

# *The Messenger*

New Richmond High School, 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road, New Richmond, Ohio 45157  
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*Spirit Week 2012:  
NR shows Lion pride*

# New principal focuses on enforcement

## Tardiness, absence strictly monitored

By Josie Buckingham and Christin Gray

With the new school year brings a new principal and assistant to the principal to take over with high expectations and high hopes for the future. Principal Mark Bailey is a graduate of New Richmond High School, and later was the band director here for 12 years. After that, he was the principal at Monroe Elementary for 12 years. "I love my experiences here at NRHS and that is why I wanted to come back," he said..

A very close eye is being kept on the students this year. It is important to Bailey that everyone is present every day. "I have high expectations for the students and staff. I want students while they are here to learn bell-to-bell. I want the teachers to continue to teach, the students to continue to learn, and for the sports teams to keep winning," said Bailey.

Senior Ashleigh Beard said she wants the year to go

smoothly. "I am ready for this year to be over with, I want it to go by rather fast and still have a lot of fun."

Attendance stated in the school handbook is also very important. According to the handbook, "The administration and faculty of New Richmond High School strongly emphasize consistent and punctual student attendance at school. Regular attendance assures the student the opportunity of receiving a full education and also helps establish a strong sense of responsibility. Additionally, a good school attendance record provides an excellent reference for future employers."

Bailey said he agrees with that statement and is consistently enforcing the school's tardy policy, which dictates a phone call home for the first tardy, a lunch detention for the second and a day in ISI for the third.

"Punctuality and attendance are life skills and not just for high

school," he said. "We are creating the habit of being early or on time and that habit will allow students to remain gainfully employed

as adults. We are building productive citizens and a productive work force."

Students,

however, have a different opinion about the tardy enforcement.

"I think that the new system is ridiculous, there is no reason af-

ter 3 tardies, people should be getting ISI's. Often times students honestly can't help from being late, and I think that often

many times the hallways are way too crowded. I think teachers should listen to student's reasoning before just writing them up," said senior Rachel Trowbridge.

Senior Rachel Bailey agreed. "People are getting tardies when they are in the doors at 7:40. School is not supposed to

even start until 7:40 and the bell rings at 7:38 usually. With three tardies, I think you should get a phone call. What if you were

"We are creating the habit of being early or on time and that habit will allow students to remain gainfully employed as adults. We are building productive citizens and a productive work force."

--Principal Mark Bailey

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stuck in traffic or something?"

Many students believe that there are unavoidable occurrences that could impact their arrival at school, and that they shouldn't be punished for things they couldn't control.

"I think they need to chill down with the rule," said senior Jay Troy. "Power goes out sometimes and that causes people to oversleep."

"I believe they should be a little more lenient," agreed senior Brittany Riley. "Sometimes people can't help if they are tardy more than once."

"If you have a good enough excuse, your tardy shouldn't count against you," said senior Molly Martin. "I was late last year because my grandma died; this year, I feel like they wouldn't take that as an exception. We should get maybe five tardies, then a punishment."

The tardy policy also affects athletes in that if they are late to school, they are not permitted to practice or play that day.

"It (the new rule) will definitely at least get students to care and try to get to class; it will get most people to be on time. The

sports punishment is not fair, though," said senior Bethany Smith. "Take sports out of the consequences. If you already get a DT or ISI, then you don't need sports taken away, too."

Senior Cassidy Martin agreed. "If you are late, you should be able to practice that day. And on game days, you should miss only the first half or quarter."

Senior John Channels, who admitted he has no real complaints, said, "It doesn't seem fair to have detentions or miss practices or games."

Many of the rules and expectations

from the handbook are being strictly enforced much more this year, and not necessarily changed.

With the hope that the school year will continue to go as well as it has been, Bailey said he would like to have fun, too. "I love having fun. There is also a time to have fun, and a time to be serious. I believe in school spirit. I hope this year we have more pep rallies than the school has ever had," he said.

Senior Austen Craig said he would love to see more school spirit. "I like the idea of more pep rallies. I really want to have a lot during basketball season this year, because we are going to win league."

The Board of Education is trying to help students prepare themselves for what's after high school. It's important to strive to do well and if you don't succeed to try again.

"The high school students should be treated like the young adults they are. We really want to get kids ready for their upcoming future. The twenty-first century is changing fast and we want to prepare them for that," said Bailey.

"I feel like education is becoming increasingly important to secure that students will do well after high school, in the hopes of continuing on and finding a good job. Our world is getting to the point now to where the more education you have the better off you will be," said Beard.

Although there are small changes to the high school administration, things are settling in very well. "I hope that everyone is getting the feel for Mr. Heflin and I. We like to joke around and have fun, we mean what we say, and we walk our talk. I have a lot of pride in the New Richmond schools and community, and I think that this is a tremendous school district," said Bailey.

Many issues are board policy and my job is to enforce

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# Surviving the college application process no easy task

## Planned approach decreases stress level

By Luke Gilday

For many students at New Richmond, it's their last year in high school. The next step for many of these students is the college application process, and as many students are finding out, applying isn't as easy as they may have thought. However, they have a very useful resource here at the school to help them out, the guidance counselors.

"There are many things students have to consider when looking at colleges. They first have to see if the college has their major, do they want it to be in state or out of state, private or public, what do they want financially, what is the site like? After students have this list compiled, they need to visit the school. They need to take their little feet out of New Richmond and see what the school is really like. Ask questions like 'can you see yourself living here for four years?' 'Do you want to live in this kind of environment?' 'What is the overall feel of the school?' Before you should apply anywhere, visit, visit, visit!" said counselor Carol Ann Coulter.

Another important question in the application process is how many schools students are looking to apply to.

"Apply to between three and five. Apply to one or two reach

schools, ones you may not be able to get into, whether it be because of the cost, your GPA, or your ACT score. Then apply to one to two average schools, schools you're pretty sure you would get in to and you really like. Last, apply to one or two backup schools that you know you would get into," replied Coulter.

Another issue seniors have is knowing when to apply to schools.

"Seniors should apply now! Make sure your applications are in before Thanksgiving, before your exams. When applying to schools, and scholarships, and dealing with all your school work, it can all pile up fast. Get the applications out of the way during the beginning of school before things get really busy. Another reason to apply now is because many students lose track of the deadlines for applications. They have to keep in mind that applications to things like honors programs and early decision are due at different times," said Coulter.

When applying, many students aren't quite sure what colleges are looking for or how to make sure they are writing what the school wants to hear.

"Colleges are looking for

### What do the experts say?

The best overall advice I can offer for your college application is to imagine that you are an admissions officer reading your own application. What you want is a clear, concise, and straightforward voice that leaps off the page, giving you an honest and immediate sense of who the applicant is. Dr. Katherine Cohen

You are going to college for an education. It is not about the swimming pool, the dorms, the food court, and the lawns. It is about your mind and what will happen to it as you learn and grow. Keep that in mind; everything else is secondary. Jon Reider, Director of College Counseling at San Francisco University High School; former Senior Admissions Officer at Stanford University

Resist brands and "names." Ask yourself: "I know this is supposed to be a 'good, even great' college. But what do I really know about it? Can I name even one professor there? What is its philosophy?" Jon Reider, Director of College Counseling at San Francisco University High School; former Senior Admissions Officer at Stanford University

The idea of "fit" is often taken as a synonym for an objective relationship between you and a college, like a glass slipper that can "fit" Cinderella's foot. But, in fact, colleges are much more like socks than slippers (or shoes.) You would do well, even thrive, at most schools. Be careful about dismissing colleges that you just didn't like something about. How much did you really see? What can you really know? Look at it as a sock where you can adapt yourself. Jon Reider, Director of College Counseling at San Francisco University High School; former Senior Admissions Officer at Stanford University

Students often underplay their own accomplishments. Don't underestimate or discount the wonderful things you've accomplished. Meg, former Associate Dean of Admission at Princeton University and Amherst College

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standout students, usually someone who is an all-around kind of person. Someone with a fairly good GPA, good ACT scores, and a leader. They also look at things outside of school like if you are able to handle a full time job, or if you have a lot of community service hours or something that is unusual about you," responded Coulter.

And college admissions expert Josh Bottomly, associate director of college counseling at Oklahoma's Casady School, has some helpful advice: "I always tell my students," he says, "you get to choose where you apply, not where you get accepted. The goal then is to craft a college list that reflects the college reality. Think of a gigantic pyramid. That's the college admissions reality. The pyramid represents the range of college selectivity." (<http://youngadults.about.com/od/collegeprep/a/Admissionadvice.htm>)

Something students should also have in mind when applying is how to fill out a common application.

