

NEWS

FBLA travels to New Orleans

EVAN SMILEY
Public Relations
Specialist

Thirty-two Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) took a delegation of 32 members to the National Fall Leadership Conference (NFLC) in New Orleans, La. At this conference, the members had the opportunity to attend workshops, tour the city and meet FBLA members from across the country.

On the first day, FBLA members checked into their rooms and started their busy day.

While in New Orleans, it only made sense to visit a swamp, so that's exactly what they did. On this two hour tour, FBLA members saw alligators, wild boars and all kinds of vegetation, both salt-water and freshwater. Afterwards, members went to eat at the renowned Walk-Ons Restaurant with a menu full of iconic food.

Going from boating to business, FBLA members changed into business attire and went to the opening session. At the opening session on Nov. 17, members were reminded to attend as many workshops as possible to get the full experience of the NFLC. Guest Speaker Rhett



Photo by Andrea Ruiz

FBLA members posing for a picture after their two hour swamp tour. Members were all smiles after they saw alligators, turtles, and boars from the waters of New Orleans.

Laubach then gave a keynote on the importance and power of leadership and how each person can "live to serve."

That same day, the members took a three hour tour through the French Quarter of New Orleans. On this tour the members were able to visit the St. Louis cemetery and learn the history of the above group tombs, they even got to

see the future resting place of Nicholas Cage!

At the conclusion of the tour, the members explored Jackson Square and were able to eat at the world famous Café Du Monde to eat their delicious beignets. Members had an amazing time experiencing the culture of New Orleans.

"New Orleans is an amaz-

ing city that's so full of life and culture, hopefully one day I'll be able to live down there and experience it everyday," senior Baylee Spears said.

Both Nov. 17 and 18 the NFLC was in full swing. Members were presented with opportunities to attend workshops from a variety of ranges including leadership building, careers in accounting and even

just receptions to talk to members from across the nation.

At the closing session on Nov. 18, Kentucky FBLA won the largest state delegation with MCHS FBLA being one of the largest local chapter delegations. After the conclusion of the closing session, members began the 12 hour venture back home!

Power Buff Volleyball serves up school spirit



Photo by Paulette Black

Senior Dante Viceconti goes up to spike the ball to get a point for the senior power buff volleyball team during their first match against the sophomore team.

JEFF PRECHTEL
Staff Writer

Much like Powder Puff football, Power Buff volleyball exercises the male or female play of an otherwise stereotypical single gender sport. In this case, with volleyball usually being a female sport, Power Buff brings the guys onto the court.

Ran by Coach Mark Zweifel, the reason for creating Power Buff was to create opportunity for those who

have ended their season in a sport or has not participated in a sport thus far.

"The girls had the Powder Puff football, so I went to Mr. Adams with the idea for the Power Buff to give the guys who have not gotten to participate in sports something to do," Zweifel said.

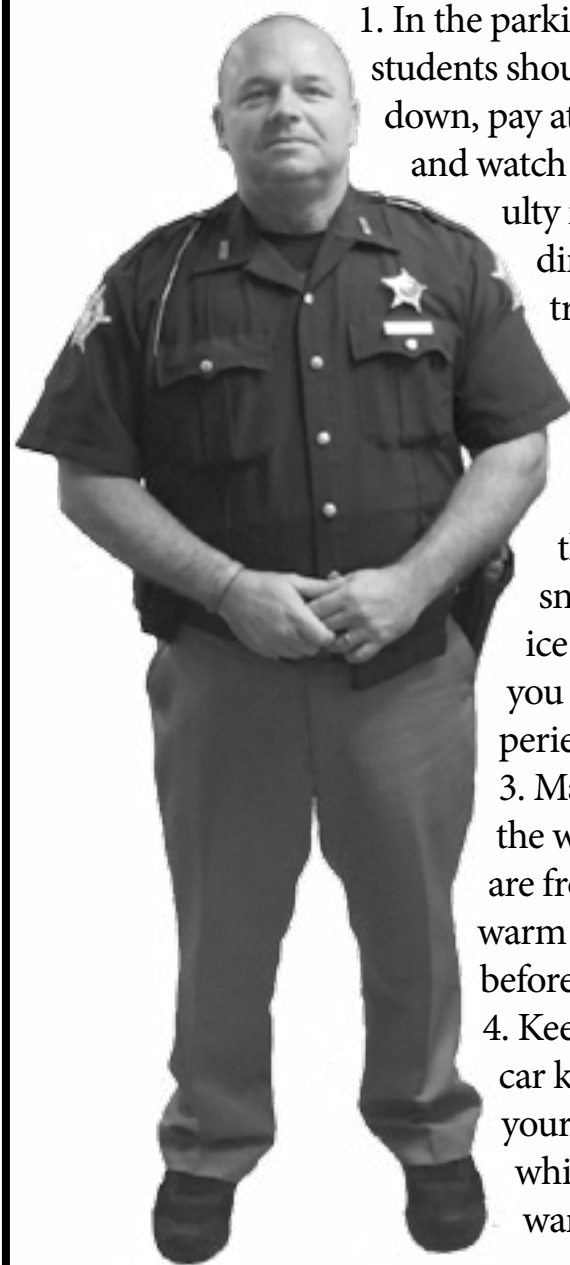
Power Buff volleyball started on Nov. 28 and will end in the Senior Academy gym on Dec. 15 where the championship match will be played. There are a total of four teams:

freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior. Next year Zweifel plans to start these activities earlier in the year.

"I would like to see it grow next year. I am not coaching volleyball next year so I am going to see if we can start earlier in the year and have the season be a little longer so we can get more games in. Hopefully, we can get more kids to sign up so we can have two teams for each grade level," Zweifel said.

Wimpee's words of wisdom

Safety Tips and Reminders:



1. In the parking lot students should slow down, pay attention and watch the faculty members directing traffic.
2. Stay off the roads when there is snow and ice unless you have experience.
3. Make sure the windows are frost free, warm up the car beforehand.
4. Keep a spare car key on your body while the car warms up.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS



from
The Current

Y-Club hears freedom ring at KYA

PAULETTE BLACK
Assistant Editor

From Dec. 3-5, the MCHS Y-club went on their annual trip to the Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) to see democracy in action.

KYA is a student led mock government where students are given the opportunity to participate in various parts of the government we use today including bill writing, arguing Kentucky Supreme Court cases and running for office.

This year the MCHS delegation sponsored four bills. These included “An act to expand FMLA to provide paid maternity and paternity leave” sponsored by Mason Lee, Mason Craycroft, Reece McElfresh and Zach Carter; “An act to require public high schools to excuse half-day absences for qualifying late-arrival students” sponsored by Abby Nelson, Sydney Crosslin and Joelle Weatherholtz; “An act to expand the comprehensive sex education curriculum taught by public schools” sponsored by Alfred Gonsalves, Zoey McCaffrey and Isabelle Pike-Goff;



Photo by Kenna Ellis

Delegates eagerly raise their placards, ready to debate the current bill being presented.

and “An act to create Snap+” sponsored by Madelyn Collard, Allie Fackler and Lauren Heibert.

Out of the four bills taken to the conference “An act to expand FMLA to provide paid maternity and paternity leave” passed after overriding the veto made by the KYA governor.

“An act to create Snap+” was also given the award of Outstanding Bluegrass Bill which is awarded to the underclassman bill deemed by the advisors as exceptional.

“I am extremely proud of MCHS’s performance at KYA. Our bill authors, candidate and Supreme Court team worked diligently to provide thoughtful, insightful and well-written materials that added to the overall climate and experience of the conference. Our delegation represented Meade County with intelligence, professionalism and class,” Y-club advisor Kala Robinson said.

This was also the first year that members from the MCHS delegation were about to par-

ticipate in the Supreme Court program. In this program the delegates were given a real court case and documents to argue their case. This year’s team was made up of seniors Jacob Foushee, Paulette Black and Jacque Arens.

“The supreme court program was a lot of hard work, but I still enjoyed it. I have always been interested in law and this really gave me an idea of how it works in the real world,” Arens said.

Every year at KYA a new governor is elected, and this year junior Carla Bravo competed for the position as a Presiding Officer.

“At KYA I ran for the position of governor, while I did not win, I still grew in knowledge on issues that face Kentucky, and made friendships that will last a lifetime,” Bravo said.

The delegation also received a Merit Award for service, and the Delegation of Excellence award for modeling the Y’s core values. Senior John O’Neal was also awarded the Outstanding Delegate for the conversation that he brought to debate at the conference.

Tri-M

New Members

- Mason Age
- Lauren Barbieri
- Maddie Clinkscales
- Jessika Davis
- Lucas Fitzgerald
- Alex Mercer
- Elijah Milburn
- Isabella Ray
- Lily Shelton
- Heavyn Taylor
- Kaytlin Vantassell
- Brandon Whitaker
- Payten Wolverton



Layout by Karissa Ervin

Students perform Christmas classics



Photo by Nick Fuson

MCHS Chorus strike Christmas spirit into the audience by performing classic Christmas tunes.

SAVANNAH REED
Staff Writer

On Dec. 4 choir students performed a variety of Christmas carols in the auditorium for their annual Christmas concert. The choir was directed by Derek Crafton and assisted by Shaune Rebilas. Songs that were presented were a collection of songs once performed by Elvis and holiday favorites like “Mary Did You Know” along with “White Christmas”.

“The song that I enjoyed the most was “Elvis Christmas” because we got to dance and it made me think of our trip to Memphis,” senior Emily Jackey said.

The concert started off with the Madrigals which consisted of Lauren Barbieri, Bobby Blankenship, Matthew Blevins, Maddie Clinkscales, Kaden Ennis, Issac Evans, Ali Flaherty, Caleb Greenwell, Emily Jackey, Victoria Longenecker, Alex Mercer, Ciara Redmond, Casey Richards,

Elizabeth Richerson, John Michael Saylor, Lily Shelton and Peyton Wolverton. They started out with a rendition of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” then went on to sing “Born is the Lord”, “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” and then finally finished with a performance of “Pat-a-Pan”.

