

The Messenger

Volume LXXXI

October 2021

Issue 2



Positive changes in New Richmond:
Community welcomes new businesses

New business hopes to benefit community

Wholy Beans offers space to get together

By: Brooke Donley

Along Front Street in New Richmond there are many new businesses opening up and Wholy Beans is one of them. It is a coffee shop that wants to offer the people of New Richmond a place to meet and collaborate with each other. Their menu features breakfast, lunch and baked goods as well as coffee, frappes, smoothies, teas and hot chocolate. The owner, Amanda Wheeler, has many goals and ambitions for the coffee shop in the future.

The idea for the coffee shop started out of a dinner ministry. "Once a week I would take donations and cook for 75 people in Amelia. I started thinking about how we can feed these people? We started roasting coffee and opened the coffee food truck. Then, Ally Stacey from The Collective reached out to me about putting coffee in their shop so we did that. She mentioned to me that there were some places on Front Street that could host a spot to open a business. We have always been fond of New Richmond because my oldest

daughter graduated from here. A man named Bill Fox reached out to me and asked if I would be interested in renting out this place for a coffee shop and I said yes."

Wheeler wants to make a positive impact on the community. "The first part of making an impact on the community is just creating a space where people can come together and collaborate. The other part of making an impact on the community is giving back ten percent of our profits to community organizations that are trying to better the community. I started doing this because I wanted to make a positive impact on people. As we grow, we hope to do even more to help benefit the employees that work for us and be able to expand our business. I have a passion for coffee and I have grown my passion by learning from others in the industry."

Before opening her own business, Wheeler had a couple of different jobs. "I worked for ten years for Target corporation as a front end manager.

I rotated into different areas of that corporation while I was there. I graduated from Mount Saint Joseph University with a degree in nursing. I worked in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit for ten years. I taught students during their Intensive Care Unit rotation. I worked at the Village Coffee Shop in Newtown before launching our food truck to learn a little more about the industry first hand. We began with roasting coffee first before launching the food truck last year in May. Then, this year we launched this location."

Opening her own business has not been without challenges. "Right now, one huge challenge that we have faced is reopening our food truck. I hired an individual to run the truck, but I would have liked to open it sooner than what happened. It's been harder to find extra people to work so staffing shortages come with that. We cross train everyone to do every job so we can cover each other. So far that is it. There are some challenges in getting goods like coffee as well. Brazil drives the

price for coffee and they had a really bad growing season. For the first time I had trouble getting coffee in because it was sitting in the port waiting to be unloaded."

Wholy Beans has hopes to be involved in many events in the future. "We want-

ed to do a fall event this year, but we probably won't get that done. With staffing it's hard to staff the shop and the event. We are going to try to do some giveaways and things like that throughout the year as well. We will be open for the Christmas Walk. We participated in River Days and the Fourth of July with extended our hours. We are working on our schedule for next year to work on some special events. We love the community in New Richmond and would like to be involved in all of the events to help support the community. We are planning to host our own events next year. We have had suggestions to do coffee flights. It's like a tasting event so everyone would have the opportunity to taste several different coffees. We do many events with the coffee truck and we take the truck to different schools and neighborhoods. December was our busiest month last year."

Wheeler would like potential customers to know a few things. "We roast our own coffee weekly and we try to get organic and fair trade coffee with the coffee we source. We like to partner with other small businesses. For example, we partner with the Rustic Spoon in order to get some of our baked goods. Our other baked goods such as donuts and muffins are from Marcella's in Amelia. We would like to see our space used to meet with others. We are here in New Richmond and hope to positively impact the community."

Jane Lockwood

TAXES - ACCOUNTING - RETIREMENT & BUSINESS PLANNING

RBS
Riverview Business Services

jllockwood@RiverviewBusinessServices.com

513.553.2141 Office

513.553.2353 FAX

1099 Ferris Road

Amelia, Ohio 45102

www.RiverviewBusinessServices.com

Alumni brings new business to the village

Lane Dees now the sole owner of Northside Chop Shop

By **Conor Johnson**

The village of New Richmond has gotten several new businesses recently; the Northside Chop Shop is one of these new businesses and has grown to be quite popular. Lane Dees graduated from New Richmond High School in 2018 and has recently purchased the Chop Shop so he is now the sole owner.

Dees had always planned on owning a barbershop but never expected it to happen so soon. "I thought it would happen 10 years from now, but the opportunity arose so I just went for it."

When the shop first opened, Dees had a mohawk with two stripes on the sides. "No adult should have this haircut, but all the kids loved it. I swear I did about 30 of these haircuts. Even my own nephew had it. It

was like I was some mohawk cult leader, recruiting kids in the first and third grades." Dees later added that he had recently shaved his nephew's mohawk.

Becoming a barber wasn't always the plan but it was always an option for Dees. "When I was in high school taking CCR, I kind of wanted to be an athletic trainer but that didn't work out. I think that CCR would have been more beneficial for me in my senior year instead of my sophomore year because it would have given me more of an idea of what I wanted to do. I went to UC Clermont for a year but I didn't know what I wanted to do. I ended up dropping out of college after a semester. What kind of happened was that I was on a journey in some words. I was thinking about things I had done in my

life and jobs I thought were cool. Throughout high school and middle school, I had a barber who had moved to Georgia, I contacted him saying that I was interested in going to barber school and the rest is history. I really enjoyed barber school even though it was a gamble at first."

When Dees was in barber school, he became good friends with a guy he met there, whose brother owned a barbershop in Cold Spring where Dees worked for about a year before coming over here. "Adrien Echeveste and John Huddleston opened the shop originally, and then I bought it from them not too long ago when they realized it was my home town we were working in. It was always a goal of mine to open a shop in New Richmond, although it didn't exactly go the way I planned. It did work out in the end, though."

Dees wants to get another barber in the shop and he is currently trying to get his cousin to come and work with him. "I want more people here for more hands. I have a lot planned but it is a matter of time, I would like to sell shirts to help my buddies out. I have a friend named Dan Troxel who does all the artwork for me, and he makes really good art. I kind of want to put a TV in here and an old fridge and give a free beer with every haircut. I would ID everyone before giving them a

beer, though."

Dees enjoys several things about the business.. "I like sitting down and having a good conversation with somebody whether it is music, sports, etc. When you are in a barbershop, it isn't like you have just one conversation, you get to see them every few weeks and learn about their lives and learn more about them. It is a cheaper therapy in a way."

Expansion is not on the list as of right now for Dees. "Right now, I just like being the warm and homely thing. This is my home town and there can only be one of those, I guess."

The advice Dees has for any students interested in creating their own business is to have a good support system. "Make sure you have people you can rely on. Don't try to do it by yourself straight out the gate. I am the sole owner of the shop, but I have people to rely on, like I have my mom and friends. You can do it right out of the gate but it is more of a headache and causes more stress."

Dees thinks that people should come to the Chop Shop to support local businesses. "They don't have to come, but I try to take my time and not rush everyone. I try to give them good haircuts. Although some people want to get in and out but that is not for everyone. It just isn't that kind of shop that rushes through everyone."

WOLF
EXCAVATION & HAULING



Wolf Properties
Storage • Rental Property
Scott Wolf

128 Front Street
New Richmond, Ohio 45157

Cell: (513) 615-3122



Green Kayak
Grille and Pub

200 and 204 Front St.
New Richmond, OH

513-843-6040

New Richmond gains a new business

Ace Hardware brings new opportunities for locals

By Dallas Shirey

Ace Hardware is growing business, and is beneficial to the New Richmond community. "I chose to build an Ace Hardware store in New Richmond because I've lived here for a while and I felt like we needed one. I feel the store brings helpfulness and a sense of community with it," said business owner Lance Sizemore.

Business has been good and in time Ace plans to expand. "The best thing about owning a business is the feeling of accomplishment. We'll probably

expand our paint section or our outdoor area," said Sizemore.

"Business has been doing very well, we have potential to expand, we'll hopefully get more paint options," said store manager Judy Vogel.

The national labor shortage is a problem for Ace Hardware. "The hardest part is the general labor shortage, and finding people to work. Besides that, supply chain problems, not getting our products on time," said Vogel.

"The most stressful thing is

probably making sure people are there because you can't run a business without employees, also the shipping cost for products is a problem," said Sizemore.

Ace Hardware is a very community-aware store. "It's very down-home and friendly, we hire people based on things such as how hard they work. We offer services to people, such as delivery," said Sizemore.

"The store is very personable, we offer things like glass cutting, screening, and paint mix-

ing to those who need it," said Vogel.

Workers are very sociable at Ace Hardware. "The workers will always be very helpful," said Sizemore.

"They will help you find what you are looking for, even if you don't know yourself. We offer power tools and we also have some brands we offer such as Benjamin Moore Paint, and Big Green Egg Grills," said Vogel.

Cheeseburger in Paradise, NR style!

Sunset Beach offers fun food, entertainment, atmosphere

By Lily Staton

In the community of New Richmond, there have been many new businesses that have opened. One of these businesses is Sunset Beach Bar and Grille, located on Front Street in the village. The general manager, Peter Watson, shared some information about the newly-opened restaurant.

The outdoor patio at Sunset Beach has a striking appearance. With its brightly-colored benches, picnic tables, umbrellas and all-around beach vibe.

The restaurant opened on September 17th, 2021, and it's apparent that a lot of work and effort was used in preparation for the grand opening. "We had been working on it since March 8th. We had lots of construction work, plumbing, and electrical work that had to be done. We also had to write menus, beer lists, get permits, licenses, inspections, and we had to find staffing, and train the staff," Watson said.

All of the owners of Sunset Beach are from New Richmond. "It's a small group of

us, all local. We kind of had to choose to open the business here, this is home," shared Watson.

While the restaurant has a "Casual American" food style, they still serve a variety of meals, Watson stated. "We serve steaks, ham, fish, just backyard cookout food."

Being the general manager of a newly-opened restaurant is a job for a hard worker. Watson shared a little about his experiences as a general manager. "110 hours. That's what I worked last week. It's very demanding, but rewarding. It's very high-stress. You always have to be prepared for what surprises may come your way."

Along with the negatives, there are positives to working as a general manager. Watson shared some of his favorite aspects to working as a general manager.

"Honestly I really enjoy getting to know the people in the community, especially the high school students. Despite what people may say, I believe that

they're a hard-working generation."

Watson stated that the business has lots of room to grow. "There's many things we could improve on. One of those is implementing our outdoor grills. With the grills, we could allow people to come and cook their own food outdoors."

Watson shared that the most important, and challenging aspect of working at the business is just being prepared for the unknown."

Sunset Beach has a varied menu that includes appetizers, sandwiches and a dinner menu that features several delicious

combos, including steak, ribs, wings and coconut shrimp. There's even a kids' menu!

The restaurant is also planning a Christmas on Tuesdays promotion which will include dinner for two, dessert and a bottle of wine for \$89.

Live entertainment at Sunset Beach changes week to week; check the website at sunsetbeachbarandgrille.com for updates, call the restaurant at 553-1400 or go down to 401 Front St. and enjoy lunch or dinner with a spectacular view of the mighty Ohio River and the company of good friends.



