

The Messenger

New Richmond High School, 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road, New Richmond, Ohio 45157

Volume LXVIII

Issue 7

March 2013



*Shall we dance?
March Madness
invades NRHS*

New Richmond High School gaining more students

Student teachers, that is

By Chelsey Fawley

Here at NRHS we strive to be helpful in many ways, one being supporting the opportunity of student teaching for current college students in the area. This year, we have two student teachers, who are here to gain experience in their fields and get a feel for the school.

These students are Heather Couch and Kelly Snead, and they are both currently seniors at their universities.

Snead is a fifth year student of Northern Kentucky University, who intends to go into elementary education or special education.

She has a passion for teaching, and said, "I work well with younger students or those with disabilities. I like helping people, and so I've always wanted to teach. I also like working with people in general, because it's a

new experience every day."

Snead's experience here has been limited to assisting Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Cain here in the high school, though she doesn't really intend to come back to this grade level.

"I really want to teach elementary. About first through third grade would be my ideal classroom age, but I would also enjoy doing any grade for special education."

Snead says she has enjoyed her experience here and this is the sort of environment she would like to teach in.

"I'd like to teach in this sort of environment because of the mixture of students," she said, "Everyone is very helpful and nice; I'd just like younger students."

As a closing, Snead gave a thanks to the school. "I am very

thankful that New Richmond was kind enough to let me student teach here and I hope both the students and I learn lots from each other."

On the other side of the building, Couch is assisting the band. She came here to student teach from the College of Mount St. Joseph and will graduate in May. For her student teaching experience, she has been helping Mr. McKinley and Mr. Wright to prime her for her future in music education.

She intends to become a music teacher herself, whether it be marching band or classical instrumental.

"I started piano lessons at age five and began playing flute in the fourth grade band," Couch said, "My life has always been centered around music and I

can't imagine teaching anything else. Music is important for human happiness and teaches us so much about life."

Her experience here has been enjoyable as well.

"I love the atmosphere here! The students, faculty, and staff all make me feel welcome and respected. I want to come to a high school like this. They have a lot of personality and spunk (understatement of the year). I like the high school band, because they're able to take the next step in creating music - it's past notes, it's expression."

As a closing, Couch said, "I'd like to teach in a school like this. Since I've taught here, I've realized I like the sense of community here." Then playfully, Couch added, "Mr. McKinley has enormous eyebrows!"



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Students plan for international adventures

Details about Spain and France trip

By: Ashley Gray

Looking forward to the summer? Have any exciting trips planned? French and Spanish students at New Richmond High School are ecstatic about their 2013 France and Spain trip this summer.

The trip is not sponsored by the New Richmond School District, but rather, has been planned and executed independently by the two chaperones, along with parents. It will definitely be different from trips in the past, according to the chaperones.

"First off, this trip will be different because I have never traveled to France before and my last school-affiliated trip hasn't been since 2001," said Spanish teacher Sharon Nehls.

"It is different in many ways. Although I have taken students on trips to Europe, this is the first one since I started teaching at New Richmond. This is my biggest group of students since I started leading educational trips to Europe," said French teacher Roger Nyam.

Nyam, along with Nehls, will be chaperoning their students as they venture through several cities of these two countries.

This is going to be a 10 day trip. "Taking out two of the days for travel, we will spend four days in France and four days in Spain," said Nyam.

The itinerary of the trip includes students spending four days in Paris, France. Students will enjoy French culture and see sights such as Place de la Concorde, the Eiffel Tower, and various other famous sites and buildings.

The remaining days of the trip the students will spend in Barcelona and Madrid. Here, students will venture through Barcelona taking a guided tour of La Sagrada Familia and

Barcelona Cathedral. "In Barcelona on day seven of our trip students will be able to just enjoy a day in Barcelona," said Nehls.

In Madrid, students will take a walking tour and visit the Prado.

Students are held to very high expectations for the trip. Students are required to at least have completed two years of a foreign language and, of course, students will be expected to be on their best behavior.

"I expect my students to listen, follow directions well, have a good understanding of the differences of ages and restrictions in other countries and be aware that the same laws they abide by in the United States are going to still be enforced for them in Europe, as well as be respectful of their culture and attempt to speak the language," said Nehls.

"We have high expectations: learn as much as you can while in Europe, be of exemplary conduct, think safety first, listen to your teachers, and do the right thing," said Nyam.

For many students, this is the first time they have traveled outside of the country. Nyam and Nehls have shared some information about traveling to a foreign country.

"It is a life-changing opportunity that must be well utilized. Be ready to experience new things. Keep your eyes open and take note of the social, cultural, and environmental differences between France, Spain, and the United States," said Nyam.

Prior to traveling out of the country, Nyam and Nehls have given their students little tips on packing, air travel, and other tourist-type information that would be useful to their students.

"LIGHT! Travel light. Have a

small carry on with a change of clothes, just in case your luggage was to get lost, and buy a bag of cheap cotton underwear, so you can just throw the underwear out; therefore, having more room for gifts to bring home to your family," said Nehls.

"Pack light. Be sure to have comfortable clothes and shoes. There will be a lot of walking. Don't forget to leave space for souvenirs in your suitcase," said Nyam.

Everyone needs a little down time, right? Even with such a full plate of activities, students will definitely be given some of that down time.

"There is a good chance that students will get to explore and do some shopping, and lunch is on their own" said Nehls.

Nyam and Nehls will be with the students at all times, but give them a little bit of opportunity to venture off their own a bit. "The students will be able to adventure on their own a bit, but will be required to report back to a central meeting location," said Nehls.

"Students will have down time

when we return to the hotel at the end of the day. That is when they can make phone calls, write post cards, etc.," said Nyam.

Nyam and Nehls have very high hopes for this Spain and France trip, including that their students take in some of the culture and life that goes along with learning a foreign language.

"I am expecting my students to get a better grasp on their language skills and appreciation of the language," said Nehls.

As you can see, New Richmond High School students have a lot to look forward to on their 2013 France and Spain Trip. Students will be given the opportunity to venture through the differences of other countries social, cultural, and environment that makes them unique.

Of course, students will be given a little down time from the ample amount of walking they will be doing all day touring and visiting various famous buildings and sites. This trip will definitely be a great opportunity for students to open up their eyes to the different cultures of the world.

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Newton McCollum accepted to Citadel

Highly prestigious college welcomes NRHS senior

By: Chandler Cochran

Senior Newton McCollum had a tough decision when deciding what college he was going to attend after high school. After applying to three colleges, including the college of Mount Saint Joseph, the University of Cincinnati and the Citadel, he chose the Citadel, a very prestigious military college in Charleston, South Carolina.

"I chose the Citadel because I

wanted a challenge," said McCollum. "I wanted to be different and I also felt it was the best thing for me to do for my education. It is a top ranked school, the prestige that follows the school is great, they also have a fantastic alumni association."

The Citadel has a long and storied history. Founded in 1842, the school prides itself on

"Achieving excellence in the education and development of principled leaders." (citadel.edu) To accomplish this lofty goal, The Citadel has cited three core values, honor, duty and respect, that it emphasizes throughout its stringent academic curriculum, along with its dedication to military training.

Apparently, others on the outside are looking at The Citadel

favorably as well. For the secondary year, The Citadel has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the top public college in the south for institutions granting up to a master's degree. (citadel.edu)

Being a military school, McCollum has made it a goal to not die while attending the school. "It's going to be rough," he added.

The main reason for most people to go to college is to further their education, and Newton plans to further his own by majoring in computer science.

"I have always enjoyed computers and I wanted to pick a major I can achieve a 4.0 in. It also gives me the option to become a pilot in the Air Force."

After high school, many students stay close to home and attend a college like UC or NKU. McCollum, on the other hand, liked the fact that the Citadel is out of state.

"Going to an out of state school is a good way for me to start a new life," he explained. "I really didn't care too much that the Citadel was out of state; I don't plan on living in Ohio after college anyway."

McCollum went on to describe the campus. "The campus is so beautiful," he explained. "I have never seen anything like it."

Although McCollum is excited about studying, and being on campus, one thing he is hesitant about is simply being a freshman at the Citadel.

It is a tradition, perhaps a mandate, for the freshmen at the Citadel to shave their heads. It will also result in McCollum, and all the other freshmen being called Knobs, again another tradition. They are called this because their heads resemble door knobs.

Being accepted to The Citadel is no easy task; it demands an extremely high level of scholarship, leadership and character. New Richmond can be proud of our future Citadel cadet, Newton McCollum.



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favorably as well. For the secondary year, The Citadel has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the top public college in the south for institutions granting up to a master's degree. (citadel.edu) Being aware that The Citadel is a mili-

Looking at schools near and far

Seniors decide where to go to college

By Luke Gilday

If you were to ask any group of seniors in the school where they were planning on going to college next year, you would probably get the same four responses: University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, and Kent State. So the question then would come up: why do students seem to pick schools that are so close to home?

In a recent survey, only 33% of the seniors surveyed said they were going to a school out of state. So What are the lures of schools so close?

"I'm going to The Ohio State University. The price is reasonable, so it was the best bang for your 'buck'," began senior Sarah Glenn. "It is only an hour and a half - two hours away, which is awesome because I can come home relatively easily if I have to; although I think I won't be doing that often. The price of OSU, the various opportunities I will have as a student, and the overall experience of the university make OSU the best option for me."

"I'm going to school in state. This was important because of financial reasons," said senior Matt Rydzewski.

"My school is in state. The cost was important, and it is close enough to where I can come home but far enough to

where I can be on my own," responded senior Lindsay Gundler.

"I'm going to college in state. The fact that it's close is important depending on how much you are attached to your home and how much you're willing to pay," replied senior Rachel Ploucha.

The school's guidance counselors can also see the advantages and disadvantages to going to a school close by.

"A great thing about going somewhere close is if you get homesick, you can always go home, you can get your laundry done, groceries, home cooked meals, or just a hug from mom if you need it," said counselor Carol Ann Coulter.

"The number one reason to go to somewhere close is it's easy to get home if there are issues or some kind of crisis," began counselor Jim Reaker. "But students might start coming home too often and not get involved with stuff on campus. They also might end up with too many people from high school, then it's like you haven't gone anywhere."

However, not everyone is planning on staying too close come next year.

"My school is out of state, Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. It's about 7 1/2 - 8 hours away," started senior Ashleigh Beard. "An advantage

is that going away for a long period will be a new experience that I can learn from. But, a disadvantage is that I'll miss my church, family, and friends."

"I haven't picked which college I'm going to, but all the ones I applied to are out of state," began senior Rachel Trowbridge. "I've always wanted to get out of the place I've lived in my entire life so going out of state was really important when deciding where to go. The biggest advantage is being independent and starting fresh in a whole new place with little chance of knowing people there. Though, being in an unfamiliar place can make you feel lost and homesick. But in my mind, if I don't leave here now, I'll be stuck here forever."

The school counselors also have opinions regarding schools that are out of state and further away from home.

"The good thing about going away is you're with a whole new group of peers. You meet kids from all different walks of life, it's a whole new experience," said Coulter. "If you go far away though, it's hard to get home. I

Top Colleges for this Year's Seniors

1. University of Cincinnati
2. The Ohio State University
3. Kent State University
4. Northern Kentucky University

have friends who have kids who went away and they only get to see them during holidays and breaks, so they barely get to see them."

Reaker felt the same way regarding the distance.

"You get to learn how to figure out stuff on your own, you mature quicker. But, you will miss things here. You can't get back home so you miss things like if you want to come back for your high school's Homecoming game or anything like that. Instead, you can only come back for the holidays. It's also expensive to get home, especially when traveling during the holidays."

While many students choose to stay close when they get to college, there are still other options. When making the choice, there are plenty of things to consider with both choices. Whether it's staying close or going away, there is a school out there for almost everyone.



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Fundraising effort continues

Adopt a pig, go to a ball game, support the band

By: Ashley Gray

When you have uniforms that are almost half a century old, wouldn't you want new ones? New Richmond High School is hosting fundraisers to raise money for the band. These fundraisers include: the Piggest Raffle Ever, Reds tickets, and a portrait session through Locust Street Studios. The profits earned in these fundraisers go towards buying new uniforms as well as replacing ancient instruments.

