens up opportunities to see what it's like to actually plan a wedding.

"I (liked) bonding with the bridesmaids toward the end of it. We were all nervous, we all shared our feelings and I was surprised by how close I got to some of the girls that were my bridesmaids," Santiago said.

When it comes to being the bride, it's a big responsibility.

"They have to write their vows, they have to come to

practice, and we have to go to the bridal shop. There's a lot of things they have to do," Clifford said.

Being the bride and/or groom aren't the only jobs available.

"The bridesmaids decide on a color, they decide on who's going to go down first. They have to pick the guys that walk down with them. The maid of honor has to write out a speech or toast. The D.J.'s have to download music and have to have music for everything that is part of the evening, and they also play the music for the child development and the fashion. The production managers are the MC's of the evening," Clifford said.

There were also jobs outside of the wedding night.

"We have people who are in charge of the invitations. Not only do they have to design them, they have to make a guest list from everyone who is invited. They have to sell tickets, so every job is important," Clifford said.

The whole class decides on the theme for the wedding which this year was the beach.

"One of the possibilities was Winter Wonderland, but I thought we've had enough winter, let's get something warmer," Clifford said.

The students do everything with Clifford making sure it all runs smoothly. They do everything themselves.

Chronicle victory: two honorable mentions

Continued from page 1

Despite being happy that they won in the competition, there is disappointment that no more students will get this chance to take this trip as a class.

"Although there won't be a journalism class next year I am glad Katelyn and I had the opportunity to travel to San Diego and compete at a national level. I wish more students would be able to have this opportunity because it is really a once in a lifetime opportunity," Garibay said.

Garibay and Foehner both won in different types of writing. Garibay competed in

feature writing.

"My category was in feature writing and I had to write a story about a program called 'the Princess Project,' which helps girls who don't have a lot of money to go prom or be able to find a dress and accessories for their prom night," Garibay said. "They had a volunteer from the Princess Project there talking about how she got involved and how great it was to be a part of something that helps young girls."

Foehner won her honorable mention in sports writing.

"I interviewed Eric Huffman who is a professional surfer," Foehner said.

Both reporters feel honored to place at all in the competition.

"It feels amazing. There were about 75 kids in my category alone and to be picked out of all those kids just feels awesome," Foehner said.

While in California the reporters also attended journalism seminars.

Business leaders win big during state competition

By Sarah Denning
Lifestyles Editor

Two Wildcats won first place at the 65th annual Future Business Leaders of America competition in Springfield, and one is moving onto nationals in July.

Thirty-three members joined 1,452 competitors from across the state on March 28-29.

From the 33 students who represented the high school, 18 students placed in the top 10.

Senior Grant Hosticka won first place in mobile application development and will travel to nationals in Nashville.

FBLA had 21 of their 33 members place in the top 10

of their category.

"I was very happy with how my fellow members Tommy Gotsch and Jacob Urban performed in the talent show and battle of the chapters, the hard work they put in allowed us to have a lot of fun cheering them on as they represented our chapter," Hosticka said.

FBLA helps prepare students for leadership roles in college and work.

Adviser Mia Wirth went with the students to Springfield.

"It's a big accomplishment, and we're up against some really tough competition so placing in the top 10 is huge for us," Wirth said.

Gotch, a sophomore, com-

peted in the talent show and won first place.

Gotch created a hip-hop dance routine.

"I didn't find it as competition, just having fun with my talent," Gotch said.

Winners in the top 10 include: second place winners for management information systems, seniors Shelly Molskow, Nicole Reitz and Natalie Warkins; fourth place winner for word processing, junior Alyssa Lenning; fifth place winners for global business, seniors Katie Kotche and Jillian Staton; sixth place winners for public service announcement, seniors Doug Murphy, Sean Young and Nick Wilson, for impromptu speaking, junior, Jacob Urban; seventh place winner for business procedures, junior Bridget Lopez; for desktop publishing, seniors Rick Torres and Scott Wiest; eighth place winners for banking and financial systems, seniors Grace O'Malley and Erin Powell, for client service, senior Logan Bruce.

Competitors moving up to nationals in June

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Skills USA qualified to participate in nationals at Kansas City, Mo. on June 21 following the Courtesy Corp state competition in Springfield.

Sophomores Dimone Lattimore placed third place and Alondra Padilla placed second and will represent West Chicago in nationals.

"The competitors passed out programs for opening ceremonies, helped out for culinary, and ran the information booth," adviser Brittney Bauer said about the competition which took place April 3-5.

Competitors were able to meet and speak with Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn who was a guest speaker.

Lattimore was proud to help the competitors.

"We kind of helped each other at the same time. It was fun to help out on telling what room the competitors were staying in," Lattimore said.

The competition helped give Skills USA a taste for nationals.

"I liked the part to meet different people and you gain skills needed to learn and experience. It's a good ex-

perience and people see me differently in the beginning of the year than now," Lattimore said.

Struggles were found in the Courtesy Corp competition.

"A lot of times when we weren't on time and prepared with the appropriate attire, the judges would take points off," Bauer said.

Courtesy Corp was important to Skills USA.

"What makes this competition important is I learned I knew a lot more than I thought," Lattimore said.

Bauer was selected to serve as a judge and will serve as a judge at nationals.

"I will be judging early childhood competitions, and while judging I get to see the top competitors. It's an honor to be selected to be a judge," Bauer said.

Skills USA is looking forward to nationals.

"We are looking forward to more work and being able to compete with different schools across the country," Bauer said.

To prepare for nationals Skills USA will host a fundraiser at the Kane County Cougars Stadium on May 18, working in concession stands and selling chocolate.



Photo by Sarah Szremski

The play "Company" placed 5th at state and Josue Munoz received an All-State recognition as a cast member.

IHSA play places at state and recognizes member

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

"Company" placed 5th at state with Josue Munoz recognized as an IHSA All-State cast member.

"I thought the students did a phenomenal job," director Mark Begovich said. "It's an outstanding accomplishment."

Begovich always makes it clear that the goal is not to win, but that the goal he promotes is to create good art and they did.

"They created great art," Begovich said. "Everyone

at Wego should be proud of their work."

Munoz was recognized for his acting skills at the March competition.

"Josue is an amazing talent. He deserves all of this recognition and more. In all of years working these competitions, I have never seen a student get as many votes over the years," Begovich said.

Munoz was honored by the award.

"It's a prideful honor to be recognized again, but there was no surprise because I

trusted the show and I trusted the ensemble and the performance that we had given at state," Munoz said. "There was no doubt in my mind that with the work that we did I would be receiving this award."

