

Saying au revoir to Madame

By Kristina Toczek

Twenty-five years fly by when you're having fun -- at least they do if you are French teacher Peggy Smith. Smith teaches at both Norwalk High School and Norwalk Middle School, but she is going to retire on Feb 28.

She graduated from Youngstown State University with a French major and a math minor. She taught math for little time before a position opened for a new French teacher and she got the job.

Through the years she has made connections with multiple students that she has had from their eighth grade year in French One to their senior year in French V. Smith did not want attention and to tell many people the news about her retirement but when it was posted in the *Norwalk Re-*



Submitted photo
Madame Smith's French Four and Five class surprised her with a cake that read "Ciao Madame" with frosting the colors of the French flag. All the students enjoyed a nice variety of French foods and snacks during their fifth period class.

flector, her students could not stop asking questions.

"They were surprised and upset by the news when I told them myself," Smith said.

Her French IV and V students were asked their favorite memories with their "prof" and what they will miss the most.

"My favorite memory was when she got "dome-rocked" with an apple in the head by Drake Neuberger," senior Ethan Byrd said.

"I'll miss her passion for her students and how much she cares about our mental health," said senior Alyssa Leiby. Seniors Heidi Bowles, Cassidy Risner and Grace Delacruz all agree she is like their second mom.

"My favorite thing about teaching French is when my students would come up to me and show me a connection they made with French and their everyday life. It made me excited," Smith said.

See MADAME on page 4.

'Pixie dust and magic' come to NHS

By Brenna Mock

This year's musical will soar across the stage and through the hearts of many.

Peter Pan: The Musical follows the Darling boys and Peter Pan through Neverland, where they encounter the Pirates and the Indians. The Pirates want to kill Peter Pan, and that creates a lot of suspense.

Robyn Rogers, the director, said she let the returning cast members pick this year's musical for the first time. They chose between three musicals that Rogers had picked out herself: *Phantom of the Opera*, *South Pacific* and *Peter Pan*.

There are 53 members in the cast and 12 members who handle the tech. Six members of the cast will fly using "pixie dust and magic," said junior Anna Little,

who is playing the role of Peter Pan.

Children's shows have been successful in the past.

"Kids' shows are popular and they get a good crowd," Rogers said. Last year's *Seussical* attracted a large number of younger children because they can use their imagination to make the story come to life.

"It is so rewarding to work on something nonstop for two and a half months, and then get to perform it for the community, especially with doing children's shows. It always makes all of the work worthwhile when we get to see all of the kids' smiling faces after the shows," senior Logan Hurst, who is playing Captain Hook, said.

See MAGIC on page 12.



Photo by Brenna Mock
The Pirates in the cast of Peter Pan rehearse "Hook's Tango." Pictured (from left) are senior Logan Hurst as Captain Hook, senior Chase Kluding as Jukes, and sophomore Julie Gibson and junior Micah Duncan as pirates.

Solo & Ensemble success

By Olivia Schaffer

Members from band and orchestra participated in Solo and Ensemble on Jan. 27 at Genoa Area High School. Solo and Ensemble is an opportunity for members of band, orchestra and choir to perform in front of judges and to receive a rating and comments on their performances.

"We used to participate but with many of the choir students involved in the musical there just isn't enough time to rehearse the music," said choir teacher Carol Mason on why the choir does not participate.

According to the orchestra director Emily Barger, five students from orchestra performed. There were four solos and one duet, she said. From the band there were 13 solos and one trio.

To prepare, performers met with their directors to practice the piece their teacher selected



Photo by Olivia Schaffer
Junior Scarlett Krichbaum practices her piece for Solo and Ensemble that took place Jan. 27.

for them. The difficulty of the piece is ranked by a letter with class A being the most difficult.

The students worked for several weeks on their pieces in and out of school. Snow days affected how often students met with Barger to practice, she said.

See SUCCESS on page 7.

Making a difference

By Sydney Smith and Leighton Steele

Many students volunteer at a variety of places. One of these students is junior Anna Little.

Little was introduced to volunteering by her mother, the Rev. Amy Little. Little fell in love with volunteering and has continued throughout her life.

At the fairgrounds, Little volunteers at Tool Time through the United Fund. She has also started her own project called "Laps for Literacy."

Anyone can sign up to swim laps at the Recreational Center in Norwalk on March 28. Each lap gives 25 cents to the literacy programs in the Norwalk, Wakeman and Monroeville areas.

Also, Little went on a mission trip to Africa this past summer. "I love doing something helpful for someone. Why not try to make a difference?" Little said.

Another aspect of Little's life that introduced her to volunteering is her church.

"I learned to be good to others and I try to fulfill this as much as I can by volunteering," she said.

Her advice to those who want to volunteer is to reach out to other students who volunteer. She encourages students to take opportunities when they are given to them. Lastly, she advises people to join clubs or organizations that volunteer.

Junior Anah Freeman is also involved in volunteering.

Freeman occasionally volunteers at the Huron County Humane Society and also volunteers at Project Feed. Every six months, this organization meets and packs food for the malnourished around the world.

Freeman was introduced to volunteering by the Conference Council Youth Ministry.

See DIFFERENCE on page 7.

Volunteering experiences

Trucker Imprint staff members wrote about their volunteer work. Read more on page 8.

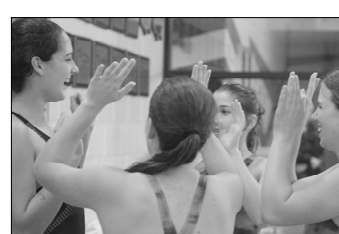


Love is in the air



Read our special Valentine's Day content on pages 9-11 and complete the crossword puzzle for a chance to win.

Swimmers' superiority



Members of the swim teams are having great seasons this year. Read more on page 14.

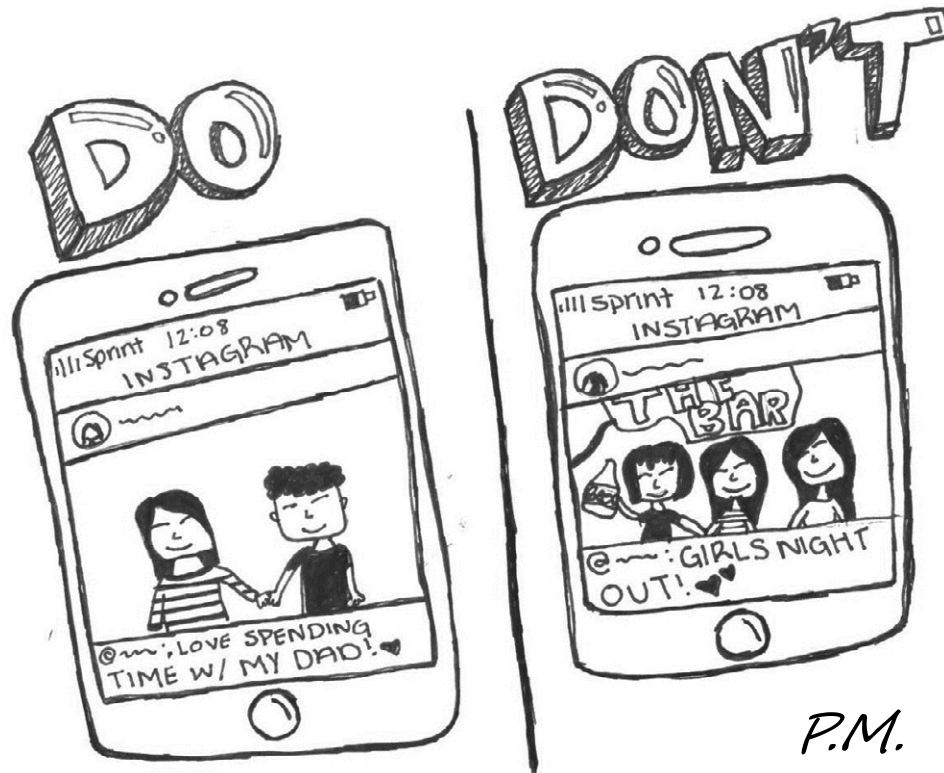
Staff Editorial

Dos and don'ts of social media

As the age of technology progresses, we find ourselves spending more and more time on social media platforms. Social media can be used in many ways, but we all need to remember that these profiles can be accessed by anyone at any time.

Social media should be used to share memories with your family and friends. These things are always fun to look back on, with “On this day” features and Timehop becoming more popular. Social media platforms are also the place to share school accomplishments, whether sports-related or otherwise.

Remember to keep social media content positive and professional; anyone can view your accounts, even curious college acceptance teams, potential coaches and prospective employers.



“It may seem cliché, but if you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.”

dia post. These things can permanently put a damper on future plans, and who will want to employ you?

Social media should not be used to make yourself look bad, doing illegal things in general. Your social media platforms should also never be used to put others down and post negative comments.

It may seem cliché, but if you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.

Things in the age of technology are constantly changing, and you can find out so much information about a person with one click. Make sure what people are finding out about you is positive.

With the good content comes a decent amount of negative posts on social media.

Stories about people getting busted for doing illegal things usually come back to a social me-

Bring back school assemblies



By Kristina Toczec

I’m not sure about other students at Norwalk, but I sure do miss the mime that used to put on a performance for the elementary schools. I also miss Reggie Dabbs who came to Norwalk Middle and High School and played his saxophone while inspiring Norwalk’s students, including me, to be a better person.

I began thinking, as I remembered these school assemblies and realized that Norwalk does not have as many of them anymore, and I wanted to know why. I asked Principal Brad Cooley about it.

“There are not any assemblies planned right now, but I’m doing my homework to bring in solid

people to speak in front of our school. Lots of emails come in all the time, but I want someone who leaves something behind in students, not just someone who gets paid and gets out as soon as they can,” he said.

A school is a community of kids preparing themselves for adult life. Being an adult means not only having maturity, but knowing how to treat others and be the best version of oneself.

School assemblies bring a student body into one room to cover a topic whether it is serious or humorous. It is a time to act as one and think together about the situation that is brought up by the speaker(s).

I agree that if someone is going to speak in front of the student body, the speaker needs to have a strong and a non-generic message to keep it in students’ minds throughout their high school experience.

Although some messages do not apply to everyone at Norwalk High School, some are necessary for all teenagers to hear. Cooley said he wants to bring in a speaker who will talk about career readiness and life after high school, and even set up one-on-one meetings with students and those in the career they are interested in pursuing.

Many students are going through battles at home that they are forced to deal with on top of the stress of school. An assembly addressing how to take care of those feelings could improve the lives of students and improve their performance in school, especially if it was someone in college, around their age, that they could find a connection to.

Adding on to Cooley’s comment about leaving something behind at our school, support groups could be set up at our

school where feelings can be expressed and shared by students with their peers and the counselors.

With the addition of Trucker Time, these more serious topics could be addressed, but the students’ reactions might be different, depending on how open they are to share with their Trucker Time teachers and classmates. The whole idea could be on a trial basis.

Looking to the future, talk of a female-issues-based assembly is in the air. Cooley said he doesn’t have details, but he has been asked to hold an optional assembly for girls about the problems women face nowadays. He also wants to address social media problems more in depth than he did in his speech at the classes’ orientations.

School assemblies are important to me and I personally love coming together as a school to create these relationships and memories that I will remember later on as being a Trucker. I would love to have more assemblies. I hope our principal will follow through on these talked-of ideas.

“Although some messages do not apply to everyone at Norwalk High School, some are necessary for all teenagers to hear.”

A day in the life

Daughter takes a walk in mom’s shoes

By Mascie Horner

Some days you may come home from school and think, “Wow, mom must’ve had a really long day.”

My mom does all of the typical mom things like the dishes, laundry and cooks our meals, but spending the day at work with her was a totally new look at her life.

My mom, Stacey Horner, is the secretary at Norwalk Middle School.

I was lucky enough to spend a recent day with her, seeing what being a secretary is all about.

I arrived at the middle school roughly around 10:30 a.m. As soon as I arrived, I saw so many things I never knew she had to deal with.

One kid hurt his ankle at recess, another kid had a bloody nose and the phone rang all day long.

My mom showed me what she does on her computer while she



Submitted photo of Junior Mascie Horner’s mom Stacey showing her the ropes of being a secretary at Norwalk Middle School. One of her tasks includes answering the phone and taking care of curious parents.

isn’t dealing with an injury or phone call. She programed a new district member’s ID into the system, printed receipts for student council and helped two students create a Progress Book account.

To help my mom on her busy day, I made copies, laminated photos and answered the door when her hands were full.

For lunch around noon, my mom and I ate food from Wen-

dy’s in her office where she was treated to a tiny break from her busy day.

My mom’s coworkers and office aides showed nothing but respect towards me as I visited.

Every period, my mom’s office aides jumped up to help as I did that day to take stress off of a hectic day.

The day flew by, and when it was time for me to leave at 2:15 p.m., I couldn’t believe it.

I look at this experience and think of how much of a hardworking, loving and supportive mother I have.

The days my mom comes home and is tired, hungry or maybe even a little grouchy, I fully understand now.

Taking on the role of being a secretary always seemed to be a lot of work, but seeing it in person made a difference.

If I could spend more time at work with my mom, I would, but I don’t think I could do her job as well as she does.

Pondering ProgressBook

By Logan Hurst

What's the first thing you do when you log on to your school computer? Check your email? Check your Google Classroom? Or maybe you check ProgressBook? ProgressBook is a great tool to help us track our grades and make sure all assignments are put in correctly. But can it be hurting us?

Checking ProgressBook could almost be considered an obsession or compulsion to some; it is very easy to check ProgressBook an unhealthy number of times in a day.

To me, school is about learning how to think critically and apply my acquired knowledge.