Band director Mike McKinley has two major ideas for how the money raised will be used. "Besides using the money towards new uniforms, we are in need of replacing and repairing many of our instruments. We are using some instruments that are over 40 years old," he said.

The design for the new uniforms has not been finalized just yet. "Once we are closer to our goal, we will meet with uniform companies to receive a custom design," said McKinley.

The Piggest Raffle Ever is a fundraiser connected to the Flying Pig Marathon. Participants can "adopt" a pig, with the cost of adoption going to the charity of the donors choice. In order to get involved and help out the NRHS Band you need to visit this website <http://www.piggestaffle.com/>. First, you need to choose your charity. Select New Richmond High School Band in the drop down box. Then, you need to choose the number of pigs you would like to adopt. For every pig you adopt, you have two chances to win on the Flying Pig Marathon Weekend.

"When the New Richmond High School Band is selected as the charity, 100% of the proceeds go to the band," said McKinley.

On Saturday May 4th at about 7 p.m. at the Flying Pig Marathon, an Arts Rental lift will drop all the numbered pigs. The winner of the ticket will receive a 2-year lease on a 2013 Toyota Prius,

according to <http://www.piggestaffle.com>, and additional prizes will be handed out.

Are you a Cincinnati Reds fan? The band is also the beneficiary of a promotion to buy tickets for the Reds game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 3rd. Following the baseball game will be a concert by the Rusty Griswolds.

Looking for a discount on your ticket? Visit (http://cincinnati.reds.mlb.com/cin/ticketing/group_theme_dates.jsp?loc=rustyreds&partnerId=11901-TBZ1) and select New Richmond High School Marching Band as your charity.

"The Reds will donate \$5 for each ticket sold to the band's uniform fund. Please remember to select New Richmond's band from the drop down list on the order page," said McKinley. Any questions or concerns contact Mr. McKinley or Shannon Senger with the Reds at (513) 765-7105.

And if you're looking to get any professional photos done, whether it be senior portraits, your family, a newborn, or child portraits, sessions are only \$50 at Locust St. Studios any time before June 30, 2013. "\$25 of ev-

ery session will go towards the NRHS Marching Band," said McKinley. A session includes digital files resized for easy printing and a choice of 8x10 print or \$25 product credit. Go to Locust Street Studios and help the NRHS Marching Band. for more information visit www.locuststreetstudios.com or contact the studio at (513)-800-8597.

The band so far has raised just about a little over \$6,000 in over a year, with the contributions of the Craft Fair and the Rusty Ball.

McKinley said that the band has planned for fundraisers in the future. The biggest of these events is the Craft Fair, which is held here at New Richmond High School. This fundraiser includes multiple vendors who come into the high school and sell a variety of different crafts. All of the proceeds made from this fundraiser go towards the band.

With all of these fundraisers, the band hopes to raise enough for their new uniforms and replace their old instruments. If you are looking for a possible 2-year lease on a 2013 Toyota Prius, tickets to a Reds game, professional portraits, or new crafts, New Richmond Band's fundraising has got you covered.



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In need of a little down time?

Girls of NRHS' basketball team looking forward to season being over

Needing a little down time? Looking forward for your sports season to be over? Boy, I know I am. The New Richmond Lady Lions have had a great season.

Overall, I am very pleased with basketball team's performance on the court this season. In the beginning, I felt we were off to a bit of a rough start, but eventually we pulled through.

The beginning of the season was rather frustrating because the team did not know how to work as a productive unit, but as we started playing as a team, the season became very enjoyable both on and off the court. As the season progressed, our coaches worked each of us to our full potential, which brought very exciting results.

One thing I am definitely looking forward to being finished with are the two and a half hour

practices. They are just long and time consuming. Having a monster practice six out of the seven days of the week and being in all advanced classes can bring upon a great deal of stress and make getting homework completed rather challenging.

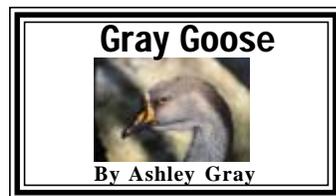
Another aspect of basketball I am looking forward to being over is the running. Throughout the season, we would have practices that were strictly just conditioning days. Although conditioning is very healthy and keeps your body in shape, coming from a seven hour school day and then straight to a hard practice can tend to be too much at times; especially during basketball season, we are not given very much down time.

Although I am ready for the season to be over, there are many valuable things I have learned .

With my being a freshman, I didn't see how competitive and time consuming sports were until I played until played on the high school team. I have definitely improved my skills, not only with the basketball, but mentally also. This year has definitely taught me to be more of a positive leader and team player.

My freshman year of basketball was actually not as bad as I thought it would be. I couldn't have asked for better coaches. Coach Hatfield and Coach Wilkins have provided a very positive leadership and enjoyable atmosphere this season.

My favorite part of the season would be team dinners. They definitely helped to bring the basketball girls together off the court. Team dinner was an event where we could not only gorge ourselves with food, but also



gave us a bit of a relaxer and just have fun. Being in a large high school, most times, we girls don't see each other until practice and team dinner gave us the opportunity to learn more about each other and see each other besides only practices.

Overall, the Lady Lions have had a great season and I am very pleased with it and how far all of us have come. This season has made me a better teammate, as well as player, on and off the court. As a team, we have come a long way, but at the same time I am just ready for the season to be over After a long season, who doesn't love a little down time?

Prom dress shopping has begun

Just don't get carried away with the price

With Prom coming up, girls have already begun their dress shopping. All I hear anymore is how expensive the dress is that they want, who it's designed by, what color it is and what store it's at. Honestly, I don't think I can handle hearing it for the next two months.

The thing that really gets me is when girls spend \$500 on a dress. I don't know why it bothers me so much; I just find it annoying that they want to spend that much money on a dress that they are going to wear for one night. I feel like that's just opening the window and throwing that kind of money out.

Believe me, I know how hard it is to find a dress that is below

\$150. Last year, I spent maybe five weekends dress shopping. It was the hardest thing ever. Every dress that I actually liked was way above the amount I was given to spend. And finally, after visiting about 20 stores, I found the perfect one and the price was impeccable. So, it's possible to find a dress under \$100. It may just take a long time to find one, but it's doable.

I feel like girls these days try to get the most expensive dress that is designed by the most famous designer. And it's all they

talk about from the beginning of February until the dance is over. For example, "Like, oh my gosh, I found the most perfect dress.

It's \$500, but who cares, I love it!!" Just please stop. No one cares how much it costs.

If I ever bought a dress that expensive for a school dance, I probably would be ashamed of myself, because I know that I would never wear it again. My friends always say that if you buy one that expensive, you could always just sell it. You could do that, but you

would get half of the money you paid for it at most, if you're lucky.

I think that the fashion industry is wonderful, but why are Prom dresses that expensive any way? The other day I was looking at them on the internet and the dresses are all over \$400 and they were so plain. They didn't even look like they should be that expensive. My guess is it's just because it's a designer dress, but if you look hard enough I'm sure you can find almost the same one at Macy's, Dillard's or even JCPenney, for maybe a third of the price.

I just don't understand why girls want to spend so much money on a dress that they are going to wear for one night.



Helping to even the playing field

A call to raise the federal minimum wage

During the latest State of the Union, president Obama mentioned the idea of raising the minimum wage, creating a country where those working full-time won't have to live below the poverty line. This spurred a lot of controversy, especially with conservatives, claiming that this more would only hurt already struggling businesses.

Now, as one making minimum wage, it may seem as a bit of a conflict of interest that I'm writing about this, but I'm going to talk about the bigger ideas here, not just the fact that I want to make some more money over the summer.

Last year, there were 73.9 million American workers age 16 and over who were paid at hourly rates, representing 59.1 percent of all wage and salary workers. Among those paid by the hour, 1.7 million earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. About 2.2 million had wages below the minimum. (<http://www.bls.gov/cps/>

[minwage2011.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cps/minwage2011.htm)).

This leaves millions of Americans, who still work full time, below the poverty line. This leaves them unable to support some of the basic necessities of everyday life. With so much complaining about those mooching off the welfare system, wouldn't it make sense to make it easier to get out of poverty?

Of course, this would have consequences. Most importantly, what about the companies that would now have to pay their employees more? While during a recession, this would obviously be a major concern, until you realize what companies are the ones actually paying their employees these low wages. Instead of small businesses just starting up, the biggest perpetrators of paying the bare minimum are some of the biggest corporations in the world, who are making record breaking profits year after year. Companies like Wal-Mart, McDonald's, and Target. Instead of paying their employ-

ees a decent wage, top executives for these corporations make \$9.4 million a year. That's \$4,517 an hour! (<http://raisetheminimumwage.org/pages/corporate-profits>). With profit like that, the "hurting business" excuse hardly seems plausible. Compare that to the average wage of the average full time Wal-mart employee who makes between \$16,000 and \$19,000. (<http://www.careerleak.com/salaries/walmart/>).

This barely leaves them above the national poverty line, and if it is the income for a family of three or more, it leaves them below this line.

There is an indirect benefit to raising the minimum wage as well. When you pay people more, they have more to spend. In a damaged economy, it makes sense to pay those who need the money and will spend it. Leaving minimum wage where it is now leaves the money at the top of businesses, paying out to those who don't need to (and of-



ten won't) spend it.

Our country has always been the front runner on things like workers rights. However, the United States currently has a lower minimum wage than other developed countries like Australia, France, Canada, Luxembourg, The United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands, many of which have faster recovering economies than ours. (http://articles.businessinsider.com/2011-02-02/markets/30037207_1_minimum-wage-salaries). If we want to continue to lag behind in the global recovery, we should stay the way we are. However, if we plan on leading the rest of the world, we need to first catch up.

Don't underestimate useful guidance

Sometimes the most common advice is the best

It seems high school is the same all across the United States. Why do you think this is? I mean, what fuels Hollywood to write their stereotypical scripts containing the classic high school characters?

Well, I believe it's so easy to make a cheap and accurate high school movie for one reason: here in America we're basically all the same. Everyone seems to think their high school experience is so unique and no one knows what they're going through.

Guess what kids, that's not true. You're basically the same as everyone else. So when you feel like you're in a situation that

you simply can't deal with, you should probably look to Hollywood for advice.

Movies really hold good advice; the classic things that friends tell each other on screen are helpful. "Don't worry

what others think about you," and, "Don't forget to live your life while you can," are cheesy, yet real and profitable words to live by. The generic things that adults suggest usually work as well. "Always be yourself," and, "Value family because they won't always be there," are

things a happy person really does. Don't underestimate how

helpful the sources you have right in your house are.

So, is there a girl picking on you? Easily solved.

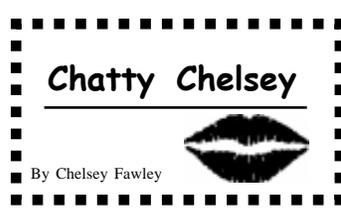
Take the advice shown in teenage movies. *Juno*, *Saved!*, *Now and Then*, and *How to Deal* are great to follow, as they all have about the same message.

Cheesy as their message is, it's true and it really works. Don't let others get you down. No one can make you miserable but

yourself. People are always going to be out to bring down the people who are happy, and you simply can't let them.

So, next time you're in a situation where you're being picked on, remember those movies. You don't need revenge or violence to fix your bullying issue, you simply need to take the high road.

Bullies will get what's coming to them; so hang in there. It may not be the cheesy comic relief that teen flicks offer, but things will work out. Be your own role model, and stay strong.



Rays heatin' up, what about your grades?

Focus more on what is important right now

Have you given up on school altogether? With Spring Break in a few days, the warm weather around the corner, and all the excitement of summer in the future, how can you focus on school?

Being able to make decisions on whether or not to study for a test or spend your nights relaxing and enjoying the weather are sometimes hard decisions to make. I am faced with this decision more frequently than I would care for.

I would much rather enjoy myself than toss and turn with my head in the books all night long. I always notice a change when the weather changes. Luckily, it hasn't happened yet, but with the excitement of summer concerts and the school trip to Spain and France, I can hardly control my own excitement.