Munoz believes he wasn't the only one that deserved the award.

"However, the shocking part was afterwards that left me with being the only one from our school to receive the award, which I thought was not fair or just (at all)," Munoz said.

New faces arrive as officers head back to patrol

By Katelyn Foehner
Sports Editor

With the end of the school year nearing, comes the rotation of two new police liaisons officers Waylon Potts and Megan Perry.

They both are coming from the West Chicago Police Department, where they were on patrol duty.

"I've been with the West Chicago Police Department for almost 10 years," Potts said.

He has experience in the field, as he's had almost seven years of patrol and three years in the traffic unit, as well as assignments outside of the police department.

"[I had] a previous secondary assignment to the DuPage County SWAT team for about three years," Potts said. "[About the] past year and a half I started doing field training on patrol, so when we get new officers that would come to the academy then they ride with field trained officers until they're ready to ride on their own."

Potts is already working at the school full-time while Perry starts on Monday.

There is no set number of years that officers can work in the school.

"There is no set time, but changes at the police station in terms of shifts and available positions can dictate a

rotation or a change in personnel," Assistant Principal Peter Martino said.

To become a police liaison at the school, officers have to fill out an application and then the administration reviews the applicants.

"I always look for officers that want to work in a school setting and understand they can help change a student's life for the better by developing positive relationships among the student population," Martino said. "The interview process allows us to find quality candidates that we are proud to welcome as Wildcats."

As for officers Mike Levato and Joe Gatzambide, they will be returning to patrol as West Chicago police officers.

"My favorite thing here has always been talking to classes, [we talk] in contemporary life, driver's education, law classes, special education classes, and transition center classes," Levato said. "I just like hanging out with the kids, it's fun for me to hang out with kids."

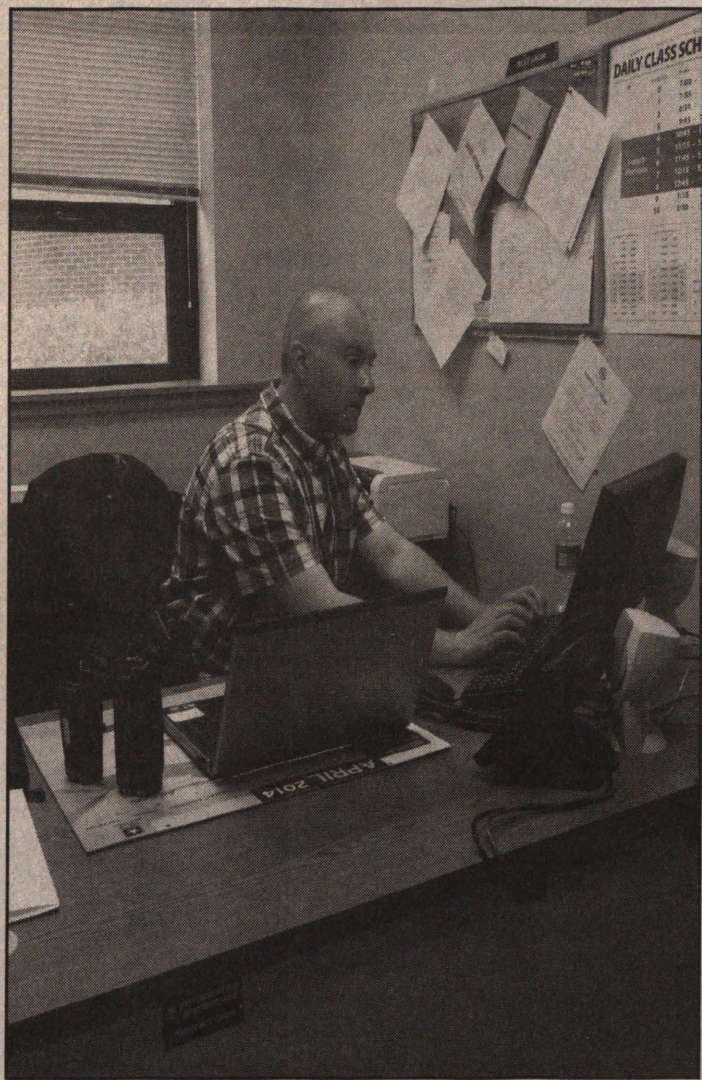


Photo by Katelyn Foehner

Officer Waylon Potts will join the West Chicago staff along with officer Megan Perry as new liaison officers.

French students enjoy spending time learning new culture in Grenoble

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Twenty French students had the opportunity to travel to France and experience its culture as they saw the sights of Grenoble and Paris from March 27- April 7.

"We had the students experience French culture and meet new people. Also, the students got the chance to

practice their French skills," adviser Lindsey Evans said.

While in France students stayed with a family and got the chance to experience more French culture.

"It varied, some kids stayed with families who came from France and a few who are from Africa," Evans said.

Families the students stayed with were welcoming. "The family I stayed with

made me feel a part of their family," junior Jessie Martinez said.

Students spent their first week in Grenoble where the students took a walking tour in the city, saw caves and archeology and went to school.

"It was a great experience to go to school in France. The schools in France are big but not big in number of students and I liked their classes,"

Martinez said.

The class schedule wasn't the same every day.

"The lunch they had was an hour and the class schedule was not the same every day. The schedule varied day-to-day," junior Ben Skipor said.

The last few days the students went to Paris. Students were able to walk around the city, visit the Eiffel Tower,

Notre Dame and the Louvre, an art museum.

"I enjoyed seeing France through the eyes of the people who haven't been there. There was beautiful weather and the authentic food was amazing," Evans said.

In order to be eligible to go to France the students must be enrolled in French 3 or 4, maintain good grades with good attendance and must have teacher recommendations.

"The students learned the way people live in France and learned that they have enough confidence in their ability to speak French," Evans said.

School construction underway

By Kyle Paup
Editor in Chief

Planning of construction to the school has begun and a dollar amount is set on the cost.

"The total dollar amount was approved. The initial amount for the kitchens and the child care center was \$1.3 million. It came back at \$917,700," Superintendent Doug Domeracki said.

Although no physical work has taken place yet, much planning has gone into the future construction.

"In terms of doing any work such as taking walls down or putting walls up,

none of that has begun yet. But there is what's known as scoping, the planning and drawing that all has been happening, leading up to when that work is going to begin. We're looking at the early part of May (for this)," Domeracki said.

The construction of the new kitchens will be the first physical project.