After the Madrigals two solos were sang by two students. The first one was Elizabeth Richerson singing “Mary Did You Know”, which was written by Mark Lowry. After the first solo John Michael Saylor came on to the stage to sing the holiday favorite “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” from the Christmas classic by Dr. Seuss.

“I was a little nervous about it; I was afraid I would forget the lyrics but in the end it all came together,” senior Elizabeth Richerson said.

When the solos were over the Soundwaves appeared on stage singing “White Christmas” along to senior Matthew Blevins’ guitar playing. After

“White Christmas”, they soon started singing and dancing along to “Let It Snow/Winter Wonderland”. The Soundwaves were made up of Lauren Barbieri, Ciara Benham, Matthew Blevins, Maddie Clinkscales, Jessika Davis, Jazmine DeBeauchamp, Carina Druen, Issac Evans, Kaden Ennis, José Gonzales, Elizabeth Richerson, Andrea Ruiz, Charlie Saylor, John Michael Saylor, Lily Shelton, Kyle Smith and Anna Whelan.

At the end of the show the entire MCHS choir came together to perform “Holly Jolly”, “Elvis Christmas”, “The Twelve Songs Of Christmas” and “Christmas Joy”. During the performance the entire choir some students even played kazoos along to the tune of the music.

The MCHS choir, alongside Dr. Roosevelt Escalante will put on their next event, Gospel Fest, on Jan. 23. They will also perform their spring musical “Seussical” from May 10-12.

TSA brings home second place trophy



Photo Submitted

The Greenwave Robotics Three, (left to right) freshman Janson Ison, junior Zack Adkins, sophomore Nick Lancaster, and sophomore Drew Ray proudly hold their second place trophy after their competition on Nov. 18 in Owensboro. (Not pictured Cole Allen and Caleb Mattingly)

BRITTNEE DIAL
Staff Writer

Robotics brought home first ever trophy after competing in Owensboro on Nov. 18. Meade County’s Greenwave Three brought home second place.

The members of the Greenwave Three are freshman Janson Ison, sophomore Drew Ray, sophomore Nick Lancaster, sophomore Caleb Mattingly, junior Zack Adkins and freshman Cole Allen. The team had to build and code a robot that would stack and move cones.

“I like how TSA helps us with skills that we apply to everyday life like problem solving and critical thinking,” Ison said.

Sophomore John Psyck also competed on Nov 18 with the Greenwave Two team. Psyck explained there were two sets of rounds with 20 teams. The first set is placement and the second set is alliances. The top six teams pick who they want for their first partner, but

Greenwave Two did not team up with Greenwave Three because their bots serve the same purpose.

Greenwave Two did not place, but Psyck said, “The best thing about robotics is it’s not only a good way to compete; it’s a good way to see progress.”

The teams have been working on building their robots since the beginning of the school year and are still continuing to improve them after each competition. They have three working robots and four teams at the moment. Their next competition is in mid-January and they practice on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s after school.

The Robotic’s team co-advisors are engineering teacher Lori Collard and math teacher Pam Foushee. Collard has been teaching and advising TSA for the past two school years. TSA has grown from six to 45 members and robotics currents has 25 members.

• News Briefs •

Keeping it “Current” from around the country and around the world

“Stress” pig on a plane

Carry on? Check. Neck pillow? Check. 70-pound pig? Check. A woman brought a 70-pound emotional support pig on a United States Airways flight out of Connecticut on Dec. 1. Many of the other passengers thought it was a duffel bag. They did not realize it was a pig until they were able to smell it. The woman tied the pig to an arm rest and went on to do other stuff like it was normal. Most passengers were also scared of being on the same plane as the pig. The pig caused such a commotion that the airline staff were forced to ask the passenger and her pet to leave.

Thieves steal Christmas tree

Nov. 28, it’s after Thanksgiving, and everyone is getting into the holiday spirit, but that night in the Metro East trees were stolen meant to go to sick children. Volunteers said that around one to two trees have gone missing, but this time six went missing. All the money collected from tree sales were to go to sick children in the St. Louis area. This tree lot has sold trees for 30 years and everyone in that area knows the money goes to the children. An anonymous St. Louis man came by on Nov. 29 to pay \$300 for all the trees stolen. The man paid out of respect to the volunteers.

Indian Toddler Befriends Monkey

On Nov. 30, an Indian family of a 1-year-old toddler reported their son befriended a wild troop of monkeys. A video was recorded in Hubli, Karnatanka shows the toddler handing out his food to the monkeys. The parents said that the monkeys show up every morning at 6 a.m. to receive food and play with their new human friend. Locals of the area said the unlikely friendship started when the monkeys appeared when the toddler was only six months old, he then gave the monkeys a piece of food. The monkeys have never been harsh or aggressive with the little boy and they have never bitten him so the parents are okay with it.

Content by Meghan Allison and Brittnee Dial

OPINION

Life in plastic is not fantastic

Editorial from the Editor-in-Chief

“Life in plastic” is not as fantastic as Barbie’s perpetual smile makes it seem. Since the first Barbie was created in 1959, women have been striving to meet the expectations Barbie has created. Her figure—large breasts and small waist—became the ideal way for women to look, but women cannot achieve the unrealistic proportion sizes that Barbie depicts.

The Current agrees that Barbie represents a figure that women could never truly acquire, because the truth is Barbie’s figure is anatomically impossible. If she were a real person she would have to walk on all fours because she would have size three feet and would not be able to lift anything because she would have 3 1/2 inch wrists.

Sadly some girls are literally “dying to be Barbie.” Due to unrealistic standards women have turned to plastic surgery or eating disorders in order to reach their unattainable goals.

One woman, who currently lives in the Ukraine, has made it her life’s mission to become a real-life Barbie. She has resorted to plastic surgery and other unnatural measures in order to become a living doll. When she was a child she had an obsession with dolls which has led to her transformation.

Other not as extreme cases can be seen throughout our society today. Girls flipping through magazines and wishing they could be



Cartoon by Lia Hobbs

just like a certain model or aspiring to look just like another flawless face is one such example. Teenage girls have become blinded to their true beauty because they cannot get abs like that photoshopped model on page 10 or not smiling as big because their teeth aren’t as white as Kim Kardashian’s. I just want to hug them and say you are beautiful just the way you are!

Women look in the mirror and see thunder thighs instead of thigh gaps; fat rolls instead of rib cages; or love handles instead of jutting hip bones and think that they are not “dating mate-

rial” or “not quite thin enough.” Thank you, society, for putting these audacious thoughts into little girls’ heads. Making them think that they have to look like a freakishly thin cartoon in order to be a princess or wear loads of makeup in order to go to the grocery. This is what our society has come to, and it’s not just Barbie’s fault—it’s our nation as a whole!

Even women look down on other women for their looks or weight but in reality we should be building each other up! Why can we not see that everyone is original and made beautiful in their own way?

So while you are contemplating eating a whopping plate of Christmas goodies or nibbling on a piece of celery to ring in the New Year, remember that *The Current* encourages you to do what’cha wanna do and be who ya wanna be. Stuff your face full of candy canes, cookies and cake—who gives a crap? Make your 2018 resolution to love your body just the way it is!

This editorial is based off the consensus of The Current staff’s Editorial Board. If you have any questions or comments, contact Editor-in-Chief, Emma Barr at emma.barr@stu.meade.kyschools.us

Why Xenophobia isn’t okay

LIA HOBBS
Cartoonist



Many people come to America in hopes of living a better life and making a future for their children only to realize that some Americans are not as welcoming as others.

People known as Xenophobes constantly complain about immigrants, tourists, and visitors about speaking a language that

isn’t common in that country, like not speaking English in America.

If I had grown up in another country and had spoken a language other than English, I’d use it around my family members whenever I could. I would have learned English to be able to understand and communicate with everyone else, not to please people who don’t like anyone who isn’t like them.

Almost anywhere you go you’ll hear people talking to each other in a language you may not understand, and it seems people don’t realize that this is completely okay.

There have been many videos circulating the internet where people converse amongst each other in another



language and people around them begin to bash them for speaking anything other than English. They claim that since they live in America they should speak the same

language as other Americans.

Why should anyone have to speak any differently just because of the country where they live? If Xenophobes were to visit another country,

such as Columbia, they’d be the ones speaking the less common language. You’re in Columbia, speak Spanish!

On the other hand, not many care too much if you speak English in a country you are foreign to, so why should speaking Spanish or Mandarin in America be any different?

English is one of the hardest languages to learn, and even a lot of Americans don’t speak it completely correct. America doesn’t have a set language either, so Xenophobic people shouldn’t judge others based on the language of their choice. This is something that needs to be addressed seriously in America, and quickly before things continue to worsen.

Sing to a different tune

CAITLYN RISKY
Staff Writer



Dear Santa,
I wish I could stroll through town and not be caught up in some catchy, sing-song tune. All I want for Christmas is to stop hearing songs about how you’re coming to town. I wish to stop constantly hearing about how Rudolph’s nose is guiding your way. It would also be pretty nice if I didn’t have to hear about how The Jackson 5 caught their mom kissing all over you.

At this time of year, Christmas music is all over the place. It’s playing throughout every store in the mall; it’s resonating through the speakers of every car radio.

The music can become such a nuisance when the same song is playing on every station and in every store.

It’s painful enough that television channels such as Hallmark, Lifetime and Freeform are already playing Christmas movies as of the Oct. 27.

When I’m in my bedroom, I can hear the sound of Christmas music playing through the TV in the living room because my mother always watches Lifetime, or around this time of year, Hallmark.

I’m not bashing people who enjoy prancing into the Christmas spirit, but don’t



be that kid with the speakers blaring through the hallway, alright?

I don’t hate Christmas music; I have a favorite song—“All I Want For Christmas Is You” by Mariah Carey. Christmas songs are just so repetitive, so... peppy and cheerful. Then, there’s the slower Christmas songs that aren’t enough to get me going.

Out of all of the musicians and artists out there, they all decide to cover the same “classics.” Why not create an original? Why not have more genres pitch into the Christmas spirit? I know a few bands that have covered Christmas songs, but I want to hear more of a hardcore sound. I want something I can head bang and open a pit to.

Jingle bell rock, am I right?

