

Students attend JAL conference, submit ideas for bills

Selina Wang, CPS editor

The Youth Advisory Council is charged with creating a piece of legislation for Springfield lawmakers to consider.

Students from 15 Southern Illinois high schools attended the event located at John A. Logan College in Carterville.

According to SenatorFowler.com, this is the third year that Senator Dale Fowler has hosted the event. Fowler is the 59th senate district representative and the business development officer at Peoples National Bank.

The students selected to represent HHS were seniors Clay Brigham, Rheis Wasson, Molly Ryder, Selina Wang and Lydia Miller.

"This event is very beneficial towards those students who care about the state that they might live in one day, to better it for themselves or for their children," Ryder said. "Even if you're going out of state for college and end up somewhere else, it's still important to know how your government in your state works and having the chance to go to this conference really shows you just what it's like first hand to be in politics. And who knows, maybe after listening to each of the spokespeople, you'll want to be something completely different than what you want now."

Senior Selina Wang has considered changing her career path after this experience.

"We arrived at John A. Logan. They had us already divided into 10 groups and each group was made up of students from different schools," Miller said. "There were also speakers who gave us speeches on topics such as teamwork, motivation and the process of getting tasks done."

The speakers included local magician Chris Egelston, Crownbrew Co. owner Jadred Gravatt and SIU head basketball coach Bryan Mullins.

"The conference went very well," Ryder said. "I was excited to listen to all of the different speakers. Each and every one had a different story to tell and it was interesting to hear them tell us the way to achieve success."

The student groups had an opportunity to discuss their home districts, environments, and school regulations during the day.

"We did many things as a group during this time together. We talked about our schools and how they functioned which, surprisingly, some schools that are just 15 to 30 minutes away from us function very differently," Ryder said. "Our activities were centered around the idea of 'How can we make Illinois better for our youth?'. It was a very illuminating experience, not just about others and their stances on Illinois politics, but about the community that is around us from here to Chicago."

Each of the ten groups worked together on the main project.

"Within our groups, we worked on creating an idea for a pieces of legislation," Miller said. "Then we presented our ideas to the whole group, and we voted for the best legislation to be presented next semester in Springfield."

Seniors Selina Wang and Molly Ryder were in the group whose proposal will be presented at the state capitol.

"My favorite part would have to be thinking about what kind of law in Illinois we would want to be passed to better our future," Ryder said. "My group talked about school safety, and one of the most highlighted topics of our discussion is that not all of the schools around us have a school resource officer like [Harrisburg does]. After this discussion, we presented our ideas to the other groups."

Wang's group talked about how to use unused FAFSA state grant money to fund school safety materials like name tags, security system and a resource officer. The group then connected the ideas together to receive the winning proposal.

"I had a lot of fun and was able to learn more than I thought I would," Miller said. "Especially because in my group, there were multiple people who were passionate about being a part of this process."



Photo by Selina Wang.



Photo provided.

(Top) Senior Lydia Miller and Molly Ryder discuss the survey and group plans.

(Bottom) (Left to Right) Seniors Selina Wang, Rheis Wasson, Molly Ryder, Clay Brigham and Lydia Miller pose with magician Chris Egelston.

Crabb, Dewar enforce board's new progressive discipline plan

Rheis Wasson, staff writer

Last year, the Unit #3 Board approved a progressive discipline policy to be used by the high school administration. This policy is currently being implemented school-wide.

This new program was developed by principal Scott Dewar, vice principal John Crabb, and the school board.

"(The policy) was definitely a joint effort thought up by us and the superintendent," Dewar said.

Punishment for violating the policy is enforced by Crabb.

"At the high school, disciplinary issues have always been handled by the assistant principal, and Mr. Crabb has done well," Dewar said.

According to Dewar, disciplinary procedures at all other Harrisburg schools are being redone as well.

"It's not just Harrisburg High School, all other schools under Harrisburg jurisdiction are being affect-

ed by the reform," Crabb said.

The new discipline policy has deterred people from acting up according to Crabb.

"I believe and have seen how the new policy has deterred people from breaking rules in school," Crabb said.

According to Crabb, the new policy is not perfect, it has some room to breathe and grow to better fit later years.

"[The policy] is still a work in progress. I think it needs to be tweaked year to year, but I think we're moving in the right direction towards making a better school," Crabb said.

According to Dewar, Crabb has proved instrumental in providing assistance to teachers by providing them a list of students who are serving detention or AER and the infraction for which they are serving. This is very useful, according to history teacher Marj DeNeal.

"I love it. It keeps me on the same page as other

teachers," DeNeal said

One thing that has been a continuing issue is tardies. Dewar spoke on this and how he thinks to alleviate it.

"We believe in face-to-face meetings to find out what is causing these tardies and helping the students get to school," Dewar said.

Dewar also spoke on rooting out the issue of tardies and where to start.

"We want to focus on helping those students, and it really depends on when it happens during the day. Be it before school, during passing periods, or after lunch," Dewar said.

In terms of how effective the new system has been on discipline, Crabb wants to thank teachers for being visible and involved in helping students stay behaved.

"We are both grateful for the teachers being fantastic in enforcement of the new policy, and helping students abide by the rules" Crabb said.

Band kicks off concert season

Madison McClusky, news editor

Band rounded out this year's marching season at the SIU Carbondale homecoming parade undefeated for the fourth consecutive year in a row.

They have concluded the marching season with two perfect scores. The first, at Carmi Corn Days and the second at SIU Carbondale.

"I'm proud of the band as a whole, considering how successful we've been," sophomore tuba player Isaiah Mitchell said. "We've done our best with the exception of a few mistakes here and there."

Preparation is a big part of the transition from marching to concert season. According to sophomore clarinet player Hannah Murphy, there are multiple differences between concert and marching season.

"Marching season is usually super hot, and we burn up in our uniforms, but it's always a good time," Murphy said. "Concert band is more serious, and we perform inside which makes our sound different."

"For concert band you really have to depend on each other to practice all the time at home or the whole song won't sound right," Murphy said.

According to Mitchell, marching season is more stressful than concert season, but concert band still has its difficulties.

"I would say marching season is more stressful because of learning steps and turns for the routine we perform," Mitchell said. "Concert season is much more relaxed in terms of the setup, but still stressful because we're still competing and hoping to win."

Being the only person playing a specific instrument adds more difficulty, not only for marching, but also concert season, according to Mitchell.

"It's definitely a lot more stressful than being in a section with more people," Mitchell said. "I have to depend on myself more than anyone else. I have to have music memorized and do my best to play it perfect because there is no one else I can depend on to cover my part."

Being undefeated adds onto the pressure, according to senior Sam Winkleman. "My role has changed, becoming a section leader my junior and senior year," Winkleman said. "That has brought on more responsibility."

According to Winkleman, concert season is when changes happen to the band in ways that do not only have to do with music.

"Concert season is when we really get to grow as individual musicians," Winkleman said. "We get to get a whole lot better as a band."



Photo by Madison McClusky.