"In early May, our intention is to begin the construction on the two new kitchens that we're going to be building and what students and staff will see is that there will be a wall erected over by the STARS' room that closes off that hallway to those in-

side of the building. There will be an emergency door there, but that hallway will be closed off, and construction workers will have access to those rooms in that side

of the building from the exterior doors in the building," Domeracki said. "That will be the first work that will be taking place."

Starting construction this

year will be an advantage to the overall project.

Other school projects, such as the addition of courtyard, will possibly start over this summer.



Photo by Kyle Paup

The addition of a courtyard will be one of many school projects that will be taking place over the summer to be available for students next year.

Perspectives

Our View

Criminal records prior to an adolescent's coming of age affects them later in life

Due to Illinois' juvenile justice system, records of minors committing crimes can possibly follow them into their later years even though this is a bad idea.

Even though criminal records can follow them later on in life, there is nothing necessarily guaranteeing this.

According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority website, "Theoretically, juvenile criminal records are not available to the public, so your records should not affect you unless you are seeking employment in certain government agencies or are seeking employment in certain regulated fields, such as law enforcement or nursing."

Despite this, there are still chances that the record will affect them later on.

"Juvenile records can be mistakenly shared with private employers and the general public. The only way to ensure there is no access to your juvenile criminal records is by expunging them," according to www.icjia.state.il.us.

Clearly, even though nothing officially guarantees that a juvenile record will follow into adult years, there is still a chance for complications in the future.

This record is made of mistakes made by a person young person, while they are still adolescent, growing, learning, and confused.

Even though they have committed crimes, should minors really be judged for the rest of their lives due to a mistake they made as a child when they may not even be aware of what it is that they are doing?

No, they should not.

But at the same time, some sort of principle has to be set to keep balance.

Despite the fact that it should not possibly rule over their lives in their later years, if this idea were to disappear, what would stop minors from committing crimes as much as they want? Nothing would.

Minors would grow up without fear of the rules and would most likely disobey the rules in their

later years as well.

That is why instead of a record following them, the idea of minors committing crimes should just be taken more seriously at the time that they were committed.

Minors should be treated as any other when facing the law, and instead of being put in jail, they should be put in a juvenile detention center as it already is, but instead, should also be given a chance to undo their wrongs to permanently erase that record.

In return for their crimes, minors should be given an option to donate their time to helping the community like some adults are forced to do. But in return for their time, if they are truly committed to correcting their wrongs, their criminal record would be erased completely.

There are exceptions for this of course.

For example, crimes like murder or sexual assault should never be accepted.

But, other lighter crimes should not be hanging around minors heads for the rest of their lives because of a mistake that they made when they were young and clueless.

Not only would this punish them and still give them an example of right and wrong, but it would teach them lessons as to what they did, see how it affected others and then correct it.

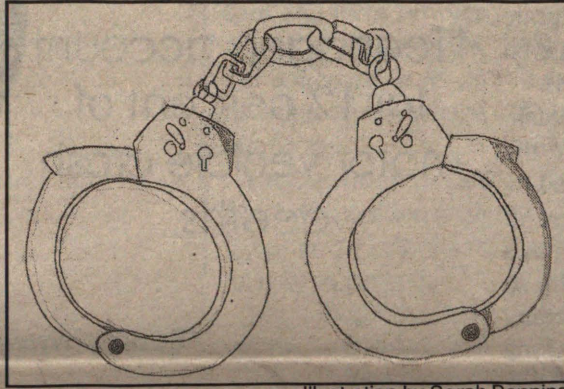


Illustration by Sarah Denning

Celebrities being judged in a negative way

"A famous or well-known person," is the definition of a celebrity according to www.dictionary.com.

Celebrities, popstars, there might be different names but we all know who we are talking about.

We hear about celebrities on a regular basis, whether we want to or not.

Whether it comes up in a regular conversation, social media, or on a magazine newsstand in a store. Gossips and rumors are constantly being spread about celebrities.

Most of the tabloids people read about them are usually fake stories the magazine made up themselves or rumors.

No one knows the real story of a celebrity's breakup or the drama they might be having in their lives unless someone knows them personally.

Yet, magazines and social media magnify the negative aspects of their lives, as opposed to look-

ing at the positives like if they are involved with a charity or have a new album coming out.

So why do magazines focus on only publishing a celebrity's hardship?

Because that's what convinces customers to pick up their magazine and learn more about their favorite star going through trouble.

Social media also does this by running a story about a celebrity going to jail.

This will make consumers click on the link to their website where they will find similar stories.

A documentary called "Sellebrity" shows how magazines use photos of celebrities taken from paparazzi and use them with a made-up story to show their pain of going through a tough time.

This is not right.

Instead of making up stories about celebrities, media should shine on the good they have done and give them recognition for that.

Actress Angelina Jolie has been in countless covers of magazines talking about her family's supposed troubles and relationship with Brad Pitt.

Instead of making up stories about her, social media should emphasize how Jolie is a UN Refugee Agency Goodwill Ambassador and has dedicated years of service to UNHCR and the cause of refugees, according to www.unhcr.org.

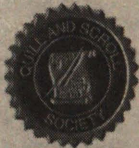
Kandrick Lamir raised thousands of dollars in 2013 for the American Red Cross to aid in Superstorm Sandy relief through his fans.

George Clooney found the Not On Our Watch organization to stop the spread of genocide in Sudan.

Alicia Keyes gave aid to the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan.

With media advertising the negative aspects of celebrities, we should be paying attention to the good acts that celebrities do.

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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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Daughter's death causes alliance

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

Being distracted while driving not only can cost your own life but the life of others.

Cady Anne Reynolds died May 31, 2007 in her hometown Omaha, Neb. when a distracted 16-year old driver collided with Reynold's door causing massive brain trauma to her.

Reynolds was in a coma almost immediately and died six hours later with her parents by her side.

Grieving from their daughter's tragic death parents Rob and Shari Reynolds vowed that somehow they would save at least one other person from the same senseless fate.

Through an email interview Rob Reynolds discussed his daughter's death.

"As we drove away from the hospital that morning, with unbearable grief in our hearts, knowing that we had to tell our four other daughters, grandparents, cousins and friends about her death, we both began talking about how ridiculously senseless it was that she was dead," Rob said. "Not because the other driver was drunk or because of snow or ice but because they were too distracted to notice a red light."

It was too much to bear at the time and it still is.

"We also vowed that we would keep talking until somebody listened and make them listen to how horrifying it is to lose so greatly by something that is so easily avoided if you just drive," Reynolds said.

One of their goals is to bring a message to as many teens and adults, law makers and decision makers as they can in hope that they save at least one other life from the same fate.