Being a lover of math, I always love learning new concepts and new ways to solve problems. But with today's school system, we are trained to be more concerned about getting good grades and, better yet, getting good scores on standardized tests.

A wonderful article on the Education Week website addressed this issue. Columnist Starr Sackstein writes, "What do we value more in our classrooms, enduring learning, or a classroom full of compliant, high-scoring children who only value grades? Yes, there is a difference. School systems have traditionally trained children to be good little drones who answer questions with right answers and do as they're told. Unfortunately, in today's reality, just following directions isn't good enough."

She then goes on to discuss how classrooms should be risk-promoting and adventure-

He said...

She said

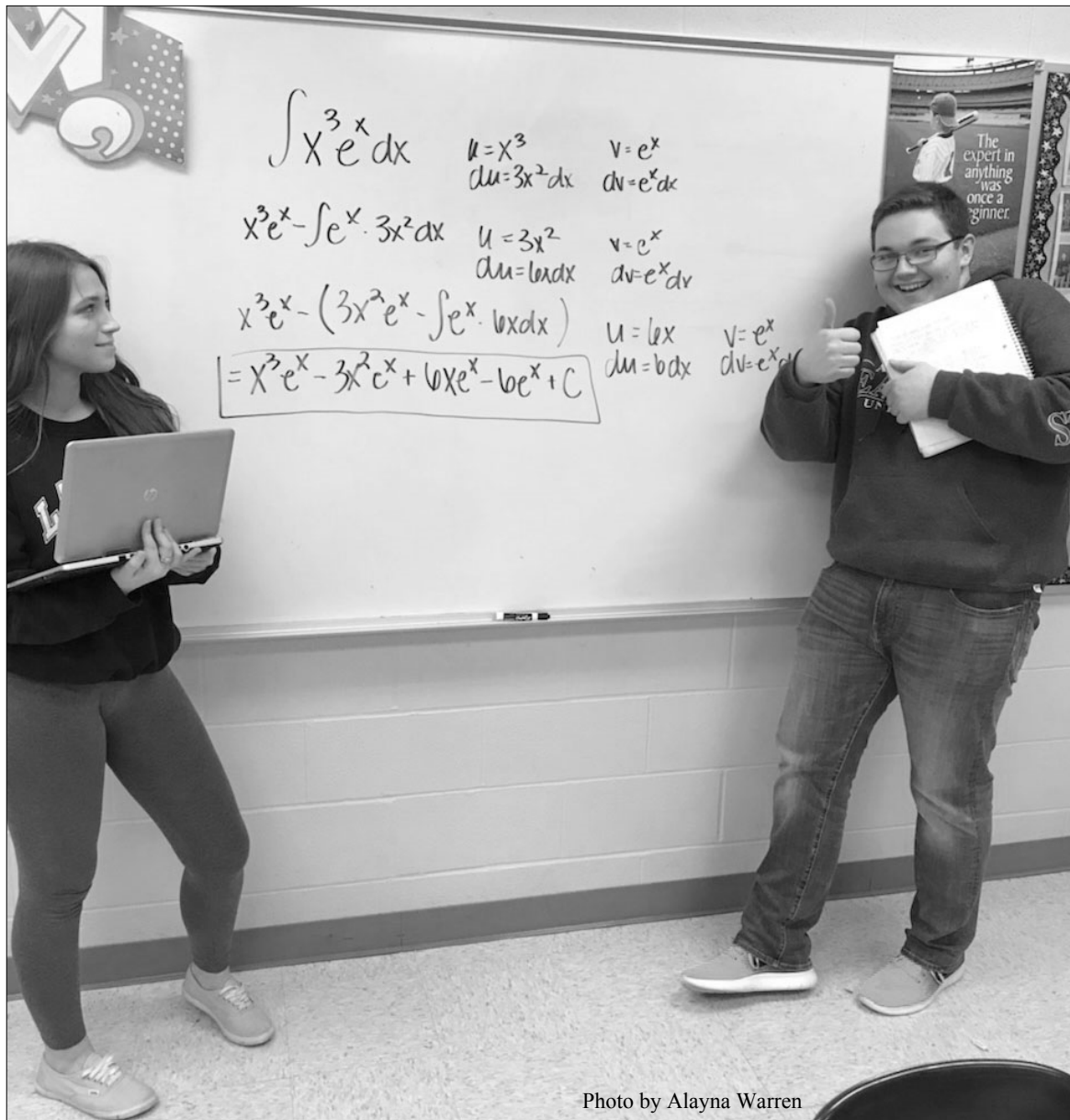


Photo by Alayna Warren

producing places. Students should not be afraid to question things; curiosity helps us learn!

ProgressBook promotes the concept of being a student who only values grades.

A student could get an A in a class, but it could be by memorizing material just long enough to ace a multiple choice test, and not the result of truly comprehending the material.

While valuing grades is a great quality to have, being a curious student who can think analytically and critically is even better.

By Sydney Smith

ProgressBook is one of the most important tools for a student here. Some students dread ProgressBook, and some feel that they could not live without it. Either way, every student's school life revolves around the grades he or she receives.

In high school, grades are arguably the aspect that students care about the most. A lot of students' effort and work revolves around the potential grade they will get.

One would rarely find a student who says the experience

itself is more important than the GPA he or she attains. ProgressBook is a very useful tool for students who prioritize their GPA and grades. They can keep track of the grades they are getting and watch the track that they are on.

Because of ProgressBook, students can stay updated on grades. Not only can we see what courses we must work harder in, we can also see what courses we are succeeding in.

Seeing grades daily is a privilege. I know that when I see that I am not meeting my goals in a class, I work harder.

To many students, grades, GPA and class rank are very important. Students have aspirations and goals that grades affect. ProgressBook allows us to constantly be able to see the goals we are achieving and the future we are setting up for ourselves.

ProgressBook allows a student to know when a teacher puts in the wrong grade. I have had many experiences where a teacher

accidentally puts in someone else's grade as my own or makes a typo. If students could not check ProgressBook, they would not be able to correct these mistakes.

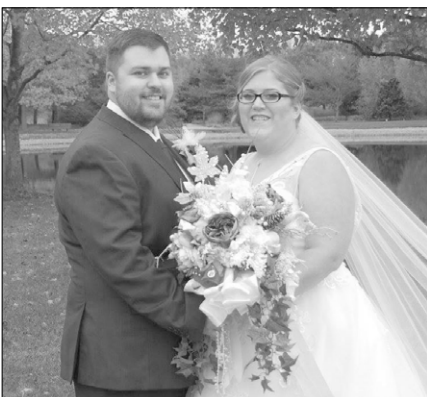
Lastly, ProgressBook comes in very helpful when one is absent. Most teachers either put in that an assignment is missing or not finished. When I check ProgressBook, I know what assignments I need to make up or turn in.

Without ProgressBook, students' grades would suffer. It is the most useful resource we have.

Where are they now?

Taylor (Phillips) Gosser

"Where are they now?" is written by former editors of the Trucker Imprint. This one was written by 2013-14 editor-in-chief, Taylor (Phillips) Gosser.



By Taylor Gosser

Reading this, you either know me as Kiersten Phillips' sister or have no idea who I am, but I was once in your shoes. The students at Norwalk High School, who are now seniors, were eighth graders when I was a senior. My name is Taylor Gosser (formerly Taylor Phillips), and I am a senior in college. I graduate this May from Bowling Green State University, thanks to online classes allowing me to work full time at Norwalk Furniture.

I recently got married on Nov. 4, 2017, to my great husband Kevin, who is one of the most

caring, smart, funny guys you will ever meet. In 2016 I also bought my first house, with Kevin right here in Norwalk. I always thought I would stay in town, but never did I think I would live a block away from my parents. We got a German shepherd puppy in October, named Luther. Let me tell you I am obsessed with my dog; he is the cutest thing in the world. My life is super busy. I work 40 hours a week, do all my school work in between, and try to maintain a social life.

My goals since high school have changed a little bit; I originally started out at Tiffin University, and due to cost, I switched to Bowling Green Firelands, which led me to online classes. There is nothing wrong with anyone who decides to go to Firelands: It saves so much money and offers everything a big university can offer. In all reality, though, my biggest goal in life is to be the best I can be. I strive to make people smile, even if it's me making a fool of myself, or reaching out to someone in need.

I was asked, "Do you miss Norwalk High School?" The an-

swer to that, I always thought would be yes, but as I think about it, I honestly don't. I do not miss the school itself, but I miss many things about it. I miss being a part of clubs and tennis. I miss newspaper so much. (My class is the class that finally convinced Mrs. Leffler to put the paper's title in the truck.) I miss the teachers who were willing to help me succeed in life. Mrs. MacFar-

land had a huge impact on me; she pushed me to go to college, and helped me with so many papers and forms to apply. Norwalk High School will always have a special place in my heart and I am glad to be able to stop by and watch my siblings and cousins succeed in sports and academics.

I would not change a single moment in my life. I think we all have things happen that makes us who we are. Just remember, whether you are a senior or a freshman, to follow your heart and you will make the right choices for yourself. In the end your family and friends will have your back. Have a great rest of your year, and don't blink because life goes faster than you think.

"I would not change a single moment in my life."

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Editorial Policy

The Trucker Imprint is a paper by, for, and about students at NHS. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Editorial Board. All reporters strive to be objective. Views expressed in the paper are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire staff, school, or community.

Haleigh heading to HOBY

By Kamryn Guerrier

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership, also known as HOBY, is a nationwide leadership program that takes place at Ohio Northern University in Ada.

Every year there are approximately 10,000 students chosen nationwide for this program.

This year, sophomore Haleigh Skinner was selected.

Guidance Counselor Sandi Stewart described this program as a "very positive opportunity for our students." Stewart said Skinner is a good choice to represent the school.

To choose the student(s) who represent the school there are different people who look at the essay applications. Sometimes the guidance counselors will take the

"I am grateful to be chosen for this new experience."

- Haleigh Skinner

name off the essay and have teachers read them for a second opinion, Stewart said.

Last year, Anna Little and Kristina Toczek, who were then sophomores, went.

Toczek's favorite part of this program was meeting new people who didn't already know her so she could introduce herself instead of them hearing about her from other people.

She said she did not know what to expect from this program.

"I wasn't going to lose anything from it and it looks good on applications," Toczek said.

Little said she was excited to be chosen because she heard about it from her older brother



Sophomore Haleigh Skinner is this year's HOBY representative.

my brother and from what Maya told me so I was like, 'Why not?'" Little said.

Skinner said she was excited when she was chosen for this program and knows she will have fun even though she's nervous. It will take place June 7-10.

She expects to gain leadership skills and create new friends. She wants to use the skills she learns through 4-H, student council, clubs, extracurricular activities and sports.

"I am grateful to be chosen for this new experience and I'm looking forward to meeting many people my age that I can create memories with," Skinner said, adding that she is looking forward to having fun, learning new things, and becoming a stronger leader that will help her throughout life.



and senior Maya Reineck, who was chosen her sophomore year.

She said she would go back because it was the most fun she has had over a three day period. She said she chose to apply for this because "it sounded fun from

Robotics hopes for state

By Hailey Sholes

This year's challenge for the N.E.R.D. Nation, or robotics team at Norwalk High School, is called In the Zone. The purpose of the game or challenge is to score as many cones as possible. The two ways to score are by having the robot putting the cones on top of the standing goal or by putting them in the near or far goals.

Some expectations from Nate Whaley and Adam Leutenegger

are that the teams get to state and hopefully to the world championships again. The robotics team has not been to worlds in the past two years. Whaley hopes to get to state. He believes they can get a team or two to worlds. Leutenegger also wishes to get to state and worlds.

N.E.R.D. Nation member, junior Abby Kessler, also said that she wishes to be more organized. The team captains all also had similar expectations. Senior Devin Nunez said "Be competitive at state and hopefully make it to worlds" when asked about what a good season would be. Nunez also believes that they can get teams to worlds.

On Jan. 3, N.E.R.D Nation hosted the first ever Norwalk match. The match was hosted in the cafeteria with many teams. The scores from the Norwalk teams are: 3264S = 19, 3264D = 21 - Lost in Tournament Finals, 3264R = 25 - Lost in Tournament Semi finals, 3264Z=29, 3264E = 30.



Photo by Hailey Sholes

Robotics team 3264R, which consists of members (from left) freshman Ben Perry, seniors Dharia Patel, and Jordan Cotterill, and junior Abby Kessler, are preparing their robot for the competition on Dec. 9.

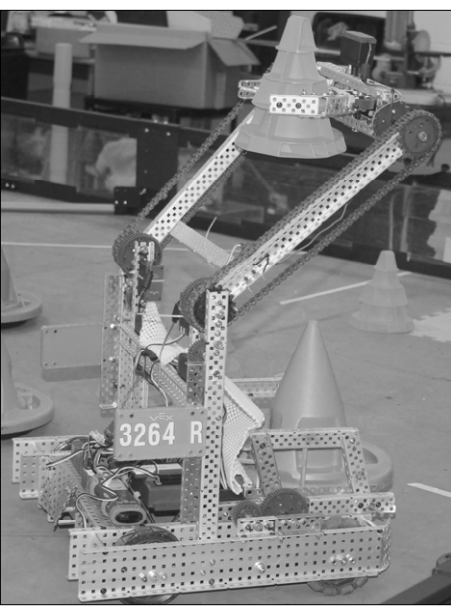


Photo by Hailey Sholes

Team 3264R's robot is holding up cones, preparing to score.

Jan. 20 and 21, the teams traveled to Kalahari. The teams did not do as well as they had done in the previous match. None of the teams made it into the tournaments, but here are their scores: 3264E = 23, 3264S = 45, 3264D

= 47, 3264N = 65, 3264Z = 66, 3264R = 69.