(Left) Sophomores Kayla Pait and Hannah Bolin blend their chalk contest entry in unseasonably cold temperatures.

Grant funds, donations make new greenhouse possible

Selina Wang, CPS editor.

The agriculture department will be having an upgraded greenhouse this coming spring. The old greenhouse has been sold to George Town Richfarm in central Illinois.

"The money that we received from the old greenhouse is going towards the new greenhouse, but we have also received a couple of grants and a lot of donations from local farmers and business owners," agriculture teacher Cacy Ellis said.

Legence Bank was the biggest sponsor, and we received a \$10,000 Facility Improvement Grant along with other smaller grants for this project.

The new greenhouse is 24 feet by 48 feet, while the previous greenhouse was 18 feet by 30 feet and the new greenhouse is taller than the old one, so we will have more room for hanging baskets," Ellis said.

The new greenhouse also has a number of other upgrades as compared to the old greenhouse.

"We will have electric lights," Ellis said. "All the panels are new, which was needed, because there were holes in the old ones. We will have a new plumbing system as well, which means a lot more automation when it comes to watering plants and better cooling systems. During this time of the year, we couldn't even go into the greenhouse for more than a few seconds because it's so hot."

The new greenhouse will also have more room for students and a more sustainable temperature.

"Many [FFA] members and officers helped clean out the old greenhouse and send out letters asking businesses for donations," said Ellis.

According to senior Jaden Oglesby, the new facility will be easier to maintain as well. "It became very difficult to clean because it was mostly covered in rock and the middle of the old greenhouse was a slab of concrete," Oglesby said. "Also, the irrigation system was broken in the old greenhouse, and it was always very hot and cramped."

According to Ellis, "The greenhouse is made of materials shipped from all over the U.S. but mainly out of Danville, Illinois, and California. The greenhouse was built by Greenhouse Megastore out of Danville."

There will be many new plants and systems in the new greenhouses.

"We will be providing Boston and Kimberly ferns along with wave-petunia hanging baskets, and a variety of annual flowering plants and vegetables," Ellis said. "The greenhouse will also have a space designated for hydroponic production, where we will begin by attempting to grow lettuce and other produce."

"I'm excited for the new greenhouse, because our old greenhouse was built by students," senior Maison Hale said. "The new greenhouse is being built by professionals."

Documents needed for financial aid

- 1.) Your Social Security Number
- 2.) Your federal income tax returns, and other records of money earned.
- 3.) Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
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Infographic by Selina Wang

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Project aims to encourage young readers

Madeleine DeNeal, staff writer

School librarian Heather Cox has proposed a solution to aid students who may have difficulty following along with reading.

"The elementary school teachers have been talking about their [pupils] who are struggling to read," Cox said. "I got to thinking, what could we do to help those younger guys out?"

The Book Club has decided to support growing readers by using ScreenCastify or Ed-Puzzle, a student will receive a video version of the book he or she is reading via computer, a book that is being read by a high school student.

"The project is a great idea," senior Lydia Miller said. "I think that they'll really like being read to by a high schooler."

The program, while still in early planning stages, will be called "The Reading Corner."

"Hopefully, it will progress quickly," Cox said. "We are in such an early stage that I haven't gotten [The Reading Corner] past the administration yet."

By stimulating the auditory learning process, the program will touch on alternative ways that students can take in information. During her teaching experience, Cox has experienced the different ways students learn.

"You could sit down and tell them to read that section, and they could read it ten times," Cox said. "But then they could hear me say it once, and it's like boom, they've got it."

According to The Rosetta Stone Company Lexia, auditory learners are able to process material better when it is delivered orally or through musical lyrics. It can tend to make them more open to social or extroverted activities, and have a higher chance of making a team connection with other students. By providing

access to audiobooks, a student has access to "a range of topics" that "provide an opportunity for students to listen" and learn.

The Reading Corner is not just open to those who have difficulty with reading. It will be available for any student to use.

"I think if we have all these abilities to be able to reach these kids in so many different facets, then why not utilize it?" Cox said. "And plus, I think it's great for our kids to get involved and to invest in these little guys."

One major goal of The Reading Corner is to give younger students a role model in reading and positive improvement of reading skills, according to East Side librarian Stephanie Betts. It is also there to provide a friend for kids who are looking to relax and enjoy the process of journeying through a new book.

"Younger students would benefit from this because if they see that an older student loves to read, that might encourage them to give reading a chance," Betts said. "Kids have too much screen time. They would benefit from having a personal bond with the older students."

While this program is still in the making, progress is being made to ensure that there is a positive benefit to all parties involved.

"The students really enjoy when someone older, but not like an adult, gives them attention," Betts said. "Younger students need that modeling of when to stop or pause or get "dramatic" when reading a story."

By utilizing resources found within modern technology, The Reading Corner will provide independent support to students, whether he or she is in the library, classroom, or at home.

"Everybody in any facet of life, whether they like sports, academics, whatever it may be, everybody likes an adventure, and that's what books are," Cox said.



Photo by Madison McClusky.

The drama department performed "Grease" at SIC Oct. 25-27.

Junior Alyssa Irvin and senior Landon Gates, pictured above, played the lead roles of Sandy and Danny respectively.

The musical featured, among other things, an actual automobile for the "Greased Lightning" number.



Photo by Rheis Wasson.

Illinois Representative Patrick Windhorst visited Dan Craig and Tim Prather's sophomore government and civics classes and led the Pledge of Allegiance Oct. 23.

Windhorst represents the 118th district in Illinois, which includes Saline County. According to his website, Windhorst attended University of Illinois and SIU School of Law. He became State's Attorney of Massac County in 2004 where he served until being elected State's Representative in 2018.

Club Updates

- Key Club has three activities planned for the next month including Trick or Treat for UNICEF, volunteering at Heaven's Kitchen and a food drive to benefit the 4Cs' food pantry.

- FFA officers will attend the organization's National Convention this week. The group will leave Wednesday. Earlier this month, the group participated in Section 25 Job Interview CDE Oct. 22 and the Section 25 Ag Sales CDE Oct. 28 at NCOE.

- White Hats is collecting hygiene products such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, brushes and combs for the Carmi Baptist Home. They have also sent cards to Indy Jones.

- Student council had a bake sale to benefit the family that just moved here from the Bahamas. Student council will attend a leadership conference in early November.

- Youth for Christ hosted See You at the Pole last month and helped host the evening worship service.

- History club is planning a trip to Grant's National Historic Park in November.

- FBLA is selling beef jerky and working on what they need to do at Southern Conference.

Tech Talk

Battle of Effects

Clay Brigham, staff writer



Most people have an opinion on the Marvel vs DC debate. Personally, I think Marvel is 100% better than DC because of its superior CGI (visual effects).

CGI is special visual effects created using computer software and can be used to create the universe a film is set in.

Despite Marvel generally spending the same amount as DC, they consistently produce better products in a shorter time. Marvel also has more movies which means a greater source of revenue.

