



PAUL BLART
MALL COP 2

STUDENT’S
OPINION ON
SEQUEL TO ICONIC
FILM FROM 2009



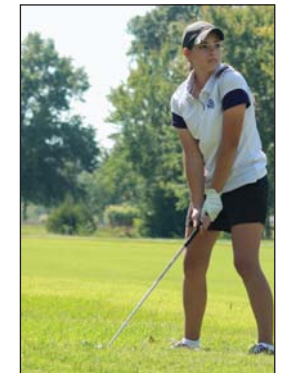
A PLACE OF
THEIR OWN

STUDENTS
OVERCOME
DIFFICULT LIVING
ARRANGEMENTS



A NEW DRIVING
FORCE

PACKARD STEPS
UP AS NEW GIRLS
GOLF COACH



Close to the net, senior Nick Powers uses quick footwork to move to a ball during a doubles match with his partner, senior Micah Hashman. Powers and Hashman also attended state last year. "Our success is due to our coaches and our team chemistry," Powers said PHOTO BY MIRANDA MOORE



Reaching out, senior Adrian McAfee moves across the court to continue a volley off of a serve at the Parsons tournament on April 17, in which he placed first. PHOTO BY MIRANDA MOORE

HISTORIC RANK

Seniors lead tennis team to highest ever state ranking

MORGAN PLANK
@momoplank

Being ranked in the state is nothing new for the boys tennis team. This year, the team is reaching new heights by, currently, being ranked third, the highest in school history. "It feels really good being ranked in the state for tennis because we've worked extremely hard as a team. [We have dedicated] so much of our life to tennis and improving ourselves," junior Logan Benham said. "Every day at practice the team puts everything aside and we focus on playing tennis."

Benham has high expectations for his team and himself this season, which includes a personal goal of a top five finish in the state and a team goal of a top three finish in the state. Not only does Benham have high aspirations, but so does the rest of the team. "After placing sixth at state last year, we really had a good idea of where we were at, and where we needed to get to in order to achieve our goals," senior Adrian McAfee said. "I really want our team to place in the top three in the state, I think we've really worked hard for it these past few years. We're all much more experienced now and know what it takes to win."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2D

MATHEW EARNS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

JOSHUA LEE
@iAmTheJoshLee

After hours of study and hard work, Mathew's performance on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) has paid off. Though it has taken over a year to finalize, Mathew has received the National Merit Scholarship that he can direct to a college of his choice. One of 2,500 students who received the \$2,500 scholarship, Mathew believes that all of his hard work was worth it.

"I think that the scholarship itself is very valuable, but I think it has a lot more meaning, personally, to me," Mathew said. "I take pride in going above and beyond to make sure I can perform at the highest of my ability, and I think that just getting this award is validation that these efforts are worth it." And the efforts that Mathew had put into preparing for the PSAT are efforts that not many students make. Before taking the PSAT, Mathew had taken at least 10 practice tests, as well as studying to ensure that he knew the material that would be presented on the test. "I usually took my practice tests on the weekends, and because the test is around three hours, I made sure to dedicate my weekend mornings on the test and I would spend the afternoon just going every single question I missed, making sure why I missed it, and making sure that if I were to see that type of question again, I wouldn't miss it," Mathew said.

But Mathew was only able to set a high goal for the PSAT and excel in his performance on the test because he knew beforehand about the potential scholarship that would be in store.

"I wanted to make sure I knew what I was getting myself into when I was taking the PSAT, and I knew my sister, Nina, she had some experience with the PSAT and she told me about the National Merit Scholarship," Mathew said. "I'm glad she told me about it, because that's what really drove me to study really, really hard for it. While others were thinking that the test was just practice, I was focusing on it like a very big exam."

When principal Jon Bishop received the news about Mathew's accolade, he was delighted. "[Proud] would be an understatement," Bishop said. "Any time you get any students to that level, the National Merit Scholar, you've got someone who's scored extremely high ACT scores, they obviously... do well in the classrooms, and more than likely, they are very good leaders."

Bishop occasionally encounters students like Mathew, but he believes that Mathew is, above all, a well-balanced student.

"It's very humbling for me to know that there is a student who is taking his studies seriously, who excels, [and] has gone above and beyond," Bishop said. "[Mathew] is one of those special students that does come up every once in a while. Knowing Joseph, he's just not all about academics. He's also a good person, he's a good citizen, he gives back, and he's just a very well-rounded individual."

STUDENT SPENDING SUMMER IN JAPAN

Annie Cortes receives Okinawa Peace Scholarship

MADDIE BADEN
@MaddieBaden

On June 14, sophomore Annie Cortes will leave her family, friends and country behind for the opportunity to experience the culture and everyday routine in Japan for one month. Cortes applied for the Okinawa

Peace Scholarship through the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA) program and the Kikkoman corporation, which sponsored the opportunity. "I heard about it from a friend," Cortes said. "I applied for two scholarships, one for FCCCLA and one to go to [Japan], and I

received the one to [Japan]." To be in the running for the Okinawa Peace scholarship Cortes had to write several different essays explaining why she wants to go and what her whole purpose in going is going to be. "Recipients also have to agree to present, either at a state meeting or a national meeting," FCCCLA sponsor Susie Dalton said. "They could also do any kind of leadership opportunity that FCCCLA would ask them to do."

For Cortes, Japan will not be a difficult country to adapt to. She lived there before and grew up around different cultures; her mother is fluent in four different languages, Japanese being one of them.

"I get to go to Japan and experience it once again. I lived there when I was three, and I want to have a more recent experience there," Cortes said. "Some of my first memories are there, even though they are very small and faint. My family loves Japan, and I have grown up with that love and interest around me."

Cortes will begin her trip with a 12 to 13 hour plane ride to Tokyo. When she arrives, she will undergo orientation for a couple of days in order to learn how to adapt to different country with a different language.

After orientation is completed, she will arrive in the southern island of Okinawa, which she will remain in for the rest of the month.

"For the first couple of weeks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2D



Sophomore Annie Cortes will travel to Japan during the summer. PHOTO BY MEGAN SMITH

SPRING FLING EVENTS TO LOOK FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

- 11 a.m. - Lunch Cookout
- 12 p.m. - Talent Show
- 1:30ish p.m. - Iron Man Volleyball
- Senior Brick Painting begins
- 6 p.m. - Powderpuff Football at Hutchinson Field