At press time, there were two more matches still to come, and senior Jordan Cotterill said there is still a chance for a team to get to state.

FC team ends its season in 7th place

By Brenna Mock

At the end of its season, the Firelands Challenge team placed seventh out of 18 teams.

Adviser Angela Farmer said many improvements and accomplishments were made this season.

The team consists of three returning members and six new members.

"The new additions did well," junior Jared Sitterly said.

"The new members were very ambitious and read all of the short stories. The returning members worked hard on team choice questions," Farmer said. "We played the best teams and did well against the teams in the final round."

The team studied harder subjects this year, such as fine arts and the Vietnam Era.

In particular, they studied photos of national parks, which they found difficult, Sitterly said.

"Our biggest accomplishment this season was winning our home match," junior JJ Hackenburg said.

The team had its last matches on Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, and competed at the SBC tournament on Feb. 9.

Firelands Challenge top eight schools

1. Edison – 315 points
2. Huron – 300 points
3. St. Paul – 241 points
4. Perkins – 236 points
5. Monroeville – 233 points
6. Danbury – 212 points
7. Norwalk – 196 points
8. Willard – 190 points

MADAME

Continued from page 1

With all her unfamiliar free time, Smith plans to spend more time with family, specifically her mom and grandkids. She also wants to continue traveling, including a planned Vegas trip that is coming up. She will also return to France and visit Monet's Garden.

"I'm excited to spend more time there," Smith said.

What will the class do after Madame leaves and who will replace her?

With not many people applying for the job, the answer to this question was unknown at press time.

"There has only been one application. The applicant is still

finishing school and would not be available until next school year. The position was posted across Ohio, but it's looking difficult.

"I want someone that is graduating from college with a good background in French for the permanent job," Principal Brad Cooley said.

Cooley said the class might have to finish the year online if the position cannot be filled with someone experienced in French.

Overall, Smith said she will miss her students and hopes to see some of them pursuing French later on in their lives.

Au revoir Madame Smith, Norwalk High School va te manquer.

"Every ending has a new beginning."

Musicians are chosen



Photo by Sydney Steffani

Chosen to participate in Honors District Orchestra are (from left) seniors Brooke Fries, Shelbi Peterson and Emma Shannon, juniors Olivia Schaffer and Sydney Smith and freshman Amellia Copenhaver. Orchestra director Emily Barger said the students sent in auditions and were selected by teachers from the area. Five schools are participating. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at Port Clinton High School and will feature an honors band, orchestra and choir.

Members join Norwalk school board

By Gabrielle Horowitz

Ralph Ritzenthaler and Beth Schnellinger were elected to the Norwalk Board of Education, and began their terms last month.

Ritzenthaler has been on the school board before. He served from 2012 to 2015 and decided to come back.

“I feel the 33 years as a teacher with the Norwalk City Schools prepared me for a position on the Board of Education. It is a great feeling to be able to help the students of the District and am looking forward to making a difference,” Ritzenthaler said.



Ralph Ritzenthaler

any changes that need to be made at the high school or any part of our District, and then the Board will take action on his recommendations,” Ritzenthaler said.

He said the biggest concern regarding the high school is to make sure students are well prepared for their future.

“Our students should have the skills they need when they leave NHS to be successful. Our superintendent will recommend any changes that need to be made at the high school or any part of our District, and then the Board will take action on his recommendations,” Ritzenthaler said.

“I would recommend and encourage our young adults to run for a position on the Norwalk Board of Education,” he added.

Schnellinger said she is honored to be on the school board.

“I look forward to working with other school board members and Mr. [George] Fisk and Mrs. [Joyce] Dupont to make Norwalk City Schools one of the best in the State of Ohio,” Schnellinger said.



Beth Schnellinger

Unusual scholarships out for the grabs

By Hailey Sholes

There are many scholarships that students here can apply for. Some websites that the school provides are www.petersons.com, www.ohiomeansjobs.com, www.fastweb.com, and www.studentscholarships.org

There are some unusual scholarships as well. Senior Luke Kelley has applied for the Make Me Laugh scholarship. Kelley found that scholarship on www.unigo.com. He will earn \$1,500 from that scholarship. The re-

quirements of this particular scholarship are the applicant must be 13 or older, be a legal resident of the United States or the District of Columbia, and must also be currently enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher education.

There are many other unusual scholarships. One website that has some of the most unusual ones is <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/unusual-scholarships/>. Some of its most unusual scholarships are Asparagus Club Scholarship, Chick and Sophie Major Memo-

rial Duck Calling Contest, Duck Brand Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest, Ludo Frevel Crystallography Scholarship, National Potato Council Scholarship and the Tall Clubs International Student Scholarships.

There are different ways to apply for scholarships. The most common way now is to apply online.

Another common way is to simply go to the guidance counselor and have her help fill out an application or find the scholarship that is perfect for that student.

Cafeteria food waste? Blue squad calculates after a year, waste equals a bus with a U-Haul

By Leighton Steele

The food waste experiment that Blue Squad did last semester has shown how much waste was produced here in just one school week.

“We took the results and presented it to the school board and we’re hoping to raise more awareness, and to not just get rid of how much waste our school makes, but every school,” adviser Chris Jackson said

During the week of Dec. 4 to 8, Blue Squad recycling club members sorted students’ trash during lunch in the cafeteria and weighed it.

Blue Squad found out in that week there was a total of 458.52 pounds of food waste, 308.53 pounds of paper waste and 257.2 pounds of plastic (other) waste.

“We’re hoping to raise more awareness.”

-Chris Jackson

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Food	55.7	46.4	131.4	157.7	67.32	458.52
Paper	29.8	28	99.9	98.03	52.8	308.53
Plastic(other)	24.4	36.7	120	43.7	32.4	257.2

Average per day	
Food	91.704
Paper	61.706
Plastic/other	51.44

All totals are in pounds

180 school days	
Food	16,506.72
Paper	11,107.08
Plastic/other	9,259.20

Information in chart provided by Chris Jackson

The average for each day for food was 91.704 pounds, paper was 61.706 pounds and for plastic (other) was 51.44 pounds.

If the average per day is multiplied by 180 school days, that means more than 16,000 pounds of food is wasted in one year.

What weighs 16,000 pounds? According to the information provided by Jackson, 16,000 pounds equals a school bus plus a U-Haul trailer, two monster trucks, three Chevy Silverado’s, four Jeep Wranglers, or 110 students who weigh 145 pounds each.

Jackson said he hopes to come up with a solution to reuse the unused portions of food for other students. He doesn’t mean half eaten food, but if someone has a pudding or applesauce it can be given to another student who isn’t eating, who can’t buy or pack lunch.

Learning a new language



By Cesar Gonzalez

The first time coming to school not knowing English was scary because I didn't know anyone and I was very shy. I was 7 years old and in second grade at League Elementary School.

I was doing online work along with the other kids at League and they didn't know how to change it to Spanish and I didn't know what they were talking about in class. The only thing that was in Spanish was a book named *Junie B. Jones* written by Barbara Park and I could barely read it because I was still learning how to read in Mexico. I remember this book because this was the first book that I owned in United States.

The whole year kind of went fast and I didn't make any friends but the next year I went to Pleasant Elementary School where I met new people I had never seen before. The positive side was that there were more people who spoke Spanish and I could talk to them. The first person who I actually talked to at Pleasant Elementary School was Morgan Griffith

"The great thing about coming here is making new friends."
--Kennedy Morales

who is now a junior at Norwalk High School and even though I didn't understand her, she pointed and I nodded.

After the second grade, I made some new friends and joined a soccer team. I couldn't talk to anyone and didn't know how to play the game. I would usually just look at the sky, clouds and people around me.



Sophomore Kennedy Morales also had to learn English. Although he was born in Florida, he had to move to Mexico when he was 2 years old and came back to the U.S. as a teenager, having to learn to speak English. Morales said it was kind of hard for him to study and learn some subjects, but he has a class after school where they go over their homework and try to learn English.

He came here two years ago and he's adjusting to the new school and to the language. Morales is in the soccer program and said he enjoys playing soccer and is excited to play again.

"The great thing about coming here is making new friends and besides learning English, the climate is hard to adjust to," he said.

Freshman Jose Escobedo who was born in Guatemala, has been here for one year and said he has had trouble learning English. He

ELLs: 117 students this year

By Lacey Tatum

Throughout the last few years, the Norwalk School District has gained and lost some ELL students. ELL stands for English language learner. ELL students are students who have moved into the school district who do not know the English language.

According to numbers provided by Elena Perez, bilingual services coordinator, this year there are 117 ELL students in the school district.

During the 2016/2017 school year, there were 107, and during 2015/2016 there were 119.

Students usually test out after three to four years but new students move in to the area. That is why the numbers can vary, Perez said.

These students have ESL (English as a Second Language) classes as well as a few regular classes. They can come from any country that doesn't have English as its native speaking language.

Over the past three years, all but one student have come to the district with their native language being Spanish, but there was one student with the native language of Kinyarwanda, which is spoken in Africa.

also agrees that the climate is different because he's used to the hot weather every day.

"It's bad, not knowing how to speak and write it or even understand kind of makes you feel different from others," Escobedo said.

Escobedo said he gets help after school along with Morales, and ELL aides translate his homework. However, if he doesn't have anyone to help him, he uses his computer to translate. Escobedo sees this as an opportunity to learn another language rather than knowing only Spanish. Escobedo has many friends

now that he made while being in the soccer program.

Robert Vazquez, who was born here, grew up in a Spanish environment and had the same experience as Morales and Escobedo. Vazquez had to get help learning English in the third and fourth grades.

Vazquez said his father always talked to him in Spanish and never in English. He was used to talking in Spanish and in the third grade, it got hard for him to read and write. Vazquez usually mixed up his Spanish and English and had to get help, he said.

Truckers reveal resolutions

By Kylee Edney

For many people, a new year is a new start to a healthier lifestyle or mindset.

Math teacher Chris MacFarland said he has been continuing with his New Year's resolution of losing weight and being healthier. He said he wants it to become a lifestyle change.

"I just want to be in better health, feel better and try to be more active for my family," he said.

MacFarland said he has been working out every day and cutting back on his calorie intake.



MacFarland



Martin



Pettigrew



Ziembra



Williams

Junior Kennadi Martin said her resolution is to be a nicer person to everyone.

"I feel mean and I don't want to be mean. I enjoy being nice," Martin said.

This has been a successful change for her so far. She said she's been thinking about what she says before she says anything and thinking more positive while also complimenting others.

Junior Daiyaan Pettigrew said he wants to gain weight this year because he needs it for high school and college basketball.

So far Pettigrew said it has been going well for him. He's been drinking weight gainer supplements and eating more carbs.

He said he expects this to last until next basketball season.

Junior Alysha Ziembra said her resolution is to find out what col-

lege she is going to before her senior year. "I like planning ahead," Ziembra said. So far she said her resolution isn't working out too well, because she hasn't started looking at colleges yet.

Freshman Damarjae Williams said he hopes to get better at basketball.

"I love basketball and I want to make it in the NBA," he said.

Williams said that he has been successful with his resolution, because he has been getting more points at his basketball games.

He said he wants this to last a while and he wants to keep getting better.

Students create art for calendar

By Gabrielle Horowitz

Artwork can be found in many places -- including calendars.

Four Norwalk High School students have had their artwork displayed in the Vacationland Federal Credit Union calendar.

Junior Petra Montana said she was surprised when art teacher Tracy VanBuskirk asked for her permission to have her artwork possibly displayed in the calendar.

"I was nervous because there was no information for a couple weeks," Montana

said. One day she walked into school and saw the calendar. She said she was surprised that her artwork was chosen.

Senior Audrey Harness was excited that her painting was good enough to be in the calendar.

"It was cool because only a few people from Norwalk were featured."
- Mary Moore

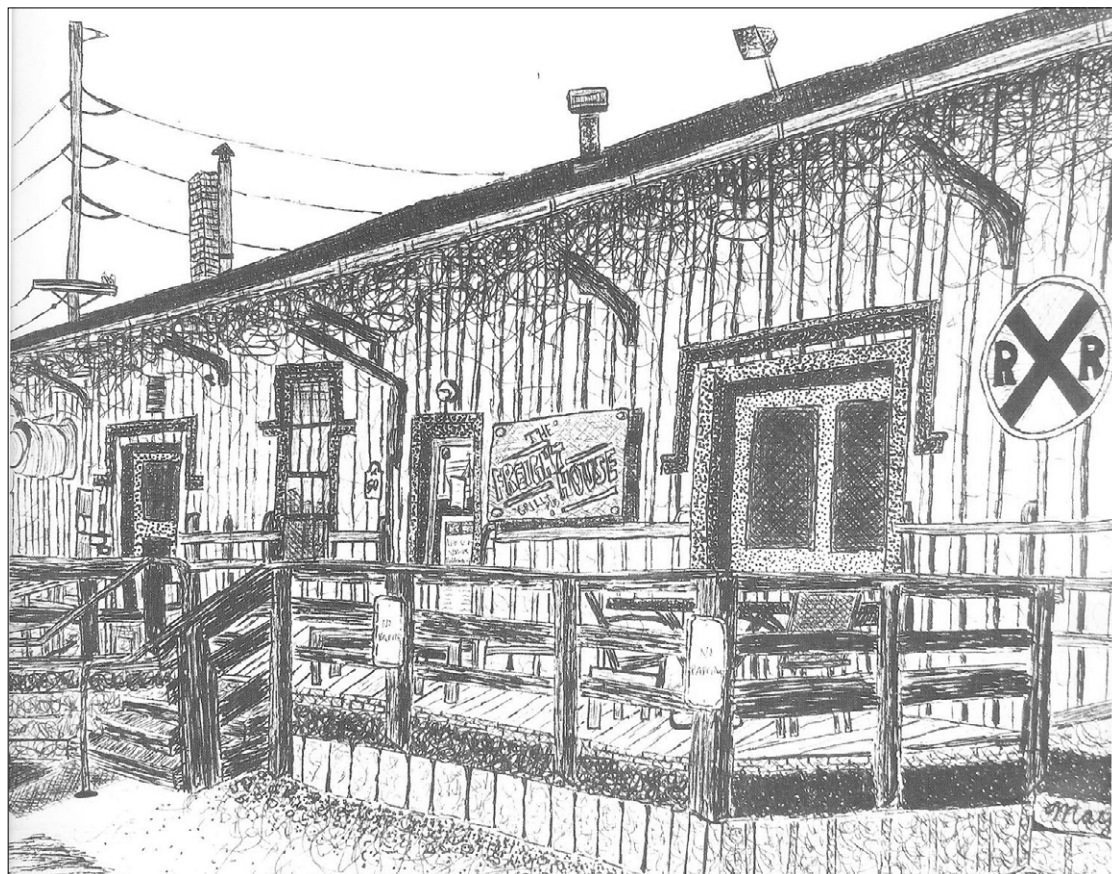
"I have never had my artwork in anything, so this was a good opportunity," Harness said, adding that her mom was also excited and proud of her.