I feel that Marvel is superior in their CGI because their movies look more realistic. We see this in "Spiderman: Far From Home."

The contrast between the movies produced by the two companies is striking. DC films feel more done up but have no feeling. There is something about Marvel movies that makes me as a viewer feel heartbreak, love, and heroism.

Marvel Studios puts a lot of effort into their movies, and it makes a difference. Other than the visuals being better than DC, Marvel movies make the viewers feel immersed in the world, rather than making it feel like they are just looking into the universe through a window.

DC seems to look more like a cartoon and underdeveloped. In Aquaman, they seem to have valued style over the story.

Marvel Studios puts in the effort to make their universe as realistic as possible. Even though the universe is imaginary, the movies look like they take place in the real world.

One of the best scenes in Marvel cinematic history is at the end of Avenger's Endgame. When Tony Stark has the Infinity Gauntlet, colors, lighting, and CGI are all blended to convey a sense of hopelessness and intensity.

I'm not alone in my support of Marvel over DC. Consistently, critics score Marvel movies higher than DC films. Spider-Man: Far From Home was rated 7.6/10 on IMDb, while Aquaman only scored a 7/10.

Say No To Impeachment

Jake Hefner, guest column



Johnson and Clinton. Two different names that share one common event. Impeachment. President Andrew Johnson and President Bill Clinton were both successfully impeached. Yet both of the men were acquitted and remained in office.

Donald Trump has faced the threat of impeachment since January 20, 2017, the day he took office. People have accused President Trump of the obstruction of justice, conspiring to commit crimes against the U.S., improperly threatening others with nuclear weapons and a handful of other accusations. But some of these accusations don't stem from those people genuinely wanting him out of office; they're made out of hatred.

Trump has his moments where I question him, but then again, every politician has those moments. Love him or hate him, Trump was voted in as president.

According to an October 4 post from whitehouse.gov titled "Unemployment Rate Falls to 50 Year Low," the unemployment rate is the lowest it has been in 50 years and the job opportunity rate is the highest it has been in 18 years.

According to a January 20 article, "Trump's First Year In Office, By The Numbers" from Danielle Kurtzleben of NPR.org, the S&P 500 is up 23% over the past year, one of the biggest jumps in the last 20 years.

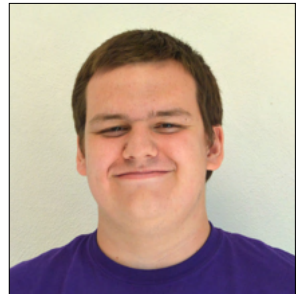
President Trump pulled out of Obama's Iran Deal and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. Trump is two and a half years into his first term of presidency, and he still has a year left to make positive impacts. During one of Trump's kickoff rallies for 2020, he said, "It's beautiful. I changed the design. It's stronger, bigger, better and cheaper."

So tell me this, where would impeachment take the country? If impeachment is carried out and Trump is removed from office, his vice-president Mike Pence will take his place. Pence was selected by Trump. They share common beliefs on almost everything! There would be no benefit in impeachment. It would only

Bully for you

Cover up for cold weather

Rheis Wasson, news editor



Autumn, fall, spooky season. Whatever you call this time of year, we all know what time is here. Halloween. I'm sure you know about the holiday, given it's an excuse for many people to go out in public, in FREEZING WEATHER, barely dressed.

Halloween may be one of my favorite holidays, but what gets under my skin is seeing way too much of other people's. And seeing kids younger than high-schoolers donning these costumes of debauchery is very disturbing to say the least.

Now, some may say that these barely-there costumes are harmless and nothing but expressing themselves. I don't know about you, but I never felt that I needed to flash people in order to express how I feel on the inside, even in my not so younger days.

But what bothers me most about these skimpy costumes is that the people who wear them are some of the same ones that complain about being looked on as a trashy person, and don't think that just because you're a dude you are excused from my ranting, I've seen so many guys going around in borderline leaves before.

Even if you think your R-rated costume is "super cute" or "shows off your muscles" maybe you should think of all the little kids that will be out and about on Halloween. We are talking about 3 to 10-year-old children. And don't even get me started on these types of costumes marketed to MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS, that right there is the very definition of creepy, and the companies making these? Jokes. Why do people even consider this as acceptable? Just because it is Halloween? They wouldn't think it's okay to parade around half-dressed on Thanksgiving or Easter.

Halloween is about dressing up in costumes, or that's what we know today. In reality, Halloween was based on scaring away evil spirits by dressing up in the most terrifying way possible. And if the most terrifying thing you have is your own body, I assure you, it's not.

Don't you get cold? Or at the very least have a shred of self-respect? Or any respect for the kid that's dressing this way? These costumes are absolutely ridiculous, and I'm not talking about being funny.

So this Halloween, avoid going out in public naked. It's gross, cold, and perhaps surprisingly to some of you, not enjoyable to see. Have some respect for yourself and instead of going out in your underwear, put some creepy makeup on your face, douse yourself in fake blood, and scare the daylight out of some people, because that's what Halloween is all about.

Sara's skin care cheat sheet

Fall scents don't have to break bank

Sara Wangler, feature editor



Now that fall is finally here, by that I mean it's not 95 degrees anymore, it's time to whip out the fall scents. You know, the pumpkin, apple, cinnamon, and marshmallow candles and sprays. This is absolutely my favorite time of year, and I love fall scents and the aesthetic.

I like to think I'm pretty savvy when it comes to getting all my fall candles and wax melts, Walmart has some of the best smelling wax melts ever for only \$2 a pack. Trust me, I stock up. Among these inexpensive little gems are delectable scents. This time of year brings Pumpkin Apple muffins, Honey Vanilla Chai and my personal favorite, Brownie Pecan Pie. All three of these smell like you have been baking for hours. I never fail to want something sweet after they have been in my wax warmer.

Although the wax itself is cheap the actual warmer can run from \$15-\$17, but after using these products, you will find that it's worth it. Although Walmart does have candles, they don't compare to Bath and Body Works candles. This product can be on the pricier side but is totally worth it. These candles have three wicks, and the jars are made of very durable glass. The original price will cost you \$24.50, but there are frequent sales. I recommend checking the Bath and Body Works website for updates and information on sales.

Now on to my favorite thing in the world other than sheet masks, perfume. I carry a full-size bottle of Bath and Body Works Bonfire Bash with me at all times. It smells like marshmallows and flannel, and I promise that you will love it. Although I'm partial to the ever so Classic Pumpkin Marshmallow Latte line, I must say I like somewhat freshener scents like Bath and Body Works' Sweater Weather that smells like apple heaven. These scents are available in body soap, perfume, body cream, body scrubs, hand sanitizer, wall scents, car scents, and candles.

Lush carries a variety of fall-scented bath bombs, face masks, and bubble bars. Each seasonal item is shaped like a pumpkin, ghost, or witch with a fall scent. Although the products are a tad bit pricier, there are frequent sales.

My point regardless is that there is going to be a scent that you like. There are so many choices of fall scents and forms; wax melts, candles sprays, car fresheners, hand cream, and hand sanitizer are all options. Just pick what is most convenient for you.

