the appleton north
NOCTILUCA
Appleton, Wisconsin November 2009 Vol. XV Issue III

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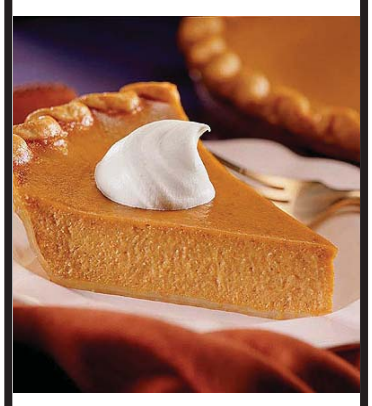
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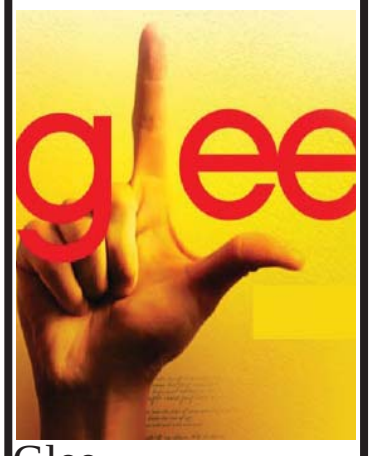
Glee

New vaccination helps schools prepare for H1N1

By Christian Bakken

As an estimated 250 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine begin to be distributed to schools, hospitals, and offices around the nation, many believe that one of the worst illness scares in American history is almost over.

When swine flu first appeared early last spring, nations around the world panicked as the number of cases of this new mutated form of the influenza virus increased exponentially in country after country. Fear of a pandemic that could affect up to 40% of people in the U.S. and the possibility of thousands of deaths prompted school, transportation and public area closures. Now, H1N1 is making a comeback as a new flu season starts.

Similar to the normal flu, H1N1 symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, diarrhea, and vomiting. This highly contagious virus travels to others through bodily emissions (coughs and sneezes) and objects handled by infected persons. Because of this, infected people are advised to stay home from school and maintain high levels of hygiene for up to 24 hours after experiencing flu-like symptoms. However, the main danger of swine flu is that normal flu treatments are ineffective against it.

www.afro.com
Students in the AASD can prevent the spread of H1N1 by getting a nasal vaccine or shot.

Flu season has already impacted North with many cases of both normal viruses and swine flu, causing hundreds of students to be absent over the past few weeks. Fortunately, the number of absent students has not been drastic enough to cause North to temporarily close. Other Wisconsin schools like Wisconsin Dells and Ashwaubenon have, in fact, closed due to the high amount of students out sick.

Luckily, several months of experimentation have produced a vaccine designed specifically to deal with H1N1. This vaccine is being delivered for free across the nation in the one of the largest mass vaccination campaigns in U.S. history. All Appleton public schools are included among those receiving the vaccine, and students who choose to get the vaccination will receive it sometime in November. All North students received an informational packet during homeroom on October 15th, including a consent form.

The vaccine comes in two forms; a shot, similar to any other vaccine, and a nasal spray. Although this vaccine poses the same medical risks as any other vaccines, it is not any more dangerous. The Centers for Disease Control maintain that it is the most effective way to protect yourself and others from H1N1.

The vaccination is highly recommended for everyone, especially people between 6 months and 21 years old, who are at a higher risk of contracting the disease. 70% of Appleton students are expected to get vaccinated and all others are highly encouraged to receive the vaccination.

National march and Ally Week shows support for gay rights

Photo by Maria Peeples
Protesters crying out for gay rights march in front of the White House.

By Siri Pairin

On Sunday, October 11, more than 200,000 people calling for national tolerance marched in Washington DC to make their voices heard. Fighting for equal government protection for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders alike, the highly motivated and incredibly diverse crowd embodied a rainbow of age, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. With cries of "What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? NOW!" the atmosphere of the National Equality March empowered and inspired people to believe in the capabilities of a community and the determination of people fighting for love and justice.

"Our generation is going to be the one to see equality become a reality."

Appleton East junior and GSA leader, Maria Peeples, was one of the many determined youth who attended the march.

"The really cool thing about the National Equality March is that it was largely organized by youth," says Maria. "I had the amazing opportunity to stand at the front of the march with hundreds of other young people from around the country. Our generation is going to be the one to see equality become a reality."

From Monday, November 2nd through Friday, November 6th, Appleton North celebrated Ally Week. Hosted by North's own gay-straight alliance, the week featured events and special days in which everyone could participate to help promote tolerance and acceptance.

"Basically, what the Alliance is trying to do is help kids feel comfortable in their school environments so they can build confidence there and everywhere else," says Appleton North's GSA president and senior, Lyz Boveroux.

"Ally Week, an annual celebration among gay-straight alliances, is simply a way to open eyes and not discriminate against sexual orientation."

Photo by Maria Peeples
A sea of colors and signs shows the support for national equality.

CIGNA executive speaks about healthcare

By Nate Correia

On October 17th, Wendell Potter, a former health insurance executive for CIGNA (Connecticut Insurance General of North America), spoke at the First English Lutheran Church in Appleton. Potter has had 15 years of experience working for CIGNA, the oldest insurance company in America, and has seen how companies avoid paying the claims of people they insure.

After leaving the company last year, he started protesting major insurance companies and how they go to great lengths to delay or to deny payment. Controversies like this are adding to the huge health care crisis and debate across the country.

During his speech, Mr. Potter said that currently in America, about 47 million people do not have health insurance and 25 million are underinsured. This number continues to increase due to the rapidly rising cost of insurance. Potter noted that right now, the lack of insurance options in the U.S. gives major companies the liberty to raise the price without much competition.

Since 2000, healthcare costs in Wisconsin have gone up dramatically; anywhere from 171% to a 262% increase. Potter went on to point out that if costs keep rising the way they are, by 2016, health insurance will cost about $24,000 per year; averaging about half of the expected annual salary of the average working person.

Photo by Nate Correia

Former health insurance executive, Wendell Potter, tried to persuade his listeners to support a public option.

Mr. Potter called for action against these injustices by encouraging people to disregard the lies companies like CIGNA are spreading. Major companies have started rumors that leaders such as President Obama intend for the government to "take over" health insurance. Mr. Potter clarified that the goal is not a governmental "take over", but to make a government-funded public option for insurance so that larger companies have more competition. This increase in competition would force insurance companies to lower their prices.

Back in 2004, President George W. Bush told America that having less government involvement in healthcare would be "more cost effective". Major insurance companies support this because they can continue raising prices without having to compete. After five years of little government involvement in healthcare the result is nothing but rising prices.

Potter's final words begged those who attended to doubt the information politicians that oppose a public option because not all of their arguments are accurate. Mr. Potter supports Barack Obama, the Democratic Party, and a public option.

He asked people to imagine living like those who do not have health insurance and have to rely on corporations like CIGNA. Mr. Potter pleaded, - "Let's do our part to make sure it [the public healthcare option] happens".

2009 Nobel Prize winners include Wisconsinites

By Ashley Choi

Each year, the Nobel Prize is awarded to people all over the world for their profound achievement in a certain area of study. Nobel Prize winners receive $1.4 million, a gold medal and a diploma from the Swedish king.

This year, two Wisconsinites by the name of Thomas Steitz and Oliver Williamson have each been awarded one of these prestigious awards. Among thirteen other Nobel winners, Steitz and Williamson are recieving world recognition for their contributions to their specific areas of study.

Thomas Steitz, born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is one of the three Nobel award winners for Chemistry. His studies for the function and structure of the ribosome have contributed to the advancement in antibiotics used to cure diseases. Dave Hall, Steitz's former professor at Lawrence University, was very enthusiastic when he learned that one of his own students had won the Noble Prize.

"That wow factor is really valuable," says Hall, "Especially for students in a field involving all this research and time in the laboratory." Today, Steitz, a faculty member of Yale since 1970, is researching even more in depth about the biological functions of macromolecules.