Junior Mary Moore said she was surprised to find her art in the calendar. The piece that was put in was

her favorite, so she was proud.

"It was cool because only a few people from Norwalk were featured," Moore said.

Senior Maya Reineck said she was ecstatic to find her art in the calendar.



This picture, by senior Maya Reineck, appears in the Credit Union calendar for the month of June.

"Mandela was my favorite piece, so I was excited," Reineck said.

Reineck added that she loves the Norwalk High School art department.

"We have an amazing art program that gives us many great opportunities," she said.

STUDENTS AT SCHOOL



Name: Jewel Cain
Grade: 11
Age: 17
Favorite band/artist: Post Malone
Three words that describe me: friendly, outgoing, independent
If I could travel anywhere in the world, I would go to Japan because I like sushi.
Most embarrassing moment: In the third grade on my first day of school I was so nervous I puked everywhere.
If you could change one thing at NHS, what would it be, and why? The teachers would be better.
If you could teach any class, what would it be and why? Math because it's my favorite subject.
Biggest pet peeve: When people chew with their mouth open.
If you were dying, what would your last words be? I love you.
If you won the lottery, what would you buy first? My own house.
Five things you'd like to have on a deserted island? My two dogs, my boyfriend, my best friend and my cat.
Where do you see yourself in 20 years? A math teacher.
Weirdest fear, and why? Squirrels because I almost got bit by one.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: I love food.

10 things you didn't know about me



Freshman Sophia Bores
 1. I've played softball for four years.
 2. I want a golden doodle so bad.
 3. I've been a part of the wrestling program at Norwalk since I was a baby.
 4. My favorite color is blue.
 5. I'm single and ready to mingle.
 6. My favorite subject is math.
 7. My favorite food is any kind of soup.
 8. I was born Oct. 2, 2002
 9. I like getting my fitness on.
 10. I love to hang out with my junior pals.

Senioritis Check up

How are you doing at this point in your senior year?



Senior Sydney Castle is held up by editors Logan Hurst and Alayna Warren
 Photo by Paige Maurer

"I've had senioritis for four years strong."
 – Noah Mozina

"On a scale of one to ten, it's at least a 20."
 – Kendall Bigler

"I want to light myself on fire every time I walk into Norwalk High School."
 – Sydney Castle

"I didn't even come in until 10 o'clock two days this week, and I even have late arrival"
 – Leah Malson

-Interviews By Logan Hurst and Alayna Warren

What's in your car?

Photo by Cesar Gonzalez

Junior Wyatt Dotson had in his car:

1. Broken bat
2. Towel
3. Swim bag
4. Trash
5. Blankets
6. Chips
7. Basketball
8. Clothes



TEACHERS AT WORK



Name: Derek Pigman
Subjects taught: American History, World History, Economics, Government, Psychology and Sociology
College attended: Bachelor's and master's degrees from Bowling Green State University.
First job: Lifeguard at Norwalk Park and Rec for four years.
Favorite high school memory: We played hacky sack in Mrs. Gfell's class after finals sophomore year and kicked the sack out of her second story window.
If you weren't a teacher, what would you be? Curator at the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, by day, and an underground street artist promoting peace and equality through graffiti at night.
If you were a student here at NHS, what clique would you sit with at lunch and why? I am a dinosaur, so I would sit alone like the other dinosaurs.
Most embarrassing high school moment: High school is one big embarrassing moment for everyone.
Craziest thing that ever happened during class: Representative Matt Barrett.
I became a teacher because: I want to learn as much as I can about people, art, music and nature from as many people as possible.
Advice for seniors? Prepare, divide and conquer. Then come back together to celebrate yourselves. Take chances now, because your opportunities will dwindle.
When not sitting behind a desk in school, what do you do? Coach, jam out and eat.
What would people be surprised to know about you? I'm not sure anyone would be surprised by anything at this point...
Biggest weakness and strength: Confidence and confidence.
Favorite part about your job? Being in charge of myself and the opportunity to be creative.
Biggest pet peeve: Mornings. And people that don't respect the complexities of life that create so much gray area – nothing is black vs. white.

Musician of the Issue

Photo by Brenna Mock



Junior choir student Micah Duncan is the Musician of the Issue. Here, he is pictured singing during choir class. "He is a leader in the tenor section and works diligently on his music every day. He is studying piano and spends time practicing the keys," choir teacher Carol Mason said. He started choir in ninth grade and said he chose to take choir because he loves to sing. "Singing is a great way to express your musical feelings," Duncan said.

SUCCESS

Continued from page 1

Junior Scarlett Krichbaum said she has been playing bass in the orchestra for five years and has participated in Solo and Ensemble for three years. Her piece was class C and she scored a one, the highest rating. "I thought it would be fun and the basses usually don't get the melody," said Krichbaum on why she chose to participate. The duet of sophomore Chloe Thomas and freshman Lauren Metcalf scored a one with a class C piece. Thomas said she has been playing the violin for five years and that this was her first year doing Solo and Ensemble in high school. Metcalf said she has been playing the cello for three years in the orchestra.

"I practiced like crazy," Thomas said. Those who received ones were seniors Anya Shipman, Heidi Bowles and Darren Raymond, juniors Abigail Marchione, Olivia Schaffer and Scarlett Krichbaum, sophomores Hayden Barnes and Isabella Shipman, freshman Lochlyn Ramsey and the duet of Chloe Thomas and Lauren Metcalf. Receiving a score of two were seniors Lexi Santiago and Braden Nunez, junior Owen Moore, freshmen Chase Raymond, Braden Lloyd and Emma Trost and the trio of Lexi Santiago, Heidi Bowles and freshman Kaylyn Portner. Receiving a three were senior Hannah Barnes and sophomore Jacob Roblero.

DIFFERENCE

Continued from page 1

She said she loves to help others, and has developed a passion for making positive change in the community. "It feels good to help others," Freeman said. She encourages people to contact local organizations and clubs. "Think about what you're passionate about and find a volunteer opportunity that will involve that passion," she said. Senior Maya Reineck has volunteered at the Relay for Life for three years and volunteers because she likes helping others and it makes her happy. She said she volunteers every summer, but she helps with other things when the opportunities present themselves. She helps set up tents, fills sand bags, and then

helps tear everything down. She heard about Relay for Life through student council. "I think that it's fun to help others," Reineck said. Senior Sarah Nutter volunteers at When Pigs Fly because Senior Annie Hiler's mom owns it and she like to help her. The Norwalk store's profits go to help local families facing serious illnesses. When Nutter goes to help depends on when they need help with anything. But generally she goes once a week. She said she helps check things out, put prices on and sometimes paints while she's there. She knows where to volunteer because she hears about who needs help through ads. "I like helping people and volunteering is a great way to help yourself and others," Nutter said.

NHS dances for donations

By Madisyn Alt

Most students are eager to get out of school, except for when Teen Leadership Corps hosts Dance Marathon and the students stay all night.

Dance Marathon will be held from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. March 29 to 30 at the high school in the gyms.

It is a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Rainbow Babies Hospital in Cleveland.

"Dance Marathon is an event where everyone stays up to dance and do fun activities throughout the night in order to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network, a non-profit organization that raises money for children's hospitals, medical research, and aware-

ness of health issues. While we like to have as much fun as we can at Dance Marathon, it is important for all of us to realize the impact our school has on the lives of other children when we all come together, staff, students, community, and do something this big. Seeing that unity is what makes Dance Marathon so amazing to me," senior Brooke Fries said.

"It is about raising money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital and also bringing the student body closer as a whole," senior Jacob Roth said.

"Dance Marathon is the one night of the year where I give up sitting down and lose sleep in order to help raise money for the kids that can't

stand up and dance and can't do all the fun activities that there are at Dance Marathon. It's a fun time with friends for a good cause," junior Deyer Graffice said.

"Last year we raised over \$16 thousand and the goal for this year is as much as possible.

It will not be as much because we can't do fundraising in the community," Nick Lee, history and TLC teacher, said.

Submitted photo
Chris Cloud, former history teacher at NHS, gets taped up to the wall at the 2016 Dance Marathon. Students could pay for a piece of duct tape to tape him up on the wall. They raised more than \$200.



Changing lives through ROY



Submitted Photo
Junior Mascie Horner smiles with her mentee, Kaitlyn Morrison, at the girls' basketball game Dec. 2 against Tiffin. The two girls met through Reach Our Youth in Huron County.

By Mascie Horner

As I sat in junior government class with my teacher Derek Pigman, he listed organizations that were looking for more volunteers.

He mentioned Reach Our Youth and it caught my attention.

R.O.Y. is a one-to-one mentoring program of the Huron County Juvenile Court.

The thought of being there for someone just out of the kindness of my heart was something I thought would not only form me into a better person, but my mentee as well.

Volunteers are matched with children ranging in ages between 6 and 18.

I filled out an application and turned it in at the Huron

County courthouse. I received a phone call back from the R.O.Y. director.

Once my application was accepted, I got the opportunity to sit down and talk with the director about who I was interested in mentoring.

I was interested in a child around the age of 7 to 10 because once I graduate from high school, I want to major in middle childhood education. I figured this would be a great start.

There were at least eight kids I would have loved to mentor, but it was a hard decision and I chose one.

My mentee, 8-year-old Kaitlyn Morrison, is so awesome and I could not imagine picking any sweeter of a girl.

Kaitlyn and I enjoy watching movies, painting and col-

oring, eating ice cream and listening to music while we relax in the hot tub.

R.O.Y. is a six month commitment, and I have already spent almost four months with Kaitlyn.

Having another sibling is something I always wanted and I consider Kaitlyn to be my little sister.

I plan to continue mentoring Kaitlyn longer than six months, and I hope as she continues to grow older I leave an impact on her life.

Reach Our Youth is a great, life changing organization that builds both a mentee and a child into a better person.

It has shown me responsibility, passion and truly how lucky a lot of us have it.

Mixing work and play



By Sydney Smith

The Humane Society is a very rewarding place to volunteer at. The mixture of hard work and interaction with animals makes the experience memorable.

Ever since I was young, I have loved to volunteer.

I have done volunteer work such as cleaning up the fairgrounds, instructing children at Safety Town and visiting the elderly at a nursing home.

But none of these experiences compare to mine at the Huron County Humane Society.

I have had a passion for helping animals since I was little. I used to beg my family to take in

the stray cats that I would bring food to outside.

Because of my passion for animal care, I decided volunteering at the Humane Society would be fun.

I started with cleaning cages, sweeping floors and planting flowers outside. After I became more experienced I really got close with the animals. I fed, walked, bathed and played with them. I also got the opportunity to show people the animals and answer questions about adoptions.

The workers and other volunteers make the experience even better. They are welcoming and helpful when one has a question.

Volunteering is always rewarding, but it felt even better to help animals looking for a family. The best feeling is when an animal gets a new home.



Hipp donates in style

By Madisyn Alt

Sometimes giving is better than selling things for money.

Kate Hipp, history teacher at the high school, gives some of her clothes to her students.

"Growing up with three sisters we were always switching clothes or passing them down to each other. It's nice to get new things, especially when they are free," Hipp said.

When people sell clothes, the amount of money received is not

"It is nice to be able to provide donations that will help people."

***-History teacher
Kate Hipp***

even close to the amount spent on the clothes.

Hipp puts her clothes in a box and brings them in to the school and just has students pick what they want after school.

"It is nice to see people wear them; it's better than having them sit in a drawer or closet not being used. However, if there is a sweater drive or clothing drive, I do donate some things to that as well. It is nice to be able to provide donations that will help people," Hipp said.

How to volunteer in Norwalk

Humane Society

Contact Info: 419-663-7158
huroncountyhumanesociety.com

What are volunteers needed to do: Clean cages, groom animals, work events, foster animals, take photos of animals, walk dogs, do dishes, do laundry, introduce people to the animals, spend time with the animals.

Who can volunteer: Can be any age, but 13 and under must come with a parent.

How can a person volunteer: You must fill out an application, either online or on paper.

The Salvation Army

Contact Info: 419-668-4090
salvationarmyusa.org/norwalk

What are volunteers needed to do: Help distribute food to people and store food donations.

Who can volunteer: Must be at least 16 years old.

How can a person volunteer: Must fill out an application online or on paper.