The Clarion Call

Congratulations to four times undefeated Marching Dogs

We will say it loud and say it proud. Harrisburg High School band is arguably the best band in Southern Illinois. With a four-year marching band winning streak to an impressive variety of instruments and song choices, the band has once again proven itself to be top musical dog in the area.

As a result of the band being undefeated for four straight years, more and more students are joining. "Band camp" is no joke around here and being a member of the Marching Bulldogs is a source of incredible pride. The more members the band has, the bigger the show and the easier it is to dominate in competitions.

This is important to the overall success of the program as it adds extra revenue as awards usually result in more donations. As the number of donations increase, more instruments, new harnesses, and other things the group may need can be purchased. Their stellar reputation also increases the likelihood that the community will attend fundraisers like the vari-

ety show and the spring rummage sale.

The Daily Register and The Purple Clarion frequently highlight the band's achievements, therefore more people are informed of their winning ways. During the Homecoming parade there were gasps and turned heads as the band marched by, and many people will even travel to other towns just to see the band march in a parade. Onlookers know that every time they see the band perform, it will be spectacular. It is no secret that the band works unimaginably hard to win every single parade they attend. The result? Harrisburg is notorious for being a dominant force in the area.

And besides the musical skills learned by participating in band, the activity provides other long-term effects for the students involved. It gives ample opportunities for students to improve cognitive, multi-tasking skills. The rigorous schedule that the marching band makes a student well-rounded and able to manage time well. Furthermore, marching band is

both physically and mentally demanding, requiring students to march in mile-long parade routes while remembering counts, choreography, marching techniques, intonation, and the notes and rhythms they are supposed to be playing. These performance skills reflect well on college resumes. Many previous HHS band students have gotten scholarships for their achievements and have gone on to play at the collegiate level.

The marching season has ended another season on a high note, giving the entire community a reason to be proud of its students. From the parades and football halftime show where the band and the color guard have repeatedly enchanted their audience to the upcoming pep band performances, smaller ensemble events, concert performances and musical productions, HHS and the entire community have something to brag about in Hannah Drake and her student musicians.



The marching Bulldogs blow the judges' minds, yet again! Can you say bow-wow-wow-yippee-yo-yippee-yay!

Cartoon by Rachel Myers

"Our band is the best, hands down. They are the reason why most people attend sporting events. They put in a lot of work during their season."

-senior Carsen Borders

"They work so hard and Mrs. Drake pushes them on their field shows and parades. I think we have the best band, and they deserve their awards."

-junior Riley Wright

"I think it's really nice to see something excel in our school."

-senior Isaac Crank

"They are a force to be reckoned with, completely unstoppable."

-junior Breanna Beal

The Purple Clarion • Harrisburg High School • 333 W. College St. • Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

The Purple Clarion is an unbiased, student-produced news, sports, feature and opinion publication dedicated to accurately reporting events that interest and impact HHS students. The Clarion is a proud member of the Southern Illinois Scholastic Press Association and a multi-year winner of the Blue Banner Award for excellence in scholastic journalism.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters should be signed and submitted in person to faculty adviser Cathy Wall within the first two weeks of the month. All submissions are subject to editing for length at the discretion of the opinion editor and once submitted, become the property of the paper. All letters should be in good taste, omitting profane language and libelous content. Content in published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Purple Clarion staff.

Horrors and Hauntings of Southern Illinois

The Purple Clarion staff members investigated haunted places in Southern Illinois. The team set out to uncover the truth behind these local legends.

Legend of the Tuttle Bottoms Monster

Madeleine DeNeal, staff writer

When the days begin to turn cold and the first leaf changes from green to brown, scary stories circulate as the town prepares for the year's Halloween season. Tales of ghosts and monsters form the basis for local legends, such as the one that I investigated myself.

The Tuttle Bottoms Monster is a name that many Saline County residents will find familiar. Sightings of this strange beast were first recorded in the 1960s in a swampy area north of Harrisburg, near the Saline River watershed.

According to the Aug. 6, 1963 volume of *The Daily Register*, the first witness reported the creature to be "eight feet long, four feet high, and had a nose like an anteater."

As time went on, more and more sightings of this strange creature were called in by local teens, who used the bottoms as a make-out spot.

One couple reported that while in their car, the unidentified monster had "walked up to them, unfazed by human contact."

Gradually, sightings were also called in by hunters and farmers who had seen the beast lumbering about in the swamplands.

Though these witness accounts varied, one feature remained the same—the long, anteater-like snout. Many believed that it didn't exist, or that the first alleged "sighting" had paved the way for hysteria and misidentification of the local species that inhabited the swampland. Others thought that it was a governmentally-monitored test subject that had been released into an unsuspecting community.

After 28 years and nearly 50 reported sightings, the creature seemed to vanish without a trace in the 1990s. Though the Tuttle Bottoms Monster is believed to be gone, the legend, and mysterious location, have been left behind.

On Oct. 4, 2019 at 7:15 p.m., a group of friends and I departed from a centrally-located meeting point to investigate Tuttle Bottoms under the pitch-black cover of night. I had gone previously in the day to map out locations that were publically-accessible, as well as to get a good feel for what type of terrain we would encounter. While the bottoms may seem like simple farmland in the day, it is a different story in the dead of night.

We drove along narrow, winding roads, exiting the vehicle when we were sure no cars would drive past and disturb us. The stark, post-summer dust was clinging to the air, and it was deathly quiet, the only sound being the wind in the trees and the dry stalks of corn as they rubbed together like a morbid violin. There were five of us, yet we all felt alone under the light of the moon. After an hour, we left Tuttle Bottoms without sighting the legendary creature.

There was a mutual feeling that even though something might not be there now, there had been something there before. The land of Tuttle Bottoms is home to old bones, and though the Tuttle Bottoms Monster supposedly disappeared before I was born, something had been out there back when the river was higher and the mud was thick enough to swallow a boot.

Hungarian Cemetery remains favorite haunt

Mazie Tillery, staff writer

As the weather outside becomes crisp and the sun sinks earlier, a chill might creep up your spine. A hundred years after the start of the coal boom in Southern Illinois, little remains of the communities that sprouted up in its path. According to an early copy of the *Harrisburg Daily Register*, Ledford once had a population larger than Harrisburg. Coal was king, and the county was thriving. Several small mining communities emerged alongside the train tracks that ran through the town. One of these communities later became what is now referred to as Ledford.

Just south of this was a smaller, Hungarian mining community referred to by the colloquialism of "Hunky Row" according to author Bruce L. Cline. As families came and settled from all over, cemeteries inevitably began to spring up. One such cemetery is the allegedly haunted Hungarian Cemetery.

James W. Oberly, an author and a professor of history, described the cemetery as "a favorite place of teenage ghost hunters and poltergeist seekers, who insist that the place is haunted by spirits."

Rumors and stories about the cemetery are not in short supply or for the faint of heart.