Summer is probably most kids'

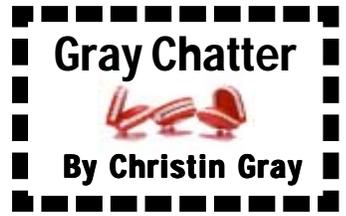
favorite time of the year. No school, No homework, no 6 a.m. wake up calls, just the enjoyment of the long hot summer days. The hardest part of the year for me is definitely SPRING! With all the distractions in the world, choosing studying over having a good time is sometimes the most difficult decision.

Freshman and even sophomore year, I never had this much of a hard time staying focused. I believe teachers realize that everyone is slacking off a little, so they decide to lay the workload on even harder.

Maintaining a certain GPA is sometimes not so easy, especially with so many distractions, but focusing on what's important will make your summer even sweeter. Getting the grades you need for employment or college acceptance is important, and

counselors keep preaching how important our grades are now for college. Just getting by isn't what it is all about any more. Preparing yourself for college starts here in high school. From the start of freshman year, colleges look at all the progress you, as a student, have made. Staying focused and looking at the progress and improvement hard work has resulted in will make you feel more accomplished than going out and playing around in the nice weather. Summer will be here sooner than you think. Strive to work hard and do well in classes now so that summer can be amazing.

Give yourself a little breathing room, allow yourself a reward after spending a couple of hours studying and doing productive work for school. Go out and go for a run, grab some friends and



have a pickup game of basketball or soccer. Hang out and blow some dollars shopping at your favorite clothing store. Allow your brain to relax and get all the stresses off your mind. Being less stressed can improve the quality of your work and hopefully, allow you to do better in some classes.

As long as you do something to keep your mind occupied and productive, you'll notice a difference in the work you can produce. Hopefully, being more productive helps you keep up your grades as the school year is turning towards an end.

Don't hate me 'cause I love dubstep

Awesome musical style doesn't deserve criticism

Whenever someone asks what my favorite music is, I have a simple answer. I say dubstep. Some people know what it is, and others don't. If you don't, allow me to educate you. According to dictionary.com, dubstep is, "a style of mostly instrumental electronic music, originating in London, influenced by dub and characterized by syncopated rhythm

and an emphasis on bass and drum elements." To put it simply, it's a subgenre of electronic music made with heavy bass drops and drum beats. For some reason, some people just don't like it that much.

This music is AWESOME!!! If you like pounding bass, heavy drum beats, and the occasional melodic singer, then you should

listen to it. Everyone I've ever talked to about it that didn't like it described it as one thing: WUB WUB junk. It isn't all a pounding beat. There are a lot of sounds to dubstep and other edm, or electronic dance music. Some of it is made using a heavy drop, ear shattering bass, and lots of synthetic sounds, while other take vocal samples from other popular songs, and mix that up. Others make a light, calming beat, have a female singer with a high, melodic voice, and speed up the beat. Even more producers, which are the artists behind dubstep, draw influence from rap, and their songs sound more like rap than anything else.

So why do I like dubstep if most everyone else thinks it's an abomination? There are lots of reasons. For one thing, the music isn't loaded up with trashy



lyrics sung by the equivalent of a walking jar of sprinkles. Another reason is it makes me happy. Actually, it forces me to be happy. A song with a beat range between 120 and 150 beats per minute (BPM) releases chemicals in your brain that make you happy. One more reason is the producers all have a signature sound to them, and I like those sounds. Finally, I just like it. People need to get over it. It's good music, you just need to find what sounds good to your ear. Everyone has preferences, and dubstep is my preference.

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What happened to originality?

Tall jokes have gone bad

"How's the weather up there?", "Jolly Green Giant", "You sure are a tall glass of water"; the typical and overused questions and comments that people say constantly. After hearing questions and tall jokes like this for several years now, they just get annoying. I often end up asking myself, "What happened to originality?"

On a rare occasion, I will hear a funny and different tall joke. I have total respect for the people that throw those ones at me. Because honestly, the same ones over and over again get so old.

It's even better if a total stranger comes up to me with a new tall joke. They have the originality in their joke and they also have

the guts to come up to some random, super tall person. An example that I was recently told, "You're so tall that you tripped in Michigan and landed in Florida!"

I used to make a comment back to people who said tall jokes to me, but I've sort of stopped now, especially if I've heard them before. If my best friends are with me, though, they will definitely have an answer back. They like to stick up for me, and they usually make some short joke back in return. They've gotten used to hearing the tall jokes just as much as I have.

To be honest, I don't think being tall is much different from be-

The Buck

By: Josie Buckingham



ing short. Of course I have a better reach, I stick out no matter where I am, I have clothing trouble, I can't fit into small cars, airplanes are awful, and I have a basketball advantage. These things make some parts of my life different, but a lot of people just have the terrible misconception that my life is forever different.

Wow, you're short!

What it's like to be height-challenged

Has anyone ever said, "Wow, you're really, really short!" to you? I hear it every day, multiple times. Living the short life isn't always the most pleasant thing, but it has its pros and cons. I would much rather be short than super tall, well, I guess the only reason I say that is because I have never been considered tall in my life.

For obvious reasons, being short isn't always fun. Not being able to reach the Oreos on the top shelf of the kitchen cabinet can get annoying. Don't even get me started on basketball. Getting stuffed every single time you try to shoot it or go up for a layup gets really stressful, really fast. For anyone who doesn't know what its like, it is a whole different perspective to see the world from five feet three inches. Not only looking up at every sign and every person that goes by, just not knowing what it feels like to be tall is the weirdest feeling. Whenever someone crouches down to your height and says, "The world looks so different from way down here," makes us short people wonder

what it would be like to grow a good five inches or so.

Although, being short isn't always bad either. For example, when one day at conditioning you're not paying attention and a line drive goes whizzing over the top of your head by about an inch and hits someone behind you. It also comes in handy when there is a small space you have to squeeze into to retrieve something or just to hide. Even though it may save my life, I am not looking forward to having to squeeze into a crevice or cabinet to hide from a bad guy, if ever necessary.

Worst of all are the prejudices against us short people. The names, jokes, and comments by all those dreaded tall folk. For example, "How's the weather down there?" Or regularly asking "Do I need to get that for you?" Especially for objects on very low shelves, people think it is very fun to taunt me, as if I can change being short.

Even with all the negative aspects of being short, as you can

JOE COOL

By Joe Maxwell



see, it isn't really all that bad. If people want to amuse themselves by making a couple comments or jokes about my being short, have at it. Above all, I would say it is a definitely a two way road to being short; there are plenty of things that make it a dreaded thing to be and also a handful of reasons why it can be very enjoyable. I just make the best of my lack of height because I know for a fact there is nothing I can do to change it, except wait and grow.

The Messenger

New Richmond High School
1131 Bethel-New Richmond Rd.
New Richmond, Ohio 45157
2012-2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Messenger's regular monthly issues are now online only and are available on the high school's and district's web sites. The Senior Issue will be printed, and will be available for purchase at school at the beginning of May at a cost of \$5. The cost of a senior

issue mailed directly to your home is \$8.

Please direct comments or questions about the paper or its contents to the adviser, at 553-3191, x10204 or at griffin_s@nrschools.org.



Affordable, mobile animal care clinic serves Clermont

Dr. Barbara cares for pets in community

By Josie Buckingham & Christin Gray

Veterinary Preventive Care (VPC) is a mobile clinic that provides preventive care for pets. The clinic is based in Amelia reaches out to clients that are reluctant or unable to go to a veterinary hospital for their preventative care needs. They provide affordable services to pet owners at convenient locations or house call services. "Many people have tightened their belts in our current economy and we are targeting this economic strata of people who need convenience and affordability to meet their pets' medical needs," says Dr. Barbara Gleason, owner of the clinic.

Gleason said she graduated from the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and proceeded to complete an equine internship in Florida. She ran a small animal hospital there before returning back to Ohio. Gleason runs this clinic with her son, Kaleb Gleason, who is currently a student at the University of Cincinnati.

Gleason decided on her career at a very young age. She grew

up with parents who would breed, show and raise pure-bred cats. "When I was 9, I was holding a dying kitten in my hands and I found myself frustrated beyond belief that I didn't know what to do to help that baby. I decided then and there, I was going to be a veterinarian. When I was 12, I began volunteering at our local veterinary hospital and I've never looked back," said Gleason.

Gleason said she believes in preventing illness in pets in order for them to have maximum health and life.

This belief, along with her degree, led her in the direction of the clinic, which offers affordable walk-in vaccine clinics. "We see healthy dogs and cats with no office call or exam fees! Clinics are walk-in only- no appointment necessary," said Gleason.

The clinics provided are currently held three times each month. Once at Tractor Supply in Batavia, once at A Dog's Life



Look no further! Veterinary Preventive Care clinic is available at nearby locations. Dr. Gleason is here to help. Photo/housedocforpets.com.

Daycare and Boarding on Kellogg Avenue, and once at Tractor Supply in Florence. "We have a series of compact storage cabinets, tables, chairs, cages and signs that we haul out to each site and set up as our mobile clinic. Soon, we will be adding a walk-on trailer to our menagerie of equipment," said Gleason.

Along with the many clinics held, house calls are also available. These are available by appointment, unlike the walk-in clinics. They also include trip charges and examination fees. "We come to you! House calls are great for personalized service, multiple pet households, or get together with a group of friends and neighbors to split the



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cats and dogs. The prices for all of these services range from \$10 to \$40. "Get your pet's vaccines updated, find treatment for fleas and ticks, dewormers, heartworms, heartworm testing and more," said Gleason.

VPC stresses the importance of preventive care in pets and believes that is key to a healthy pet. "So many health issues can be easily avoided by keeping up with the preventive health care of your pet. Also, many of the diseases and parasites we see in animals can cross over to people and lead to human health illnesses. None of us want to be sick or see our pets suffer while ill from a preventable disease. Vaccinations and regular parasite control are safe, easy ways to prevent many diseases in our pets," said Gleason.

Along with the pleasure of owning a pet comes a tremendous responsibility, according to Gleason, and one of the biggest problems she sees is owners not having enough information about preventive care.

"For example, many people do not understand the vaccine protocols for puppies, which are highly susceptible to Parvovirus infection. It takes at least three Parvo booster vaccines at a 3-4 week interval to protect the pup from Parvo. Another example is over-the-counter flea control. These products are made with pesticides that are toxic to pets

and create seizure activity---sometimes death."

The best advice for pet owners, said Gleason, is establishing a relationship with a vet. "Find someone you trust to take care of your beloved pet. Work as a team to allow optimal health care," she said.

Gleason hopes to expand the clinic in the upcoming months and years. "We are planning to add a trailer to the clinics soon. We hope this will help us expand and reach more people with our affordable health care offers. We also will be adding a fourth venue to the monthly schedule at Rookwood Pavilion. As the clinics grow, we will become even more involved in sponsoring community activities around our city. We are also considering establishing some office call days as a stand alone practice to offer spays, neuters, and dentals at an affordable rate," said Gleason.

Operating a veterinary practice on a mobile basis is certainly not the norm, although Dr. Gleason says that her practice has a specific mission. "To reach out to the community and help keep these special animals healthy, thereby improving the human-animal bond and increasing quality of life for all those involved."

Gleason has a strong belief that a home is improved by pet ownership. "We are unique in a position to be able to reach out to

pet owners as well as offer them the opportunity to care responsibly for their pets at a very affordable price."

Additionally, Gleason says that one of the goals of VPC is to help control the pet population.

"We actively assist rescues and shelters in finding responsible homes for unwanted dogs and cats in our community and strongly encourage spaying/neutering," she said. "As these animals find homes, it helps to relieve some of the burden on our shelters and rescues."

And for those who may think vets leave their careers at the office, think again. Dr. Gleason has 15 cats, 5 dogs, a cockatoo and a couple of fish tanks.

"In my spare time, I enjoy reading, riding horses, showing my cats and playing World of Warcraft (for the horde!)," she said.

Veterinary science is a growing field, and for students wanting to enter the profession, Dr. Gleason has some advice:

"Get good grades. A GPA above 3.0 will be competitive for admission to a veterinary college. Volunteer at your local animal hospital to get experience and be sure the field is for you. Do community service and demonstrate leadership skills. Practice communication skills," she said.

