

The Messenger

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

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Here come the holidays!

Lots of ways to help our community this season!

Givin' back can really go a long way

Student Council puts together food drive to help the community

By: Christin Gray

The best time about this time of the year are the upcoming holidays, especially for those who rely on the New Richmond Food Pantry for donations. Every year, New Richmond High School's Student Council puts together a the food drive to help the community and bring everyone together. All five of our schools participate in the service project of giving back to the community in which most of us live.

The Food Drive is run by Mindy Graser, who is the middle school secretary. She is in charge of getting all the volunteers for loading and unloading of trucks, as well as sorting the various foods and packing them for families in the area. "Mrs. Graser does a tremendous job of organizing the entire food drive for this community. She doesn't get enough credit for all she has done in the

past," said Robinson.

Jim Robinson, Industrial Technology teacher, has the Student Council make this their project. "All of the money and food donated, 100% of that goes to the food pantry, and stays in the community. Once the food reaches the point of delivery, it is sorted and broken down into bags for each family that comes so they can get a little bit of everything," he said.

This year a big part of our support is no longer at the high school. John Callebs, former geometry teacher, has retired and he always had the class that won each week, for the most part. This year, since he is gone, other teachers need to step it up and amp up the competition somehow.

Robinson said, "Somebody has got to pick up the slack,

Callebs brought in 35-40% of the total amount collected in the high school."

Each year, the goal for the Food Drive is to beat the previous year, whether that means by one can or one dollar, an improvement in the last year is the only thing Robinson is interested in. "I just want to break the overall record of the year before, I don't set goals by percentage, we just try and break our goal from the previous year," he said.

This year, the food drive will consist of a three week long period. Beginning with week one starting on November 18 and lasting through the 26, and the following two weeks will be after the Thanksgiving break. As always, there are going to be winners each week of the collections so there is a possibility for nine possible winners to receive a donut party given by Student Council.

With all the other New Richmond Schools involved, each year the schools compete with one another to see who has the best outcome, and each year hands down, "WE ALWAYS WIN," said Robinson.

In 2010, it was the highest the high school has ever raised for the food pantry. We had over 11,439 items donated. Down from the previous year, in 2011, we collected 7,411 items. 2012 was a nice comeback for the high school; we raised 10,575 items and the hopes for this year are

to beat last year's.

"Terry Flamm physical education and Health teacher has done a great job in the past of getting her classes involved. She has a disadvantage being the only one in her department now, but I hope she can pick up the slack that is lacking," said Robinson.

Another outstanding representative is Rick Mahan, special education teacher. "He has won some weeks in past and this year I think he could win the contest overall," said Robinson.

After each first bell, teachers send the collected items to room 110 to be accounted for. Right then and there, the student representatives bringing them in give credit to the given class. First bell is spent counting all the items and getting a running total for the day. "Mrs. Carey's students have helped collect and count them in the past, which a really nice thing to have taken off my shoulders," said Robinson.

Non-perishable items or canned foods are what is needed for the food drive this upcoming season; things that don't damage easily and have a seal on them. "Leave the items in the boxes if possible; it is easier for you and for us to transport. Also, no fresh vegetables or fruits. Previously people have donated things of that sort and they just aren't able to sit for a while," said Robinson.

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New Richmond gets crafty

Craft fair provides fundraiser for new band uniforms

By: Chandler Cochran

Craft fairs are very popular, especially this time of year. You can get all of your holiday shopping done at one place, and you can support a very good cause all at once. On November 23, New Richmond High School is hosting a craft fair to benefit the marching band. The fair will consist of over 75 vendors selling unique items. Librarian Joyce Montgomery is in charge of booking and organizing the event. "We have around sixty vendors signed up right now, but we are expected to have at least 75," she added.

This year the craft fair is benefitting the band again, helping to fundraise the money they need to purchase new uniforms.

"The fundraiser stemmed from the need for new uniforms," said band director Mike McKinley. "Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Montgomery were the driving force behind the idea when they saw

the need for new band equipment."

The band has been in need, and have been fundraising for the new uniforms for a while. Previously, they have participated in a catalog sale, were beneficiaries of the Rusty Ball, and have for two years in a row have been recipients of the Piggst raffle ever, which is produced by the Flying Pig Marathon.

"Mr. Bird has recently agreed to pay for the new uniforms," McKinley explained. "We are still fundraising and will continue to fundraise for the next set of uniforms that will be roughly fifty thousand dollars."

That sounds like a lot of money but these uniforms last fifteen to twenty years and make the band look fantastic while performing during games, and in parades. The fundraiser isn't only for band uniforms; along with a band fee each student pays for

being in band, some of the money goes towards new instruments, which the group is constantly in need of, and to cover operating costs for band camp and marching band. The uniforms the band currently have are twenty years old, five to ten years older than what they were made to last for.

The band is heavily involved in this year's craft fair. "The band kids are in charge of doing all the heavy lifting, as well as setting up, cleaning up and running the concession stand," added McKinley.

Some specific unique vendors who will be at this year's event include Tameka's treasures, which sells joy boxes, and Independent Living Options which sells crafts, corn hole boards, and different types of jewelry that are made by adults who have disabilities. The proceeds from the sales go to benefit the

adults who are in the program. Another very interesting vendor is May Creations, who sells clay bead work, bracelets and earrings with the New Richmond logo on them, as well as college logos. If you are interested in purchasing some of these items from May Creations, there is a separate order form on the next page of this issue.

Other items you can find at the fair include all natural crafts, soap, woodworking, jewelry, books, Lions spirit wear, blankets, and folk art.

The publicity for this year's craft fair is all over the place, "We have ads running on Craigslist, Cincinnati.com and Festivals.com," explained Montgomery. "All of the information for vendors as well as shoppers are on these sites."

To contact Montgomery for more information, email her at Montgomery_j@nrschools.org.

Turkey Tuesday is back at NRHS

Fun, charitable way to celebrate the holiday

By Josie Buckingham

As Thanksgiving comes around at the end of November, everyone begins to get in the holiday spirit. At NRHS, we also like to celebrate this holiday in some fun ways. One of those ways includes Turkey Tuesday.

Turkey Tuesday is a fundraiser for the Lions Reach Out program. This event was first started last year as a way to add to the funds of the program. "I started it last year as a way to make some money for Lions Reach Out as well as give students kind of a break the day before Thanksgiving," said Susan Griffin, head of Lions Reach Out.

Last year, the only activity on Turkey Tuesday was a volley-

ball game, but this year will be much different with several activities. "I thought it would be better to add some more things for teachers and students to do," said Griffin. "It's organized around a staff versus students competition that will include volleyball games, free throw contests, a ping pong tournament, cornhole, putting and a mini academic team match. Scores are tallied for each competition and the winner is awarded the Golden Turkey trophy. We'll also do raffle drawings for teacher-donated baked goodies and we'll have some prizes for student winners in different activities."

The event seemed to be a big

hit last year for everyone involved. Students and staff had fun and enjoyed the little break from classes. "I think kids love the chance to compete against the teachers! And they love to see their teachers make fools of themselves. Luckily, we have a very supportive staff who doesn't mind looking foolish. Even so, the teachers won easily last year, so we're still the trophy holders!" said Griffin.

Although the event is a fun and exciting time, it really does have a special purpose and supports a good cause. "I think it's important to remember that this is a fundraiser for a charity that helps kids right here at the high school.

Sadly, the number of needy families seems to increase every year and Lions Reach Out was created to help those families. All the money raised, one hundred percent of it, goes to help kids and families in our school," explained Griffin.

Last year this event was very successful and raised a little over \$2000. "This year, I'm hoping we can raise even more," said Griffin.

Turkey Tuesday will be held on November 26 during bells 6 and 7. Tickets are \$5 and will be available in classes, at lunch, and before and after school.

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New Richmond Village Food Pantry reaches out

Come and you will be served

By Claire Burns

Since 1981, needy residents in our community have been well provided for by the New Richmond Village Food Pantry. The pantry is a nonprofit organization located at 102 Willow Street which provides food for needy individuals here in New Richmond. The organization is run by volunteers, and the pantry serves an average of 75 families each month. No one's need is turned down at the pantry, as they live by their policy, "If they ask, we give!" However, the pantry is always in great need of donations and anyone's time as a volunteer.

The coordinator of the pantry, Melinda Graser, speaks very highly of the team of volunteers which they regularly have.

"The group of volunteers we have are awesome. Many of us have been with the organization since its inception. We have a steady number of volunteers each month. The pantry is staffed by volunteers on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by appointment only."

Graser also comments on the specific need of the food pantry here in New Richmond.

"I would say that food pantries are needed EVERYWHERE; there are always people that are less fortunate that could use some help with the basics of life at some point in their life. However, I wouldn't say that New Richmond is a community des-

tinued to always have a food pantry, though; we are a thriving community that has the heart to help those in need! Currently, I would say that things are level with the present need of the community. It is always there, and is most likely to always be there."

The food pantry is very accessible to all needy families in the community.

Graser stated, "By calling 513.553.3800, you leave a message and a volunteer will contact you to come down for food. The ideal situation for receiving assistance with food is four times yearly, however, NO ONE is EVER turned away, we do not screen the income of clients, if they ask we give! On average we serve 75 families each month with an average of 100 children in those homes."

With the continuous need of the community, donations are greatly appreciated at the pantry.

"The food pantry always needs donations of canned goods, non perishable items, or cash to purchase food products. We have a steady group of donors that help each month, but the majority of our donations come because of a Christmas/Holiday appeal we do each year. We get enough in donations to fund the Christmas project and use what is left for the remainder of the year. We are very frugal and very good stewards of all our donations! We are

an organization which is funded solely by donations and receives no government money; however, we do have access to purchase food from the Free Store/Food Bank warehouse at a very discounted rate. Donors can drop off their donations at the physical location of the pantry or at schools during food drives, where the products will be later transported to the food pantry," said Graser.

The major food distribution date is the annual Christmas holiday distribution, which is done a week prior to Christmas.

"Clients may put their own name on the list of those receiving help and we also get names from schools and churches. A large food basket that includes milk, chickens, bread, fresh fruits & vegetables, and canned goods is prepared for each family, along with toys for the children. This is the only time of year a formal appeal letter is done asking for donations of time, food, and money. Each school in the New Richmond Exempted Village School District conducts a food drive for us and that is what is used exclusively in the Christmas boxes. In 2012 we served 200 families that included over 300 children at our Christmas distribution," said Graser.

Because there are no adminis-

trators at the food pantry, they are always looking for volunteers. "We love to see high school/middle school kids help us during the Christmas distribution. It is a monumental undertaking that takes lots of hands to get done!" said Graser, "Prospective volunteers call 553-3800, the voice mail for the Food Pantry, and leave information there; a volunteer then retrieves the calls and contacts the clients to set up a time to meet."

Graser has not yet set in stone the exact date when the Christmas drive will be held this year, but she already is certain that she will need plenty of hands to get the job done.

"The donation will most likely begin at 9 am at the American Legion Hall on Caroline Street. We always need volunteers to help pack the boxes and load the finished product in clients' cars. We would love to see you there!"

The New Richmond Food Pantry is an organization which is open to any citizen in need. The food pantry is a nonprofit organization which receives no governmental funds. As a result of this, the food pantry is always in need of donations and volunteers. There are many jobs to be filled at the pantry and anyone's help is greatly appreciated.

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Lions Reach Out saves the day

NRHS charity helps out those in need

By Joe Maxwell

Lions Reach Out is an organization here at New Richmond High School, started in 2007 by NRHS English teacher, Sue Griffin. The program was designed to help needy students afford anything that any of the other students here at NRHS have become accustomed to, therefore not leaving any needy student at a disadvantage.

Griffin was inspired to create the charity after being overwhelmed by how grateful a family was after she helped them a few years ago.

"Back in 2005, we had a family who was in bad shape with two high-school children. Neither parent was working and they had just fallen on some hard times. I proposed helping just those two kids and getting them winter coats, some personal items and a few pieces of clothing. Both kids were surprised and very grateful and that made me think that if there was a real charity

created, we could raise more money and help more kids and their families. We've been able to raise enough money to provide for needy students more times than just Christmas and we've had incredible support from the PTO, the faculty here, the Sports Foundation and the community," said Griffin.

Lions Reach Out helps out with many things other students have come to know as everyday materials, that way, the needy students will also get used to them as everyday materials in their lives.

Griffin said, "We help out needy kids here at the high school and provide Christmas presents, emergency clothing or household needs, pay for athletic expenses and small college fees. We have paid some school fees, bought graduation clothing and caps and gowns. We have also paid for students to get college credit for classes they

take here and some other incidental expenses. We also give needy students some money for Prom each year."

After being fully functional for going on eight years, Lions Reach Out, certified as a real 501c3 charity recognized by the state of Ohio and the IRS, has been improving and growing each and every year.

"Since 2007, when we provided Christmas gifts for about five students, our Christmas list has grown to about 40 kids each year," said Griffin. "We want to help kids enjoy their high school experience and provide some help for kids who want to participate in events and activities, but maybe can't afford it. We also step in to help during the holiday season because some of our kids here don't have a Christmas and they need winter clothing, shoes, just basic necessities that a lot of us take for granted. I think Lions Reach Out lets kids know that someone cares about them and wants to see them succeed, even if their family doesn't have a lot of money."

To support Lions Reach Out and keep it running, Griffin organizes a few events to raise money for the charity.

Griffin said, "We have a couple of fundraisers each year. Turkey Tuesday is the day before Thanksgiving. It puts students

and faculty members up against each other in competition in things like volleyball, basketball, golf and other things. Students pay five dollars to attend, it happens bells six and seven and it's a lot of fun to see them compete. Last year, the faculty won the Golden Turkey trophy, of course. This year... who knows? I do the Talent Show in the spring and that raises money for Prom and graduation/college fees. I try to get the word out about the organization through *The Messenger* and I go to talk to other student groups about it as well. Our PTO sponsors a Walkathon in November that is attended by a few student groups here, such as Student Council and National Honor Society."

Overall, Lions Reach Out supports a great cause to help out students here at NRHS that may need special help. It is a much appreciated program as well as a much enjoyed program for all of the people that help out with running the charity. It is a wonderful thing to have at NRHS and many people, especially Mrs. Griffin, are happy to help and support Lions Reach Out.

For more detailed information about Lions Reach Out and this year's holiday season fundraisers, contact Mrs Griffin at 553-3191x10204 or griffin_s@nrschools.org.

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Join us for the Walk-a-thon: Friday, November 22; 2:50p.m., at the bandstand in the village.

About a one-mile walk around the village. Donations are solicited for Lions Reach Out and all proceeds go directly to the organization; the money is used to help students at NRHS and their families at Christmas. Anyone is welcome to participate or help raise money, and the grand prize for the person who raises the most money is a giant box of Mrs. Griffin's famous Christmas goodies. Donations can be as simple as a spare change jar in a workplace.

Come watch the fun at Turkey Tuesday: Tuesday, November 26: A sixth and seventh bell in-school event that features staff vs. student volleyball games, free throw contests, corn hole matches, putting contests and other games. Students win prizes for their efforts and the coveted Golden Turkey trophy is given to winning teachers or students at the end. Turkey Tuesday also features raffles for teacher-donated baked goodies and a chance to throw a pie in a teacher's face. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds go to Lions Reach Out. Tickets are available at NRHS Nov. 12-26.