To bring this message to people the Reynolds started the C.A.R. Alliance, named after their daughter.

They also go to high schools and talk to students about distracted driving.

C.A.R. Alliance is a group of concerned teens and adults who wish to see an end to the highly preventable incidence of distracted driving crashes.

The alliance educates and works with other safety law enforcement agencies and legislative entities in order to work towards the end of dis-

tracting driving.

"We are trying to inspire change. Over 27,000 people have heard our message since we first started and we are still going," Rob said.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for United States teens, according to www.cdc.gov.

"If crashes were a disease, it would be an epidemic, and how do you fight an epidemic?" Rob said. "Educate and warn your audience, inoculate them the best way you can and model the behaviors of avoidance."

Rob believes that parents should continue to educate their teens about driving even after they get their license.

"Many parents stop teaching driving skills after the teen obtains a license and by statistics teen drivers are at the highest risk of dying in a crash between 14 and 20, so that teaching and rule setting needs to continue for as long as the teen is living in the home," Rob said.

Rob encourages parents to set strong rules and enforce them for car use.

"By setting rules such as curfews, how many passengers are allowed in the car, rules about poor driving behavior and consequences is the best way to inoculate teens against the myriad of bad choices they are presented with as soon as they get their license," Rob said. "Everything from drinking, speeding, reckless behavior, talking about these things often and enforcing the rules and consequences are the best things parents can do for their young drivers."

When presenting at high schools, Rob asks the students if they have ever seen their parents using their cell phone while driving and every hand goes up.

"Teenagers that have started to drive have never known a world without cell phones, tablets, MP3 players, GPS systems and a host of other distractions on the road," Rob said.

Reynolds also believes parents should set better examples of using electronic devices on the road.

"If parents are not willing to drive without distractions in front of their kids, then how can they possibly hope that their teenagers won't?" Rob asked.

Teen Driving Facts

*In a year 4,767 teens ages 16 to 19 died of injuries caused by motor vehicles crashes.

*Motor vehicle crashes are higher among 16 to 19 year olds than older drivers.

*Teenagers account for 12 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths.

*Source: www.saferteendriving.org

Distracted Driving: C

Although the state already has a prohibiting, House Bill 1247 means Illinois residents talk on cell phones when driving, unless

Violators of the law will be fined \$75 for as \$150 could be issued for repeat offenses on their driving record. Drivers are emergency.

Driving laws to pro

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

Many laws of the road affect teens who must abide by these laws as they start going behind the wheel.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is a common cause of serious crashes,

some even fatal, especially for teens. In fact, 10,322 teens died of drunk driving crashes in 2012, according to www.madd.com.

That means every 50 minutes a crash occurs because of drunk driving.

Teens need to be aware of the many dis-

tractions on the according to We cago police office lon Potts.

"A lot can go on you have to control vehicle and an can be considered gerous, like a tree fell on the road," said.

Using an elec

Teen Driving

Cell Phone Ban

Inhibition in place for texting and driv-idents will no longer be allowed to ss using hands-free technology. for a first offense. Fines of as much nses as well as facing a moving vio-are still allowed to make calls in an

*Source: www.illinois.gov



By Megan Provenzale Reporter

Father injured due to texting driver

My family is living proof of this. My dad was sitting in his car at a red light, when a car rear-ended him going 40 mph.

It's not uncommon to be stuck behind an incredibly slow driver who thinks that his weaving movements, back and forth between the solid yellow lines, are unnoticeable to all the other drivers around him or her.

Passing them reveals that their attention is directed at the cell phone that sits in their lap.

It's concerning how normal situations like these are becoming.

Roads are becoming more and more dangerous as drivers become more preoccupied with their cell phones.

The man behind the wheel was texting and driving and didn't realize there was a stopped car, or even a red light.

To this day my dad still has back pain and finds it hard to do the things he once was able to do.

He has to attend physical therapy every week to get his back to function like it did before.

It makes me angry that something as insignificant as a text had the power to alter my dad's health in an instant.

Although it is hard for my dad, he is thank-

ful that nothing worse happened; and so is my family and I.

Whenever I see someone texting and driving it makes me upset because of all the stories and experiences I've heard and witnessed.

Texting while driving kills 11 teens each day according to www.instituteforhighwaysafety.com. That is 3,960 high schoolers a year.

By using Siri, or a Bluetooth system you can make the road a much safer environment for yourself and other drivers.

Drivers need to realize that it can wait because, putting other drivers at risk is noy worth a text message.



Protect new drivers on the road

the roads, West Chi-ficer Way-

o on when nrol your anything ered dan-ree that ad," Potts

electronic

device while operating a vehicle is a dangerous distraction.

Illinois' anti-texting law states that, "A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send or read an electronic message."

Texting in a vehicle causes over 3,000 deaths in teens and injures 300,000 teens a year, according to www.newsday.com.

It is hard for teens to put down the phone when they see older people texting and talking on a cell phone.

According to www.

textinganddriving-safely.com, 48 percent of young drivers have seen their parents drive while talking on a phone.

"It's what (police-men) call distracted driving and when you're texting you are not focused on what's on the road,"

Potts said.

The number of drunk driving, and texting while driving reports can easily decrease.

"These are all fix-able issues and they can all be fixed by the education of our school and the enforcement," Potts said.

Tweeting and posting helps school be known

FaceBook

Like

Twitter

Hashtag

Illustration by Sarah Denning

By Sarah Denning
Lifestyles Editor

Whether it's a tweet or a little clip, it's no surprise that teens use social media more than any other age group.

Two of the biggest social media sites include Facebook and Twitter, and schools are getting involved now too.

What started off as just a way to connect with kids on campus in 2004 has turned into the biggest social media website that everyone seemed to want to get their hands on. Facebook celebrated its 10th birthday in February and celebrated with over one billion members.

According to Pew Research, 82 percent of teens 14-17 use a

social media site.

Students and faculty members have set up pages on Facebook for more publicity and ways to keep students more active in clubs and sports.

Many students promote when a play is going to be performed and games for sports.

Members of West Chicago have Facebook pages for various sports and clubs to get in touch easily with one another and to inform club members or sports members what they should expect at a meeting or sport.

School members not only post about clubs and events for students but also tweet about them.

Twitter's company page reports they have 200 million

active users on Twitter and school related organizations just seem to be some of them.

Marc Wolfe, division head of information and technology, personally handles a Twitter account, @wegoactivities, where he updates school activities and club meetings.

"It's a great way to communicate and promote," Wolfe said.