"The basics of the regular essay include your GPA, ACT score, community service, things like that. The big part of applications, however, is the essay," stated Coulter. "You are usually given essay topics that you must choose from. My advice for this would be to write about something you're passionate about. Many schools think a good indicator of who will be a good student is how well they can write and their GPA."

"My final advice for seniors looking to apply would be to not rule out any school that you haven't visited, especially if it's a free application. Always visit before you decide. and of course, visit, visit, visit!

However, some seniors have started applying already, and have experienced first hand what the application process, starting

with deciding on a college, is like.

"I have applied to UC and I'm working on applying to Dayton, Purdue, and Rutgers," said senior Nathan Dixon. "It's annoying, filling out the same application over and over again."

"So far, I've applied to UC main and I'm in the process of applying to Miami University. What I find most difficult about applying is making myself sound fantastic through an overrated 250 word essay. However, I did find it interesting that many schools ask the same questions for your college essay," responded senior Katie Gelter.

"I'm planning to apply to Kent State and UC. I'm most nervous about writing my application essay because it might be difficult to perfect it. I'm also nervous about the number of scholarships I'll receive," answered senior Alex White.


But before the application process even begins, students must

figure out where they want to go, which for many proves to be a task in itself.

"I'm going to apply to UC, Ohio Northern University, and Lipscomb. To figure out where to apply, I looked at schools based on my major, how expensive they are, and if I think I would enjoy the environment. None of the ones I'm looking at are necessarily my 'dream schools' though," replied senior Ashleigh Beard.


"I'm also looking to apply at Xavier and Ohio State, basically because I don't want to go far away or pay a lot for out of state tuition," added Gelter.

"I'm looking at Miami University, I've visited it and it's beautiful. Plus, a lot of my friends go/are going there. I'm also looking at Marietta and Urbana because they have shown interest in my soccer career," said senior Sarah Glenn.



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# When fashion meets NRHS dress code...

## Strict enforcement has students rethinking attire

Dress code, dress code, dress code, is the main thing that students are talking about this school year. The dress code is being enforced down to the last detail this year. Students are being sent to ISI for skirts and dresses being too short or having holes in their jeans.

Principal Mark Bailey said that the dress code has not changed for this school year. "Dress code is being enforced," he said. "The Board of Education approves the dress code. One of the tasks of my job is to follow the policy."

Dress Code is not unique to NRHS. Most schools across the country have some kind of clothing guidelines. "The common dress code consists of: pants above the waist, long or short-sleeved tops, clean looking clothes, clothing that is free of profanity or inappropriate images," according to ehow.com. ([www.ewh.com/about\\_6162257\\_dress-codes-public-schools.org](http://www.ewh.com/about_6162257_dress-codes-public-schools.org)).

Closer to home, the Felicity Franklin school district dress code is almost exactly the same as ours here at NRHS. Felicity High School principal Bob Walker echoed Bailey when he said the dress code is not up to him to change. "Our code reflects the expectation of our school board and community. Student dress can be a significant detractor from the educational process."

"Students need to understand that we have these rules so it does not take the focus off our learning, which is what we are here to do," agreed Bailey.

At Felicity, Walker said that students out of compliance with the dress code typically get an opportunity to correct the problem. "Chronic offenders receive progressive disciplinary action," he added. "Discipline may include: conference with students/

parents, lunch DT, after school DT, Saturday school or suspension."

The West Clermont Local School District dress code is actually slightly more restrictive in one way than New Richmond's; it prohibits piercings, other than in the ears. Other than that, its dress code mirrors New Richmond's almost exactly, with the same rules about skirt/short length, pants fitting at the waist and appropriate necklines for blouses. Perhaps the biggest difference, though, is that West Clermont's code does not specifically address clothing with holes, frays or tears; it only advises that "slacks, pants, trousers must be properly hemmed or cuffed. ('slicing' or 'ragging' not allowed and should not drag the ground)".

And this prohibition of clothing with holes, frays or tears seems to annoy NRHS students the most.

"Most jeans you buy now have holes already in them," said sophomore Emily Carter.

Agreeing with that statement, sophomore Sierra King said that fashion dictates what clothing students can buy. "It's impossible to find non-distressed pants. It's not a trend I like, but it's all you can buy and it isn't distracting," she said.

"Many kids are getting in trouble for holes in the jeans," said sophomore Kayla Nort. "If they take that rule away, then there won't be as many kids in trouble."

"If the jeans have holes where you can see skin, then they should have to change, but if the hole is stitched or patched, they can have those," said sophomore CJ Grogan.

"Most of the holes in jeans aren't even bad holes," said sophomore Andi Bateman. "They don't hardly make jeans

without holes any more."

Sophomore Ashley Stephens agreed that the holes in jeans rule needs to go. "If the student has the hole covered up, it's OK. Some students can't afford new jeans or they bought the jeans before the rule was so strictly enforced."

Sophomore Halee Curtis had a solution to the holes in jeans issue. "I would allow people to wear tights under holey jeans because there isn't any skin showing. I would also allow holes below the knees because it is showing less skin than shorts," she said.

Sophomore Nick Wuest suggested a purely common-sense approach. "Enforce the rule with some intelligence," he said. "Holes in jeans shouldn't be enforced unless they're dangerously close to exposing certain spots or are truly distracting."

Skirt and/or shorts length also bothers some students, mainly because current fashion makes it hard to find knee-length skirts or shorts anywhere.

"You can't find long skirts anywhere, and if you do, you have to be a certain figure to look good in them. And we can always wear leggings if they are too short," said sophomore Ella Neess.

"It's hard for tall girls to find shorts down to their knees," said sophomore Micha Brumbaugh. "I'm 5'11" and it is unfair that I can't wear shorts because I'm tall but short girls can wear shorts that are mid-thigh."

"I would like to see the length of your bottoms go from your knee to your fingertips. Telling me I can't wear skirts because my legs are too long? That's ridiculous! I hate not being able to express myself," added sophomore Madison Holdsworth.

Bailey said that administration here have been more lenient on

dresses and skirts. "If they are a few inches above the knee, then that is fine," he said. "Students just need to use common sense; this is an opportunity that we are taking to prepare you for the work force."

And what about the dress code at NRHS way back when...say when Bailey himself was a student here?

Bailey remembers, "Sperry topsiders. Everyone thinks they're new to fashion but they were in when I was in school. We had to wear socks with them, but we would try to go the day without wearing socks; we wouldn't get away with it because the principal would always be looking at our feet."

And even though many students took issue with some of the dress code enforcement, several admitted that some aspects of the code are a good idea.

"Not allowing low-cut shirts is a good idea because no one wants to see girls' chests and it's just inappropriate," said Nort.

"I think the no short-shorts rule is a good idea because they are expose too much and not everyone wants to see them," added Curtis.

"The shorts and skirt length regulation is OK, but it's still a trend for them to be short. Kids wear short clothes because it's what the stores sell," said King.

Bailey added that dress code enforcement is merely part of creating a good educational environment. "I just want the students to understand the real reason we are here and it's to learn. We try to keep up with fashion, but do you think that when you get a job that you're going to be able to wear jeans with holes in them? Most companies even have some kind of uniform or dress code so you wouldn't be able to do that anyway."



# Ya know what? Phil Heflin joins administrative team

## Familiar face now assistant to principal

By Rachel Curless

This school year New Richmond High School welcomed a new vice principal, Phil Heflin. Heflin graduated from the University of Akron in 1986 and he got his masters from Xavier University in 2000. "This is my 26th year of being in education and my 24th year being in New Richmond" he said. After 26 years Heflin has encountered many wonderful memories, "I have enjoyed being able to see many students I have taught throughout the years grow and to become successful and productive adults."

Heflin said that he did not come looking for the job as the vice principal; Mr. Bird came to him. "After much thought, I decided to take the job," stated Heflin. So far this year has been busier than he thought.

Heflin is a believer that this school year will be great; it will have its ups and downs but he

expects great things from the students. "I expect the students to continue the great things they have in place at N.R.H.S. Also, I expect students to learn about expectations and consequences and to follow the rules of the student handbook." Heflin is hoping to make an impact on the student's educational process and wanting to confirm N.R.H.S. as an excellent school. "My goals this year are to have every student at New Richmond High School be a better person, all around, when they walk out the door in May than when they walked in in September. I want for them to receive a quality education experience and learn life lessons, and prepare them for their future beyond high school."