Gleason also advises that students who want to work with animals, either as a career or as a hobby, get involved by looking for volunteer opportunities.

"Go to your local veterinarian or animal shelter. Many of them can give you referrals to rescue organizations that could use volunteers. Get experience and get seen. These are the people you will encounter in your work if you stay in this area and you can start establishing relationships with them now."

For more information, visit www.housedocforpets.com or email Gleason directly at vpc.clinics@gmail.com.

Veterinary Preventive Care



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The difference between girls and guys

Tis the season for the great Prom debate

By Luke Gilday

Getting the limo booked, making sure dinner reservations are set, ensuring you and your date match perfectly, figuring out where you're going to take pictures: all the tedious tasks that go along with Prom. While the female population touts the outing as a chance to show off their dresses, nails, and hair, the male population usually is rather reserved. The fact is, most guys just don't care as much as the girls do. While girls tend to express their opinions regarding everything Prom related, the guy's opinions aren't usually heard. So to give the silent a voice, here are their stories.

Overall, most of the guys surveyed agreed that girls go overboard with Prom, and a few even have explanations as to why they believe girls do this.

"Girls sometimes get way too involved, especially with all the drama," said senior Nathan Dixon.

"Girls go way overboard because they want every single thing they see in the stores," responded junior Logan Shinkle.

"I think girls take it way more seriously than the guys. I do think they go overboard because the dresses cost so much and they spent all that money for one night," replied junior Hunter Blankenship.

"I think girls do go a bit overboard, getting upset when they aren't allowed to buy a \$500 dress," answered junior Zach Fields.

Some have more in depth reasons for why they believe girls go through all the effort for the dance.

"Girls require attention that guys don't," started senior Cole Bird. "It has something to do with the female species in general. Guys don't need all that

fancy stuff."

"Women love things. Women love it even more when men buy women things. Prom is simply a ploy to get men to buy them more things," said senior Sam Leffler.

"I feel like Prom is commercialized a bit too much. Girls sometimes do go overboard with it in my opinion but that's just because they are getting the most of it," responded senior Henry Bezold.

"Girls spend so much time and effort on Prom so they can look pretty for guys. They feel if they do not look their best, guys won't talk to them," answered junior Pierce Burnam.

Instead of all this stress and mess that girls spend on the dance, guys have a different idea of what is necessary.

"All I need for a good Prom is a hummer limo and a date," said senior Matt Ryzewski.

"My ideal Prom night would consist of a clean Volvo station wagon and some Taco Bell," replied senior Newton McCollum.

The guys continued to explain their plans on how to get ready for the dance.

"I'm going to use the restroom, take a shower, and shave," continued McCollum.

"All I plan on doing is showering, shaving, getting dressed, and eating dinner," said junior Les Brewer.

"I'm going to shower, probably put on cologne.. maybe not, get dressed, and leave," answered senior Erik Hermann. "I'll probably clean my car also. I care more about that than

I do myself.

"I'm going to get dressed," simply stated junior Nick Gilman

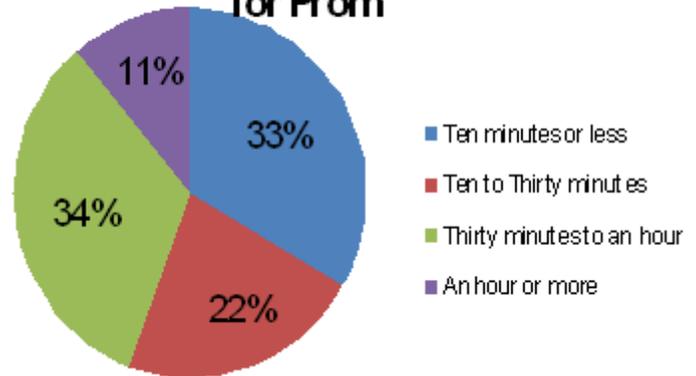
"I'm going to shower, shave, put on my clothes, put cologne on my wrists, and make sure I have breath mints," replied senior Nathan Dixon.

"I'm going to eat a fat sandwich with the fellas," began junior John Ernst. "Then I'll probably still be really hungry and eat a monster meal at the dinner, as sandwiches get your metabolism going. Then I'll shine

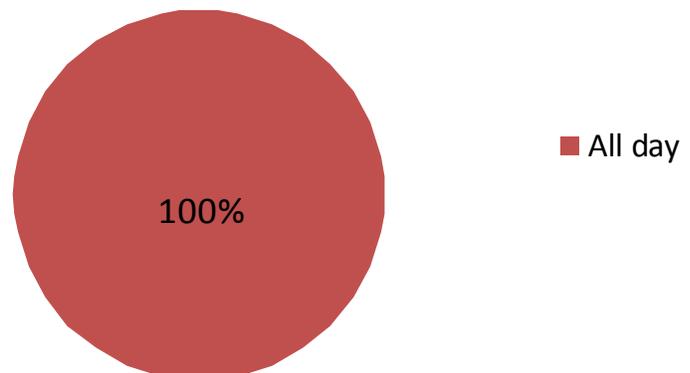
my dancing shoes and dance my feet off."

When it comes to dances, guys simply don't care as much as girls. There is less time, effort, and money (unless he's paying for a date) generally put forth by the male population at the dance. So, next time you see a hissy fit thrown over a dance just remember, for every girl raising a ruckus over the meal, or her hair, or her dress, is a guy right behind her, not giving a hoot about any of it.

Average time it take guysto get ready for Prom



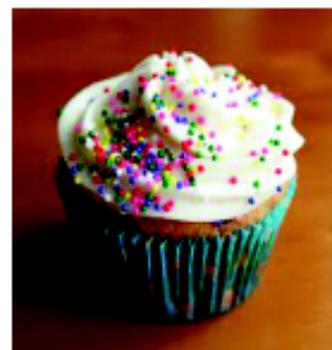
Average time it takes girls to get ready for Prom*



*anecdotal evidence only; not official statistic

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We all scream for Spring Break!

A small peek at plans for the week off

By James Mahan and Troy Saunders

Spring Break always gives us a chance for a lot of hang out time with friends and family.

Many students never have a set plan for their Spring Break and just go with whatever comes up, while many others have more definite vacation stops.

In a recent informal poll at NRHS, students were asked of their plans for Spring Break and also their favorite memory of this annual vacation from school.

When people hear the word Spring Break, sometimes they think of getting out of Ohio. "My favorite part of Spring Break is leaving Ohio because it is miserable because you never know what the weather will be like," said senior Brittany Riley. Along with leaving Ohio, she plans to

also go to Galveston, Texas.

Some students feel that Spring Break provides time to just get away from the pressure of being a high school student. "My favorite part of Spring Break is getting away from all the stress with school and relaxing and having fun at the beach with my family," said junior Juliane Molitor.

Inactivity is what appeals to at least one student. Junior Malik Davis said, "I love all of spring break because it is perfect for sleeping in."

Some students love Spring Break for the benefit of the warm weather it brings. "I am going to Destin, Florida, for Spring Break; I am really excited because I love to tan in the really warm weather," said senior Samantha

McDowell.

Senior Bailey Dewese has some fun stuff going on this Spring Break, too. "I'm ready for softball scrimmages and hanging out with friends and sleeping in on my vacation to Florida."

Many students at NRHS are planning to sit by the lake or river and relax and fish. "I am going on a fishing trip with my dad for spring break, I love fishing and it is a hobby of mine and my dad's," said junior Les Brewer.

"I plan on fishing because it is the most fun to do over spring break other than having parties," said senior Brandon Mues.

"I plan on having fun with fishing and hanging out with my girlfriend," said senior Josh Lumpkins.

Some students plan to take advantage of their Spring Break time by looking towards their future. "I plan to go and visit some colleges to see what they offer," said junior Jacob Ryan.

The start of the spring sports season is here and many have to practice over break. "I play baseball so I will probably be practicing with the team and enjoy not being in school all day for the whole week," said senior Caleb Branson.

Some students are expecting

their favorite spring break. "I am going to Alabama with my best friend, Monique. This will probably be the most memorable spring break I've had," said senior Vicky Booker.

While Spring Break brings new adventures, it also brings back fond memories. "My favorite memory of Spring Break is going to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, with Anna Moss and getting a room with a jacuzzi," said Riley

"My favorite thing about Spring Break is being away and just caring about my tan and relaxation that comes with it," said Molitor.

As mentioned previously, Spring Break wouldn't be the same without the crazy Ohio weather. "My favorite memory of spring break is enjoying the rain and playing in it," said senior Travis Pancake.

Spring Break sports trips can also bring about some great memories. "My favorite memory of Spring Break is going to a soccer tournament in Indianapolis," said Tyler Klein.

And after Spring Break, summer can't be too far off. "My favorite memory of Spring Break is hanging out with friends at bonfires wanting summer to come fast," said senior AJ Solis.

So whether or not you plan on going somewhere for Spring Break, just know to always enjoy it because it is the last break in the school year before summer. Always remember to be safe and have fun and be ready to come back and finish off the year.



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Faces in the Hallway

NRHS Personality Profiles

By Christin Gray

Freshman Amberlin Mote

Freshman Amberlin Mote is very excited for Prom even though she isn't planning on going this year. "I am very excited for Prom; I won't get to go for another two years, but I love dress shopping, and I can't wait to spend it with my date as well as my friends," she said.

Mote has different expectations than most. "I would love for Prom to be nicely decorated and have nice snacks and music. Maybe have a nice theme and a couple prizes" she said.

Mote plans on getting asked to Prom by someone special.



"Since I have a boyfriend, I would like him to ask me to Prom," she said.

The more friends, the more fun, is the way Mote thinks. "I would love to go in a semi-large group, because it would be more fun, and less stressful," she said.

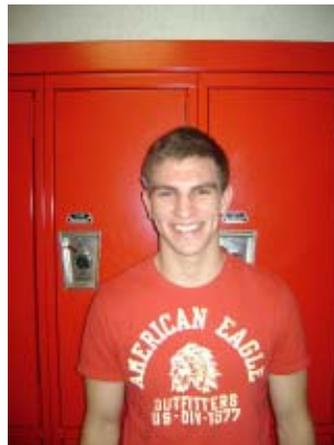
Junior Levi Simpson

Junior Levi Simpson is not as excited as most people are about Prom. He said, "I am not excited because I am a guy!"

Simpson doesn't have much of anything to expect of Prom, because this is his first Prom he will be attending. "I don't have any expectations for Prom, I guess I will figure them out once I get there," he said.

As for asking someone Simpson keeps quiet! Shhhhh... "I am going stag, unless I figure something else out," he said.

Simpson is not very opinion-



ated, in which case the size of his group doesn't matter. "I really can't say if I am going in a large group or not, I have no idea until last minute what group I am in," he said.

Sophomore Taylor Zimmer

Sophomore Taylor Zimmer has high expectations for prom. "This is the first year I will be going to Prom and I don't know what to expect. I am very excited and I feel like it will be a lot of fun," she said.

Zimmer has a couple good friends going as well. "I know that there will be quite a few underclassman at Prom, so it makes me feel less nervous to go," she said.

Zimmer is excited to see how she gets asked to Prom. "I know my boyfriend plans on asking me to prom, I just don't know how he will. I hope he does it in a cute



way," she said.

Big or small sometimes matters when it comes to group size, but not to Zimmer it doesn't. "It isn't my prom so the group I go in will be fine with me, it won't bother me either way if we have a big or small group," she said.

Senior Joey Lee

Senior Joe Lee is overly excited for Prom this year. "I can't wait for prom because it's my senior Prom and I'm excited to go with all of my best friends," he said.

Lee's expectations for prom are as high as his expectations for the Bengals football season, HIGH! "My expectations are set high because it's senior year and I am super excited for Prom," he said.

Taking a date to Prom is overrated in Lee's book. "I plan on going with really close friends and enjoying myself. Taking



someone is too much of a hassle," he said.

Going in a large group is how Lee intends on spending his senior Prom night. "I'm going with all of my close friends, which is a lot. I want to spend Prom with all of them," he said.