In the novel "History, Mystery and Hauntings of Southern Illinois," Cline writes "This secluded cemetery has been the scene of ghoulish activities such as grave robbing, grave desecration, satanic rituals, and animal slaughter and according to some rumors, human sacrifice. Blood and melted wax from black candles have been found on gravestones on many occasions."

One tale of these spooky occurrences involves an apparition of an old woman, fated to walk the gravel road leading to the entrance of the cemetery. If spotted, the phantom is said to vanish, fading away into the mist around her.

If the threat of the supernatural is not enough to unnerve visitors, a more earthly foe might also pose a challenge.

"[The Hungarian Cemetery] is known to be frequented by devil worshipers and meth users," Cline said.

After arming myself with knowledge, a flashlight, and my camera, I set out to investigate this ominous scene myself. While the moon was high in the night sky, I ventured through the ruins of broken, uprooted, and forgotten graves. Unfortunately, I came across very little more than empty beer cans, fast food wrappers, and desecrated history.

Despite not finding the ghosts I set out for, I was no doubt met with shivers down my spine and the feeling of eyes watching me. At the very least, today we are left with the ghosts of these old mining communities and perhaps a few other spirits, if you choose to believe.

Chittyville School still scaring students

Hannah Reid, op-ed editor

Most would think the seasonal haunted house in Chittyville harmless, but little do they know, it's got a dark past. It all started in 1836 in a sleepy little town when the area began to grow into a thriving coal mining town. Families would often move to the tiny town in hopes of making more of a profit than their previous town, but never struck rich. A majority of the families that came into the town stayed there until death and were eventually buried in a mediocre-sized cemetery.

Fast forward a couple hundred years and the land was still there. Officials thought building a school would be a good use of the land and attempted to rebuild the community. Unfortunately, the school was built on top of the previous cemetery.

Given the chance, I would advise one to take a trip to the school. The school was closed in 1989 due to paranormal activity, ghost sightings, and "screaming voices," and left abandoned until 2004 when a couple purchased the property, turning it into a Halloween attraction.

I previously went to investigate the school during the day and later at night. The town of Chittyville is located right on the outskirts of Herrin, Illinois. When entering the property, the school gives off an eerie feeling, giving one chills up their spine. When I went to visit the school, I found it to be down a long, narrow, gravel road. The view of the school was an old brick building with multiple windows, which were either shattered or boarded off. Aside from the attraction parking, there was one gravel parking patch, which was overgrown.

Taking a walk around the school, the two doors bolted shut, the building contained plant growth up all sides. On the inside it was a dreary place with concrete walls and curtains hung up, preventing the sun from entering. It was approximately 7 at the time and I felt chills as the sun wended down.

The building contained the smell of mildew and old age, but as children of all ages began to show up for the attraction, I bought myself a ticket. I went into the attraction piece of the school and realized that there weren't many individuals that actually knew the school lies on top of a cemetery. Through a wide range of twists and turns, the school was made even more mysterious.

As I left for the night, I had a very unsettled feeling that there was more to be discovered about the school. Even though Chittyville is a main Halloween attraction, it still has numerous unknown historical features that are waiting to be uncovered.



A group of Purple Clarion staff members went to investigate the Hungarian cemetery in Ledford. The photo shows a misplaced gravestone.

Photos by Hannah Reid.



Spooky and Strange Events

"I was driving home one night and I saw a man walking in front of me. Then I passed him, but when I turned back and look, he was gone. He just disappeared into thin air," junior Kari Persinger said.



"My parents were gone for a date night a couple of weeks ago and I was home alone. Suddenly my dog started to bark, so I went outside and he was staring at the house barking, where there is nothing but a concrete wall. I yelled at him but he wouldn't stop for five minutes. So then I went inside and he eventually stopped," senior Addie Hanks said.

"One time around this time of year, I had a really bad nightmare when I was younger. I went to the nurse one day at the doctors office in town, and I was not told why I was going. When I got there, the nurse turned around and had a menacing eyeball on her forehead. She also had a two headed dog trying to bite me. That nightmare felt so real that I woke up shaking and sobbing," senior Michael Watkins said.

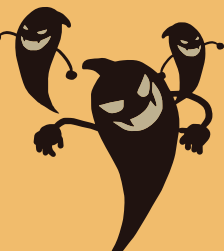


DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?

70% of students believe in ghosts.



30% of students don't.



Infographic by Selina Wang

Golfers end season in Sectionals

Hannah Reid, op-ed editor

With the conclusion of golf season, the girls team ended having placed highly in several matches and medaling in nearly every game. The boys team made improvements to their scores, winning a multitude of matches and sending off some of their youngest players to Sectionals.

According to sophomore Ann Marie Podoriski, the girls golf team has improved and learned daily, as well as having put in hard work and dedication throughout the season. As a result of these efforts, the girls golf team had a member advance to Sectionals. Podoriski plans to do this in the continuation of her high school golf career.

"The golf team this year was great, and one of our teammates, Madison McClusky, went to Sectionals," Podoriski said.

At the top of her list of improvements, Podoriski stated that she has learned new techniques in her chipping. She also plans to improve her techniques throughout the years. This includes putting, chipping, knowing her range on the green, and lining up with the pin.

"When I chip, I'll try not to take my wedge so far back," Podoriski said.

As the team improved throughout the season, they also grew closer, according to junior Laken Moore.

"The team has definitely grown closer, we always have a lot of fun on the bus rides," Moore said.

Continuing throughout the season, the girls team carried big goals, according to Podoriski. Having such high goals pushed the team to perform at their best every match.

"It could've used some improvement but we definitely did our best," Moore said.

The main goal for the team this year was to improve, advance to Sectionals and have fun, according to Podoriski.

"I feel like I did a lot better at everything because this is only my second year ever," Podoriski said.



Photo by Hannah Reid.

Junior Krayton Morse (Left) and practice their follow through while warming up their swings before a recent match at Shawnee Hills Golf Course.

According to Moore, golf has affected her life in a positive way and has brought her new opportunities to have fun and learn new skills.

"Golf has made my life so much more fun," Moore said. "Getting to be around Cindy and learning new skills are my favorite parts."

As a result of the skills learned, junior Andrew Bittle discusses how they have inflicted a positive effect on his abilities, allowing him to push underclassmen to focus on these skills as well.

"I feel I competed really well this season," Bittle said. "I had a rough patch of matches towards the beginning of the year, but I had a strong finish. The best advice I could give to some of our younger golfers and those interested in playing golf in the future would be to keep your head in the game. One bad shot can easily make you mad and mess up your round, but bounce back the next shot and hit a good one."

Rookie runners see improvements

Hannah Reid, op-ed editor

As cross country wraps up the season, the team will run in the Regional meet Saturday, Oct. 26 at West Frankfort to determine their advancement to Sectionals.

Currently, the top runner holds a low time of 17 minutes and 38 seconds, a record held by a first year runner, senior Sean Pruett. In addition, rookie runner senior Summer Sanders has proven to be the top runner of the girls team, placing high in many races and reaching a personal record that is currently the lowest time of the girls team.