"The teachers and students of New Richmond are the best of the best," he said, and he would not want to change that; however, the only change he would

make is for the students to realize that they are not changing the rules of the student handbook, they are just closely enforcing them.

After the school day is over and in some of his free time, Heflin likes to go running and golf. "Spending time with my family is the best thing I like to do in my free time, though." Family is an important aspect in his life. His favorite memory was the birth of his two sons.

Being the vice principal can be a difficult job, but not only is Heflin the vice principal he is also the high school's golf coach. "Juggling them both has been a little tricky so far, but I have been working on it and it is getting better," said Heflin.

Every teacher/administrator has a style to their liking, Heflin's administrative style would be known as fair but firm. "I believe in expectations and if the student



What to do, what to do? Assistant to the principal Phil Heflin considers how to deal with senior Cole Bird. Photo/Messenger.

does not meet them, there are going to be consequences attached. I feel that all students will rise to meet the expectations given to them."

"I am excited to be back at N.R.H.S. and am looking forward to working with the staff and students as we watch our school grow and get better and better and better."

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# 2012 Bucket List: abridged version

## Get these things done before world ends

As many of you know, it's 2012 and if you keep up with urban legends, you're aware of the mysterious Mayan prophecy. If you put two and two together, you'll figure out that means Dec. 21, 2012, the world is ending. With the end so close there is only one thing to do: everything on my official end of the world bucket list. There's only one issue; I can't really write a real bucket list because I'm still in high school and have a very short time to live... but here it goes.

Given the fact that I'm only in high school and have four months left means things that would normally be on a bucket list, things like have kids, fall in love, etc. don't really have a place on here. But, I will be 18, so I'll skip the love part and just go straight to get married. By the end of December 2012, I will get married.

With such a drastic time limit, I'm officially taking applications now. Looking for someone nice, funny, can cook, and is willing to put up with me for a few months.

Next on my list, I would normally talk about the sights of the world I want to see, but I can't just leave school, and Mr. Bailey won't give us an early spring break, so again, I have to scale my ideas back. See pictures of all the wonders of the world.

I'm going to start right away

googling pictures of the Grand Canyon, the Empire State building, and the Golden Gate Bridge. I figure it would probably be easiest if I start domestic. Next I'll move on to South America or something.

After that, I will move on to something really adventurous, swimming with sharks. Of course, I would live in Ohio where there aren't really any sharks around I can swim with, so...

Go to the Newport Aquarium

If I can't swim with sharks, I guess the next best thing would be to go look at some, and with missing shark week by a over a month, this seems like the next best option. And not only will I see sharks, but I'll get to see jellyfish, and penguins, and a bunch of other cool water life. So as far as I'm concerned, this is better than actually swimming with sharks.

Now one of my favorite things ever is the Olympics, I can just imagine the atmosphere with people from all over the world cheering on their national heroes to destroy the other country's national heroes. However, London has come and gone, and Rio just isn't going to happen, so I'll do the next best thing.

Go to a track meet (that I'm not

running in)

Now for you sports savvy people here, I know what you're thinking. Track is in the spring. Well there's indoor track, and while it may not have the same atmosphere as the outdoor mega-event that is the Olympics, I guess this will have to do. I figure I'll go in

decked in my freshest American clothing, painted up and everything, and cheer for

whoever is wearing red, white, or blue. Who knows, if my countryman takes home the gold, I might even cry. Maybe I'll hand out medals to the winners too.

Going along with the whole traveling thing, I think it would be pretty cool to learn a new lan-

guage. But just ask Señora Nehls, I'm not going to be mastering any kind of foreign language soon, so again I'll have to settle for the next best thing.

Get cultured

Maybe if I hangout somewhere cultured, it will rub off on me. So I'll travel to the mystic land of P. F. Changs and hang out until I learn something about the people and their history and what not. After that I'll learn about the motherland at Olive Garden. Ciao!

While I'm pretty sure the world is not going to end by December 2012, I figure I would rather be safe than sorry. I'm going to have fun for the next four months, and I suggest you do the same. Whether the world ends or not, wouldn't you rather go being glad you enjoyed your last few months? I know I will.

### Yellow Journalism

By Luke Gilday



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## Gray Chatter



By: Christin Gray

Long hours and hot temperatures... this summer was incredibly hot. I have no clue why Mother Nature was so heated this summer. It was like she was PMS-ing for three months straight.

Does anyone miss a summer job? I know I sure don't. I worked at Coney Island in the rides department and it was horrible. I wouldn't recommend it. The hours may not seem so bad

# Summer job a learning experience

## Not necessarily a positive one, but...

at first but when you're conditioning for a sport and trying to have a social life like most teenagers, Coney was not able to accommodate much of anything.

I took a vacation to Florida this summer and right at the beginning of the season I requested time off during the week of the Fourth of July. Apparently, my one of many bosses lost the request off form, so he decided to put me on the schedule for shifts I clearly wasn't in town for, even after I personally had told him

about the days I wouldn't be available.

Needless to say, after the rides department made a Facebook group, I asked around to see if people could pick up my shifts. Being the Fourth of July, many people who were working didn't want another shift and I'm not complaining, I wouldn't either. It's a holiday but even the people who didn't have shifts weren't willing to help me out. I even offered to pay people, too, I was that desperate.

After coming to the conclusion that if he was going to fire me for his own mistake, I didn't want to work for him anyway, my boss decided to not say anything to me after I returned. I managed to get almost all my shifts covered, but he wasn't even willing to help.

After that, every time he was working he continued to give out all the rides and then leave me as an extra, who wasn't clocked in. I would sit there and wait for people to either say they didn't want to work or I waited to be a breaker. Needless to say, I tried to give up all the shifts I had.

I had requested time off for soccer conditioning and other school related things and he would intentionally put me on the schedule for the shifts I couldn't take. I ended up telling

Coney that sports were getting to be too much and work overwhelmed me, but I would never work there again. It was probably the worst first job experience ever.

After that, I just started keeping busy and doing other things, and then school was creeping up quickly, so between summer assignments and soccer conditioning I had a full load already. I don't want to sit here and completely bag on Coney, there are some perks to working there, like all the new friendships you make along the way. More than a quarter of the kids in the rides were New Richmond kids, and many of the other people who worked in the rides department were really nice.

Even though I was only there for two months I still talk to many of the former co-workers. Working at Coney wasn't horrible as long as you were scheduled with your friends. Working with a bunch of people you don't know really stinks. There are a quite a few oddballs and working with them was a treat. Definitely, overall it was a learning experience and I'm sure that not everyone who worked at Coney hated it but it's a job. You live and you learn. I learned not everything is what it's cracked up to be.

## Senior year resolutions

### Time to step up

"BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!" that's the sound of my alarm clock going off at 6:30 a.m; first time that I have woken up that early in about two months. I roll out of bed, make my way to the kitchen, pour a cup of coffee and head on back to my room to get ready for the day.

It was my last first day of high school and just thinking about that really made me wonder where I'll be next year or the year after that. I have about one college in mind and that's Ohio University. I already know that I want to be a photojournalist, so I'm not really stressing out about that. I am, indeed, stressing over the fact that I have yet to take the ACT or even sign up for it. I'm truthfully a procrastinator and these things I can't really procrastinate any longer. This is my future that I'm dealing with and I'm not handling it all that well.

I have made a promise to myself at the beginning of the year, telling myself that I will take

school seriously this year. I have goofed off in years past, really not focusing on my school work or studying for any tests and I really can't afford to do that this year. I know it is my senior year and it should be the best year of

my life, but it won't be the best year if I fail. I plan on bringing my books home and going over things that we learned in class

that day. I plan to study days in advance for any tests that I have and actually doing my homework by myself. I hope that this plan will work and if not, then I guess I'll just have to come up with a better strategy.

To all underclassmen I strongly encourage you NOT to goof off; in fact, I recommend that you do all of your work. I never listened to my mom, dad and even my older brother. They always told me to pay attention, do your work and study hard because if you work hard when you're young you'll be able to enjoy your life when you're older. I guess it's not too late to take them up on that advice!

### Snapshot!



By  
Rachel  
Curless



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# Concertgoers should focus on music first

Each summer, people of all ages attend the numerous concerts at Riverbend Music Center. These concerts range from country to rap and hip-hop, and the people range from young teenagers to the old folks. As someone who usually attends most of the concerts, I have a bit of insight on them.