Support the Giving Tree: November 20-December 20. The tree in the NRHS lobby has tags for personal care items, which are all donated to the NR Food Pantry as well as tags for toys for children ages 1-10. The toys are donated to local churches for their Christmas programs.

Donate other items: Lions Reach Out can always use new girly stuff such as lotion, makeup, hair care products, nail polish, etc. We can also always use new no-show socks and Axe products for the boys. We also gratefully accept Kohls Cash, store credits and gift cards, no matter how low the balance. All of these items are fully tax deductible.

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

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

This year, we will be helping 50 or more NRHS students in the holiday season, giving them clothing, personal items and other Christmas gifts. Our fund raising drive begins in October and concludes with the distribution of gifts the week before Christmas.

For more information about Lions Reach Out, contact Sue Griffin at 513-535-5407 or griffin_s@nrschools.org.

Checks should be made payable to Lions Reach Out.



Have you ever heard of Child Focus?

Laura Redmond shares about her job

By Ashley Gray

Have you ever heard of Child Focus? Maybe you have, but many people may not know exactly what it is. Child Focus is an organization that has a variety of services to provide a wide-range of help for adolescents as well as adults, such as: home visitation, medical care, substance prevention and abuse programs, case management, etc. Others may know Child Focus from its prior name, Clermont County Diagnostic Center. This organization focuses on serving the needs of children.

At New Richmond High School we have our very own Child Focus employee, Laura Redmond. Redmond has worked for New Richmond for three years, but there have been other Child Focus staff members here before me, she said.

Redmond said she works at the high school, one day a week to provide mental health services to students in the building. "I work with students for many different reasons including helping them with grief and loss after a death of a friend or family member, working through feelings as parents go through a divorce, improving anger management, self esteem or social skills, learning healthy coping skills, decreasing anxiety and feelings of depression and many other things," continued Redmond.

Redmond shared that Child Focus is a wonderful non-profit

organization and her inspiration in deciding to become a Child Focus employee. "The work atmosphere is very supportive and there are many amazing and wonderful people that work at Child Focus to help improve the lives of children and families. Child Focus offers a lot of different programs and services throughout the county."

According to Redmond, "A lot of the students get referred to me for lots of different reasons. A big thing that we work on is learning healthy coping skills and social skills, how to get along with peers."

Redmond does not only work at New Richmond High School. "I currently work at NRHS, NRMS, NRE and Locust Corner. I run two social skills groups at NRE. In the past, I have ran an anger management group and a study skill group at the middle school. Although, I have not run any groups at the high school in the three years I have been here," said Redmond.

In order to get into one of Redmond's groups, the students have to be referred. "In the high school, I get students who have been referred by administration or the guidance counselors. Parents can also request services. In other buildings, the referral processes are different," Redmond said.

Redmond has some advice for adolescents who are either hav-

ing problems at home or at school. "It is important for kids who are struggling at home or at school to identify positive supports in their lives that they can go to for support. Whether it be a staff member, family member, or family friend, it is important to have people you can talk to and seek positive advice from."

The counselors share their input on groups here at the high school.

"The purpose of this program has changed. At first, the program aimed toward preventive activities and mental health, now students who are a part of her caseload have an on-going mental illness," said counselor Jim Reaker.

Counselor Carol Ann Coulter said, "Mrs. Redmond's programs provide mental health services, more services than the counselors can provide during the day and she can step in and to provide more in depth and consistent help."

Mrs. Redmond benefits the students by "providing more mental health than just the counseling aspect, she has more time to focus on the students versus the counselors who have various different responsibilities," said Reaker.

"The big thing is, a lot of stu-

dents don't have the ability to go out to Eastgate to a Child Focus, being at the high school, Mrs. Redmond is able to bring services to the students without them worrying about transportation. She provides services in hopes of preventing a situation from escalating," said Coulter.

The counselors share advice for kids having struggles at home or in school.

Reaker said, "talk to the administrators, counselors, who ever you feel most comfortable with."

"Talk to someone, if you have a good friend willing to listen, great, but friends do not want to get burned out, finding a supportive adult that could help you is another great option. Just remember that someone is always willing to listen and lots of kids go through difficult situations that having someone to talk to provides a sense of reassurance," said Coulter.

According to the counselors there are multiple different situations students here face.

"It varies from peer issues, relationships, parent-child relationships, academic issues, etc. to just name a couple," said Reaker.



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The New Richmond Virtual Academy

How nontraditional education is helping the nation and our hometown

By Chelsey Fawley

Over the last ten years the education system certainly has changed, with advances in the actual teaching, new topics being offered, and even a nationally rising graduation rate. According to an article published by Jessica Brown in *USA Today*, 3.1 million students graduated just in 2010, bringing the percent of students completing high school in the United States up

to a whopping 78.2 (http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/01/22/education-high-school-dropout-rate/1855233/). That's the highest the graduation rate has been in the U.S. since 1974, meaning that overall in our nation we are producing a major amount of literate people while only 3.4% percent have dropped out.

In Ohio, the rates are even

higher. According to a statistic released on governing.com, by the U.S. Department of Education, Ohio has a net graduation rate of 80% per senior class. That is only slightly behind Iowa which holds the highest state rate at 88% graduated. (http://www.governing.com/gov-data/high-school-graduation-rates-by-state.html)

Why is this happening how-

ever? What has Ohio done differently to achieve these high rates? Well here in New Richmond, the district is working to assist many students to graduation as possible, by whatever means required. Here we have estab-

lished an alternative means of graduation for those who cannot handle the social pressures of high school or for those who do not have enough credits to graduate on time. It is now known as the Virtual Academy. Located at the old high school building on Main Street, the Virtual Academy has forty site licenses used by students who are now headed successfully towards graduation. Leading these students is previous New Richmond Elementary principal Mr. Gary Combs, who is now Director of the Virtual Academy. Alongside Combs are previous high school teachers Julie Shepherd and James Evanshine. They are educators who work with the students in a "tight knit community of coworkers and students that are goal oriented toward graduating when otherwise they may have had difficulty finishing school," said Evanshine. He enjoys working closely with this small group of students to help them achieve their goals in a nontraditional environment.

Though both teachers said they miss the staff and students of the high school, they like teaching at the academy and seeing the success of their students. Shepherd said, "[At the Virtual Academy] students have a great opportunity to work towards graduation. They learn to set goals and to make a plan to reach said goals. It's great to see the kids excited about reaching their goals and moving closer to graduation."

Combs believes the academy is good in preparing it students who the real world as students get rewarded with their accomplishments. He also said, "It's a great place for students to work at their own pace," and several students agreed wholeheartedly.

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Sophomore Cody Gillespie said, "I think this place is a good place because you can learn at your own pace and don't have to be worried about late work. Also the teachers and students are all respectful of each other. Plus, since I've been here, no one has distracted me in class."

Senior Tyler Scarff agreed, saying it's nice to get to work at a pace that works for him. "I get the information better doing it by myself than when someone helps me," he said. "I can actually get my work done in here because if I was in regular classes I wouldn't get anything done."

Besides the benefit of students learning at their own pace, they also get a super focused environment which allows them to complete a class much more quickly than if the students were to take it at the high school. Also, due to general silence at the academy, except for that which is played through headphones, the classroom is a nice place for

concentrated thought.

Senior Miranda Moore said she likes the silence to get her work done. "I missed a lot of school because of social anxiety," she said. "I like it down here because it's small and quiet, though you do have a lot of work to do. It's a demanding program, but it gets things done faster than regular high school."

Sophomore Thelma Sturgill agreed with Moore. "It's nice in the academy," she said. "It's peaceful and quiet, and I have a lot less stress. The high school caused me a ton of anxiety, and so this is a better environment for me."

Senior Mason Morgan is a fan of the program as well. "The Virtual Academy is quick and easy but lacks the hands on experience that you get at the high school. For some that works nicely. Though I miss my friends, I like it down here because it is fast and easy to get credits and because there is no homework. I

think that we should have a longer break and lunch though because we are on the computer for about seven hours straight."

Sophomore Taylor Whittaker pointed that fact out in saying, "I like it down here. It keeps you focused and it lets you get caught up on what you need to get done really fast."

In just the school year of 2013-2014, students of the Virtual Academy have already earned 58.5 credits, according to Bailey. These credits were earned by students who in previous years would most likely have dropped out.

"The Academy helps those who just do not function well in a traditional high school setting," Bailey said. "This program is helping kids who -before the academy- would have likely dropped out feeling that they were too credit deficient to graduate on time."

Students in the program are quite thankful that it has been expanded in the past year, as they realize it is a prime opportunity to gain the credits needed to graduate.

As Morgan said, "I like it down here because it is fast and easy to get credits. If you only need a few credits to get out and into the real world, the academy is the place to be."

Don't jump up into arms yet though, fans of 'classic' high school environments. According to Steven Lohr's research released by the New York Times,

online high schools won't be taking over anytime soon. Lohr said, "Students who learned from online high school classes scored in the 59th percentile for standardized testing, while classically educated students scored in about the 50th percentile, according to the Department of Education. This doesn't mean we'll be saying good-bye to the classrooms though - it just suggests that more online resources will be utilized in the future." (http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/19/study-finds-that-online-education-beats-the-classroom/?_r=0)

For now, here in New Richmond, it seems the program is going well. There are some suggestions for improvement that may be implemented over the years to continue a high output rate of high school graduates who will become productive members of society.

Both nationwide and locally, online education does seem to be boosting a segment of our youth, and the Virtual Academy should continue to help those students of New Richmond who need the accommodations of privacy and focused environment.

In the years to come, who knows where this project will go. Bailey closed the topic best for now; saying, "There have already been improvements to the academy this year, and we just have to wait and work out what's best for our students in time."

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PSAT has several benefits for test takers

Students, staff see value in assessment

By Joe Maxwell

Over the course of their high school careers, a good number of students will take or at least know about the PSAT/NMSQT, also known as the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test. It is a program cosponsored by the College Board and NMSC (National Merit Scholarship Corporation). It is a test that provides practice for the SAT, and is meant to be taken before students take the SAT so they have an understanding of the test goes, what it will feel like, and can improve their test taking skills.

New Richmond High School counselor, Jim Reaker, as well as a few NRHS students elaborated on why most students take the test.

Reaker said, "I believe most students take the PSAT to get ready for the SAT, also because either their counselors or parents tell them it benefits. Although, next year there will be no reason for students to take the test besides they have to, because starting in the year of 2014-2015 all sophomores will be taking the test. Juniors will still be able to take the test but are not forced to, they will also have to still pay the \$14 fee, sophomores will not have to. It is probably most important for students to take the test and get ready for the SAT."

Junior Dylan Hayward said, "I took the PSAT this year so I have practice for the real SAT. I also took the test just in case I qualify for National Merit Scholar, because people who achieve this

goal can get lots of scholarships."

"I wanted to take the PSAT because I wanted to get a feel for the atmosphere of this test and the difficulty level of it. It has benefitted me because I now know that I have to work harder and be quicker during these tests because I found myself running out of time during the PSAT," said sophomore Alec Bomske. "I believe it was a good start for me, it was a little hard, but I thought I knew a lot of it. I also feel that I am now prepared for the SAT."

Sophomore Emily Belmont said, "I took this test because I wanted to prepare for when I take the SAT and do well on it. I believe the PSAT benefits me because it had a few things on there that I did not know, but now I know what to expect on the SAT."

"After taking the PSAT, I thought it was okay. It helps me get ready for the SAT and that's

good. I took this test mainly to be prepared for the upcoming SAT, it lets me know what could be on the SAT and I would study for the right topics," said sophomore Carter Light.

Reaker said, "It is good to take this test for students to gain valuable test taking experiences for the SAT and even the ACT. This test is also really important for students who have the ability to score very high on it because it gives them the chance to qualify for the National Merit Scholar to gain lots of significant scholarships. This test also gives students a feel for long tests because this one is about two and a half hours long and the SAT/ACT are four to five hours, so students that don't have practice for longer tests are completely blown away. Overall, this is a great test to prepare students for the future as well as aid them in possibly getting noticed by colleges and improving many important skills."



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Astronomy class reaches for the stars

Finding our "place in space"

By:Raven Miller

Astronomy, taught by Pat Crowley, is a class in which students study basic concepts of astronomy. Which includes topics such as planets in our solar system, satellites, relationships among objects in the solar system, and the human efforts to explore the solar system.

Crowley said he has a unique teaching style. He isn't too involved because he wants students to figure things out on their own but, at the same time he is very hands on and does a lot of demonstrations. Crowley believes if his students are doing a project or lab and they are having fun then they will learn from it. "I try to let the students do the investigating and the learning will follow. I try to be a facilitator of inquiry. I feel experimentation is the best way to understand science." he said.

Crowley told us what a typical day in his classroom is like, "A typical day in class is attempting to make astronomy interesting and tie it into daily life," said by Crowley.

Crowley thinks that the best way to keep students interested and make sure that they are learning is to make everything they learn connect to their daily lives. "When people know that what happens in space has a bearing on their lives, they tend to get interested to some degree."

There is a lot going on in space and Crowley just wants his students to learn about and understand what is these things so that they understand what is happening in the world around them. "There is so much going on within the areas of astronomy currently, that there is a lot to discuss and discover. The goal of class is to give students a chance to appreciate our place in space, and how the Earth in-

teracts with the rest of the cosmos." he said.

The way Crowley grades is just like most teachers, when effort counts for something. If he sees that students are actually trying, but they are struggling, he will not give them a bad grade. "I grade just like most teachers. Effort counts for a percentage."

Crowley said that if students have a good attitude in class about doing work then good things will come out of it. "Attitude is everything.....positive attitude equals success at some level every time, all the time." he said.

Students in Crowley's class are expected to do a lot of things on their own such as setting up experiments, investigations, reading articles, extended responses, and daily class discussions. Doing all of this on their own really helps them learn more because they aren't just writing the answers they are actually doing it and finding the correct answer using their knowledge, According to Crowley, "Students are expected to be able to design experiments, investigate using the scientific method, compose short and extended responses, read current event articles and respond with their opinion, work together (often) in small learning teams, use the computer for research and analysis, be able to participate on a (semi) daily basis in class discussions. I expect everyone in class to show respect toward all, at all times, all else follows positively." said Crowley.

In Crowley's astronomy class students do a lot of fun projects and activities. Some of Crowley's favorites are,"Collecting micrometeorites, making comets from dry ice and other materials to study how comets behave and release energy, build-

ing a working spectroscope and telescope investigating the solar system using a team approach, and computer simulated tour of the solar system. Looking at the sunspots and (hopefully) getting a chance to observe a solar flare. We use our large telescope that has a filter so we can observe the sun safely.....never look at the sun with the naked eye. When we study the history of NASA and the Apollo Program, we watch Apollo 13 and dissect why that mission was a "successful failure". Near the end of the semester we put on a "Solar System Expo" where students present findings of any astronomy topic they are interested in and invite other classes to walk through and learn from the students. Just interacting daily with interested students is the best part for me."