Roundabouts planned for US 52

New Richmond looks to reconfigure main road

By Dallas Shirey

New Richmond is planning to potentially go through drastic changes in road safety. New Richmond plans to slow down U.S 52 and add several new roundabouts, along with potential biking and hiking paths to limit car accidents and fatalities.

Renaissance New Richmond President Bob Lees said that the reconfiguration of US 52 through our village is long overdue. “

When the four-lane highway was built it gave much easier access to our nation’s interstate highway system and shortened considerably the drive to downtown Cincinnati, CVG airport, and to points north of Cincinnati where many New Richmond people worked. It was a blessing in a way, taking the burden off of Front Street as a busy narrow street that increasingly could not handle the volume of traffic that it was expected to handle.”

Lees said that the village was promised increased prosperity due to the fact that US 52 would be rebuilt as a four-lane limited-access highway that would go all the way to the East Coast of our country prior to the four-lane road being built.

“That ultimately did not happen,” he said. “It cut our village into two pieces and abruptly

ended at the upriver edge of our village.

There are many reasons to change the current road system.

“Safety and reunification of the village are two main themes we have stressed since we filled out the application for funding,” said Zoning and Planning administrator Andrew Gephardt.

Roundabouts decrease accidents and improve traffic flow by about 25% according to many studies. I see students and other pedestrians crossing US 52 at Walnut Street which is obviously very dangerous and one of the many reasons we thought this idea would be beneficial for the village by creating safer, pedestrian friendly interchanges.

Lees added that provisions for crosswalks and even traffic lights for the safety of our residents were not included when the four-lane road was built.

“It took the deaths of a number of our residents including my youngest sister and two deeply loved school teachers in traffic accidents to get the attention of our state transportation officials to take notice which caused them to add three traffic lights but still no pedestrian crosswalks to be added. Speeding through our village continues to create dangerous

accidents and near-accidents,” e said.

Funding comes from a federal grant New Richmond received along with help from local sources.

“The bulk of the money for the project at hand is coming from a \$6M federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality) grant. The village is seeking match money from local sources both private and governmental. As a small local government entity with very limited revenue sources, this has been the greatest challenge for the project,” said Village Administrator Greg Roberts.

The road changes will benefit the community in both safety and quality of life for residents. “My hope for the reconfiguration of US 52 is for it to continue to connect us to the Greater Cincinnati area and beyond but that it will help connect the now-divided village back together. In other words, changing US 52 from a village ‘pass through’ to a welcoming village thoroughfare “adding to the quality of life of our residents,” said Lees.

The project benefits the community in several ways, according to Roberts.

“One, reduced speeds coupled with experience and knowledge of motorists navigating modern roundabouts have proven to result in improved safety. Any crashes tend to be less severe with less serious injuries. A dedicated hike/bike trail is safer than the one using the existing shoulder.

“Two, less air pollution and traffic congestion with a con-

stant traffic flow rather than cars sitting at intersections idling. Three, pedestrian crossings will reconnect the village divided by the current long abandoned and ill-conceived 4 lane highway/speedway,” said Roberts.

Gephardt cited other positive effects of the construction of the roundabouts as well as the related parts of the entire road project.

“Dedicated bike/ped lanes can increase property values and attract tourists to the area which is another goal of the project and certainly attainable. We already have seen an uptick in bike traffic in town as we do now have a direct trail connection to downtown Cincinnati and improving that infrastructure will help get New Richmond more on the map for bikers and tourists alike,” he said.

Construction plans are still undecided; layout plans have been made but have not been finalized.

“The construction will be managed by ODOT. The final design and location of the roundabouts is yet to be determined. They will likely replace the three current traffic lights and possibly one or more additional intersections. Preliminary layouts at all intersections indicate that modern roundabouts built to current design standards will fit at all intersections without disturbing current structures or heirloom trees (the gazebo and magnolia tree across from Dee’s are safe),” said Roberts.

C-Sharp CPR
American Heart Association Instructor



Cortney Sharp

BLS for Healthcare Providers
CPR and AED
First Aid

Email: CSharpCPR@gmail.com



Clermont Mental Health

info@clermontmentalhealth.care

text @: 513-655-6911

www.clermontmentalhealth.care

Serving teens and adults of all shapes, sizes, backgrounds, cultures, identities and tastes

Meet a safe team of professionals inclusive, compassionate, non-judgemental who can help you build a healthy and happy life

Common Areas of Concern: anxiety, depression, self-worth, anger, grief, women issues, identity

**Molina CareSource Buckeye/Ambetter
Anthem Paramount Medical Mutual
As low as \$25 for those without coverage**

New Richmond creates LGBTQ+ supportive groups

New Richmond Pride and GSA club making change in the community

By: Lily Staton

In the village of New Richmond, there are implemented measures to make members of the LGBTQ+ community feel safe and loved. One of these is at New Richmond High School. That is the GSA, or Gay-Straight Alliance club.

The advisor of the club, Bethany Puliafico, said that the purpose of GSA is to help students feel like they have a safe space to talk about anything they are struggling with.

“The purpose of GSA is to allow all students to feel accepted and safe. GSA is meant to allow any and every student the opportunity to share topics they might be struggling with and to help support them in those situations,” she said.

Puliafico mentioned that GSA started out as a relatively small club. “GSA has always been a

recently large club averaging about 5-10 students the first and second year. This year it has grown significantly (due to announcements being allowed) and there are now about 15-25 students each week. It has been fun and exciting to watch more and more students come and bring new ideas and personalities to the group,” she stated.

Puliafico feels that GSA affects everyone in the school. “I feel that GSA Club has helped educate a lot of our students, not just the students who attend GSA but all the students within the school. I feel that education is key in any situation and GSA has taught students to be accepting/tolerant of others regardless of their lifestyle. I believe that for the students who attend GSA it has given them an opportunity to feel support

that they might not always feel outside of school or even in school,” Puliafico mentioned.

A growth in numbers isn’t the kind of growth Puliafico is looking for. “My hope for GSA is not necessarily growth in numbers but more growth in acceptance and tolerance. I hope that this grows not just within our club but our school, community, and country,” she said.

She enjoys working as an advisor/facilitator for GSA because of the opportunities to meet new people, Puliafico said. “I love being able to meet new students that I might not have an opportunity to meet in my role at NREVSD. I also enjoy watching other students build relationships with students they might not typically interact with and seeing the stu-

dents that are typically closed off feel that they are able to open up and engage.”

Puliafico said that GSA is a time for students to support one another. “We learn a lot of different topics in GSA; I try to incorporate some type of history related to LGBTQ, while also teaching how to be an ally and how to show tolerance and acceptance. GSA is mainly just a time for students to talk about their struggles and it is a time to not necessarily learn, but to be heard and to support each other,” she said.

The students who participate in GSA have said that joining GSA helped them feel supported and safe in New Richmond High School.

“It’s shown me the safe people in the school,” said senior Reagan Fugate.



*Good food, good friends...
good times*

120 Front St. New Richmond, OH
frontstcafe@gmail.com
513-553-4800

"I've felt like part of a very supportive family," said junior Jasper Rogers.

"It's given me a safe space and showed me I'm not alone," said junior Ryan Hammond.

"It gives me a place to be myself," said sophomore Madison Hoskins.

The students also said their favorite part of GSA is seeing the people in the club.

"My favorite part of GSA is the fact that I feel so comfortable here and I'm even surrounded by my friends. I love knowing I won't be judged while I'm here," said sophomore Dabi Neeley.

"My favorite part of GSA is being with people who understand you," said Hammond.

"I like the energetic, fun group that is the GSA club," said freshman Lillian Guillermín.

In the village of New Richmond, there is also a LGBTQ+ supportive non-profit organization, called New Richmond Pride. The president of New Richmond Pride is a member of the community and her name is Michelle Johnson.

Johnson said that the purpose of New Richmond Pride is to

bring more acceptance to the community of New Richmond.

"The purpose of NR Pride is to help bring inclusivity to our wonderful town. We want anyone who wants to come and experience New Richmond to be welcomed in our little town. We want to throw off the stigma that small towns are filled with racist and homophobic people. We want to be able to celebrate the town we love with the people we love," she said.

Johnson said that acceptance has become more prominent in our community. "It's hard for one person to fully understand the impact on the community, but we have heard some amazing stories of acceptance from the community."

Johnson said that, in time, she hopes New Richmond Pride can be run by "younger folks." "I hope to see NR Pride grow and flourish in the community. Ideally, I would like to step back as president in two-three years so that some younger folks can take the reins and help build the group and community," she stated.

The ultimate goal for New Richmond Pride is to have a festival, Johnson said. "Ulti-

mately, we would love to have an annual Pride weekend in June and be able to bring in some crowds of people to enjoy New Richmond and give the local businesses some new customers. In addition, we want to give people a safe space to be themselves, have a great community of support folks and support each other as we journey through life."

Johnson plants to have more events with New Richmond Pride. "Currently, we have social evenings that we are trying to plan on a monthly basis. We are considering other events like movie nights, craft nights etc, but those may have to wait until after the holidays when people have more free time," she shared.

Johnson enjoys meeting others and hearing their stories. "Meeting new friends and hearing some great stories of acceptance – I am especially moved when a grandparent is supportive and accepting of their grandkids.. it really touches my heart and I'm so proud of the families that have these types of dynamics."

New Richmond Pride was just founded the summer of 2021.

"NR Pride was founded on June 28, 2021, the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. NR Pride is an incorporated non-profit foundation that was founded with a five person board of directors. We are pursuing 501c3 non-profit status and while we do so we are considered a fully functional 501c3 nonprofit – so any/all donations are tax deductible," Johnson said.

New Richmond Pride has many upcoming events for others to participate in. "We participated in New Richmond's Trunk or Treat on October 23rd, 2021. We will also be having a toy and clothing drive during New Richmond's Christmas Weekend to help Lions Reach Out distribute toys, clothes and other items to the families in need. In addition, we plan on sponsoring the first ever Clermont County Pride Festival in New Richmond in 2022. We are so excited to show everyone how amazing this little village is and bring in some business and fun for the entire community," Johnson said.



NEW RICHMOND
Auto Sales
FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1925

513-553-4151
WWW.NEWRICHMONDAUTOSALES.COM



MANSELL
CONSTRUCTION
HELP YOUR HOME MEET YOUR NEEDS

- Complete Remodeling
- Additions
- Bathrooms
- Tree Removal
- Electrical & Plumbing
- Decks
- Kitchens
- Bars & Garages
- Household Repairs

Quality Work
30 Years Experience
References Upon Request

IVAN MANSELL
Mobile (513) 319-2373

Horror in Literature class is created at New Richmond

Students enjoy reading classic, modern creepy tales

By: Lily Staton

New Richmond High School implemented many new courses for students to take this year. Horror In Literature is one of the new classes.

In the Horror in Literature class, classic horror novels are a good choice for what to read. "A focus on the genre of horror, we're reading some classics like *Hamlet* and *Frankenstein*. But, we are also reading modern literature. like *Midwinterblood*. And of course, Edgar Allen Poe," said the teacher of the class, Shelby Adkisson

Horror in literature is a new class at New Richmond high school. Being implemented only this year, it is a fairly small class, with this being its first semester in place. As the class grows and becomes older, Adkisson hopes it can be taken

along with other English classes, and hopes for the opportunity for the class to become a full-year course.