As you look around at any country concert, you will see people all around you dressed up with cowboy boots, overalls or dresses, and cowboy hats. Although most of these people probably don't live anywhere in the country and they probably will rag on "hillbillies" any other day, they still manage to fake the country look for the night. On the other hand, for rap or hip-hop concerts, people will throw on their snapback hats, slide on a pair of kicks, and wear some skimpy dress. Any other concert is just the same. Personally, I like to focus on the music instead of what I'm wearing. To some, it seems, it is more like playing dress up rather than attending a concert.

Aside from the attire worn, as you look around most concerts, you will see kid after kid that is

getting away with underage drinking. This happens before the concerts, during tailgating, and even during the concert. How kids are able to get away with this is beyond me, since there are police officers and Riverbend workers all over the

place. But as kids are getting wheeled out of concerts after pounding down alcohol and becoming too intoxicated

to function, it surprises me that it still goes on. I did notice that this issue improved a bit this summer, but I still would think that it is a big thing for someone to keep an eye on.

I often wonder what happened to simply attending a concert to just listen to the music that you came there to listen to. Most of my favorite artists come each year, and every concert is a new experience. Apparently, though, for other people, it's something totally different. My advice to anyone that attends any concerts in general is to just act like you. Go to concerts that you like, not just because everyone else is going. Who cares about all of the other stuff? Enjoy the concert in your own way, and have a good ole' time.



Letters to the editor are always welcome and we will print them as space allows. Please submit any correspondence to the high school office or drop off in Mrs. Griffin's mailbox, or email at [griffin\\_s@nrschools.org](mailto:griffin_s@nrschools.org). Questions should be directed to Sue Griffin, x10204.

## The Messenger

New Richmond High School  
1131 Bethel-New Richmond Rd.  
New Richmond, Ohio 45157  
2010-2011

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*The Messenger* would like to remember Mrs. Betty McKenney as we begin our 73rd year, and once again, thank her for her many contributions to our paper.

We would also like to express our support for Ms. Diana Spinnati, whose support and encouragement of our student journalists is much appreciated. Stay Strong Spinnati!

*The Messenger* is a publication of the advanced journalism and journalism one classes of New Richmond High School.

Opinions expressed in *The Messenger* are the opinions of the writers only and not necessarily the opinions of the adviser or administration of New Richmond High School.

*The Messenger* raises money by selling advertising and subscriptions. This money is deposited into a student activity account and is limited to spending directly on students involved in the publication.

*The Messenger* accepts letters to the editor and guest columns and will publish both at the discretion of the newspaper staff and as space permits. Both items must be signed by the writers.

The *Messenger's* regular monthly issues are now online only and are available on the high school's and district's web sites. The Senior Issue will be printed, and will be available for purchase at school at the beginning of May at a cost of \$3. The cost of a senior issue mailed directly to your home is \$8.

Please direct comments or questions about the paper or its contents to the adviser, at 553-3191, x10204 or at [griffin\\_s@nrschools.org](mailto:griffin_s@nrschools.org).





# Faces in the Hallway

## NRHS Personality Profiles

By Christin Gray

### Kayla Benjamin

Senior Kayla Benjamin spent her summer having various types of fun. "My favorite memories from summer were either making a 75 foot Slip'n Slide down a hill with baby oil, or having my boyfriend come home from the Air Force for a week."

She is really excited for the school year this year. "I expect this year to be a great year! 'Hopefully, things won't change too much for the seniors,'" said Benjamin.

With the changes to the school, Benjamin said she isn't thrilled. "I'm not really happy with the changes this year. The rules that are being enforced now were never really a problem last year, such as ripped jeans and shorts," said Benjamin.

### Marcus Riley

Sophomore Marcus Riley spent his summer mainly outdoors. "I went fishing a lot and I went swimming with my dog, Doobie."

Riley is kind of nervous about the school year. "I see that this year is not going to be easy, but I also see a lot of ISI's in some people's futures," he said.

Riley is having a hard time wrapping his head around the changes. "It's funny, I don't think anyone is happy about the changes. Everyone says they feel like it's prison, but the tardy rule to class makes no sense to me."

Riley has a few favorite classes



After being here for four years, Benjamin still gets excited for classes and teachers every day. "My favorite classes so far this year would be gym, astronomy, and Smartphone's and Ipads. I don't necessarily love the classes, but I love the teachers who teach those classes. Benjamin is currently just enjoying her senior year and taking it easy.



that he knows he will have a good year in. "I really enjoy Mrs. Minning's class and Mrs. Griffin's class. I'd better be getting extra credit for this," said Riley.

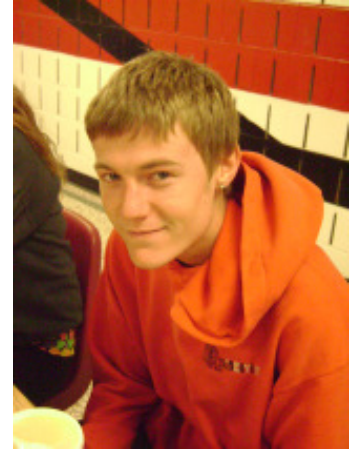
### Tyler Scarff

Junior Tyler Scarff had the most fun over the summer just taking it easy. "My favorite memory was having fun with my friends, and hanging out."

For the current school year, Scarff is taking a new approach to school. "My expectations for this school year are to keep my grades up," said Scarff.

With all the new changes to school, Scarff is very observant. "I really like the way the new gym floor looks."

Within the last couple weeks



Scarff has already picked out his favorite teacher. "Mr. Callebs, he is really funny and a pretty good teacher."

### Kendal Collier

Freshman Kendal Collier said she had a really fun summer. Her best memory was going to King Island with all her friends. Kendal's expectations for the new school year are to get good grades.

"I am aiming for all A's and B's. I really want to do well this year," she said.

With the changes to the building Collier isn't so pleased. "Some of the rules are okay, but I'm not crazy about all of them," she said.

Collier is really excited about her Spanish class and guitar class that she is taking. "My favorite classes I am currently taking are



Spanish and guitar. I'm really excited about them because I wasn't able to take them last year and it seems really interesting," said Collier.

Collier is currently not participating in extra curricular activities, but is focusing more on her school work.

# Experts give advice to NRHS freshmen

## Teachers, students weigh in with words of wisdom

By Josie Buckingham

When coming into your freshman year of high school, you have so many different emotions and feelings. Some kids are nervous and scared to be the little ones of a big, new school, while other kids are excited and happy to be starting off fresh. Either way, anyone who has been through it knows the feelings. I would be willing to bet that those people who have been through it have some tips that they wish they had been given as a new freshman. Some of the tips could deal with the educational part of high school, and others could deal with the social aspect of it. All in all, we have tips on tips for the newbies.

"Do well freshman year to get your GPA up. You'll need to start off doing well," said junior Amanda Nguyen. "Don't cause drama! Just be good and have fun!"

"Personal hygiene is key. Navigate the hallway correctly-stay to the right, people! Stay or-

ganized and work hard!" said English teacher, Malissa Cornette.

"Have fun and live with no regrets. Make good friends and choices," said junior Jill Flenniken, "And, wear proper clothing."

History teacher, Brad Hatfield, said "Silence is golden, but duct tape is silver. Don't be that guy (or girl). Don't drink Haterade."

"Do your summer reading, wear red and black on Fridays, and join stuff. Four years flies by! Don't wait to start enjoying high school," said English teacher, Nicole Parker.

Junior Chris Sammons said, "Seniors aren't as mean as they act, so don't be scared."

"Take advantage of having a blank slate and starting new, but know that everything you do counts. Don't let your freshman year haunt you," said science teacher, Lauren Wilkins.

Many upperclassmen and teachers enjoyed their freshman year

and they had a lot of good memories throughout it.

"Homecoming and sports were great freshman year because everything was all new to me," said junior Zach Fields.

"I just had scary experiences, such as swirlies," said Sammons.

Hatfield said, "I have successfully blocked any experiences from my mind."

Parker said, "100 years ago, when I was a freshman at NRHS, I was often picked on by upperclassmen who were much, much older than I was. Mrs. Flamm, Mr. Mahan, Mr. Benzinger...." Many students and teachers offered advice they wish they had been told as they entered their own freshman year, as long ago as that might have been.

"The varsity locker room has lockers that can hold multiple freshmen," said Hatfield.