The other Wisconsin recipient of the Nobel Prize, Oliver E. Williamson, received the award "for his analysis of economic governance, especially the boundaries of the firm."

Born in Superior, Wisconsin, Williamson attended the MIT Sloan School of management and received his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. Williamson has also written numerous books including: *The Mechanisms of Governance and Markets and Hierarchies: Analysis and Antitrust Implications*.

On Tuesday, December 8th, 2009, lectures on economic science and chemistry will be held at Aula Magna, Stockholm University. Nobel prizes have been given to some of the most extraordinary people throughout history.

People of all ages, races, religions and cultures can come together as one and recognize the brilliant minded men and women we have on the earth today. Two of whom live in our state.

Fox Cities youth reach out to the community

By Christian Bakken

The United Way Fox Cities Youth Board is the high school division of the United Way Fox Cities charitable organization. Its mission is to let area high school students gain a broader understanding of the needs and responsibilities of members of the community and increase their involvement by letting them have input on the selection of the recipients of the numerous grants offered by United Way.

These students will weigh submissions from youth-oriented charities and programs throughout the Fox Cities and surrounding areas and choose the best to forward on to the United Way leadership. The Youth Board also offers guest speakers and hosts an annual Teen Symposium, a daylong event in which Youth Board members host area 9th graders and lead activities and conduct seminars about leadership, providing an invaluable experience to future youth leaders and raising knowledge about the Youth Board program.

Admission just requires a simple application form and parental consent, to be delivered at a Youth Board meeting, and gives members a tremendous opportunity to increase their leadership and community involvement through a widely renowned charitable organization.

www.uwcj.org

By helping out in the community, students gain more awareness in the Fox Valley.

Board of Education discusses future plans and changes for the AASD

www.aasd.k12.wi.us

Board members make decisions that influence students of the AASD everyday.

By Megan Van Boxtel

At the most recent AASD Board of Education meetings, board members discussed the revision of several high school classes, the impressive impact that the Student Assistance Program has had on teens, and the current AASD budget.

Board members talked about the revisions made to the high school curriculum in the areas of construction and media. A new construction technology course will replace the courses of Construction Techniques and Carpentry/Home Improvement. This new class is designed to give students a better understanding of skills needed in the construction field. Also, it was proposed that a new Multi Media Production class replace the current TV Media course. This class would allows students to explore more forms of media than previously taught and also provide an opportunity to create web pages, work with audio, video, live presentations, along with 2D and 3D animations.

Another issue discussed was concerning the Student Assistance Program. This program is designed to help students learn to rely on positive relationships and instead of chemicals. Last year, SAP had great success due to the increase of student participation. Students are encouraged to join this program if they are dealing with problems such as stress from a parent, use of alcohol or drugs, mental health problems, eating disorders, or a teen pregnancy.

The AASD budget for this year has had to make some sacrifices in order to keep up in this struggling economy. Reductions will take place in curriculum materials, technology, capital projects, and co-curricular activity money. However, it was reported that these reductions were not due to increased enrollment. In fact, high school enrollment this year went down incredibly with about 1,020 ninth graders coming in and 1,345 seniors going out; a difference of 325 students. This may be why board members have emphasized how dramatically overall spending in the AASD has decreased.

With these new changes to the AASD budget, Appleton has recently been spending far less per student than the state average indicates, and students and staff alike can be expecting changes for next year.

Natural Disasters: A force to be reckoned with

By Calvin Patten

Natural disasters. No one likes them. In recent news, hundreds of people have been killed or reported missing after a series of earthquakes in Indonesia. An earthquake off of the Samoan coast caused the deaths of over 100 victims. In August, Hurricane Katrina hit Southeast Louisiana damaging the entire coast and especially New Orleans.

After four years, New Orleans still looks like a disaster site. This is an outrage, to think that we as a country cannot rebuild a city on our own soil within four years. I remember buying the bracelets to support the hurricane victims. I don't, however, remember hearing about how New Orleans was rebuilt. It is a sad time we live in, to know that our cities may be destroyed and that victims receive little to no disaster aid from our seemingly paralyzed government.

In contrast, areas and cities destroyed by natural disasters in other countries are oftentimes rebuilt quickly and with help from the UN. They get people living in their cities again more efficiently than we do. Take, for example, the tsunami in 2004 that devastated Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia. Within two years, they developed an advanced warning system and have done significant rebuilding since then.

We need to work together to protect and rebuild our country. Once we are able to do that without bureaucratic interference, we will be able to work on other problems as well. Hurricane Katrina should never have killed people, but we weren't organized enough to avoid it. New Orleans should already be rebuilt; it is a major city in one of the richest, most prosperous countries in the world. Obama, as a democrat, should be doing more to help those in need than, say, George Dubya. Unfortunately, the bureaucracy of our nation could care less about theneeds of those who've suffered due to catostrophic disaster.

We need drastic reforms in our entire political system, or our foreign debt will get worse, we'll lose other countries' respect for us, and we won't even be trusted to take care of our citizens.

Top 10 Deadliest United States Natural Disasters

1. Galveston, TX Hurricane - September 18, 1900
Estimated death toll: about 8000
2. Great Okeechobee Hurricane, Florida - September 16-17, 1928
Estimated death toll: 2500+
3. Johnstown, PA Flood - May 31, 1889
Estimated death toll: 2209+
4. Chenier Caminada Hurricane - October 1, 1893
Estimated death toll: 2000+
5. "Sea Islands" Hurricane - August 27-28, 1893
Estimated death toll: 1000 - 2000
6. Hurricane Katrina - August 29, 2005
Estimated death toll: 1836+
7. Great New England Hurricane - 1938
Estimated death toll: 720
8. San Francisco Earthquake - 1906
Estimated death toll: 700 confirmed, estimates of up to 3000
9. Georgia - South Carolina Hurricane - 1881
Estimated death toll: 700
10. Tri-State Tornado in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana - 1925
Estimated death toll: 695

Barack Obama worthy of Nobel Peace Prize?

By Maggie Hackett

Does Obama really deserve the Nobel Peace Prize? All he did was declare he was going to rid the World of all nuclear weapons. The only significant thing he did besides that during his quarter in office was get a dog.

Katy Brown, a CNN I-reporter says, "…It had more to do with him becoming the first black US president…" I agree completely with her view. Not that I'm racist but, if you think about it, since he hasn't done much yet in his presidency, much it would be likely for someone to have that viewpoint.

Sophomore Bill Hackett doesn't think that Barrack Obama deserves the Peace Prize. He replied, "No. Nobel Prizes should not be given for potential, but for action."

Civics and social studies teacher, Mr. Schoenbohm thinks, "Everyone was very surprised [by his award]. What Barrack Obama said was more of a promise, not an action and usually the awards are awarded for action. But what he said had a settling affect on people."

In a random survey, 22 seniors agreed with the statement "Barack Obama is not worthy of the award." Senior, Joe Williams said, "He hasn't even been President for a year. He hasn't done anything yet." Laura Recker, also a senior, had this to say; "What else is the reason? I don't have him as President, but the purpose of the prize is to honor accomplishments." She and her classmates seemed to agree that Obama's award devalues the presige of the Nobel Prize.

Other presidents have won the Peace Prize in the past, but their reason for being awarded was specific. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt won the Peace Prize for negotiating a peace settlement in the Russo-Japanese War. His reason was very straight out; for negotiating peace. What was Obama's for? Promising peace.

The Nobel committee said, "Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future."

Yes, but did he do anything while he had their attention? No. All he did was whining about the world's economy and say that he wanted to get rid of nuclear weapons. To actually get rid of nuclear weapons you need the world to work on that as a whole.

I'm sorry Mr. President but one person's promise cannot does not deserve this prestigeous award.

weuopeancourier.com
Does Barack Obama deserve the Noble Peace Prize for something he hasn't done yet?

Calling all writers...

Feel strongly about an issue? Write for the Opinions section! If you just want to rant about illegal immigration or about why Twilight is amazing, the Opinions Section is here for you! Come to our meetings to get your voice heard. We hope to have you as a part of our staff soon.