"I would like for kids to take this in addition to public speaking. This grade has to take English Comp. but they have the option to take public speaking and/or Horror in Lit. I would like them to consider this along with English Comp. and Public Speaking. I wish I had more time. I wish it was a full-year course," she stated.

Adkisson advises students who take the class to be prepared for a good scare.

Reading horror is a pleasure for Adkisson. She enjoys reading the scary and mysterious stories she said.

Making the classic novels interesting for the students is the

hardest part about teaching the class Adkisson said.

"It's difficult to make the classics interesting and help students to find the horror in those classics. It's just not the same way we read and watch scary stories now," she stated.

The literature class is primarily reading novels. "Just be prepared to read. It is a literature class. There isn't a ton of writing, just reading," Adkisson said.

Adkisson recommends this class to students. "It's a nice change of pace from everything else that we read," she said.

The students who are taking Horror in Literature enjoy how interesting the class is and enjoy the novels they read.

"My favorite part about this class so far is possibly watching or reading *Hamlet*," said senior John Glover.

"I love the books we read," said junior Freyah Stacy.

"The types of book and literature are very interesting and keep my attention," stated junior Maddy Rudy.

"It's an easy class and it's interesting," said junior Kylee Polhemus.

Most of the students who took horror literature class were already interested in horror films or novels. They also were interested in the diversity of the class

"I thought it would be fun and different than any other English class I've taken," shared Rudy.

"I love horror. I also love the stories," said junior Freyah Stacy.

"It seemed different and involved more reading than writing," said senior Jack Nicoloff.

"I love the genre of horror and how it keeps you on your toes," said junior Alessandra Farrell.

In the Horror In Literature class, the students read horror novels, watch the movies, and do assignments based on the story.

"We create one-pagers and write in the viewpoints of the characters of the novels," said junior Alessandra Farrell.

"The majority is reading, then small activities, and very few writing prompts," said senior Nate Rodgers.

"We are doing an assignment on Steven King in which we get to choose our books individually," said junior Emma Baechle.

"During this class we read a number of different books and complete activities related to them such as one pagers and short essays," said senior Ellie Arkus.

The students taking the course recommend it to other students.

"I would recommend this class because it is a lot of fun and can get you really interested in reading," said Rudy.

"I recommend this class because the class is very interesting and pretty easy as well," said Baechle.

"I would recommend this class to others. It is a fun and very calm class," said Rodgers.

"You get to read such interesting books that we wouldn't read in other classes. So, I recommend it," said Farrell.



**SPORTS EQUIPMENT
ANDREW GRIFFIN
NRHS CLASS OF 1986**

**218 FRONT ST.
NEW RICHMOND
OHIO 45157**

513-349-3359

GRIFFINSPORTS317@GMAIL.COM

Have you ever wanted to be on *Roar on the River*? Then public speaking might be the class for you

By Isaac Trees

Every Friday during fifth period every class watches *Roar on the River*. Many people enjoy this news broadcast but have you ever wondered about the people making it?

"It's public speaking. We practice speeches. Students learn how to be persuasive and entertaining in their speeches. Students in this class also produce *Roar on the River*," said teacher Nicole Parker.

The day to day this class changes based on what they are working on. "Some days we work on speeches and then, some days we work on *Roar on the River*," Parker said.

"The class involves a lot of speeches, and a lot of recording," stated senior Caitlin Darnell.

Many students learned valu-

able skills about how to speak with confidence and persuade the listener.

"I am able to speak in front of people without as much anxiety," said senior Alicyn Saylor.

"I have learned how to give speeches and talk in front of large crowds," said junior Ainsley Zimmerman

"I learned how to speak and or perform in front of an audience confidently," said senior Abbie Calvert.

Students also learn the skills necessary to make a news broadcast.

Senior Devin Barker said, "I also learned how to use a camera for *Roar on the River*."

"I learned how to film, edit and produce *Roar on the River*," said senior Anne George.

Many students enjoy the pro-

duction of *Roar on the River*.

"I enjoy the creative freedom we get to make something our peers enjoy," stated Calvert.

Damean Daugherty, a senior, said he joined public speaking for a specific reason. "I took the class so that I could see Mrs. Parker. All of my favorite memories are ones that have Mrs. Parker."

Parker thinks public speaking helps students prepare for college and the rest of life.

"If you go to college, most majors require public speaking. Students like to have some practice in a safe environment before college. I feel in life any job you get requires some public speaking and communication skills," she said.

According to Parker, this class is much more interactive than the normal class. "It's very face to face. You don't have your face dug into a computer screen."

Grace Bailey, a junior, also enjoys the interactiveness of the class. "I enjoy interviewing kids and becoming more connected with the school."

Students in public speaking

said they particularly like the atmosphere the class offers.

"It's a very chill environment. The hardest part of public speaking is just getting up in front of the class to deliver a speech," said senior Kylie Cox.

"I enjoy the environment and how the class dynamic works because it creates good memories," said Zimmerman

Parker likes to watch the students grow. "I like watching the students progress and learn how to speak in front of people."

Like all of us, Parker has her favorite memories, too. "Lexi Hotchkiss cooking and her cooking speech. Kade Heffin's backflip speech and demonstration. Fun Fridays and working on *Roar on the River*. We don't do many Fun Fridays now because we have to work on *Roar on the River* but we used to make up games to practice public speaking skills."

While public speaking may not be for everyone, it's a great way to get out of your comfort zone and if you like giving speeches or just like watching *Roar on the River*, this class should be on your radar.



Caring You Can Count On

200 Western Ave.
New Richmond, Ohio 45157
513-553-4132
www.ecnurre.com

Arnold's Marathon



466 Old US 52, New Richmond, OH
513-553-3169

AP United States History challenges students

Be prepared to read, work, discuss, analyze

By: Brooke Donley

New Richmond High School is offering many new classes this year and Advanced Placement United States History is one of them. United States History is a required class for sophomores and students may choose to take the Advanced Placement version of the class as opposed to regular or advanced United States History.

The class is different and more challenging than that of a regular or advanced course. AP U.S. History follows AP Curriculum while Advanced U.S. History follows Ohio Learning Standards. The biggest difference between the two is that AP Curriculum covers 1491-Present while Ohio Learning Stan-

dards cover 1877-Present. AP Curriculum is also much more in-depth and the tests are far more challenging.

AP United States History teacher, Brad Hatfield, said overall, students like the class. "They seem to like the class well, but not the extra work, tests and homework."

Many students took AP United

Cate Coulter.

Other students wanted to be challenged by the class and were not disappointed by the demanding course work.

"I chose to take AP U.S. History because I felt I needed a challenging course and I wanted to take a college level class," said sophomore Luke Donley.

"I wanted to be challenged and learn to apply my knowledge to the questions asked instead of repeating and reciting my knowledge. It also gives me a chance to get a college credit," said sophomore Lyla Nieter.

"I thought it would be a good idea to take a more difficult class and push myself harder," said sophomore Rowan White.

There are some students who felt pressured to take the class.

"I chose to take this class because I felt pressured to take it and I thought I was better at history than I am," said sophomore Anna Uhlenbrock.

"I felt pressured by my classmates to take the class, but I also felt like I needed to," said sophomore Samantha Ringhand.

A small number of students took the class because they enjoy learning about history.

"I have always liked history and reading books as well as fun facts about history. It just seemed like a fun class to take instead of being bored out of my mind in the other history classes," said sophomore Analyse Kinnard.

"I chose it to challenge myself because I love history. I also want to prove Mr. Benzinger wrong by showing him that I can actually take the class," said sophomore Katie Coorey.

Some students believe that the class is fun and enjoyable.

"I really enjoy this class because I love history. The teach-



RIVERTOWN IGA

A Great Place for NRHS Students to Work!
Excellent Starting Pay and Will Work Around Student's Class Schedule.
Come Get Experience and Save for College!
Home of Rivertown's Famous Fried Chicken and the Truckload Meat Sale

Don't forget to LIKE US on Facebook so you stay up to date on all of our crazy videos and deals! @RivertownIGA

States History because they wanted college credit.

"It would be good to take a college level class to know how demanding it will be," said sophomore Devon Smith.

"I wanted my resume to look good and it saves my parents a lot of money," said sophomore

er is not boring at all. Mr. Hatfield is engaging and funny,” said sophomore Nathan Marx.

“The class is pretty good. Get ready for a lot of sarcasm from Mr. Hatfield,” said sophomore Daegan Flamm.

“It is very fun and social. The class discussions really help me understand the work and it’s all smiles so far. The teacher, Mr. Hatfield is funny and he knows how to be authoritative when he needs to be,” said Kinnard.

Hatfield enjoys teaching this class. “I enjoy teaching students who are college-bound with high academic aspirations and energy and enthusiasm for the class.”

Hatfield describes his teaching style as Socratic. “I like to have discussion based lessons where everyone is asking and answering questions. A typical day consists of analyzing and discussing various historical issues, documents, and test items. We are working on

reading, writing, and analytical skills necessary to succeed on the Advanced Placement United States History test daily as well.”

Other students are not fond of Hatfield’s teaching style for the class.

“Mr. Hatfield is nice and funny. He listens to our concerns but he just doesn’t give us enough instructions or really teach us the material,” said Coorey.

“The course is self-paced so it’s pretty hard not to procrastinate and there is not a whole lot of structure to the class,” said sophomore Audrey Nicoloff.

“Mr. Hatfield is new to teaching this course and you can tell. It’s best to do most of the learning on your own sometimes,” said Nieter.

“The class is my favorite yet least favorite. You don’t really learn all that you need to know in class and most everything is impossible to do. The teacher

is fun when he’s not actually teaching,” said freshman Lilly Summerville.

Many students believe that this class is difficult so they have a few tips for people looking to take the class in the future.

“It is different from any other class. You need to study everything and the tests are hard. Once you finish the test just submit it, don’t look over it,” said sophomore Kiera Kirk.

“It is very hard. You have to have a lot of time to study which I do not. It makes the class much harder with little time to study,” said Uhlenbrock.

“Study a lot and prepare yourself for a lot of stressful work,” said sophomore Elle Ziesler.

Other students say lowering your expectations is necessary for taking the class.

“If you decide to take Advanced Placement United States History, you need to lower your expectations of what

your grade will be. It’s far from an easy A,” said Donley.

“You will have to be willing to be a hard worker and adapt to new ways of learning. You need to learn how to study and be consistent. Learning is not A+ all the time, it is challenging yourself,” said Kinnard.

“It’s going to be really hard so if you’re an A+ student, lower your standards to a B,” said Flamm.

The best piece of advice others can offer is to not procrastinate on work or studying.

“The class will prepare you for college and create good study habits. Make sure to study early, not just the day before the test or exam,” said sophomore Sophia Bloom.

“Do all of your daily work super early in the unit to ensure you know everything. Be expected to teach yourself,” said Coorey.

Nick Carmosino

513-482-0467

carmosinoplumbing@gmail.com

Carmosino
Plumbing

Carmosino Plumbing and Home Improvement Maintenance

Earning Your Trust One Job at a Time!