Reach Our Youth

Contact Info: 419-663-2525
reachouryouth.weebly.com

What are volunteers needed to do: Mentor, be a role model, and share life experiences with a mentee.

Who can volunteer: Must be at least 16, willing to spend at least

2 hours with mentee 3 times a month for at least 6 months.

How can a person volunteer: Must set up an interview and then participate in an orientation session. Then a parent permission form must be signed (if you are under 18) along with the completion of an application form, contact form and waiver.

Habitat For Humanity

Contact Info: 419-621-2207
firelandshabitat.org

What are volunteers needed to do: Build, assist in the office, work in the ReStore, serve on committees, and help with special projects that benefit the organization.

Who can volunteer: Must be at least 16 years old.

How can a person volunteer: Fill out an application online or on paper.

When Pigs Fly

Contact Info: 419-660-1932
whenpigsflynorwalk.com

What are volunteers needed to do: Work on the floor in retail, help stock, paint and refurbish furniture.

Who can volunteer: Preferred to be in high school but accept junior high.

How can a person volunteer: By coming in for orientation and letting them know.

Staff shares spouse stories

Guidance counselor Michelle Sandor had nothing but good things to say about her husband.

"We knew each other in high school, but that wasn't when I liked him," Sandor said with a laugh.

The couple began dating after college, and will be celebrating their fifteenth wedding anniversary this summer.

The Sandors were married in Medina, with a reception held at her parents' house. They then went on a Caribbean cruise for their honeymoon.

"My favorite thing about him is his sense of humor," Sandor said.

Sandor said it is nice having someone who is outgoing, as she is more on the quiet side.

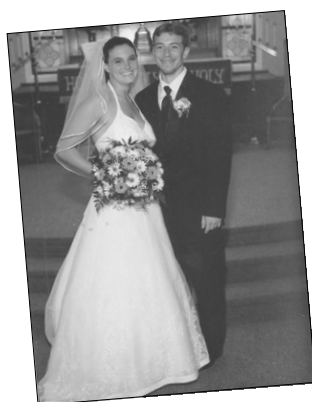
"It gives a nice balance," she added.

The couple enjoys spending a lot of time outside as they play basketball, hike, and as Sandor says, "never sit still."

"He's definitely smarter than me. He knows a lot of trivia stuff that I don't," Sandor said.

Sandor said the best part about being married is always having someone to go through everything with.

Mrs. Sandor



Submitted photos
The Sandors on their wedding day almost 15 years ago (left) and the Sandors recently enjoying time outside (right).

Mr. Lee



Submitted photos
The Lees recently with their two children (left) and the Lees enjoying their Wisconsin wedding ten years ago (right).

Social Studies teacher Nick Lee met his wife in a funny way.

"I saw an advertisement to play basketball with the girls' team at Bowling Green and she played," Lee said.

The Lees have been married for 10 years now and he still admits she can shoot a basketball better than he can.

They were married in her hometown of Brookfield, Wisconsin, and honeymooned in Cancun.

Lee's favorite memory with his spouse was their California vacation in 2011.

"We don't usually do things alone, especially now that we have kids, so I'm glad we did it," Lee said.

Lee proposed on a very cold January day in Marblehead at the lighthouse.

"My favorite thing about her is the mother she is to our two kids," Lee said.

Lee said the best part about being married is always having someone to talk to through the good and the bad.

Science teacher Tiffany Chandler became emotional as she spoke about her husband of almost 23 years.

They met at his house when one of her friends was dating his brother.

They were married at St. Paul Catholic Church in Norwalk and visited Mackinac Island in Michigan for their honeymoon.

When asked what her husband does better than she does, she said "nothing!" as a joke, but admits he is good at making people laugh and forming a conversation.

"He creates a nice balance," Chandler said.

When her husband proposed, he placed her ring in

an egg, and surprised her as she dug through her Easter basket.

"The best thing about being married is having someone to share experiences with," Chandler said.

Chandler added that it is also exciting to come home to someone after a bad day because you know they will let you know everything is OK.

Torn between two of her favorite memories with her husband, Chandler said going to dance clubs and dancing must be her favorite.

"I don't have the same moves as I used to," Chandler added with a laugh.

Mrs. Chandler



Submitted photos
The Chandlers at their high school prom at St. Paul High School (left) and the Chandlers going on 23 years of marriage (right).

All spouse stories and pictures gathered by Mascie Horner and all single teacher stories and pictures gathered by Luke Kelley.

Single teachers share thoughts

Mr. Higgins



Qualities in a significant other: Smart, funny, wants to enjoy athletic activities.
Planning on getting married? Yes.
Do students ever make comments because you're single? No.
Favorite pick up line: Anything that gets her to smile.

Miss Tuttle



Qualities in a significant other: Funny, honest, adventurous, smart.
Planning on getting married? When the right guy comes around.
Do students ever make comments because you're single? No.
Favorite pick up line: I believe in the importance of being Earnest, so I'm just going to say it: I'm Wilde about you.

Mr. Snell



Qualities in a significant other: Intelligent, compassionate, active, bilingual, attractive in my eyes.
Planning on getting married? Yes
Do students ever make comments because you're single? Yes. When students find out I am single, they try to set me up with someone they know.
Favorite pick up line: Are you good at Algebra? Can you replace my x without asking y?

Hipp soon to be 'happily ever after'

By Madisyn Alt

More wedding bells will ring for the Hipp family.

Kate Hipp, history teacher here, recently got engaged to Stewart Downey, a real estate agent for Russ Lyons Sotheby's International Realty.

Hipp and Downey met when they were children in Indian Guides/Indian Princesses, a group of kids who went with their dads on camping trips and they held monthly meetings.

"We met up a few times when we were older, but he was living in Arizona. He came home to help his parents and we started hanging out and then started dating," Hipp said.

Rachel Hipp, Kate Hipp's mother and an art teacher here, is excited for the wedding.

"This is the third wedding in 15 months," Hipp said. Two of her other daughters recently got married during those past 15 months.

There are many things already planned for Hipp's wedding. The bridesmaid dresses are ordered. They are a plum wine color. Flowers are picked out. The photographer will be Chris Adams, who works in the tech-

nology department here and does photography on the side.

The ceremony will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norwalk. The reception will be held at the Catawba Island Club.

"The wedding is scheduled for October. It is going to be a small wedding -- 200 at the most -- mostly family," Hipp said.

Downey proposed at dinner at the Union Club in Cleveland where his family is a member.

"He had made reservations at the Club's dining room, including having them bring in oysters which is one of my favorite dishes. When we were seated, he got down on one knee and proposed. The rest

of the dinner guests clapped and the table next to us actually recorded it. It was very sweet. The Club has historical significance to his family as well as my ring," Hipp said.

"The ring has three diamonds, the center being the biggest. The center diamond was part of my fiancé's grandmother's ring. The Union Club is significant to Stewart's family because they have been members for generations," Hipp explained.



Submitted photo
World History teacher Kate Hipp and her fiancé Stewart Downey smile as they announce the big news of their upcoming marriage in October.

Childhood Crushes

Interviews and photos by Kylee Edney



Senior Tori Smith had a crush on senior Austin Christman. "I liked him because he had the prettiest eyes and his eyelashes were long. Everyone in the fourth grade liked him," Smith said.



Juniors Macey Phillips and Ian Scheid dated. "He always sent me the <3 while we were texting," Phillips said.



Junior Maria Rodriguez had a crush on junior Carson Ott. "The only reason Carson talked to me was because I let him cheat off my tests," Rodriguez said.



Senior Savannah Sampson had a childhood crush on senior Jacob Roth. "His laugh and smile always caught my eye," Sampson said.



Juniors Alyssa Faley and Austin Brown dated in middle school. "We were relationship goals in middle school," Brown said.

Awkward date experiences

By Paige Maurer

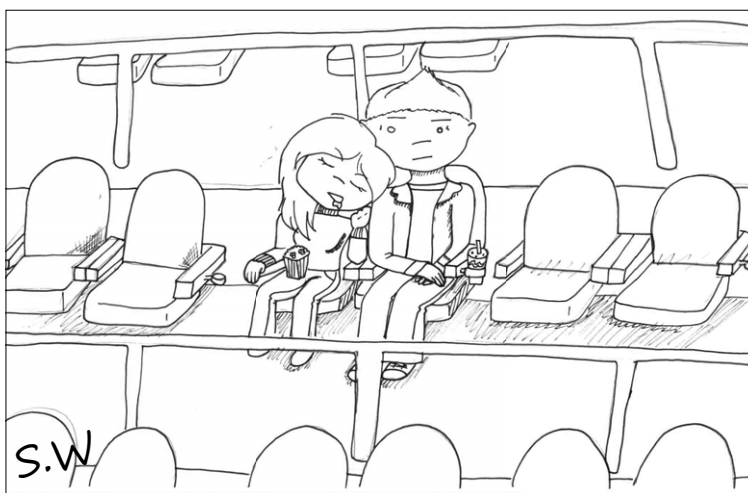
Inclusion teacher Brock Manlet- Went to a dinner and a 3-D movie and 20 minutes in, she fell asleep.

Junior Alysha Ziemba- "On our first date, the guy dropped a quesadilla on his pants."

Junior Vicente Lopez- Went to the beach for the day and we didn't talk at all.

History teacher Derek Pigman- Broke up with a girl in front of her friends.

Senior Ashten Morrow- Stepped in dog poop before leaving and the whole car smelled like it.



Word of the Issue:

Nemophilist (*neh-mo-FEE-list*)
Noun
One with a love or fondness of forests.
A nemophilist should not work on a construction site.

Quote of the Issue:

"And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."
— John Lennon

Fact of the Issue:

More than 9 million pet owners buy gifts for their dogs and cats on Valentine's Day, spending an average of \$40 each. These gifts include cards and special edible treats that resemble the candy that humans exchange. 15 percent of women receiving flowers on Valentine's Day send them to themselves.

Valentine's Day Crossword

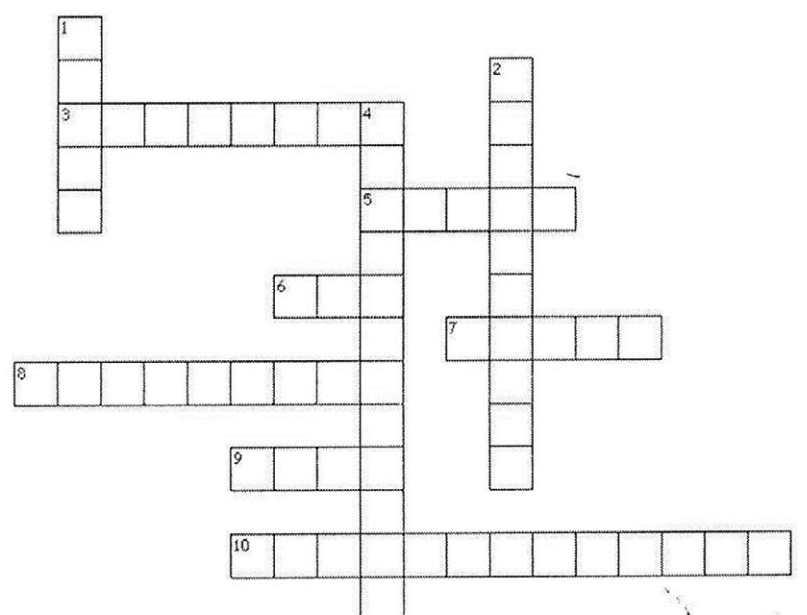
Finish the crossword, cut it out and turn it in to Mrs. Leffler's room for a chance to win a Stomping Grounds gift certificate.

Across

- What are blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart
- Buy that special someone a dozen _____
- Cupid uses a _____ and arrow
- Valentine's Day is also called _____ Valentine's day
- Emperor Claudius II executed two men both named _____ on February 14th
- How many chambers are in the heart
- Wednesday, February 14th

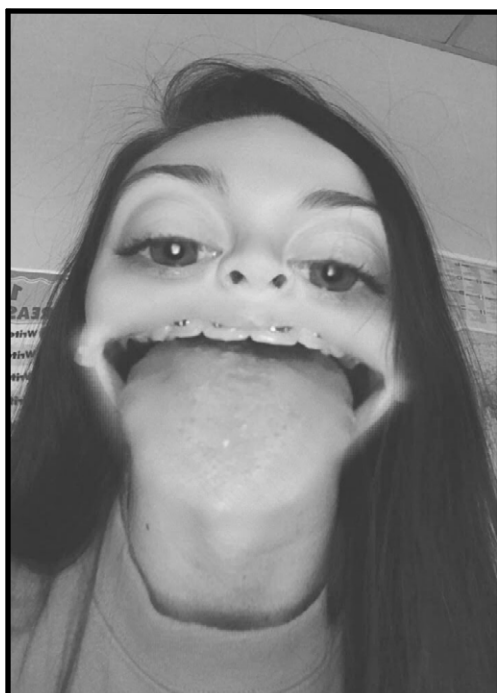
Down

- You should buy your crush _____ shaped candies
- Valentine's Day has origins in the Roman holiday _____
- A common dessert for Valentine's Day is chocolate covered _____



Puzzle by Luke Kelley

Your search is over



Name: Paige Maurer
Nickname: P-\$wagz
What dating website would you be found on? www.tallandathleticmen.com
What would your user name be? @Ijustwantaboyfriend
How would you describe yourself? I'm not the best looking but certain angles make me look de-

cent. I am a caring person and not super clingy. I get annoyed pretty easily but other than that, I'm a pretty chill human. Crime shows and Dunkin Donuts are my addiction!!!

What qualities are you looking for in a significant other? I need someone who loves coffee and puppies as much as I do. Don't be super clingy but don't be too distant. You have to be used to big families. Be respectful and caring. A bonus would be someone taller than me and if you are athletic. Be able to tell me and my sister apart please!