Senior athletes stand out throughout careers

Riley Deweese, Cassidy Martin discuss sports

By Josie Buckingham

Two particular senior athletes have been standing out throughout their careers here at NRHS. As Riley Deweese and Cassidy Martin finish up their last year of high school, they look back on their athletic and academic experiences.

Senior year is full of crazy, mixed feelings and emotions. "My senior year has been going really well. It's definitely flown by so far. I have enjoyed high school. There is really nothing not to like, besides the homework part. But I think sports have really made high school more enjoyable. I'm not sure if I am ready to graduate or not. Some days I can't wait to move on with life but other days I think about how much I am going to miss it," said Deweese.

"My senior year has been go-

ing great! I finished my last years of soccer and basketball on a good note! High school has had its ups and downs, but for the most part, I've enjoyed my four years at NRHS. I am so ready to graduate. Even though I will miss all my teachers and younger friends, I am ready to get out of here!" said Martin.

Sports have been a major part of both girls' lives for a long time. They have gone through their four years of high school together, playing the same sports for each season. "I've played soccer, basketball, and softball all four years of high school. I started playing soccer when I was four years old, basketball in third grade, and softball in about fourth grade," said Deweese.

"I've been playing soccer for NRHS for four years, softball for

four years, and basketball for four years. I started soccer and softball when I was in kindergarden, I loved it, and I have always played since then. I started basketball in third grade. I haven't stopped with sports since I was very little," said Martin.

While they both have enjoyed all of the sports they've participated in, they do have some favorites. "Soccer was my favorite when I was younger because I got to run around and waste all my energy, not to mention the team treats at the end of every game," said Deweese.

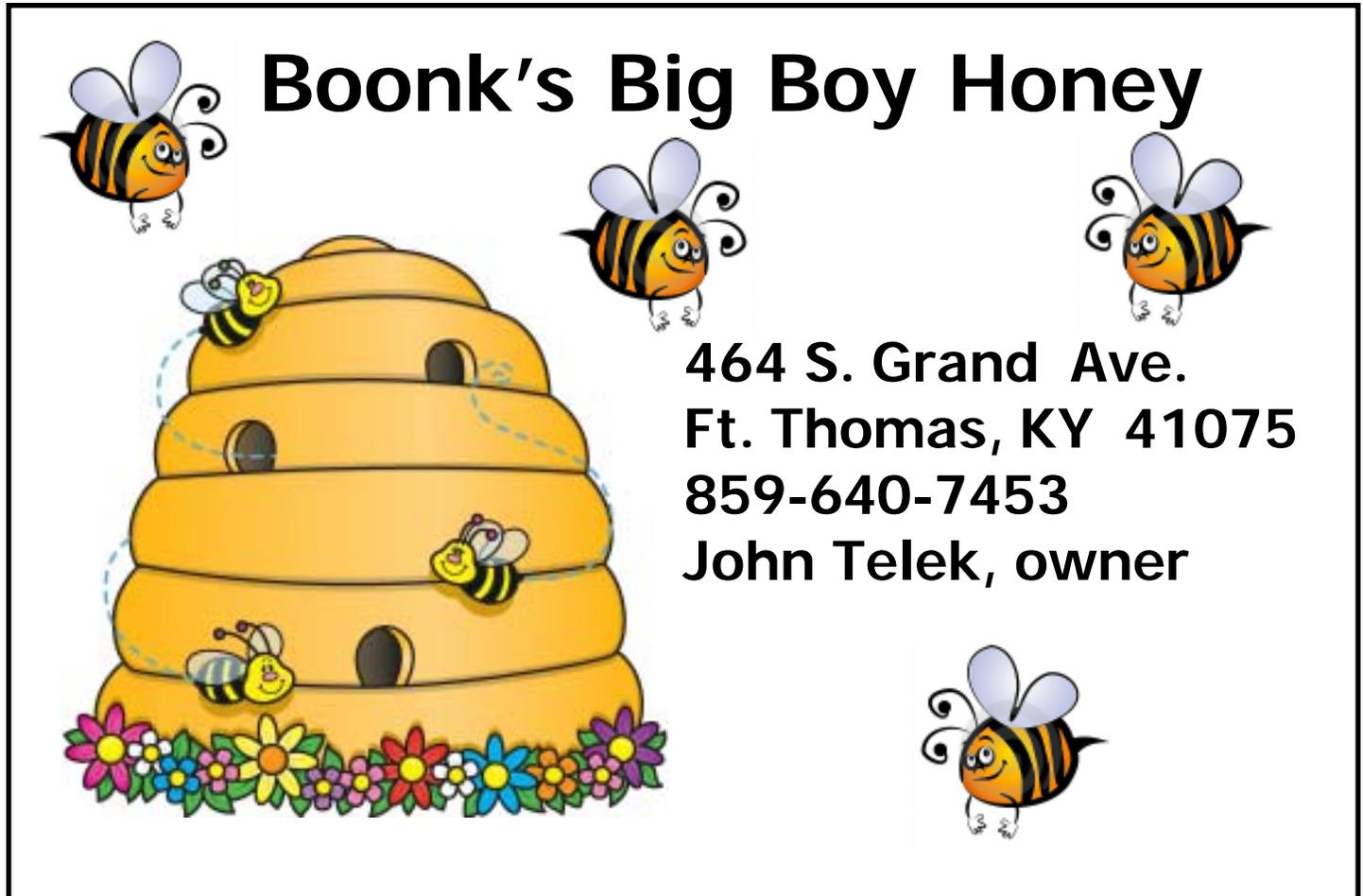
"I'd have to say softball is my favorite because I've been playing with the same girls since we could start playing, and it's been a blast," said Martin.

Team sports have a lot to do with, of course, teammates. These girls

are both team players with every sport they play. "I have absolutely loved my teammates. We were all definitely more like families than teams. Even if everyone didn't always get along, we all had each other's backs, just like a family," said Deweese.

Martin agreed with Deweese, and added, "You are always going to have those certain people who get on your nerves, but for the most part, I love all of my teammates for each sport!"

Along with teammates, coaches are a major part of the teams. They teach their players a lot and stick with them throughout the worst. "I've liked all my coaches. They all have taught me a lot, sport and non-sport related. And you have to give them all props for dealing with a huge group of girls at one time."



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Again, Martin agreed. "My coaches have been great. We may have butted heads a few times, but overall, I have enjoyed having them as my coaches."

Both girls have been able to improve their skills majorly since they first began their freshman years. They have been able to achieve many goals, and have been awarded with several accomplishments due to their success. "In soccer, I was named a Second Team all-Star, and I received the Lions' Pride Award and Most Improved Player Award. In softball, I received the

Coaches' Award, Lions' Pride Award," said Deweese.

In freshman year soccer, I received the Best Defense Award. Sophomore year, I received the Coaches' Award. Junior year, I received the MVP Award. Senior year, I received Best Defense Award again. My junior year of softball, I had the most RBIs Award," said Martin.

Academics go along with sports during high school. The importance of balancing school work with sports is something that student-athletes must be able to do. "I think I did an okay

job balancing sports. It got a little tough going sport-to-sport with no break, especially in the summer going straight from soccer conditioning to basketball summer league but it was all well worth it," said Deweese.

"Playing three sports a year in high school is very tough, but you start to get the hang of balancing it all out and it pays off in the end. I'd say i handled it very well," said Martin.

When these two girls leave high school, they both agree that they will be left with something more than just an education. They said that this is due to the sports they've played. "Sports have affected my life in a positive way. I've learned a ton and had so much fun during every season. It's hard to imagine my life without sports in it," said Deweese.

"Since I've been playing sports, I am always learning something new, whether it be about things in life or about the sport. Sports have affected my

life in many ways. In sports you meet all sorts of new people, whether it's at a game or even a track meet. I always had a fun time with playing sports throughout high school," said Martin.

Due to the things they've been taught and the experiences they've had, both girls highly recommend being a student-athlete to others. "I would definitely recommend playing high school sports because it gives you something to do every day and it gives you an automatic group of friends, someone you can hang out with and count on," said Deweese.

"I would also would definitely recommend playing sports in high school because it's fun even if you don't like some people that you play with. If you love the sport, you should play it!" said Martin.

NRHS wants to thank these two athletes for all of their hard work throughout their high school careers!



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UMV PDF 0212-820-44105

High hopes for track season

Coaches and athletes are looking forward to a new year

By Joe Maxwell

Early spring, also known as early track season. As winter ends and spring is coming, it is time for New Richmond High School track athletes to break out the running shoes. Handling the large task of coaching this team is junior varsity coach, Gerald Reardon, boys' varsity coach, Shelby Pride, and girls' varsity coach, Terri Flamm. Most of the time, though, the coaches specialize in different events. Pride coaches distance, Flamm coaches sprinting and short distance, and Reardon coaches field events like shot put and discus.

Reardon said he is excited for track this year just as he has been for the past twenty years. "I enjoy coaching and am excited for this year, especially because both teams seem pretty solid this year," said Reardon. "I have always loved the sport. I ran in high school and college and I love watching the athletes' progress throughout the year."

Pride backs Reardon in saying she is also excited for the season to get underway. "I'm excited for my seventh year coaching track! I really just enjoy the sport and like watching athletes perform their best this is also why I love coaching!" said Pride. She also has faith the team will do well this year. "I expect big things from my team this year! We have so much talent. It will be a joy to coach this group," said Pride.

Freshman hurdles runner, Cydney Stiles, is also having fun with track and is ready for the season. She said, "I enjoy track so much because I get to be with my friends, get into shape, and compete all in the same sport!"

Senior distance runner, Luke Gilday, is also pumped up for the season, but at the same time compares track to cross country. "Track is alright, I mean it's enjoyable. However, when I'm used to running trail races dur-

ing cross country, running around a circular track for eight laps just can't compare," said Gilday. He is also using that cross country distance experience in track, "I run the 3200, 1600, maybe the 4x800, but basically all the distance events," said Gilday.

Staying in shape and knowing how to practice for one's event is also a huge part of being a good athlete. Reardon, Pride, and Flamm are already working hard to get their athletes ready for success this season. Pride said, "We have already done conditioning for two weeks and we practice Monday through Friday right after school for the rest of the year."

Stiles and Gilday are also working outside of practice to get ready. Stiles says, "To get ready for the season we are running for longer periods of time, doing short sprints, and lots of core work. To stay in shape I involve

myself into sports. I play soccer year round and run track in the spring."

Gilday also is working very hard, "I'm running, running, running! I'm always running! I am also preparing to run a marathon at the same time I am practicing for track, so I'm getting in a lot of miles. Along with the speed workouts we do in track practice itself, so I should be good," said Gilday.

Even though everyone has different workout routines and perform in different events, everyone will agree that they are looking forward to doing good this season. Pride said, "I am really wanting to get a league championship for both the boys' and girls' teams."

Reardon agreed with Pride, he also added, "I want league championships for both teams as well as at least a couple of runners qualifying for districts, regionals, and state if possible."



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We are United, Manchester United, that is!

British football club has small but mighty fan base at NRHS

By: Chandler Cochran

Here at New Richmond high school you see Reds fans, Bengals fans and even the occasional Yankees fans. But if you look closely, you will see a tightly knit group of juniors who eat sleep and breathe for the British soccer club, Manchester United.

Manchester United, often referred to as Man U was formed in 1878 as Newton Heath LYR Football Club by the Carriage and Wagon department of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway depot at Newton Heath. "After years of debt and a series of other problems the club found themselves a new home and a new name. In April of 1902 they became known as Manchester United, and would never be the same." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Manchester_United_FC_\(1878%E2%80%931945\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Manchester_United_FC_(1878%E2%80%931945))

These die hard fans sometimes raise the question: why Manchester United? Out of all of the soccer clubs in the U.S. and the world, most people wouldn't guess that Man U. is such a big hit here.

"They are a very interesting team to watch," said junior Adam Slade. "Their style of play is unlike any other that I have seen play."

Sometimes people jump on the

bandwagon because a team is doing well, or their friends like the team, but for some, rooting for a team just runs in their blood. Junior Zach Fields has been a Manchester United fan since he was a little kid. "My uncle is a huge fan of the team as well; he got me interested in the team at a young age."