Troops tied down in war America cannot win

By Blake Miller

digitaljournal.com
Obama's new plan to keep the Taliban out of Afghanistan includes more troops.

Why are we in Afghanistan? The main reason is to hunt down Al-Qaeda, the terrorist organization responsible for the bombing of the World Trade Centers and the deaths of countless innocent lives. Sounds easy enough; after all, we have the strongest military in the world. Yet for some reason we are still in Afghanistan after eight years of war. The problem is that we are still unable to track down Osama Bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda, and the mastermind behind 9/11. The country of Afghanistan is no larger than the state of Texas, yet locating Bin Laden is near impossible.

With our great technological abilities, it really shouldn't be a problem. The two things we lack are sufficient troops and the support of the American people. We lost the first necessity when George W. Bush ignored the troop estimates given by his generals, sending in roughly one fifth of the original troop number requested.

The second problem is uncontrollable; putting troops in Afghanistan simply causes American support of the war in Afghanistan to waver. The question is which is, more important? Troops? Popular support? Afghanistan has always been a death trap for organized militaries; all the politicians know it.

The single reason we went into Afghanistan with an army was that we needed to quiet the anti-terrorist hysteria that was set off by 9/11. The logical choice would have been to send assassins to kill all of the leaders of Al-Qaeda—a one to two year plan. Unfortunately, this would have caused an upset to the American people, and a frenzy of patriotism caused Americans to support a war for Al-Qaeda blood.

The way things stand today is grim. We are tied down in a war we cannot win, yet we are also unable to leave without the fear of more terrorist attacks. President Obama is proposing a new plan. He is going to put more troops into Afghanistan and provide a substantial amount of economic aid to Afghanistan for the next five years in order to keep the Taliban out.

I see some major problems with this plan. First, adding more troops is foolish. Haven't we seen by now that sending in more troops has not worked, is not working, and is never going to work? Clearly not. Besides, it is incredibly likely that Bin Laden is no longer even in Afghanistan. Second, Afghanistan's government is corrupt, so throwing money at them is not going to solve the problem. We need to send in economic specialists with this money so that we can first restore Afghanistan's economy.

Furthermore, what about Pakistan? It has been identified as one of the areas where Bin Laden might most likely be. I am not blaming Obama wholly, however. Bush did leave him to dig us out of this pit. The blame for the war in Afghanistan and the price of thousands of lives lost does fall primarily on the shoulders of George W. Bush.

Governments use two different styles of power— soft powers (peaceful, humane methods) and hard powers (aggression, conflict). Unfortunately, George Bush has damaged our ability to utilize soft powers, and to make matters worse, it seems most of the situations facing present day America require the use of hard powers.

We need to make a choice. We can maintain our tactics we have now, lose more American lives, and maintain our crumbling reputation, or we can begin implementing some effective solutions. Inaction and bad actions will bring nothing but despair to our nation, and the only thing we can do now is begin to think and hope for a way to bring our troops back home.

I hope for the sake of America that we can.

militarynewsnetwork.com
A new and harsh reality is beginning to set in for troops being sent overseas.

Editor's Note:
Letters to the editor are encouraged and will be published as space permits.

Letters can be dropped off in the designated folder on the door of the publications lab on the south end of the LMC.

Let your voice be heard

The Noctiluca staff graciously accepts any letters to the editor which will be published as space allows. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. Anonymous submissions will not be printed and all writing is subject to editing via our policy statement below. All letters to the editor can be dropped off in the designated folder on the door of the Publications Lab at the south end of the LMC, or e-mailed to Mrs. Bruce, the staff advisor, at: <brucesusanne@aasd.k12.wi.us>

Noctiluca Mission Statement

To publish news, information, entertainment and opinion articles for and about student, faculty and administration activities, interests and policies. Our goal is to maintain high ethical standards and provide a forum for free and responsible expression of student views. The newspaper strives for a high level of competency welcomes diversity of scope, depth and breadth of coverage in order to heighten mutual understanding and awareness through our entire school community.

Noctiluca Policy Statement

Published ten times per year, the student newspaper of Appleton North High School is a forum in which its student editorial board makes decisions regarding its contents.

Unsigned editorials express the views of the majroity of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows.

Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name in certain circumstances.

The paper reserves the right edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the Appleton North High School administration, unless so attributed.

The *Noctiluca* reservees the right to publish images in both print and online format.

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Thanksgiving comes with temptations

By Brooke Resch

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is a holiday where Americans consume endless platefuls of butter, with a side of jellied cranberries. The least healthy dishes at this meal are usually made in mass quantities if they have economical prices (i.e. potatoes, dressing, pies, etc.). So every year Americans keep adding more and more dangerous ingredients like fats and starches, to their Thanksgiving meals as a means of saving money without losing flavor.

This year, families will be feeling the pinch and might be inclined to serve the least healthy versions of the feast yet, to lower the grocery bill. However, there is hope. If the nation can ditch fattening recipes and embrace more health-conscious options, then Americans can enjoy one of their proudest holidays without busting the bank or bursting at the belt.

An easy place to ditch the calories is in the green bean casserole. This classic casserole is made with a can of cream of mushroom soup, laden with over ten grams of fat and tons of sodium. Instead, the beans can be boiled, steamed or baked with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil. Preparing vegetables this way will still leave the natural flavor while omitting some of the sin.

The main event at any Thanksgiving dinner is the turkey. Although turkey meat is portrayed as a healthier choice than most other meats, this is only after the skin is taken off.

www.5dollardinners.com

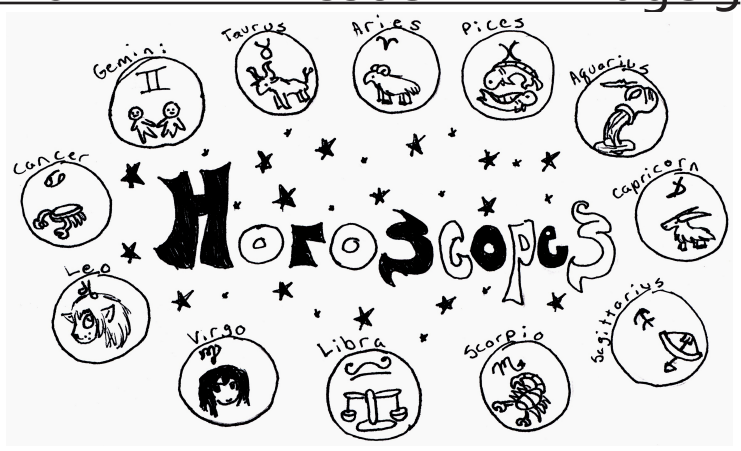
Pumpkin pie is the least harmful of Thanksgiving desserts.

A simple way to spare some fat and cholesterol from the meal is to take the skin off the turkey before eating it.

Once the main meal is over, most Americans get in line for Thanksgiving pie. When facing the dessert table, go for pumpkin. Pumpkin pie has high levels of fiber and vitamin A. Its competition on Thanksgiving, pecan pie, is essentially made up of corn syrup and butter, with a few nuts in between. If this is a must have, go for a smaller portion. Another healthy tip for dessert is to skip the Cool Whip and ice cream. Instead, have a glass of milk. A glass of milk has the same creamy taste with less fat and an added benefit of eight grams of protein.

Finally, don't lie around. Thanksgiving is one of those rare moments where grown men have been known to fall asleep in folding chairs. Don't get dozy after the turkey; get outside and play some football, or make sure you have comfortable shoes along for a brisk walk, after the dishes are done, of course. Fresh air is free and getting some can make a holiday more fun and definitely more active.

Thanksgiving is a great American pastime where families celebrate the good things in life by eating a lot of food and trying not to spend any money on it. This year, get over gluttony and make smart decisions when the food is being passed around. Eat smart and, above all, be thankful.



By Sarah Burts-Kust

By Claire Balane

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Stay inside to avoid the perils of love.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Today is a great day to save money on hair products by shaving your head.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
If you're worried about Santa watching you: close your blinds!