There’s not enough of the Christmas variety to me. All of it seems to be focused around pop. Maybe that’s another reason why I’m not a big fan of the jolly music. It doesn’t give fans of other genres enough amusement.

Other people are seen cuddling up in their snowflake-patterned onesie, drinking hot chocolate by the Christmas tree and listening to “Let It Snow!” on repeat. I want to sit around in my skull pajama pants and hoodie, eating peppermint bark and jamming out to some Christmas song by “A Day To Remember.”

That might make Christmas music better.

Thanks,

Caitlyn

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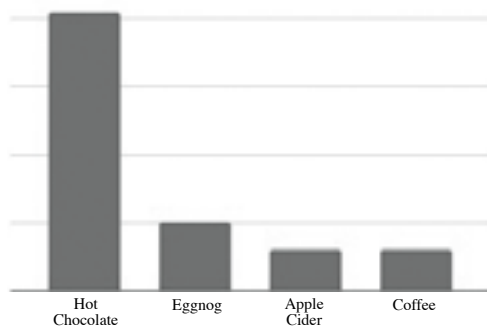
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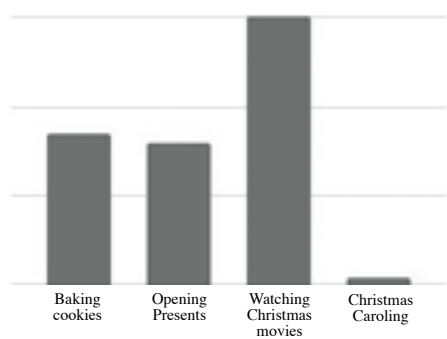
LISTEN TO THE STUDENT VOICE

A survey was sent out to the entire student body with questions regarding the winter and Christmas season. Here were the results:

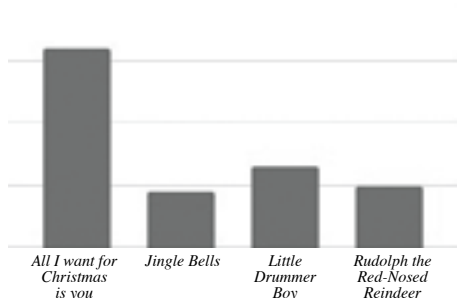
What is your favorite holiday drink?



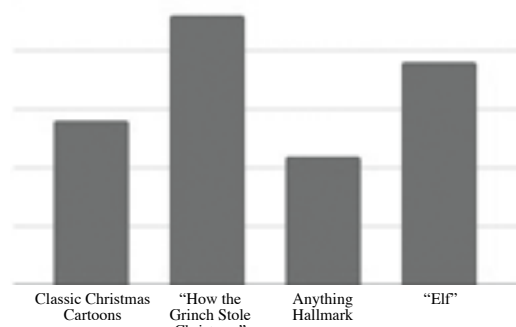
What is your favorite holiday tradition?



What is your favorite Christmas song?



What is your favorite Christmas movie?



Dear **ABBY**

HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Dear Abby,

I am spending Christmas alone again and it isn't the first time. I celebrate with my family but apparently it's not what I should be doing. It's not that I choose to spend it alone, I just didn't meet anyone to spend the holiday with. It does make me a little sad and all my friends that have a significant other are pressuring me to find someone before time runs out but I just don't know what to do. What would you do, Abby?

-Single Jingle Bell

Dear Jingle Bell,

The holidays have arrived at lighting speed and everyone is preparing to give that special someone that extraordinary gift. Except for you. Goodness gracious, that does sound really depressing when you say it out loud. But that's okay. While everyone else is spending outrageous amounts and spoiling someone who they probably won't be with in the next two years, you are saving SO much more money that you can use for yourself. It's not bad to be spoiled by the one who knows you best.

However, it is also easily understandable to feel sad and lonely if you are spending Christmas alone. Trust me, I know how you feel. You want the whole "Hallmark Movie" Christmas, where you meet the love of your life and you both spend the holidays sharing with heart-eyes and mistletoe kisses. Your sadistic mind is completely convinced every partnered person is basking in meaningful memories: cuddling, ice-skating, and sharing hot cocoa by the fireplace.

But we both know that rarely do those movies become our reality and rarely do we just randomly bump into that special someone. Serendipity is not an everyday occurrence.

But honestly, being alone is completely different than being single. I mean, do you really need to spend your precious time and money with someone you just met this month? You don't necessarily need that one person to be happy. Being single during the holidays can be rough, but it can also be sort of a blessing. Just because you're missing a significant other doesn't mean the most wonderful time of the year has to be any less wonderful. The holidays are about being with friends and family, anyway! There is plenty of people, in your life that love and adore you. I bet that they would love to spend the holidays with you. If your "friends" were truly your friends, they wouldn't force you to spend time with someone else. Instead, they should be hyping you up, reminding you that you don't need someone else to be happy.

So you know what I have to say? I say you should just forget about the chick-flicks that exaggerate the holiday romances or the jewelry commercials that remind you of how single you are. I know it might be a little difficult explaining to your relatives that have been constantly nagging you about why you haven't found anyone yet, but just don't worry about them. They shouldn't be worried about your personal love life anyway.

Go out and celebrate the holidays how you want to spend it!! If it is falling in love or hanging out with friends and family or simply watching reruns of Christmas movies in your pajamas while eating a pint of ice cream, then go ahead and do just that. You are the only person who truly knows what makes you happy and if that is what makes you the happiest person during this season, then I suggest you do whatever you want. I hope you celebrate the holidays just the way you want to.

Love Always,
Abby

They're watching you...

SAVANNAH REED
Staff Writer



sentenced to 116 years in prison for his role in six robberies. He is claiming that the evidence was unconstitutionally obtained since there was no warrant issued. However, government officials claim they had the right to do so because the fourth amendment doesn't apply to cell phones and they had probable cause to search and seize without a warrant. Carpenter's case was ruled against him in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals but he appealed the decision so it moved on to the Supreme Court. If Carpenter is able to win the case his convictions of the robberies could be completely expunged for an unconstitutional conviction and this will become a landmark case for digital privacy.

I completely support the government obtaining data without a warrant but only in an emergency situation where a person's safety is at risk. If knowing a location or having any other information about a



person could help save a life then a warrant shouldn't be needed because time in emergency situations is critical.

Tracking phones has also become a business for phone companies because some are now offering surveillance fees to some police departments. While some police departments require a warrant for non emergency crimes in order to search and seize cell phone data, there are many who need probable cause. Another way that this has been turned into a business is how Android devices were tracked by Google without the permission or knowledge of the

users for a large portion of 2017. Even if the device's location was turned off and the SIM card was removed, Google was still able to locate it. Android has stated to Quartz, an online news source, that the phones were only tracked to improve notifications and messaging. After receiving backlash from the public, both Android and Google have agreed to stop tracking without the permission of their users by the end of November, 2017.

Despite the fact I support the police collecting this information in an emergency, I don't believe that carriers should be obtaining data solely for

improving business.

Not only have some companies been caught locating customers but some have also been caught tracing the whereabouts of their workers. This locating should only be done to a company's property or a consenting employee's property. I believe companies have a right to use GPS on their property simply because they own it. Also, if an employee consents to GPS tracking then they can't blame the employer for an invasion of privacy. However, if the employer does overstep the boundaries of the agreement they would be invading privacy.

When it comes to digital privacy the issues that surround them are very debatable because they are fairly new. The biggest point is that when these issues arise there are right and wrong ways to handle them. Each case must be judged in its own way because they all have their own problems and unique circumstances.

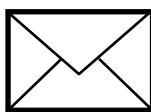
DO YOU NEED ADVICE?

DEAR ABBY

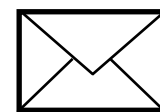
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E-mail Mrs. Himmelhaver with a question and an anonymous name and Abby may feature you in the paper.

FEATURES

Six days of Christmas activities

1

Ivy Taylor



“Decorating our Christmas tree is one of my favorite activities leading up to Christmas. I enjoy all the colors and beautiful ornaments that light up the Christmas spirit for everyone.”

2

Jose Gonzalez



“I like to bake cookies. I enjoy this because making sweets are a passion of mine and they are something I enjoy doing when I can. I learned to make cookies from my mom. I think the best cookies I have made are chocolate chip with coconut.”

3

Katelynn Leonard



“Opening a present on Christmas Eve is my favorite because it helps with the Christmas anxiety and it’s been a tradition since I was a little kid.”

4

Victoria Diaz



“I like shopping during Christmas because it is fun and relaxing!”

5

Cade Miller



“Making cookies with my mom is one thing I love about Christmas because I get to spend time with her.”

6

Haley McCarvel



“I enjoy decorating the Christmas tree because my family does it together as a family.”

Blake will never be forgotten

PAULETTE BLACK
Assistant Editor

Blake Nicolas Thompson, a member of the graduating class of 2021, left this world far too early. Thompson was born Dec. 5, 2002 and passed away at the young age of fourteen on Nov. 8, 2017.

Thompson was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, a condition which prompted him to experience other complications; such as, Plastic Bronchitis and Protein Losing Enteropathy.

Thompson's family was aware of his diagnosis before he was born, and knew that he would require multiple open heart surgeries. The first surgery took place when he was only three days old. He went on to have two more open heart surgeries before the age of three. The second one at six months old and the third when he was two and a half.

His heart condition caused his other diagnosis to develop later in his childhood because of his heart not being able to function properly. Nevertheless, Thompson at no time com-

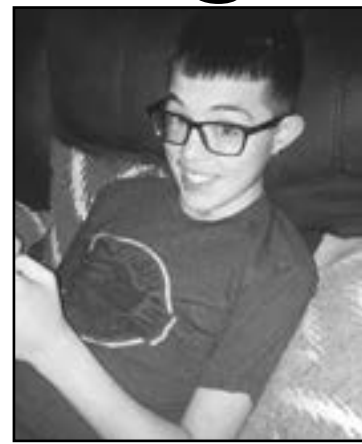


Photo submitted
Blake Thompson is finally allowed to see his dog, Scar, after begging his parents and the hospital workers to let him see him. He was very excited to see him before his surgery.

plained or whined about anything, and he never wanted to stand out or be treated differently from anyone else in his class.