Crowley said he was always interested in astronomy, He went back to school and became certified to teach it. "I was always interested in physics and astronomy and they go hand in hand. I was very fortunate to have enough students interested in the course for New Richmond High School to offer it. I am glad it is still offered."

Crowley said that the class does not go on field trips but they do a lot of things in this class that

make up for it. "We do not go on field trips because most of our studies would require darkness which makes it difficult. I do set up the telescopes for night viewing for interested students. Several years ago I was fortunate enough to write a grant for a large 5 foot, 8 inch diameter telescope from NASA. Our grant was chosen as one of the finalists, and we received a great telescope which can see deep into space. As an example, this telescope allows us to see nebula and nearby galaxies, as well as closer objects. I do have astronomers from the Cincinnati observatory come in on occasion to give presentations on various current astronomy events. They do a great job and students seem to enjoy hearing from experts in the field of astronomy."

Crowley said that he really enjoys teaching astronomy and he feels it is an important thing to learn about that way we understand the things around us. "Overall, it is an interesting and fun course I feel. To understand our "place in space" is an eye-opening revelation and students seem to enjoy studying the "strange, odd and unusual" aspects of our universe."

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Environmental biology covers diverse topics

Pumpkin seeds, Sim City and field trips all a part of class

By: Raven Miller

Environmental biology is an interesting class taught by science teacher Logan Minning. This course teaches students about “living and nonliving factors in the environment, changes that take place (succession), populations, pollution, and the use and conservation of natural resources and wildlife,” according to the course registration handbook. It is a great class for students to learn about the environment, basic ecology and conservation.

Minning shared a little about her teaching style. “I try to be very interactive with my students and as hands on as possible. I try to do things that are fun, but will also teach my students what they need to learn.”

A typical day in Minning’s environmental class is pretty crazy, but pretty fun. “A typical day in my class is organized chaos....I always have a plan for class but there are never enough minutes in the period to get it all done and sometimes the students take longer to understand something, or they understand it faster than I expected.”

Minning said she doesn’t expect anything too complicated from her environmental students, just for them to do their work and stay on task. When teaching her class, she just wants her students to learn new things about

the environment that they didn’t already know. “My goal for students is to connect their actions with environmental consequences. In the beginning of class, we learn the basic components of the environment the second half we focus on how they impact the environment.”

Minning expects her students to be responsible and to give her a little respect. “My expectations follow the 4 R’s, be respectful, be responsible, be ready to learn, and resolve problems positively. I also expect them to be responsible learners,” she said.

Minning said she grades similar to many other teachers. “The class is weighted 50 % assessments, 25% lab and 25% class and homework.”

Minning said she enjoys all the things she does in her environmental class but her students have some favorites, “From my perspective, the activities are all enjoyable, but students in the past have enjoyed the Simcity Simulation, organic food projects, pictures scavenger hunt, Pumpkin Energy: pumpkin dissection lab, and, of course, field trips!”

Minning said that her only frustration in the class is students who don’t share her interest in the subject.

“I love this subject, but I do get students who just don’t care

about the world they live in.” said Minning.

Minning said she wanted to teach environmental biology because she liked it a lot in college, “I have a master’s in Environmental Science from Miami University and I find it is very applicable to how everyone lives their lives; also, it is a very fun and interesting subject to teach.”

Minning said her course includes a few field trips. “We are going to the Thomas More College Field Station to study river ecology. In the past, we have gone to the zoo, we have done river clean-ups and taught lessons at the elementary.” The purpose of the Thomas More College Field Station trip was to study the Ohio River and talk about how it gets polluted and how to keep it from getting polluted. We also talked about how much it has improved in the past 30 years. It used to be extremely polluted and now its actually pretty healthy.

Minning briefly explained some of the interesting labs she has students do in class. “Water quality analysis, where they try to figure out if the sample of water is polluted or not. Pumpkin Dissection- determining the calorie content of pumpkin seeds. Sim City- urbanization lab simulation. Three dimensional biome project, sustainability scavenger hunt. For the insect collection, students collect bugs and learn about their scientific names and their species names. They also do a leaf collection, and create a public service announcement video project.”

Minning said that most of her students really enjoy the class and she likes that they enjoy what she’s teaching and what they are learning every day. “I

just enjoy working with the juniors and seniors and passing along the message of sustainability. I hope this follows them as they make future decisions in life.” Minning hopes that in the future, people who used to be students in her environmental class remember what she has taught them and they keep the environment clean and healthy.

Junior Hannah Hensley said she really enjoys this class because it is unlike other classes, “I really like this environmental biology class because it is every hands on and we do a lot of experiments. It isn’t just notes and worksheets like other classes.”

If junior Hensley had any recommendations to give to other students taking this class they would be: “Some recommendations I would give to other students taking this class are to always do your work and turn it in and to pay attention during labs and experiments.”

Junior Korinne Gillman said she also likes the class.

“Some recommendations I would have for other students taking this class are to study a lot, do your work and take good notes.” said Gillman. She said she learned a lot on the field trip, “On the field trip to the Thomas More College Field Station I learned about macroinvertebrates and how you can collect fish to help see how the water quality is”

Environmental biology is an honors level class that can be taken for dual credit--high school science credit and a college science credit. Students in the course must pay UC tuition if they are taking it for dual credit.



A big head start on law school

Hatfield's intro to law class educates in criminal justice

By Tristin Baumann

Are you interested in American law or the criminal justice system? If so, then you may want to consider the Intro to Law class taught by social studies teacher Brad Hatfield. It is a one semester class, and covers multiple aspects of the United States legal system. According to the syllabus, the course is described as "An analysis of the laws and legal system in the U.S. as it applies to everyday citizens. Students will be prepared for thoughtful, active involvement in our system of government and prepare to be educated, responsible citizens."

Topics covered include how the United States government is organized and run, the court and trial process, the process of appeals, the different types of crimes and their possible punishments if convicted, lawmaking, citizen advocacy, settling disputes, juvenile justice, and, of

course, the controversial topics such as guns, alcohol abuse, drug use, and different kinds of violence.

Hatfield described his teaching style in this class. "I like to have a class that's enjoyable, and where kids can learn based on real life experiences, and real life situations."

"We do lecture based discussion, including the review of homework," said Hatfield about a typical day in his class. "And then we have a discussion of new material."

For students who complete this class, Hatfield has several goals. "I'd like for them to be able to speak knowledgeably about American law and criminal law, and the American justice system. And if they are ever in one of those situations, they will know the basics of how it all works."

Hatfield said he has a few expectations from students who

take this class. "I expect a good attitude, cooperation, and participation. And probably more than anything an open mind."

Grades in intro to law cover three categories. "Grades are based on homework, projects, and tests. With the majority of the grade being tests, I try to make the grade as similar as possible to the college grading system," said Hatfield.

"We're getting ready to do a mock trial," said Hatfield, about an activity coming up soon in the class. "It's about the Salem Witch Trials. We do the mock trial, movie analysis, debates, discussions, and fun for the whole family."

Hatfield shared what he thought was the best part about teaching the class. "The best thing is teaching kids stuff they can use beyond school and in real life, such as when you need a lawyer and when you don't."

Hatfield's favorite class memory involves the Salem Witch Trials. "Last year Grace

Jaehnen got herself exonerated for being a witch by testifying on her own behalf."

Junior Cody Kirschner enjoys the class. "This is a very good class and really educates us on the legal system."

"It's a good class," said junior Brian Husted. "Just pay attention and it should be easy. It's something different."

Senior Chris Lawrence thinks it is a great class. "It's very educational and could be helpful in the future. Take it seriously because it's very educational. It's a great class and a great teacher."

"It is fun and informative," said senior Brian Lewis, "The teacher has a good sense of humor sometimes, but like I said, it's fun and informative."

Senior Chandler Cochran said he really enjoys the class. "It is very interesting. Be prepared to learn, it is not a class you should take for an 'easy A'. It can be difficult at times. This class is very useful and very informative."



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Lights, camera, and video editing!

The most popular class in New Richmond High School

By Alex Gardner

Lights, camera, iMovie! Interested in television shows and videos on YouTube? Then TV Production I or II is the class for you.

TV production I is a one semester course which, according to James Robinson, teacher of the course, is one of "the most popular classes in the school."

TV production is a course for those interesting in the field of editing, recording, and being in any type of video be it news broadcasts or ads on YouTube. Robinson said it's a worthwhile course, even if students initially aren't particularly sure of their interest in the field. "TV production is a perfect class for students interested in entering the field and is even worthwhile to those who are not interested in the field."

In the course, students use Apple iMac computers and video cameras to record, edit, and share videos and will also create 'Photo Montage videos'. Students learn

about the proper technique of using a video camera, cropping pictures as well as setting picture montages, a photography technique where a picture is set to give the illusion it's moving like a video, named after it's inventor.

Robinson, who previously taught graphic arts, said the class includes several things he likes. "I really enjoy technology outside of class and now this class gives me a chance to use and teach computer programs like iMovie and iPhoto. I use iPhoto and iMovie sometimes outside of school. I have a new grandson who has been photographed a lot and now I take those pictures and make photo montages of him using what I teach."

TV production has been around for seven years. The first year, there were only eight kids taking the class but now there are a full 120 students. Robinson also mentioned there is a limit on

the spots. "TV Production fills very fast, so if you want to join the class, sign up as fast as you can."

The course was initiated when Diana Spinnati, former principal at New Richmond High School, wanted there to be a class where students would be able to participate in a TV channel but the prices were way too high. So Spinnati thought about just doing the morning announcements on TVs in every room but the grant that was going to buy the TVs for every room fell through. The results was students having TV Production as a class they could take.

The entire class is based upon projects, from strictly photos to all video. One project includes placing beat markers to the beat of a song where pictures are then placed. Another project includes putting forty photos in order in a certain way. The 'How-to' Project lets students create instructional videos on how to create or do a certain object or task such as showing step by step how to use vine. A popular project, the commercial, lets students design commercials for real or fictional products, but it has to be exactly thirty seconds.

There are several students who are willing to recommend this class, such as freshman Joey Hammill. Hammill likes the class

overall but really enjoys the several projects he personalized.

"It can be fun, especially when we do projects like one of my favorites, the opinion interview. In this project, we had to come of with a question to ask. My partner Jon Martin's and mine was: 'Should the band be able to have a band cat?', simple and silly but it worked. Then we got onto iMovie, probably the most important program we use, and edited the video to where there were no pauses or errors while we were recording."

Grading is a whole other ball game than your average academic class, according to Robinson. "I personally go through each and every project and grade on very specific video elements such as duration, audio, editing, transitions, titles, and captions. I try to leave comments on every video I see, good or bad."

Robinson said that students need to sign up as soon as possible. "Being the quickest class to be filled in the entire school, students who want to to really take the class, need to decide as quickly as possible."

TV Production I and II is a great elective for those who are interesting in going into the field of video editing. But make sure you sign up as quickly as possible, spots fill up fast.



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Be prepared for copious notes

Western Civ provides world perspective for college bound students

By: Collette Gibbs

Western Civilization is an elective course for juniors and seniors. According to the course registration guide, "The course begins with pre-history and continues through the rise and developments of modern Western governments. Emphasis is placed on ideas and experiences that have shaped the Western world. The course is strongly recommended for college-bound students."

When teacher, Bill Harris, was asked how he would describe a typical day in his class he said, "Copious notes and maybe a quiz." Most of his students would agree with his statement and use the same word: copious. Harris said that in his class students can expect to take notes and study.

Harris said that he would describe his teaching style as preparing his students for college.

"We take a lot of notes and go through a lot of material. I like to think that students enjoy that class, but the important thing is to learn to keep up with a pretty significant work load," he said. "The most important things are to prepare students for the next level," Harris said, referring to his

goals for his students. He said that he tries to teach them to take notes and learn to study, to prepare them for college.

Harris said that he expects effort from his students. "Students in Western Civ chose to take this class. If they aren't interested in history and aren't willing to work, they should have chosen something else," he said.

About his grading system, Harris said, "I try to set up a system that rewards students for doing their work." He said that at the same time he challenges the top students to do more.

He also said that he does not have any simulations for Western Civilization, although they are a major part of his US history and government classes. Harris said that fun activities that he does in his class are the webquests. "They are generally what students like best," he said.

A webquest is like an online scavenger hunt. It is an inquiry-oriented lesson format where most or all of the information comes from the web. It can be created using various programs, including simple word processing documents. The webquest can involve activities ranging

from reading articles to playing educational games.

Harris said that he likes his students to understand their cultural roots. "What we are in this country is based on our collective experiences in the places we came from. Our society is a product of what has gone before us in the same way that we as individuals are products of our forefathers," he said.

"The best thing about the class is that the students, college bound juniors, are the best audience," Harris said. He said that the worst thing about the class is that it is hard for kids in the modern world to relate to things from so long ago.

Harris said that students have a lot of fun with the Viking unit and assignment. "They get to plunder a village," he said. He said that overall he enjoys everything about the class, even the students.

When students plunder the village in the Viking unit, they have to decide who their Viking leader will be. Once they do that Harris said, "They have to attack the English coast and bring back the loot."

When asked why he wanted to teach the Western Civilization class, Harris jokingly said, "The teacher before me did a poor job. I wanted to fix things."

The focal point of the class seems to be the notes, and the focus of most students currently enrolled. Most of junior Hannah Slye's interview was the copious note taking.

Slye said that in the class students should be prepared to take notes and maybe read long chapters about the ancient world, which can sometimes be boring. "I learned how to take great notes," Slye said.

Junior Sadie LaRocque said

that overall she enjoys the class, but she does not like the notes all that much. "Come to class ready for notes and try not to sit at a seat with a dictionary at it," she said. If you sit at a seat with a dictionary under it and you don't know the definition of a word you may have to look up and define the word."

LaRocque also said the class isn't bad if you do not mind taking notes. "The class is nice and you don't get too much homework," she said. She said that so far, she now knows basic information about ancient people.

Junior Alexis Meder said that when you come to Western Civilization class you should be prepared to take notes, do your homework, and study a lot. "It's an honors class, so it's hard, but also interesting," Meder said.

The students in Western Civilization focus on ancient civilizations, said Meder. "The thing I remember the most is that the Greeks like pale women because it showed that they were always inside. They liked to keep their women inside and away from other men," said Meder.

This class is designed to prepare students for college. The class is also optional, so if students don't want to take it, they won't be forced into it. Most of the students in the class enjoy learning about about ancient civilizations and appreciate Harris's teaching style. Harris said that he enjoys everything about the class.

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Teen driving is not wise

Why not wait until you're 18?

As we are aware, there is an age limit for just about everything, right? Well, how do you feel about the driving age? Should the driving age be older or younger? Driving is a great privilege to have, especially because living in New Richmond, you have to drive to just about anywhere you go. Based on maturity, though, should 16 year olds be able to drive?

I believe the driving age should be raised because 16 year olds are not mature enough to drive just yet. Getting out on the road is a challenging task. You can never predict what people are going to do. As careful and cautious as you may be, people are still crazy. Not everyone has their guard up when they are driving. Being a defensive driver is often time rather difficult for a 16 year old kid. Sixteen year olds, in my opin-

ion, are still very young and have a lot of room for maturity. Researchers have said that adolescent's brains dealing with decision making do not fully develop until they are at least 25.