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
That new pickup line you learned isn't going to do you any good.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22)
If you start practicing now, you might be able to make American Idol.

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22)
The stars had a secret for you. It was so secret they couldn't tell me.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 23)
If you skip breakfast, I predict bad things in your future.

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 21)
Sometimes love comes around and knocks you down. Trip it back.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)
You will get a fabulous birthday surprise!

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)
If the blue whales can make a comeback, so can you!

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)
There will be an important message for you on the announcements.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20)
Garfield is always a great role model for Saturdays.

Ask Nurse Deb: Meningococcal Meningitis

By Paige Resch

Last year, Wisconsin experienced the largest outbreak of meningococcal meningitis in ten years. During that time, Deb Werth, resident nurse noticed that many students were recently vaccinated and thereby increased precautions while myths about the disease flourished. Since then, the myths have not died, but the urgent sense of protection against meningitis has. Nurse Deb responds to questions regarding this important health concern.

Q: How many people suffer from meningitis?

A: There are many kinds of meningitis. We don't see the meningococcal meningitis strand very often. Some of the viral strands are common and tend to be more mild.

Q: What are the symptoms of meningococcal meningitis?

A: There are headaches, fevers and stiff neck. These can be very severe. Sometimes when it gets into the blood stream, it can cause a splotchy rash.

Q: How many people are carriers of meningococcal meningitis?

A: About 5-10% of people carry the disease. This particular strand can be found in the nasal passages of people who don't develop the disease.

Q: Why is it that most people don't develop a reaction while others do?

A: We don't know for sure. It could be genetic or have something to do with the immune system.

Q: In that case, should students be just as cautious now as they were last year?

A: Yes, they should have the same health precautions, and those precautions will also help to prevent other illnesses.

Q: What other diseases have similar symptoms?

A: Well, different kinds of infections could cause a headache, body ache or fever. Meningococcal meningitis causes severe headaches, body aches and fevers.

Q: What are some meningitis myths that spread last year?

A: Some people were nervous about just being in the North building or being around North students.

Q: Can a drinking fountain give you meningitis?

A: That is a myth. The fact is, with this specific disease, the bacteria can't live outside the body.

Q: What amount of meningococcal meningitis is prevented by the vaccine?

A: The vaccine prevents four out of the five of the meningococcal meningitis strands. So many people are vaccinated now that we're not seeing the other kinds as often, because it's being prevented.

Q: What are the best ways to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

A: Most importantly, have the vaccination. Otherwise, it is good health habits and not sharing eating utensils, drinks, etc.

Scholarships prove useful

By Paige Resch

Any student with hopes of a college education can benefit from a properly used scholarship. The National Scholarship Month of November is a time dedicated to assisting collegiate hopefuls. The event is sponsored by the National Scholarship Providers Association (NSPA) whose goal is to make higher education more accessible to students via scholarships.

Scholarships are accessible with or without the use of NSPA. The guidance office is filled with helpful tools for researching every student's options.

According to Mr. Werner from the guidance departmant "there are some useful books at Barnes & Noble". However, "it is in the student's best interest to come into the guidance office and keep looking for updates on scholarships."

The national focus on scholarships in November is fairly new. Prior to 2008, National Scholarship Month had been celebrated in May. It was then moved to November in order to coincide with the beginning of the 'scholarship season'.

However, there is no one good time to start working towards a scholarship. Scholarship opportunities and deadlines occur year round and many opportunities could already be over by November.

When should students begin looking for scholarships? "I would recommend that sophomores go to www.fastweb.com. Of course, they won't apply for scholarships, but they will have information and be in control. It's never too early. There's a lot out there in scholarships that people never realize." says Werner.

Unusual scholarships are also an option. These scholarships are based around creativity, unique talents and physical characteristics. Some of the most famous unusual scholarships are awarded for being left handed or for most creative duck-tape prom outfit.

Of course, for anyone not yet started, November is as good a time as any to look for scholarships. After all, there is no time like the present.

Students give commentary

By Peter Hale

"It seems like [the economy]'s improving."
--Gerald Ziegler, senior

"I believe the economy is getting better, but not because of what Obama has done."
--Dakota Watkins, freshman

"I don't like that jobs are suffering and how families are suffering because of that."
--Elise Jean-Pierre, sophomore

"Some people are actually losing their jobs and that's not a good thing."
--Alex Larson, junior

Students give feedback on the recession in their lives

By Brooke Resch

America's deteriorating economy is affecting people from all walks of life, including high school students.

106 different North students were surveyed about how they felt the recession was impacting their lives and the lives of those around them. The anonymous survey revealed how hard the student body has been hit and what types of changes it's making to adjust.

"Our economy is a vicious circle; it affects everyone in it."
--Anonymous freshman

Less then ten percent of students feel that the economy has not been affecting their peers. About half said that that the state of the economy has left their families relatively unaffected. One junior felt that "The media makes the economy seem worse than it really is." A senior commented that "Nothing has really changed because of the recession. It hasn't affected my family really at all."

However, nearly half of the responses from the survey expressed that the economy has affected most people or "nearly everyone that I know".

"Our economy has drastically changed and it's getting hard to support people, including yourself." commented a senior.

A freshman stated, "Our economy is like a vicious circle; it affects everyone in it."

Another freshman feels that "the economy has screwed up a lot of people's lives that I know. It's not a good situation."

One junior commented on her experiences with the recession. "Overall, the economy has affected pretty much everyone. However, to what extent depends on everyone's circumstances."

Debatably the most disturbing statistic was the amount of students who have been really hit hard. 14.1% of those who filled out the questionnaire said that someone in their household has lost a job as a result of the recession. A senior said that her family was now "a paycheck to paycheck family. My dad works at a paper mill and could lose his job any day."

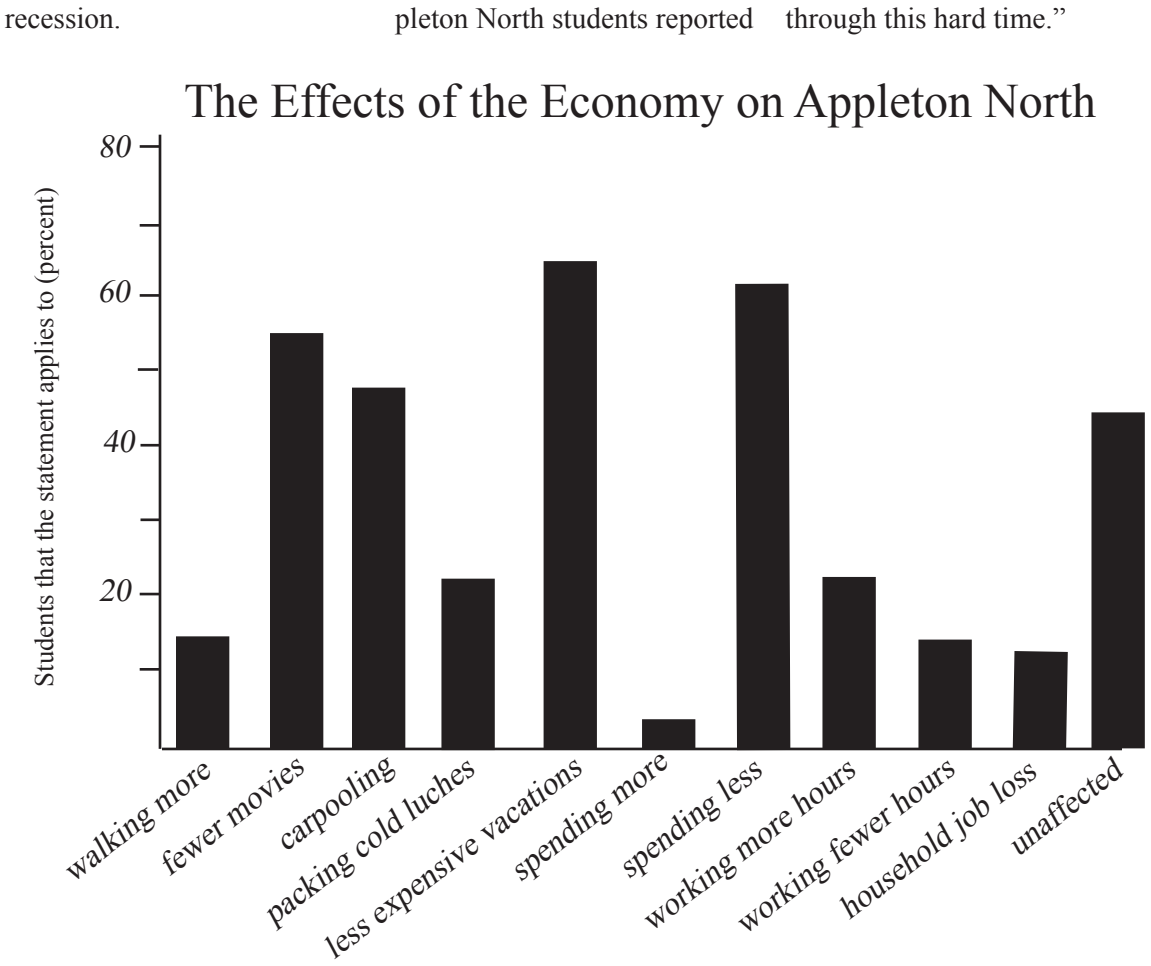
The results of the poll found that six percent of students have responded by spending more money lately to boost the economy. They are, however, the minority in terms of spending.