For people who do not know anything about soccer, or choose not to show interest in the game, Manchester United are the New York Yankees of the soccer world, for many reasons. They show dominance over most of their opponents, have tons of money to sign superstars from around the world, but most importantly, they share a rivalry unlike any other you will ever see.

The Manchester United, Manchester City rivalry is a highly anticipated matchup that has been going on for over sixty years, which Man U has, for the most part, dominated.

"I look forward to this rivalry game every year; it is one of the best matchups you could ever find, and always ends in excitement," explained Slade.

Fields agreed saying, "I love to hate them (Manchester City) there is an everlasting rivalry

between the two teams that can not be compared to any other. If you are a Man U. fan, you hate Man City, and if you are a Man City fan, you hate Man U."

Fan base is one of the most important keys to a successful team; a fan base leads to money, money leads to star players, and star players lead to championships. One of the reasons Man U. has excelled throughout the years is because of their amazing fan base. If you can find fans who "bleed red" in the small town of New Richmond, Ohio, you can find Man U. fans anywhere.

In the summer of 2011 Manchester United played an exhibition game against the Chicago Fire, in Chicago. "I know from experience how dedicated Manchester United fans are. I had the luxury to see the game live. Although we weren't in England, the atmosphere made me feel like I was at a home game. It was an amazing experience," ex-

plained Fields.

Just like every team in the world, Manchester United has a lot of superstars on their team, but none comparable to the talent of forward Robin Van Persie.

"One of the reasons why I watch Manchester United is because of their star forward Robin Van Persie," explained junior Michael Huber. "He possesses a style of play that no other player can match. He can use both feet to score goals and he is just an amazing player to watch."

Junior Chris Sammons agreed with Huber adding, "RVP (Robin Van Persie) is a great player to watch. He is electric and keeps the team together."

The everlasting commitment to the team that is shown at NRHS is very unique, and very strong. "We are United," said Sammons.

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March Madness: 64 teams, one trophy

By: Caleb Branson and Zack Coldiron

As March rolls around, the biggest sporting event in college basketball does as well, March Madness! An event where 64 teams enter into a tournament for the NCAA National Championship, and in a college basketball season of upsets, many are left wondering who truly is the favorite to win it all this season.

Many here at New Richmond High School have answered that question and this is what they have to say.

Junior Aaron Everson says, "Miami, because they are the most balanced team in my opinion and they have one of the best players in college basketball in Shane Larkin."

Sophomore Brandon Smith says, "Florida, because they have the best players in the league and are just the best, well rounded team in basketball."

Sophomore Jared Bray has his

hopes on Tennessee. "Tennessee, because they have a good team and a great coach."

Math teacher John Callebs agrees with Smith saying, "Florida, because they are in one of the toughest conferences and have one of the best coaches in Billy Donovan, but UK is still my number one."

"Miami Florida will win it all because they have one of the best players in basketball and Barry Larkin's son, Shane Larkin," says senior Joey Lee.

Junior Blake Thompson also agrees with Lee, stating, "Miami, because of Shane Larkin of course."

The Miami Hurricanes have impressed this season, becoming the ACC title holder in a conference with powerhouse programs like Duke and North Carolina, while their starting point guard, Shane Larkin, has become

a candidate for the Naismith award, which honors the best player in college basketball, like an MVP type award.

But junior Chandler Cochran is not impressed by the hype surrounding Miami and is rooting for the underdog, stating, "Gonzaga, as of late they have been the most consistent team in the nation. Indiana seems to lose every time the spotlight is on them and teams like Miami, Duke, and Michigan have clearly settled down a bit while Gonzaga has been beating up every team they play."

A large number of students here are sticking with their hometown, local teams here in Ohio or in the Tri State.

Senior Chance Silcott knows who he thinks will win. "UC!! They are underdogs and I think they are being underestimated by other teams."

Senior Josh Lumpkins also is going with UC stating, "UC, because they are playing the best basketball right now of any team."

Junior Dylan Adams is going with a top five team saying, "Indiana, because they have one of the best players, in my opinion, in Christian Watford."

Senior Kevin Reid agrees with Adams, stating, "Indiana, because of Tyler Zeller and Victor Oladipo. They just have the best overall team in the land."

Teacher Maryann Dalton also is going with Indiana, stating,

"Indiana, because they are the one team that, in my opinion, finds a way to win the game. The games they have lost have been so close, too. Go Hoosiers!"

The majority of the students surveyed chose the one and only, Ohio State University. Here is what they had to say.

Junior David Larkby was one of these OSU believers. "Ohio State is going to win it all, because they have the best players in Craft, Thomas, and Thompson."

Junior, Michael Huber agrees with Larkby. "OSU, because they have a really good, balanced team."

Jacob Carnahan, who is a sophomore, is also one of the OSU fans. "The Ohio State University, because they have good chemistry as a team and they are playing really well."

Freshman, Chase Heflin, also agrees saying, "Ohio State, because they are the most complete team of all that are projected to enter the tournament."

All in all the students and faculty here combined, chose the Ohio State Buckeyes to win it all this year in the NCAA Tournament. The Buckeyes have beaten the best of the best, including teams like Michigan and Indiana, so it is a no brainer why the people here at New Richmond High School would choose their hometown team in Ohio, as the eventual champions of mens' college basketball.

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Reaker is back!

NRHS counselor returns as head softball coach

By Joe Maxwell

Although the weather doesn't agree, it's spring already and spring means softball season. New Richmond High School counselor, Jim Reaker is back in as coach for the girls' softball team. Reaker already has them hard at work while he teaches them to not only get better at softball, but also to be better people in general. This should be a very interesting and tough season, as the softball team has a competitive schedule ahead.

Reaker coached softball here at NRHS from 1989 to 1996 and is now back this year after a seventeen year break from coaching softball at the school. He is very excited that he is once again known as "Coach Reaker," although, he never really did stop coaching. Reaker says, "I am very glad to be back this year,

but I never really stopped. In my years off, I have been coaching with my son's team." Reaker's son is now a senior and will be moving on with sports, which is another reason why he is ecstatic to be back in as coach here at NRHS. "But, I really, really do enjoy coaching very much," said Reaker.

Reaker said his coaching style is hard to describe. "I would describe my coaching style as 'intense, but laid back,' if that makes sense? I coach in the moment, whatever the situation calls for is how I will coach. Some times call for me to be a very harsh and intense coach, other times I think it is best to be a very relaxed, laid back coach," he said.

Reaker was surely thinking from his intense side during con-

ditioning. Softball players have been conditioning for an hour after school every Tuesday and Thursday since Jan. 8th. Recently, Reaker has been mainly focused on his players. "Right now, it is mainly just watching my players and evaluating player skills. I have just recently really started coaching," said Reaker.

Although the softball team has a tough schedule ahead this year, Reaker has faith they will stay competitive all the way to the end. "I will honestly be very happy if we just stay competitive and make sure we try our hardest this year," he said. Of course, like any coach, Reaker has high hopes that they will maintain a winning record and have a successful season this year.

Along with Reaker teaching his

players softball, he also tries to teach them important life lessons. "I like to teach my players how to set goals, work hard towards those goals, and eventually achieve those goals," he said.

Reaker learned most of his life lessons in sports when he was younger and hopes his players will learn life lessons now in sports while they're young and apply them to life later. "I expect my players to be good people, on and off the field! Including their behavior, decisions, and grades," said Reaker. He makes sure he reminds his team often that they represent him, the team, and especially the school. Reaker said, "The reason I love coaching so much is because I love teaching and coaching to me is just a more fun form of teaching!"



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And down goes Noel, down goes Noel!

University of Kentucky star Nerlens Noel suffers season ending injury

Last season we saw the Kentucky Wildcats and freshman sensation Anthony Davis led the team to a national championship while breaking numerous records along the way. Then, as always, the nation watched as Davis, the number one player in the country, left UK after just one year to enter the NBA draft. This was no surprise to head coach John Calipari, who knew just the person to fill his spot, and top recruit Nerlens Noel was the man for the job. A six foot ten inch freshman who lit up the court night after night was soon nicknamed Anthony Davis 2.0 because of his talent and ability to block shots like no other.

The Wildcats started out the year ranked number three in the nation but soon fell out of the top twenty five after multiple

losses by unranked opponents. Despite Noel blocking shot after shot, it was not enough to keep the Wildcats in the spotlight. Even though he was a freshman, he soon became the leader of the team. That was until a game against the University of Florida when Noel tore his ACL while defending a shot. It wasn't until after the game, when a gruesome picture was published, that fans realized just how bad the injury was. The picture showed Noel's left knee bent at a 90 degree angle, but to the side. His leg was basically at a right angle and was anywhere from straight.

It was devastating news to hear that the front runner for freshman of the year would have to miss the rest of the season. Kentucky basketball is probably the last thing I would ever root

for. I was watching the game and when he fell to the ground I knew it would be the end of his season and possibly his career. The next day he met with doctors and Coach Calipari; they came to the conclusion that

it was just an ACL tear and he should be on a fast track to recovery.

I'm sure John Calipari loses tons of sleep throughout the season in fear that his players are going to leave early and declare for the NBA draft, and before his injury, everyone knew that Nerlens would be doing just that. But

because of his injury, Nerlens Noel will not be a highly regarded pick in the upcoming draft. In order to fully recover and possibly be the number one pick, he has to come back at least for his sophomore year. It will not only help him get stronger, it

will also help the Wildcats get back on a winning track, something that hasn't happened a lot this season. Even though Wildcat nation stopped on a dime when hearing the news of his injury, if he returns, it will only bring happiness and wins back to UK.



Reds looking to have great season in 2013

City of Cincinnati hoping Reds bring the title home

April 1st, 2013, at 4:10pm, the best day of the year will be coming around again. Opening Day at Great American Ballpark. The Cincinnati Reds will opening up the season against the newly stacked Angels of Anaheim. The Reds are going

to have a killer season this year that will eventually be leading them to a World Series victory. It will be the first one since 1990

when they swept the Oakland Athletics in four games! Even our own NRHS graduate, Todd Benzinger, was the one to catch the final out of that famous sweep.

The Reds are going to be absolutely dominant this year. The Cuban Missile, Aroldis Chapman

has plans to be a starter this year, which is going to make the starting rotation absolutely dominant. Starting pitcher Johnny Cueto and Chapman will both be in the starting rotation this year, and they both were very close

to winning the highly esteemed, Cy Young Award last year. Cueto and Chapman will be followed by starting pitchers,

Matt Latos, Homer Bailey, and Bronson Arroyo. The Reds' starting rotation was the best in the league last year, especially after the All-Star break. With the same rotation coming back this year, we are going to absolutely dominate the league.

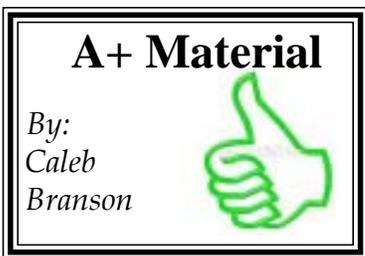
The Reds also have a new out-

fielder this season in Shin Soo Choo, who will also be leading off for the Reds rather than shortstop Zack Cozart. Choo, who played right field for the Cleveland Indians, was a killer against the Reds last season in interleague play, boasting an average over .500 in seven games. Thankfully, we have him in our outfield this year so we won't have to worry about facing him again. Choo is definitely one of the key parts of the team we were missing. With a solid center fielder, and the spotless pitching staff this year, the World Series is a very attainable goal. In my opinion, the Reds are a very safe bet to win the World Series this year, without a doubt.

Along with the best team in the league, I also think that the Reds have some of the best fans in the league. Last year it seemed like almost every single game

Great American Ball Park was packed full with screaming Reds' fans. I think this season will be like that as well, with every seat in the ballpark being taken, and even more exciting than it was during that run in 2010 when Jay Bruce hit the walk-off home run to take us to the playoffs!

I think that the Reds are without a doubt the best team in all of baseball and are without a doubt going to make this season the season that everyone has been waiting for. The Reds are absolutely going to tear it up this year, and lead the Queen City to another big World Series win and bring back some excitement to this city!



Bengals primed for great offseason

Is the team finally ready to spend some money?