SEE PAGE 2 FOR STORY

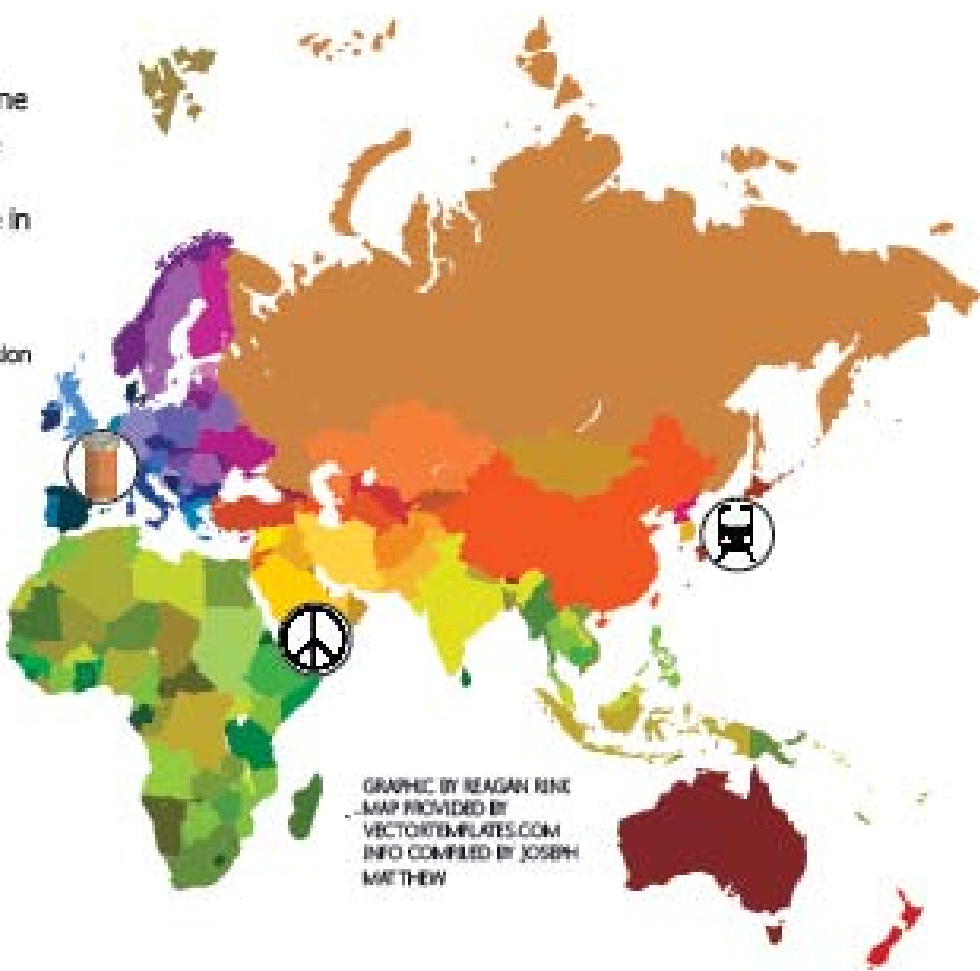
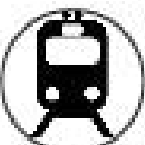
FRENCH DRUG BUST: On April 19, French authorities seized more than 2 tons of cocaine from a sailboat in the Caribbean. Officials arrested one Venezuelan and two Spanish citizens who were aboard the boat at the time. This is the largest cocaine seizure in the history of France. The value of the drugs is estimated to be \$105 million.



YEMEN PEACE TALKS: On April 21, Saudi Arabia ended Operation Decisive Storm—its monthlong bombing campaign in Yemen against the Houthi rebels. The Houthi rebels, which are supported by Iran, recently overthrew the Yemeni government, driving the country into a civil war. The Saudi-led coalition have introduced a new mission, Operation Renewal of Hope, to focus on protecting civilians, restoring the original Yemeni government, and preventing Houthis from operating.



JAPANESE MAGLEV RECORD: Also on April 21, a maglev train from Japan Railway reached 341 mph, traveling 1.1 mi in 10.8 seconds on an experimental track and decisively setting a new land record in the process. By contrast, the fastest train in the United States can travel only 150 mph. Maglev trains use magnets to push the train away from the tracks and allow for frictionless movement.



FLAGS FLY FOR FOOTBALL

Band brings back color guard

MEGHAN BAKER
@MeghanBaker11
Spinning a flag to the marching band music is what sophomore Tatum McManis hopes to be doing next year. “I hope to meet new people and gain new experiences,” McManis said. “I am looking forward to working with a lot of my friends and a lot of new people that I have been meeting at school.”
After three years of teaching band, band teacher Cooper Neil has decided to bring back color guard. “Color guard was in place the first year that I came here and we just were not ready to keep that on board,” Neil said. “Then sophomore Megan Munger came along and has been twirling really well, is super organized and thought it would be a great idea to add that back to the band, and I think it’s time as well.”
Even though Munger is going to help with color guard, she is not going to be participating in color guard. “I’m not stepping

down from being the feature twirler, I am just going to be assisting and managing color guard,” Munger said.
The color guard clinic will be Monday, May 18 and Wednesday, May 20. Color guard choreographer Valeska Lauderdale will teach a routine to the fight song on that Monday for tryouts.
Then, on Wednesday, the students trying out will get a flag sent home with them to practice. “I am excited to get more students involved with the marching band. Color Guard is a great opportunity for students that are interested in movement and dance to become a part of the band,” Neil said. “I hope that we have a good group of students come to tryouts.”
“I would just encourage anyone that is interested in trying out for color guard to come visit me,” Neil said. “No experience necessary, just if you’re interested being on the football field and being in the parades with the band.”

CALCULATING COASTERS

Math club students apply math skills at first visit to Silver Dollar City’s Math and Science Day

MEGHAN BAKER
@MeghanBaker11
Math Club had the opportunity to travel to Silver Dollar City on Apr. 9 after discovering Math and Science Day. Math and Science Day is an event held at Silver Dollar City where students participate in hands-on activities developed by qualified secondary teachers. The lessons involve concepts in math and science that apply to the park.
“It is mostly learning about math and the physics behind roller coasters,” senior David Su said. Students were given a work booklet that they used at six roller coaster stations where they either timed or measured variables. Then they calculated missing

variables and learned about the forces of roller coasters. After doing the stations, students were allowed to have free time at the park.
“We did a couple stations then we just got to have fun,” senior Bill Lackamp said. Math Club members Su, Lackamp and senior Joseph Mathew, along with freshman Gina Mathew attended the

event. They raised money at basketball games in the previous semester for the trip. They also held a 50/50 raffle three months in advance to earn money. Math Club sponsor Rashell Yockey thought the trip would allow the students to have fun while learning about roller coasters and the different forces exerted on the rides. “It is a great way to apply what kids are learning here

in math and physics to the real world, and different avenues of business as well,” Yockey said. Compared to previous years, where Math Club has only participated in Pi Day and Math Relays, the members thought this was a notable experience. “This is pretty big for Math Club,” Lackamp said. “It is the farthest we have ever traveled.”
Yockey believes the students enjoyed getting to know each other better, making memories and applying their math knowledge to the real world. As long as the program still exists, Math Club plans on attending the Silver Dollar City event in the future as well.

“IT IS A GREAT WAY TO APPLY WHAT KIDS ARE LEARNING HERE IN MATH AND PHYSICS TO THE REAL WORLD.”
-RASHELL YOCKEY

WEATHER CONFLICTS LEAD TO SHIFT IN SPRING FLING SCHEDULE

MADDIE BADEN
@MaddieBaden
Spring Fling is quickly approaching. However, due to many changes, Spring Fling will be conducted somewhat differently this year. Without the community-wide cleanup, Iron Man and Powderpuff will be held during Spring Fling. “There have been a few changes made for unique circumstances this year,” said Miranda Moore, Student Government Executive Vice President. “In the past, students have helped with the community-

wide cleanup in the morning. However, with a joint agreement between the district and city, that will not be happening this year.”
With bad weather and scheduling mishaps, other events have caused alterations in the typical springtime schedule. “Powderpuff football was canceled during fall homecoming due to weather. Winter homecoming’s Iron Man [volleyball] was moved because of conflicting events, so both of these [events] will be incorporated into the day as well,” Moore said. Spring Fling will be April 29. It will be

a day of activities to display talent, play games, and compete against other grade levels. “Spring Fling is a field day for [teenagers]. Everyone’s done with testing [and] it’s right before graduation,” said Sam Warren, Student Government sponsor. Students will have shortened classes in the morning. The school will provide a cook-out lunch at 11:00 a.m. and the talent show will start at noon. Afterward, Iron Man will be held in the gymnasium while other activities ensue.

Also at this time, senior brick painting will take place. Seniors who have signed up for a brick of their choice may begin painting. Powderpuff Football will be held at 6:00 PM at Hutchinson Field. “The Powderpuff and Iron Man games have always been associated with homecoming weeks,” Warren said. “We’ll see if it is better to have it during Spring Fling or if we should keep it on the original homecoming weeks. This is a trial run to see where in the year these activities should be placed.”