Most North students reported more savvy spending habits. Over 55 percent have been going to the movies less to keep cash in their wallets. Almost the same amount has been carpooling more since the recession began. The majority of students, 67%, have taken fewer or less expensive vacations since the start of the recession.

The student body has been finding many additional ways to save money. About one in every four North students has been packing more cold lunches since the beginning of the recession, as opposed to purchasing food from the cafeteria or restaurants. Others have been walking or biking more often to save on gas.

Overall, 64 percent of Appleton North students reported that they were spending less money on material things and have tightened their personal budgets.

With job losses, more frugal lifestyles, and a new economical environment, it may be wise to heed the response from an anonymous senior. "Though the economy may be poor, we are still America. Working together will bring us through this hard time."



More than 100 North students of all grade levels were surveyed in their Communication Arts classes. Through the variety of responses, there were still some patterns such as fewer and less extravagent lifestyles since the recession.

North student interprets the economy through art

By Brooke Resch

Laina Wydeven was asked by the *Noctiluca* staff to make an artistic interpretation of the economy. What she created was a graphic representation of her beliefs, which are synonymous with those of most Americans.

When Wydeven began brainstorming ideas for the the editorial cartoon, she wasn't sure how she wanted to portray the economy. By the time she'd finished the illustration, she had total confidence in the direction she chose.

"The idea of the picture is just... 'goin' in the trash'. it's basically self-explanitory. Lately, the economy's been just getting worse and worse, and I wanted to incorporate that into the picture." the artists explains.

The final product is the image of a protein shake, labeled "Economy", being tossed into a garbage can. The bottle reads "NOW WITH 9.4% UNEMPLOYED!"

Wydeven's passion for the issue is evident in her expository cartoon.

The economy has been portrayed by national and local news stations. It has been critiqued by the most esteemed of critics and debated by distinguished politicians. Here at North, however, students understand how a picture can speak louder than words.

Lucky Seven Economic Indicators: Care to Roll the Dice?

In a dice game, the luck of the number seven means everything. Similarly, leading economists turn to the seven leading indicators when predicting America's economic health. These indicators include: consumer confidence, leading indicators, inflation, industrial production, retail sales, manufacturing and job growth.

Unfortunately, consumer confidence continued to slip in October, with consumers' gauge of the current economic situation falling to a 26-year low. The Conference Board, the New York-based research group said its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 47.7 in October from an upwardly revised 53.4 in September. Economists were expecting the index to increase to 53.5, according to a Briefing.com consensus survey. The figure, which is based on a survey of 5,000 U.S. households, is closely watched because consumer spending makes up two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

Conversely, the Leading Economic Indicator (LEI's) six-month growth rate has improved to its highest pace since 1983," says Ataman Ozyildirim, an economist at The Conference Board. "Except for average workweek and building permits, all the leading indicators contributed positively to the index this month."

The Consumer Price Index, the government's key inflation measure, is now down 1.3% over the past 12 months, driven by a 30% drop in the price of gasoline and a 2.5% drop in food prices during that time. So-called core CPI -- which strips out food and energy prices -- is up 1.5% during the same period.

For September, prices rose 0.2%, down from the 0.4% rise posted in August. The increase was in line with forecasts of economists surveyed by Briefing.com. The drop in prices means that 57 million Americans who get Social Security benefits will not receive a rise in their benefits next year. This is the first time there will not be an increase since automatic adjustments for cost of living were put in place in 1975. While the forth economic indicator, Industrial Production, rose more than expected in September and recorded its largest quarterly gain in more than four years according to government figures, the fifth category, Retail Sales, fell in September after the popular "Cash for Clunkers" program aimed at boosting auto sales ended.

In the monthly report from ISM members, who are purchasing managers in the manufacturing field, index readings above 50 indicate growth, while levels below 50 signal contraction. Readings below 41.2 are associated with a recession in the broader economy.

"The ISM index remained in expansion territory ... with [some] positive signals," said Wells Fargo economist John Silvia, "Yet employment still lags ... and the jobless recovery continues."

Employers cut more jobs from their payrolls in September and the unemployment rate hit another 26-year high, as the long-battered U.S. labor market took an unexpected turn for the worse. The Labor Department said there was a net loss of 263,000 jobs in the month.

Although the seven economic indicators are somewhat contradictory, their place in predicting America's future financial recovery is certain: It's a roll of the dice.

Lottery winners and losers

By Katie Hermsen

For many, turning eighteen is an important rite of passage that allows them to vote, get tattoos, and, of course, buy lottery tickets. To have a chance at winning 30 million dollars for the small price of a ticket seems quite tempting; however, buying lottery tickets is an enormous gamble and some ticket buyers are not aware of the risks.

The Wisconsin Lottery offers a variety of games such as Powerball, SuperCash, Badger 5, Daily Pick 3, Daily Pick 4, and numerous scratch games. In this faltering economy, believe it or not, lottery sales are rising in some states. Despite widespread uncertainty about spending, the Wisconsin lottery posted the ninth best sales record in its twenty-one year history.

Unfortunately, the chances of winning the lottery remain slim. The odds of winning the Badger 5 are approximately 1-in-175,000, while the chances of winning the Powerball lotto are around 1-in-195 million. For a particularly lucky person or seasoned lottery player who may have a "system", these odds may not seem too bad. However, for inexperienced gamblers, these daunting odds may easily dissuade them from purchasing lottery tickets.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue states that "the mission of the Wisconsin Lottery is to achieve the greatest possible property tax relief for Wisconsin taxpayers, with unquestioned integrity". An estimate of 95 cents of every dollar spent on the lottery goes directly back into Wisconsin's economy. Many people are unaware of the advantages of the lottery; those advantages aren't just for the people lucky enough to win but for every taxpayer in Wisconsin.

image from www.wjfw.com

The Wisconsin Lottery doles out hundreds of millions of dollars in winnings every year.

"The economy's going through one of its natural fluctuations. Eventually, it will be back to normal."
--Jade Anderson, junior

"People should spend more money to keep the economy going."
--Faith Moening, senior

Gadgets: All new S.C.U.B.A.

By Charlotte Hale

Scuba diving is a great way for anyone with a sense of adventure to explore the underwater world. However, there has always been a problem with the activity: how to breathe underwater.

The traditional method of scuba diving involves using a bulky air tank known as a "Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus." It is from this mechanism that scuba diving gets its name.