Parker said, "When you're 40, you'll still be here!"

Wilkins said, "Get involved in school and community activities early. Meet new people and try

something new!"

"Participate in the pep rallies! Stand up, yell, cheer- otherwise the seniors, juniors, and sophomores will laugh at you," said Cornette.

Everyone has their own opinion about freshman, whether they like to share it or not. A few positive opinions were shared. "In three years, they all have the potential to be human beings," said Hatfield.

"I don't, but I will in three years, if they do their summer reading. If they don't, I still won't think of them!" said Parker.

Wilkins said, "They seem to be enthusiastic and have a lot of school spirit."

Flenniken said, "I like a few of them."

"I only know a few of them, (my swimmers), but they seem like a fun group!" said Cornette.

Freshman year has its ups and downs, and it is an experience that you will always have to look back on. It can only be as great as you make it, so make it a good one. Have fun, meet new people, and study hard. And, as Hatfield would say, "Check yourself before you wreck yourself."

**"Check yourself before you wreck yourself."**  
Social Studies teacher  
Brad Hatfield

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# Apple vs. Droid: the Smartphone debate

## NR students, teachers weigh in on their favorites

By Caleb Branson

Perhaps one of the greatest debates occurring right now, other than the Presidential debate of course, is the iPhone vs. Android debate. Which is better? Which of the two is faster? There are many questions yet to be answered about the two most popular smart phones on the market, and they hopefully will be somewhat answered by the end of this article.

Although many differences exist between the Android and the iPhone, there are many similarities at the same time. Perhaps the biggest difference between the two is the operating systems.

The iPhone is made by Apple, and the Android is developed by Google; both are huge competitors, which make the debate that much better. The biggest similarity is the app store for each; both share many of the same apps

but are maintained by different companies. Both of these operating systems also are producing big name tablets which are also in an intense competition. These tablets are the iPad and the Kindle Fire, the iPad for Apple and the Kindle Fire for Android.

A survey on About.com showed that the iPhone and Android are actually pretty even. It all depends on what you're looking for. If you're looking for a phone with great video quality, gaming, and a larger screen, you probably want to go with an Android. If you want a phone with fast Internet, a great camera, and a long lasting battery, then you would definitely want an iPhone.

In the end, Apple won in six categories, including apps, gaming and battery life. Android won in five categories, including GPS, screen size and network-

ing. ([about.com/od/iphonevscompetitors/tp/iphone-Or-Android-which-to-buy.thm](http://about.com/od/iphonevscompetitors/tp/iphone-Or-Android-which-to-buy.thm))

Smart phones are especially helpful in doing modern everyday activities. Twenty years ago, if you wanted to know what a word meant or when something was, you had to log on to your computer and search it.

Now all you have to do is whip out your handy dandy smart phone, and look it up on the internet, saving about twenty minutes of your time. Having the entire Internet in the palm of your hand, literally, can make everyday life at home, work, school, etc. a lot easier, but since it makes everything so easy, could students use this to easily cheat on homework and tests?

Jacob Branson, completely agrees with this. "Oh, yea, definitely! I don't even have to type anymore! I just talk into it and it writes down everything I say! I absolutely love it!" Branson owns an Android powered Samsung Rugby Smart.

Teachers weighed in on this issue too. English teacher, Susan Griffin believes that these smart phones are an asset to students. "In my experience they can be very helpful. I have a student right now who uses her phone to type her papers, and email them

to me." She also went on to say, "They are useful for research when there aren't computers available. There are some abuses, for sure, but I think the benefits outweigh the negatives."

English teacher, Shelby Pride agreed. "I believe they help students with work more than for cheating."

"I think they help students with work," said English teacher Michelle Senter. "Students in my classes use their phones to look up definitions on dictionary.com and to research for writing assignments."


"In my finance class, when I ask students to look up the stock market quotes, it is much easier for them to use their phones vs. taking time to log on to a computer and search that way," said business teacher Maryann Dalton.

Teachers, just like students, aren't only using their Smartphones for basic communication. In addition to the obvious texting and talking, their phones are morphing into calendars, contact lists and some other unique applications.

"I like being able to take pictures with it, look things up easily and quickly and know that I can use apps for stuff like downloading coupons and driving di-



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rections,” said Senter.

English teacher Malissa Cornette elects the Chipotle app as her favorite Smartphone feature. “I roder what I want, drive to the restaurant and smile at the throng of starving patrons lined up to the door as I walk to the front of the line to pick up my burrito bowl. Makes me feel like a Chipotle VIP.”

Principal Mark Bailey, a Droid Bionic owner, said his phone is used mostly for school. “I do find myself tied to work now more than ever,” he said. “I find myself looking for the latest re-

search-based practices in education all the time. Contacts, calendar and web surfing are my favorites.”

Spanish teacher Sharon Nehls said her Smartphone is a family organizer. “I use the phone to keep track of my life,” she said. “I use the Mapquest app for directions, I keep organized with the calendar feature, and I’m constantly getting updates on my family’s schedules from their coaches.”

English teacher Sue Griffin, who is a relatively recent Smartphone user said her favor-

ite thing about her Droid phone is the mobile hot spot accessibility. She also sees the benefit of texting, even though she, “stinks at texting right now. Most often, my Smartphone makes me feel stupid,” she added.

As far as which phone is better, Apple is the preferred Smartphone by a wide margin for NRHS students.

“It’s simple to use and the display is better,” said sophomore Rachel Taylor.

“The iPhone is the same as the iPad and iMac,” said sophomore Katelyn Chumley. “You can

have all the music you need and the apps are also very helpful,” said junior Olivia Ferguson.

“I like the iPhone better. It’s really simple to use and since I’ve always used iTunes for digital music, it’s nice to have it right there on my phone,” said sophomore Annaliese Rohdes.

iCloud was a popular Apple feature enjoyed by iPhone users. “I like the iCloud so all the games I download to my phone go right to my iPad,” said sophomore Austin Fischer.

Reliability and ease of use were cited by some of the Apple fans.

“You can do more things with an iPhone,” said junior Christine Lutz. “iPhones don’t break down as easy as Droids.”

“It’s much easier to use and a lot nicer than the Droid. The Droid is very confusing and slow,” added senior Zack Coldiron.

But the Droid had a few fans as well.

“Droid is better because it is much easier to use than an iPhone. It’s connected to Google and Google songs are so much cheaper than the exact same songs on iTunes,” said sophomore Tanya Rupp.

“You can do everything with a Droid that you can with an iPhone,” said junior Colter Mack. “You also get more memory and they cost way less.”

The Apple iPhone came out being slightly better than the Android, but it depends on what you are looking for in your phone. We also found that people tend to spend more time on their new smart phones rather than their older non smart phones. Smart phones are also becoming valuable assets to students and teachers alike in the classroom. A smart phone may become a “must have” item in the near future.

“The iPhone hooks right up to your iTunes, so you



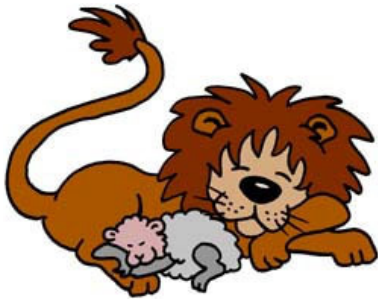
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# Lions Reach Out cares for NRHS

## Small charity provides for needy students

It comes as no great surprise to anyone that with the downfall in the economy comes a much greater need for charitable organizations to step in and help needy families. The New Richmond community is no exception to this sad economic trend.

Lions Reach Out is a non-profit organization, registered with the state of Ohio, and a 501c3 charity that provides Christmas gifts for needy students at New Richmond High School, as well as providing help for those students for Prom, Homecoming, Graduation and other events.

Lions Reach Out is a small

charity and does not provide huge or extravagant gifts for the students it serves. Rather, the organization tries to fill some small needs of high school students by helping them enjoy special events or activities at school or providing clothing when it's needed.

Lions Reach Out is supported by donations from NRHS faculty, the New Richmond community and the NRHS PTO. The organization's bank account is at the River Hills Bank and donations can be made there at any time.

The NRHS Student Council Walkathon, held every November, is a fundraiser for the organization and will take place this year on the Friday before Thanksgiving. Student Council members are asked to collect

pledge donations in and around the community. The daytime high school talent show is also a fundraiser for Lions Reach Out.