HISTORIC RANK SEALED BY SENIORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1D:
Work ethic and determination are what sets this team above the rest, according to head coach John Seal. “This team by far outworks any team I have had, they will never give in,” Seal said.
In order to increase their level of play and better prepare themselves for the season, the team put in many hours during the off season practicing. “We’ve all worked extremely hard. Our assistant coach Jack Johnson has had us practicing almost every day during the summer and throughout the winter,” McAfee said.
Benham spent his off season participating in tournaments through USTA (United States Tennis Association). “I traveled around the country playing very good players to get better match play and improve my overall attitude and confidence,” Benham said.
The team is returning several veteran players with years of experience at this level, in addition to a few new members. “[Junior] Logan Benham, [seniors] Micah Hashman, Nick Powers and Adrian McAfee are All-Staters and are easy to pick out because of their high level of play. [Senior] Zach Dee and

[junior] Dante Menghini have shown great promise.” This is Menghini’s first season playing tennis and, although being new to the game, he has already secured a varsity spot. “It’s awesome to be able to practice everyday with some of the best players in the state. I don’t know nearly as much as they do about the sport, but I’m still learning everyday,” Menghini said. “I hope that I can continue to improve my play and become a better player for my teammates. As a team, I hope to see my teammates make it to state.”
Benham believes the key to being successful as a team is having the right attitude and sharing a close bond with one another. “I think the tennis team is so successful because we all have a very good mindset to exceed the next best guy and our bond is unlike any other team out there,” Benham said. “After spending years during the season and offseason training with each other, seeing our weakest points and strongest, we’ve only bonded stronger and harder together.”
With this being McAfee’s last season, he wants to make his final tournaments count. “It’s been an amazing ride,” McAfee said. “Knowing that these are my last few tournaments that I’ll play for PHS just really increases my desire to finish strong.”

“THIS TEAM BY FAR OUTWORKS ANY TEAM I HAVE HAD, THEY WILL NEVER GIVE IN.”
-JOHN SEAL

STUDENT SAYS SAYONARA TO KANSAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1D:
[the Japanese students] will still be in school. They go until June, so I will be going to school,” Cortes said. “Afterwards, I am going to [do cultural aspects] with my host family.”
Dalton believes that this experience will be a way to broaden Cortes’ horizons and help her in her career preparation. “I hope she gets an opportunity to experience, not only the different culture, but the opportunity to go to school. She will get to see what school life is like [there]. She will also have the opportunity to experience different kinds of foods,” Dalton said. “She has done a star event on food innovation, which she qualified for state with. It will be a great opportunity for her to experience that and bring back the culture, even to our high school, and share it.”
Cortes is ecstatic that she received this scholarship, partly because it was her very first one to accept, and partly to know how a different culture functions. “[This experience helps] me get a new language under my belt and [helps me decide] if I want to do further education there,” Cortes said. “It gives me an idea of what I want to do in the future and also [gives me] experience.”

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STOP CALLING WOMEN SLUTS

Society inflicts double standard on females

TRINA PAUL
@trpaul1998

Slut. According to dictionary.com, a slut is an immoral or dissolute woman. In layman's terms, a sexually active woman.

This word runs rampant across high schools everywhere and is used by both genders.

The word slut isn't a new word by any means, it's been used since the fifteenth century to describe a "promiscuous woman". In today's world, however, it's used commonly between female friends, sometimes even as a term of endearment. I'm pleased that we've taken the power from such a word, but that doesn't destroy the initial intention for using it. To shame women for being sexually active.

What's most problematic about the use of it, is that men are praised for having an active sex life while women are not. Men are considered "players", while women are "whores" or "sluts".

It troubles me most that slut shaming circulates most among girls. A study by researchers at McMaster University sought to find out how females react to a rival.

A woman, chosen by researchers, was sometimes dressed in a tee and jeans, while other times dressed in a low-cut blouse and short skirt. Bystanding women reacted with hostility when she was wearing the more revealing outfit but paid little attention to her when she was wearing a tee and jeans.

Even female celebrities are responsible for perpetuating this act of shaming.

Rashida Jones was caught tweeting "This week's celeb takeaway: who comes showing her vagina #stopact-2013. females ment trayed Are provoca-like Cyrus considered objectify-Some sexual-of celebs Cyrus form of ment, while consider it a way for women to reclaim their sexuality and their body. Whether you believe



ART BY ALLIE FORESMAN

She closest to the actual inside of is most popular. inglikewhores" in Jones's opinion on in the entertain- industry only por- half of the picture. the images of more tive celebrities Beyonce, Miley or Nicki Minaj empowering or ing to women? believe the ized nature like Miley is not a empower- others

women are demeaning themselves or liberating themselves by baring it all, the actions taken by celebrities that support gender equality should be recognized, regardless of their sexual image.

We should support those female celebrities that voice concerns about gender inequality and advocate for change in society. In that sense, Beyonce has set a standard for females in the entertainment industry. She has been in the spotlight for her barely there outfits and erotic music videos. However, she has contributed to a campaign that encourages leadership in young girls and still remains vocal about salary disparities between genders in the workplace.

As an audience that solely views these female figures on outlets like television, magazines, or social media, we are incapable of knowing whether dressing in sheer outfits or lingerie is for the gaze of male viewers or for freedom of sexual expression.

So before you judge those around you for what skin they are showing or what skin they are not showing, stop. You have no insight into their motivations for wearing the clothes they are.

We should not regard slut shaming as simply an inherent part of society.

Both sexes can diminish slut shaming by not forming judgements about what women or girls chose to wear or do sexually.

It's time we took responsibility for the environment we've created regarding our bodies. And it starts now.

STANDING UP FOR EDUCATION

Mathew makes a statement to Governor Brownback

JOSEPH MATHEW
@jmath06

When I had completed my application for the Kansas Governor's Scholar program, I did so with the hope that I would eventually be named a Governor's Scholar. I wanted to attend the award ceremony in Topeka and shake Governor Sam Brownback's hand.

Then I learned about Brownback's block grants.

I first learned about these block grants through social media. As I delved deeper into the matter, I became more horrified by their implications for my school district. By now, I'm sure you know about these implications. If not, be sure to look Senate Bill 7 up later.

For those unfamiliar, the Governor's Scholar program is a recognition program sponsored by the Kansas Department of Education. It honors the high school seniors in the top one percent.

As it turned out, I ended up being accepted. But when I received my ceremonial invitation in the mail, I felt a twinge of cynicism.

According to Governor Brownback's letter, "While the world keeps evolving... one thing that remains constant is the benefit of education."

For obvious reasons, the irony of this statement irked me.

By now, some of you might be wondering, 'why is he making such a big deal out of this?'

After all, I could just accept the award. I could listen to the revered Governor Brownback espouse the advantages of education in the Sunflower State, shake his hand, smile for the camera, and walk off the stage with certificate in hand and tail between legs.

Normally, I would do this. However, I felt compelled to take a stance in this instance.

Even though I may not be an expert in political activism, I hope that this act can shine a light on how Brownback's policies are ultimately eroding the local communities in which you and I both live.