Thompson's mom, Nicole Matthews, says to always treat

others with empathy and kindness, as you do not know what they are going through and what battles they face. Thompson faced bullies in the eighth grade.



"Kids were mean, and I never understood why, as Blake wouldn't hurt a fly," Matthews said.

Thompson didn't care particularly for school, but he was trying his best to enjoy his short time in high school.

"Blake was quiet in school, but at home he was the life of the party. His personality would light up a room the minute he entered it, and we now feel the major void his absence has created," Matthews said.

Thompson loved watching movies, playing video games and spending time with his best friend, his dog named Scar. Thompson was an avid University of Louisville fan and even got to meet the football and

basketball teams.

"Blake's heart limited him with activities. He could not participate in sports; he would cough often and stay out of breath, but that never stopped him from asking," Matthews said.

Thompson has five siblings Dylan Thompson, Carter Thompson, Benjie Matthews, Alexis Matthews and Gracie Matthews. Thompson's family plans to keep his memory alive and make something positive out of his passing. They plan to continue talking about him daily and plan to hold a 5K every year to honor him and give back to others. The family wants to raise awareness, inform and support others and promote organ donation.

"We want to honor Blake by making sure we keep his story alive. Blake was kind, considerate and never complained. Blake would look out for everyone else's needs above his own. Blake was one of the strongest people that we know, and he will always be a Hero in his family's eyes. He will be forever missed, but never forgotten," Matthews said.

Wilson spreads love for foreign languages

ERIKA BIDDLE
Design Editor

Foreign language teacher Christine Wilson has always had a passion for learning languages and experiencing different cultures. This passion led her to become a teacher 15 years ago.

Wilson gained her bachelor's degree in languages at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. and her master's degree at the University of Louisville. Wilson has also earned the National Board Certification in World Languages, which is the highest honor for foreign language teachers.

It wasn't until seven years after she earned her degree though that Wilson actually started teaching at MCHS. "MCHS had an opening and when I toured the school all of the teachers were so nice and positive, so I knew it was the place for me to be," Wilson said.

Before Wilson became a teacher she worked in the Span-



Photo by Tori Lawrence
Christine Wilson grades papers for her classes.

ish Department of a Christian Ministry. Also during this gap Wilson started her family. She has two children—Bethany and Caleb. Bethany is 20 years old and lives in Hawaii while serving in the United States Air Force and Caleb is nine years old and is a third grade student at Brandenburg Primary.

That's not all though, Wilson also has many animals that make up her family. She has a Border Collie black Lab mix named Delilah that was given to her by a former student, an Eng-

lish Pointer named Sampson, two stray cats named Rambow and Jerry and seven chickens.

Wilson has always loved learning different languages so she continued learning French throughout her college years and decided to be a teacher soon after. However, while she was in college Wilson changed majors from French to music business because she had a love for music and was surrounded by music all day while working at Opryland. She missed French and Spanish too much though and switched

her major back to languages.

Both teaching and learning another language can be difficult, but that doesn't stop Wilson. Students often have a bad attitude about learning another language because they think it will be hard, so Wilson has to motivate students to view cultures from other perspectives and help them overcome their fear of learning a different language. She does this by incorporating a variety of activities into student's daily routine.

Wilson often uses songs, visuals, drawing games such as nearpod and kahoot and dances to help students memorize challenging vocabulary.

Wilson's love for experiencing other cultures has instilled her with a love for traveling. She has ventured to France where she attended a personal development day for French teachers in Dijon, France. She toured multiple schools in France and learned how French schools function differently than American schools. While in France,

she also visited the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum.

Wilson has also traveled to Venezuela on a mission trip where she taught Vacation Bible School to kids and helped translate in medical clinics. She's also journeyed to southern Spain to tour the Spanish Rivera and went to a bullfight. At one point Wilson even lived in Seoul, South Korea where she taught English. In the future she would like to travel back to Europe, Great Britain and to Hawaii.

Aside from traveling and learning different cultures, Wilson also enjoys snuggling up with a good book. She most enjoys reading historical fiction, but also likes the Outlander series and a few of Stephen King's novels. Also in her free time Wilson likes to study genealogy and explore her family tree. Wilson has even taken a DNA test to trace back her exact heritage, and she was shocked to find that she had traces of Asian and Jewish ancestry.

LIFE HACKS

Easy Christmas Dessert Recipe

Unwrapping Christmas joy

KARISSA ERVIN
Staff Writer

Christmas is the spirit of giving. Making a homemade gift from your heart and giving it to someone special in your life, is genuinely meaningful. Here are some homemade Christmas gift ideas that are easy to make on a low budget that can still have a significant impact on that person.

Snow globes are a must-have to those who are a child at heart. To make a homemade snow globe, you will spend \$4-\$6. You will need a mason jar, a plastic figurine, glitter, and water or glycerin. First, glue the plastic figurine of your choice in the jar. Next, fill the jar with the water or glycerin and add as much glitter as your heart desires. Screw the lid on tight so nothing leaks out. That's it! Shake your jar to make it snow!

Homemade candles are fairly easy to make as well. To make a candle, you will approximately spend \$4 to \$8, depending on how much supplies you already have at home. You will also need a empty mason jar, crayons of any color you choose, and a wick. First, melt the wax, while doing so, secure the wick, standing up straight, with hot glue to the bottom



of the mason jar. Once the wax is completely melted (it's optional to add fragrance oil) pour the hot wax into the mason jar and allow it to cool. Trim the wick and voilà, you have a homemade candle!

If you're looking for a perfect homemade gift to give to someone that loves hot drinks, a watercolor decorated mug is the gift to give. To make a watercolor mug, you will spend around \$4 to \$6, depending on what items you already have at home. All you will need to make this simple, yet meaningful mug is a white ceramic mug, nail polish, and a bowl. First, fill the bowl with warm water, add a drop of nail polish and let it spread out. Next, dip the mug into the water and pat mug dry with a paper towel. You can

repeat with additional colors if you choose to do so. Once you've achieved the look you wanted, let the mug sit for at least two hours.

There are many other homemade items that would make perfect Christmas gifts. Such as, a decorated picture frame to hold special memories in a decorative form; a homemade bath bomb to make baths even more calming and relaxing; salt dough ornaments to make the Christmas tree hold fun-filled memories; and a knitted blanket to keep warm during the cold season.

Homemade Christmas gifts are meaningful and you don't have to spend much. They're easy to create and make the perfect gifts for the holidays.

Festive M&M Bars

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 45 minutes

Serves: 20 bars

Ingredients:

- 2-¼ cups flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 12 Tbs butter, soft
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ½ White sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 tsps vanilla extract
- 12oz bag of festive M&Ms



1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease glass 9x13 pan
2. Whisk together the flour, salt and baking soda in a bowl and set aside
3. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugars until combined. Add eggs & vanilla extract. Mix well
4. Stir the dry ingredients into the egg mixture until combined. Do not fully mix.
5. Layer 1 cup in M&Ms and turn the batter into the prepared pan. Proceed to smooth batter with spatula. Layer rest of M&Ms on top of batter until covered
6. Bake 25-30 minutes. Cool completely before cutting. Enjoy!

Christmas lovin' from the oven

ANASTASIA BASHAM
Assistant News Editor

Whenever anyone thinks of the word Christmas, the immediate thought is presents, Christmas trees, snow and, of course, Christmas cookies! Cookies have always been a big part of the family Christmas tradition from the warm smell of gingerbread to the sweet taste of sugar cookies, and let's not forget the classic tradition of leaving cookies on the table for Santa. But have you ever wondered where the classic Christmas cookie tradition originated? It's surprising to find that Christmas cookies were first made in the medieval period.

The strong smell of traditional gingerbread is enough to make anyone have a flashback to warm Christmas memories. In Medieval England, the term *gingerbread* meant "preserved ginger," and did not become connected with the desserts we are familiar with today until the 15th century; now the word



gingerbread is commonly used with any dessert that combines ginger with honey or molasses. The earliest European gingerbread recipe was made with ground almonds, stale bread crumbs, rosewater, sugar and ginger but later the recipe was altered as people began to add boiled honey and heavy spices.

As gingerbread became more and more popular, a law was passed to only allow guildsmen to bake and sell gingerbread because spices were so

expensive and hard to come by; however, during the Christmas time, the law was relaxed and families got to bake the sweet treat for a once a year tradition.

Gingerbread became more and more popular but eventually, people got sick of seeing the same boring round disk and came up with the idea to bend tin into shapes of leaders such as Queen Elizabeth I and baby Jesus. These tin shapes are now known as cookie cutters.

Cookies were not only a

delicious treat to enjoy; they also became a form of artistic expression for children. In the 18th century, Dutch children created large cut out cookies as window decorations for churches and homes. They decorated these cookies by cutting the shapes with tin cutters and elaborately decorated them with icing. For the faces on the cookies, children cut out pieces of newspaper or magazines and arranged them to form a face on the cookies. Of course, these

pieces had to be taken off before eating. That is why we now decorate our cookies.

Adults also used cookies as a creative relief. Christmas trees in homes were decorated with whatever was available in homes, but many people did not have a lot to decorate their trees. Adults began using leftover dough to create Christmas tree ornaments and made them last longer by adding lots and lots of salt.

Historians believe the tradition of leaving Santa cookies originated during the Great Depression. Parents encouraged their kids to leave the leftover cookies they did not eat on the table for other people to enjoy as a way to motivate giving thanks for the presents children received on Christmas Day, even during the economic hardship. Eighty-seven years later, children still leave cookies and milk for the big jolly man in the red suit either out of the goodness of their hearts or as a bribe to receive more gifts.

From Milan to Meade



Photo Submitted

Viceconti and his Meade County friends borrowed Owensboro Catholic's Paddle after a volleyball game against the Aces.

TORI LAWRENCE
Photographer

Dante Viceconti is an easy going, charismatic Italian native who is currently spending his fourth year of study at MCHS.

Viceconti is from Northern Italy, a city not too far from Milan. In his free time there, he normally would take a train to Milan to hang out with friends at coffee shops on the weekends.

Though he enjoys living in Italy, he has always liked the idea of traveling and seeing new places.