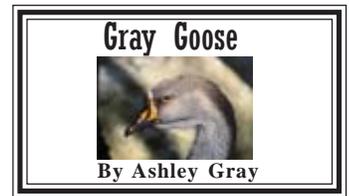
Due to the slow development of the cerebral cortex, people under 25 simply aren't equipped to deal with the quick decision making that is required for driving. It is not just opinion, it's science.

I just got my license and it is an awesome feeling to be able to drive wherever without my parents being my chauffeur, but I do not feel comfortable driving by myself. There are multiple incidents my parents have warned me about that could happen and I would not know what to do in those situations. For instance, driving next to a semi makes me incredibly nervous. Being this

young, I just do not feel ready to be on the road by myself.

The benefit of having your license is being able to drive to school, extra-curricular activities, and leisure activities when your parents are working or your siblings simply do not want to drive you or have other activities going on themselves.

However, there are some disadvantages to sixteen year olds having their license. For more teenagers than I would like to think about, their teenage years are for having fun and partying. Teenagers often times make risky decisions. Students who believe it is all about having fun and end up making risky decisions time after time, obviously do not realize the danger of their decisions. They also don't realize the awesome responsibility and risk of having their license. Most teen-



agers assume that they are invincible and nothing can happen to them, which is erroneous. Anything can happen to anyone at any given point; you can't predict the future.

As you can see, I believe bumping up the age limit to drive would be beneficial to anyone who has to be near the road and holds a driver's license. If you know you can't trust yourself, how can trust other drivers out on the road? They can't. With being so young and an ample amount of room left to mature, I believe 16 year olds are simply not ready to hit the road just yet.

It's good to keep your mouth shut sometimes

Why spouting whatever you think is incredibly annoying and usually wrong

Being near adults, there are a few things we have learned to deal with that simply just stink. Maybe it's because we live in the 21st century, but it seems that people have just gotten more and more awful. They judge, talk, and act like they're God's gift to this green Earth for what seems like no reason. What's more enraging? The pure ignorance. They have no idea what they're talking about!

Here at New Richmond High School, we have several of those people who love to just shoot off their mouths. I mean, of course we do. This is a public school, and a high school, and as every adult has no doubt been told - teens obviously know what they're talking about.

A big thing here that just everyone here "knows" about is

the "Grad Acad". Well, these fat mouths need to realize that just like the government shutdown they're griping about, they know absolutely nothing about this topic.

Frankly, I didn't either, but the difference here is I never talked about it. I've heard those who are more closely associated talking about it, and after covering the topic quite extensively, I must share how absolutely ridiculous student preconceptions of the academy are.

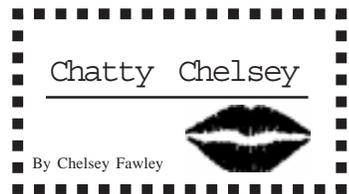
First off, Graduation Academy is no longer extant. The school on Market Street is known as the Virtual Academy, as its students become educated using Apex learning, an online program similar to ECOT.

Secondly, students tend to view the academy as a prison, as

another common preconceived notion. After all, when someone is sent down there we tend to never see them again. Students here ALSO don't ask where they've gone, but whatever.

Well, maybe it is like a prison. Prisons have some of the nicest education programs in the U.S. After all, we pay tons from the federal budget for it. People get GEDS in prisons, and lots actually manage to get degrees. So if people mean it's like a prison due to that, they're right. In no way, however, is the academy setting like a prison. Students can listen to music and ask questions and interact with others, so long as they complete their work.

Really, the academy isn't bad at all. It's just something different that people who learn differently or have hard lives need in



order to have a real chance to graduate.

Moral of the story: KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, PEOPLE! Don't open your big fat mouth and start misconceptions in others' minds when you've never even seen or read about whatever it is you're talking about. We'll never take steps forward as a race if people don't stop being ignorant. In closing, for the love of God, stop calling Virtual Academy the grad acad. Educate yourself before you open your mouth.

NRHS students push boundaries

Why cell phone rule needs to be respected

Here at New Richmond High School, it seems that our students, like every other teenager in the world, love their cell phones. Whether they are texting away, browsing media sites, or playing games, adolescent eyes are always glued to those small, three inch screens. Graciously enough, unlike many schools, NRHS has allowed its students to be able to use their cell phones when the teacher permits usage and during their lunch period. In our day and age, this may be the most immaculate gift anyone could give during a long school day, so why would students try to stretch the rules even further?

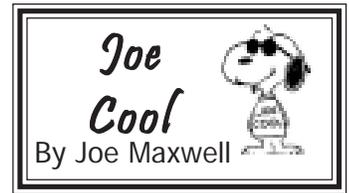
Students have recently been trying to use their devices in class without permission, in the hallways, and after being dis-

missed to their lockers from lunch. At all of these times during the day, all students know they are prohibited from using their phones. The reason why they continue to push the limits of this already pro-student rule is unknown. Students should be able to realize that this rule is already favoring them by allowing them to use their cell phones at several times during the day, whereas some schools outlaw any use of cellular devices during school hours.

Compared to other schools, the NRHS cell phone restrictions seem to be a God sent rule. In actuality, it should probably be referred to as cell phone allowances instead of restrictions. Students don't realize how lucky they are to be even allowed to

use their phones in the cafeteria during lunch. If students continue to push the limits of this rule they should already be grateful for, it may end up in a complete ban of cell phones in the school. How shameful would it be for the maturity of the high school to be compared to the middle school if we have to resort back to the, "cell phones must remain in students' lockers" rule. NRHS students have put in the time and developed the maturity so that they should be able to handle cell phones responsibly at appropriate times and at other times have them in their pockets, purses, bags, etc. turned off.

An easy way to avoid risking no cell phone use at all during school hours would be to learn



to cherish the time we are granted to use phones during the day. If students come to realization that being able to use their phones when granted and during lunch is a privilege they have earned with maturity, and stop looking at the rule as if they are only limited to using their phone during appropriate times, the rule would go over much better for both sides of the decree. Administration would be happy that students are respecting the rule to not use their cell phones in class and in the hallways, and students would begin to be grateful that they are granted time during the day to use their phones instead of not having any time on them all school day.

Cheerleading is legitimate sport

Athleticism same as any other

Is cheerleading a sport? I like to believe it is, but other people try to tell me it's not. I used to be a cheerleader and personally think that cheerleading is a sport. Maybe it's because I was a cheerleader for years, I didn't give up on it after one year, but I believe and will argue with anyone that cheerleading is, in fact, as much of a sport as anything else.

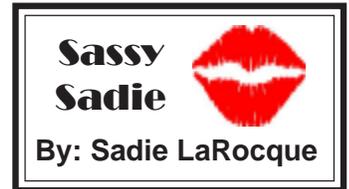
What makes people think that cheerleading isn't a sport? It requires you to warm up and stretch out so you don't get injured. Anyone can come up with a cheer in a matter of a few minutes, but that doesn't make him or her a cheerleader. There are some basics to cheerleading that you have to learn; the positions you should be in and how your hands and arms should be positioned when you're doing a cheer. Plus, you have to practice the routine over and over again, and often times make changes

to improve the routine.

Clapping and screaming and saying "Go team!" is what people think cheerleading is but in reality, it's more than that. It requires just as much energy as other sports and is more of a sport than golf, billiards, poker, and archery. A lot of time and effort is put into cheerleading. You have to be prepared for the jumps, kicks, and either to fly or catch the flyer. Like any other actual sport, you have to do stretches. We did exercises to stretch out our legs like straddling while trying to touch the floor with our noses and doing the splits a couple of different ways. We also did exercises to stretch our arms and get ready to catch our teammates who were the flyers.

Teamwork is a major part of cheerleading, as it is with other sports, but people don't think about it. They think it's just a bunch of people who all learned

the same cheer and are doing it together once or twice, but cheerleading is a team sport. The team has to work together to get the timing of the routine down in order to form a pyramid properly and to catch the flyers. Forming a pyramid may seem like it is as easy as pie, just put the bigger people on the bottom and smaller on top; however, it really isn't that easy. You have two spotters off to the sides in case one of the people in the pyramid falls, and you have to work as a team making sure that everyone is in the correct spot and nobody is going to fall. We used to fail at the pyramid all the time because our team always ended up having someone fall. It's not as easy as it looks. Then there are the flyers. When you see the team split into a couple of little circles, everyone facing each other, someone is getting lifted up from the middle of that circle and is



going to fly. Teamwork comes in to play with flying because everyone has to contribute to lift the person who is doing the flying and catch them.

I hate when people say that cheerleading isn't a sport. It's as much of a sport as football, track, swimming, and tennis are. We put as much time and effort into cheerleading as football players do with football. It is as much physical activity and teamwork as other sports are, too. If you haven't done cheerleading, you can't criticize it and say it isn't a sport until you try it. If there was ever a cheer practice where I didn't leave sweaty and smelling disgusting, I don't remember it, because for the most part, it's a lot of work and requires as much energy, teamwork, and effort, as other sports.

Lack of hall passes has a negative impact

High School is an eye opener for anyone. The dramatic change in the environment takes a while to get used to, specifically concerning the lack of time allowed between the change in classes. The rapid transition between classes particularly imposes a problem for athletes. Especially during the summer months, hydration is key to an athlete's successful performance. The minimum amount of water that athletes should consume prior to their performance is eight, eight-ounce glasses, which unfortunately calls for a significant number of bathroom breaks.

Throughout New Richmond High School, students struggle to find an appropriate time to use the bathroom. Teachers often refuse to let students use the bathroom during lectures, which unfortunately take up the majority of class time, leaving students with only a few extra minutes before and after the lecture to fill out a hall pass. Teachers value their class time and do not let any minute go to waste.

Caught up into their lesson, teachers are prone to easily lose track of time, leaving the class in a fluster at the ring of the dismissal bell. This decreases students' available time to arrive to their next class, which includes an occasional locker stop and restroom break.

Here at New Richmond High School, the allowed hall passes per week are a limit of five. Clearly, if a student is fortunate enough to squeeze in a bathroom break into his or her teacher's packed lesson plan, this averages only one pass per day. To an average person, this may seem like a reasonable number, but not for student athletes. Athletes are constantly being reminded by their coaches to efficiently hydrate themselves throughout the week, not just a few hours prior to their sporting event. Unfortunately, this becomes a challenge for athletes under the time constraint of their schedule and the lack of hall passes.

Eight glasses of water goes

through an individual's body relatively fast, which requires a restroom break at least every other class period. At the maximum, most students are only able to use the restroom two times a day; once being during their lunch time and possibly again with the use of a hall pass. The lack of bathroom breaks also is a contributing factor to students' grades. Needless to say, it is very hard to concentrate when the only thing that you have on mind is getting to the restroom after drinking a few bottles of water.

A resolution to this time crush in the hallways can be addressed in more ways than one. I believe that the number of bathroom passes should be increased to at least ten passes a week. This would provide the opportunity for students to hydrate more efficiently due to the increase in availability of restroom passes. Another solution would be to increase the time between classes, allowing more time to use the restroom as well. Yes, there would be students who would



abuse this privilege, but I do not believe that the rest of the student body should be punished for their lack of self discipline. Addressing the problem caused by students who use this benefit inappropriately would simply be solved by the confiscation of their hall pass privilege.

The rush between each class is like a ticking bomb for the students here at New Richmond High School, especially the athletes. It is essential that athletes are efficiently hydrated for the well being of their health and their performance, and in order to do so, the school needs to increase the number of hall passes. This would have a positive effect on both; the academic and athletic performances of the students here at New Richmond High School.

Obnoxiously loud music in public

Some people think that their music is the greatest and the rest of the people around them want to listen to it along with them. But in reality no one wants to hear their music. I personally like all genres of music and can tolerate listening to any of them, but when people think that it is okay to listen to their vulgar rap music on the bus or at lunch and sing along to it, it irks me.

If you like your music and your friends like your music that's fine, go home and listen to it. When you listen to it at home the only people that you can possibly upset are your family members and they will probably forgive you, they are your family, after all. When you listen to it in public, not only will it most likely annoy many people, it may

also offend some people.

Singing along to the music is another thing that manages to get under people's skin. If you think that your voice is something that other people would like to hear, then you should try out for one of the many television shows that are out there to help put people in the spotlight. But whatever you do, please, do not sing along while you are in public unless you are completely sure that you are going to be one of the top singers in the future.

I, along with most of the other people around you, have no interest in listening to you rap because you are 'gangsta' or to listen to you sing along to your favorite country song because *Duck Dynasty* has inspired you to be a true redneck. If I wanted

to hear someone rap about drugs and money or listen to someone sing about all the beer that they drink I would download the music for myself and listen to it quietly, without making everyone else listen to it.

Another thing that manages to irk me is when people wear earphones but still turn their music up loud enough for everyone else to listen to. I'll admit to being guilty of this, but I will also defend myself by saying that I was trying to drown out the loud and annoying music of the people around me. If everyone could just listen to their music at a normal noise level we would not be having problems like this.

Why do people choose to annoy others with their obnoxious music? I couldn't come up



with a reason for it if I tried. If I were this annoying with my music I would hope that someone would tell me about it, and I have been told before, so that I wouldn't continue to embarrass myself in public. And since someone has prevented me from embarrassing myself by telling me about my loud music I want to help you by saying: your music is obnoxious and nobody wants to hear it.

Children are very impressionable, why hit them?

A child punished physically could grow up to be violent and physical in every situation

Should parents show their anger by hitting their children or simply grounding them? More often than not, parents feel the need to give a child a swat on the butt or the hand to show that child was in the wrong. But why do parents result to swatting?

Just because I don't have a child doesn't mean I don't care. Children see what is being done and think, "Oh I

can hit anyone if I don't like what he's doing!" WRONG!! Children see what parents and siblings do and think what they are doing is fine. But every little thing adults do is setting the stage for their children.

Children are very impressionable and the actions the child encounters will help form the adults they will grow up to be. A child punished physically could grow up to be violent and physical in every situation they encounter or confront. If there were children on a playground and someone took the ball from another, that child without the ball could hit the other child for taking the ball and this behavior might be based on how the child himself has been punished at home. There are other alternatives to punish children for their actions, being violent and raising a hand to them shouldn't be an option.

A child with a horrible home life shouldn't have to feel like home is the place I will get beat. These children could grow up to think violence is the answer for

any situation because they don't know any other way to solve a conflict.

More often times than not, children have a hard time making positive decisions when they are exposed to abusive parents.

Staying out long hours, not coming home from school, getting in with the

wrong crowds, doing things they normally wouldn't are all possibilities when children don't feel safe at home.

Children are very unpredictable, especially, children who have less than perfect home lives. A horrible life for a child with no expectations, no values, no assurance of parental guidance to direct them from one situation to the next, doesn't allow them to lead by example.

There are alternatives to choosing how to discipline a child other than using physical abuse. Grounding, limiting time with friends, or only allowing the child to watch a certain amount of television are a few examples. By taking away something that children like, it will allow much more time for them to reflect on their wrong decisions. This discipline is giving the child the ability to think more about right and wrong decisions, which also allows them to consider the consequences as well.