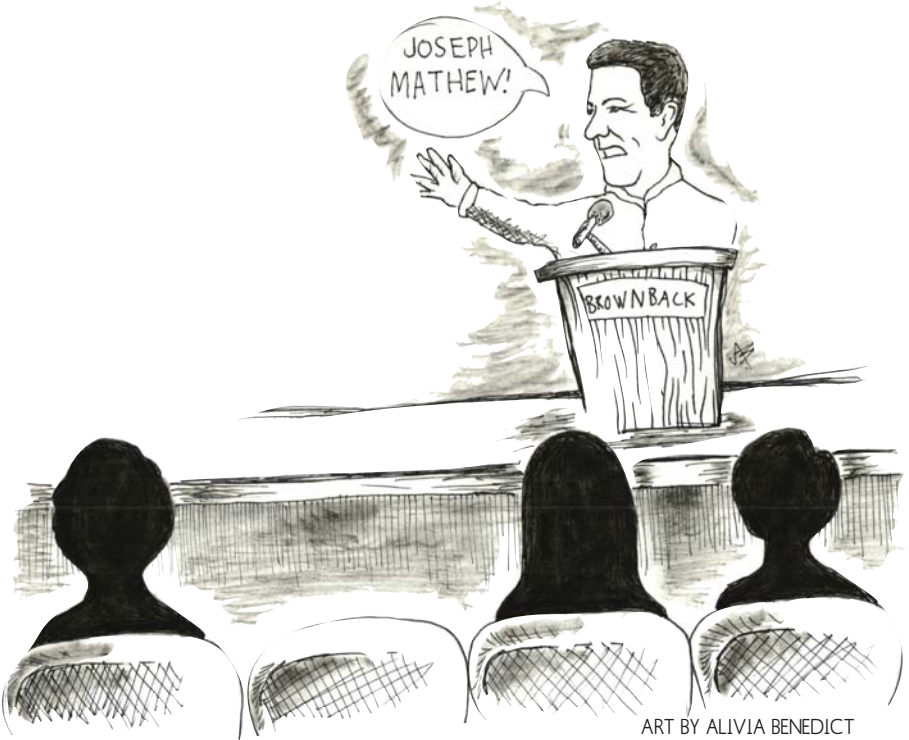
Grassroots opposition to these policies will never occur if we pretend like they aren't having a real impact on the way we conduct our daily lives.

At the end of it all, am I proud to be part of the top 1% of graduating high school seniors in Kansas? Definitely.

Am I proud to have been named a Governor's Scholar? That's debatable.

So no, I won't be formally recognized as a Governor's Scholar. But in light of recent events, maybe that won't be such a bad thing after all.

When they call my name at the ceremony in Topeka on May 3, and Brownback is left standing on stage with my certificate, waiting awkwardly for a student who won't be coming, I hope my somewhat minor jab will be able to leave its mark on our esteemed governor.



ART BY ALIVIA BENEDICT

STAFF EDITORIAL:

Money doesn't limit experience

THE BOOSTER REDUX STAFF
@PHSStudentPub

Socioeconomic status is always a prominent part of society, no matter what occasion or environment it happens to involve.

Although in many circumstances socioeconomic status gives way to student judgement and isolation, from current staff members' experiences they had in other schools and districts, the perceived socioeconomic class division is not as prominent at the high school as it is at high schools in our surrounding area.

Because of the numerous clubs, organizations and extracurricular activities, the high school has become a salad bowl of all different socioeconomic groups.

We feel that through different avenues of unique opportunities at the high school such as Magic Club, archery, Army STAR Club and the guitar club, individuals are more inclined to be involved and are more accepted for the talent and character they bring to the table. We do not believe that students are excluded because of what kind of clothing they wear or the type of family they come from.

Sports and clubs are also a way for students to interact with other students they would not normally on a day-to-day basis. These activities eliminate the economic barriers and give participants a common ground.

In addition, what would normally be considered socioeconomic barriers are broken by the school's effort to minimize them. The school is not blind to those who are in need of assistance.

Students who have trouble finding clothes to wear have access to a closet of clothes that the school has put together. The district gives beds to students who do not have one to sleep on and there are teachers at the high school who are willing to reach out to students to provide them with a place to stay.

Because of the accepting environment cultivated at the high school, school and extracurricular activities become a more enjoyable experience for students.

The high school is a force that centralizes friendships and creates a positive atmosphere that encourages participation and is not limited by financial status.

MOLLY'S CHOICE:

A student's perspective on the abortion debate

MOLLY GRAHAM
@mollygraham

I have known that I am pro-choice since I was in the fifth grade.

I came to that realization during the time that Barack Obama and John McCain were campaigning, and people at my old school were choosing the republican side because Obama "killed babies".

After hearing some of my classmates say this, I asked my grandpa, who is the smartest man I know, if it was true. He explained to me that Obama did not "kill babies", but thought women had the right to choose what they do with their bodies, their pregnancies and themselves.

My grandpa told me that he was pro-choice, and at the time I decided that I would be, too, because my favorite man in the world was.

But as I got older, I realized that being pro-choice was the best decision.

From then on I was always sure to tell people that I was pro-choice, that I thought women had the right to choose, whatever the choice may happen to be.

Now I am a junior in high school.

And, since the fifth grade, I have had time to fully learn what abortion is, what it means to be and what the exact difference is between pro-life and pro-choice.

Most importantly, I have learned that I am a proud, outspoken, hard-headed feminist, because feminism is the idea of equality, however it is also the idea that

anything to help the 397,122 children who are in foster care (Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute).

A majority of these people do nothing to help the 15.8 million children who do not have a steady food income (Feeding America).

A few weeks ago, Governor Sam Brownback signed the nation's first statewide bill banning abortions against second-term pregnancy.

I personally do not think that a man who will never have to be pregnant, a man who will never have to make the decision for himself to or to not terminate a pregnancy, should make this decision for women all over Kansas.

While I think that a woman should have an idea on whether or not she is going to have an abortion by the time she reaches her second trimester, it is not my place to tell a woman that she cannot have an abortion at any point in time.

Ultimately, I believe that no one should be making this decision for anyone but themselves.

I believe that a woman knows herself, her capabilities, more than another person does.

IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO TELL A WOMAN THAT SHE CANNOT HAVE AN ABORTION AT ANY POINT IN TIME.

- MOLLY GRAHAM

each woman has their own choice.

I have come to learn that most people who call themselves "pro-life" should really start calling themselves "pro-fetus". These "pro-life" people do not care about the child after it is born.

Because, really, a majority of the people who call themselves "pro-life" do not do anything to help the 34 percent of homeless youth in America (dosomething.org). These people do not do

FINISH HIM

Mortal Kombat X takes the stage with new fatalities

JOSH JARVIS
@jjjarvis52

For as long as I have been able, I played Mortal Kombat games whether I was of age or not. I played the original on Super Nintendo and I played the last Mortal Kombat on Xbox 360.

Now, on Xbox One, Mortal Kombat X (MKX) is better than each of its predecessors.

The first thing I noticed, as usual, were the graphics.

These graphics look fantastic.

The movement and fighting animations look as polished as ever. Each punch, kick and grapple is delivered with a purpose. Every combo is crisp and deadly, while the walking, running and jumping animations are smooth and seamless.

The mature content in the MK franchise is why I started playing the games as a kid (though I didn't tell my parents).

In MKX, the fatalities and x-rays are gruesome. And wonderful. It's exactly what I wanted and expected from the next generation of Mortal Kombat. They look just as realistic as the komatants that use them.

Each one of the 24 komatants looks spectacular. It really seems like NeatherRealm Studios took its time with the design of the komatants. Kotal Khan, the Outworld emperor, looks frighteningly impressive with his enormous figure, his illuminating tattoos and his exotic headdress.

The roster in MKX is packed with exciting new komatants, some being unrelated to anyone in previous games and others being



Courtesy Photo

the inexperienced children of previous komatants, like Cassie Cage, the daughter of Johnny Cage and Sonya Blade.

These new komatants are fun and interesting, adding variation to the redesigned series favorites like Sub-Zero and Scorpion.

Speaking of variations, each komatant now has three different fighting styles that changes the skillset that each komatant brings into battle. I really enjoy this feature because it seems to add more customization and personal preference to the MK franchise.

You can find out which komatant suits you the best, but after you do that, you also can decide which variation of that komatant fits your play style, adding depth to the already deep roster.

Learning more about these komatants in MKX's story mode is surprisingly entertaining.

I never would have expected an in-depth and interesting story from a fighting game, but MKX has a really gripping story.

The young komatants take center stage for the majority of the story while the originals get their time through playable flashbacks.

The story is a fun five hours if you can get past the laughably awful voice acting and the disappointingly cheesy

too much from a fighting game.