This year, we will be helping NRHS students in the holiday season, giving them clothing, personal items and other seasonal holiday gifts. The organization has also provided help for a few of our athletes already this season.

It is anticipated that the number of students needing help for the holiday season, as well as for other events during the school year, will increase and to make sure that these students are taken care of, Lions Reach Out is ask-

ing for some help from the community.

Cash donations can be made at any time at River Hills Bank, or can be mailed directly to the organization. Lions Reach Out would also appreciate donations of new NR spirit wear and new make-up and bath and body products. Donations can be taken at any time during the school day at New Richmond High School.

For more information about Lions Reach Out, contact Sue Griffin at 553-3191, x10204 or email [griffin\\_s@nrschools.org](mailto:griffin_s@nrschools.org) at

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# It's Neess in Europe!

NRHS sophomore enjoys trip of a lifetime

By Chelsey Fawley

Over the summer, Ella Neess, a sophomore at NRHS, got the envious experience of traveling through Europe for three weeks. She was also lucky enough to watch some of the summer Olympic games. "It brought realism to the classic depiction of Europe that we see in movies," said Neess.

Neess' neighbor's mother is from London, and she got to travel with them while they went to visit family and travel around. When she stepped out of the European Airline, Neess thought, "Is this real life?" She didn't immediately see the spoken glory of London, however. "It was nice but initially you could only see a bunch of roundabouts [a circuitous route for vehicles]."

Neess spoke of the differences

she noticed in London. The major difference applied to mechanics. Naturally, Londoners drive on the opposite side of the ride, "... but besides the driving, the light switches and outlets were odd. The weirdest thing I saw was a shower controlled by a box! It was different in those ways, but the people were about all the same. They were all just rooting for their countries."

Neess spoke of the Olympic hype, saying it was as one would expect. When she visited the International Olympic Park, she said it was absolutely filled with people supporting their countries. "We were at a stand-still for quite a while after trying to leave the soccer events." The games were packed to capacity.

The events that Neess got to see were beach volleyball,

women's soccer, and athletics. Unfortunately, she reported on American teams won the events she saw, "but it was still exciting."

While she was watching beach volleyball, others were watching her. "I saw the event being filmed while I was there. It made the experience surreal."

Besides the Olympics in London, Neess spent her time visiting family and sightseeing. They went to visit a friend's new fiancée, and dined at many fine restaurants. However, Neess said her favorite was not the nicest, but the most classic. "My favorite place was 'Chippies' where they served fish and chips", she said.

After she saw the Olympic events, she continued to travel. Neess and her company went to Paris, France, as well as London. While in Paris, she went to visit some of the most famed art in the world. "We went to the Louvre and Versailles and we saw the actual Monet painting," Neess said, "The water lilies were very

pretty and surprisingly large. They took up the entire wall and they were beautiful with the lighting of the museum."

Ella liked London more than Paris, despite the art of the city. "I liked London more because of the pretty accents and they're much more friendly. The French were rude. Also, the Olympic hype in London made it an exciting once in a lifetime opportunity. Though France was peaceful and laid back, the excitement of London simply made it a better time."

Neess said this was her favorite vacation by far. "Being able to see the Olympics was amazing and I feel very blessed. If I could go again I would do everything the same, but add some more tourist-y activities." Needless to say, Miss Neess thinks it's 'Neess' in Europe.



Go World! Ella Neess, Hannah Lake, Wendy Lake, Wayne Russell and Matthew Lake show their support at the Olympic park. Photo/E. Neess.

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# Who's the biggest Bengals fan? Senior Joey Lee, of course

By Zack Coldiron

Walking through the halls of New Richmond High School, one of the most recognizable faces would have to be the "Bengals Guy," Joey Lee. Born and raised a Bengals fan, Joey says he "had always loved football," but no team more than the Cincinnati Bengals. "Ever since I could remember I was a Cincinnati Bengals fan," he said.

During the third grade was when he says he really started to understand and pick up the game. "In the third grade I went to my first Bengals game when they beat the Bills. It was very cold, but one of the best moments of my life! The feeling of walking into the stadium is so cool and way more exciting than any other attraction I've ever been to."

Lee said the reason he loves the Bengals so much was because they were his hometown team and he looked up to them growing up. Influenced as well by big fans in his mom and grandfather, Joey says his favorite player of all time is late

Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry. "Every time he stepped on the field he was a playmaker and was an example to young kids because he taught them that it wasn't too late to change your life and turn things around for the better."

Lee, of course, is mentioning the infamous, highly talented wide receiver the Bengals drafted in 2005 who had a history of running into the law. "He turned his life around and became a role model before his tragic death," says Joey.

So what does he think of this year's Bengals team? Well, nothing but positive reviews from the #1 Bengals fan at school.

"They are very young, talented, and grounded. Their team chemistry sets them apart from the other teams in the NFL." He said his favorite moment as a fan was when the Bengals drafted A.J. Green and Andy Dalton because he knew it would be the beginning of a new, better era in Cincinnati football.

What sets him apart from other

fans who consider themselves #1 Bengals fans?

"My tattoo, of course, the knowledge I have of the team, and the desire to learn more to be an even better fan."

When watching any sport, some fans just go crazy over their favorite teams and Lee is no exception. He attends a minimum of 1-2 games a year, watches every single game even to take off work to watch, and attends their public training camp every year as well. Not only that but he can almost memorize the whole roster and makes sure to wear something Bengals each day. So to those who aren't a believer or fan of the Bengals he said, "How are you not a believer with the success they are having, but what-

ever, WHO DEY!" He is such a fan of the Bengals that if they were to ever make it to the Super Bowl and win he would, "Streak the streets of Cincinnati!"

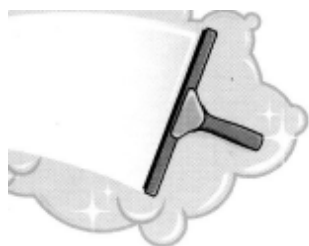
So there's no doubt who the biggest fan of the Bengals is at our school; none other than Joey Lee.



Bengals fan from WAY back: Senior Joey Lee shows off his Bengal and NR pride. Photo/ Messenger.



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# So what happens after the Olympics?

## Athletes back to reality when games are over

By Chandler Cochran and Luke Gilday

The Olympics are the one time when the world sets aside its differences and comes together for the spirit of competition. But, the fanfare only lasts so long, and after the Olympics are over, the athletes slink back into the world of nonexistence. However, their lives don't usually go back to the way things were before their 15 minutes of stardom.

Many of the Olympic athletes spend big after they prove themselves on the global level.

After grabbing five medals during the London games this summer, swimmer Ryan Lochte has been living the high life. He was seen partying much of his free time, appearing at the WWE Summerslam VIP kickoff party at the Beverly Hills Hotel, where David Beckham was also seen.

He then was off to Las Vegas, at TAO nightclub. (<http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20622303,00.html>)

Lochte was spotted with Prince Harry, who challenged him to a race in the pool. Lochte, of course, accepted.

It's not all parties for Ryan however. He has landed a cameo on *90210* and pursues his other interests in fashion and acting.

But these other hobbies certainly won't stop Lochte from continuing to swim. In fact, Lochte said he is ready to gear up to start getting ready for Rio in 2016, citing that the three weeks he was out of the pool after London was the longest he had taken a break from swimming since he was ten years old.

(<http://www.businessinsider.com/hope-solo-book-2012-8?op=1>)

[todayinlondonblog.today.com/\\_news/2012/08/23/13434024-ryan-lochte-dishes-on-vegas-party-with-prince-harry?lite](http://todayinlondonblog.today.com/_news/2012/08/23/13434024-ryan-lochte-dishes-on-vegas-party-with-prince-harry?lite))

Another popular trend among London's Olympic heroes is writing.

Gold Medalist goalie for the United States Women's National soccer team, Hope Solo, is one of these athletes turned author with her new book *Solo: A Memoir of Hope*. In it, Hope reveals many secrets of her past, including her rough childhood, her partying ways, and her experiences as a rising star in the soccer world. (<http://www.businessinsider.com/hope-solo-book-2012-8?op=1>)

Another Olympian writer is gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas with the book *Grace, Gold, and Glory: My Leap of Faith*. After her breakthrough Olympics, Douglas wrote her memoir, expected out sometime in December, telling the tale of her struggle living away from home in order to train for the games. (<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/entertainment/2012/09/book-deal-gabby-douglas-kids-dont-read-fun-anymore/56622/>)

However, not all the athletes are still focused on their sport. Olympic hurdler Lolo Jones is taking it easy while she has some time off.