What is your ideal date? Starting off the morning with going to Dunkin Donuts and then going to pet stores to play with puppies all day.

What is your favorite pick-up line? Are you religious because you are the answer to all of my prayers.



Name: Luke Kelley
Nickname: Duke
What dating website would you be found on? Asainpeoplemeet.com
What would your user name be? Dukerman_18
How would you describe yourself? One step above perfect, not very smart.
What qualities are you looking for in a significant other? Funny, active, intelligent enough to keep me in line, outgoing
What is your ideal date? A day on the beach in Florida
What is your favorite pick-up line? Are you a 90 degree angle? Because you are looking right.



Name: Logan Hurst
Nickname: Logs or Logie
What dating website would you be found on? Vine-LoversMeet.net

What would your user name be? Never-WentToOovooJaver

How would you describe yourself? I'm pretty open-minded and enjoy trying new things and exploring.

What qualities are you looking for in a significant other? If you can make me laugh, enjoy some of the same foods I do, and have even the slightest appreciation for musical theater, I'm sold. You'd have to be able to put up with my constant math jokes, though.

What is your ideal date? Getting sushi or Dunkin' Donuts, and then going home to watching Bob's Burgers all night until we fall asleep.

What is your favorite pick-up line? I'd like to be your derivative so I could be tangent to those curves.



Name: Alayna Warren
Nickname: Layn
What dating website would you be found on? www.waitingforamiracle.com
What would your username be? @helpyagirlout
How would you describe yourself? I'm entertaining and sentimental all in one. I can make you laugh till you cry but I can be your shoulder to cry on. I'll listen to what you have to say and give you feedback if needed, but I'll also be the one at the family dinner table that incorporates a vine reference into every conversation I can. I am adventurous and easy to get along with. I talk a lot, so it'll never be silent. Oh, I spend most of my Saturdays cleaning and I enjoy it, so if that's not a deal breaker, I don't know what is. Oh, and I'll gladly

accept an iced caramel latte from Dunkin.....every morning, thanks.

What qualities are you looking for in a significant other? Tall, smart and handsome. You have to have goals and life and constantly be working hard to reach them. I admire respect. Respect for me, mine and your family, and of course, respect for yourself. Although I love athleticism, if sports aren't your thing, that's OK but I shouldn't be able to beat you at everything. Have some type of competi-

tiveness to you. As long as you're happy, I'm happy.

What is your ideal date? My ideal date would be getting dressed up, but not all fancy. I would prefer to put on scarlet and grey and go cheer on the best team in the land at "The Shoe." I mean who doesn't want to look at Sam Hubbard or Tate Martell?? P.S. With a Heisman candidate at quarterback and the Bucks' prolific offense, we should have been in the top four in the playoffs. Go Bucks!

What is your favorite pick-up line? "If you were a burger at McDonalds, you'd be McHandsome."



Name: Kylee Edney
Nickname: Ky or Kyle
What dating website would you be found on? www.peoplewhodontskiplegdaymeet.com
What would your user name be? @fitnessqueen-ky11
How would you describe yourself? At first I can be shy until I get to know you, then I'm somewhat funny and outgoing. De-

pending on my mood I can get annoyed easily. I don't show much emotion but deep down, I promise, I have a big heart. I'm also very athletic and determined.

What qualities are you looking for in a significant other? Someone who enjoys being in the gym as much as me (and doesn't skip leg day). Also, someone who is always making me laugh and has a sweet personality. He should be smart, taller than me and have a nice smile. I'd also hope that he is responsible and has his goals for the future pretty much planned out. He must have good hygiene and smell good (so I can take his sweatshirts).

What is your ideal date? My ideal date is going to a fancy restaurant dressed up nice, then going to get ice cream and driving home with the windows down, blaring country music on a summer night.

What is your favorite pick-up line? If you were a vegetable, you'd be a cute-cumber.

Name: Mascie Horner
Nickname: Mas
What dating website would you be found on? www.onlygirlwhodoesntwatchgrays.com
What would your username be? @alreadytakensorry
How would you describe yourself? I have a huge heart, I'm open, and I am willing to help anyone through anything. I enjoy watching and playing sports, napping in my free time, and making you laugh any chance I get.
What qualities are you looking for in a significant other? Someone who is always comfortable with being themselves around me, respects my family, honest, nice scent, athletic, a flower buying type of guy, massages my back, sings in the car, and a good morning text will always put me in a good mood!
What is your ideal date? A dinner date that requires me to do my hair, ice cream for dessert,



and once we get home we will watch TV and cuddle.

What is your favorite pick-up line? Are you a parking ticket? Because you have fine written all over you.



Valentine's Day Mad Lib

By Alayna Warren

Dear **JIMBOB**,

I still remember the first time I **WIGGLED** eyes on you. It was during **WOODWORKING** class, and you came in to give our teacher a **LIZARD**. The very first thing I noticed was your **STRANGE** face, and your large **SILVER FOREHEAD**. I even heard **GUCCI GANG** playing in the background! Since that day, I admit I have had a **SMELLY NOTEBOOK** on you! I will reveal my secret iden-

tity on **MEMORIAL DAY** at **107** o'clock sharp. Meet me behind the **ZOO**. I'll be wearing a **GREEN HAMSTER**. **MARKERS** and kisses,
 Your secret admirer!

Note: For this Mad Lib, random students were asked to supply words that were a certain part of speech, but they did not know what they would be used for. The words in bold capital letters are the words the students came up with. This is the result.

"Love is a promise, love is a souvenir.
 Once given, never forgotten.
 Never let it disappear."

Truckers cheer at Citrus Bowl

By Kylee Edney

My trip to Orlando, Florida, over Christmas break was unforgettable and I never wanted to come home.

I was one of the five girls who went to Florida for All American cheerleading at the Citrus Bowl.

There were about 400 other cheerleaders, dancers, twirlers and flag girls all from different states including Pennsylvania, California and Texas. Some were even from New Mexico.

The trip was six days long with each day being completely planned out for everyone.

We drove to Florida in a 12-seated bus with 11 of us in total. It took about 17 hours to get there.

The first day there, we were extremely early so we couldn't check in to our hotel. Instead, we went to breakfast, swam at the hotel pool and went shopping.

Once we checked in we had quite a bit of free time where we looked around our hotel before our meeting.

We had to be in our room by 10 p.m. every night and lights out by 10:30 p.m.



Submitted photo
From left, senior Beth Stockmaster, senior Maya Reineck, sophomore Makilee Ball, senior Kylee Edney and freshman Madison Shutt spent a day of their Florida trip at Universal Orlando Studios.

The next morning we went to Disney World.

Everywhere we traveled, we rode in charter buses.

At Disney we stayed at Magic Kingdom the whole time. We

rode a few rides and got some food.

The next day we went to Universal Studios. I liked Universal Studios better than Disney be-

cause the rides were better and the weather was warmer.

The following day was our all-day practice for the game. We practiced on a local high school football field for about eight hours. Thankfully, it was nice, sunny weather.

After the practice all of the cast members had our All American dinner in the ballroom at the hotel, and then we went out to the hot tubs. The dinner was a buffet and the tables were set up nicely.

The next day was game day. Once we got to the field we rehearsed. Our performance was at halftime. Performing in the big stadium felt unreal and I never wanted it to end. I wasn't nervous at all because I'm used to performing in front of lots of people. The smile on my face during the performance was real. It was raining just about the whole game so we left right after halftime.

After the game we had our cast member dance party in the ballroom.

The next day we left to come back to Ohio but on our way we stopped at the world's largest McDonalds in Orlando.

I had so much fun on this trip.

Steffanni lives the rock star life

By Sophie Ward

It's good to have dreams, and it's even better to make these dreams become a reality. That's exactly what Norwalk's own, Devyn Steffanni, has done.

Steffanni, a junior at NHS, is a music lover who is in his own band. Some people at the school may remember when False Alarm, the name of the band Devyn takes part in, won second place in the school's talent show in 2017, a show that truly got students to get up and move.

The band was established in January of last year. Steffanni is the youngest in the band, but never lets it hold him back playing just as hard as his band mates.

His talent began at 11 years old at Main Street School when he first tapped on the drums. Although he is able to play both drums and guitar, he became the main drummer for his own band.

Not only making an impact in his own life, even in the bandroom practicing with the school's band, Steffanni's energy stays with him.

"He's a good player but he's nice to people, which is far more

important," Band Director Will Kish said.

Anyone who goes to football games or boys' basketball games may be able to watch as Steffanni encourages his friends and tries to make sure the people around him laugh as much as he does. A

Although Steffanni puts a lot of hard work and dedication into his school part of music, he also tries just as hard, if not more, for his outside band.

They play cover songs but for the most part the band gets together to write their own original music, playing in local spots here in town and even in Dayton at a venue well-known for its metal-loving locals.

"We're a family, bunch of love, man, bunch of love," Steffanni said when asked what his favorite part about the band is.

Steffanni hasn't made it where he has without occasional struggles. When he was younger he said he lost 50 percent of his sight, making reading music more of a challenge when he got older. He has to enlarge what is on the paper. Relying more on muscle memory than being able to see his drums, he seems to really push through it.

An inspiration for this young prodigy is Matthew Griener, who plays for "August Burns Red." Steffanni said he admires him for his super technical talent and work ethic and even his personal story that brought him to his fame today.

Some bands may have to rent out spaces to practice or go somewhere secluded, but for Steffanni and his band it's easier and even cheaper to get together. He and his family live in an old school house, allowing a lot of space.

The school house provides a large work space for the band to practice; this makes it easier for them and allows them to not have to have to spend money on renting out a space.



Photo by Jason Holmer
Junior Devyn Steffanni plays on his drum set during a gig he played at the Norwalk Reservoir over the summer.

"The way it makes me feel, makes me feel free and accepted," Steffanni answered when asked for his favorite thing about music.

He believes that music has no rules and it allows him to truly be himself and just be free with his creativity.

Theater alum returns to help with Peter Pan

By Brenna Mock

Brandi Braker, a Norwalk Class of 2017 graduate, has returned to help the cast of *Peter Pan* prepare for its performances in March.

Braker, when she isn't at college at BGSU Firelands, has been helping Director Robyn Rogers with a lot of the work behind-the-scenes, like stage directing and paperwork.

She is majoring in elementary education, but in her spare time she comes to practice with the cast.

Braker acted in musicals all four years of high school. After graduating, Braker has continued her love of theater, appearing in *Legally Blonde* and *The Great Gatsby*.



Photo by Brenna Mock
Brandi Braker goes through boxes in the musical's storage room. A 2017 graduate, Braker is a veteran of the NHS stage.

"It's weird seeing it from the other side," Braker said, adding that it is nice to be back and to be a part of the musical this year.

"This program gave a lot to me and I like being able to give back to it," she said.

MAGIC

Continued from page 1

This role has been most difficult for Hurst, due to the frequent mood swings of Captain Hook, although he has played a villain before: He was Jud Fry in Norwalk's production of *Oklahoma!* and has found the role as the antagonist "more challenging, but worth it."

Little and Jalyne Moore, also a junior, both have leads after two years of being in musical. Moore will play Tiger Lily, the Indian princess.

"My friends and family really pushed me to go out for Tiger Lily. She has a demanding and passionate character and I know I can show it in her character," Moore said.

Both are very excited about getting leads even

though it means "more memorization and work" than just being in the cast, said Moore.

"For the past couple years I was in the cast and had a lot of parts just as someone in the background, and that was a lot of fun because I did not have to stress about learning songs so much. This year, I have a lot of lines and songs to learn," Little said.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. March 15, 16 and 17 and at 3 p.m. March 18 at the Ernshtausen Performing Arts Center. General Admission is \$8 and VIP tickets are \$15. People can buy tickets at the door or online at <http://www.norwalktruckers.net/NHSMusical2018-PeterPan.aspx>.

A capella group travels to Norwalk

By Kiersten Phillips

An a capella group from Ohio University, The Leading Tones, visited choir teacher Carol Mason and her classes.

They visited as they were on tour over their Christmas break and they were snowed in. When they came, they sang songs, taught the classes a song and explained how their group works.

People do not have to be a music major to join the group. It is an “under the table” group that meets once a week and practices for three hours.

There is no professor in charge. The people who have been in this group the longest teach the new members.



Photo by Choir Director Carol Mason

The Ohio University Leading Tones sing to the Norwalk High school choir.

Book Review

Poetry book inspires

By Sydney Smith

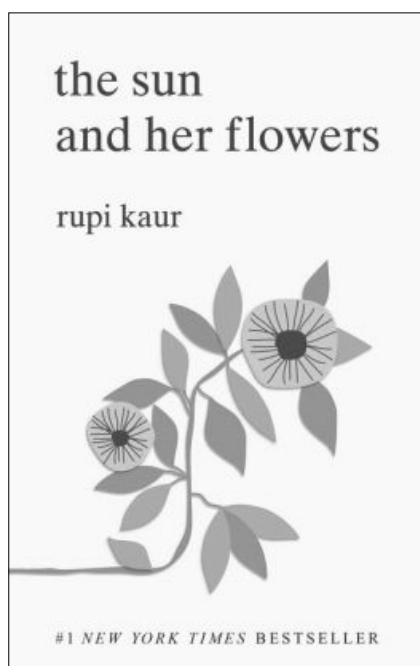
The Sun and Her Flowers by Rupi Kaur is a poetry book. Kaur also wrote the well-known *Milk and Honey*.

I came across the book at BAM in Sandusky, Ohio. I saw that it was written by Rupi Kaur so I decided to read it. She is a very outspoken author and I enjoy her honesty that comes through in her poetry.