The matchmaking can be spotty at times, but once I finally got into a game I experienced hardly any lag. I sat and planned out my next attack while waiting for chance to dethrone the champion in my favorite online mode, King of the Hill.

If online play isn't your style, MKX offers almost no replayability, unless you find comfort in finding concept art and music while perusing the frustratingly boring Krypt mode, which I didn't.

If you're looking for a game to buy and play for hours and hours, I would recommend a different genre.

If fighting games is your number one genre of games, then MKX has a thrilling, yet absurd story mode along with a few great online game types.

Whether you play for the franchise or you play for the gory violence, Mortal Kombat X is worth playing but not worth paying.

MORTAL KOMBAT X

★★★★☆

one liners that make you stop what you're doing and shake your head in disbelief.

Once I completed the story, the only other option was online play. It didn't seem like a ton of options for an entire retail game, but again, I didn't expect



Courtesy Photo

ROLLING LOW ON THE BOX OFFICE LIST

Sequel dissappoints; second movie does not meet viewer expectations

IVAN WALTER
@ivanthehoss56

Paul Blart, fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me.

Well I guess that puts all the shame on me because you fooled me into seeing another bad movie about a mall cop. Now I will admit, I did laugh occasionally, but it was from the poor story and awful jokes that were attempted.

Paul Blart (Kevin James) is a mall cop in New Jersey. He is known for saving the mall from a group of thieves. He is then married and you think he will go on and live happily ever after. Nope, things just get worse because his wife leaves him after six days.

Oh, and shortly after that, as if to add insult to injury, his mom gets hit by a truck and dies. Yeah, like great way to start off a children's movie with divorce and death.

So six years after Blart saves the mall he is invited to Vegas for a security guard convention. This is the well-needed vacation he needs before his daughter heads off to college. They get to Vegas and check into a super fancy hotel full of famous artwork which, of course, is about to be stolen. The only man who can save them is Paul Blart.

Yeah, the mall cop is the best choice. They can't call the police or anyone else.

The origin of the bad guys doesn't really exist so you're confused on who they are, but they do kidnap Blart's daughter after she sneaks into their secret hotel room from

a party.

Yeah, these bad guys are so bad their hideout is connected to another room without any locks or anything.

Blart is then forced to round up the world's best security guards, which are a bunch of overweight, untrained losers. Then on top of that, they don't use guns, they take down a bunch of trained killers with non-lethal bean bag guns.

Honestly, if the bad guys were decently smart they could have shot them point blank, but no, that's too easy.

Now I've seen a lot of bad movies in my life, but this movie was just idiotic. The jokes weren't funny and the plot was pointless. It felt like they were trying to cash in on throwing a fat guy around for laughs.

It just wasn't good, plain and simple.

They make Blart out to be this super lonely and super depressed character that is rather sad, honestly.

Then, there are fat jokes everywhere. If I were overweight, I would have been offended. Many things were wrong with this movie, but the top thing that upset me was the fact that the bad guys had guns and were obviously trained killers, but only hit one person they shot at. Seriously, you want to tell me that these people who are trained killers and are good enough to steal all this artwork can't hit more than one person with about fifty gun shots.

To sum it all up, do not see this movie unless you want to watch a bad reenactment of the first movie.

SHAME ON ME BECAUSE YOU FOOLED ME INTO SEEING ANOTHER BAD MOVIE.

-IVAN WALTER

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LONGBOARDING FOR THE LONG RUN

New trend allows students to kick back and relax



JOSH LEE
@iamthejoshlee

Longboarding may not seem like the first option for a way to get around town, but for some students, longboards are a major part of their lives. A new trend starting among students, longboarding is a pastime that not only brings friends closer together, but also provides a casual and fun means of transportation. “I think longboarding in Pittsburg [happens] just because you want to. There’s nobody to really take after, and I like being outside, and there’s nothing else to do,” sophomore Zach Uttley said. The difference between skateboarding and longboarding may seem insubstantial to the spectator, but to those who skateboard and longboard, the two are completely different. “Longboarding is more for transportation and cruising. It is just for more fun than technical stuff,” Uttley said.

“Skateboarding is for when you want to have swag. You skateboard to the skate park and do tricks and stuff.” Because of the more casual nature of longboarding compared to skateboarding, Unruh and Uttley prefer to longboard, though the two had been skating before they were longboarding. “Unless you’re really good [at skateboarding], it’s not really fun to skate with people,” Uttley said. “It takes a long time to get good, so getting into longboarding is a lot easier than skating.” Uttley has been longboarding since the seventh grade, along with sophomore Jake Unruh, although the two didn’t start longboarding together. “We both skated prior to knowing each other,” Uttley said. “And I skated with Jake pretty much every day over the summer.” Just like during the summer, longboarding is still a common, frequent

activity for Unruh and Uttley. “Neither of us drive, so we get around on longboards, even though I started longboarding just for fun,” Uttley said. And while the transportation aspect of longboarding is important to Uttley and Unruh, they still longboard on the weekends just for fun. “On a good weekend of longboarding, me and Jake will longboard probably twenty-five-plus miles on a two-day weekend. It’s all of Pittsburg,” Uttley said. In addition to Unruh and Uttley, there are other students who share the their interest in longboarding. Sophomore Alivia Benedict makes longboarding a very active part of her life and has been doing so for a while. During summer break, Benedict often went longboarding with friends at 2 a.m. “Last summer I was going to sleep

during the day and staying awake during the night,” Benedict said. Benedict longboards on a frequent basis, but she takes her love for longboarding one step further. For a couple of weeks, Benedict has been making a longboard of her own, but it will be a little different from the average longboard. When completed, Benedict’s longboard will measure five feet long from end to end. “When looking at longboards online, none of them were super long, and I’m like, ‘Why not go with a super long board?’ They’re called longboards!” Benedict said. But past all of the fun, longboarding is a lifestyle for many students that gives them release and a way to follow their passions. “Longboarding is fun for me because it allows me to actually breathe,” Benedict said. “It lets me forget about all the negative things in life for a bit.”

COMPETITION TO THE TOP OF THE CLASS

Students strive to have a spot amongst top ten percent

MADDIE BADEN
@maddiebaden

As students receive their grade card, they nervously check the bottom to see the class ranking they have earned. Some students hope they made it into the top ten percent, and others hope they received the number one spot. The competition between students has developed through the years. “We see it more [when the] top ten percent goes out.” Stegman said. “[Whenever a] shift has gone on, and they have been bumped out by another student, then we do kind of see [competition]. They wonder why and don’t fully understand, so there is a little bit for some kids who have maintained high academics throughout their entire years of school.” Students want to have the chance to claim a spot in the top ten percent

and to also be one of the first people to walk across the stage at graduation. “It feels good to be around the top of the class,” freshman Nicole Ahn said. “I feel accomplished.” The top ten percent consists of 13-15 students who have the highest grades in their class. “The way that we see students achieve it, and the easiest way, is to take the honors courses and the Advanced Placement (AP) courses because they are weighted higher than the regular classes,” Stegman said. “An AP schedule is more rigorous for students because they’re expected to already have background knowledge before they come in to the class. The classes are taught at a faster pace, and the teachers expect them to keep up with the work.

[Teachers also want students to be able to] think deeper and be able to have a fluent conversation about the topic.” Even though the AP and honors courses may be more difficult, freshman Joey Biggs enjoys the challenge of these classes. “You get more in-depth knowledge, and you also get to know more,” Biggs said. Even if Biggs were to not make the top ten percent, he feels that school is still a major priority in his life and he needs to succeed. “[I have the] expectation of myself [that] I need to be good at school to get somewhere in life,” Biggs said. “Not knowing anything is not going to get you anywhere in life.” For senior Adrian McAfee, being at the top of the class will support him

succeed in his future by helping get into a good college and in his future career. “[Being at the top of the class is] something that I really work hard for and I really need it to get into some schools,” McAfee said. “I really want to, one day, go into the medical field, and I feel in order to do that, I need to go to a good school and get a good opportunity to get accepted into medical school.” Being at the top of the class or top ten percent is an honor to receive in students high school experience and will work hard to achieve it. “I really want to challenge myself [to be at the top of the class] and it also is [something] schools look at,” McAfee said. “It has always been my dream since I was little to be at the top of my class.”