Divers are soon to be offered other options. Alan Izhar-Bodner, an Israeli inventor used what is known as "Henry's Law" of dissolved oxygen in water and created a machine that converts the dissolved oxygen into breathable air. This will eliminate the cumbersome oxygen tanks divers originally have had to lug around and that weigh them down in the water.

According to Bodner, the idea was inspired by the gills of fish. "I knew that there is dissolved air in the water and that the fish breath this air so I thought, with all the technology in the world, why couldn't we also do it?"

Even if it is not as small as Qui-gon-jinn's air compressor in Star Wars it is taking another step forward into a science fiction future or at least a future complete with underwater exploration.

Sudoku puzzle and October answers

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	4			1				
			5				3	6
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2	4	3	6	9	5	1	8	7
5	7	6	4	8	1	2	3	9
8	9	1	2	3	7	5	4	6
9	6	5	3	2	4	7	1	8
4	2	7	1	5	8	9	6	3
1	3	8	9	7	6	4	2	5
6	5	2	7	4	3	8	9	1
3	8	4	5	1	9	6	7	2
7	1	9	8	6	2	3	5	4

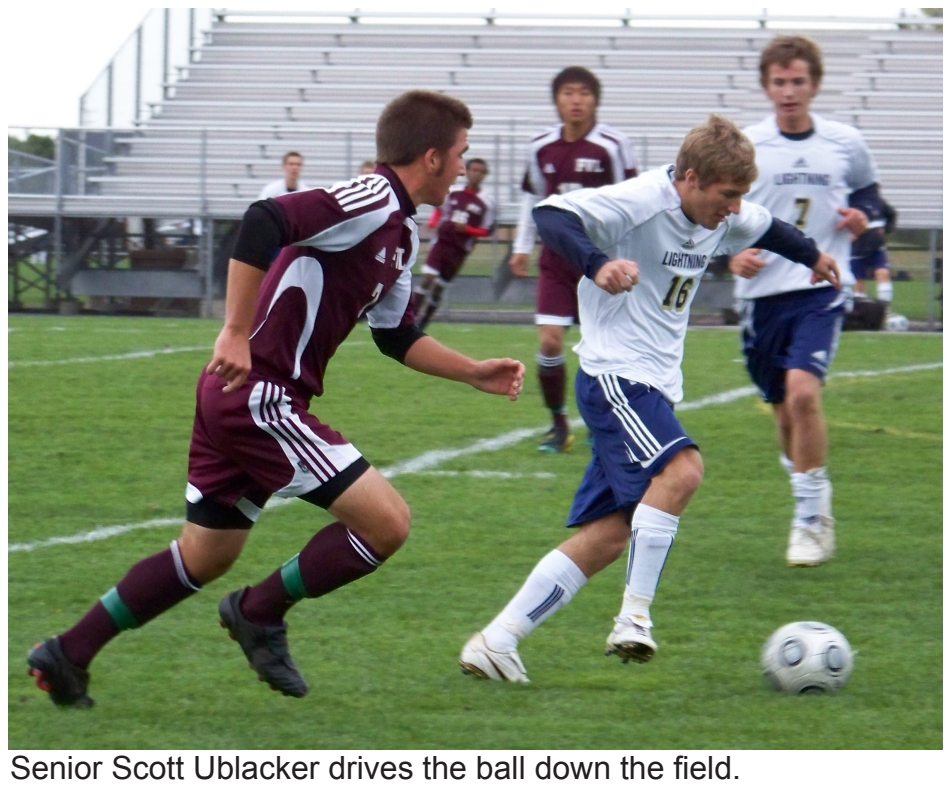
Fondy upset ends season early for boys' soccer

By Kal Riebau

The Appleton North soccer team fell just inches short as the ball flew over the crossbar and ended their playoff run rather abruptly only a few weeks ago. It took the Lightning boys' soccer team to sudden death shootout before they were kicked out of the playoffs by a stingy and experienced Fond du Lac team.

"It was a great season, but it is still a hard way to lose a soccer game," said senior defenseman Steven Richards. "We were the better team but things didn't work out for us, the ball just didn't bounce our way."

By Zac DeRidder
Senior Steven Richards defends the ball during the Fox Valley Lutheran game.


By Zac DeRidder
Senior Scott Ublacker drives the ball down the field.

"It was tough to lose in a shootout in double over time. We had a lot of chances but didn't capitalize on them," added senior outside midfielder Ben Hyatt.

The teams' efforts will not go unnoticed. With seniors, Matt Baker, Steven Richards, Pat Whalen, Sung Ho Park, Ben Hyatt, Saywer Burton and Frank Ontaneda leading the way, the Lightning finished with a remarkably strong five, two, and one record in the Fox Valley Association Conference.

"The FVA was extremely competitive this year," said Richards. "There was not an easy team in the league and the competition only seemed to get stronger as the season progressed."

The team made a valiant effort in the playoffs only to be disappointed but the team will not be forgotten by its true fans anytime soon. The determination, passion and fantastic play of the team that was shown on the field will always be remembered.

"Nevertheless, we had an outstanding season and I will never forget the priceless time and memories that I shared with this team. Watching these men mature as both players and individuals has been a reward in itself." said Richards.

Senior captain Matt Baker contributed, "Overall, we had a great season, with many positive things to take from our experiences on and off the field."

Boys' Volleyball looking to make deep run into playoffs

By Steven Richards

With a 7-1 conference record, the Appleton North boys' volleyball team is looking forward to the play-offs with a bright outlook. The team's only conference loss came against Kaukauna, in a hard fought battle that came down to the wire. North lost the match 30-28, 18-25, 25-21, 26-24.

Senior captain Brent Bicigo said this about the game: "It was a great game between two very talented teams. Even though we didn't come out on top, we showed that we are definitely capable of beating them. We just have to be on the top of our game."

Senior outside hitter Kashia Thao said, "We made some mistakes that we shouldn't have. If we can clean those up, we have a great chance at beating them next time."

Even though North lost the heartbreaker to Kaukauna, they have won some pretty big games this season. The team traveled to Shorewood for a tournament where they faced off with Westosha Central. At the time, Westosha was ranked 8th in the State when the North boys beat them in a well played match.

When junior outside hitter Jason Steers was asked what his favorite part of being on the team was, he said, "I love the closeness of the guys. We just have a lot of messing around and stuff. We like to prank each other a lot. Like this one time, [Ryan Culligan] fell asleep and some guys tied his shoes together. It was hilarious." What was Culligan's response to the good-natured teasing? "Oh man, dude." he sighed.

By Zac DeRidder
A lot of hard work and practiced has resulted in the varsity boys' volleyball team making another appearance in the state tournament.

With all the success that the team has been having this year, people are starting to notice the Appleton North boy's volleyball team, including college scouts. Senior captain Mickey Flynn was offered a full ride scholarship to a Division 1 school, Ball State. Flynn, however, turned down the offer saying this, "It was a little farther away from home than I wanted to go. It was awesome getting the offer but it just didn't seem like the right choice for me."

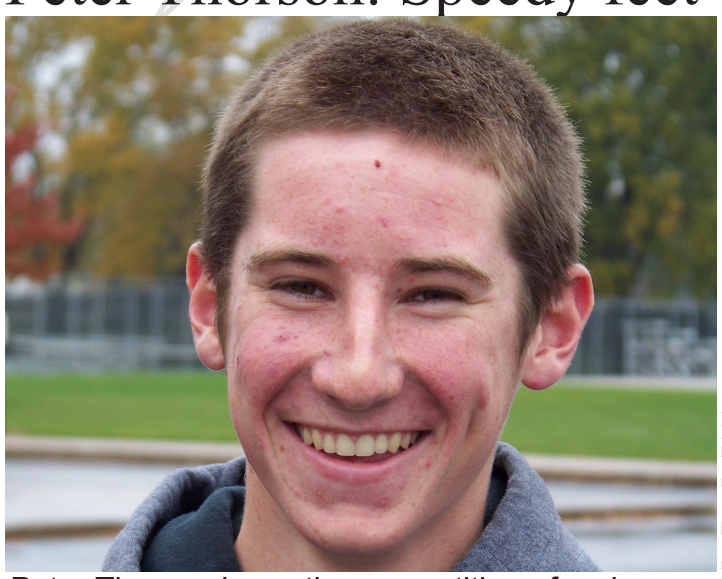
With Flynn and all of the other senior leaders looking ahead to their final play-offs, there is one game in particular they are looking forward to: their rematch against Kaukauna. If the teams face off again, it will be in a battle of two state ranked teams for the sectional final.