"I've always liked the idea to come here to the US and I've always had this kind of dream to go to a University here," Viceconti said.

At first, he wanted to go through the Foreign Exchange Program, but instead he took matters into his own hands and decided to move

in with family he has here in Brandenburg.

When asked about his family back home, Viceconti explained that he misses them but at the same time he understands growing up is a big part of moving to a different country for a year. He says that knowing his family is always going to be there for him makes it easier to not miss them as much.

"I won't be living with my parents for the rest of my life," Viceconti said.

However, what he does miss are his friends, but most of all his dog, a rottweiler named Roxy.

Another way that makes living in a totally different place is being involved in the school. He is involved in FBLA and FCA, as well as a church youth group.

"I think being involved in something else other than the six periods in a day helps you

to know other people," Viceconti said.

He always thought it would be a cool thing to tell people that he had the opportunity to graduate from two different high schools in different countries.

However, Italy schools are different than America's. There, high schoolers have to complete five years as opposed to our four.

"The biggest difference between schools is that in Italy I am just with one classroom the entire school day but in Meade County I get to change classes and meet a lot more people," Viceconti said.

Viceconti will only be able to graduate from Italy. However, he does plan on returning for college to attend a university here in Kentucky or somewhere along the east coast. When he does, he would like to major in economy and finance.

Fighting winter with fun outfits

ERIKA BIDDLE
Design Editor

As the warmth of fall quickly fades into the coldness of winter, it can sometimes be difficult to create outfits that are fashionable, comfortable and warm. Aside from Christmas and snow days winter usually doesn't have much to offer and is often dreaded, but with a cute outfit and a good attitude anything can be achieved! Below are some outfit accessories that will help you survive this winter.

Flannels

Since we live in the country, flannels are common attire amongst older generations, but younger audiences can also wear them. The great



thing about flannels are that they come in various styles to fit your wants and needs. There are flannels made of thinner material for when it's only a bit nippy out and thicker flannels for when the cold weather is downright brutal. Most flannels are made of cotton, which ensures that you're not only warm but comfortable too. As if it couldn't get any better, flannels also come in practically every color desirable!

Blanket Scarves

Let's be honest any type of scarf is great to have during the winter months, but blanket scarves in particular are guaranteed to keep you nice and toasty. Contrary to most scarves, blanket scarves are extremely thick and are often big enough to keep your shoulders and arms warm as well as your chest and neck.

Fuzzy Socks

Socks are a necessity during the winter, but they don't always keep your feet warm. Fuzzy socks however have the extra material that will ensure that your toes will be warm. They come in multiple colors and festive designs.

With these few items your dreaded winter will be better!

Building foundations



CAITLYN RISKY
Staff Writer

Makeup is our war paint. Females use makeup to disguise themselves in battle. Well, not really, we use it to cover acne; blemishes, scars and other random marks we think aren't normal. Sometimes makeup is used for fun; it's a form of art. It's all about skin tones vs. other colors.

One major part of makeup that deals with covering up would be concealer or foundation. There are all sorts of foundations for all sorts of skin types. These foundations fit skin types like oily, dry, acne-prone, aging and sensitive.

Just like there are tons of skin types; there are also several different foundation types. There is liquid, matte, velvet, powder, mousse, etc. It's an endless spectrum of options to choose from when finding what's right for your skin type.

If you have oily, or acne-prone skin it is best to be on the search for a foundation that is "oil-free." Try to ignore foundations reading "dewy" or "aluminizing." It's also a good idea to look out for thicker formulas to cover bumps and acne.

For dry skin, you should try for a light coverage foundation with more of moisturizing texture. Thick creams and liquid foundations are best known for coverage of dry skin. Some makeup brands create foundation formulas that are hydrating enough to feel like lotion across the skin, moisturizing and covering.

If you're a teenager whose face is "aging" faster than it should—meaning that you have wrinkles in spots—don't settle on powders for coverage. Powder foundations tend to sink into wrinkles and lines; the finished look would make your wrinkles more profound. Liquid foundation would be your best option for an aging skin type.

Then, there's general sensitive skin. If breaking out of the face often occurs when wearing makeup, just try to focus on the ingredients of the foundations you're buying. It all depends on whether your skin is easily irritated combined with the way your skin acts on a daily basis.

For example, throughout the day, if your face ends up feeling greasy—even though it's completely natural—it can get annoying. Certain makeups can increase the irritation of the oils against your skin causing either acne or redness.

Many makeup websites say that if your skin is easily irritated you should try to purchase mineral powders or formulas that apply to the list of skin types above.

No matter your skin type, if wearing makeup is a daily routine, it's healthier to find a product that fits your personal needs. It's easy to get overwhelmed by the variety of choices there are on the shelves of the drugstore, but seek out the options that would satisfy your skin and style.

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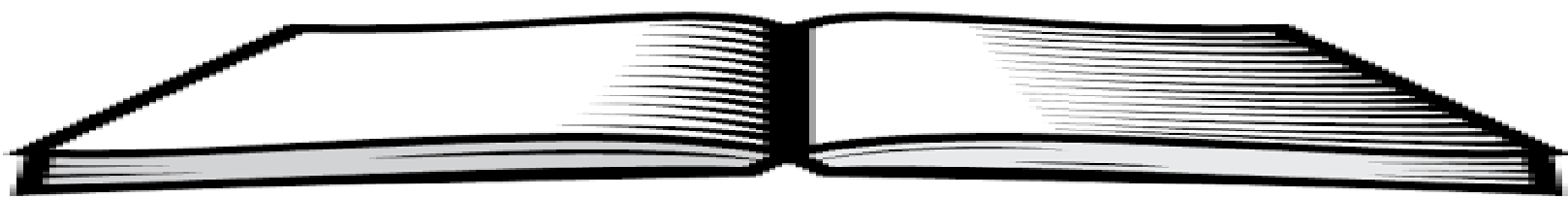


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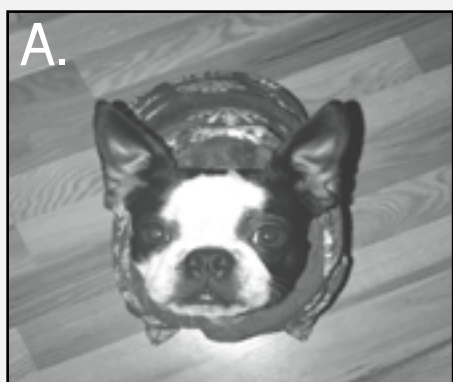


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ENTERTAINMENT

PET MATCH

A man's best friend is always there when you need to talk, go for a walk or need a laugh. Four adorable animals and four of their humans, which furry friend goes with each MCHS student?



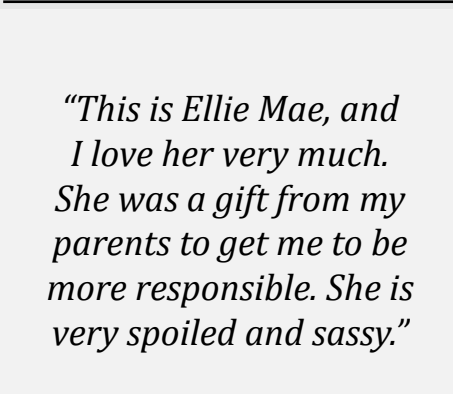
A.

"This is Stella in her winter robe. I love her because she has such a sassy personality, but is a sweetheart when nobody else is around."



1.

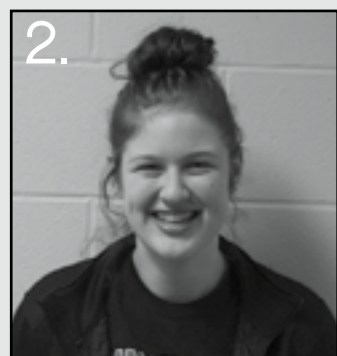
Shawn Derossett



"This is Ellie Mae, and I love her very much. She was a gift from my parents to get me to be more responsible. She is very spoiled and sassy."

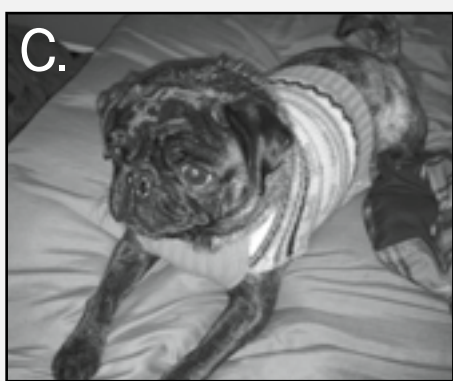


B.



2.

Tristen Allen



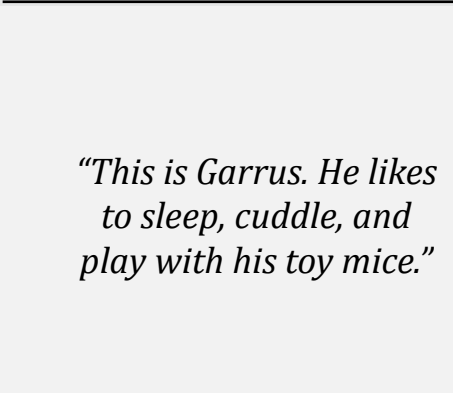
C.

"This is my pug, Bella. She is very puppered for the winter and hates the heckin cold. She is a very cute puggerino."



3.

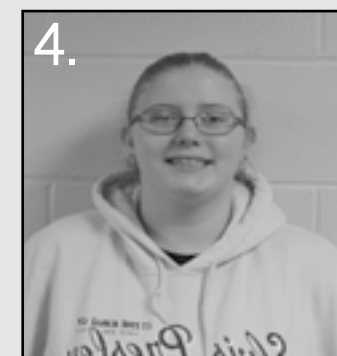
Caitlyn Calarco



"This is Garrus. He likes to sleep, cuddle, and play with his toy mice."



D.



4.

Brea Bagley

Do you have a pet? Be featured by sending a picture of your favorite furry friend to our Entertainment Editor at Andrea.Ruiz@stu.meade.kyschools.us

Layout by: Emma Barr & Erika Biddle

MATCHES: A3, B4, C1, D2

HOROSCOPES

What is your horoscope? Share your fortune with a friend.