THE TOP 10% OF THE SENIOR CLASS

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| James Clark | Joshua Jarvis | Reagan Rink |
| Ethan Hawn | Joseph Mathew | His-Cheng Su |
| Ashley Burch | Adrian McAfee | Haley Uttley |
| Claire Caffrey | Miranda Moore | Camille Wallace |
| Alexis Germann | Lucas Redd | Mark Weaver |
| Micah Hashman | Priscila Ruiz | Joseph Wools |

FIND YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Weighted GPA Formula
Weighted GPA = standard gpa+ (number of AP courses/26)

WEIGHTED CLASSES

AP US History, AP American Government, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Spanish IV, AP English Language & Composition, AP English Literature & Composition, Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry, Honors Biology, Honors World History, Honors Early Civilization, Honors English 9, and Honors English 10

'WHILE THE KETTLE'S ON'

Johnson publishes first poetry book

MEGAN MUNGER
@DragonsTwirler

She is ecstatic. A dream that has always seemed so far-fetched to her has come true, and in this moment, she cares about nothing else besides for the finished product that is within her hands.

English teacher Melissa Fite Johnson has recently published a poetry book, *While The Kettle's On*.

"About two years ago, Mike Hogard came to me and asked me if I wanted to publish a book, and I said 'yes,'" Fite Johnson said. "I don't know if I'm confident enough that I would've ever tried to put together a manuscript if I hadn't been asked, so I'm very lucky that I was."

Her book was released on Feb. 25 and it was published by the Little Balkans Press, which is ran by Mike Hogard and Al Ortolani, who are both former PHS teachers.

"We had Melissa in class as a student and we knew that she was very bright. We also knew that she wrote poetry because she shared it with us sometimes," Hogard said. "We are always on the lookout for local poets that have that kind of repertoire of poems that they've written and submitted."

After Fite Johnson agreed to writing the book, she sifted through all of her poems.

"I have been writing poems since 2001, which is when I took my first creative writing class at Pitt State. I've been writing pretty steadily since then and I have a lot of poems stored up," Fite Johnson said. "The poems in the book were written over the course of ten years. I either picked my favorites or the ones I thought would fit the best. That part took me a long time."

However, it was during that lengthy process that she came up with the book's title.

"[*While The Kettle's On*] is the title of one of my poems. I was finding all of the poems for the book and thought 'I need a name for this thing,'" Fite Johnson said. "I went through all of the poems, thought 'would this one be a good name for the book' and went with this one. To be honest, part of the reason I thought it would be good was because I could picture a cover for it. Also, I thought this title would be nice because I of-

ten make tea whenever I write. It puts me in a writing mood. I think it is a charming title and I hope it's memorable as well."

The publication process took about two years in total, which is longer than Fite Johnson originally expected.

"I could not get over how long it took," Fite Johnson said. "Everyone [who worked on the book] was so great, but there were all of these steps that I wouldn't have even imagined. Most of the [steps] were pretty fun though."

The book includes a total of 50 poems and it is broken down into five sections, with ten poems in each section.

"The poems are very accessible. That's my style," Fite Johnson said. "People won't read this book and think 'what's that about, I don't even understand it.' The poems are very easy to understand."

Katelyn Roth did the book layout, Meryl Carver-Allmond took all of the photographs and Jai Johnson designed the cover and section pages.

"I feel very lucky because I know so many talented people," Fite Johnson said. "The cover is gorgeous and it was two of my best friends who did it. I didn't go to professionals."

Fite Johnson included an author's note and there are three blurbs, which are short descriptions of the book that are used for promotional purposes, on the back of the book.

"Two of [the blurbs] are from people who are in my poetry workshop group but, one of them is from Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg who I've only met a couple of times whenever she came to Pitt State to read. She used to be the Kansas Poet Laureate," Fite Johnson said. "My former professor Laura [suggested that] I write her and see if she would write me a blurb, and she did. I felt awesome."

In addition to the blurbs, Laura Lee Washburn, Fite Johnson's former professor, wrote the introduction for the book.

"Melissa's poems are at [times] delightfully romantic and mournfully elegiac," Washburn stated in the introduction. "[She] never lets us forget our life's 'purpose: to celebrate.'"

In agreement with Washburn, Hogard en-



Leading her AP Literature class in a discussion over "The Sound and the Fury," Melissa Fite Johnson laughs with her students. PHOTO BY MEGAN SMITH

joyed Fite Johnson's book.

"I really liked it," Hogard said. "I was surprised about the range of subjects in the book: from the kind of sad, heart-touching poems to light-hearted, almost lyrical, funny poems, which I really liked."

Fite Johnson held a reading of *While The Kettle's On* at the Pittsburg Public Library on April 23 at 6:30 PM.

"I'm not a very patient person when I'm excited about something, but it was well worth it," Fite Johnson said. "It looks really good and I'm really proud. It has basically been a lovefest and I'm

so grateful."

The book can be purchased through Amazon, through her website, melisafitejohnson.com, or through her personally, for \$12.

"I hope to sell as many copies as I can and I hope that people enjoy the poems in the book," Fite Johnson said. "I've studied poetry really seriously for a long time now and I would never just say 'oh I'm a poet,' base that on nothing and then just put a book out. I'm pretty proud of [*While The Kettle's On*] and I worked hard on it. I hope that whoever buys it really enjoys it."

SHOOTING THEIR WAY TO THE TOP

Three students to travel to Louisville for national archery competition

JOURNEY JARAMILLO
@JourneyButcher

Three students from the archery club are shooting to make their way to the top. The archery club was recently added to the school last semester and already has students participating in state competitions and qualifying for nationals.

On May 7 through May 9, seniors James Clark and Lucas Redd as well as sophomore Jake Webb will be competing in the National Archery in the School Program(NASP) competition in Louisville, Ky.

Both Clark and Redd found out that they had qualified for the NASP competition while they were at prom. Clark was excited to hear that he was going to be one of the students participating in nationals.

"My nerves were kind of if-y because I didn't know if I would be able to qualify for the top five or top 10," Clark said. "Finding out I qualified felt like a huge accomplishment being the first year that we had archery."

For years Redd has been shooting bow and arrows as a hunter and this is his first year competitively shooting. He qualified for the 2D round and was glad to learn that he would be going to Nationals. As far as competing goes, Redd feels that even though archery can be exciting

it has its challenges.

"[I try] to have fun and shoot as

best as I can," Redd said. "I [would] say hand-eye coordination, blocking out the other shooters, and just concentration [are some challenges]."

On April 11, Webb was the only student from Pittsburg to attend the

State competition in Clear Water, Kan. There, he qualified for the

NASP competition and also became the state champion in the 3D round. He is practicing and trying his best to so that he can be ready for whatever is thrown his way.

"I'm preparing myself for nation-

als by making sure I practice everyday and just do my best at it," Webb said. "[I want to] do my best and I [am going to] have to work hard if I want to place high."

Getting into the feel of being a coach for archery, Mary Packard feels like even though she and archery coach Kris Mengarelli just started this year and still have things to figure out, the students still did a great job. She feels like the students going to nationals could give the club more notice.

"It is just a wonderful thing that we are able to take three archers to nationals this year. This will bring a lot of positive attention to our club and I would think that our numbers will increase this next fall," Packard said. "As for Jake, James and Lucas, I just could not be happier for them to reach this goal."

The three have worked hard to be where they are and they will continue the hard work. They already have their minds set on doing their best when they go to Nationals.