Thao had this to say, "We can't look forward. We have a few more games before we get there. We can't overlook those. We just have to clean up some mistakes and we will be fine."

Bicigo's final comments: "We will be ready to play."

Athletes of the month shine bright

Peter Thorson: Speedy feet



By Zac DeRidder

Peter Thorson loves the competition of racing.

By Melissa Cameron

16:51 sticks within senior Peter Thorson's mind as his greatest Cross Country accomplishment. To him, it is the goal of breaking seventeen minutes, the ambition only achieved after months of unwavering determination.

Peter is able to succeed at this partly under the guidance of Steve Prefontaine, who he regards as an amazing runner who was self-determined and always strived to be the best. He also thinks highly of Prefontaine's coach Bill Bowerman, who he would choose to meet above anyone. "He was a great coach, and coached some of the greatest athletes alive."

Thorson's favorite thing about cross country is the competition. "I love pushing myself and seeing what I can do." he added.

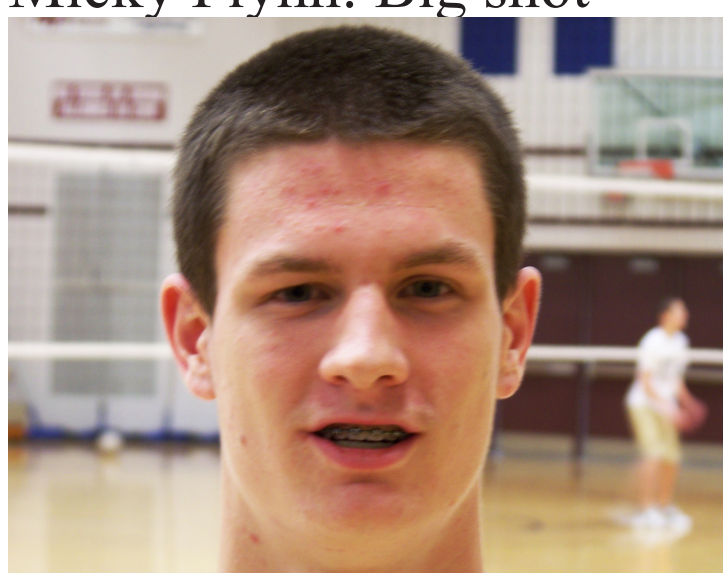
"I plan to go to college and study to become a physical therapist." Thorson said. He plans to continue running at the college he will attend.

Peter Thorson

What's on your iPod?
-The Clash
-The Ramones
-Streetlight Manifesto

Describe yourself in three words.
-Driven
-Positive
-Easy-going

Micky Flynn: Big shot



By Zac DeRidder

Micky Flynn has been a strong leader on the court.

By Scott Ublacker

Senior Micky Flynn's greatest volleyball accomplishment is making it to state while only a sophomore. Flynn is a very talented athlete with a lot of potential. He is a quiet athlete, who leads by example.

Flynn describes himself in three words, "hard working, persistent, and quiet, and his teammates would agree.

While in the game Flynn's favorite strategy in volleyball is setting. "Giving a hitter a hittable ball to kill is a great feeling", he says, establishing himself as a strong team player. His favorite memory of volleyball is winning the playoffs against Kimberly.

When asked about role models he responds," I'd like to meet Tiger Woods, if anyone because he is the best and is a class act on and off the course."

Future plans for Flynn include continuing his volleyball career in college.

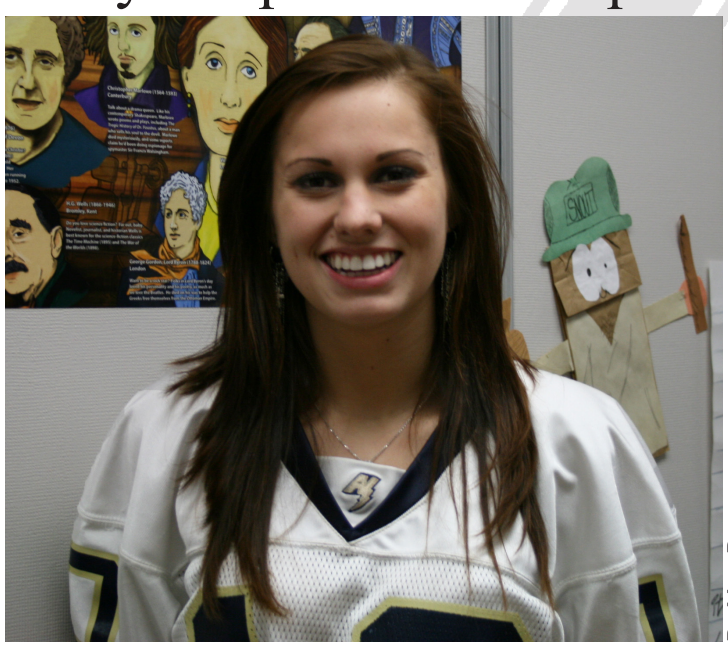
Micky Flynn

What's on your iPod?
-Elton John
-Akon
-Bob Segar

Other North activities?
-Track

Favorite move:
-Setting

Abby Casperson: Star spiker



By Mrs. Bruce

Abby Casperson had the led the team to a great year.

By Scott Ublacker

Being a varsity member of the girls volleyball team for the past three years has made Abby a vital member of the team.

Her greatest accomplishment was earning an honorable mention, all-conference player, while only a sophomore.

Casperson's greatest volleyball memory was participating in the UW- Whitewater tournament this past August.

"It was just a blast!" she confessed. "I love competing and winning a close match; it's the best feeling," she told the Noctiluca staff when asked about her favorite aspect of the game.

When asked about role models, Casperson added, "Misty May is my favorite volleyball player because she is a great Olympic athlete and is a fun player to watch compete."

Abby also said she would like to meet Tyra Banks if she could meet anyone, because she is a very successful person and serves as a great role model.

Her plans for the future consist of attending college ; she is undecided as to whether she will continue to play volleyball .

Abby Casperson

Describe yourself in three words:
-Confident
-Ambitious
-Stubborn

What's on your iPod?
-Coldplay
-Tim McGraw
-The Beatles

Other North activities:
-Link Crew
-Fashion Club

Baillye Durkin: Loves to run

By Zac DeRidder

Baillye Durkin is a talented member of the Girls' Cross Country team.

By Melissa Cameron

"Hearing my name on the Varsity list for my first race," is the first thing to strike senior Baillye Durkin as her favorite memory of cross country. Of course, she also will remember vividly the daily long runs at Plamann Park with the girls Varsity team.

"No matter how gross the weather is, there's always something funny or meaningful said or done during the time we run everyday," Durkin said. She regards her greatest cross country accomplishment as any time she crosses the finish line of a race.

As one of the fastest girls on the Varsity team, Baillye understands the importance of hard work. For this reason she admires Elliot Krause as her favorite runner. "He makes running look easy, and he shows where dedication can take you," she added.

"Keep on running," Durkin replied when asked about her plans for the future. Next summer she plans to train for her first marathon. She intends to go to college, open her own restaurant, return to Germany, and to enjoy life as much as she possibly can.