"Being a first-year runner has gone well, and I have been able to get better during the season," senior Summer Sanders said.

This is Sanders' first year running for the Harrisburg cross country team, but she has a history of running track. Because of the improvements made throughout the season, Sanders plans on doing well in the Regional meet and advancing to Sectionals.

"I think I have done very well this season," Sanders said. "My times went down during the season. I was able to get top 20 or top 10 in several meets. Hopefully I am able to run well in Regionals."

Despite the improvements in each runner's times throughout the season, leading to confidence behind the team's postseason performance, they have had seven injuries that have imposed difficulty in their ability to perform at their best.

"If it wasn't for injuries, we would be a danger-

ous team to run against," senior Darion Barners said.

Barners goes on to say that the abundance of underclassmen broadens the team's chance of advancing to Sectionals this year.

"The new runners are doing really good," Barners said. "I wish I was up to speed like they are when I was a freshman."

Freshman Luke Winkleman has used his experience as a distance runner from previous junior high school cross country seasons to improve and prepare for the postseason, reaching a personal record of 19 minutes and 33 seconds, as well as pushing the other underclassmen to do well.

"I hope to do well in the postseason," Winkleman said. "We have all been working really hard the past few weeks for it. All of the underclassmen have been doing great. We all push each other everyday and it makes us race better. We have also been running harder at practice, and I try to run on my own outside of practices to get ready for Regionals."

Winkleman goes on to say that he has high hopes for future seasons and looks forward to next year, having enjoyed his first season.

"My favorite part of cross country is having fun with all my teammates, and we are all excited to carry that on into next year," Winkleman said. "I hope to improve a lot for next season. Hopefully running in the summer before season starts up again will pay off."

Three up, three down

California law defies NCAA regulations

Haley Sullivan, sports editor



According to ESPN staff writer Dan Murphy, California Gov. Gavin Newsom recently signed the Fair Pay to Play Act, an act which allows California athletes to profit from endorsements without the potential consequence of losing eligibility. The Act benefits student-athletes and protects them from being stuck under the thumb of the NCAA.

The act creates an industry with little-to-no restrictions for companies that may be interested in the use of the name and image of well-known college athletes, according to Murphy.

At the same time, the act deliberately defies NCAA regulations, resulting in the potential for California college sports programs to see an expulsion from participation in the NCAA.

The NCAA's amateurism rules state that prospective athletes are allowed to endorse products, given they are not financially compensated for doing so, while still in high school. But, after enrollment to an NCAA school, "they may no longer promote or endorse a product or allow their name, image or likeness to be used for commercial or promotional purposes."

Scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2023, the newly signed law is a result of a litigation by former NBA and UCLA basketball big name Ed O'Bannon, who proved that the NCAA violates federal antitrust laws by denying the rights of college athletes to have profitable marketing of their names, according to Sports Illustrated staff writer Michael McCann. ESPN senior writer Darren Rovell reported that as of 2017, the NCAA revenues about \$1.1 billion annually, much of this being from the likeness of athletes. Despite this hefty paycheck, student-athletes have never been allowed to profit from their likeness.

Because of this abundant income, the NCAA has been taking advantage of student-athletes for many years now. According to a poll by College Pulse, 84 percent of students and 89 percent of varsity student-athletes agree that the NCAA's behavior is exploitative and believe they are taking advantage of these athletes.

According to the NCAA, even a full-ride does not cover all the expenses of college, including meal plans and some course fees. The average meal plan could cost an athlete a stiff \$4500, which seems like a drop in the bucket compared to most college expenses. But, it is pricey for students that do not have as much financial support from home.

The NCAA allows for college athletes to spend 20 hours per week training. Combined with the time students spend in the classroom, student-athletes often struggle to make time to work for a paycheck, according to a 2018 article in The Conversation by assistant sociology professor Jasmine Harris.

While prices of necessities for college students continue to add up, profit from endorsements would not cost colleges a dime.

Though many may worry about how the act might affect colleges, the act prevents anything that may possibly interfere with individual schools. The endorsements allowed under this act provide that schools cannot pay student-athletes, aside from student worker jobs and scholarships, but endorsements and likeness can be profited from by outside companies.



Photo by Haley Sullivan.

Senior Sean Pruett runs in the annual Chuck Ingram Invitational Cross Country meet at SIC Oct. 9.

Football ends tough season

Sara Wangler, feature editor

The football team ended their season at Carbondale Oct. 25.

It has been a difficult season for the Bulldogs, and the decrease in players is one main factor in the team's season.

"We had a handful of guys quit," junior Jake Hefner said. "Those guys just didn't want to stick around for a losing season... but I'd rather have a small group of guys that want to be there and are playing for each other versus a larger group of guys that have no motivation to be there."

This year's team was also full of inexperienced players according to Hefner.

"We were a younger, more inexperienced team this year," Hefner said. "This was a lot of guys' first time playing on Fridays. We've went up against some tough teams this year too. It's a huge learning experience for the young guys."

The coaches have been doing well considering the situation, according to Hefner.

"It's Coach (Gabe) Angelly's third year as head coach, but he's been in the program for a while," Hefner said. "He's doing a great job in the situation we're in as a team right now."

Hefner acknowledges the varied strengths of the coaching staff.

"Each coach has a different role, really," Hefner said. "(Coach Matt Griffith) is the ultimate hype man for sure. He's there to pick you up when you're down and to get excited with you. Shoutout to Griff. Angelly is really good at improving you as a player and a person. He's helped me be-

come a better player this year."

Football coach and math teacher Gabe Angelly is already making plans for the offseason.

"We are planning on having a good offseason where our offensive and defensive line will put in the time in the weight room to get stronger," Angelly said. "When the big guys up front dominate the line of scrimmage, we will be a better football team."

Even though this season hasn't been the best, Angelly sees potential.

"We have a great group of kids," Angelly said. "They show up to practice and work hard every day. They understand this year we have played a very tough schedule. Every week has a different motivation, and we are always focused on one game at a time."

Football coach and history teacher Matt Griffith hopes to improve greatly during the offseason, and to keep the energy going.

"It will take hard work in the offseason between workouts and skill development for the upcoming classes to have success," Griffith said.

In spite of their record, Griffith credits his players for the work they have invested.

"The season has not gone the way we had hoped," Griffith said. "Obviously we don't put in hours every day to be sitting at 0-6. However, the young men who have stuck it out have shown us good things. They have showed up to practice to work and left everything out on the field every Friday night."



Photos by Sara Wangler.

(Top) Senior Grayson Osman tackles West Frankfort quarterback Connor Eaton in a heated match.



(Bottom) Seniors Zayne Hayes and Sebastian Barton set up on the line of scrimmage before beginning a play in an intense contest against West Frankfort.

Club sports offer many recruiting opportunities

Haley Sullivan, sports editor

As student athletes begin the process of being recruited as collegiate athletes, many look to club sports as an outlet for college exposure.