Wolfe's tweets consist of anywhere between pictures of sporting events to promotions for a play and numerous fundraisers.

What Wolfe started in the beginning of the year has turned into something that students, teachers and parents can follow for updates on high school events.

New movie leaves viewers awestruck

Movie "Divergent" leaves critic attentive and with an unnoticed full cherry-red icee in the trash

By Megan Provenzale
Reporter

Besides sitting back and relaxing, my second favorite tradition about going to the movies is the overpriced but, deliciously classic, cherry-red icee.

After handing over my \$4 on a recent visit to the movie theater, without hesitation, I headed to my designated theater happily with the blue and yellow cup gripped tightly between my already numbed hand.

Now you're probably wondering: How does an icee correlate to the movie "Divergent"?

Well, let me tell you. Between the inspirational scenes of Tris Prior (Shailene Woodley) abandoning her roots to find herself, and Four (Theo James) facing his worst fears; my icee sat untouched.

The one sugary treat that glorified my movie experience for many years didn't have the slightest ounce of my attention.

"Divergent" is a compelling film based off of a series of novels by Veronica Roth.

Tris lives in a world where

one's future is dependent upon which faction he or she is assigned to.

When Tris' faction placement test results come out as divergent, she feels conflicted and scared.

The test that was supposed to lead her in one direction sent her mind spinning in a thousand.

It's not until power-hungry Jeanie Matthews (Kate Winslet) begins the hunt for divergent thinkers that Tris realizes she can no longer hide from who she really is.

With the help of Four, mysterious and closed, Tris begins the battle to stop the genocide of her kind.

Viewers' emotions are spun on the carousel of strongly balanced conflicts and themes making "Divergent" a movie for everyone.

Romance, action and tragedy blend to create the most intriguing visual trio.

As I walked out of the theatre, a slosh of a liquid echoed in the garbage can next to me. The syrupy soup of my icee said it all: "Divergent" demands viewers' attention.

And by the look of my icee, it had succeeded.

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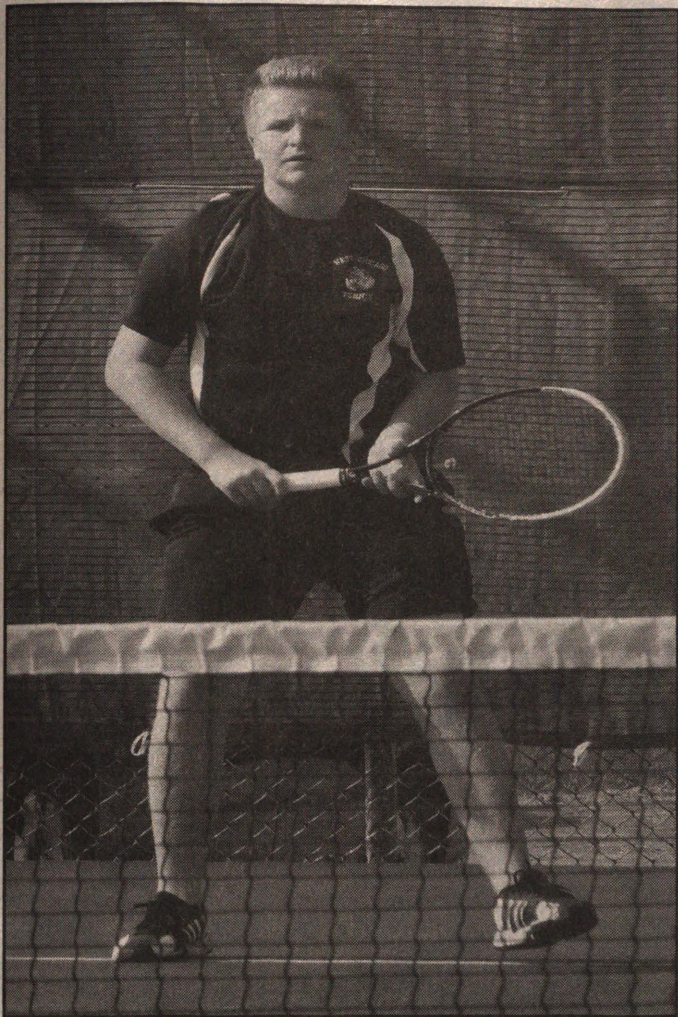


Photo by Katelyn Foehner

Focus and determination help captain Scott Wiest to concentrate against Oswego High School.

New coach comes with positive attitude

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

Winning as many matches as possible and having players get seated in conferences are a few of the goals for boys tennis, according to coach Casey Christensen.

With a new coach the team started off their season on March 20 tying 3-3 with Larkin High School.

After that the team won 3-2 against Elgin High School.

They lost by one point against Oswego on April 23.

Having a new coach has brought a positive impact on the team.

"With our new coach this year the team has been working hard and attending each practice possible," senior Eric Gonzalez said.

Christensen used to coach at Saint Patrick High School in Chicago. Not only will he be a coach here he will also be a substitute.

"(Coming to West Chicago) has been great, it's been a smooth transition, and the administration is great, they run a really good program here," Christensen said.

Coach Fred Toms also helps the team.

"I coach with Toms and he's the greatest guy, he is really helpful," Christensen said.

Getting more players to join the team is another one of the coach's priorities.

Currently the team has nine players.

"Since this is my first year with the team I am trying to grow the team in terms of

numbers," Christensen said. "Participation is my number one thing."

An increase in the number of participants has also been noted by the players themselves.

"I'm really glad to be a part of the tennis team this year with our new players on the JV team," Gonzalez said.

Although the team struggled last year, the players hope to overcome challenges this time around.

"It seems that as a team we are going to go through our ups and downs but definitely better than last year," Gonzalez said.

Team's current record is 1-5-1.

The next match for the team is Wednesday at Glenbard East at 4:30 p.m.

Strong spirit keeps players' faith alive

By Sarah Szremski
Reporter

With a current record of 9-9, the baseball team is working hard to add more wins.

"Our strengths are pretty much all around. I can't really think of any faults that we really have other than sometimes getting down in the games, but other than that everything is pretty good," junior Jared Smothers said.

Coach Dan McCarthy believes that the boys are doing well and are showing that the work they put in last year is paying off.

"A lot of these kids were starters for me last year and we did have a lot of success. They're very comfortable with it. I've got some kids that work exceptionally hard. Kids are putting in the time in off-season to become better players," McCarthy said.

The spirit of the team is strong as well.