Leo
There are many things that will come your way this month that are really too good to be true, so stall for time while you come up with a killer rationalization for saying no.

Taurus
"Gratitude turns what we have into enough." Whether December is about your people, button-free pants or netflix - soak it all up, Taurus!

Aries
Haters got you motivated, Aries? Show them how it's done, but don't forget the people who believe in you everyday!

Cancer
It is likely that December isn't looking so hot for your relationship, Cancer. Be careful with what you say because significant others may not think your jokes are so funny.

Gemini
December is a big month for you, Gemini! Everything is going to go your way. From your love life to your school work, you are going to be showered with fortune.

Virgo
Not everyone has your best interests at heart, but that's nothing new. What's different this month is that you're starting to notice a pattern behind one person's behavior that makes you want to change things.

Libra
If you need a slow start this month, that's fine. Just don't stop. Stick with your routine and analyze it more deeply, but never let anything stand in your way.

Scorpio
This is one of those months that forces you to choose between politeness and speaking your mind. You won't believe what you hear coming out of the mouths of your dates, but you might need to let them say it!

Aquarius
Your creativity could lead to more cash in your pocket, Aquarius! December is going to bring you fortune by the buckets as long as you're daring enough to stick your neck out!

Capricorn
You'll see a wave of kindness after a polarizing year and just in time for the holidays, when we all need those reminders about giving and generosity.

Sagittarius
Do you ever feel like you go from being busy 24/7 to doing absolutely nothing? Focus this month on pacing yourself and all of the work that you do, Sagittarius!

Pisces
Feel pressured to be fulfilled all the time, Pisces? Understand that struggle equals strength, and December is going to make you stronger than ever.

A "Wonder"ful movie

ANDREA RUIZ
Entertainment Editor

SPOILERS AHEAD, YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!!

"Wonder" premiered in theaters on Nov. 17. Based on R.J. Palacio's novel, also entitled "Wonder," August Pullman, nicknamed Auggie, is faced with the toughest situation of all: School.

One would think school would be something to celebrate at his age, but his genetic abnormality has caused him to fear school and more so the people in it. His multiple medical treatments and surgeries make him stand out in the crowd, and not in the way he wishes.

Auggie is a regular kid in almost all aspects. He dreams of being an astronaut and enjoys video games like "Minecraft." His charming sense of humor and understanding of science help him handle otherwise awkward situations.

Though he had been home schooled until that point, Auggie is convinced by his parents to attempt school. His mother, who has put her career on hold to home school Auggie, hopes that he can acclimate to the outside world.

On the first day, it is obvious that the students' gawking and whispering will be a problem during the film.

Then the focus switches



to Via, Auggie's sister. This was a surprise considering all the trailers focused on Auggie's journey, not anyone else's.

Via lets Auggie have all the attention from their parents in order to ease their parents' lives. She is supportive of Auggie, but after her best friend snubbed her, she decides to join the school play at a cute boy's request.

The movie also extends into the lives of those around the Pullman's. We see glimpses of Jack Will, Auggie's friend, and Miranda, Via's former best friend. Jack Will struggles between being a good friend to Auggie and fitting in with the popular kids at school. His financial status plays a big part in his struggle. Miranda's jealousy gets in the way of her and Via's friendship. When she finally realizes that Via is also struggling, she puts her emotions aside to let Via shine in the school play.

These moments show us that there are different perspectives to each story.

In the end, Auggie wins an award before his peers and their parents. This cliché moment ties the entire movie together into a big ball of emotion.

The entire film is a bittersweet balance between sadness and sentimentality. Although the ending was a little predictable, "Wonder" got away with it without any complaints. It was fitting that Auggie prevailed and was celebrated in the ending assembly.

"Wonder" was heartwarming and filled my heart with empathy. There were many happy and sad tears shed in the theater room by me, and I would gladly shed them again if I were to see this it once more.

Overall, I would give this movie a trillion stars, but I suppose I could settle for five.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

JADE SIPES

Ads Manager

Devan Hammack's medium of art differs from what we usually feature in artist of the month. He finds his creative outlet in creating short films during his spare time.

The Current (TC): When and why did you start making movies?

Devan Hammack (DH): I made my first video when I was 10 years old and in the 4th grade. The video was a review of a WWE action figure, and it was pretty bad! Terrible audio quality, poor visuals, and a lot of heavy breathing—I was sick. After I made a few more videos, I moved on to stop motion animation. This is where I really began to appreciate all the work that goes into producing something entertaining. My first stop motion I put on YouTube in the 4th grade got 3,000 views in a

few days! Now I make comedy videos and more serious ones, but most don't make their way onto YouTube.

TC: Where do you get your inspiration?

DH: I never know what will make me have a cool idea but when I do I make sure to put it in my notes for later.

TC: What piece of your work are you most proud of and why?

DH: The piece of work I'm most proud of was a commercial I made for spaghetti sauce last year in my marketing class. It's DEFINITELY not the best thing I've ever made but it was nice seeing a whole classroom's reaction to it. The whole point of making a video or movie is for it to be entertaining and for it to get a reaction out of the people viewing it.

TC: What's your favorite part of making a movie?

DH: My favorite part of

working on a project is the post production stage, where I edit everything and make it all look nice. It's so satisfying seeing it all come together after shooting over and over. Shooting can be very stressful.

TC: Is there a certain theme your works usually have?

DH: Most of my videos are based around very strange comedy because it's the easiest way to entertain someone in my opinion. But, my serious projects always have a darkness to them and are usually horror theme because that is my favorite kind of movie.

TC: How much time does it generally take you to make a movie?

DH: The time varies, but trust me, it's always a long time. It's never a quick and easy process because so much goes into the entire process.

Devan Hammack



'Tis the season to be broke

MACKENZIE FOCKLER

Features Editor

As children we are all very much aware of what the holiday season is about: cold weather, snow days, warm hot chocolate, lots of delicious food, spending time with family and especially the presents.

Of course receiving a gift is always an exciting time, but more importantly, giving a gift to someone you love is what really makes the holidays feel so warm and fuzzy. However, what I previously failed to realize as a child is the behind-the-scenes proportion of the matter—the shopping.

Black Friday is the day after thanksgiving, known for its humongous sales

where you figuratively, as well as physically, “shop till you drop.” Some people may consider this a holiday of its own; however, others see it as an apocalyptic nightmare.

This year was my third year in a row to venture out in the craziness of department stores to buy Christmas gifts for my friends and family. I decided to switch up my pace this year by taking my commute somewhere other than Elizabethtown, so instead I ended up shopping in Louisville.

The three main stores I made my purchases at were Target, Walmart and Kohl's.

Going to Target is an annual tradition of mine to shop at specifically on Black Friday, I'm not sure if that is because of the great deals or maybe just the entertain-



ment of it all. Either way I apparently did not understand what I was signing up for.

As soon as I stepped foot into the store I saw a blend of running, yelling and lines that seemingly went on for days. Thankfully, I found

what gifts I needed then proceeded to stand in line for 40 minutes.

My Walmart experience was slightly different; think of it as Target but on steroids. The people were way more rude, hence the fact I was constantly being yelled at or catcalled by other shoppers in line. What made the situation even less comfortable was that I had to stand smushed in line with them for at least 30 minutes.

Unfortunately I did not buy anything on sale except a bunch of random cosmetic products and stocking

stuffer items I definitely did not need, but also definitely do not regret buying.

Kohl's is what I expected with clothes thrown around everywhere and husbands looking irritated while their wives search through piles of clothing. The lines were still long, and my feet hurt, but at that point I was just ready to go home.

Overall, I ran, I walked, I witnessed arguments. I stood in lines for longer than I actually looked around, I looked for a parking spot for 15 minutes on average and I can't wait to do it all over again next year.

STORY CORNER: A Lonely Eve

It was seven o'clock when the fuel ran out in Eve's car, and it couldn't have been a worse time.

Eve was supposed to be at Grandpa's for Christmas. She paced by the car, running her hand through her hair as if the solution might be hidden in her tangles.

She simply couldn't be late. Every year—yes, every year—she had always been at his house at exactly eight o'clock. She knew she was the only grandchild who could come, the others lived just a little too far away.

How miserable he must be, sitting all alone! She could picture how the excitement on his face would fade to disappoint, his smile drooping like the wrinkles on his face. A painful silence would hang over dinner as only he ate, surrounded by empty chairs... Then he would just sit all night, alone by the dusty presents. Oh, what kind of granddaughter would let this happen?

Resolution steeled, she set forth. He was going to have a proper Christmas, no matter the car!

The wind pulled at her scarf and mussed with her hair. Each snowflake that smacked into her face was met with resentment. How she hated winter! But she knew that her grandfather simply couldn't wait. She could already imagine the way he'd gush once she told him—humbly, of course—of all that she'd been through to get to his house on time. Why, he might even reward her with the first slice of ham... Eve walked even faster.

At last—the welcoming light of Grandpa's little brick house! Before Eve knocked on the door, she glanced through the window at the familiar sight of the Christmas tree and... and...

There was a lady sitting by Grandpa.

The woman turned, and Eve saw her face. It was Miss Devy—Eve remembered Miss Devy. She was their neighbor, an old school teacher as strict as they come. The old lady had never even smiled, but now—now it looked as if she was giggling! Eve couldn't hear through the window, but there was no mistaking that coy expression. Giggling! Miss Devy was giggling!

And Eve's grandpa—why, Grandpa just winked! Her weathered old grandpa was winking at Miss Devy! Eve silently gaped at the candle-lit scene. The two were acting almost like they were... in... love...

Eve stepped away from the window. She sat by the door, fussing a bit with her scarf. It really was such a lovely night, snowfall was always so pretty... No other season was as nice as winter.

It was now eight o'clock, but that was fine. Eve could wait.

Story by Sydney Crosslin

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The Dark Whimsey of Little Nightmares



SYDNEY CROSSLIN
Staff Writer

“Little Nightmares” tells the tale of a child trapped in a terrifying world of gluttony. You play as Six, a small girl ascending the vast structure known as The Maw. The game is a horror platformer, and may remind some gamers of “Inside” or “Limbo.”