"I just kind of keep setting goals higher and higher," Clark said. "I hope to achieve my goals, and I hope to get a placing at nationals."



Senior James Clark and sophomore Jake Webb shoot at a target at the shoot-a-thon on Sunday, April 19 to raise money for St. Jude. PHOTO BY ABBY HARRIS

“MY NERVES WERE KINDA IF-Y BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WOULD QUALIFY.”

JAMES CLARK

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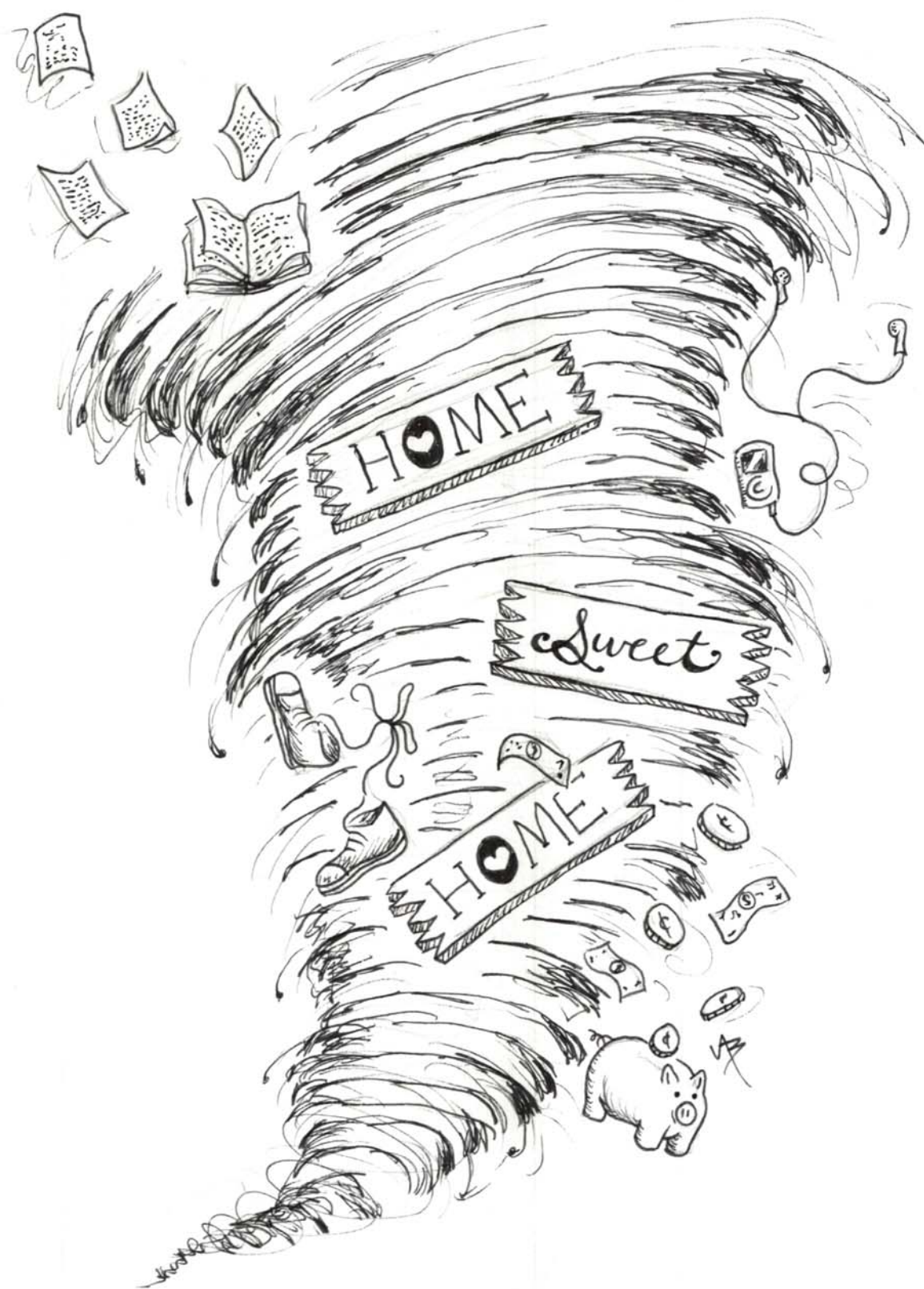
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A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

Students overcome difficult living arrangements

MEGAN MUNGER
@DragonsTwirler

The students' names have been changed to protect their privacy due to the sensitivity of the topic.

Living off of child support and his mom's death benefits, senior George Werber spends his Friday night at home, knowing that he must save the money that he has for his upcoming bills.

"I had to figure out budgeting really fast," Werber said. "I [don't get] that much money so I had to figure out how to put this into this and make bills work, while also having a personal life. It was definitely something that I had to learn."

However, that is only one of the many things that Werber had to learn in the past two years.

"I've been in and out of different houses but, I've essentially been on my own since my mom died my sophomore year," Werber said. "That was a lot to deal with. I've just lived from check to check since."

Due to his circumstances, Werber's high school experience as a whole, was altered.

"I wasn't able to be the average teenager. All of my friends would go out to the movies and I would have to stay home and cook and clean," Werber said. "It took away some of what being a teenager is supposed to be. I didn't get to make as many fun decisions and have as much fun."

Along with that, he did not always make the best decisions.

"Being 15 years old and feeling like you're an adult isn't always the best. It led me to make some very bad decisions," Weber said. "It seemed to make me feel so free that I could do anything and not have to worry about the consequences. So on nights that I was able to go out, I went overboard and a lot of bad stuff came out of it."

Although, there are some good aspects to the situation.

"It's motivated me to where I want to do more in my life and it's definitely affected the fact that I want to have a strong job whenever I'm older," Werber said. "It has caused me plan to things a lot more. I used to be a very live-by-the-moment kind of person, but now I have a life plan that goes until I'm 47."

Werber has a path and plans to go to college.

"I realized that I got into the situation that I was in because my mom didn't go through college, didn't really care about school very much, and neither did much of my family," Werber said. "So it made me realize that if I continue going down that same path and don't motivate myself then I'm going to end up in the same place that they are. I want to be better than my mom, better than my grandpa, and better than everyone in my life so that's what

caused me to [self-motivate]."

Werber is currently eighteen years old, and has recently moved into a house that is all his own.

However, he admits that he could've never made it this far on his own.

"CIS [Communities In Schools] coordinator Deanna Miller has helped a lot," Werber said. "The program is nice because it gives you a someone to talk to whenever you need to and sometimes, as a teenager, that is all you need."

CIS is a nationwide program that is growing in Kansas. It provides students with resources that they need, ranging from clothes and food to a simple talk and a friend.

"[Deanna] is someone who is almost like a guidance counselor, but is a friend at the same time so it makes it easier to connect. Whenever I was going through my biggest troubles, I could just come in here and talk for an hour. I knew that I was in a safe place where I was trusted and the other person was trusted."

With Werber being eighteen now, the state program that he was in has changed.

"I was in Aftercare DCF Overview, which essentially meant that I was in foster care but, because of my special situation, I was in foster care in a way

that wherever I was, that was where my new home was placed at. They would come and talk to me there every once in a while and stuff like that," Werber said. "Now, I'm in a program called Independent Living, since I turned 18. I no longer have a foster care record or specific rules. I just have one worker who I call whenever I need anything and they help me pay for college. One of the best things about foster care is that they will pay for college completely."

In addition to Werber, senior Cynthia Lafay is experiencing a similar situation.

"I came from a family with money and my mom got into a mess with her past and drugs and alcohol. She would leave me alone in the house for a long time and so I couldn't really focus on school. Whenever she came back, I'd always have to take care of her," Lafay said. "I talked to my sister a little bit and she said that she would prefer that I came down and live with her. She goes to Pitt State, so I came down and moved in with her. I have been going to school here since August."