According to a 2017 article in TIME Magazine by Sean Gregory, club sports have seen a 55 percent growth since 2010 and have reached a \$15 billion industry.

With an industry this large, it does not come as a surprise that many athletes in this area have been playing for much of their athletic careers.

"I have played travel baseball since I was seven years old, and I've played baseball from the time I was old enough for tee ball," Wabash Valley baseball commit Isaac Crabb said.

Crabb went on to discuss how club sports provide a baseline for meeting new people and developing communication skills when talking to college coaches and recruiters.

"Travel ball has made an impact on the person I am by allowing me to develop new friendships, and helping me better my skills as a baseball player," junior Noah Boon said. "It exposes me to some of the best competi-

tion in the nation and shows me what I will have to do to get better to be able to compete at the next level."

Despite the advantages that club sport athletes often acquire, traveling to compete at a higher skill level can take a toll on athletes as well.

"Being gone all the time can sometimes be a bit of a disadvantage," Crabb said. "Being away from home for too long can start to feel draining, but it is just a small price to pay for experiencing different levels of talent and being put in front of college coaches and recruiters."

According to freshman Liza Wiggins, the financial cost can be a disadvantage as well.

"Club volleyball can be super expensive to play," Wiggins said. "Sometimes we pay upwards of \$500, but I know some organizations cost even more than that."

Regardless of these disadvantages, club sports provide significant face-to-face interaction with college coaches that, according to senior Southeastern Illinois College softball commit Essence Sanders, include many different ways in which a college coach or recruiter may be able to observe an athlete's abilities.

"In softball, a lot of recruiting is done through camps,

exposure tournaments and showcase tournaments," Sanders said. "Camps are a good way for coaches to interact with athletes without interfering with recruiting rules that would normally prevent them from talking to players during certain times of the year."

"Showcases are a lot like tournaments, except they are for the actual purpose of college coaches seeing how players perform in game situations," Sanders said. "They can bend the rules since it's not for keeping score. For example, someone may be down in the lineup but could go up to hit if a coach wanted to watch that person at bat right then."

With so many different outlets for the scouting process to occur, club ball allows college coaches from diverse areas to recruit athletes for their programs according to Boon.

"I use travel ball to get me in front of scouts by playing the best of the best, and if I am able to compete with the best, scouts will take notice," Boon said. "Travel ball is a big help when trying to get recruited. Athletes are more likely to be recruited by bigger colleges playing travel ball because most tournaments are played on college fields or at least in a college town."



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Soccer ends season with tough Regional loss

Madison McClusky, news editor

This year's soccer season ended with a loss at the IHSA regionals. The team's overall season record was 3-15-1.

"The best part about the whole season was watching our determination grow after winning the games," freshman Wekey Wang said. "It still sucked losing as much as we did, but we'll hopefully improve next year."

The transition from middle school to high school soccer can be difficult, according to Wang.

"The transition was hard because of how different the conditioning for the season was," Wang said. "We also play more difficult opponents than we did in middle school."

The team is already taking steps to prepare for next year's season.

"Myself along with others are planning to participate in club soccer this fall or spring," freshman Kelsyn Fricker said. "Club soccer is a team that consists of anyone in high school that lives near you. You can meet new people, learn new skills and drills and just become an overall better player."

According to Fricker, there was progress made from the beginning to the end of the season in certain places.

"At the beginning we were decent, we got way better at the end of the season, but next year it think we'll get pretty far," Fricker said. "It had a lot to do with the fact that our chemistry got way better and we had better communication. We all knew each others powers and weaknesses."

There are specific things that have been discussed that the team will be focusing on to improve, according to Fricker.

"I know for sure we'll focus on working on our possession and being more physical," Fricker said. "On the field we struggled with those specifically, that's why we lost by so much. We always lost the ball and we couldn't body up to take the ball, which led to our opponents mak-



Photo by Madison McClusky.

(Top) Freshman Grant Wilson prepares to steal ball from Mount Vernon opponent. "When you're on the field you receive an adrenaline rush, shortly followed by your brain quickly processing what you should do with the ball or how to distribute it," Wilson said.

ing their goals."

Senior Eli Shires believes if the team's attitude from this season carries over, the probability of a more successful season in the future is much higher.

"I'm proud of the team for enjoying every moment together and making the best of the situation no matter if we won or lost," Shires said. "If they keep the same attitude, next season can be even better."

There are certain pieces that go into being a good teammate and helping your team have a good season.

"To have teamwork, keep your head up, and don't put your teammates down," Fricker said. "Respect your teammates, be there for them, and don't let them quit."

Strong team-rooted mentality leads to postseason confidence

Haley Sullivan, sports editor

With a regular season record of 5-20, the volleyball team ended their regular season with a win against the Anna-Jonesboro Wildcats in an Oct. 23 matchup.

The team has worked diligently to fight for such a record, including a camp with a Division 1 volleyball team at SIU Carbondale, according to sophomore Chloe Williams.

"We have some really good hitters and passers right now, which is definitely one of our strongest aspects," Williams said. "Another strong point we have definitely has to be our determination and courage, which is going to be a big help for us in the postseason. When high stress and high pressure situations come into play, we know how to handle them and will succeed gracefully."

Williams goes on to say that some of their biggest disadvantages currently include the mental aspects of the game.

"This season, the team is low in numbers, so a lot of the girls are stepping up and being put into positions that they have never had to be in before, which can make the team's trust in each other falter a little," freshman Sofie Brombaugh said. "A lot of underclassmen are stepping up to help JV and varsity so that they won't be short on players, and everybody is working

hard to get better in every spot on the court."

The team is using practices to improve in these positions, fighting to achieve a stronger teamwork mentality, and adapting to positions that they are not used to.

"We are all learning to work well together," sophomore Chelsea Davidson said. "We are getting used to playing with each other now. I feel like with all our work, we are capable of doing some really good things in the postseason if we all commit, play as a team, and want to win."

As the team continues to piece together their abilities in new positions, the underclassmen that had never yet experienced some of the offbeat occurrences of high school sports are learning and practicing new multitasking skills.

"Being an athlete in high school is a lot more stressful than it was to be an athlete in junior high," Brombaugh said. "Balancing all of our homework that we get on top of practices and games everyday is something I never really had to do in middle school, so I am learning to work harder on completing all of my stuff on time around volleyball. I think learning to balance everything has been a good thing for me though."



Photo by Madison McClusky.

Freshman Sofie Brombaugh and sophomore Chloe Williams read a serve and prepare to play the ball in an Oct. 21 matchup against the Carmi-White County Bulldogs.

"Our girls hustle hard on the court," Brombaugh said. "The most important thing an athlete can do to win a game is to be committed to your team, give 100 percent all the time and leave it all out on the court during each and every game."



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Former student receives job place training

Selina Wang, CPS editor

Audrey Shires (2007) works as an engineering technologist for Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. An engineer technologist is in charge of turning the engineers plans into results and creations.