Children aren't all the same, and I am not saying swatting your child on the butt or the hand is wrong for everyone, some children might need that form of punishment to see they were wrong. But take into consideration there are many options your children consider when making decisions for themselves, just make sure they have the right examples and role models at home. Corporal punishment is definitely not one of those good examples.

Gray Chatter



By:
Christin
Gray

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

The Messenger
New Richmond High School
1131 Bethel-New Richmond Rd.
New Richmond, Ohio
45157
2013-2014

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Ashley Gray
Christin Gray
Joe Maxwell

Adviser: Mrs. Susan Griffin



The Messenger would like to remember Mrs. Betty

McKenney as we begin our 74th year, and once again, thank her for her many contributions to our paper.

We would also like to express our gratitude to 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 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. The cost of a senior issue mailed directly to your home is \$7.

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



Faces in the Hallway

By: Christin Gray

Senior Adam Slade

Senior Adam Slade appreciates Thanksgiving as a time to reflect on all he is grateful for.

"I like to think about how lucky I am, and how blessed I am to be around family that loves me. It's truly a gift to have a supporting family," he said.

Aside from being grateful, another Thanksgiving must is spending time with all the family. "I love Thanksgiving because all of my family gets together and celebrates with one another. I love all the food as well," he stated.

The old saying *momma knows best*, is something Slade lives by.

"My mom's cooking is the best thing about Thanksgiving and my favorite dish is the cheesy



potatoes; they are my absolute, hands down favorite," he exclaimed.

Traditions are mostly "getting together," at least in with Slade's family. "Traditions my family has are getting together, talking, and eating. I love how close my family is and I would love to keep that going in my family," he said.

Sophomore Zyx Khan

Sophomore Zyx Khan has a very simple idea of what Thanksgiving means.

"My idea of Thanksgiving is a time when family and friends religious or not share a large meal and enjoy each other's company," he said.

"My favorite part is the food, it is by far the best thing about Thanksgiving! It is very delicious and it has everyone waiting in anticipation to eat it. My favorite dish is definitely homemade pecan pie. My grandmother has made it ever since I was little and it is really good," he said.

Some traditions Khan partici-



pates in are usually around the table. "My family sits around the dining room table and sings Johnny Applesseed before we eat. I would like for my whole family to keep coming over, like they always do," he said.

Junior Sabrina Loving

Junior Sabrina Loving believes Thanksgiving is being with the ones that count. "My idea of Thanksgiving is gathering with both friends and family to give thanks to God for everything he has blessed us with," she said.

Being a family is important to Loving, and Thanksgiving allows for that. "My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is having family over, or going to my grandparent's house because it is the one time of year we are all together," she explained.

Family is a big deal around the holidays, and so is grandma's cooking. "My favorite homemade dish is stuffing because my grandma makes it the best and it is one of my favorite things to eat on Thanksgiving," she said.

Traditions usually occur a few or maybe only one time a year for the Loving's. "We gather at my grandparents' house on

Freshman Shelbi Simpson

Freshman Shelbi Simpson feels family is the most important thing around the holidays. "Thanksgiving is important to me because it is the time my family and I give thanks to the lord for everything we are blessed with," she said.

"My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is to bring all my family members together to celebrate. We remember how grateful we are to have people who care about us. Family is a very big part of my life, and on this holiday it's a day to look back on what means the most to us," she said.

Homemade, is the only way! "Scalloped potatoes are my favorite dish because it is an original. The potatoes were in the



Thanksgiving, and sometimes it is hard for everyone to get together because so many live out of town. But Thanksgiving is a time we all celebrate with in the warmth of the family," she stated.

One thing Loving would love to keep a tradition in her family is always having the family together. "I would like to keep the family together on Thanksgiving, no matter how difficult it may be," she said.



feast of the the Indians, so it still goes along with the holiday," she said.

Tradition, is something that families look forward to. "I look forward to being with my family the whole day, and I hope that I can keep that going someday, to keep everyone in my family together," she said.

Express your inner Picasso

Join New Richmond High School art club today

By Ciera Moore

New Richmond High School has a wide expanse of after school activities, from sports like soccer, football, and basketball to clubs like French Club. New Richmond has recently added a club, called Art Club. "This is our third year of having Art Club at the high school," said Amy Hauserman, the high school's art class teacher. She is also in charge of Art Club here at New Richmond.

So if you have any questions about the topic of art, ask Mrs. Hauserman! "This is my third year as an art club advisor at NRHS. I had an art club at a previous school for six years," said Hauserman.

Now, don't worry! You do not

have to have any specific artistic talents. If you have even a small attraction to art, go ahead and join. Hauserman said, "Art Club is for anyone with an interest in art. No specific skill level is required."

If you are worried about not being in any art classes, then stop right there. To join Art Club you do not have to be in any art classes this year, or any other year. "You do not have to be enrolled in an art class to be a part of art club," stated Hauserman. Just know that Mrs. Hauserman is in room 212.

Art Club has already started, but that's okay! You can join whenever you like, as long as you are really interested. "Of

course not! All are welcome!" explained Hauserman when asked if it is too late to join.

Art Club is a popular after school activity, having many members that attend every meeting. "We usually have 8-12 members that regularly attend," said Hauserman.

Art Club doesn't meet every day, or even every week. Mrs. Hauserman said, "We meet at least every three weeks. Sometimes more frequently if we have a big project to complete. We always meet right after school."

Art Club members don't just sit around discussing their day, though. "Members have been involved in the wall mural painting completed on the third floor by the elevator, smaller hands-on projects like giant origami, paper roses, mask-making, gingerbread houses, anything food related is always fun! Art Club members also help out with the Kaleidoscope of the Arts in April. In March, we do fun Art Appreciation activities for youth art month," explains Mrs. Hauserman.

Art Club is just not an excuse to stay after school and socialize. You also don't just sit there and talk about art. Hauserman said "This is a place for kids to come together that have the same interests, explore art-making, expand their skills and cre-

ativity, have fun and make a difference in their school community.

Art Club is involved in a couple special events. Members make murals, complete projects, and go help with events. "Kaleidoscope of the Arts, Youth Art Month." These are just a few events members are involved in, said Hauserman.

Many believe that art is important for children. From performing arts and creative writing to visual art, Hauserman is an advocate of the arts. "Art is important for kids for many reasons. It allows kids to think creatively, problem solve, and be responsible. Art helps build confidence, it helps kids understand the world around them. Art teaches us about history. It helps us to express our thoughts and feelings in a way that words and writing cannot. It allows students to think and feel in ways that they cannot experience in a general classroom setting. I believe art helps kids understand themselves as individuals, and that their thoughts and feelings are important," explains Hauserman.

Any extra questions about Art Club visit Mrs. Hauserman. Her room number is 212, right across from the front office. She would be happy to answer any questions about Art Club that anybody has.



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Rejoignez New Richmond club français! French club invites you to join

By: Lily Cahall

Bonjour! Here at New Richmond High School we are lucky enough to have our very own French club, run by our French teacher Roger Nyam. Nyam was born in Cameroon, Africa. He has always spoken “the language of love” and many other languages, too. The language skills that he has is one of the main reasons that the French club here at New Richmond High School is so good.

French Club gathers once a month to discuss French and throw parties. When they throw parties they bring along French foods and French games relating to the theme that month. For example if there is a holiday coming up the French club will celebrate that holiday how they would in France. Some French foods you might see at the club are le baskets, which in English,

means bread.

Nyam has been the advisor of the French club for a few years now. “I have been the French Club advisor for about three years now.”

“I absolutely enjoy all of my students because they actually try to speak French. Many of them show a lot of interest in learning more about the French culture.” said Nyam.

Many people who are considering joining French club probably wonder what the students do. “In French club we watch French movies, like *Les Misérables*, sample French food, like French bread, take French field trips to a restaurant here in Cincinnati called La Petite France, and learn many things about the French culture.” said Nyam.

The main point of French club, Nyam said, is just to help and

teach the students. “The main goal of the French club is to give students the opportunity to practice and improve their knowledge of the French language and culture outside the classroom.”

Nyam was asked if he could tell anything to students outside of the French club he would say to have fun. “If you like to learn new things and have fun at the same time, French club is for you.

Freshman Brittney Bash is the secretary of the French club. “I decided to join French club because I thought it would be something interesting to do. In middle school I heard all about it and I thought it sounded fun, so I joined!” Bash said

Bash said she likes the language because it is different. “When I started taking French, my dad was kind of apprehensive about how it would help me

in the job industry, but through French club I’ve learned that there are lots of advantages of knowing how to speak it.”

Nyam wants students knowing as much as possible about the the French culture in French club.

“I want the students to know as much as possible. The French culture is extremely interesting with the famous artworks, artists, and the famous wars like the French Revolution.”

Some activities that are planned for French Club in the future are things like holiday parties, French dinners at French restaurants in Cincinnati and other fun things like games.

So if you are looking for a place to hang out after school and learn about the amazing French culture and French food, French club is for you!

French teacher sends soccer uniforms back to Africa

By: Lily Cahall

New Richmond High School French teacher Roger Nyam has recently done an amazing deed by helping young children in his home country of Cameroon.

Back in Nyam’s hometown, the children absolutely adore the world wide sport of soccer.

Nyam played soccer when he was a child and he loved it, but there was a problem: there were no uniforms. “Soccer is my all time favorite sport. The only problem is we never looked like a team because my team had no uniforms,” explained Nyam

Nyam wanted to make a difference by letting the kids in Cameroon have uniforms that he didn’t. “Having grown up in Cameroon, I have always been aware of the needs of the kids back there, so when I saw the opportunity to receive a uniform donation on their behalf, I did not hesitate.” said Nyam.

Nyam knew that Doug Foote, the athletic director here at New Richmond High School, had extra soccer uniforms that some players did not use. “The uniforms were gently used soccer uniforms of NRHS that were no longer to be used by players, so I asked Mr. Foote if I could get them and send them to Cameroon. He accepted and donated them.” explained Nyam

Nyam was not there to see the children’s reactions when they got they uniforms. “I was not present when they were given the uniforms. I was sent photos of their reaction: great joy.”

There were many sets of uniforms that got sent out said Nyam. “Six different schools in my hometown of Tugi received a set of uniforms.”

It took a long time for the soccer uniforms to reach Cameroon, Nyam said. “It took about four

months as they were sent by cargo ship (by sea).” explained Nyam.

Nyam’s family helped a lot to send the uniforms. “My wife and I put the money together to pay for shipping and handling. Even my kids who have been to Cameroon understand the needs of those kids there and were very happy that we were sending these uniforms.”

The children were very thankful for the uniforms, said Nyam. “I received phone calls and emails thanking me. They also extended thanks to NRHS.”

Where Nyam is from he said only some schools have actual teams. “Just a few schools had teams and most of the time they did not have teams. People just usually play the game for fun.” said Nyam.

Soccer is organized the same way in Cameroon as it is here in

the U.S. “There is no difference at all really. Players play the same positions, and the score is kept the same as well. I think the only main difference is not a lot of hometown teams have school soccer,” Nyam explained.

Nyam said he has been playing soccer all of his life and even plans on coaching his son’s team when he gets to kindergarten. “I have always been playing soccer, most of my life actually. If I get the opportunity to teach my youngest son how to play soccer, that would be awesome.” said Nyam.

Nyam’s donation has made differences in young children’s lives and they will probably never forget what he has done for them. Hopefully some people will see how joyful the kids are who get the uniforms, and will start providing uniforms for other sports, too!

NHS membership has significant meaning

Going behind the scenes of the annual spring assembly

By Claire Burns

We all attend the NHS assembly in the spring, many of admiring the inductees and wishing that one day, we too, will have the honor to be a member of the NHS. However, regardless of the numerous times we have sat through these long assemblies enduring the intense heat caused by the cramming of students in the gym, many of us still do not have an adequate understanding of what exactly the organization is. NHS, or the National Honor Society, is an honorable program which recognizes students for their academic achievement as well as their engagement in a number of service projects here at school and throughout the community. To be accepted as a member of the organization, one has to meet various guidelines which confirm his or her outstanding performance in the following areas; scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These attributes serve as the foundation of NHS's core values upon which the program is run.

English teacher Nicole Parker, New Richmond High School's director of NHS, serves as the overseer of the honorees. Currently, there are 33 members involved in the organization, who regularly participate in several service projects throughout the community. With the team of Parker and the members, they have successfully organized several projects. "Recently, the members have served as student facilitators for NRE Crystal Clear Science Day, along with volunteering for Family Literacy Night. We sponsored the annual blood drive here at NRHS on Nov. 7 and plan on selling Busken cookies as a fundraiser. Currently, we are working to establish a mentoring program with the students at NRE."

Parker expects the members of NHS to abide by high the respon-

sibilities of the program. "With induction into the Honor Society, a member assumes certain obligations. First and foremost, all Honor Society members are expected to maintain the standards that were used as the basis for their selection. In addition, the chapter conducts service projects for the school or community each year. We also sponsor fundraising and other projects to encourage scholarship, promote leadership and service, and build character. In addition, regular meetings of the chapter are held to conduct chapter business and communicate with members. All active Honor Society chapter members are expected to support these and other chapter activities."

Once a student is accepted into the program, membership is guaranteed as long as the individuals uphold their responsibilities. "We induct members in the spring so senior inductees graduate a few weeks later and junior inductees are members for their senior year. Students must maintain all qualifications to remain members in good standing during that time."

The qualifications for being members of NHS are intense and to be taken seriously. Parker stated, "Membership is based upon outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students who have a GPA of 3.5 or more at the end of their fifth semester (so after first semester of junior year) are invited to apply for NHS."

NHS membership serves as a respected achievement by many. Parker stated the official platform from the national organization, "The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an

honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921. Today, it is estimated that more than one million students participate in activities of the NHS and NJHS (National Junior High Honor Society). NHS and NJHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. Territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service."

The current president of NHS, senior John Ernst, was inspired to get more involved in the community as he ran for president. "My role in NHS is build on my leadership skills while using them to lead the organization to success. I believe that the key to success is to always uphold your responsibilities and complete all tasks at hand. The best way to do this is to be proactive, and never procrastinate, but most of all, be sure to have fun while staying healthy and taking care of your body. I also believe that being in contact with your teachers also play a crucial role to success. Once you know they have your back, you know that they are always there to help you with your struggles. I also believe that it is also important to challenge yourself and exceed expectations."

Ernst upholds many responsibilities as the current president of NHS. "My role primarily consists of organizing the service projects. I arrange the service projects from which the community benefits for members of NHS.

Currently, I am in the process of ordering Busken cookies for our upcoming fundraiser and planning educational activities with the students at NRE."

NHS has four significant principles which the program is ran by; Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. Ernst described these four core values; "The first of the principles is Scholarship. I believe that the significance behind it is that all members are expected to be studious in their work and to always put forth their best effort. It is also very important to have leadership. It is vital to take on leadership in any task at hand because it provides great potential. Service; Service is simple; you are gifted, your are lucky, therefore give back to the community with your service. Finally character, if one does not have integrity, all their natural talent goes to waste. Integrity, I believe is key to every person's character, and is the definite key to success."