Licensed and Insured

Students learn basics of coding in video games

New class teaches 21st century tech skills

By Dallas Shirey

Video games is a class where students use digital instructions to create and control digital applications. This class was put together to help students learn video game designing in the 21st century.

"I decided to teach this class because we have great leadership in our district who have a wonderful vision for the future of our classes and students. This was a class that was dreamed up by them. They asked me to teach it and I couldn't turn it down. I love learning new things, trying new things, and helping others do the same, so this was a great opportunity for me. This class teaches the foundations of creating video games in javascript. Students will learn how to program and create video games," said teacher Alan Lindner.

The class is highly interactive and gradually tests the student throughout the modules.

The course syllabus states, "The course is highly visual, dynamic, and interactive making it engaging for new coders. Students will combine many concepts of computer science and learn the fundamentals of programming with a focus on the tools needed to build several of their own games from scratch.

"The course contains eleven modules such as; Introduction, Animation, and Games, and Basic Data structures to name a few. Each module in the course is broken down into lessons. Lessons consist of video tutorials, short quizzes, example programs to explore, and written programming exercises. Each module ends with a comprehensive module test that assesses students' mastery of the material from the module."

Students say the best thing about video games class is its self-paced learning and the challenges it brings with it.

"The best thing about the video games class is being able to relax and listen to music while working," said freshman Kan-zis Keith.

"The best thing is being able to get lessons done on my own time," said senior Laney Clemons.

"The best thing is all the challenges you do," said freshman Talon Smith.

"The feeling of solving a hard problem is the best thing," said junior Matthew Hammer.

"The best thing about this class is it allows me to take my time," said freshman Keiren Cox.

Another thing students enjoy are the online programs they use and what they do in those programs. "I like moving Karel, a character we use to learn the basics of code," said sophomore Kaiden Legg.

Karel is a digital dog; it has its own world where students can code and program its movements. Using coding blocks, students complete tasks assigned by the CodeHS.

The course syllabus states several activities the students will need to complete: "30 Karel programming and exercising Challenges, teach Karel new commands, solve large Karel problems by breaking them down into smaller, more manageable problems, and use control structures and conditionals to solve general problems."

Students in the class say they want to code video games and believe that it will help them in the future.

"I took this class so I would be able to code a game I am

making. I believe this class will benefit me in the future because if I do make a game it could be popular, like Minecraft, and make me lots of money," said Smith.

"I wanted to take this class because I thought it would be interesting to learn how to program and make codes," said Clemons.

"I wanted to take this class because I play lots of video games and have always wanted to make one. I believe this class will benefit me because I've always considered making video games for a living. So this class is a good way to find out if I'd like to do that or not, and if anything, video game making can be a hobby of mine," said Keith.

"I took this class because I want to become a game designer. I grew up playing video games so I started to think and believe it will benefit me when I make my own video game," said Legg.

"I wanted to take this class because I want to make my own game someday. I think it will benefit me because I could feature my art inside of my own game," said Cox.

"I took this class because I want to be a game designer. I believe it will benefit me because it's exactly the basic steps I need to become a game

designer," said Hammer.

According to the course syllabus, although the course is introductory, it is an honors level course. "Once students complete this course, they will have learned material equivalent to a semester college introductory course in Computer Science."

Students who are taking the course say they recommend it.

"I recommend it because I enjoy this class a lot. It's my favorite class, it's super fun and enjoyable to the point it doesn't feel like school," said Keith.

"If they want to become a game designer they should try this class out," said Legg.

"I would recommend it because It's fun and instructive," said Cox.

"It takes a student who gets coding and problem solving, but yeah, I'd recommend it," said Hammer.

"I would recommend this class if you like to work alone and get things done on your own, this is the best class for that," said Clemons.

Lindner also agrees that this class is good for those who enjoy programming or want to program in the future.

"I would recommend it to anyone interested in programming because this class will teach you the foundation of programming and teach it in a way that's stress-free and fun."



RIVER VILLAGE SHOPPE
Antiques
& CONSIGNMENTS

Christina Reissig- Owner
310 Washington Street, New Richmond, Ohio 45157
937-690-9837
rivervillageshoppe@yahoo.com
Open Wednesday-Saturday 10:30-5:00 and Sunday 12:00-4:00

Memories that will last a lifetime

The Troubadours are ready for a new year

By **Conor Johnson**

At New Richmond High School, the Troubadours are a big part of the Lion Pride. With this class come a lot of pretty amazing people who have great things to say.

Troubadours is special to many people for many reasons. For teacher, Lizbee Hannah, it is special because of the student leadership and ownership of what they are doing.

"Students really want to be in class and they work hard to make each day both musically meaningful and also fun and cooperative. They are creative, kind, hilarious, and they work hard. Can't ask for more than that!"

Every year has been very different for Assistant Director, Paige McConnell, who has seen the students evolve in different ways over the past three years.

"My first year was in the actual choir room with Mrs. Han-

nah for half the year. The second year was in the theater with masks and non-traditional performances. This year is also in the theater, but unmasked and, hopefully, back to almost traditional performances. If I have seen anything evolve, it would be the strength of character of the students. They're strong. They persevere. They are overcoming challenges and will be more resilient as adults because of these difficult years."

Hannah starts a typical day in class with warmups, announcements, and sight-reading. Sight-reading is the practice of reading and performing a piece of song in a musical notation that the performer has not seen or learned before; the class will sight-read music using takadimi and the scales.

"Then we rehearse whatever repertoire we are working on for the next performance," said Hannah.

Takadimi is a system used to teach rhythm skills. For example, a quarter note is ta, a rest is m, etc. It assigns a distinct syllable for each attack point within a beat. The beat is always spoken on ta. From these syllables, patterns are created based on where within the beat each note occurs.

Students should get involved in the choral program even if they think they can't sing and even if they've been told by someone else they can't sing, according to Hannah.

"If it's something you enjoy doing and are willing to work on, I will help you get better!"

There is a camaraderie amongst the choir students that provides a safe and welcoming place to belong, which is one of the reasons McConnell thinks students should join.

"The experience goes beyond a semester or a year-long classroom experience since many of

these students participate for multiple years."

Hannah is most proud of the progress the Troubadours have made in sight-reading.

"It's such a difficult skill and one that can be very frustrating to practice, but also what will help people the most continue to participate in music after they leave high school."

McConnell is proud that the Troubadours treat each other with kindness and respect. "...and they sing really, really well."

Hannah has several great memories with the Troubadours and she struggles with choosing a favorite memory.

"Some of what comes to mind first is performing for the elementary students on the holiday tour, seeing the new members in their uniforms for the first time at the Autumn Leaves concert, Troubsgiving, the Winds are Changing, and a lot of the



**See something.
Say something.**



Clermont County Sheriff's Office

513-732-7500 Tip line: 513-625-2806

awesome music we have made together."

McConnell's favorite memories are some of the silly things from her first year here.

"Things like Claudia's hair and Disney princess costumes as a classroom management strategy to this day make me smile." The story about Claudia's hair is that another student cut a chunk from the bottom of Claudia's hair during a rehearsal (with her permission); it became a humorous icon for those students...and it is still around somewhere in the choir room!

"Mrs. Hannah had a sub that worked at Disney World as a Princess. She had many princess outfits. One week she made a deal that she would come as Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* if there was above average student participation." McConnell said when explaining the Disney Princess class management strategy.

Other than singing, the class does many fun activities, such as Team-Building Tuesday and Wednesday Zen Day which are a weekly tradition. Team-Building Tuesday is a fun activity for the whole class to participate in. Usually, it is a singing game that the sections or the class as a whole will do, activities that have been done are things such as singing 100 songs in 10 minutes (they sang 100 songs in less than 10 minutes).

Wednesday Zen Day will usually be a video that the class can watch for fun, typically students will watch a video of a game called *Line Rider* put to match with a song.

"In the past we have also done a Troubadours retreat, Troubsgiving, Secret Santa, Rainy Day Projects, and a bunch of other fun stuff planned by our social chairs and other officers." said Hannah, when explaining past activities the class has done and enjoyed.

One of McConnell's favorite activities was when the students

presented their Rainy Day Projects last year, and in her opinion, they were mind-blowing. "The quality and ingenuity was over-the-top!"

Rainy Day Projects were projects assigned last year to do on days when Hannah was not there. They are projects students got to create an idea and proposal to present to Hannah to approve for them to do. After being approved, they would make a schedule and possibly use the MakerSpace to create them. The projects were supposed to be worked on for the whole quarter/semester.

Every few weeks students were to have something to turn in to Hannah at certain dates to show the progress they had made. Students did things such as research music in other cultures, musicians, or even make an album of songs they covered and edited.

Senior Logan Crooks, President of the Troubadours, said that he likes Troubs because it is a really great environment. "Everyone is just wonderful at what they do; seeing Troubs perform is what made me want to join."

Sophomore Taylor Elam likes Troubs because of the connection everyone has and the amazing sound they produce. "I wanted to be a part of Troubs because I want to learn how to be a better singer."

All the people in Troubs are wonderful people, said senior, Nate Rodgers who loves to sing. "It is one of if not the best part of the school day,"

Sophomore Mikayla Feldkamp likes how everyone is close to one another. "Everyone is here for a good time. I wanted to be a part of Troubs because being a part of a group that can have fun but also works together amazingly. I also just love to sing."

"I like that Troubs is a community of New Richmond kids, and I love that everyone can come together to express their

musical ability," said Rosemary Wildey who wanted to be a part of Troubs, just as her family before her.

Senior August Cloud likes the family aspect Troubs has, and the good sense of community it brings. "I wanted to be a part of Troubs because I like knowing that I made it into something you have to try out for and succeed at that."

"You can be a part of a family who all share the same interest as you, and put as much effort as you do into singing." said sophomore Lyla Nieter, who enjoys the informal vibes of Troubs.

Sophomore, Brooklyn McIntosh's favorite memory was Bigs and Littles clue week. "All the new members got a clue each day of the week and on Friday, our Bigs were revealed to us."

Bigs and Littles is a way for the returning members to welcome the new members to Troubs and where an older Troubs member basically "adopts" one of the new members.

Senior Laney Ringhand has several memories that she is fond of. "One of my favorite memories is finding out we got a 1 at contest my first year. Another of my favorite memories is being a little my first year and getting the chance to be a Big for two new members. I also loved when we had a Troubs retreat."

Senior Kylie Cox's favorite memory is of before the first concert of 2020. "All the returning members were so excited for the new members to get their sashes."

"One of my favorite memories in Troubs is when we would do the rainy day projects.," senior, Anna Reynolds said.

Junior Zoe Hammond's favorite memory was of Mrs. Hannah reading the quote of the year last year: "You can complain because roses have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses." In Zoe's opinion, this fit

perfectly with everything that happened throughout the year.

"Singing is very different from playing an instrument but learning one helps the other. I can better understand music as a whole with both of them," senior, Cadence Deitsch said, adding that she has learned so much from Mrs. Hannah and it is only October.

Senior Courtney Smith's music knowledge helps her understand songs and the different aspects that go into making them. "Troubs also helps me realize the deeper meaning behind songs."

Sophomore Georgia Kahrs becomes a better vocalist in Troubs by being able to work with and learn from other people who are as interested in music as she is. "My favorite memory would have to be when I told Maddy I would Irish jig on her grave."