"(I like) how we never seem to give up regardless of

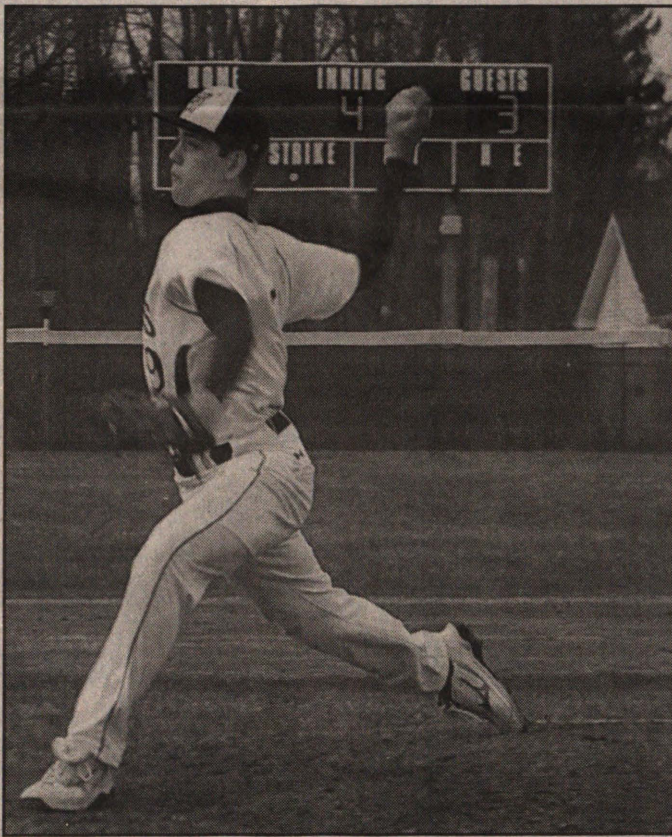


Photo by Sarah Denning

With a record at exactly .500 and 12 games left in the season, pitcher Fred Gosbeth attempts to strike out players from Batavia High School to get another win in the books and help keep the team's chances for the playoffs alive.

the situation," Smothers said.

When it comes to what the team can work on, McCarthy had a few ideas.

"I would like us to cut down our strike-outs, hit the ball with more power than we have in the past. We have a lot more bases than we did last year. But I still think that we're striking out too much," McCarthy said.

It's still too early in the season to categorize all of the team's strengths and weaknesses.

"It's still early based on the fact that we played these

schools over the summer. It's going to boil down to the fact of who does the best they can. These kids have put in the time and work, and now they're proving they have what it takes, McCarthy said.

All of the players on the team work together and get along well.

"As a team everyone seems to get along really well. There are 19 guys on the team and we all enjoy being with each other," Smothers said. "It's just a great team attitude.

The team plays Thursday."

Winning record drives success

By Megan Provenzale
Reporter

With a 9-3 record, the girls badminton team is proving to be a strong opponent.

The girls are dedicated to becoming better players by having more confident attitudes.

"I'm really happy to see that now that we are getting more wins than we have in previous years, the energy in the gym is totally different. They're proud of themselves and I think now that they've tasted more success they're really working hard to see it continue," coach Katie Wood said.

Badminton isn't all about attitude; techniques play a huge role in how the team performs.

Varsity, JV and JV2 have players who have their smash mastered. The stroke takes concentration and power.

"We've got girls who are able to execute pretty strong smashes at all levels is pretty rare. I think the competitive spirit is just there more than it was. So when they go into the



Photo by Kyle Paup

Sophomore Amy Dinh helps keep the spirit alive for the badminton team as she scores a point.

game this year their mindset really is win and to be aggressive," Wood said.

With the attitude and skills the girls have, Wood is confident that someone will make it to state.

Captain senior Karla Soto has also noticed her team members striving for success.

"I am very proud of our team this year. There is a lot of improvement in every girl in their singles and doubles games," Soto said.

Their final game is against Larkin High School Wednesday at 4:30 in the Bishop gym.

Lack of athletes has not affected the outcome of season up to this point

By Alexandra Garibay
Center Spread Editor

Being more competitive during meets has helped the girls track team be more successful.

"We're becoming more competitive in the meets, more consistently than we have in the past," coach Matt Nelson said.

The team has been struggling with the number of girls on the team.

"We have been struggling due to injuries and because our team is very small," sophomore Cindy Mendez said.

Although the team doesn't have a lot of girls on the team they are still improving.

"Since we don't have a lot of kids we are still moving in the right direction," coach Dave Sayner said.

Although the team is smaller this year, there are many underclassmen who

can bring the team up for next year.

"We lost a lot of seniors last year but we have many talented runners on the team this year," Mendez said.

Even the coaches agree on

the talent the team offers.

"We have a lot of young talent," Nelson said. "It's mostly sophomores and juniors that really push our team."

Not much has changed for the team since switching to a different conference.

"I would say it's pretty similar once we get to the same big meets. At the con-

ference meet there's 14 teams and they have just as many athletes as DVC did," Sayner said.

Competitive schools still exist in the Upstate Eight Conference.

"It's still really competitive, a couple weeks ago they were two out of six all Upstate Eight schools, which would never happen if we faced Naperville Central or Wheaton Warrenville South," Nelson said.

Players have also noticed the improvement this year.

"As a team we have had better places than last year in almost every meet," Mendez said. "We are definitely improving."

The team continues to keep an eye on state.

"For this season we want to keep improving and qualifying for state would be hard, but with hard work anything is possible," Mendez said.



Photo by Katelyn Foechner

On a sunny, spring day members of the girls track team practice their jumping techniques.

Loss brings new opportunity for future plans

By Katelyn Foechner
Sports Editor

Although he had the experience of a lifetime, ESL teacher Mark Poulterer was not chosen as the Teacher on the Trail 2015.

"I found out about five minutes before I left for spring break, I received an email," Poulterer said.

Erin Montgomery was chosen to be the teacher who participates next year.

The committee who selects the winner was on the phone for about two hours debating who would be chosen.

"I was disappointed," Poulterer said.

He spoke with Andrea Aufder-Heyde, the women who began the program and she was very encouraging.

"[She told me] the only thing they said about me was I had less experience," Poulterer said. "I'm the new guy."

Poulterer has only taught the Iditarod in his classroom for the past few years, whereas the other competitors have taught it for many years.

"Finney (Andrea) was really pulling for me, she said 'if you give him the opportunity he will pour his whole heart and soul into it,'" Poulterer said.

Two out of the five members were rooting for Poulterer, but the other three would not budge.

Poulterer said that reapplying is not out of the picture.

"I am looking at other opportunities," Poulterer said.