Another member of NHS is Senior Paige Anderson, who considers NHS an honorable program which develops many life-long assets. "NHS, I believe is an organization with some of the most intelligent group of students here at NRHS. NHS gives us more opportunities to help the community by volunteering at several service projects."

The members of NHS serve as representations of NRHS and the community. NHS strives to reach out to the community through the participation in several service projects. While the program benefits the community, it too builds the member's character and core values. The members are recognized for their exceptional level of scholarship, leadership, service, and character which serve as the foundation of the society.

Hometown family-friendly restaurant

Buffalo Joe's, New Richmond's wing place

By Hunter Gilpin

New Richmond has highly anticipated a wing place for a while, and finally, Buffalo Joe's opened in September 27, 2012. Owned by Annette Alanis, Buffalo Joe's is New Richmond's second newest restaurant, serving burgers, wings, hot sandwiches, and salads. There are many specials, such as kids eat free on Thursday and they do deliver. With nine employees, Buffalo Joe's is a successful restaurant with many different food choices.

Buffalo Joe's has always been down in New Richmond, but wasn't always a wing place. "It

has always been called Joe's ever since it opened and it has been a restaurant and a bar. The reason it's named Buffalo Joe's because David Uible, the Clermont County commissioner, owns a buffalo ranch and there is a buffalo painted on the side," as Alanis explains.

Alanis has a real liking for New Richmond, and has lived in New Richmond for a long time now. "Buying a restaurant was always an old dream of mine. I started the restaurant business in New Richmond because it was friendly and I have always lived

here. I thought New Richmond needed something new."

Alanis said she is pleased with the first year of the restaurant. "Business has been going wonderfully so far. We hope to improve it more by offering specials and trying new things. Buffalo Joe's has fresh food, home cooked meals, and best burgers and wings in town. Some of our specials are 50 cent wings, Awesome cheese sticks, (fresh cut mozzarella wrapped in an egg roll wrapper), and fresh beer battered mushrooms."

Alanis is confident that Buffalo Joe's will continue to grow. "The employees are nice and quick. We have a good atmosphere and we hope New Richmond supports us. Food is not too costly. You could walk out of Buffalo Joe's full for under \$10 plus a soda."

Alanis said there are a few problems with running a business. "We have to make sure that we can afford taxes on everything. The marketing is also a problem because we have to watch the prices and continue to make the food affordable."

Buffalo Joe's has been recognized as a family friendly restaurant, but Alanis wants it known as much more. "We will welcome anyone and everyone to Buffalo Joe's. Of course this is a family friendly place but everyone who works here wants anyone who leaves to be extremely happy.

We are also thankful we found a place in New Richmond."

"Before Buffalo Joe's, I did own a bookstore in New Richmond. We closed it down, but not so we could buy Buffalo Joe's. It was closed down because I didn't want to risk losing business to the new Kindle and iPad. I didn't lose any money, but then I heard about Joe's up for sale. I bought it and that's how that started." Alanis explained.

One employee, Hannah Calvert, a sophomore at New Richmond High School, has worked there for about four months. "I chose to work at Buffalo Joe's because my mom works there. It's really fun with a family member working right beside you."

In between all the serious work, there are some lighter moments, though. "The funniest thing that has happened while working at Buffalo Joe's was when my family came in to eat. I had to carry five drinks on one serving tray. When I got to their table, I lost balance and spilled all the drinks on my grandpa. It was embarrassing but funny," said Calvert.

Businesses in general sometimes have it tough when they first open up. Buffalo Joe's faces some challenges, but Alanis said she is motivated to make sure the restaurant has continued success on New Richmond's riverfront.

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**Go
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Peacock Pastry gets into community spirit

NR Alums lead River Village Christmas

By Chelsey Fawley

Every town has the little things they can be proud of, and here in New Richmond we have quite a few. There are the New Richmond Troubadours, our very own flood meter, and annual cardboard boat races, but most excitedly, we have our very own townwide Christmas celebration. A River Village Christmas in New Richmond on the Ohio, an annual event spanning decades, is due back this year and is led by a NRHS alumna.

Jill McDonough graduated in 1974 and has spent most of her adult life on the east coast with her husband. She has now returned to our quaint hometown and is taking part in community activities. She is putting together the entirety of the Christmas event while assisting in the business that she and her sister have

owned for the last six months.

Peacock Pastry opened in early April of 2013 and is already our own little hometown haven. Quaint and homey, the Front Street establishment has been thriving and bringing a sense of community to those who have visited.

Walking down the riverfront street and gazing at the wreaths wrapped around the streetlamps will no doubt lead you to be interested the New York-style apartment looking entrance of Peacock Pastry, where the masterminds behind both The Christmas Walk and several delectable desserts reside.

In addition to the on going work of putting together the town's christmas walk and events, McDonough and her sister Chelsea Brinkman (another

NRHS alumna from 1979) have put their decorating skills to use by creatively embellishing the inside of their bakery with peacock pictures and unique decor.

The sisters wanted to start a business of some sort for nearly six years and finally landed on the idea of a bakery, as they already had experience and motivation. As they grew up they had the classic mother/grandmother cooking as well as volunteering their assistance in wedding and other events that require catering.

McDonough chose to start this business back in her hometown, and luckily for New Richmond she's now playing an important part to the community.

"I chose this place for a few reasons," she said, "Revitalizing my hometown was a big draw to start business here, but of course I chose it for the location and the view as well. Where else can you eat cupcakes and look at the Ohio River? Also since I lived in New York for so long I wanted to return to my own unique hometown. I'd also really like to have a positive impact on the village, because it seems to have gone downhill since I was here before.

There's nothing more fulfilling than having something special in your own town. It'd be nice to stay here forever."

Well, the sisters are certainly making an impact. In the short time they've been here they've showed support already for the New Richmond Community Theatre, the New Richmond K-9 Unit (coming soon hopefully), and now have agreed to put together the Christmas walk.

As decorations are appearing throughout town, the Christmas spirit is sprouting up as well, so be ready New Richmond! This December 13th and 14th Jill McDonough's hard work will be on display, as well as over 50 crafters and vendors.

So come on down and spread the cheer! Show your support like these sisters have. Participate in our Santa Paws Pet Parade or take a ride in the antique carriage rides! Not your thing? The men and women's choirs of NRHS will be caroling, and everyone is welcome. You could just wander around check out Nativity Scenes or support our local business. No matter what, this is a Christmas worth dreaming of!

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PROUD SUPPORTER OF NEW RICHMOND SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Just keep swimming, the hard work will pay off

By: Sadie LaRocque

Just keep swimming, just keep swimming. New Richmond High School swim team coach Judy Middeler has been involved in swimming for quite some time and still enjoys it as much as when she first got involved. "I have been coaching swimming for 36 years and have been a Red Cross Swim Instructor since I was a senior in high school but I wasn't on my high school team. I liked the water when I started coaching and still do," Middeler said.

Middeler became a Red Cross Swim Instructor in high school but didn't plan on becoming a swim coach. "When I first became an instructor, I planned on teaching people how to swim but didn't plan on being a high school swim coach at the time," she said.

Although she wasn't on the

swim team in high school, Middeler does have an interest in swimming because of one of her teachers. "I went to New Richmond High School but didn't do swimming in high school. I have a passion for swimming because of my phys. ed. teacher. He was an aquatic person and taught me a lot about stroke mechanics and I have enjoyed water ever since," Middeler said.

Teachers do have an impact on students. Middeler's coach made her more passionate about swimming and she hopes she has that impact on people she is teaching to swim. "I hope that I have made an impact on my swimmers. I know that they have gained skills for life that will allow them to enjoy water and another great way to exercise without any weight bearing on their

hips, legs, ankles and feet which is good for later in life," she said.

Middeler enjoys helping people improve their swimming skills. "I enjoy teaching and working with all levels of swimmers to improve their strokes. I also enjoy seeing swimmers improve their times," she said.

Seeing swimmers improve is a wonderful feeling and Middeler said those are the moments of joy in swimming for both the swimmers and the coaches. "There was a great moment last year when the boy's and girl's swim teams both ended up as SOSL champs. It was a happy time for not only myself, but also the team, seeing the swimmers improve makes for great memories," Middeler said.

There are lessons to be learned by swimmers. "I want the swim team and swimmers that I teach

to learn that they are capable of doing hard work. I also want them to learn that even when they are doing hard work, they can still have a good time while working through the process," Middeler said.

Working hard is the key to succeeding in life, and in swimming. "My philosophy is that every person has a place on the team if they want to work hard and improve their times. Hard work is the key," Middeler said.

If she wasn't coaching swimming, Middeler knows what she would be doing instead. "If I wasn't coaching swimming, I would be doing snow skiing instead. It's fun to be in the water, so I want to continue swimming, but if I wasn't swimming, I would definitely be skiing," she said.

Shinkle shares experience in sport

By Ashley Gray

Pick up any magazine and surely you will see an opinion about just about anyone. What is so special about these people? What is it that makes these people so special to have an entire article written about them? At New Richmond High School you pick up *The Messenger* and there is an athlete of the issue. How about a spotlight on the coach? New Richmond High School wrestling coach, Deron Shinkle, shares a little bit about himself and his history behind wrestling.

Shinkle said he was interested in wrestling at a young age with influences that led him to be a coach. "I went and saw a match in seventh grade and I knew I wanted to wrestle after it."

Shinkle has been coaching wrestling for 23 years and coaches because he enjoys the competition aspect.

According to Shinkle, "I was inspired to start coaching wres-

tlng because I always had a passion for the sport and wanted to continue it after college."

When asked what have been some of his favorite moments of coaching, Shinkle said, "I could say things about some kids who have graduated or still in the high school that still bring a tear to my eye, but as for team competition, it would be the boys up against Walsh Jesuit and beating them in state."

Shinkle mentioned that he wrestled in both high school and college. "I wrestled at Batavia High School and Ohio Northern for college. One of my favorite memories is wrestling at the state tournament," Shinkle added.

Shinkle spoke about what he enjoys about the sport. "I like how physically demanding and mentally demanding wrestling is and how to be good you have to be tough both ways."

There are many things adolescents can get from playing any

sport, but each sport has something different to offer. "Wrestling teaches kids that hard work and perseverance pays off."

As for all sports, athletes are held by high standards, especially here at New Richmond. For wrestling, Shinkle has quite a few goals for wrestlers. "Number one is to keep their grades up, and to compete at the highest level they possibly can."

Shinkle's most essential motivation to the high schoolers on the team is being in shape. Be-

ing in shape is an advantage in this type of sport as he explains in his coaching philosophy. "Get after it! Wrestle physical and be in better shape than the next guy. I am also hard on the wrestlers because I want them to be mentally tough meaning the wrestlers keeping after their man in the match no matter what the score, because anyone could fall on their back at any point. I also want them physically tough," continued Shinkle.

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The Price is right in Cincinnati

By: Chandler Cochran

When the Reds called upon Dusty Baker to take over their organization it was basically in ruins and Cincinnati had no clue what a division title really was; yes it was that bad. Baker became manager in 2007, and just three short years later he led his team to their first National League Central title in over 15 years. Everything was great in Cincinnati that season, until the Phillies completely embarrassed them in the playoffs and everyone blamed Dusty.

2010 proved to be the breakout year; Dusty and the Reds earned another division title in 2012 and three playoff appearances. This year, they had all of the right tools to finally win a World Series title, until they tanked at the end of the season, lost to the Pirates in a wild card game, and Baker was fired. The news was surprising to me, especially because I re-

ally liked the guy. Unfortunately, Walt Jocketty had other plans when he fired Baker, even after stating that they were not going to fire him.

The search to find the next manager took a little bit of time, but on October 22, the Reds organization announced that their pitching coach, Bryan Price was to be the new man in charge. This news was music to my ears. Not only did they stay in the organization, but they also picked a guy who, in my opinion, has a very high level of knowledge of the game and clearly knows what he is doing. I mean, he is the guy that turned the inconsistent, wildly throwing Aroldis Chapman into the great closer we see him as today.

No offense to Dusty Baker; I mean, I really did like him as our manager, but there were times when he should have made some

better decisions and been more aggressive. Seriously, Sparky Anderson and Lou Piniella once managed this team, it's like tradition in Cincinnati for our managers to argue and get thrown out of at least a couple of games each year.

Another huge advantage to having a very successful pitching coach as your new manager is that focusing on the most important aspects of the game just got a whole lot easier. If you do not have enough talent in your starting pitching rotation, you cannot win championships. If Johnny Cueto comes back healthy next year, we will have a very impressive pitching staff and Price knows exactly what to do to make sure we are one of the most dominant teams in the league.

It sounds like a foolproof plan; we have all star first baseman, a young and talented Billy Hamilton, and the ever entertain-

ing Brandon Phillips to cap off a very high powered offense, on paper. Price will soon be under fire in Cincinnati because one of the first things he wants to do is trade Phillips and that will probably start a riot in town. Phillips is arguably the best second baseman in the league, and trading him would basically be the same as the time the Reds traded away Frank Robinson, and that is something you just do not do.

If Price's first move does involve Phillips being traded he will make it hard for fans to actually start liking him. But if Phillips does end up leaving, the only place I could see him going is to his hometown of Atlanta and playing for the Braves. Personally I do not want that to happen but Price is the new sheriff in town and will have a lot of say in whether or not Phillips will be in a Reds jersey at the beginning of the season.



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To be succesful, you should basically give up life for the next three months

Last year I wrote a column about how stressing over fantasy football and checking in on your team at all hours of the day was simply unnecessary and took the fun out of it. In the end it won't matter and you can still have a great team without having all the stress, but boy was I wrong.

That same year when I was, "taking it easy" in fantasy football I ended up placing sixth out of twelve people in my league,

which is highly unacceptable. I realized that if you want to have a great team, your season starts around the same time that the NFL reports to training camp. This year, I did just that and started researching and taking notes early. When it came to draft day, I was lucky enough to have the first pick and just like everyone else in America, I picked Adrian Peterson, but I picked him over Peyton Manning because he was ranked first over-

all. I had a feeling that Manning was going to have a great season, and boy was I right, but I really wanted Peterson on my team.

The way our draft is set up is called a "snake." The way it works is that everyone in the league (all eight of us) picked a number out of a jar, the first round goes in order from 1-8, and once the eighth person has picked it goes back in reverse order from 8-1 for the second round. This

Bow Tie Brigade



By: Chandler Cochran

had picked and we had full rosters, I thought I had a great team but the experts at Yahoo thought it deserved a C-. All that work for a C-! I was out to prove them wrong.

After Manning had a record breaking game in week one, I was on my way to first place to start out the season, and I haven't left the top spot all season. Along with Manning, I have also managed to get four other Broncos including three of his top four targets and their kicker. It is safe to assume that the only reason I am in first place is because of the massive number of points the Broncos have gotten me. With a 5-1 record to start out the season, I have realized I have pretty much become addicted to fantasy football and everything associated with it.

I guess in order to be at least mildly successful in fantasy football, it does have to control your life. In my opinion, it does not suck the fun out of the game, especially when you are winning, and the other people in your league are just as into it as you are. It makes for a more competitive league and more suspenseful Sundays.