"Mrs. Hannah is really good at making us sound good even though there are singers like me," said sophomore, Cate Coulter who also said, "Vowel shapes all the way!"

"It's nice being in a choir with other people close to the same skill level and who want to actually be there. I learn new things every day and we're not just going over easy things" sophomore, Katie Coorey said.

The Troubadours keep overcoming new challenges and have a lot more to give. Cheer them on as this year's class paves the way for future generations of Troubadours! McConnell has the perfect way of describing such an energetic and resilient class. "These students are dedicated to success and it shows through their positive attitudes and great singing."



NEW RICHMOND

718-9255

GO

L I  N S

1048 Old Hwy 52

Students crave some control over assignments

Independent reading, book choice is best

Throughout the years we have all been required to read books in English that, in all honesty, we absolutely hated. I think that schools should ask opinions on what books students should have to read for English, books that they can connect to and actually enjoy.

The books that are required by schools for us to read tend to be boring, and even if it is a good book, we can almost never enjoy it. Most of us really enjoy reading but when someone tells us what books to read and when to read, it takes the fun out of it and we no longer want to read. We enjoy reading books more if we are able to connect to characters and if we like the genre of the book; we want topics we will enjoy and to read at our own pace so we can truly enjoy the book.

I enjoy English more when we get to pick which book we read for that quarter and then we do a project at the end of that book because then we get to read at our own pace and we can enjoy the book. If the teachers are going to make us read, then they could give us a list of books with a synopsis of each book and we could vote on what book we want to read, so then we still have a choice.

I have read some books be-

fore we had to read them for class and I personally enjoyed the book more when I read it at my own pace without assignments, and while some may say they enjoyed it less because they had already read it, that is not true for me personally. If I enjoy a book and actually like it, I will re-read it several times and still enjoy it or if it is part of a series, I will keep reading the series.

Whenever we get to choose a book ourselves, we tend to enjoy it more. In fifth grade when we got to choose from a list, I chose *The Candymakers*, which I really enjoyed. We still had to read a number of chapters by a chosen date but we got to choose what assignments we did for the reading, and we got to choose how we did our final project. If I remember correctly, we also got to make a schedule with the group of people reading the same book of what chapters we should have read by a specific date. Being able to choose the book and the assignments we did made it more enjoyable because we got some control over what we did.

One issue with the books is that they tend to have historical backgrounds we may not always understand. The books, if they are going to have a his-

torical background, should be set in times in history we have been able to spend a lot of time on that we can have a better understanding of them.

Out of all the books that we have read from sixth grade to now, the only one that I have enjoyed a little is *To Kill a Mockingbird* and that is in spite of all the assignments we have done. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is related to some things we have learned about in the past, such as the Great Depression and Jim Crow Laws. The books should be able to go hand in hand with things we have spent time on so we can have a better understanding of when the book is taking place and the problems characters face.

If I got to choose a book, which would probably be for the semester instead of for the quarter, I would choose *Gone with the Wind* because it is related to things we have spent more time learning about, but also gives us a different perspective than what we have learned about the Civil War. The book is pretty long but very well written. I am currently reading this book and in my honest opinion, I think other students could enjoy it.

Another option for books we could read that students would enjoy could be some of the

Conor's Corner



By
Conor
Johnson

books in the Harry Potter series or the Percy Jackson series. I know others who have read these books, including myself, who have really enjoyed the books, and honestly, I think that they might be able to enjoy the books for school as well. A book that I read quite often and have been re-reading since second grade, maybe before then, that could be a great option for us to read is *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

There are so many books that we could enjoy reading for school if the teachers gave us a chance to choose the book and read at our own pace. We would still have to finish the book by a certain time, but if the teachers still were to choose the books or give us a list, I think that we could enjoy the books more. If we get to choose the assignments we do for the number of chapters and then do a final project that we get to be really creative with, we would be able to enjoy a book that was selected for us because we would have more control.

Letters to the editor and guest columns 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. Questions should be directed to Sue Griffin, x10314.



Are books better than movies?

Reading encourages personal growth

We all watch movies but have we all read the book those movies are based on? Is the book better than the movies? If the movie is bad, should I still read the book? Most people would probably say no, but I personally believe that the book is better than the movie.

I enjoy going to the library so I have read many books throughout the years. Some might even call me a bookworm. Don't get me wrong, one of my all-time favorite movies is based on a book and while I haven't been able to read that book, I hope to. However, I have read several books that seem to be better than the movies that were based on them.

I believe books are better because when you read a book, the characters can be imagined how you want. No one depicts it for you, and even if the author uses descriptive words, your brain still puts them in a format that makes the most sense to you. For instance, if someone asked you to imagine a dog some people would have different answers. While you might think of a Chihuahua, your friend could think of a Great Dane, and even when you add details, people can still see that dog differently. If I said to imagine a small dog with brown fur and blue eyes, while your answers might be similar, they would still vary. What is considered small depends on the person; some might say a Golden Retriever is a small dog while others might say that it's not. Neither is wrong, it is just how they view that particular instance.

The same thing happens when books are turned into movies. When a movie is made, the director has a certain view he wants to convey in the movie. An example of this is if he makes the main character look mean and rough when you imagined the character as sweet and fragile, you might enjoy the movie less than you did the book. I personally believe this is true, even more for the bookworms in the world.

Reading provides an opportunity to do something parents can't possibly yell at

you for. What parent is going to tell their kid to stop reading? It's like watching a movie marathon and your parents can't say anything. Not to mention reading is very relaxing; reading before bed helps me get better sleep and I feel well-rested in the morning. Besides that, even after you've read a book there are plenty of things to do with it. You could reread it, recommend it to a friend, donate it to a library, or in some

cases, you can use old or damaged books to create art.

Speaking of libraries, you can rent out books for little to no money, depending on where you go and what you get. Libraries are also a great place

to study and work on homework, especially if you need access to resources. Also, libraries are pretty safe. Certain libraries offer incentives for reading for so many minutes, such as coupons or little fidgets, pens, or even crossword puzzle books.

Reading doesn't require very much physical activity, so you don't need to feel pressured by what's going on here? Reading is a productive activity, and the more you read, the better your brain gets at comprehending what you read

When you read a book, everything you imagine is how you imagine it, so seeing something that is completely different from your opinion won't seem right. When you read a book, the characters and setting are perfect; they're perfect for you and how you like it. Books help develop your imagination, and your imagination can contain way more detail than a movie would.

While I understand people enjoy movies, I think if they gave the book a chance, they would find the book to be better than the movie. I know I most certainly enjoy the book better. These are reasons why I personally believe that the book is better than the movie because we all have different opinions and views on things, and even if they're similar, two people are exactly alike.



The Messenger
New Richmond High School
1131 Bethel-New Richmond Rd.
New Richmond, Ohio 45157
2021-2022

Messenger Staff Reporters:

Brooke Donley
Conor Johnson
Dallas Shirey
Lily Staton
Isaac Trees

Adviser: Mrs. Susan Griffin

The Messenger would like to remember Mrs. Betty McKenney as we begin our 80th year, and once again, thank her for her many contributions to our paper.

We would also like to remember Ms. Diana Spinnati, for her support and encouragement of our student journalism program.

The Messenger appreciates our administrators, both past and present, who have supported both the newspaper and the journalism program at NRHS.

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 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 March. Please direct comments or questions about the paper or its contents to the adviser, at 553-3191, x10314



NREVSD School Board candidates state their views

The Messenger asked the four candidates for school board in the upcoming election to submit a statement of the candidacy for publication in this issue. Following are their statements.

Kristen Bennett

Hello Lions,

My name is Kristin Bennett and I am running for re-election to the Board of Education. I have lived in the New Richmond EVSD since 1997, and I worked as a firefighter, EMT/paramedic and a Lieutenant in different Fire and EMS departments. I am married to Michael Bennett, a 1990 NRHS graduate, and have two daughters: Anna (2017 NRHS graduate) and Becca (a Junior). I have met many of you through youth sports and my children's lives. One thing I can say is that having lived in the New Richmond area and being a Lion is something proud to be. I encourage you to work hard on your academics and athletic endeavors, and I try to attend as many events as possible to show support and cheer you on.

I think it's important to understand what the Board of Education does. The main job of the BOE is to set policies and guidelines (an example of this would be the district's mask policy for this school year), set educational goals, and hire and supervise the Superintendent and Treasurer. The board adopts curriculum, establishes budgets, and is the elected representative to ensure the educational philosophy of the community is followed.

I feel a board member needs the ability to listen to community members' concerns, make decisions based on factual information and data, and take the time to research all issues that are presented to the board. With my background and experience in the fire service, I make decisions quickly when needed, and have pushed for improving our facilities and training to increase school safety measures. If re-elected I will continue my work in these areas.

The past year and a half, the district had to make changes to its operation with Covid-19. Each of you have adapted well with all the different and unusual things you have had to endure compared to other students in years past. Thank you for all that you have done to have in person learning and extracurriculars succeed at NREVSD during the pandemic. The Board made the decision this year to make masks optional, and I believe that each parent should have the decision if their child(ren) should wear a mask and receive the Covid-19 vaccine. I know that some may not agree with this decision, but each of us should be consulting our personal physicians and not have Board Members mandate these issues for students.

Some of the items I would work on the next four years if re-elected:

- continue to improve school safety and security

- balance the budget with the upcoming loss of revenue with the Zimmer power plant closing.

- working with the administration on improving curriculum and instruction

- establish policies that reflect the educational philosophy of the district

- maintain the programs and facilities for extra curricular activities for students

- work with committees to provide a way for students to be more involved in communication and marketing of the district and student activities

Enjoy and make the most of each moment the rest of this school year brings you.

Amy Story

Why I am Running?

I believe I'm uniquely positioned to serve my community and the NREVSD. Why?

I am:

*Objective, having no conflicts of interests (no relatives employed by NREVSD, no children attending). My children are 2018 and 2021 graduates of NRHS.

*Informed, having co-lead the successful 2020 "We Are NR" school levy campaign, and participated in 2020 COVID planning and the 2020-2021 Strategic Planning committee for NREVSD

*Collaborative, demonstrated success with bringing diverse interests and people together around a common community cause or goal

*Dedicated, having previously served as the Treasurer of New Richmond Soccer Association and a current New Richmond Alumni Association Trustee

*An Advocate, having spent my career helping people work towards self-sufficiency and protecting vulnerable children and elderly.

What are my skills, talents and expertise that will help me contribute as a school board member?

I'm a lifetime New Richmond resident and 1986 Alum (nee Eha) of New Richmond High School. My post-secondary education is in Psychology (BA) from Wilmington College) and Business (MBA) from Thomas More College. I bring 30 years of professional, administrative and leadership experience at Hamilton County Job and Family Services, the largest government organization in Hamilton County. I've served in a variety of executive roles, implementing, and monitoring programs, developing staff, interpreting, and developing policy (OAC/ORC), and ensuring fiscal accountability. My non-partisan experience provides a solid foundation of transferrable skills including oversight of personnel, policy, budget, and contracts/procurement and continuous quality improvement.

What are the biggest challenges facing our school district and what specific solutions do I seek?