Along with the main game, there are three DLCs (Downloadable Content) planned. The first one introduced us to the Runaway Kid, who seems to be serving as our second protagonist, as he was also the focus of the recently released second DLC.

A television adaptation is planned as well, coming out sometime in 2019. Henry Selick, one of the directors of “A Nightmare Before Christmas,” is joining Anthony and Joe Russo, the filmmaking duo behind “Captain America: Civil War” and “Winter Soldier” to bring the game onto the screen.

While this is nice, what is the game itself like? Well, let’s take a dive into the madness of “Little Nightmares.”

The enemy’s designs are grotesque. Bloated faces, spindly arms, leathery skin—perfect for a horror game. This has to be one of the strongest points of the game. The lighting is dark, and the colors are muted. The only spot of light is a small child in a bright yellow raincoat— young Six, a splash of color. Her design makes her stand out wonderfully. The only item she holds is a lighter, adding to her dramatic contrast. The thought put into the design shows.

The game is musically

solid as well. The songs help set up the creepy ambiance, with a few crowning moments. Six’s theme captures both the darkness of the world around her and her childish status. During one level known as The Guest Area, the music is timed with the player’s progression, building the tension as you advance.

Storywise, “Little Nightmares” is something of a mixed bag. All of this incredible design pulls the player into the world, and there are so many questions. Why did Six dream of that lady at the beginning? Where even is she, and why? It’s so easy to become invested into the wonderful mysteries of the game... Unfortunately, by the end you’ll have few answers. In fact, you won’t even know the name of the characters unless you read outside of the game itself. While these nebulous mysteries make the game so wonderful, there has to be some sort of payoff.

The first and second DLC retains the game’s amazing atmosphere. The Runaway Kid’s light blue gives him a look distinct from Six, and it heightens his connection to water. The new enemy is more aggressive than any other, keeping the pressure on the player and the tension high. It give some answers, though it certainly raises some questions of its own. Overall, they are of just as high quality, and they help to balance out the original’s short time.

“Little Nightmares” is certainly a game worth your attention. Despite its flaws, its skillful design makes it stand out among horror games.

Superheroes fight for justice

MEGHAN ALLISON
News Editor

Both the Marvel and DC universe have been in a feud for years, going back to when comics were first made. DC was the first company to sprout up in 1956, reinventing old superheroes to give them a story. Without the development of DC, there would be no superheroes today. For decades there was no competition, until Marvel came into play. Marvel had originally been known as Atlas and Time-ly, and wasn’t considered a big player until they hired Stan Lee.

Marvel and DC used to work closely together; they even had an annual softball game every year until DC moved their headquarters to California. There was even a comic book with a crossover between Superman and SpiderMan, the two most popular Marvel and DC characters at that time. So moving to 2017, why is there such a big feud between two companies that used to work so well together? I believe that it’s due to the fans blowing their opinions out of proportion.

While comic books were more popular back in the day,



the major feud people see today didn’t start until movies. Marvel showed their first “Iron Man,” movie in 2008, while DC started in 2005 with “Batman Begins.”

Since Marvel and DC are different in their own ways, people should not compare them to each other. This year, Justice League came out and people were comparing it to The Avengers, the first movie that brought the Marvel characters together. Both Marvel and DC have different views, directors and people writing the scripts. There will be similarities between the two but these are two different companies.

DC has gone to more of a darker side making superheroes like Batman that live in the shadows, but not all sides of DC are dark. Superheroes like The Flash, Wonder Woman and others are all different examples

of how DC can give a lighter tone.

Superheroes like Captain America, Hawkeye, Thor and a wide range of others give Marvel more of a humorous and lighter tone. Although Marvel has the capability to get darker, they prefer to have their fans laughing and on the edge of their seats.

Both Marvel and DC have made their own set of TV shows. Marvel’s shows are primarily viewed Netflix, while most of the DC shows premiere on the CW channel.

Each director has a different mindset, no one thinks the same, so why should fans compare two different shows and movies when they aren’t trying to be the same? If Marvel and DC wanted the exact same story with the exact same characters then they’d combine their companies.

Local cuisine on wheels

EMMA BARR
Editor-in-Chief

The phrase “meals on wheels” has been taken to a whole new level ever since The Locals Food Truck rolled into town.

As a wannabe foodie, my level of cuisine expertise may not even make a splash in the world of taste testing, but, as an ordinary MCHS student I must say that my experience of The Locals food was so delicious that it can only be described as a burst of colorful flavor upon the palate.

I had the privilege of sinking my teeth into a fully dressed bacon cheeseburger and, for a moment, the world seemed to stand still as the flavor of crunchy lettuce, bacon and perfectly cooked burger filled my mouth. Ok I am going to be real, I may have dramatized my Locals experience a bit but the truth is that the popular little



Photo by Emma Barr

The Locals braved the cold weather to support Radiant Church’s Halloween program on Oct. 31.

truck lives up to all the hype.

It is so popular in fact that I had to wait about 15 minutes for my juicy burger to be prepared and handed to me through the window, but once I sat down and unwrapped the work of art all doubts faded away.

The mobile food truck also serves different types of burgers; a variety of tacos and nachos; and hotdogs.

As if being a mobile food truck in a small town like Brandenburg is not special enough, The Locals also allow customers to leave their own mark on the food truck— literally. The Lo-

cals provide Sharpies for anyone who wants to sign their name on the side of the truck and it is filling up fast!

Before perusing the menu or signing your name, you have to do a little research in order to find their daily location. Sometimes you can scout them out on your own, but most of the time it is hard to hunt them down, so check out their Facebook, The Locals- A Mobile Eatery.

Next time you are cruising around the ‘burg be sure to keep your eyes peeled for The Locals, I know I will.



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SPORTS

Greenwaves fall short by two for season opener

DANIEL SCHOONOVER
Assistant Sports Editor

The Greenwave basketball team traveled to the Eagles' nest in Ohio County for their opening season game on Tuesday, Nov. 28. The Greenwaves suffered a loss, but it was a hard fought game ending 66-68. The team held the lead at each quarter until the end when the Eagles scored four points in free throws.

"We played against a strong team, but we played hard, keeping it a close game. We do need to work on our fouling, we had over 20 fouls. We can't beat good teams on the road if we have that many fouls, but we can and will improve," Coach Jason Tripure said.

The team started out strong at the tip off when they sent the ball flying to the other side of the court into forward Chezney Weick's hands where he instantly made a dunk, practically drenching the Eagles' wings within the first 10 seconds of the game.

"I think the game went well. As a team we moved the ball and made shots really well. We need to work on our fouling. We fouled over 20 times, and they capitalized on that. Scoring 20 points overall from the free throw line. But all in all, I believe we will do great this season. We just have to work harder and get real for the upcoming Owensboro Catholic game," junior Chezney Weick said.



Photo by Daniel Schoonover

Senior Forward Aidan Matthews shoots two free throws against the Ohio County Eagles on Nov. 28. Matthews led the team with 21 points, but the Greenwaves still fell short with a score of 66-68.

During the first and second quarters, the lead was taken multiple times by each team. The highest lead at one point was held by Meade County with a 7-point difference. The Eagles soon caught up and tied until the quarter ended with Meade County leading 13-11.

Again, the Greenwaves held the second quarter's lead by two points at 28-26. Most of the points were scored by free throws. This happened with the third quarter as well, with Meade County leading 47-45.

Forward Aidan Matthews was the leading scorer during the game with 21 points. Senior Matt Colard and junior Chezney

Weick mostly led the team. Junior Kobe Nikolao played outstanding defense against opponents that were making shots. Cooper Crump, an eighth grader that plays for the Greenwaves, also managed to maneuver the ball around the towering opponents with ease.

"I thought we played decently. We needed to play better defense but our offense did great. That is usually how it turns out but that's a positive. I feel like if we play defense the way we usually do and increase the offense, we will be a tough team to beat. Chezney and a couple of the younger players stepped up when needed as we were missing two

key players such as senior's Noah Schwartz and Steven Benock. I also felt that Kobe Nikolao bought the team really good minutes. Overall, I think we will be right in the mix for the region champions," senior Aidan "Beak" Matthews said.

The Greenwaves beat Ohio County last season with a score of 74-60. The Eagles took back that win this season. Perhaps the pattern will be in the Greenwaves favor next year. At press time, the Greenwaves record is 2-2. They will be seen in action on Friday, Dec. 15, battling the Breckinridge County Fighting Tigers who currently hold a record of 3-1 at press time.

Ladywaves lose a hard-fought battle against the Lady Aces

DANIEL SCHOONOVER
Assistant Sports Editor

The Ladywave basketball team hosted the Owensboro Catholic Lady Aces on Dec. 1 for their opening season game. Meade County suffered a loss but stood strong against the tough opponents, ending with a score of 62-73.

Owensboro Catholic currently holds a win record of 2-1 after beating Ohio County 69-15 for their opening game.

"I thought we played well! It's the first game of the season, and we fought harder than any game we've played together. The atmosphere was electric and that pumped us up a lot. I'm very excited about the future of this team," Combo Guard Kendall Wingler said.

The first quarter ended with O'Cath in the lead by 9 points and a score of 8-17. The first points scored by Meade County was by Point Guard Ryleigh Board with a two-pointer through the arms of the towering Lady Aces.

The halftime score ended with O'Cath still in the lead, this time by 10 points. Meade County was fighting to catch up with the score at 23-33. The student section was fueling the team's fire with excitement and giving them confidence. Meade County then took the lead but it was short-lived.



Photo by Jordin Adessa

Forward/Center Lauren Alexander makes a hard, strong push to the goal. Alexander had 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 blocks, and 20 points.

When the Ladywaves entered the game after halftime, they practically drenched the Aces with a tidal wave of speed, strength and skill. This burst of excitement gave the team 2 steals and 11 points. Meade County also had an Ace up their sleeve, showing magnificent persistence and determination towards O'Cath.