I think the book would be enjoyed the most by teenage girls, but guys might also enjoy it. It is full of poetry about self-image, relationships and the issues in society. The poems put a different perspective on problems that teenagers face today, such as turning a failed relationship into an opportunity to strengthen self-love.

The Sun and Her Flowers can most definitely help people through rocky relationships and everyday hardships. I, myself, read the book in small segments to get a little bit of inspiration and positivity every day.

My favorite poem from the book compares people to sunflowers:



“despite knowing they won’t be here for long they still choose to live their brightest lives.”

This poem is my favorite because it represents a motto that I live by; although love is fleeting, make the most of it.

The poetry is not very difficult to interpret. All of the poems could have a variety of meanings to people, so the book is suited for any type of person.

The book can be purchased online or in any book store.

Restaurant Review

Get your frozen drink at LynMarie’s Coffee

By Paige Maurer

LynMarie’s Coffee is a coffee shop on U.S. 20 in Monroe-ville.

It offers different types of drinks from frozen drinks, hot coffee, teas, and even bobble tea. They also offer baked goods including scones and cheesecake.

All of their drinks can be ordered frozen, hot or over ice.

They have three different sizes for their hot drinks: 12 oz., 16 oz. and 24 oz. The prices of those drinks range from \$1.75 to \$2.35. Their frozen or cold drinks come in two sizes, 16 oz. and 24 oz. They range from \$3 to \$5.

I went to LynMarie’s Coffee around 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 29. There was nobody in the shop. It was super cute and quiet.

I ordered the Frozen Brownie Batter and it was great! I got the largest size, 24 oz., and it cost \$4.50.

I highly recommend it if you like chocolate and sweet things.

LynMarie’s Coffee is a great place to go to even if you don’t like coffee. There are many drinks that don’t contain coffee, so there is something for everyone!



Photo by Paige Maurer

Paige shows off her frozen drink.

Movie Review

Underdog becomes hero

By Logan Hurst

The Greatest Showman is a musical film that came out in theaters Dec. 8. It celebrates the birth of show business by telling the story of Phineas Taylor Barnum, founder of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1871. It features Hugh Jackman as P.T. Barnum, Michelle Williams as Charity Barnum, Zac Efron as Phillip Carlyle and Zendaya as Anne Wheeler, just to name a few of the movie’s stars.

The movie starts with a very intense scene in P.T. Barnum’s circus to set the tone, and then quickly begins a sequence of flashbacks to Barnum’s childhood and begins telling the story of how he got started in show business. It not only tells the story of Barnum’s rise to fame, but also the relationships that develop and come close to sacrificing the success of the show.

The story is very easy to follow, and would be enjoyed by people of all ages. It features your typical “underdog becoming the hero” storyline, but also portrays some deeper themes of racism and prejudice, considering the movie is set in the late 1800s.

As previously mentioned, *The Greatest Showman* is not only a film, but a musical. The soundtrack features 11 songs, all of which are fantastic at telling

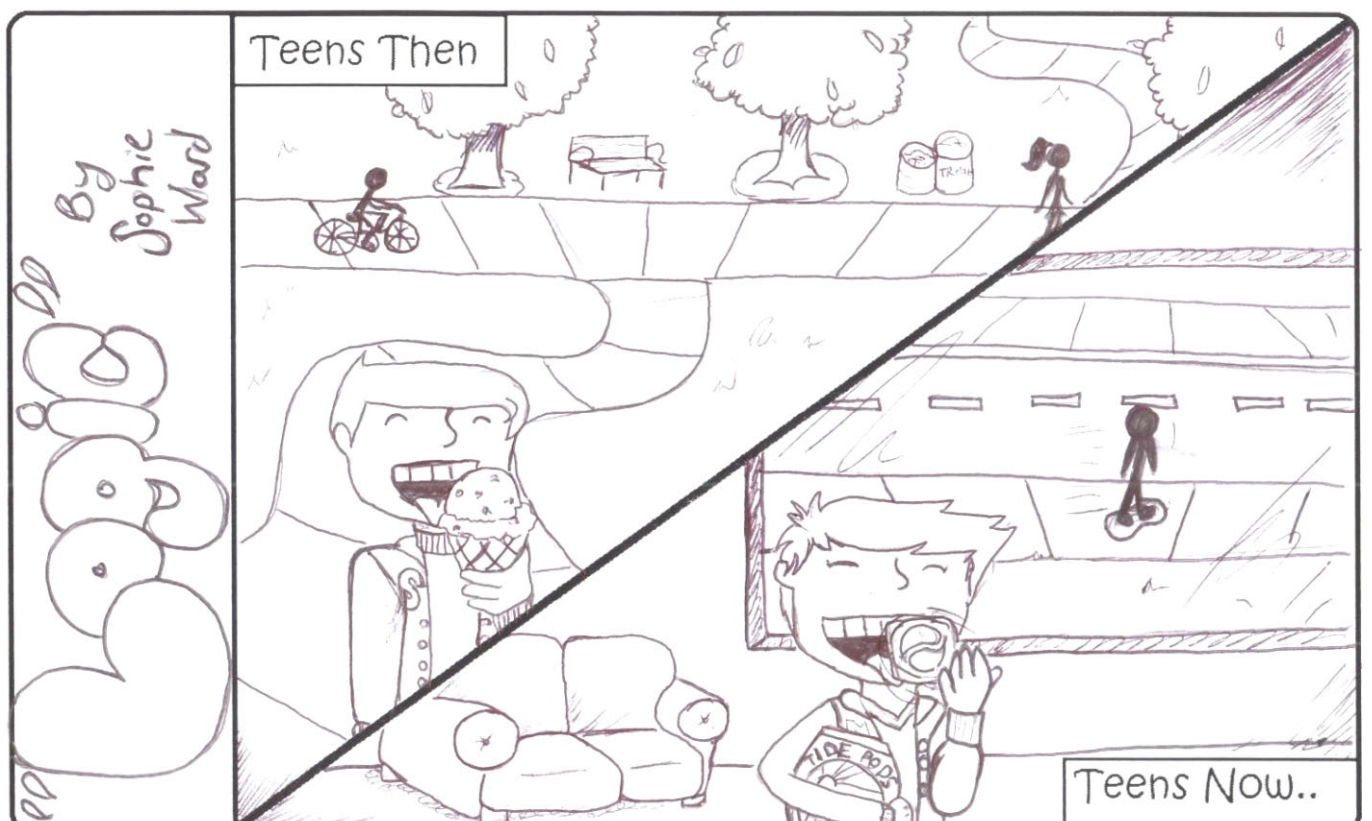


the story. The soundtrack contains a wide variety of music. Some songs are slower ballads; others feature the whole cast belting out the lyrics to more powerful songs. This is not your typical soundtrack of show tunes. If these songs were played on the radio, it would not be noticeable that they are from a musical.

My favorites are easily “From Now On,” telling the story of how Barnum will no longer let himself get caught up in his success, but rather enjoy what he does, and “Rewrite the Stars,” telling the story of Anne Wheeler and Phillip Carlyle’s unexpected love affair, and how they want to “rewrite the stars” and go against what other people have to say about them.

Overall, *The Greatest Showman* is easily one of the best movies I’ve ever seen... I’ve seen it five times (and counting). Each time I’ve walked into the theater I’ve been more excited than the last time, and each time I leave, the storyline leaves me feeling all kinds of emotions, sadness and warm-heartedness all at the same time. Unfortunately, *The Greatest Showman* is no longer in theaters, but it will come out on DVD on March 6.

“Overall, *The Greatest Showman* is easily one of the best movies I’ve ever seen.”



Swimmers set records

By Olivia Schaffer

“Three relay records in two weeks? Yeah we did that,” junior Anna Little said.

The relay team of juniors Anna Little and Sela Berry and sophomores Elyse Coe and Mara Berry broke the school record for the 400 yard freestyle relay and placed third at the SBC swim meet on Jan. 20.

The team beat the record by eight-tenths of a second, Head Coach Erin Smetzer said.

At the meet on Jan. 31, the team broke their own record by 0.74 of a second.

“I’m glad we all worked together to pull it off,” Coe said.

At the same meet, the relay team of Anna Little, Mara Berry, Elyse Coe, and sophomore Carissa Link broke the school record for the 200 yard medley relay by 0.67 of a second.



Photo by Olivia Schaffer
At the SBC swim meet on Jan. 20, the relay team of (from left) junior Anna Little, sophomore Mara Berry, sophomore Elyse Coe and junior Sela Berry do their handshake after finding out that they beat the school record for the 400 yard freestyle relay.

Sela Berry has been swimming for six years, her sister Mara Berry for seven years, Little

for 10 years, Coe for 11 and Link for seven, the athletes said. Little said the team has been trying to

break the record for two years and every member dropped time to reach the goal.

How did they achieve this?

Sela Berry said that the team just had to get up, eat breakfast, get on the bus, arrive and swim.

“We put our all into it,” Mara Berry said.

The relay team is hoping to move on from sectionals and go to districts.

“I’m really excited and I can’t wait,” Little said.

The girls’ team placed third in the Lake Division and the boys placed sixth.

Athletes who placed in individual events are senior Owen Rhodes, who placed third in 50 yard freestyle; Anna Little, who placed second in 50 yard freestyle and third in the 100 yard freestyle; and Mara Berry, who placed second in the 100 yard backstroke.

What it takes to letter for varsity

By Kylee Edney

Ever wonder how other sports members earn a varsity letter?

There are specific rules for each sport, created by the Athletic Council many years ago, which determine how players letter, but it also can partially be up to the coach’s discretion.

For example, to letter for swim the swimmer has to earn a minimum of 20 points.

These points are earned by placing at meets.

Wrestlers can earn a varsity letter by wrestling half of their matches. Bowlers letter by bowling half of their matches. Basket-

ball players letter by playing half of the quarters.

Cheerleaders letter by cheering at half of the varsity games.

“It can’t always be black and white. It’s important that the coach has a little bit of say in who letters,” Athletic Director Josh Schlotterer said.

Schlotterer added that there is a new award that athletes can earn.

The Trucker Pride award is awarded to seniors who have played 12 or more sports all four years of high school (three or more per year). This award isn’t only for varsity players, it’s for participation in the sport.

Academic and athletic all in one

By Alayna Warren

Norwalk High School holds many talented students. Nothing stands out more than a student who is not only academically smart but also involved in many sports and activities.

Senior Bethany Cring is just that. Born on Feb. 9, 2000, Cring has done nothing but keep herself busy while also enjoying herself through it all.

Although it seems unusual, Cring is a four-sport athlete.

Cring manages golf and cross country in the fall, basketball in the winter and track in the spring.

She’s been a golfer since freshman year, a cross country and track runner since seventh grade and a basketball player since fifth grade.

She said her favorite sport is either cross country or basketball.

“I love running, and it’s all about how much work you personally put into it,” Cring said about cross country.

When questioned why she liked basketball, she instantly smiled.

“I really love my team’s atmosphere. I’ve grown up with these girls so they’re all basically sisters,” she said.

If she isn’t playing sports, Cring is relaxing with family, running, eating or working with her cows for fair.

Another interesting thing about Cring is that she has been playing the violin since sixth grade.

“The violin seemed like it would be fun to do, so I joined orchestra and have enjoyed it since,” she said.

Cring is part of National Honor Society and Teen Leadership Corps.

While being part of TLC, Cring has helped students at Pleasant Street Elementary with reading, socialized in the MH room, and eaten lunch at the Carriage House with senior citizens.

On Sundays, Cring teaches Sunday school to the first, second

and third graders and sometimes the high school group. She also enjoys putting on a Vacation Bible School for her church.

Some of Cring’s favorite hobbies are painting with her dad or doing hair, usually her younger sister’s.

Kayla Cring is a freshman who likes her big sister.

“It’s fun having a sister around. We do a lot together and it’s nice playing basketball with her. She has a big future ahead of her,” Kayla Cring said.

Cring’s plan for college is to go to North Central State for two years through the Tuition Freedom Program to save a lot of money. She wants to get her associate’s degree in education and then transfer to Cedarville University to get her bachelor’s degree in childhood education.

How does she picture herself in 10 years?

“I hope to be financially stable while teaching fourth graders language arts and math. I would like



Photo by Sophie Ward
Senior Bethany Cring takes on the Edison Chargers at a home game on Jan. 30.

to begin to start a family,” Cring said.

Winter sports and their midseason round-up

By Beth Stockmaster

Records accurate as of press time on Feb. 8.

Boys’ Basketball with Coach Steve Gray. Record- (10-7). They are half a game out of first place in the SBC. “Our goal is to

win the SBC title,” the coach said.

Girls’ Basketball with Coach Brock Manlet. Record- (15-3). They stand in second place for the SBC. “Games are tough but hopefully we win more than we lose and also win the SBC title,” the coach said.

The girls placed third at the SBC swim meet and the boys placed sixth. “As the season winds down I expect our swimmers to all reach their personal best times. We take all swimmers we can to sectionals with the goal being to move on to districts. Those that don’t make it on to districts will still gain invaluable experience at a big meet,” the coach said.

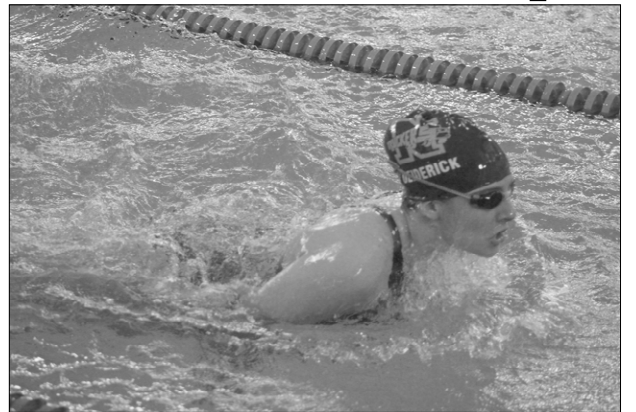


Photo by Olivia Schaffer
Senior Maddie Deiderick swims at the SBC meet on Jan. 13.