Finances: NREVSD faces an uncertain financial future. Expenses exceed revenues despite increases in property taxes from the successful 2020 levy campaign and continued diligence by the school board and administration. With a projected deficit by 2025, the NREVSD must communicate with continued transparency regarding their financial situation and further strengthen ties to the community. We must improve school performance to demonstrate continued community investment produces academic outcomes.

Academics: New Richmond has a long history of academic excellence. NREVSD provides low student to teacher ratios (19:1) and enrichment activities including music, art, and athletics. Approximately 16% of NRHS students participate in AP courses and NRHS average graduation rate consistently remains above 90%. However, we can and must do more to improve reading and especially math proficiency and develop personalized pathways to success. We must ensure standardized curriculum between classrooms (same subjects) and schools (same grades) to eliminate disparities.

What do I hope to accomplish while you are a school board member?

The school board's primary purpose is to establish district policy and provide guidance and oversight to school administration. They must be positive, confidential, and responsible liaisons between the school district and the community. As a future board member, I will be a collaborative, professional, and proficient problem solver. I will consistently demonstrate my investment in students, the

schools, and ultimately the community by building public support and a clear understanding of public education. I will also act as a resource and support regarding lingering negative impacts of COVID 19. These impacts are disproportionately experienced by low-income families, including economic stressors and loss of learning and educational opportunities. With more than 30% of economically disadvantaged students, NREVSD must closely monitor, adapt, and respond given the likelihood of increased needs for mental health and educational supports.

Ultimately, I want to help ensure every student is prepared for their future, and that the NREVSD provides a flexible learning environment rich with opportunity for all.

Todd Wells

What are your skills, talents, and expertise that will help you contribute as a school board member?

I am a former employee (1993-2005), lifelong resident, and 1989 graduate of the New Richmond Exempted Village School District. I have been in education in some capacity for 28 years. From 2005-2009, I became an employee of the Clermont County Educational Service Center as an assistant principal and special education supervisor. From 2009 to current, I have been employed in the Milford Exempted Village School District as the coordinator of special education/student services and currently as the assistant principal at Milford Junior High. Junior high students, staff, and parents is where my heart is. J. Two other administrators and I have the privilege to meet and greet over 1000 students in two grade levels and 85 staff on daily basis. People think we're crazy, but we love serving this age. To watch them grow academically and socially-emotionally after two short years in the building is an amazing story.

I will be the first to tell any-

one, I am no expert. However, my educational experiences have made me who I am today along with a little help from my parents and extended family. I can bring these experiences to the board and provide them some truths and myths of what it's like in the day-to-day lives as a teacher, staff member, bus driver, or administrator. I consider myself a servant leader, a leader who will listen, a leader who will take a negative confrontation situation and patiently turn it into a win-win. I am caring and compassionate in any and all situations. I will be the first to admit that when I am wrong (please don't poll my wife and daughter), I take ownership and expect to be held accountable. As a building administrator, I know and understand the challenges that building staff face every day. Sometimes these challenges make me think in creative ways to overcome the task at hand.

What are the biggest challenges facing your school district and what specific solutions do you seek?

The biggest challenge that we continue to face is the loss of revenue the early closure of the Zimmer Generating Plant, scheduled for May 2022. As a member of the NREVSD Board of Education, I will continue to support the efforts to reduce unnecessary spending and look for alternative ways to increase revenue.

A second challenge that our district faces is the need to update our curriculum and be on the leading edge of technology that will make our academic programs even stronger and consistent. A strong research-based curriculum and state-of-the-art technology, along with a great staff (which New Richmond has) will challenge our students to unlock and explore ideas they never knew as well as take risks to be best. The current Board of Education has supported Mr. Miller, Superintendent, and his vision to evaluate and improve our academics. New curriculum

adoptions and roll-outs are not an overnight fix, but a 2-3 year process per subject. I will continue to support Mr. Miller and his team to overcome this 10-year challenge the district has faced.

What do you hope to accomplish while you are a school board member?

If re-elected, I will continue to be fiscally transparent and responsible to the taxpayers of the district. Being a member of the current board that made difficult decisions to sell assets, close and repurpose buildings, and reduced staff (never an easy decision), we listened to the community. I promise to honor and uphold my duty as a board member, remembering that my view of the district should always be from 50,000 feet above, not in the trenches, day-to-day. I hope to continue to be part of the process of evaluating and providing outstanding educational services to ALL students as well as creating a safe, nurturing, and diverse learning environment. Finally, if re-elected, I will continue to support the district's ongoing relationships with local businesses and government bodies. Sharing our story, the New Richmond Schools story is the greatest thing that we all can do.

Johnathan Zimmerman

My name is Jonathan Zimmerman (nicknames JZ, Z, Z-man) and I am running for New Richmond School Board. I am running because I have a heart of service and volunteerism and want to repay my community for all that it has provided to me and my family. It would be an honor to serve all of the students and the entire New Richmond School District community. I would not be the successful professional or leader that I am without the foundation provided to me by the New Richmond School District and community.

I graduated from New Richmond High School in 1993 and have fond memories participating in National Honor So-

ciety, Cross Country, Basketball, Buckeye Boys State, and running the printing press that printed The Messenger in Mr. Robinson's graphic arts class. My daughter Ainsley is a Junior at NRHS and son Aiden is an 8th Grader at NRMS. My wife Mrs. Zimmerman is a 4th grade teacher at Monroe and prior to that NRE. I spent summers in High School and College working for Mr. Robinson and Mr. Calles in the parking lots of Coney Island like many other New Richmond grads and current students.

I have both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from The University of Findlay with a major in Environmental and Health & Safety Management. Professionally I am an Environmental Health and Safety Director at Kellogg's. I have been elected to national leadership positions with the American Society of Safety Professionals and serve on the advisory board at The University of Findlay, where I routinely teach and guide others, especially young professionals and students, in their journey to becoming excellent leaders and professionals that serve others.

Ultimately, I am running for all the students reading this article and those in all of our excellent school buildings. I believe John F. Kennedy said it best – "Children are the World's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." You are the future leaders of our community, our businesses, our government, and our world. You are the reason New Richmond Schools exist and you deserve excellence, the same excellence that has propelled so many past graduates to success. That's what I want to help provide to you.

Amberlee Romano enjoys drawing and writing

Sophomore loves spending time with fam-

By Dallas Shirey

Amberlee Romano is a sophomore at New Richmond High School. Her favorite memories in school were the field trips.

"I went to Monroe so we would have field day every year; we called it Walk-a-thon. We got to throw water balloons at everyone, including teachers and jump on trampolines, too. Sixth grade was the best year for me."

Some favorite childhood memories for Amberlee are hanging out with friends and family. "I was a tomboy and I loved to play outside. We lived in a trailer park so we didn't really have a backyard but I was lucky, we didn't have neighbors. The plots next to our home were empty. All I can remember is playing in the mud with a friend that lived across the street."

Amberlee describes herself as an introverted person and wants people to know she's not a mean person. "A quiet, weird person but once I feel confident enough to talk to someone, I tend to be very charismatic. I don't mean to be rude all the time, I'm just stressed and I get extremely shy with new people. I actually have a sense of humor, too; I'm not just some walking empty shell like most people think."

The Romano family is very chaotic and enjoys spending time together. "My family consists of very dark humor. We are also very obsessed with animals. My grandma keeps getting more dogs and me and my mother have a chicken obsession. We enjoy watching Harry Potter and we used to make fun

of Snape and Hagrid."

Amberlee's mother is her role model. "I know a lot of people use this but my home life is a bit rough right now. My mom is working a lot more and she is still trying to keep us happy. The best advice I've received is don't take everything at face value."

Amberlee has become crazier over the years and enjoys doing art. "My hobbies are digital art, sometimes on actual paper. Writing, I enjoy writing about characters. I tend to write backstories for them. I guess I'd say I have gotten weirder and more mature."

Visiting Russia is one of Amberlee's long term goals. "I want to have a decent job to support me and my cat and possibly go to college for digital art. I'd like to go to Moscow, Russia or somewhere in Germany. I'm just very interested in the culture and possibly history. I'd honestly just like to take pictures of the sights."

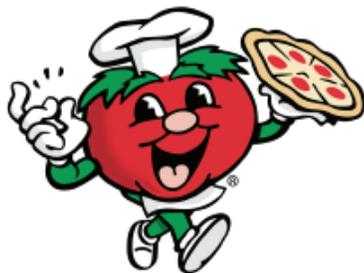
A typical day for Amberlee is a school day. "Wake up, get on my bus, get to school and have a breakfast sandwich thing,



possibly two, and somehow make it through my classes. On the weekends I do nothing fun, nor go places because my home life is too hectic for me to go anywhere or do things that aren't in my own home."

One of the greatest challenges for Amberlee was losing friends. "Getting through it was very difficult but I was able to get through it by acting like nothing happened."

Amberlee's favorite possession is a dragon stuffed animal. "It's like a comfort thing in a way, It doesn't have wings. I've had it since I was a newborn and I love that little thing."



**Snappy
Tomato
Pizza**

**NEW RICHMOND
(513) 553-3300**

**Delivery, Carry Out, Order Online
Mon thru Thur 11AM - 10PM
Fri & Sat 11AM - 110PM
Sun 12PM - 9PM**

**1041 Old U.S. 52
New Richmond, OH 45157**

Park
NATIONAL BANK

Where you mean more.

888-474-PARK • parknationalbank.com

Soccer player in the fall, swimmer in the winter

There's more to Emma Metzger than meets the eye

By Isaac Trees

Emma Metzger, a freshman here at New Richmond High School, plays sports for two different New Richmond teams.

"I play soccer and swimming. I play these sports because they are entertaining and aggressive and put up a good competition,"

Like many of us, Emma owns many pets. "I have two cats, two dogs and two turtles,"

The reason she owns turtles is very unique. "I got the turtles for my mother's class. She is a teacher and the kids like to learn about animals,"

Emma loves her English class. "I like my English class

the most because it is really easy and entertaining and the people in that class make it a fun class every day."

Everyone has a favorite form of entertainment, including Emma. "My favorite form of entertainment would have to be tik-tok; it is very funny and there is something different each time you swipe,"

Emma feels students are treated differently in high school than in middle school. "I feel you are treated much more like an adult here. In high school you're basically an adult and you can do more things in high

school,"

There's normally some sort of shell-shock when coming back to school "The transfer was hard because I was not used to all of the work and getting up early," said Emma.

We all have a place we enjoy going, same with Emma "My favorite shop would have to be Plato's Closet. You can get good brands cheaper and sometimes the clothing can be brand new," she also has a favorite restaurant. "I forgot the name of my restaurant but it's in Yellow-



stone. It has the best salad bar, literally anything you could ask for it had it. Including ice cream and hot fudge,"

Junior believes core values are important

Trust, honesty matter most to Karlye Gilpin

By: Brooke Donley

At first glance, junior Karlye Gilpin describes herself as boring. "Once I get to know someone and am comfortable with them I can be fun to be around."

Gilpin has a few things she enjoys doing in her free time: "I like to watch TV, read and play with my dog."