I know that some of you are reading this saying, "I'm undefeated in my league, and I had my draft on auto pick." But suit yourself, everybody finds joy in something and mine happens to be in fantasy football. Also, to everyone in my league, I will continue to thank you guys for passing up on Manning twice in this year's draft, it was much appreciated.

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Hockey is the greatest game on the planet because of the skill. Hand-eye coordination that would make a baseball player jealous. Finesse that would make the best wide receivers and running backs gaze in awe. In the NHL, Alexander Ovechkin scoring while sliding down the ice on his back in Phoenix in 2006. Sidney Crosby and Ovechkin scoring hat tricks (3 goals) in the same game. Wayne Gretzky, known as "The Great One", after a career in which he accumulated 40 different regular season records, 15 playoff records, and six all-star game records. Mario Lemieux scoring with only one hand on his stick, Patrick Roy and Grant

Fuhr flashing the glove to make incredible saves. Mikael Granlund in the world junior championships, using his stick to lift the puck into the air and over the goalie like he's done it a million times. And countless other remarkable feats by players through the ages.

Hockey is the greatest game on the planet because of the desperation and sacrifice. Moves and contortions and sacrifices that no player in any other sport could pull off. Marty Brodeur and Dominik Hasek sprawling out to keep the puck out of the net by inches. Innumerable players throughout the years that have sacrificed limb, face, and body, and even sometimes life, to stop a shot. The players who have played with broken legs, arms, ribs, and even a ruined eye in the case of Manny Malhotra, giving everything they have so their team can win.

Hockey is the greatest game on the planet because of the intensity and the fighting. There is no sport on earth that can rival the physical, mental, and emotional

intensity of a hockey game. A game in which every true player puts their heart into every second. And that shows through the war of words between teams on the ice, that can sometimes escalate into an all out brawl. In no other sport can two players from the opposing teams throw off their equipment and engage a one-on-one fistbump to settle a problem. Mark Messier dropping the gloves to protect Gretzky. Barnaby, Parros, and so many other enforcers over the years protecting their team with their fists. A tradition not seen in any sport but hockey.

Hockey is the greatest game on the planet because of the playoffs, that special time of year at the end of every season, where the best teams of the regular season battle it out, until there is only one team left standing. And that team is just that, a team. No team in hockey wins a championship without being a true team, where every player has contributed greatly in one form or another. The team with the best players doesn't win, the team

**Tristin's
Tales**



By Tristin Baumann

that is just that in the truest sense of the word wins. Unlike any other sport, where all too often teams win by being carried on the back of one or two great players.

And of course, hockey is the greatest game on the planet because of the heroics. Hockey is a game that runs on a clock, and throughout history, the game has witnessed more last minute, last second heroics, and heroics from players who were never expected to do so. It is these heroics that turn players from simple unknowns into household names, and make them immortalized for life.

So if you ever come to me and dare to ask, "What makes hockey so great?" I'll tell you to take a seat and to listen up, and I'll tell you exactly what makes hockey the greatest sport on this planet, or for that matter, any other planet.

NR alum returns to coach basketball team

McMonigle wants to share his love of the game

By Casey Pendergrass

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a basketball coach? Or wonder what they think about when they are thinking up strategies to win a game? Well, you're in luck, NRHS coach McMonigle has a few insights that might just strike up your interest.

McMonigle graduated from New Richmond High School in 1998, and he was on the varsity basketball team. "I learned many things from the great coaches I had while I was here. They inspired me to work beyond what I felt was necessary. Many of them were the reason I went into coaching. I had great teammates while I played here. We were

dedicated, loved the game, and all got along. We are all still good friends to this day."

McMonigle is going into his fifth year of coaching here at New Richmond High School. He has many great memories of his coaching days. "My favorite memories are the competition, winning games that on paper we shouldn't have, and helping young athletes achieve their goals."

McMonigle enjoys coaching very much and he has many favorite things about coaching. "Of course! Working every day on a sport I love. Getting to teach things I have learned to others."

With coaching, there are some difficulties involved, as we all know with anything in life, there is a challenge. "I don't see my much of my family for months. I miss them through our season," said McMonigle.

Coaches always have ambitions for their season and McMonigle is no different. "My goal is to give everything I have as a coach and to get our team mentally and physically prepared."

Sharing knowledge of basketball is one thing, but McMonigle said he wants to share some life lessons, too. "I want them to learn how to play the game, but

most importantly, to become responsible and accountable adults."

Are you wondering how long McMonigle is planning on coaching? "As long as I am healthy! I aspire to be the next Mr. Callebs."

In general, McMonigle said he has expectations for himself as well as the players on his basketball team. "I want to work as hard as I can to get kids motivated to work as hard as they need to be successful on the basketball court and off the court. Most importantly they must learn life lessons."

Coaches score too!

Basketball coaches enjoyed success in sport

By Josie Buckingham

Girls' basketball coaches Brad Hatfield and Lauren Wilkins have been playing and coaching basketball for years. Each coach has his or her own individual past with the sport and different reasons for the love of the game.

"I first started playing basketball in third grade. I've been playing for 21 years and counting," said Hatfield.

"I've played with my dad and brothers for as long as I can remember, but I didn't start playing organized ball until seventh grade," said Wilkins.

Both coaches still remember a lot of things from when they used to play in high school.

"The individual moments do not really matter anymore, but the memories of having fun and going to battle with my teammates and hearing the roar of a Friday night crowd will be with me forever," said Hatfield.

"Traveling with my AAU team every summer was always a blast. It was fun to play against great players from all over the U.S.," said Wilkins. "One of the greatest memories I have from high school is winning our first game my senior year after going a perfect 0-21 my junior year. Putting an end to an impressive streak!"

Hatfield began his coaching career during his freshman year of high school when he coached

his younger brother's fifth grade team. Wilkins began her coaching career six years ago during the 2008-2009 season.

"I began coaching as part of the requirement for playing on my high school team. This is when I first felt the joy of watching a team come together and be successful," explained Hatfield.

"Technically, I started coaching because Ms. Spinnati asked me to, and let's be honest- you couldn't tell the woman no! But I'm glad she did because it is great to be around the game and work with some great kids at NRHS," said Wilkins.

Each coach has different reasons for why they like basketball so much and why it has been such a big part of their lives.

"As a player, I most enjoy the feeling of draining a 3 right in someone's face or making an athletic play like a dunk. As a coach I most enjoy watching players have success using skills they had worked hard on during practice. I also enjoy watching players work hard and make sacrifices for the benefit of the team," said Hatfield.

"I have always loved the competition and camaraderie in team sports, but I enjoyed basketball the most because it is fast paced and there are so many different aspects/skills to practice that it kept my interest. Out of all the

sports I played growing up, basketball was the one I had to work the hardest at in order to compete at high level. That made it fun for me," said Wilkins.

Hatfield and Wilkins both use the same philosophy: "Hard work, teamwork, and having fun."

In addition to that, Hatfield said, "I do not believe in excuses, complaints, or laziness. And life is a garden...dig it!"

There are many ways in which the sport has affected and impacted each coaches' life in both current and permanent terms.

"Basketball has gotten me to where I am today. If not for basketball, I may not have even gone to college. Basketball has opened a lot of doors for me, taken me to a lot of places, and introduced me to many life-long friends," said Hatfield.

"It has taught me the value of hard work, self-discipline, men-

tal toughness, how to win, how to lose, and punctuality. My high school varsity coach had a rule that 'if you're not 15 minutes early, you're late'. To this day I still get physically sick if I am running late," said Wilkins.

As coaches, Hatfield and Wilkins are there to push their players. They want their players to get as much as they can out of basketball, just like they have.

"I want my players to learn life lessons like the benefits of hard work and teamwork. I want them to be able to use the lessons learned through basketball to become effective adults," said Hatfield.

"I want them to get the skills and work ethic that will make them successful in life, and if they learn how to be good basketball players- well that's just a bonus," said Wilkins.

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Cincinnati's most underappreciated game

Is hockey not being properly recognized in southern Ohio?

By **Tristin Baumann**

Hockey is a game that has survived the generations, starting in 19th century Canada, and has gradually progressed along into the game we know it as now. It truly began however, with Governor General of Canada, Lord Stanley of Preston in 1888. After being thoroughly impressed with the game at the Montreal Winter Carnival tournament, he decided to purchase a decorative bowl, which could be won by the team who was better than all the rest. This bowl, first won by the Montreal Canadiens in 1893, would come to be known as the Stanley Cup. But for the oldest sport in North American history, it seems to be somewhat unacknowledged or underappreciated in some parts of our continent even today. One of these places is Cincinnati, Ohio.

Chris Knecht, the director of hockey operations for the Cincinnati Swords, a local junior team, has always been a part of the game. "I have been involved

in Cincinnati hockey for the last six years and have been a fan all my life."

Knecht also feels that hockey is underappreciated, "It is underappreciated in Cincinnati. We have had very good professional teams at various levels over the years. We have a very strong base of skilled and knowledgeable hockey people that have stayed in the area after their careers. Most that don't appreciate the game have never really watched it or understood it if they have watched it. The local pro teams have come and gone so quickly in historical terms and there are so many things in this market that compete for the time, attention and resources that it has been difficult to truly build a following or appreciation for hockey."

"If we could build hockey through the schools the same as football is supported," said Knecht, talking about local school support for the sport, "we could develop numerous play-

ers and teams to compete locally, regionally and even nationally." Knecht likes several things about the sport. "The fast pace of the game, the grace, speed, skill and physicality incorporates all the best aspects of other sports in one game."

Knecht shared his best experience in hockey. "I will always remember things such as my son's first goal but the best experiences have been in the car on trips to games or in the hotel during tournaments - the relationships developed over the years are the best experiences. My best memories involve skating on the pond with friends but also - going to the old Cincinnati Swords games at the Gardens with my grandparents. My grandma was a hockey nut."

"Has to be the 1980 US Olympic

Hockey team" said Knecht, of what he thought is the most miraculous thing he's ever seen, "beating the Soviet Union. No one ever thought it was possible."

For those who want to play hockey in Cincinnati, Knecht had some advice. "What they achieve in hockey is the same as what they achieve in life. The more you work at it the better you will be and the greater success you will have. It doesn't matter when or where you start - it is the time you put in that determines what you get out of it." And hockey has taught Knecht what he thinks is a life lesson others can learn. "Hockey is like life - the more you work at it the better you will be and the greater success you will have."



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Battle of the brains!

Contemplate joining New Richmond's Academic Team

By Ciera Moore

Are you full of what your friends would call, "useless information"? Do you know that major league baseball umpires are required to wear black underwear in case their pants rip?! Do you know something like that off the top of your head? If you do, then you should join Academic Team. If you watch Jeopardy for fun, and remember everything, then go and join Academic Team!

If students want to be involved in a fall sport, but aren't very athletic, join Academic Team. Coach, Susan Griffin said, "I like A Team and I like the idea of competition that's not athletically based. I am NOT a good athlete at all, but I can kick some butt in intellectual competition." So even the coach admits to not being athletic, meaning you do not have to be athletic to be on the A Team.

Griffin said that students really don't have to know crazy facts to be on A Team. "I'm looking for kids who are willing to make a commitment to the team and come to every single practice and every single meet. They don't have to be straight A students; they just need to have a good base of general knowledge and be able to retain information."

Griffin herself was on A Team.

"I was on my high school academic team and got involved here when our former athletic director, Pat Hill, asked me to become the A Team coach." Apparently she likes it, because she hasn't quit yet! "This is my 14th or 15th year. I would like to continue to coach till I retire."

Griffin said she doesn't excel in everything, though, and admitted she has problems with some subjects, too. "I have a pretty good general knowledge, although I stink in math. I can usually outdo students in literature and geography and I'm OK with the history and government questions."

Join as fast as you can, though. A Team can have many people, but there is a limit. "I can take as many people on the team as I want, but I like to limit it to about 15 so that everyone can play at least a little bit in each match. Only four people are actually playing at any given time." said Griffin.

Do not think that joining A Team will mean sitting around and doing nothing, it is actually considered a sport. "Be willing to make a true commitment to the team; A-Team is a sport, just like basketball or football; it's very competitive in our league. Study

and remember kind of silly stuff, like lists of books and authors; a lot of times in meets, it's trivia that comes up in questions." explained Griffin.

Students who want to join Academic Team should hit the books on a few subjects. "In the past, we've not been very good with English or World Literature, mainly because we don't have a British Lit class here till senior year. That's an area most of the other teams in the league struggle with as well. Geography is also one of our weak points, but that might change this year," said Griffin.

Anyone who wants to join A Team should study and learn a few things, and visit Mrs. Griffin in Room 204 for A Team packet with tryout information.

A Team competitions have the same set up every year. There are certain topics for each round with a certain amount of questions. "The meets are structured in two halves and each half has 10 content areas with three questions each, plus a written alphabet round and a lightning round. Two of the questions in each content area are team questions and the other one is a toss up, which means players have to buzz in quickly and answer. Meets take about an hour and I can substitute players at certain

points to play them where their strengths lie." said Griffin.

In the past New Richmond's A Team had some tough competition. There are two teams that give our team trouble. "CNE has an awesome team and Bethel is always a tough competitor. Batavia had a great team last year and should have one this year as well. CNE and Bethel, I think are our toughest meets." admits Griffin.

Even though our past Academic Teams were not the best, they still did well. "In the past, we've had some really good teams; we've won the league tournament once since I've been coaching and been the league champions twice. We've had a not so great couple of years recently and last year, my team was very small and we didn't do well at all. I'm hoping this year, we'll be much better and I had many more kids come to the initial meeting than I've had in the past few years." said Griffin.

So help our A Team be #1 this year! If you are interested at all, visit Mrs. Griffin to get the information. Study as much as you can, and make sure you remember it all. If you do well Mrs. Griffin will reward you with her New Richmond High School famous baked goods!

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Athlete of the Issue: Tyler Anderson

Junior running back gives Lions a unique weapon

By: Chandler Cochran

Junior Tyler Anderson can be seen on Friday nights as a key component to New Richmond's high powered offense. With the season coming to an end, Anderson has had some very impressive games so far, breaking the school's single game rushing record and most rushing touchdowns in one game.

Anderson started playing football in the seventh grade after a family member, who also played for New Richmond, encouraged him to try the sport.

"It looked fun, so I gave it a try," said Anderson. "My uncle, who graduated in 1998 as a Lion, also pushed me to play, and I'm glad I stuck with it."

As a running back, Anderson gets a lot of action carrying the ball, so it was not a surprise, when asked if he had any goals

he responded confidently.

"Before I graduate I want to achieve 2,000 rushing yards and help my team get to the state playoffs."

It can be very obvious on the field that Anderson is a team player and is proud to say so.

"When you work as a team you get things done, it's that simple." He went on to say, "Working with this team in particular has been one of the best experiences in my life so far, I like to think our whole team consists of team players and that gives me confidence."

A lot of athletes, especially high school athletes, have role models they look up to and model to get better and perform their best.

"Adrian Peterson is the man," explained Anderson. "He is a guy I look up to for football. He

is one of the hardest working, best performing players I have ever seen."