Since she has been here, with the help of Community In Schools site coordinator, Deanna Miller, Lafay has become more self-motivated and her future has brightened.

"I knew that I was going to graduate but, I didn't know that I was going to be graduating early. I didn't think that time would move so fast and for a while, it started to seem unrealistic that I'd get through school, but I have," Lafay said. "I want to go to college and I want to eventually own my own company."

BY THE NUMBERS

HOMELESSNESS

information provided by
dosomething.org

80% of homeless youth use
drugs or alcohol

1.7 MILLION teenagers experience homelessness in the U.S.

34% of homeless population is under the age of 24

average age a teen becomes homeless is **14.7** years

teens ages **12-17**
are the single most
likely to become
homeless

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Cheer changes squad formation due to population fluctuation

ALLI BADEN
@allibaden

With tryouts wrapped up, the cheer team was selected.

Instead of having both a varsity and junior varsity squad, the coaches decide to approach the upcoming cheer season with a 15 member varsity squad.

According to cheer coach Diana Oertle, a JV squad was unnecessary due to the number of girls that tried out.

“I want to have a minimum of 12 on varsity and a minimum of six on JV, and I did not have enough girls trying out this year to hit those numbers,” Oertle said. “So it just worked out for us to do one varsity.”

This year, the varsity squad consisted of 13 members and the JV squad had eight members. The sudden drop from 21 cheerleaders to 15 occurred due to many individual reasons.

Sophomore Adia Johns did not return to cheer due to the demand it put on her.

“It was just a lot, and I think that is why a lot of the girls did quit because we did not have time to do anything else,” Johns said. “We needed to practice and learn new things, but practice everyday after school and then with games two times a week, it just became a lot.”

Others, such as freshman Angela Ortega, liked cheer but wanted to participate in other activities in the school.

“I am focusing on FCCLA leadership and theater [next year]. Cheer was something I enjoyed doing but I would prefer to do theater over it. Last year I was put in a situation where I could not

do cheer and the musical,” Ortega said.

And because of her involvement in multiple activities, it was difficult for Ortega to make time for everything.

“The biggest challenge was the schedule, trying to be at practices and always having other things going on,” Ortega said.

The tryout process was conducted differently this year and junior Erica Seal thinks that could be a reason as to the decline in numbers.

“[The tryout process] was much more difficult. For example, we had to pass a certain GPA to be eligible to tryout,” Seal said.

While the initial number of cheerleaders has decreased, Oertle believes the talent of the team is promising and will continue to grow.

“It is a bigger [varsity] squad, but the skill is there to increase those numbers. So we have really been working a lot on stunting and getting stronger, a lot of conditioning that they have not done in the past,” Oertle said.

Over the six years Oertle has been coach, she has seen a steady improvement every year due to the extra conditioning and practices which might have led to not as many girls trying out, according to Oertle.

“I think some of them realized it is a lot of time and it is a lot of dedication,” Oertle said.

Seal, however, is ready for the upcoming cheer season and looks forward to bettering herself and her teammates.

“I would like to improve our abilities as a squad and accomplish as much as we are capable of,” Seal said.



Lining up for a free-throw shot, senior captain Brittney Dutton watches the varsity boys basketball game. The cheer squad had a varsity and a junior varsity squad this year due to the amount of participants. PHOTO BY DEREK BRUMBAUGH



Lining up her club, Gracie Lopez looks down the fairway towards the green on the Crestwood Country Club course on Sept. 30. Lopez was one of two girls who qualified for state this season and finished in 21st place. PHOTO BY MIRANDA MOORE

A NEW DRIVING FORCE

Packard steps up as new girls golf coach

LILY BLACK
@PHSStudentPub

After resigning as volleyball coach, science teacher Mary Packard will finally pursue her dream of becoming the golf coach next year.

“I felt like I had reached my full potential in volleyball and that I needed to hand over those reigns to someone else,” Packard said. “The opportunity arose [to coach golf] and since I have been teaching for 28 years, I have been trying to be a golf coach. I played golf in high school and have played golf for 42 years.”

Going from volleyball to golf, Packard expects changes, including atmosphere, the players and the intensity of the game.

However, both she and freshman golfer Jamie Van Wyck are open to the changes.

“I’m always ready for new changes,” Van Wyck said. “You don’t know necessarily what to expect out of them and you don’t know who they really are. [I’m looking forward to changes] because it’s a new approach.

Along with changes, Packard is trying to recruit new members for the golf team.

“We need to get some more girls out for the team,” Packard said. “I’ve been networking a little bit. I’ve been talking to the middle school coach, Christy Watt, and they have a couple girls

there to see if they would be interested, so we can play as a team.”

Packard is going to be hosting meetings at some point this spring, and possibly a golf camp this summer.

“It is one of those sports that you need to get out and try in the summer,” Packard said. “[The players will] have time to practice in the summer and then show up and play in the fall. So listen

for the announcements of when [all of] that is going to be.”

Junior Violet Biggs has been golfing all year with Coach Turnbull and enjoys him, but she is still looking forward to another season of golf but this time with Packard as head coach.

“Coach Turnbull was a good coach. He really knew how to help me. I will miss

him but I am looking forward to my senior season,” Biggs said.

Packard has invested many Saturdays to coaching and many practices throughout the years.

“I’ve been in the gym for 14 years now, in the summer and fall, and lots of Saturdays in the gym. Golf would be different with being outside and [having] a smaller group of kids to try and command,” Packard said. “I think it will be a nice change in pace for me.”

I THINK IT WILL BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE FOR ME.

- MARY PACKARD

PCMS COACH MOVES UP TO HIGH SCHOOL

Mantooth named new head volleyball coach

KALI POENITSKE
@kali_poenitske

A new voice will be heard among the volleyball team this coming season, but it is not necessarily new for everyone.

PCMS volleyball coach Megan Mantooth will be returning to the high school as the new head coach.

Mantooth has coached volleyball for eleven years. For the past two years she coached at PCMS, but previously she coached freshmen at the high school.

Some of the recent players have been coached by Mantooth already. The juniors were coached by Mantooth their freshman year.

“Coach Mantooth has been here before, so the girls understand the expectations that she brings with her,” assistant coach Keith Matlock said. “Learning her system will take some time. Hopefully it is something that can be taken care of in the summer.”

Although junior Rachel Folk is looking forward to her senior season, she realizes that there will be some obstacles.

“Some of the challenges [we] will be adapting to [is having] a new coach; we have had the same [head] coach for three years. Completely changing our practices will be hard because it won’t be anything we are used to,” Folk said.

Freshman Abbie Casper agrees that there will be several new adjustments next year.

“Every coach has a different style and technique that they teach us, so some of us won’t play the same position that we are used to. But, I think that it will be a good, clean start to the new season,” Casper said.

Mantooth has several goals for the team and the upcoming season.

“My number one goal for the team is to become one of the best passing teams in this area. With that goal in mind, they will also become one of the hardest working defensive teams,” Mantooth said.

Mantooth is ready for the opportunity to work with high school students again because of the experience the players have.

“High school kids are a lot of fun to coach and I love the level of play at the high school,” Mantooth said.

Matlock is looking forward to the upcoming season as well.

“We return a lot of varsity experience next year. There are a lot of girls who have worked on their game through the winter, too,” Matlock said. “With a year of growth, and everything else, it should be a fun and competitive year.”

Casper also has high hopes and expectations for the team.

“This season I am looking forward to blood, sweat and a lot of hard work, [along with] going towards our goal [of] winning league and the state championship,” Casper said.

Mantooth is excited to coach and is ready to watch the players improve over the season.

“The group of girls currently at the high school and in the coming years are very excited to play volleyball,” Mantooth said. “I look forward to mixing new things with the old and watching them grow as volleyball players and meet and exceed the goals they set for themselves.”