One of those opportunities is a program called Teacher Ranger Teacher.

"Teachers spend a summer in national parks, work as a ranger, and bring back what [you] learned to the classroom," Poulterer said.

Poulterer likes the Teacher Ranger Teacher program, but he's not sure if the format would work with him.

"I would like to try and create something that's a little bit different, that's a huge undertaking, and I'm not sure if I'll be able to pull it off," Poulterer said. "[I'd like to] get in under the umbrella of the program and see if they would go with something a little different."

He is open to the idea of doing the Teacher Ranger Teacher program for a summer.

"I might go back to the Iditarod, definitely not next year," Poulterer said. "If they're saying I need more experience, than I need more experience."



Photo Courtesy of Char Theiner

Members of the varsity boys lacrosse team celebrate their victory as they win the Sticks and Stones Tournament, bringing a trophy home for the first time in 10 years.

Decade wait is worth it

By Katelyn Foechner
Sports Editor

For the first time in 10 years, the boys lacrosse team won the Sticks and Stones Tournament.

"When the time ran out in the championship game the kids were ecstatic and were jumping around in celebration," head coach Brandon Kutilek said.

The tournament was held at Cornerstone Lakes with the cooperation of the West Chicago Park District. Senior Nick Wilson was named Most Valuable Player.

"It was one of the most memorable times that I had

coaching and it will continue to be one of the greatest memories that I will have," Kutilek said.

The rotation of different players throughout the four games also helped the team win.

Fourteen other schools competed in the tournament, many of which are not in the Upstate Eight conference. The Upstate Eight only has eight schools that have lacrosse teams.

"The problem in playing in the Upstate Eight Conference is the same as the DVC, not all the schools in the conference participate in lacrosse," club president Scott Lelito

said.

This season the seniors have stepped up and helped contribute to the team's winning record.

"We have a lot of senior leadership on the team this year and they have been doing a great job motivating the other kids to work as hard as they do," Kutilek said. "We don't necessarily have specific captains this year and that is for a reason. I feel each of the seniors is a captain and it is well deserved."

The team has an overall record of 11-1-2 with a regular season record of 8-2. They play Wednesday at Prairie Ridge High School.

Injury plagued season hurts team

By Hector Cervantes
Perspectives Editor

An injury, no returning seniors and switching conferences has not stopped boys

volleyball from improving their season.

"We have different competition and we are looking forward to going to different gymnasiums while meeting

the new coaches," varsity coach Kristy Hasty said.

The team has to get used to the Upstate Eight.

"I miss the DVC because it was so organized and I

don't see that in the Upstate Eight," Hasty said.

Also, the early start time for games is a hassle.

"The early start time at 4:30 has been difficult for students to compete that early and parents rushing from work to see the game," Hasty said.

Multiple members have been out for injuries.

Senior varsity captain Brian Benes suffered a non sports related concussion which made him absent for a few games.

"It's sad and hurts the team but we have got to make the best of it," senior varsity captain Logan Bruce said.

Due to multiple injuries the team hasn't been able to put up a full roster for a game, and they're looking to improve.

"Our team needs to be a better passing team and we want to come together as a team and show how compet-

itive we are in every match," Hasty said.

Team members see room for improvement as well.

"I want to improve on my hitting and communicating with my team," freshman David Barajas said.

In order to improve, each individual has to contribute their part.

"Each individual has to have a mindset from his mistakes to learn (from his) mistakes and not make the same mistake in practice and (he) needs to be focused on how (he) can contribute," Hasty said.

The team as a whole is more important in volleyball than an individual person.

"I want the team to learn that it is more important than an individual and I want them to have trust in their teammates," Hasty said.

Varsity plays at home on Thursday against Auburn High School.

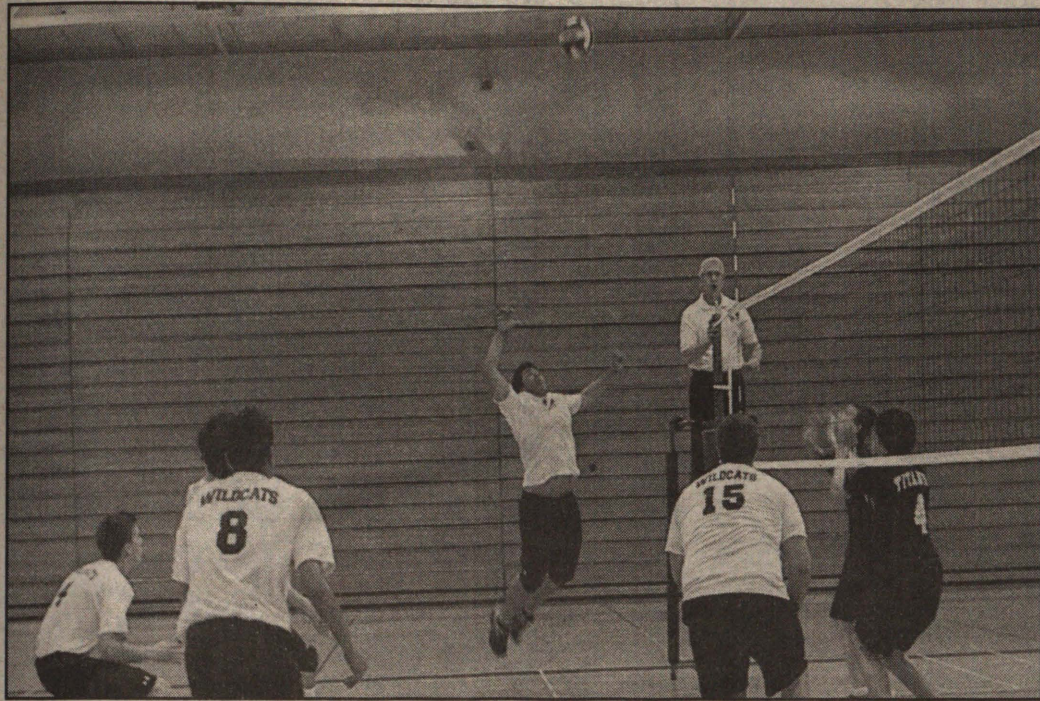


Photo by Katelyn Foehner

Fernando Rodriguez spikes the ball attempting to score a point against two guards from the Illinois Math and Science Academy.