"I do the same thing students do when school lets out for summer. Sit on my couch, eat junk food while watching TV," Jones said via twitter.

Much like these Olympic athletes, when athletes here at the high school finish their seasons, things change for them as well. While some stick to their daily routines of training or lifting, others hit the couch for some much needed sleep.

"I play indoor soccer, go to the gym, and sleep during my offseason, said junior Juliane Molitor, one of the many student athletes who continue to train.

"During my off season I run on my elliptical and kick a ball around," responded junior soccer player Noah Chaney.

"When my sport ends, I start going to acceleration training and run a few indoor track meets," said junior cross country and track runner Olivia Behymer.

"I dance at the dance studio, go to the gym and pool, and sleep," replied junior volleyball player and swimmer Jessica Nazareth.

On the other hand, many students like the time they have during their off season to look into other things.

"I gain approximately ten pounds in my off season because 90% of my diet after school consists of Ramen Noodles... I eat a lot in the off season," responded senior tennis player Zach Manning.

"I sleep after school, I eat out less, I keep my room clean and get homework done more often," answered senior soccer and softball player Bethany Smith.

"During my off season, I work a lot, go to the gym, work harder in school, and do the musical," said senior cross country runner and tennis player Ben Green.

Whether you're a hardcore sprinter or a baseball star, an Olympic athlete or a first year starter, enjoying the off season is the natural thing to do. Whether that involves lifting, running, or just being lazy, athletes get ready for their next season in the best way they see fit.

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# Cincinnati Reds enjoying winning season

## Next stop, World Series

The Cincinnati Reds are arguably the best team in all of Major League Baseball this year, but oddly enough, they have done it without former MVP first baseman, Joey Votto. Votto hurt his knee just after the All-Star break, and ended up needing surgery, leaving the Reds in need of a first baseman for a month or two. At first, the Reds were extremely worried, and asked many veterans to step up their game to try and replace the missing numbers that Votto puts up on a consistent basis. To the Reds' surprise, they started playing some of the best ball in the league.

The first 25 games after the All-Star break, the Reds went 22-3, the best streak they have had since 1997. By far the best record in baseball, and all of this done without All-Star Votto at first base. Instead it was young

rookie Todd Frazier who stepped up. To everyone's surprise, he's played better than not just every other rookie, but also almost every other player in all of baseball! Frazier may actually be having one of the best rookie seasons that anyone has ever had! He led all rookies in home runs and RBIs in the month of August. He is now finally getting recognition as a possible Rookie of the Year candidate.

The Reds, on top of having incredible offensive numbers this season, have perhaps the best pitching in the league. Throughout the entire month of July, the Reds had statistically the best pitching from the bullpen in the entire league. This was led by "The Cuban Missile," a.k.a. Aroldis Chapman, the Reds closer. Throughout July, Chapman had close to twice as

many strike outs as innings pitched! Not many pitchers in history can say they have done that before. This amazing feat was greatly due to the 105mph fastball that Chapman holds in his small arsenal of pitches. This pitch can even make seasoned veterans look like little league players. The starting pitching wasn't half bad either, using only five pitchers throughout 121 games.

The Reds are also in possession of two of the best pitchers in the league, one of them being Chapman. The other is Johnny Cueto. Both Cueto and Chapman are in the running for the National League's Cy Young Award. No other team in all of Major League Baseball can say they have not only one, but TWO pitchers in the running for the

### A+ Material

By:  
Caleb  
Branson



award of "best pitcher." Cueto led the National League in wins during both June and July, but still was snubbed from the All-Star Team. Cueto and Chapman are both a large part of the Reds' success this season.

The Reds look to continue with their success throughout the rest of the year and hopefully into the playoffs. Votto will also be back for the final month of the season, which will benefit the Reds greatly. I plan to be watching the Reds in October and on to the World Series. GO REDS!



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# Fantasy Football should be all about fun

## Take stress out of it

It's that time of year again; school is back in session, the days are getting shorter and fantasy football is back in action. People spend countless hours researching the top players and defenses so they can get an edge on the others in their league, but is it actually worth sweating and fretting about Tom Brady's ankle or whether or not Tim Tebow will be playing?

Many people play fantasy football for money and bragging rights, but I do think it gets a little out of hand when selecting players in a draft, or screaming at the TV because Peyton's neck isn't as strong as we thought it was and just like that, you've just wasted your first round pick and can't get his points. That just adds

stress into your life and honestly, isn't worth it.

I do play fantasy football, but I keep it as simple as possible. I think that it is unfortunate that a star player is benched for an injury, but I don't get that into fantasy football so I don't really

"...it's a game about a game and doesn't really have any importance in the outside world."

care if I lose. If you are smart enough and know exactly what you are doing, there is no possible way you can lose, right?

No, fantasy football is a never ending black hole of stress and chaos that sucks the life out of

hopeless armchair quarterbacks.

I play fantasy football just to see how well I can effectively pick players who will perform at the best for that week. Trading, adding and sitting players is what I tend to leave out of my Sunday morning rituals, and might be a reason why I was not in the lead at all last year.

I guess we have discovered that to win a fantasy football league and to receive all or the money we may or may not be playing for, we have to countlessly work for hours upon hours to even have a chance. But hey, can't we all just have fun and get along?

Let's try to make fantasy football fun for a change, because if you don't, the next five months will be unenjoyably and possibly the worst time of your life. Just have fun and don't stress out about it. It's only a game, and it's hardly even that; it's a game

### Curly's Corner



By:  
Chandler  
Cochran

about a game and doesn't really have any importance in the outside world.

If I could give some advice, it would be to have a little bit of understanding about the games of football and fantasy football. I would also advise not getting into any leagues with a huge number of people in them, because then it just takes the fun out of it. Try a league with a small number of participants, especially if it's your first time.

And if you are just playing for the fun of it and don't really care about the outcome, play with friends, because at least then they will be laughing with you and not at you.



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# SBAAC division champs hit the links

## Golf team looks for repeat performance

By Chandler Cochran

The New Richmond golf team ended last season on a high note, winning the SBAAC American division championship. So, just like every other team in this position, they naturally want to repeat. But with high expectations come great responsibilities and a bit of pressure.

"Being reigning champions of our league does put a little more weight on our shoulders," explained sophomore Daman Abner. "It also makes us feel like we have something to prove. We just try to play our best and hope the best is the outcome."

"It does add a little pressure, because whenever you are playing against a league team in a match they bring their best game because they want to knock off

the defending champions," added head coach Phil Heflin.

Heflin said that preparation is one of the most important keys in the team's success. "We practice two to three times per week and we have matches two to three times per week as well. The practices prepare us the most for games but my players also practice on the weekend. We try to practice all facets of the game."

But you can't continue to win championships without talent, and the New Richmond golf team is filled with talent.

"Without a doubt we are a better team this year," said senior Austin Wells, "The only player we lost was Austin Skaggs, who was a key part, but overall, we are a lot more talented."

You can pretty much say that the team this year is almost identical to last year's, after only losing one senior. The team's talent and chemistry have risen to an unmeasurable level. A big part contributing to that would be the seniors, Austin Wells, Henry Heidlage, Eric Herman, David Ohntrup, and Evan McKinley, who are leading the team. These seniors are not only leading the team this year, but have been the backbone of the golf program. In addition to carrying the team, they have also shown the underclassmen how to become better players.

"The underclassmen are the future of the golf program and we (seniors) are glad to show them a few pointers about the game,"

said senior Eric Herman.

"The seniors are what makes this team better. They have been here since the beginning and they have worked hard to get where they are. They have set a very good example for the underclassmen and have showed them just how hard they have to work to win a championship," said Heflin.

Expectations for any team can sometimes be tough to accomplish, but with this team anything is possible. "We expect to win the overall SBAAC league championship, again, place in the top four at sectionals and qualify as many individuals for district as we can," said Heflin.



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# Paxton's Grill a pleasant place

## Loveland eatery combines good food with cozy atmosphere

By Luke Gilday

If you ever find yourself in the need of some quality food in Loveland, look no further than Paxton's Grill.

Located in the heart of downtown historic Loveland, Paxton's is a cozy little restaurant right in the main strip. In fact, it is one of the oldest buildings in Loveland. With al fresco dining, you can take full advantage of the sights, including the area's quaint buildings and the always busy bike trail. The location also is conveniently next to the many other stores and shops on the main road. Overall, the atmo-

sphere here is definitely reminiscent of the picturesque small town it is located in.