Boys’ Bowling with Coach John Wade. Record-(9-4) They stand second in the SBC. “We have two matches left striving to end with a record of 12-4 and we hope to make it to districts. Also senior Chris Tuttle is leading in the SBC with a score of 206,” the coach said.

Girls’ Bowling with Coach Ray Scheid. Record (6-7). They stand 4th in the SBC. “We have a good chance to win the last two league matches which could help move us up in the season. We are looking to have a good outing in sectionals Feb. 24,” the coach said.



Photo by Paige Maurer
Boys’ basketball takes on Tiffin Columbian at a home game on Jan. 16.

Wrestling with Coach Frank Staley. Record- (11-3). “There are no SBC standings for wrestling but for their tournament they should be in the top three,” the coach said.

Girls’ and Boys’ Swim with Coach Erin Smetzer.

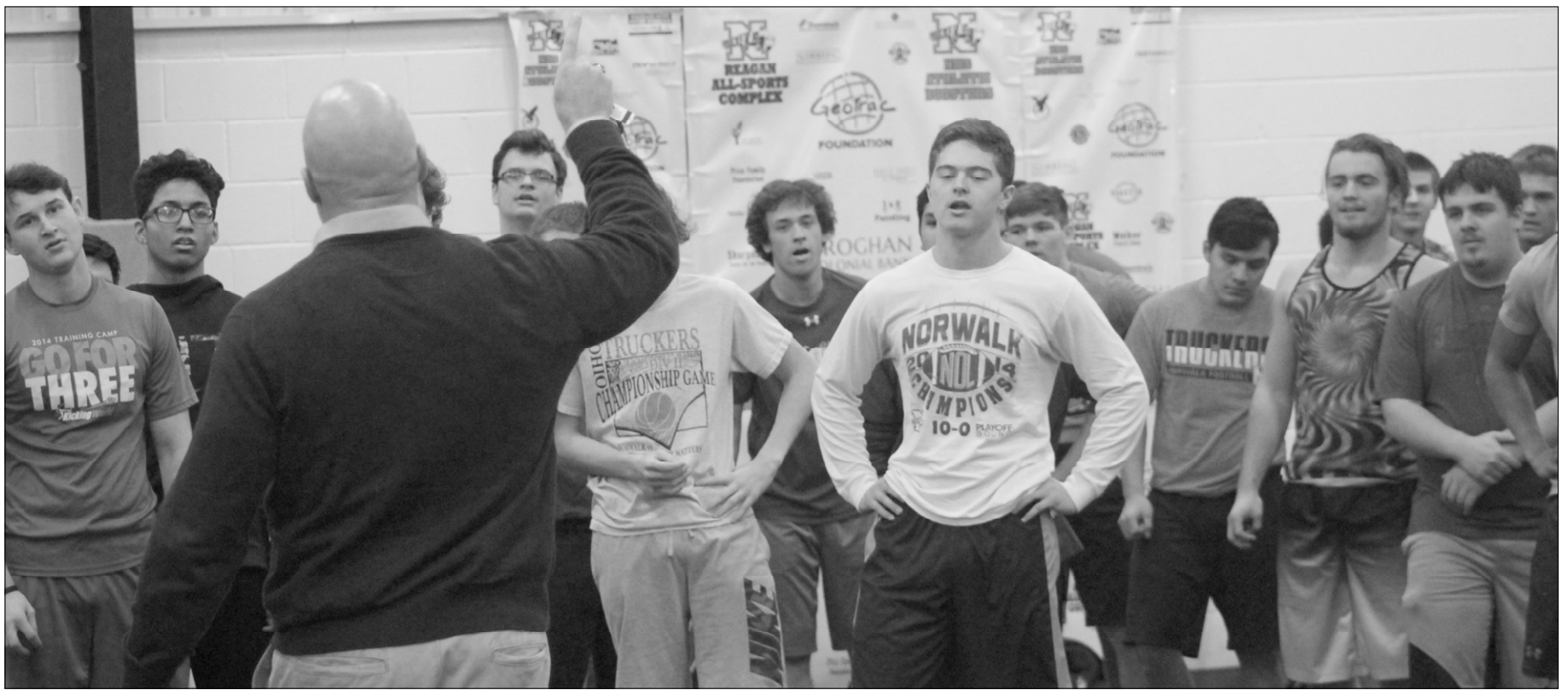


Photo by Beth Stockmaster

Assistant Coach Steve Andres helps coach the football players while the search is still on for a new head coach.

Andres steps up to help

By Beth Stockmaster

While Norwalk High School has been searching for a new head football coach, assistant coach Steve Andres has stepped up to work with the players.

Andres said he just makes sure all the players are at lifting every day and if they are not there, he finds out where they are. He is accountable for the players. Andres said he did apply for head coach position, and would

like to continue coaching even if he is not the head coach. "I put together a small committee to help me make this tough decision," Athletic Director Josh Schlotterer said. This committee includes Principal Brad Cooley and Superintendent George Fisk.

Twenty-eight people applied for the head coach position. Of those, six were brought in for interviews and four came back for second interviews, Schlotterer said.

Support shown for Gray

By Paige Maurer

Parents, students and cheerleaders showed their support for Coach Steve Gray with a "gray out" during the basketball game on Jan. 16, as well as showing support at a school board meeting earlier that month.

"It meant a lot to me and my family," said Gray about the support from the fans.

Coach Gray also celebrated his 400th win Jan. 16.

At a board meeting Jan. 9, two parents accused Coach Gray of disrespecting their sons. One said her son was assaulted.

Social studies teacher and junior varsity coach Nick Lee and a number of players came to the meeting to support Gray.

"We need to have each other's backs, not stab each other's backs," Lee said.

Senior basketball player Andrew Ehrenberg went to the meeting to support Gray. He said that when he heard what was going on, he knew it wasn't true.

"Coach Gray is a good coach and a good guy. He's really funny," Ehrenberg said.



Photo by Paige Maurer

The student section (above) wears grey during the boys basketball game in support of Coach Steve Gray.

Senior basketball player Matt Neuberger attended the meeting as well to support Coach Gray.

Neuberger said that Gray is a great coach.

Sports Opinion:

Coaches create character



By Alayna Warren

At the beginning of any sports season, parents, coaches and athletes have a meeting. They discuss the season as a whole, the rules and policies to follow and, most importantly, the expectations.

As for the athletes, we're expected to respect those around us, show up on time, give it our all, make appropriate sacrifices for the good of the team, set goals and conquer challenges, maintain high academic standards, and be fully committed to the sport.

Coaching, I'm sure, is not easy. Many coaches are juggling another job as well. Being an athlete, I know that coaches can get stressed, irritated, tired, and at times, they just want to give up.

But it's the coaches who take a deep breath, deal with the stress, yet still see the good in each player.

The goal of a coach is not only to have a winning record, but to develop each athlete into a better person along the way.

Athletes expect a lot from their coaches. We expect them to be understanding, encouraging, give criticism and feedback and go outside of the sport to bring their own personal elements of life to better us as not only their players, but as young adults.

Athletes won't always agree with their coaches and they won't always see eye-to-eye. Coaches will, at some point, make decisions or say things that players don't like. They'll say things that target an individual player, they may criticize your every move, but a good coach will do all these things because they know your potential and they see the good in you that you may not see in yourself.

At the start of the season, you set goals that you want to accomplish, whether it is a personal goal or a team goal. As long as you set your mind to it, there is

no reason that anyone or anything can get in the way. There is no one to blame but yourself for not reaching your goal. There might be bumps in the road, but you have to be strong enough to overcome them.

A good coach will let you play the game, or wrestle the match, bowl the ball, swim the laps, or run the race just because they feel obligated and it's "fair," but a great coach will make you work for it.

Whether you believe it or not, your coaches are probably your number one fan. They know you better than anyone else. They're your sense of security. They're your cheerleader. They know your talent; they know what you have to offer. When they get mad at you, don't take it personally. Just know that they believe in you. They strive to make you see what you can be, rather than what you are.

One day, you'll proba-

bly look back and regret the chances you didn't take or you didn't get to say what you wanted to say. You'll miss playing your sport, you'll miss the laughs with your teammates and coaches. You're going to want to relive another Friday night game with the student section and the music and the announcement of your name. You're going to want to put on that uniform just one last time. Don't take for granted the four years of high school sports. It's more than just a game or a race or a meet. It's creating everlasting bonds with teammates and coaches. And just remember this: Even if you think that your coaches didn't leave an impact on your life, just know that you left one on theirs.



Spirit Week

Pajama day



Photo by Beth Stockmaster
Junior Trevon Raymore wore his pajamas for pajama day during spirit week.



Photo by Beth Stockmaster
Seniors Adrianna Mock and Becca Norman posed during pajama day for spirit week.

Team Tuesday



Photo by Sophie Ward
(Left to right) back row: Sophomore Justin Sommers, senior Eric Hull, sophomore Zac Keefer, sophomore Jad Oglesby, sophomore Dylan Rickert, sophomore Josh Neuberger. Front (left to right): Sophomore Carter Kluding, sophomore Mitchell Sommers, Ethan Hernandez all pose for Team Tuesday.

Wacky Wednesday



Photo by Debbie Leffler
Sophomore Krystion Stephens dressed as a cowgirl for Wacky Wednesday.

Throwback Thursday



Photo by Brenna Mock
Sophomore Colin Bement and senior Ryan Schaffer pose together while in their Throwback Thursday clothes.

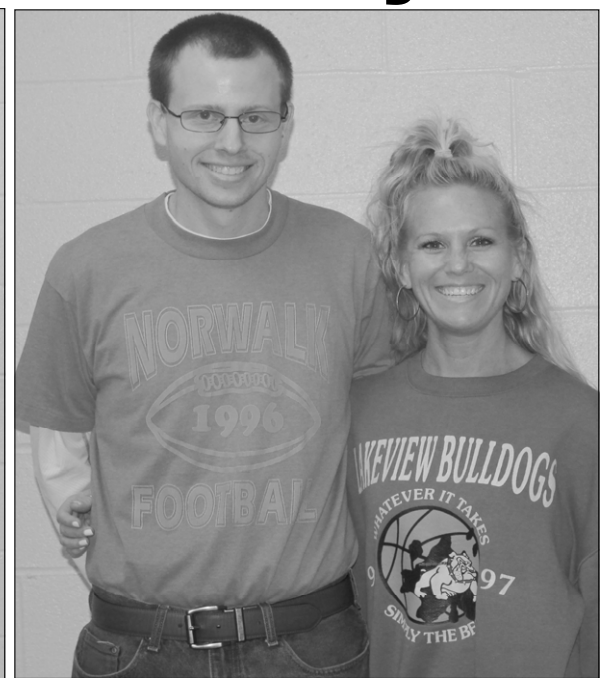


Photo by Lacey Tatum
Math teachers Chris Higgins and Allison Sellers pose for a picture in their "Throwback" wear during "Throwback Thursday."

Pep assembly band

Pep assembly tug of war



Photo by Kristina Toczek
Students gather around to watch the senior class participate in tug of war during the spirit week pep assembly on Jan. 26.



Photo by Sophie Ward
Will Kish directs the Norwalk High School band during the pep assembly on Jan. 26.

Door decorating



Photo by Paige Maurer
Tracy VanBuskirk's Trucker Time class decorated her door during spirit week.



Photo by Kamryn Guerrier
Nancy Gfell's Trucker Time class dressed her door.

Boys' volleyball game

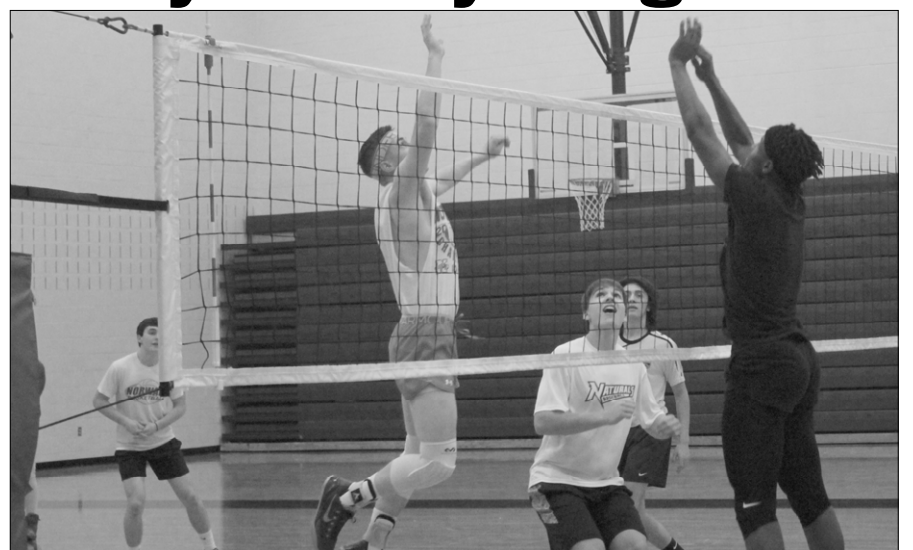


Photo by Gabrielle Horowitz
Senior Jake Roth and junior Brandon Haraway go up against each other to hit the ball. In the back of the court, senior Matt Neuberger is running up to help. Senior Austin Christman is getting ready to jump to help block. Senior Petie Adamos is waiting to see where the ball will go. In the end, the seniors won by two points.