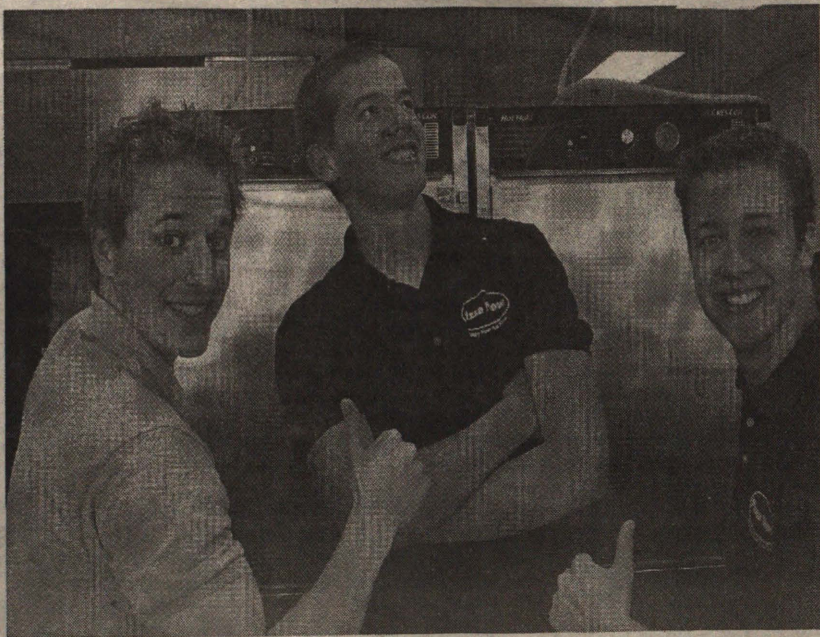
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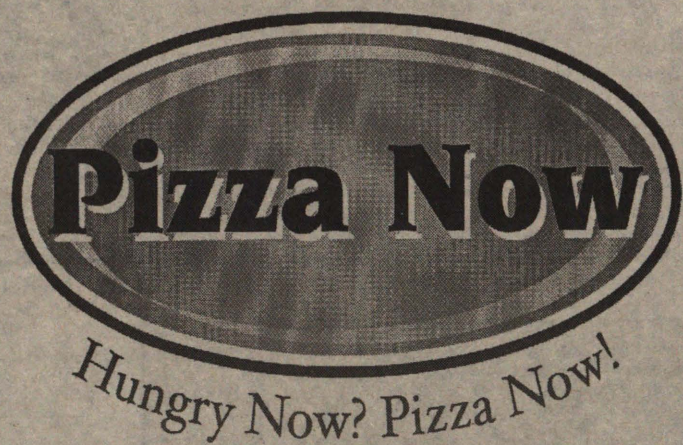
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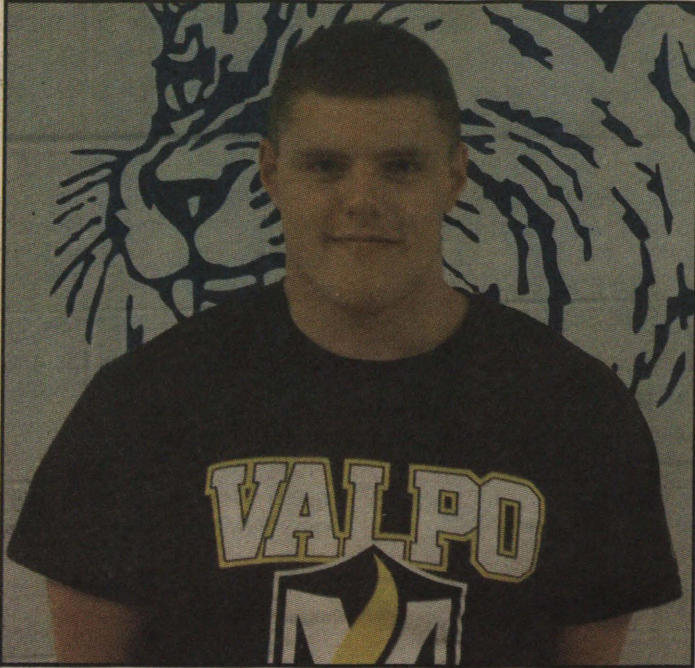
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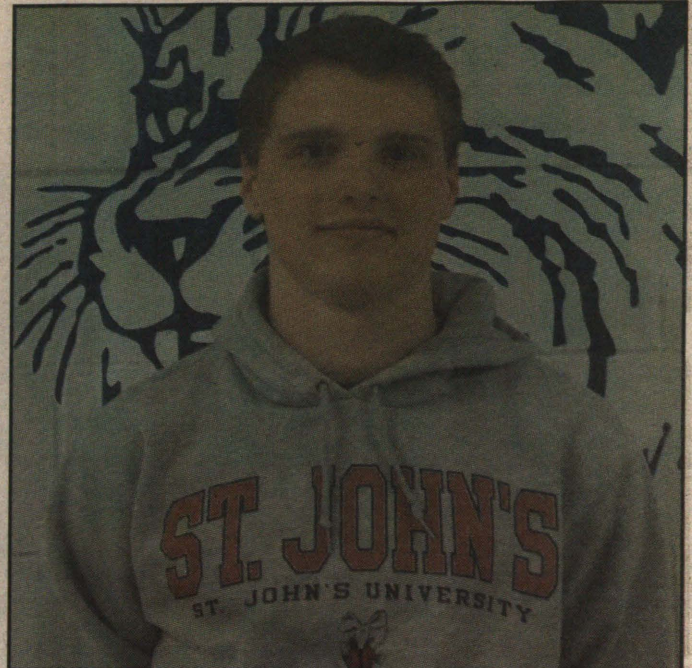


Signing away the next four years of their lives benefits student athletes



Karsten Cook- Batavia High School
School: Valparaiso University
Sport: Swimming
Major: Mechanical Engineering

'I chose this school because it has a good swimming program and the people are nice,' -- Aiden Culloton



Aiden Culloton
School: St. John's University
Sport: Swimming
Major: Undecided

'I chose this school because it is a good fit for me and it has a great engineering program,' -- Karsten Cook

'I chose this school because the campus was beautiful, coaches were awesome, I just felt like it was a good fit for me,' -- Devan Orr

Devan Orr
University of Pittsburg at Johnston
Sport: Volleyball
Major: Education



Seniors Devan Orr, left, and Hanna Netisingha commit to continue on in sports in college.

'I chose this school because it's a big research school, and I fit with the team well,' -- Hanna Netisingha

Hanna Netisingha
School: Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Sport: Golf
Majoring: Zoology



Gena Rodriguez
School: Augustana or St. Francis
Sport: Track
Major: Accounting



Lindsey Sayner
School: University of St. Francis
Sport: Cross Country
Major: Biology