As baseball season swings around, the NFL offseason is just beginning. Going into the offseason, the Cincinnati Bengals have the most money to spend with a whopping \$53-55 million available to recruit new talent.

The question is whether or not the Bengals owner, Mike Brown, will actually decide to use the money to make a low market team in Cincinnati a contender for the Lombardi Trophy.

Throughout the Bengals franchise history, they have groomed the players they have into superstars instead of going out and spending money on them in free agency. Through the draft and sometimes through free agency, when the players have not yet proven themselves to the league yet, the Bengals have taken on some unlikely prospects

Take, for instance, the circumstances of Andy Dalton and A.J. Green. Both were drafted by the Bengals and have been arguably the best quarterback-wide receiver duo in the NFL.

With the cap room and capability to spend more than teams like the Giants, Jets, or Philadelphia, the Bengals can make a splash and address a position need in free agency rather than the draft. Players like Laron Landry, Anthony Spencer, Mike Wallace, and Reggie Bush have been tied to the organization; it's just about whether or not the team is willing to spend the big bucks on a proven top tier player.

Recently, Cincinnati's other professional team, the Reds,

have spent big money on players in the offseason and are now proving to be the best team in their league.

If the Bengals can do that, they can show the other teams in the NFL that they are serious about becoming a powerhouse team in the NFL like the Patriots, Packers, and Broncos. Whether or not the Cincinnati Bengals are able and willing to do this, though, is in the hands of one

of the most stingy owners in the NFL, Mike Brown. T

o push the Bengals over the top in a strong AFC North Division the Bengals must be willing to spend money and I believe it is what they will do.

The Bengals are in need of many key positions on their roster. Finding a number two wide receiver to complement A.J. Green is a huge priority to put more weapons in quarterback Andy Dalton's hands. Another has to be the safety position, which, if the Bengals were to go after one in free agency, the best available is Laron Landry. He is coming off a big season where he was elected to go to the Pro Bowl and would step in and play great defense under the scheme put in place by Bengals defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer.

The last big position that needs to be filled for next season would be finding a change of pace running back for the starter, BenJarvus Green-Ellis.

In free agency the two the Bengals have been tied to are Reggie Bush and Chris Ivory. Both great players who could step right in and improve the of-

fense immediately.

I believe that Mike Brown has taken the right steps the last two seasons to dump the older stars and rebuild and form a younger, more talented team for the future. I think he has proven in these two years that he wants to win and isn't in it for the money, as he had seemed to be the many years prior. This means if he is as dedicated to winning as he has seemed to be, he will make

the right moves this offseason and improve the team by spending big bucks on players in free agency, as well as doing his usual work of drafting and grooming newer players to mesh with the veterans already on the team. Hopefully he will make Whodey Nation proud and continue to put the fans in the stands and sell out games for the people here in Cincinnati. Whodey!

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Chapman not needed in rotation

Needs to stay in bullpen as a vital closer

After last season, the Cincinnati Reds made a change to their rotation. The Reds took Aroldis Chapman from the bullpen and put him at starter. He is known for his insane number of strikeouts last year closing the Reds' games. I believe that he does not have enough strength or experience to keep his current skills the same when he pitches as a starter, mainly because he only pitches two innings as a closer compared to about six to eight innings as a starter

Last year, Chapman made an appearance in 68 games, pitching 71.2 innings with a 1.51 ERA.

He broke the pitching speed record, pitching a fastball at 105 MPH to throw out a player near the end of a Reds' game. This type of pitching would best fit the closing position, which is where he was on the Reds last year.

As starters, pitchers need to know a wide variety of pitches for the beginning of a game. But as a closer, they only really need to know 2-3 types. If starting pitchers are only throwing high pitch fastballs over and over again then it will cause the other team to catch on to the pitcher's idea and if pitchers throw the same fastball over and over again, it will eventually wear out their shoulders to the point that they might require surgery and/or rehab. In Chapman's case he only knows a couple of pitches and one of those is his fastball, which on average, is pitched at least 92 mph. If that is the same as a starter his shoulder would go out in less than five years.

Using Chapman as a starting pitcher will pretty much be useless. It would be like having Scott Rolen as our leadoff hitter, it will produce nothing. Letting Chapman pitch as a starter will lead to a greater strain on his

shoulder and it will likely lead to a lot more runs, which would greatly affect his ERA. He has the skill for a closing position and trying to turn those skills around and use them on the mound for three times as long as he is used to will be way too much for him to handle.

What the Cincinnati Reds really should do is build Chapman up as a starter, giving him limits

for certain games. It would work like this: in his first game, he can have a limit of two innings to pitch and then each game he starts, there would be an increment of two innings, eventually leading him up to an eight inning game in which he knows what to expect

and he has experience so he can have a strategy for the type of pitches he will pitch in certain innings.

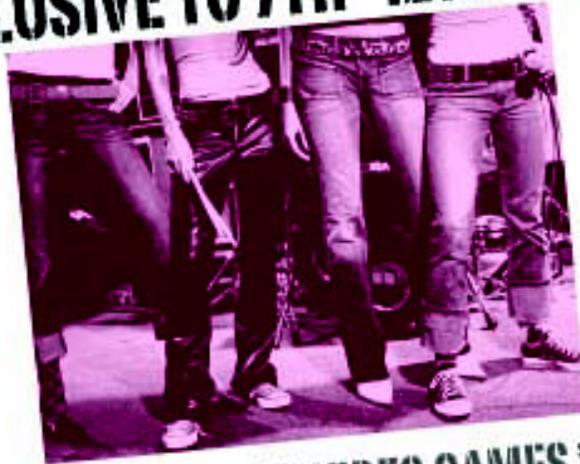
The Cincinnati Reds have World Series expectations this year that ironically were stopped last year because of their high quality rotation being thrown off balance. Putting Chapman in as a starter will just do the same thing and throw this team off

Mahan's
Mayhem
By: James
Mahan



balance once again. This is a very young team with a lot of skill and potential, but like any game, if it's thrown off balance it just might not work.

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Lakers to make playoffs?

The Lakers are barely hanging on through midseason

By Zack Coldiron

As the NBA season passes its midway point, many teams now start to fight for playoff spots in their separate conferences. Some on the other hand, are mathematically out of the race and some are heading in that direction. Take the Los Angeles Lakers, for example. A usually dominant and threatening team, the Lakers have consistently played among the worst teams in the NBA this season. After spending big money on players like Steve Nash and Dwight Howard, the team has been disappointing under the spotlight they have surrounded themselves in for nearly 70 years. The main headline in sports now is whether or not the team will be able to turn it around and reach

the playoffs. That's the question many students here at New Richmond High School have expressed their opinion about and here's what they had to say.

Senior Evan Mckinley isn't so optimistic about their chances. "NO, because their age is going to catch up to them."

Junior Blake Thompson says, "No, because they don't have good team chemistry compared to the other top teams in the NBA."

The Lakers' current record at this moment is 28-30 and they are currently two and a half games out for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Junior Chandler Cochran still has hope stating, "Yes, but as the last seed in their conference.

They got off to a rough start, but have turned it around a bit in the last month. I mean, come on, it's the Lakers!"

Senior Caleb Branson says, "No, the Lakers have dug themselves into too big of a hole to get out now. They will not be able to catch up and make the playoffs."

Based on a ESPN.com poll asking whether the nation believes that the Lakers would make the playoffs, 57% of the 13,834 voters believe the Lakers will make the playoffs this year with the other 43% saying they do not think they will. The Lakers have terrific fan support that expands throughout the country, and have most of the nation behind them based on this poll. (<http://espn.go.com/sportsnation/polls>)

Freshman Brandon Jackson also chimed in saying, "I don't believe they will make the playoffs only because they aren't playing as a team right now. The top teams in the NBA like the Thunder and Heat play well together, the Lakers do not."

"Yes, I believe the Lakers will make the playoffs. I think this because Kobe Bryant is the best competitor in the NBA. I don't think Kobe will accept defeat. As a matter of fact, I have a little wager with Zack Coldiron about this very topic," said senior Austen Craig.

Senior Tanner Wolfe, a big Kobe fan, also weighed in. "Yes, because you have Kobe Bryant, the greatest leader that is an active player today. He will lead them deep into the playoffs."

As you can tell from many of the people who expressed their opinion about this particular topic, many believe that the Lakers will indeed make the playoffs

because of their star player Kobe Bryant, who has only missed the playoffs once in his 16 year career.

Senior Austin Campbell also has faith in Kobe. "Duh. They have the greatest player of all time on their team. Not only will they make the playoffs, but I think they will win it all."

Even though his statement could be wildly argued, he has a point in that Kobe Bryant should be in the conversation as one of the greatest players in basketball history. His career stats and world championship wins can easily be put up against any other players stats and accolades, with Michael Jordan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Magic Johnson.

With the season quickly closing, the Lakers one and only goal is to make the playoffs and many of the players on the team have personally promised to do so.

Based upon the many we interviewed here at New Richmond High School the majority believe that the Los Angeles Lakers will make the playoffs even after their awful start to the season. As of late, the Lakers have been turning things around and are close to jumping into the race for the last seed in the Western Conference. Only time will tell for one of the greatest franchises in NBA history, whether or not they will make it back to the playoffs in 2013.



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A coming of age novel high schoolers will enjoy

Looking for Alaska impresses young readers

By: Luke Gilday

For some students, the idea of getting away from where they grew up can be very appealing; to get away from their parents, from the people they live around. This is exactly how the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green begins as Miles Halter, yearning to get away from everyone, goes from his quiet home in Florida to a sparse boarding school in Alabama.

However, Miles soon finds out his new friends may be lacking in the substance he was looking for. He does however, make some friends with the school's more troublesome group, consisting of his roommate "The Colonel", the clever Takumi Hikohito, the Romanian immigrant Lara Buterskaya, and most impor-

tantly, the attractive and deceitful Alaska Young. With this group, Miles goes through experiences he could have never dreamed of back home.

However, not all is well in Miles' new life. The group is struck with tragedy as the characters are forced to grow up much faster than any of them would like to. The novel also carries along the reader through this journey as they follow Miles and his friends through the balancing act between the disparities in life and the normality one is forced to maintain.

The novel follows a story of unrequited love, authority issues, and loss. Overall, I would say that there is something that every teenager in the country

can relate to here. The book's format does well to ensure this. It is easy to follow while still providing intellectual enticement. The book's use of allusions to the classics and questioning of the world around us all provide a very provocative reading experience.

No good story would be complete without a bit of controversy though, and *Looking for Alaska* has seen more than its fair share. The book has been banned in schools and libraries all across the country for its mature content, explicit language, and vulgar references. However, the literary merit behind this story greatly surpasses all the roughness and raunchiness to the story, and honestly, life itself is

often rough and raunchy. We all experience swearing and peer pressure. If anything, these things add to the story; they make it more realistic and more relatable.

Looking for Alaska combines all the feelings and anxieties of growing up, while capturing all the delight and euphoric senses of still being young. The relatable storyline and likable characters bring in the reader, and forces them to face the stark realities of life while still appreciating all it has to offer.

Overall, I would definitely recommend *Looking for Alaska* to anyone looking for a good book.

Identity Thief may be the best comedy in theaters

You won't be able to stop laughing

By: Rachel Curless

from the title that it was something to do with someone stealing people's identities; I was correct, but I didn't think that the opposing characters would become friends.

Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy are the main characters in the film and I would say they did a phenomenal job. They got so into character and I felt like I was right there with them.

Jason Bateman plays Sandy Patterson, who is a businessman from Denver, who has his identity stolen from him by a crazed woman who lives in Florida, Diana, who is played by Melissa McCarthy, and let me tell you, she played the role perfectly.

Diana steals peoples identities to make a living. She knows it is wrong, but she wants to be someone who matters in life, so she says. However, when she steals Sandy Patterson's identity, things go terribly wrong for him.

His credit cards are maxed out, forcing his boss to fire him, so Sandy wants to make things right. He makes a plan to go Florida, track down the thief and bring her back to Colorado and fess up to his boss, so he won't lose his job. But things don't go as he planned.