While some might think an engineering technologist would require a degree, due to the fancy-sounding name, Shires started as someone with no experience five years ago.

“Osmose Utilities Service, Inc. hires people with no experience at all, You only need a highschool diploma. They will also train you on the job,” said Shires.

Shires received six months of leave absence to hike on the Appalachian Trail during her work career

“I got to spend a month and a half hiking and climbing through the mountains in Los Alamos, New Mexico, inspecting utility poles. I also worked in Brazos Bend State Park in Texas and had to be very mindful of alligators,” said Shires.

Each new project brought its own new experiences. “The starting pay as a crew member back then was \$14 per hour. But you can also receive an hourly bonus based on production. The next promotion is field tech and that was \$17 per hour at the time plus production bonus,” said Shires.

She was quickly promoted, throughout each promotion there was always on the job training.

“After about one year I was moved up to a foreman

and starting pay was \$20 per hour plus production bonuses. I believe starting foreman pay is \$23 per hour now. After my leave of absence, (during which Shires hiked the Appalachian Trail), I came back as a ‘production technician’ doing design work which is also on the job training. Currently, I work from my home in New York,” Shires said.

Shires said that she discovered this job by answering a Craigslist Ad for a temporary position.

Her love of travel is what motivated her to apply for the position, but not all the locations were enjoyable.

“For fieldwork, the biggest struggles for me were the weather. Some examples would include Texas in the summer and Minnesota in the winter, which can be difficult terrains to work in,” Shires said.

Shires’ former position included both inside and outside work, but she now spends most of her time in an office. Today she is working from her home in New York.

“Once I moved into the office, the biggest struggle is just keeping up with many different projects and changing standards,” Shires said.

Like many high school students, Shires was uncertain about how she wanted to spend her future as a senior.

“It’s okay if you don’t know what you want to do when you graduate high school,” Shires said. “You have time to explore and can make your timeline.”



Photo provided.

Before her promotion, Shires often worked on assignment. Now, she works from her home office.

Should AR be required?

Students struggle with time management

Clay Brigham, staff writer

Accelerated Reader or AR is used by many schools across the nation to get students to read independently and challenge themselves. But this requirement can often cause some problems for students due to scheduling and time management.

Media specialist Heather Cox and media center aid Beverly Alvey have observed students with late fees, lost books, and failed AR tests. But according to Cox, the program still has benefits.

“The benefits (of AR) include a broader vocabulary (and) increased reading comprehension,” Cox said.

Cox also sees cross-curricular benefits as well as the broadly accepted benefits of reading.

“It allows students to visit a world other than their own, (and) connects them to real world issues,” Cox said.

But English teacher Cathy Wall sees some limitations to the AR program.

“I’m not saying that we need to get rid of AR,” Wall said. “I think it has some real benefits. But when a student reaches the junior or senior level, there are things that I want them to consider about their independent reading books that an AR test simply doesn’t address. I want them to consider how the text supports what they believe to be true about things like the characters, the setting, and the author’s style as well as the plot. I like to use AR as supplemental points for the book reviews my students are required to complete.”

If students were to stop reading all together it would worsen their communication according to Cox.

“I think, just like anything else in life, reading is something you get better at the more you do it,” Cox said. “If students were to stop reading the communication and understanding would be at a stand still. Once that is gone it takes a while to pick back up.”

Students sometimes choose not to read the required book and the point of actually reading is missed according to English teacher Hillary Ford.

“I don’t think it’s bad, but students sometimes don’t read; they just go and take an AR test,” Ford said.

The biggest struggle in requiring AR is time management according to Cox.

“Time management with other activities such as sports and extracurriculars is the most common cause of students struggle,” Cox said.

Wall agrees.

“No matter whether I am using AR or another method, students generally struggle with a task that they are required to complete independently,” Wall said. “But the ability to manage their own time and tasks is an important skill to learn as students moves toward adulthood.”

If AR were taken away the outcome wouldn’t be positive, according to Cox.

“There would be a huge decline in students just reading in general. You have those kids who love it and are going to read no matter what,” Cox said. “It’s an ugly domino effect, when you have a huge decrease of consumers in your library, then what’s the point of a library.”

Cox believes the ability for students to choose their own book is crucial in getting students.

“The students’ ability to choose a book that they like will encourage them to read,” Cox said. “There is an endless number of reading levels to fit any student’s comprehension level, and there are books about romance, the end of the world, political issues, discrimination, being in high school, getting a sports injury and the list goes on.”

The limitations on what books students can check out is not so appealing to Ford. “Because of the rating system, students who might read one thing can’t read it,” said Ford. “Because of there reading level deters them from reading because it’s not what they are interested in.



Photo by Haley Sullivan

Senior Daizha Locke reads her A.R. book in English teacher Elizabeth Dawe’s senior English class. “A.R. is a good way to keep students reading, but it can be hard to keep up with,” Locke said.



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Formal impeachment begins

Trump underfire for Twitter rants

Mazie Tillery, staff writer

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced on Tuesday, Sept. 24 that the House of Representatives would be launching a formal impeachment inquiry into the recent actions of President Donald Trump.

After a whistleblower called for the release of what was said by Trump in a conversation with the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, a memorandum transcript of the call was published.

The calls for impeachment come from the alleged "bully tactics" used by Trump to inadvertently extort Zelensky into investigating and providing information on a possible rival in the upcoming presidential election of 2020, Joe Biden, as well as his son, Hunter Biden.

In the call, Trump repeated several times how much the United States has helped Ukraine, much more than the European Union. He then pressed for Ukraine to return the favor, again reminding Zelensky of all the aid that the United States has provided for his country.

"Impeachment is the formal accusation of a political official," junior Jonah McGuire said.

Impeachment, despite popular misunderstanding, is not removal from office. Although it can be the start of the process, by itself it is only charges against an elected official because of treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors, according to the Constitution. This definition leaves room for interpretation, but is generally understood to mean anything that violates the oath of office. It also means that a crime does not have to be explicitly committed for Trump to be impeached.

"This isn't the first time Trump has been caught in a sticky situation due to what he has said," senior Langdon Jerrell said.

It is a common occurrence for Trump's tweets and comments to get him into hot water. Recently at a North Carolina rally, a chant broke out calling for Ilhan Omar to be sent back to Somalia, from where she immigrated.

"I think more mudslinging and insults will ensue," Jerrell said.

According to BBC, it is currently unclear if anything will come about from this inquiry. If a list of offenses is gathered, a vote will be held on whether or not to impeach. From there, another vote for removal would be held.

Currently the House Republicans are continuing to defend Trump. Some prominent Republicans, such as Mitt Romney, are questioning his most recent decisions.

Since the whistleblower's initial allegations surfaced, several other anonymous intelligence workers have come forward, furthering the Democratic calls for the impeachment inquiry. Trump himself has spearheaded most of the conversation, questioning why whistleblowers' identities should be protected.

"I think that whistleblowers should be taken seriously. If there is accusation, what is the issue with investigation?" McGuire said.



Photo by Shealah Craighead.

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