There are a few characteristics that Gilpin looks for in a friend. "Trust and a sense of humor are the two main qualities. I look for someone who is trustworthy because I have a hard time keeping my mouth shut and I look for someone who is not going to go and tell everyone what I said. Not that I really have any secrets. I would call myself an open book. I also look for a sense of humor because I love to laugh and just having a friend who has a good sense of humor just makes you happier."

Some of Gilpin's favorite memories with friends are when she had them over at her house. "We did blindfolded makeovers

and one of my friends ended up dropping their phone in the toilet because their makeup was so bad."

Gilpin enjoys spending time with her family in her free time. "My mom is nice and enjoys playing cards, sometimes too much. My dad is a nerd like me and enjoys acting like a child even though he isn't one. My sister and I can be a little bit goofy together and are almost always laughing. My dog loves to bite me. The newest addition to my family is my niece who loves to talk and is too adorable."

There are a few core values that Gilpin believes are important. "Don't cheat, be trustworthy and try your best not to lie. My core values are important to me because it makes me. I feel like the moment I lose my core values is the moment that I will lose myself."

If Gilpin had tons of money, she has a few plans with what she would do to help people.

"I would make sure that my parents are taken care of, then I would donate to cancer research."

An ideal vacation for Gilpin includes a lot of exploring. "Going somewhere new for the first time with no real agenda would be the best. I would like to go to Egypt because I have loved Egypt ever since I learned about it. I just find it amazing how they were able to build pyramids without modern tools. I don't think that any aliens were involved."

A possession that means the most to Gilpin is her stuffed animals. "I was given them when I was born. They are from my parents and are some of the first things that were bought for me."

In order to be herself, Gilpin has had to learn a few valuable lessons. "If someone has a different opinion than you, it's okay. If you get something wrong, it is okay to be wrong,



everyone is at one point or another."

One thing about Gilpin that isn't easy to see is: "I am a horrible test taker even if I get good grades. Tests are definitely one of my downfalls."

Junior passionate about music and helping others

Rose Rogers plans on becoming a music therapist

By: Lily Staton

New Richmond High School is filled with exceptional students. Rose Rogers is not an exception.

Rose talked a little bit about their family. "My mom, Wanda, is a childcare worker, spending every day with 15 kids in her classroom. She's loving, brave, and always willing to help others. My dad, Jim, works as security at Belterra Park Casino. He's funny, caring, and always knows how to brighten up everyone's day," they said.

They have two dogs, Rose said. "I have a Pomeranian named Chewee, who's loud, annoying, but very cuddly when he wants to be. Then I have a German Shepherd, Tyndall. She's a rescue, so no matter what, she's always on high alert, ready to protect us. She's very loud and always begs for head scratches."

Music and vocals are one of Rose's hobbies. "I'm a musician and a vocalist. Playing and singing all kinds of music has been my life since I can remember. It's always been part of me and I've always wanted to learn more about music. Performing, either with an instrument or my voice, has helped me become more confident in my abilities. I feel like it's also helped me with overcoming my stage fright, which was something I used to get a lot during perfor-

mances and even just presenting something in class. I also bake, which helps me decompress after a hard day. What's best about this hobby is that if I make something that ends up being good, I can share it with my friends and maybe help them decompress, too," they shared.

Rose would like to camp in the mountains. "My dream vacation is going camping in the mountains. The sky is clear, the air is clean, and there's so many foraging opportunities far from others. You'd be able to fall asleep to the sound of nature and sleep under the stars. It just sounds peaceful to me," they said.

Rose enjoys learning something new every day. "My favorite aspect of school is learning something new everyday. I know that's what we're there to do, but I feel like knowledge makes the world go round, and we need a lot of it," they stated.

Friendships and community are some of the ways New Richmond has impacted their life, Rose shared. "The New Richmond community has impacted my life positively. I've made so many friends that I can call my own and I've gotten so lucky with many amazing teachers. The best part about it is how supportive everyone is of each other. When you fail,

someone is always there to help you get back up, and that's something really admirable."

Rose said that they enjoy nature, and see it as a safe space. "My favorite color is sage green because it reminds me of nature. Nature to me is a safe place and I love to be reminded of that, even when I'm not outside enjoying it myself."

Helping others out of a dark place is important to Rose. "If anything, I would love to be a music therapist. It would be me helping others with what saved me. Something that helped me get out of my darkest times may be able to help so many other people get out of those places, too."

Rose is not picky about what music they listen to. "I listen to almost every genre. Growing up, all my dad listened to was the rock station in the car, so I learned to love rock that way. My mom, on the other hand, listened to the country while we were out, so I learned to love that, too. My aunt got me into classical and pop music and my uncle got me into rap," they said.

Rose is involved in many after school activities. "Some after school things that I'm participating in this year are Art Club, Spanish Club, Chess Club, bowling, Academic Team, and GSA," they explained.



Becoming a music therapist is the path Rose has decided to take. "My plans after high school are to go to Ohio University or New York University to become a music therapist. A music therapist is someone who helps others figure out their emotions with the help of music, whether it's through analyzing lyrics of existing songs or writing your own. I've wanted to help people all my life but still stay loyal to my love for music, so this is the best way to go for me."

Rose enjoys learning about old civilizations and how they impact modern society. "I love history most out of all of the subjects because finding out how everything came to be is just amazing. Learning about old civilizations and learning about how ours formed is just a really cool experience," they said.



1041 Old US 52
New Richmond, Ohio 45157
Phone: 553-4131

A ServAll Drug Store



110 Front St.
New Richmond, OH 45157
513-553-3101

Sophomore plans to be a game developer

Gordon Ramsey is a role model for Carson Gooch

By Conor Johnson

New Richmond High School has several model students; sophomore Carson Gooch is one of these students. Coming in at five feet ten inches tall, this student works hard in class and in cross country, but still somehow finds time to play video games until he is sleep deprived.

Gooch's typical day is waking up, going to school, going home, and playing video games. "Then I am sitting on my bed on my phone and realize I have to wake up in three hours for school."

Gooch believes that there are a lot of people in the world who treat others badly.

"A core value I have is to BE NICE TO ALL RETAIL SERVICE WORKERS. The amount of stuff they have to go through

every day makes me feel sorry for them," said Gooch. Some people think they are entitled to everything and are the center of attention and they treat these service workers terribly. Another core value of Gooch's is that if you want to do something, then you should do it despite what other people think.

Gooch's role model is Gordon Ramsey because he is really brutally honest. "He is also super nice and has helped a lot of people in his lifetime."

Gooch has yet to decide what he would like to do after he graduates. "I would like to become a game developer, but besides that, I have not really decided. You can't really tell someone what you are going to do with your life until you have done those things in life. Life

is unpredictable and you never really know what is going to happen in your life until it already happens." He wants to develop video games because he likes to code and he can be creative with the game design.

In Gooch's lifetime, he has had several memorable moments, some involving Fruit Roll-Ups.

"One of my favorite memories is when my step-brother tried to eat an entire Fruit Roll-Up without chewing. He choked on it and then threw up." Gooch said, adding that his brother tried to say that it was Gooch's fault that he did it because Gooch dared him to eat it.

If Gooch had an unlimited amount of money, he would tell everyone, but if they wanted any of it, they would have to do a series of tasks. "Eventually, everyone would be doing everything for me, and I would rule this land as a god."

Gooch's proudest accomplishment is getting 700 thousand views on a funny moments compilation on YouTube. "This is one of my proudest accomplishments because I made a few hundred thousand people laugh and smile."

Gooch feels like people need



to set aside their differences more, and would like to see people get along with each other more in the world. "People can't accept the fact that people might have different opinions than someone else. People will argue with each other just because they have a different opinion."

Gooch is bothered by adults and kids for different reasons. He is bothered by kids because of their devious licks. "Something that bothers me about adults is that some adults think they can rule over all kids just because they are adults."

Gooch has great things ahead for him in life, and this was just a stepping stone. This chapter is just beginning for him.

HUBER
AUTO & BOAT TOPS
CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY
553-2886

Home of The Original Old Man & The Gun
East Side Gold & Coin LLC
Bethel Pawn
119 W. Plane St.
Bethel, Ohio 45106
Phone: 513.427.4705
www.bethelpawn.com

Cross country prepares for end of season

Athletes share goals and favorite memo-

By: Brooke Donley

With fall sports coming to an end, the cross country team has two meets left; league at Blanchester and districts at Voice of America Park. The team has some goals for the next meets since they are some of the most important meets of the season.

"I would like to run under a 24:30 at league and depending on the weather, under 24 at districts," said girls' team captain Ellie Arkus.

"Since I have been injured for a lot of the season, my goal is just simply to be able to run at the league meet," said junior Karlye Gilpin.

Many of the athletes want to get a personal best time in the upcoming meets.

"I want to beat my all time personal best which I haven't done yet this season. Then, from there I would like to keep on improving as much as I can," said junior Ainsley Zimmerman.

"I would like to break 19:15," said sophomore Carson Gooch.

"I would like to break 21 minutes this season which would be a personal best for me. I also want to run at districts so I would like to be on varsity this season," said sophomore Luke Donley.

Coach Doug Smiddy has

goals for the team as well. "I would like our teams to improve week to week. I would like athletes to work harder at practice in order to prepare for league and districts in the coming weeks. I hope that at the end of the season each athlete feels good about the work that they put in and that it wasn't just for themselves but it was for the greater good, for their team."

Oddly enough, many of the athletes favorite memories are not from the actual running itself.

"At the Goshen meet, the boys' team ate corn so that was kind of funny," said senior Nate Kennedy.

"My favorite cross country memory was last year, when three guys decided to get inside of a drain and crawl through the underground popes. This was happening during practice so Smiddy drove up to us in a gator while we were looking down the drain for the guys in there and we attempted to not look suspicious," said Donley.

"There are too many memories to tell all of them. The best ones are playing infection in the Bailey's woods at night with the team," said Zimmerman.

"Some of my favorite memories from running cross coun-

try are getting food and hanging out with friends after meets. Taking trips to the creek on long runs is also always fun. Running meets at the end of the season when it is cold or rainy makes for good memories as well," said Arkus.

"My amazing dancing skills I had at the Mason Invitational and my amazing music battle with some random person I had never met before," said freshman Morgan Smith.

Smiddy's favorite memories include people on the team. "There are many funny moments on the team when kids do something out of the ordinary and you think to yourself, 'Did they just do that or did they just say that?'"

Many of the runners' favorite meet is Centerville Saturday Night Lights.

"My favorite race was Centerville because it was cool and there were lights all over the course," said Kennedy.

"The course at Centerville is flat, fast and fun at night so it is one of the most exciting and fun races of the season," said Zimmerman.

"I would have to say that my new favorite meet would have to be the Saturday Night Lights meet held at Centerville High School. The atmosphere was electric, the athletes were able to run at night under the lights, and run personal bests and beat the gong," said Smiddy.

Other athletes enjoy the Mason Invitational.

"This race is best because I liked jumping into the water because it cooled you off a lot. Jumping over the hay bales was also fun," said



Smith.

"The challenges that the Mason course offers is what makes it fun. I really liked jumping over the hay bales and into creeks," said Donley.

A couple athletes enjoy the Ripley Invitational from the beginning of the season.