"I thought we played well for it being our first game of the season, nobody likes losing, but it shows us what we need to work on. We didn't give up and that's what I

love about the team, especially after halftime when we came out aggressively and got a couple of steals in which we scored points off of. We played off one another, and we weren't going down without a fight. One thing we need to work on is taking better care of the ball. We had a few turnovers that hurt us and Owensboro Catholic has tall players which gives them advantages. Nonetheless, we're all very excited for this season," Center Lauren Alexander said.

Both teams continued to fight hard into the third quar-

ter and through the end of the game. Finally catching up to the Aces again, the Ladywaves point streak ended by a three-pointer from the other team, ending the third quarter 45-49.

The Ladywaves will be looking forward to Dec. 15, when they go head to head with the Breckinridge County Lady Tigers who are currently holding a record of 4-1 at press time. Rumor has it cats don't like water so the Ladywaves should have an advantage.

Greenwave Basketball Schedule 2017



- Nov. 28 @Ohio County
- Dec. 1 O. Catholic
- Dec. 5 Providence, IN
- Dec. 7 @Frederick Fraize
- Dec. 8 Campbellsville
- Dec. 15 @Breckinridge Co.
- Dec. 20 @Henry Clay
- Dec. 21 @Henry Clay
- Dec. 22 @Henry Clay
- Dec. 29 @Ryle
- Jan. 3 Bullitt Central
- Jan. 5 @John Hardin
- Jan. 9 Hancock County
- Jan. 12 @Elizabethtown
- Jan. 16 North Hardin
- Jan. 19 @Hancock County
- Jan. 23 Valley
- Jan. 26 Breckinridge Co.
- Feb. 2 Frederick Fraize
- Feb. 3 @Daviness County
- Feb. 6 @Grayson County
- Feb. 9 @North Oldham
- Feb. 15 Central Hardin

Ladywave Basketball Schedule 2017



- Dec. 1 Owensboro Catholic
- Dec. 5 Grayson County
- Dec. 7 @Frederick Fraize
- Dec. 15 @Breckinridge Co.
- Dec. 20 North Bullitt
- Jan. 2 @Apollo
- Jan. 6 @Edmonson Co.
- Jan. 9 Hancock Co.
- Jan. 12 @Elizabethtown
- Jan. 16 @John Hardin
- Jan. 19 @Hancock Co.
- Jan. 20 Muhlenberg Co.
- Jan. 23 Spencer Co.
- Jan. 26 Breckinridge Co.
- Jan. 27 @Daviness County
- Jan. 29 Ohio County
- Jan. 30 @LaRue Co.
- Feb. 2 Frederick Fraize
- Feb. 5 Owensboro
- Feb. 6 @North Hardin
- Feb. 9 Nelson County
- Feb. 13 @Thomas Nelson
- Feb. 16 Central Hardin

Greenwave Wrestling Schedule 2017



- Dec. 2 @Oldham County
- Dec. 9 @Franklin County
- Dec. 16 @Louisville
- Dec. 20 Meade County
- Dec. 21 Meade County
- Dec. 23 @Christian County
- Dec. 27 @Wayne County
- Dec. 29 @Franklin (OH)
- Dec. 30 @Franklin (OH)
- Jan. 6 @Corydon
- Jan. 13 @Fairdale
- Jan. 16 Meade County
- Jan. 19 @Huntington (WV)
- Jan. 27 @Columbia
- Feb. 9 @Owensboro
- Feb. 10 @Owensboro
- Feb. 16 @Lexington
- Feb. 17 @Lexington

Wrestling starts strong with third place win

TORI LAWRENCE
Photographer

On Dec. 2, the Meade County Greenwave wrestling team traveled to Oldham County High School to compete in the annual duals hosted by the Colonels.

Right off the bat, Meade wrestled John Hardin High School in the first round. Though the team had some struggles filling in their line up, the Greenwaves claimed their first win against the Bulldogs with an ending score of 48-22.

Shortly after, they competed against Journeyman, which is a collection of wrestlers from all teams. Meade won 75-6.

By the third round, the Greenwaves were ready to take on Simon Kenton High School.

The match started out a bit rough for the boys, losing 0-27 until about halfway through when the 152 weight class came around and senior Collin Morris took the mat. Morris pinned his opponent in the second period, giving Meade their first six points against Simon Kenton.

This was followed by three more pins one by sophomore Hunter Lattin, another by senior Kevin Schantz, and finally by 2017 state champion Bryan Pratt.

"I'm glad to be back into wrestling again, but I have a bit to get used to because my partner, Kevin Schantz, weighs only 190 lbs while the people I wrestle can weigh up to 285 lbs so there's a lot to remember and get used to, but I'm still happy



Photo by Tori Lawrence

Wrestling team claims third place at the annual Oldham County Super Duals on Dec. 2.

the season has started up again." Pratt said.

The Greenwaves racked up points throughout the match, making the score 33-39 by the final match. At the 113-weight class for Meade is 8th grader Levi Stull. Being a last minute fill in on the varsity line up, Stull knew the pressure was on.

"I am very grateful for being selected for the varsity team in 8th grade! I was very nervous going into the dual, knowing that I could be wrestling seniors in high school," Stull said.

Stull wrestled three periods, ending the match with a pin that tied Meade with Simon Kenton.

After officials went through a long list of criteria to determine the winner, Meade won the tiebreaker, putting the team's record 3-0 so far.

At the end of the day, Meade faced Male High School for third and fourth place after losing to Oldham County High School. The be-

ginning of the match was difficult, but once again the team turned things around. At the 220-weight class, senior Kevin Schantz wrestled up two classes in hopes of benefiting the team. Schantz successfully pinned his opponent in 51 seconds, giving Meade their first win by pin against Male.

Meade defied odds and beat Male, who was seeded 3rd in the tournament, 39-38.

For the first time in three years, Meade took 3rd place overall at the Oldham County Duals.

"I think we performed well on Saturday. We were seeded fourth and got third. Whenever we do better than our seed, it's hard to get upset about that." Assistant coach Sean McCarthy said.

Overall, the Greenwaves battled hard against their opponents and are now ready to take on even tougher tournaments later in the season.

Athletes of The Month

Each month we spotlight a male and female athlete from a specific sport who have proved themselves worthy. These athletes are nominated by their head coach.



Collin Morris



BRITTNEE DIAL

Staff Writer

Senior Collin Morris has been selected to be this month's Athlete of the Month.

Morris has been wrestling since fourth grade, so this season will mark his ninth year wrestling.

"I joined wrestling because I wanted to try something different, so I joined the wrestling team. I saw the intensity and how competitive it was, so I instantly fell in love with it," Morris said.

Over the years, Morris has grown more determined and knows to give his all when set to a task, in wrestling and in everyday life.

Morris said his favorite part of wrestling is getting his hand

raised at a match and spending time with the team. He also loves that the high school team is a Christian centered team.

The most memorable match for him was about nine years ago in elementary school when he claimed his first win of his career at Youth State.

Since then, he has worked hard to improve through practices and camps.

Now, with years of training and preparation, Morris is ready to take on his final season and is looking forward to making more great memories this year. "I've always liked wrestling. I've liked it from the first day I started. I love the atmosphere of it and the competition that comes with it," Morris said.

Morris said his goal for this season is to do better than what he has already done. He is striving to place first at regionals and to place at state.

After graduation, Morris plans to join the military and further his studies at Eastern Kentucky University where he will study Criminal Justice and Criminology.



Mallory House



ERIKA BIDDLE

Design Editor

Freshman Mallory House has been selected as Athlete of the Month by head coach Kelly Holly for the Ladywave swim team.

"Mallory is a hard worker. She loves the sport and pushes herself to improve in every meet. I am excited to see her future accomplishments in swim." Holley said.

House began swimming competitively in the seventh grade but has been swimming for enjoyment since she was just a baby. She always knew she would join the swim team because of her passion for swimming.

House competes in the 200 medley and the 200 free relay with her teammates Kara Bewley, Lily Shelton, Andrea Ruiz and Hannah Augun.

As just a freshman, House has accomplished so much. As an eighth grader, House medaled in all the events she competed in at regionals and in 7th grade she was Rookie of the Year.

She almost made it to state last year but didn't, so she has made it a priority to make it to state by her sophomore year.

Currently, House can swim a 50 backstroke in 31 seconds, but she wants to get to 29 seconds. In freestyle, House has a 28 and hopes to reach a 27 before this year's regional competition.

In order to make these goals a reality, House not only practices after school with her team but also practices over the summer at Doe Valley. During her off season, she attends swim camps at the University of Louisville.

Although just a freshman, House has been thinking about her future after high school. She wants to swim during college and hopes to earn a swimming scholarship to the University of Louisville.

"Swimming has changed me because without it I wouldn't have found another amazing family," House said.

"Just keep swimming"

MAKENNA GONSALVES

Sports Editor

The MCHS Swim Team is diving off to a great start with several wins and improvements already at the beginning of the season. The team placed first in the Meade/Hardin Dual on Nov 27. That night the Ladywaves and the Greenwaves took first place in their individual teams and later winning the entire dual overall.

The Swim team also competed again on Dec. 2 at Eastern High School in Louisville, Ky.

Every single improvement made at each of their practices, whether it is big or small, is very crucial to the successfulness of the team. It might not be the Olympics, but even in the world of competitive youth swimming, each victory and defeat can be separated by mere hundredths of a second.

With a strong start to the



Photo by Caitlyn Calarco

Senior Andrea Ruiz swimming Individual Medley at Hardin Dual on Nov 27.

season, the team is hoping for another great year.

"I am really looking forward to this year. With the returning swimmers and the new athletes, I truly believe we will have a great season this year," junior Cole Mattingly said.

"This is by far the most

diverse team we have had since I've been on the team. I have already seen an exponential growth in our swimmers and I'm excited to see what this year holds!" team manger Evan Smiley said.

Congratulations to the swim team on a great start to their competitive season.

Athlete Quote Challenge



VOLLEYBALL EDITION



A.

JO CANNADY



B.

SYDNEY KING



C.

MIRANDA RUSSEL



D.

MEG POWERS

1. "This season set a new standard for Meade and I'm so proud to be part of this group!"

2. "This season is everything I could have hoped for, I love these girls!"

3. "Dixieland delights, baby!"

4. "This season impacted me positively and I wouldn't want to go to state with any other group than these girls!"