When Sandy finds her, he realizes that she isn't the kind of person who would initially want to hurt someone, he just thinks that she doesn't know any better. When he tries to talk to her, her house is being broken into by two crazy people, who want her dead because she gave them credit cards that were maxed out and all Sandy wanted was a confession. He tries to convince her to get away from them by coming to Colorado with him.

Diana agrees to go back to Colorado with Sandy, fess up to his boss, then she would get out of his hair. But things didn't go

"Mr. Patterson, you missed your court date in Florida three days ago." This quote was said by Detective Reilly, who is a character in the new movie, *Identity Thief*.

The film came out in theaters February 8th, 2013. I got the chance to see the premiere of the movie February 5th, at the AMC theater in Newport, Kentucky. I honestly had no idea what the movie was about when I was on my way to see it, but I gathered

how he originally planned. The two people who want Diana dead follow them and try to kill both of them.

The movie is all about Diana and Sandy dodging death, trying to make it back to Colorado in one piece and developing a friendship that lasts the rest of their lives. Hands down, this may be the best comedy I have seen in awhile. You will not be able to stop laughing.



Charlie Buckingham
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Welcome to our world

Disney Universe is fun for the whole family

By Troy Saunders

In October of 2011, Eurocom and Disney Interactive Studios released Disney Universe, a cooperative fighting and puzzle game for Xbox 360, Playstation 3, Wii and Windows. In the game, you play as little people that are either blue, green, yellow or orange, and wear costumes from iconic Disney movies, such as Tron, Aladdin, Wall-E, Alice In Wonderland, and more. You play as these little characters to fight off evil robots controlled by the evil mastermind HEX, who took over your pal VIC, and it turns him into a slightly schizophrenic character, switching back and forth between VIC and HEX.

During gameplay, you can do almost anything, from riding on

sheep, pigs and donkeys, to pounding the other players. One aspect of gameplay that keeps it interesting is random power ups, blue and white if sent by VIC, or black and red if sent by HEX. Vic power ups can do things like give you a laser gun or turn you into medusa to freeze enemies. HEX power ups are bad power ups that do things like give you a bomb for a head or even turn you into a giant boot!

Another thing that keeps gameplay interesting is the sometimes cute, always pesky enemies you encounter throughout the game. The enemies will do a lot of weird, random things, from setting up traps for you to run into, to picking up and hid-

ing important items. They'll also wear costumes relating back to the location you're in, such as pirate hats in *Pirates Of The Caribbean*. At the beginning of every level, the evil robots will be seen in cutscenes doing different goofy things, giving each type of enemy a distinct personality.

The levels in the game are amazing, and almost fully interactive. There are plenty of props to be picked up, moved, and used to your advantage, such as fire pits to burn rope in *Pirates*, or magnets in *Wall-E*. Plus, with destructible parts hiding treasures that upgrade your weapons and a beautifully designed background, the levels are all vi-

sually pleasing works of art.

My tips? watch out when playing, because friendly fire is always on and a major nuisance. It's too easy to get caught up in the heat of battle and end up beating anybody playing with you.

Also, watch out around you when you go to use a big attack, because a lot of them deal heavy damage the attack radius, which could affect your allies. Finally, have fun! This is a game that's hard to take seriously, so go nuts! Ride around on sheep, take care of bad guys with bees, and enjoy yourself!

Greatest show on FX; possibly on TV

Network's hit show *The League* becoming very popular

By Zack Coldiron

If you are a big sports fan or just in love with comedy movies or tv shows, then *The League* is the show for you. The hit show on FX is about a group of friends who play fantasy football and have a good time pulling pranks and jokes on each other on their way to winning their "league."

It also depicts the variety of different situations that occur in each character's everyday lives. As a fan of comedies, this is easily my favorite show on televi-

sion today and I suggest anyone who also is a comedy fan to watch it.

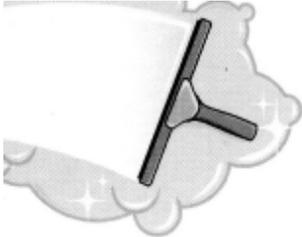
While many shows on television now are about detectives and action, this newer style of television makes it a hot commodity for many sports fans like myself. There isn't necessarily a main character so it's more of a *Friends* or *How I Met Your Mother* type of show with many main characters involved. It has a type of humor that any com-

edy fan would enjoy, with a cast of successful stand up comedians.

It does have a mature rating but isn't anything too raunchy. Whether or not you're a sports fan or stand up comedy fan, this show will make you outright laugh and is most likely to entertain you. I think what makes this so hilarious is the different types of personalities involved. Like for example, the character Taco, portrayed by Jon Lajoie, the

character is an unemployed musician who knows nothing about sports.

But his character is hilarious because throughout the series he creates different ideas to make money. All in all, if you're looking for a new show that stands out from the rest, then *The League* is the show you must go watch. Just grab some popcorn and get your friends, then prepare to watch the best show on television!



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Assigned reading not as horrible as you think

After all, they're known as classics for a reason

By Chelsey Fawley

It's hard to step into an English classroom without seeing some sort of classic book. *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Scarlet Letter* are bound to be lining the walls of whatever classroom you walk into. Along with the common books, you hear the common hatred of them. It seems no one enjoys doing assigned reading nowadays.

Well, recently we had to read *Huckleberry Finn*. Now, as this is a classic American novel, when it was assigned, the class

immediately began to dread the upcoming weeks.

They shouldn't have though, because *Huckleberry Finn* is one of the best novels I have ever read. The story contains a classic tale of a boy coming of age, and everyone can learn something from it. I firmly believe not a single person could read the novel and honestly say that they haven't taken learned anything from it.

Though the tale is sometimes referred to as racist, has been challenged many times, and has

been included on quite a few schools' banned book lists, anyone who says that it was written by a racist is simply wrong. The tale is one written quite obviously from a perspective of someone who did not believe in slavery in the least. He used biting social commentary on the time to send messages to the readers they didn't even realize they were getting.

Twain cleverly throws in his comments on hypocrisy in society, whether it be about feuds of unjustified bias or his aversion

to slavery. The tale is a tearjerker, for any person with emotions. Readers are taken through an adventure of two best friends, and as a reader, you can feel the feelings Huck experiences. There are comments on friends, society, religion, racism, and finding yourself.

It's safe to say that *Huckleberry Finn* deserves the reputation it has as truly classic literature. It's truly a well written book that is still relevant to life today; and I firmly believe everyone should read it in their lifetime.

Castle Crashers rated mostly positive

The Behemoth makes games that last

By Gregory Beasley

You and four of your friends are celebrating something when the door is hit three times, bursts open and a square character in grey armor falls down the stairs. The grey armored fellow reaches for help and dies, before seven more grey armored characters rush out of the door and finally, you and your friends stop celebrating and the music continues. Thus begins *Castle Crashers*.

Castle Crashers is a game made by The Behemoth in 2008; The Behemoth has also released

the game *Alien Hominid* for the Xbox live arcade. *Castle Crashers* is one of the XBLA (Xbox live arcade) top rated games. It features a four player local or online multiplayer, a host of hidden weapon and animal orb unlocks, as well as an easy to use level system.

The story of *Castle Crashers* is a simple, classic one. The evil wizard stole the king's big crystal thingy amajig and kidnapped his four daughters, each of whom is given to a different boss that you fight later in the game. You

start as one of four knights: red, blue, green, or orange; each one has a different ability, lightning for red, ice for blue, poison for green, and fire for orange. As you go through the *Castle Crashers* game you unlock a number of characters for beating the special arena levels, beating the first five levels and for beating the game using each character. The *Castle Crashers* game is rated T for cartoon violence and crude humor.

I give *Castle Crashers* 8 out of 10 for the following major reason: the game has a few bugs in it when you play with more than two other people.

The more positive reasons I

give *Castle Crashers* 8 out of 10 are that the gameplay is both amusing and simple. The game is, in my personal opinion, addictive. I admit to at one point playing the game for three hours nonstop until I beat it.

The game is kid friendly and can be competitive at times, it offers a mostly fun, humorous cooperative experience. I recommend this game to people who would like to play a game with friends or with younger siblings. I also recommend this game for those who are looking for something to play when they are bored or waiting for something to download, or only have ten minutes a day.



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New movie gets good ratings

The Impossible based on horrendous tsunami event

By Joe Maxwell

December 6, 2004, a massive tsunami that was caused by an undersea earthquake in the Indian Ocean left multiple countries devastated with the death toll in the two hundred thousands. Amazingly, the Belón family, Maria, Enrique, Lucas, Simón, and Tomás were all separated by the mass destruction of the tsunami, but still managed to survive and all make it home together and safe. January 4, 2012, a movie based on the amazing survival story of the Belón family hit the theaters of America. This movie that shocked the nation with the touching and unbelievable story is known as *The Impossible*.

I went to see *The Impossible* two weekends ago. Although very gruesome with detail of in-

juries, I was still able to enjoy the very heartbreaking story. In the movie, the family went on a Christmas vacation to the tropical paradise of Khao Lak, Thailand. While enjoying a day of relaxation at the pool, all of a sudden the wind picks up and the characters begin to hear a rumbling sound in the distance. Before they even had time to think of what was happening, the family's lives were changed forever when a massive, black wall of water and debris tramples over the hotel they were staying in and sweeps them, and anything in its path, away.

I am not trying to say I am cold hearted, but I can say I am not easily moved by a such a touching story. I surely can say this movie really kept me on the edge

of your seat just hoping that each family member would be able to fight his or her way through the debris and back and forth between countries to be reunited with the rest of the family. At times, the makers of the movie would throw in very gruesome scenes to show the absolute destruction and devastation of many people's lives. I think they did this to make sure all viewers understand the downright horror of this horrible event and to remember that many families much like the one in the movie actually did endure this dreaded tsunami.

Although this disaster was such a horrible event, I still think it was a very interesting movie to watch. I believe the movie makers did a wonderful job of

portraying how bad it actually was and just forcing viewers to imagine how much worse it would've been in real life. With all this being said, I still give *The Impossible* a double thumbs up for being able to expose the horrendous events that affected millions of families in south Asia, but above all, for being able to give the Belón family credit for the horrible things they had to go through and how hard they strove to keep their hope alive to be reunited with their family. It paid off, because not only were they able to live the rest of their lives with their loved ones, the Belón family has touched the hearts of and earned an immense amount of respect from the U.S.

Butterbees: Great place to watch the game

Great food, great service, and great environment to watch the game

By: Caleb Branson

If you're looking for a good place to grab a quick, but really good dinner, then I would highly recommend going to Butterbees. Butterbees is a mixture of a sports bar and a sit down dinner place. Another great thing about Butterbees is that they always have the games on, but don't forget the food! They have some of the best burgers and chicken tenders you can get on all of Beechmont!

Butterbees is located right across from the White Castle and down the road from the new Tender Town on Beechmont. It has a very nice location being right next to the highway which would attract many hungry travelers! It is also the only sports bar around the area which makes it a prime target for game day.

Butterbees is also known for its great prices for such excel-

lent food! It's a great place to go get dinner without breaking your wallet. All of the food they serve is very reasonably priced. Even the great steak they serve is priced very decently!

There is also have a very diverse menu at Butterbees! Diners have their choices of many varieties of steak, chicken, soups, and sandwiches! My personal favorite is the Old School Burger, topped with lettuce, tomato, and sliced red onion. You can also add American, Swiss, or Jack 'n Cheddar Cheese and bacon if you would like.

The interior is my absolute favorite part of Butterbees (other than the food, of course). You walk in welcomed by a very friendly host/hostess who leads to your table almost right away. That's a great thing about Butterbees, too; there is hardly

ever a wait. I have been to Butterbees many times, and I have only had to wait one time, which was only for a short 15 minutes.

The inside of the restaurant itself is incredibly nice, and it seems to have the perfect light to dark ratio. What I mean by that is, it is never too light and never too dark in there. It's light enough to see everything, but dark enough to have your sense

of privacy. It is also filled with TV's inside, which is great because every patron in the restaurant can comfortably view the game from his or her seat.

So all in all, if you're looking for a nice place to go out to eat, and watch the game. I highly recommend going to Butterbees. You'll get great service, amazing food, and a nice spot to watch the game.



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