"I enjoyed Ripley because of what you see while you are running. The scenery along the river is pretty to look at as you run by," said freshman Izzy Maloney.

"My favorite meet was Ripley because it was the last three mile meet I ran in before getting injured," said Gilpin.

There are a couple meets that stick out to Arkus. "My favorite meet last year was Goshen because it was like 30 or 40 degrees outside and pouring rain. My favorite meet this year was Centerville because it was dark. I pretty much like any meet that has favorable conditions for breathing."



Children's Halloween movie teaches moral of hope

It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown is a great movie for all ages

There are many different horror movies and children's movies for the Halloween Season. One of these family favorites is *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*.

This family-friendly movie was released in 1966. It follows Charlie Brown and his friends, along with his dog Snoopy as they partake in Halloween activities. They do things like carve pumpkins, trick-or-treat, go to Halloween parties, and wait for an imaginary figure to come to a pumpkin patch. In the story, Charlie Brown's friend calls this character, The Great Pumpkin. The Great pumpkin resembles the character Santa Claus, as the Great Pumpkin is

said to fly all around and give presents to the children within the town.

The movie has a unique art style, which most are familiar with. The series of Peanuts movies are all unique, and follow a different story; however, *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* is my favorite of them all. The story also involves comedic arguments between Charlie Brown and Lucy, along with Snoopy. The movie shows Lucy's frequent distaste with the frequent kisses from Snoopy.

It is also common in the story, along with the other Peanuts movies, for Lucy to frequently ask Charlie Brown to attempt

to kick a football, only for her to pull the football out from under him. The constant harassment Charlie Brown receives from Lucy is sure to make any watcher chuckle, and allow him or her to enjoy the movie even more.

Another comedic factor takes place when the group of kids are trick-or-treating. While the other children are receiving candy, Charlie Brown frequently exclaims, "I got a rock," in a sorrowful tone.

While making costumes, Charlie Brown attempts to dress as a ghost. He goes for the stereotypical bed sheet over his head with two eye holes cut out of the top. However, he

The Write Up



By: Lily Staton

fails this attempt at making a costume, and accidentally cuts many holes out of the costume. Lucy patronizes Charlie Brown for this, and he once again, is disappointed with himself.

Along with comedic features, the movie provides a cozy feel. With its involvement of stereotypical Halloween activities, it is the perfect movie for any kid to get into the Halloween spirit, in a not-so-scary fashion. It's imagery of bobbing apples, dancing, candy, and the funny costume fails make the movie feel warm and joyful.

Lastly, the movie provides a great moral of hope and perseverance. While Linus and Charlie Brown's little Sally sit out from trick-or-treating with the gang, they sit in the pumpkin patch waiting for the Great Pumpkin. Though they find themselves to be unsuccessful when attempting to achieve their goals, they still wait anyway. They have hope in the Great Pumpkin. This can teach little kids to have hope in situations where they might not succeed. It also can teach kids to always persevere and try their hardest when in a difficult situation. These are both valuable lessons to learn.

All in all, *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* is a movie I would recommend to watchers of any age. We could all use a little bit of hope and perseverance, a good laugh, and the cozy feeling of a classic.

Steve Brock
Free Estimates
797-5759

B & S BlackTop

1704 Lindale Nicholasville
New Richmond, Ohio 45157



Lifetime Pet Centers of New Richmond & Willamsburg Jerry W. Miller DVM

1044 Old US 52
New Richmond, OH 45157
(513)553-9954
LifetimePetCenters.com



Full-Service Veterinary Care
Boarding & Grooming

3070 Old US 32
Batavia, OH 45103
(513)724-2688
LifetimePetCentersWAC.com

Born to Run one of Bruce Springsteen's best

One of the greatest albums by one of the greatest artists of all time.

By Isaac Trees

Born to Run is a Bruce Springsteen album and a very special album to me. This is the first Springsteen album I owned and out of all the albums I've listened to, this one stands above the rest. This album has some of my favorite songs and some of my favorite lyrics.

This is my favorite album ever so I have a lot to say about it so I'll only be talking about the A side of the album. The album starts off hot with one of the most critically acclaimed songs of all time.

Thunder Road is a fan favorite and a live show staple. Like most songs on this album, *Thunder Road* opens with a prelude. Roy Bittan's piano and Bruce Springsteen's harmonica sweep us into a world of romanticism and realism.

The soft piano notes at the beginning give the song that feeling of tenderness and romance. This is contrasted with the harmonica which creates the down to earth sound and feeling.

Unlike the earlier Springsteen albums, *Born to Run* is a much darker album, mainly because in this album Springsteen seems tired of the blissful ignorance of childhood.

In songs like *The E Street Shuffle*, *It's Hard to be a Saint in the City*, and *Blinded by the Light*, Springsteen seems content with life around him. He

enjoys wasting his time at the beach or with a shallow romance.

The music of his earlier album reflects this theme. Most songs on his earlier album are more upbeat and feel like they could fall off the rails at any time. The E Street Band is electric but also unpredictable and imperfect. The writing is also rough around the edges, specifically with *Blinded by the Light*. Some of the lyrics in Springsteen's earlier albums flat out don't make sense.

This leads us back to *Thunder Road*. All the things Springsteen used to find enjoyable no longer give him comfort.

He is leaving his home soon to go somewhere but he doesn't really know where yet. But before he can do that there's a person he has to talk to: his girlfriend. There's not too much love left in their relationship but there is still something there, so Springsteen decides to give them one last shot.

In the song, you hear Springsteen plead to Mary, his girlfriend. There is still a chance to rekindle some sort of romance. That is the story of *Thunder Road*. We don't really know what happened that night but I think it's best we leave that to the imagination.

When listening to this album you may notice something, the

great, almost mastery that is The E Street band. The next song in the album, *Tenth Avenue Freeze Out*, tells the story of the band, more specifically, how Bruce Springsteen and Clarence 'The Big Man' Clemmons met. Bruce in this song goes by "Bad Scooter" and Bad Scooter can't seem to find his groove.

Then something big happens to the band. The Big Man joins and both Bad Scooter and the Big Man are gonna rip this city in half. The music is much more upbeat compared to *Thunder Road*. The piano isn't soft, it's loud and high pitched and we finally get to hear the Big Man play the saxophone. The music is just fun, it's a song you could listen to anytime.

Night is the third song on this track and, in my opinion, the worst track on this album. This isn't the worst song I've ever listened to; in fact, I still like this song in some ways. The music is pleasant to the ears. The saxophone, guitar, and drums work together to make an easygoing tune that's easily consumed if not a bit plain.

Backstreets concludes the A side of *Born to Run*. When I first listened to *Backstreets*, I thought it was a knockoff *Thunder Road*. It opens with a soft piano prelude just like *Thunder Road* did. The lyrics at first glance hold a very similar message that *Thunder Road* had.

Thunder Road is more about Springsteen getting tired of a romance. *Backstreets* is more about Springsteen getting tired of a place and state of mind. Throughout the song, Springsteen talks about the backstreets. We don't know exactly

what the backstreets are but we can guess. I think personally the backstreets represent childhood, more specifically the mindset kids have during the end of childhood.

The line, "Well after all this time to find we're just like the rest," talks about the shellshock kids have when going into adulthood. The end of the song builds, repeating the same line over and over again: "Hiding on the backstreets, Hiding on the backstreets".

I believe this is more Springsteen venting. It's clear throughout the song Springsteen holds the backstreets more negatively than positively. Springsteen seems discontent at the end of the song; he's tired of the backstreets and tired of childhood.

The music adds to this message. When the lyrics talk about Springsteen's childhood memories, mainly memories of a lost friendship, the song is slower, halting and almost grimy. When the song switches to the climax, the build at the end the music gets more intense, making Springsteen's singing sound agitated. This song grew on me after a while, and it's the ending of the A side of *Born to Run* on a high note.

Born to Run is a great album.. I've only talked about half of the album and what I consider the weaker half of the album. I've thought I like the second half more; there are still so many outstanding songs, lyrics, and sounds that I still enjoy today.

I have to thank Bruce Springsteen for making this masterpiece and you for reading this review.



AUTO SAVERS
430 CENTER ST.
NEW RICHMOND, OH 45157
(513) 797-9400
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS
MECHANICAL, TOWING, TIRE SALES

Looking for a new challenge?

Trail races offer different terrain and scenery

If running is something that you're interested in, trying a trail race is a fun and exciting experience that offers things that a normal road race can't. Topo Trail Run Summer Series offers just exactly that in three different locations. Topo Trail Racing offers races at Big Bone Lick in Kentucky, Caesar Creek and East Fork. Each race is very different from the other and offers a different distance.

The first race in the series is Big Bone Lick and it is a four mile race, but don't let the short distance fool you. The trail heads up a steep, blacktop, nearly half mile hill within the first mile of the race. Not much trail racing happens in the first mile of the race; it's almost all concrete or blacktop which means spikes are not an option for this race. Once you're on the trails,

the course becomes much more difficult with many rocks and roots to trip over. During mile three, there is a creek crossing and with rain all the week before the creek water was about waist high on me. My friend fell into the creek and I fell out of the creek. I would not recommend trail racing if getting dirty isn't your thing.

Trail races don't get canceled for anything, including thunderstorms. I ran at Caesar Creek through thunder, lightning and torrential rain. The course is a six miler and the longest race in the series, which makes it that much better to run through a thunderstorm. Participation in this race was low because of the storms. The course is out and back so at the three mile mark racers who are only doing the six mile option can turn around

and head back to where they started in order to finish. There are many hills on this course, but it follows along Caesar's Creek which offers some nice scenery or at least I imagine it would when it wasn't storming.

The final race in the series is East Fork, which is a five mile option. Again, don't let the shorter distance fool you; it is just as challenging of a race as Caesar Creek. The course follows some of the backpack trails, which are full of roots to trip over and gigantic hills. The course starts at Matt Maupin picnic shelter, which is down by the beach at East Fork. As soon as the race starts, you are sent up a hill to the trail that is also filled with hills. In a trail race, don't follow the person in front of you because they don't always know where they're go-

Runner's Talk

By
Brooke
Donley



ing so pay attention to the path in front of you. This course was nice because it was a loop so racers don't have to repeat any part of the course unless they chose the ten mile option.

Topo Trail Running offers another series in the winter at the same locations. They also offer a trail half and full marathon in December. Trail running is definitely more challenging than running on pavement, but it also offers scenery and a change from the traditional road race. Are you up for the challenge?



Deimling/Jeliho Plastics, Inc.
4010 Bach-Buxton Road
Amelia, OH 45102

**Thank you for your support of
The Messenger**



CREATIVE SCAPES
LAWN & LANDSCAPING

Creating & Maintaining Beautiful Lawns & Landscapes

- Lawn Mowing
- Snow Removal
- Design/Installation
- Landscape Lighting
- Landscape Maintenance
- Fertilizing/Weed Control

Phone: 513-407-8185
Contact@CreativeScapes.us
www.CreativeScapes.us

Like us on Facebook!

VOTED BEST OF THE EAST
ONLY BUSINESS

CREATIVE SCAPES
LAWN & LANDSCAPING

Creating & Maintaining Beautiful Landscapes

Your one stop for all of your lawn & landscaping needs! -Since 2007