Unlike the humble space the restaurant is located, the food portions are huge. Whether you order the salad, just an appetizer, or a burger, you won't be leaving hungry. There also is a wide variety of food to order. Although it is an American style grill, you can order everything from Italian, to Oriental, to Mexican. But, no matter what you get, the quality is fantastic. The chicken is tender, the fruit is fresh, and the drinks are cold.

The service was just as good as the food. Our waitress was always polite and orderly, always quick with the refills. She definitely deserved her tip at the end of the day. Along with this, the food was ready in a very timely manner and everything came out great.

The pleasant experience was continued when we got the check. Everything was reasonably priced and with the big portions, it was all worth it.

The only issue with the restaurant I could see would be its lack of space. While on the average

day, the small building makes the restaurant seemed relaxed and quaint, I would imagine on any kind of busy day, things would seemed cramped and it would lead to a long wait to get a seat.

Overall, Paxton's was a great experience. The atmosphere was enjoyable and left you feeling refreshed. The food was tasty, reasonably priced, and plentiful. If I ever find myself in Loveland again, I know exactly where to look for some quality food.

# One more show airing awkward moments

## Friendzone more humiliating than entertaining

By Christin Gray

Have you ever felt like you're in the friend zone with someone? The growing show *Friendzone* on MTV has been airing for a while now. The show is a lot like an awkward, sloppy train wreck.

The show has different teenagers/young adults on every episode: a guy, and a girl who at first appear to be friends and at some given point in their relationship one of them created more feelings for the other.

To be honest, it's really de-

pressing and sad watching people just like us get shut down by someone they call their "best friend." Why air a show if the outcome is humiliating and all you think about is how awful our society is?

How is it possible for a guy and a girl to just be friends and not complicate their friendship with all those extra feelings that can arise? Or how can you tell when someone feels the same way you do about the relationship?

Being friends with people can be hard, the even harder part is finding someone you can entrust with your feelings and thoughts. Most articles say the best relationships come from friendships.

As if there aren't enough dating shows out there, why should MTV throw another one out there as well? Just like the constant hilarious, spray tanned Guidos phenomenon of *Jersey Shore* that by now is mocked by almost everyone, the ridiculous behavior and drama of the teenagers on *Friendzone* isn't showing people how real relationships

start.

The the adoring love teenagers have for one another these days, can be overwhelming; it can also be raw, honest and compelling, but maybe too honest and too compelling. Once being confronted many teenagers don't know how to control themselves or their feelings.

The worst part of being shut down by your "best friend" is all the questions. "Why?" "I thought that..." There are many awkward moments that happen in life and having them aired might just be the worst.

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# Awkward teenage life focus of MTV show

## Aptly named *Awkward* filled with drama, excitement

By Josie Buckingham

In 2011, MTV aired a new show about a high school girl's awkward life, including her family life, love life, and school life.. The name of the show? Well, of course, it is called *Awkward*.

Main character, Jenna Hamilton, played by Ashley Rickards, is trying to have her life in the social middle of high school. She doesn't fit in with the 'popular' kids, the 'geeks', or really any others. As she learns and grows as most high schoolers do, viewers see the good and bad decisions that make up Jenna's life.

As the series began, Jenna's life became a bit messy when an incident at home caused her family and the whole school to believe that she was trying to commit suicide. She also has to deal with some of the adults, including her mother, who are trying to live in their younger days. And what would a show about a teen-

age girl be like without a boy? Jenna, of course, falls in love with the school hottie, Matty McKibben, played by Beau Mirchoff, and trust me, he isn't called the 'school hottie' for nothing. When the second season starts, Jenna is torn between two boys, Matty and Jake Rosati, played by Brett Davern, who are actually best friends.

Also, like many teenage girls, Jenna has her best friend, Tamara, played by Jillian Rose Reed, to help her out and add to the drama. Tamara is the girl who keeps up with everyone's business and knows anything that is going on in the school. Tamara would freak me out to have as a best friend. She is always filled with drama and craziness, which would just be way too much for me to handle.

Most of the actors and actresses are fairly new to filming. Although this is true, I think they

all do a great job fitting into the role that they were each given. I don't think there is really any one actor that I can say is just plain awful.

Although the show is supposed to be about a young teenage girl in high school, I think that it is quite exaggerated, and almost a bit stereotypical. For one girl to go through almost suicide, two different loves, a school bully, a batty mother, divorcing parents, and all of the other drama on the show just seems to be a bit much. Still, it is definitely a show that pulls you in. You get all caught up in the drama and want to keep watching it. When I saw the first episode, I didn't think much of it, but it grew on me as the seasons progressed. I was able to relate to some of the events happening throughout the two seasons so far.

This would be a show that I



*Tough choice:* Jenna (Ashley Richards) with the two guys in her love triangle. Photo/<http://blog.zap2it.com/frominsidethebox/2012/06/awkward-recap-going->

would recommend to teens who enjoy a show filled with drama and excitement, and also one that they can keep watching again and again.

**SARAH COCHRAN**  
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# Who would put grilled cheese on a doughnut?

Tom and Chee, that's who, and it's delicious!

By Chandler Cochran

These days you see restaurants trying to make the craziest items to try to get customers into their seats. But Tom and Chee takes that to the extreme, making some of the craziest grilled cheese sandwiches you have ever seen. It started off as a food stand on Fountain Square, then moved to Newport on the Levee where business has been booming.

The odd combination of everyday food items on a grilled cheese is quite interesting, but what sets the restaurant apart from the rest is the famous grilled cheese doughnut. It is by far the greatest thing on the

planet. They literally take a glazed doughnut and put it in a pan, just like the bread for which they are substituting. Then they go about doing the same thing you would do with a regular grilled cheese. They put a few slices of cheddar cheese on it, then bam! You have the most delicious grilled cheese sandwich on the face of the planet.

While describing it to me the first time I was there, they told me it tasted like a warm cheese Danish, and I've never had one of those things either, so I decided to give it a shot.

But grilled cheese doughnuts

aren't the only thing on the menu; there's also tomato soup, which is delicious. The only down side to their soup is that they don't have as many options, only tomato, which comes three different ways, classic tomato soup, chunky tomato basil, and creamy tomato basil.

The restaurant itself is not the fanciest, but it's still nice. The place kind of looks like Chipotle, with the decor and seating. There are also a few TV screens around the inside of the restaurant. They don't have menus, only a giant chalkboard menu on the wall that goes all the way

from the floor to the ceiling filled with the wacky creations they offer.

You just order right at the counter then sit down and they serve it to you. There is seating both indoors and outdoors, and the prices are relatively cheap. The sandwiches range from \$4-6, with the grilled cheese doughnut only costing \$3.50. So next time you are in Newport, I strongly advise checking out Tom and Chee, and discovering how amazing the grilled cheese doughnut really is.

# Steak, Tex-Mex, plus nice, private seating El Coyote makes a fine meal

By Caleb Branson

There is a profound difference between good food, and great food, and El Coyote, is great food! In my opinion, El Coyote has some of the best steak around. El Coyote is a Tex-Mex kind of restaurant, because it serves all sorts of Mexican style foods, and some Texas style steak. El Coyote definitely makes my top five as far as restaurants go.

Perhaps one of the best things

about El Coyote is its location. It's not located in a highly populated area, it's nice and quiet there. There aren't very many other restaurants in the area either, so there isn't much competition.

They also have amazing service! Every single time I have gone there, I never have to wait long for anything. My drinks always get refilled almost as quickly as I drink them, and the

food doesn't take long at all! El Coyote is located at 7404 State Road, off Five Mile Road.

El Coyote also has both indoor, outdoor seating, and a bar. Seating is quite spacious, and there is usually little no wait for a table, even on Friday nights, because of so much seating. The seats are also relatively private, which is good, because having people up in your grill, while eating some fresh food off the grill, is never any fun.

The steak in particular is by far my favorite food that's served, the New York Strip to be exact.

You have a choice of the 10oz. or the 12oz. for a price of \$30.99. It is a little pricy, but is definitely worth it!

I would also recommend their signature bean dip! It is by far some of the best around. It is so good, that when served as an appetizer with chips, you almost don't want to get to your dinner yet! It may be the best bean dip I have ever eaten in my entire life! The bean dip is priced at \$6.99, not too bad considering how good it is. I definitely recommend El Coyote if you're looking for a nice place to go out to eat.



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