After getting involved and excelling at the running back position, Anderson knew it was going to be a full time commitment. That also meant he would have to give up the other sports he was involved in. "I swam during seventh and eighth grade, but gave it up to focus on football, then in high school I finally gave up basketball and put everything I had into football."

If you ask a lot of coaches, or Mr. Harris, you will find out that practice should always be harder than the game.

"Practice can be very stressful and tough at sometimes but it can pay off big time if you use that time wisely," Anderson explained.

Playing under Friday night lights is one of the greatest experiences student athletes could go through during their high school career. Anderson's experience is no different, "Having the ability to go out on Friday nights in a Lions jersey will forever be one of my best memories and my greatest achievement. I still have one more year left, but any time you can make memories is a great time."

No matter how many yards you run, or touchdowns you catch in a season everyone remembers the wins and losses the most.

"A player is only as good as his team," said Anderson. "You have to give everyone credit, offensive linemen for blocking, the coaches for instructing you and even your teammates on the sidelines cheering you on."

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GTA V greatly enjoyed by reviewer

Rockstar Games' production ranked best game in history

By Joe Maxwell

After much more than an average amount of anticipation, September 17th 2013, the most prosperous game in history was released. *Grand Theft Auto V*, the thirteenth game made in the famous Rockstar Games series. Often referred to as *GTA V*, obviously, the V in *GTA V* is the roman numeral for five. *GTA V* made over \$800 million dollars in the first twenty four hours after release and one billion dollars in the first three days, making it the fastest selling entertainment product in history. On top of having the money to prove its popularity, *GTA V* was also given some of the highest rates for any video game to ever exist, passing up super-selling game series such as Halo and Call of Duty.

I bought this game last week when it was released to the Xbox 360 store. With the game being very inappropriate as well as not wanting to spoil it for future play-

ers, all I can say is, it is an amazing game, one of the, if not the best game I have ever played in my entire life.

It details the lives of three men, who are all friends. Players have the option to switch between the three to do different missions as well as sometimes doing missions that involve switching between all three. These men are partners in crime; Franklin Clinton is the young African American gang banger and dope dealer. Michael De Santa is a man in his late forties, who faked his death in the prologue of the game and later came back to meet up with the other two men to rob banks. Finally, there is Trevor Phillips, a man with anger problems and a violent attitude, best friend of Michael De Santa and his original partner in crime before Michael faked his death.

The collaboration of the three men just heightens the intensity

of entertainment in the game. Unlike most games out there, this game not only has one main character whose storyline players have to follow, but three different lives of characters that all end up running together, all three ending up in Los Santos and meeting each other. Each player has different abilities and contacts that are able to join players to help them beat missions.

Although the name and reputation of the game may say otherwise, the game is about much more than stealing cars and doing any crime imaginable, even though that can be done and is probably the most infamous part of the game. On top of the massive number of diabolical deeds you can do in the game, doing these are none of my favorite things to do in the game. You can also play online with your friends and do missions where you do races, parachute out of

planes, and get involved in sudden death matches. Even though the game has a reputation to be all about violence, it is surprising to see that in the game you actually get more points for being a "good sport" and helping out other players instead of murdering and stealing from them. Being a good citizen and a bad citizen are all fun, though. This is because there is literally nothing on the game you can do that isn't at least the slightest bit entertaining.

I recommend this game to anyone with the maturity level to handle some violence and inappropriate aspects of the game. Considering our generation's games thrive on these things anyway, I believe this is why I and many others, as you can tell by the ratings, love this game and recommend it to anyone they can.

Teen Moms: drama, fighting, and babies.. uh, uh. This show definitely needs to go

Ashley Gray

Another season of *Teen Mom*; you have got to be kidding me. Being a mother as a teenager is definitely something you do not want to wish upon anyone, but we all know in reality it does happen. *Teen Mom* is a series on MTV about 16 year old girls who struggle to raise their babies. The question people need to be asking themselves is if this is really something that needs to be publicized.

I would say the majority of viewers of this television show would be females. Still being in high school and at a young age, these girls are forgetting their other plans and dreams they have for themselves to take care of their babies. This T.V. show portrays young women who are battling

dependence on their parents when they should be working on being independent with the fathers of their babies to support their child.

The show lets viewers see the lives of a handful of girls coping with adroitly balancing the various different difficult situations of pregnancy and school, along with the process of telling their friends and family that they are pregnant. A majority of the girls on the show are going through family issues, shoddy friendships, and failing relationships.

I do not believe this television show displays anything close to reality. Most teenagers who do end up getting pregnant do not have the money to hire nannies, afford college, or even own their

own apartment because trying to finish high school on time and getting a job on top of that to pay for these bills would be nearly impossible to manage. In other words, keeping up with your studies and having a stable social life, along with being pregnant, is no walk in the park.

The question we frequently may ask ourselves is what are viewers really getting out of this series? We would hope that female viewers are not watching this show and thinking, "Hey.. looks like I could handle this."

Some people may think the challenges of having a baby at such a young age is not so bad, that it is just that reality T.V. is trying to add a little extra drama. Some older viewers may see this

series and think the of younger generation as horrible, wild, and careless, but in reality these teenagers have just made a foolish mistake without thinking about the consequences beforehand.

As you can see, *Teen Mom* needs to be off the air. What is the point of showing a series that is not only a sensitive topic, but one that often carries with it a tremendously negative perception.

There is no need to be broadcasting teenagers struggling to take care of a baby, let alone being pregnant in general. I believe that is personal information and issues that has no valid reason for being televised.

Panera Bread takes a stance in the fast food industry

One can't go wrong with the variety of Panera's menu

By Claire Burns

Panera Bread is an innovation in the fast food industry with its unique variety of food choices. Panera's menu focuses around foods with a high nutritional value, such as whole grains and all natural ingredients, which is very beneficial to both society's health and well-being. From many experiences of mine, Panera provides a soothing atmosphere, which is the ideal place to hang out, converse with colleagues, or to enjoy a relaxing meal with a significant other.

The atmosphere includes cozy booths along with soothing, classical background music. Panera's decor includes light orange and green walls accented by several colorful paintings. Another beneficial aspect of Panera's environment is the availability of free wireless internet, which allows customers to surf the web as they enjoy either a filling meal or a tasty pastry.

Panera's menu includes a diver-

sity of several types of healthy options for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and, not to forget, dessert. Unlike the traditional fast food menu, which is centered around greasy, fried foods, Panera uses all natural ingredients. There are many benefits which come from eating all natural foods such as; a reduction in the consumption of harmful preservatives, flavoring, and colorings. All natural foods also contain a higher percent of fiber, complex carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. Some popular menu items include their vegetarian black bean soup priced for \$4.99, chicken noodle soup for \$4.99, grilled chicken caesar salad for \$5.99, and, not to forget, their distinctive mac and cheese for \$7.69.

The vegetarian black bean soup is a delicious, low-fat, vegetarian entree which includes a perfectly flavored broth with a hint of onion, red bell pepper, cilantro, garlic and cumin enriched by plump black beans.

Another one of their all-natural soups is the chicken noodle. The chicken noodle is filled with a tender chicken breast accented by garden fresh vegetables and egg noodles. Panera's signature mac and cheese includes a creamy white cheddar cheese sauce over perfectly cooked shell pasta.

Panera also has a wide variety of baked delights. It is sometimes necessary to allow yourself to splurge once in a while for one of their delicious treats. Panera's bakery contains a wide variety of irresistible, delicious pastries ranging from \$3-\$8, such as freshly baked muffins, oven warm cookies, and personally, my favorite, their signature, mouthwatering double fudge brownies.

Panera's customer service is also exceptionally fast. One simply places his or her order at the counter with one's name, and within a few minutes, the order is prepared and placed on the

counter to be picked up. In my experience, the kitchen is always stocked and the customers are left satisfied. The speed of Panera's service guarantees fresh food at oven warm temperatures.

I believe that Panera has taken a positive stance in the fast food industry by providing its customers with a wide variety of high nutritional value foods. Theoretically, all-natural products are more expensive, which is the reason for Panera's high prices, but truly I believe that every penny is worth it. Panera's menu also offers a "You Pick Two" deal which gives you the option of ordering two half sized portions for a cheaper price of \$6.29 rather than paying an average of \$8.00 for a large sized entree. Panera is personally my favorite place to sit down and enjoy a satisfying meal in a welcoming atmosphere.

The merc with the mouth is back!

Deadpool is resureccted by Activision

By Hunter Gilpin

The Merc With the Mouth is back, but not in one of his comic books. Now he's calling up High Moon Studios just so he could get his own game with his face on it. This "game" wipes out those old retro games and brings you one in which the character Deadpool knows someone is playing his game. In other words, he breaks the Fourth Wall.

Back in 2009, Deadpool's last appearance was in X-men: Wolverine. Now in 2013, he has his own game. This game is a fast paced, action, comedy, adventure that allows you to experience Deadpool in a whole new way.

Voiced by Nolan North, Deadpool always has a snappy

yet hilarious comment for everything, even when you upgrade his weapons. This game is easy to control, but the camera angles are sloppy and shaky; nevertheless, you never get bored with this game. There are different sneak attacks and take-downs that provide some fun combat themes, like when you line up for a head blow with your hammers. For any other Marvel geek, yes, almost all the X-men characters are in *Deadpool: The Game*. Many Youtubers have done video playthroughs, walkthroughs, and glitches on *Deadpool: The Game*. Deadpool also premiered in Marvel v. Capcom 3 and the Ultimate Alliance games, which made

Activision want their own game. There is almost no plot to this game, but it's still a lot of fun. All you do is hunt down a villain named Sinister while High Moon Studios makes changes every five seconds. In fact, at one point of the game, High Moon Studios makes the game a 2D platformer. Then Deadpool changes it back Mid-Game. Deadpool also has two consciences that talk in the "yellow bubbles that he misses so".

If you like games that make almost no sense, but have clever dialogue and funny comebacks, then this "game" is for you. "Sorry, I use humor to deflect my insecurities. Plus, I'm hilarious, so don't hate," is an example of

Deadpool's dialogue.

Deadpool: The Game has many comical punch-lines and one-liners. This sets a sarcastic mood in a serious problem which also makes you wonder how this game was thought of, developed, voiced, and produced at all. This game is a good one, but it doesn't offer many side missions. It just puts you straight to the "point". *Deadpool: The Game* is what I would call a good game, minus some of the problems with it.

"See? Once again our explosive personality wins the day! Yellow Bubble: High five! White Bubble: No high fives. We're voices in our head."

Gravity holds good reviews, ratings

New film takes viewers into space

By Josie Buckingham

I've been really interested in space and the universe lately. This year, I am taking an astronomy class, so that's probably the main thing to spark this interest. When I saw a preview for a new movie called *Gravity*, the trailer freaked me out seeing all of the chaos these astronauts were experiencing in space, but I knew I wanted to see it.

The film is directed by Alfonso Cuarón, a well-known Oscar nominee. The cast consists of only two people, Ryan Stone and Matt Kowalski, played by Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. The only other cast members are the voices of space controls or NASA workers.

The movie begins with three astronauts on a simple spacewalk outside of their shuttle. Clooney

is a veteran astronaut and Bullock is a medical engineer on her first space mission. After just a few minutes into the film, all hell breaks loose. Unexpected space debris totally destroys the shuttle, leaving Bullock and Clooney as the only two survivors.

As the movie continues, the astronauts are left to find their way to another space station with no connections to earth. The thrills of being in space alone and only having small chances of survival are shown throughout the voyage.

The 3-D effect of the film made it all so much better; viewers actually feel like they are in space as well. At some points it was almost too real. The special effects really made the film more

amazing and thrilling. Viewers also get sort of a sense of freedom. The astronauts are out in space alone, with no communication or sense of direction. For the most part, they aren't even in any sort of spacecraft. As terrifying as it is, they are entirely free, adrift in space. Bullock shows this freedom so well, especially at one point when she gets out of her spacesuit in a shuttle. She pauses and just floats in the shuttle in sort of a fetal position. This happens again at the end of the film, which of course I won't ruin. The picture is of freedom and being adrift in a crazy universe.

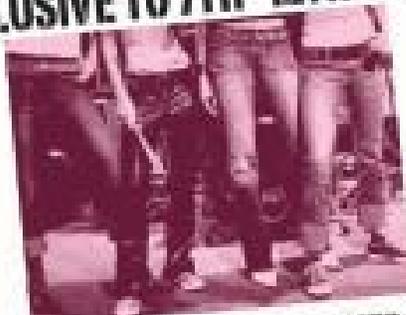
The hopefulness and emotional grips of Bullock also pull you into the film. At some points I even had tears in my eyes. The chemistry between the two characters is fantastic. The tension

of the film switched a few times to lighten up the mood and give a bit of comedy. Clooney's humor is the main addition to the comedy, with his slick jokes and funny remarks.

Clooney and Bullock individually are obviously amazing cast members. They are two of the greatest actors/actresses today. Together, they are really something special. You could see the connection between them in the film and they clearly work well together. They are both perfect for their parts in this movie.

I would definitely recommend *Gravity* to others. It is an action filled thriller and keeps viewers on edge throughout. The additional emotional and comical parts throughout it also add a bit more. The combination of the cast, plot line, and adventure make this a must-see film.

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Third season of *Game of Thrones* ends HBO's hit show completes its best work yet

By Tristin Baumann

Winter is coming. Or so the saying goes in HBO's original series, *Game of Thrones*, which just concluded its third season at the end of this past summer. A show with spectacular acting and a plotline that keeps you guessing and second guessing everything as it happens.

The show follows the stories of several contrasting characters in the four great houses of Westeros in varying environments throughout the continents of Westeros and Essos. One of these stories is about the family of House Stark, who live in Winterfell which is near the northern border of the Seven Kingdoms (the governed part of Westeros), and characters such as Ned and Catelyn Stark, and

their five children Robb, Sansa, Bran, Arya, and Rickon, while also following the story of Jon Snow, Ned's son who was birthed by another woman besides his wife.

Another storyline followed is the conflict between the Baratheons (the ruling family of the Seven Kingdoms) and the Lannisters (the richest family in the Seven Kingdoms). The central plotline of this story follows King Robert Baratheon and his wife Cersei Lannister.

And of course, the show follows the story across the narrow sea on the continent of Essos, the story of Viserys and Daenerys Targaryen, the last two surviving family members of House Targaryen, a house that

had conquered Westeros and created the Seven Kingdoms with three great dragons.

One of the main reasons I like this show is because of its unpredictability. There are plot twists all over the place, even some of which are foreshadowed several episodes ahead of time.

Season three was by far the best season of the series so far, as it kept that trend going. It picked up right where season two left off, beyond the wall with developing hero Sam Tarly, and the outcome of the Battle of Blackwater being shown to viewers. The pace just accelerated from there, all leading up to the most unexpected, inconceivable, and horrifying penultimate episode in the history of television,

the episode titled *The Rains of Castamere*, which viewers of the show would agree is an appropriate title given the events of the episode.

And finally, the season finale brought everyone back to earth with a bit calmer episode, although the anticipation was built up for next season with hints of things to come. And then the season closed with a perfect lasting image for viewers who would have wait another seven months before the show's fourth season would premiere.

The third season was the best so far, and carried with it the most shocking episode in the history of television, defining the standards for plot twists for years to come.



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