Baillye Durkin

What's on your iPod?
-Country
-Hip Hop
-Disney movie songs

Describe yourself in three words.
-Hard-working
-Dedicated
-Schedule-oriented

Who would you like to meet?
Spiderman because he's my favorite superhero and has special spidey senses

Editor's Pick: *Jellicoe Road*

By Megan Van Boxtel

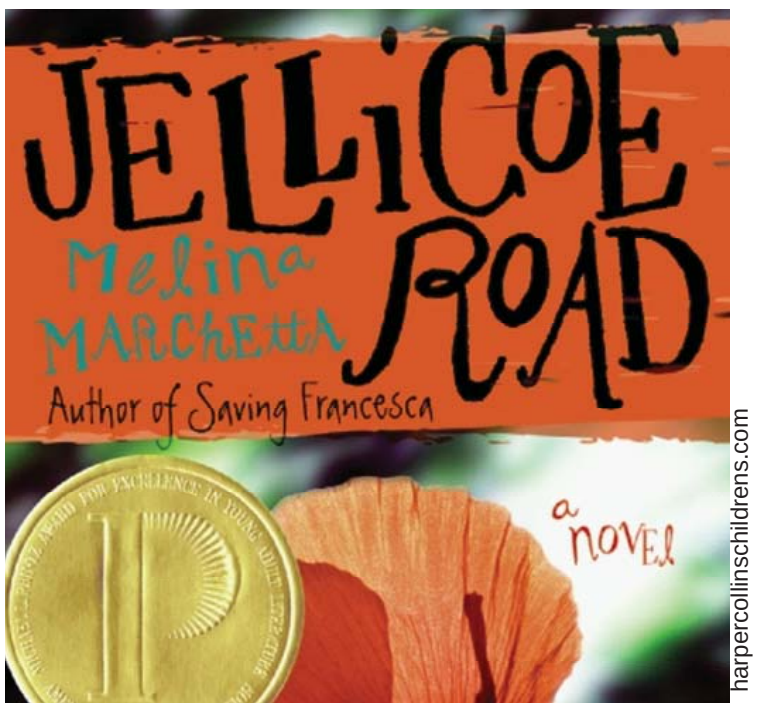
For anyone who's interested in a book that incorporates mysteries from the past, complex characters, and even a little romance; *Jellicoe Road* will most definitely satisfy the hunger for a new and interesting book that anyone may crave.

Melina Marchetta, the author, writes about a girl who is struggling to find out the mystery of her life. Taylor Markham was abandoned by her mother on Jellicoe Road when she was eleven and has lived there since. At seventeen, Taylor attends the boarding school located on Jellicoe Road and as a senior student, she becomes the hesitant leader of her dorm that participates in an ongoing rivalry with two other schools. It is because of this rivalry that Taylor is forced into an uneasy relationship with Jonah Griggs, her enemy, but also the one person who knows her more than anyone else. This relationship grows throughout the story and it is apparent that these characters are just like any other human beings. Taylor and Jonah make mistakes in their lives, but then fortunately, they are able to learn from them.

The complex plot of *Jellicoe Road* becomes even more complicated as Taylor and Jonah learn about five kids who lived on Jellicoe Road eighteen years previously, and have absolutely everything to do with the mysteries that plague Taylor's life in the present. The disturbing memories, strange occurrences, mysterious disappearances and also mysterious reappearances serve as complicated clues for the many mysteries Taylor is determined to figure out. As Marchetta reveals clue after clue to the reader, it won't be until the very end when all is revealed and finally understood by both Taylor and the reader.

Jellicoe Road is not your typical teenage drama. There are many adult themes present in the book however; readers may find that the characters, although they have many more struggles to work through, are quite relatable to the average teenager.

As Taylor starts to understand herself better along with the mysteries of her life; it is apparent that this Printz award winning novel is not only a mystery, but a story that simply has to do with friendship and love and the importance of both in life. *Jellicoe Road* will most certainly draw readers in and hold them captive until the book reaches its exciting finish.



harpercollinschildrens.com

Jellicoe Road is a quality book and a fun read.

Paranormal Activity

by Chelsea Juen

Paranormal Activity is the film that has everyone talking–and screaming. First released at film festivals and selected theaters, the movie was finally released to most theaters on October 16 of this year. The movie stars two unfamiliar yet brilliant actors: Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat.

Katie and Micah (named after the actors) decide to move in together to take the next step in their relationship. However, before the move Katie fails to tell Micah she is convinced a demon of some sort has been following her since she was the young age of eight. Micah purchases a camera to document supernatural events that occur in their new home, in hopes of later being able to find out what it truly is. At first, Katie resents the idea of possibly disturbing a demon, but eventually goes along with it.

One mysterious event Micha catches on tape includes the bedroom door lightly moving in the black of the night. Another event includes a creepy shadow against their bedroom door. Sound scary yet? The plot thickens as the movie progresses until it will be hard for viewers not to jump out of their seats in fright.

From E! Online, Peter Paras comments on *Paranormal Activity*. He believes it to be "one of the decade's scariest films…". Based on the reactions of the audience in the theater, Paras couldn't have stated it any better. People are said to be screaming, grabbing hold of one another, covering their faces with their hands, and literally soaring from their seats.

This movie is extremely terrifying and to obtain the outstanding film's full effect, it is advised that it be seen in theaters only. Newcomers Featherston and Sloat do a beyond brilliant job of acting. They truly make you believe what is appearing on the screen is reality. There are rumors going around that whispers throughout the theater include skeptical comments like, "Wait, are they acting or is this actually happening?" By the time the film has reached its conclusion, moviegoers will still be questioning whether the film was real or not. Fortunately, Paranormal Activity is not real in the slightest.

If you're into scary, thrilling, supernatural flicks, *Paranormal Activity* is a must-see. If you fear anything ghostly or mystical in the slightest, it would advisable that you not get lost within the theater and accidentally walk into this film on your way to *Where the Wild Things Are.*

Shopping on a budget is as simple as pie

By Jensen Enz

Though it may seem like it, shopping for clothes on a budget is not the end of the world. With the tight economy, many families and high school students with limited disposable income, find shopping for up to date and in-style clothing to be a challenge. Though, with some planning and a bit of basic know-how, seeking out deals isn't as difficult as it may appear.

Building a wardrobe on a budget takes some time and creativity. Planning purchases in advance saves money as well as reducing the ever notorious impulse buy. Predetermining where exactly you shop can save money too. When hitting places like Forever 21, a dollar goes farther than it does in more expensive, brand name stores. Keep in mind though, Forever 21 does not offer extended sizes often so those in need of pants in specifically tailored short or long varieties may be out of luck.

Also, before purchasing an item you have to really think and ask yourself some questions: "Do I really need this?", "How often will I actually wear this?", and "Can I afford this?" If the answer to any of these is a strong and resounding "no", you may want to reconsider making the purchase.

It is also wise to be familiar yourself with wholesale retailers. Places like TJ Maxx carry discontinued or overstocked clothing from other stores at much lower prices. The items vary from location to location and it may be difficult to find something specific, but such stores are a great place to start. The Outlet Malls of Oshkosh are also an option, although it is a bit of a drive.

Photo from Boston.com

TJ Maxx is both a fun and fashionable clothing store.

uberchicforcheap.blogspot.com

Plato's Closet offers trendy clothes for less money.

Second-hand clothing retailers, such as Goodwill, St. Vincent De Paul, the Salvation Army, and other consignment stores like Plato's Closet and the Too Little For Me Shop offer used and donated items. With consignment stores, the clothes are typically in new or rarely used condition so you're not only getting a great price, but quality clothing as well.

Shopping for second hand clothes at shops where the clothes are just donated, such as Goodwill, is usually a hit or miss. Sometimes, a name brand piece in excellent condition will be a real bargain. Other times, row after row of unorganized and outdated clothing is just too much to look though.

Fortunately, teens have options when the wallet runs low. By shopping sales, wholesale, and second hand clothing stores, shopping on a budget can be both affordable and fun.

Glee delights fans of all ages

By Chelsea Ashland

With every new year, there is always uncertainty about emerging television entertainment; whether or not a show returns in the fall for another season is up to fate. Last spring, a preview pilot aired for a new show that premiered this fall. The single first episode of that show sent shockwaves of excitement and anticipation throughout television viewers. Glee, whose pilot aired on Fox Network, began its first season this September and since then its popularity has been on fire. Wednesday nights at 9/8c now offer the extra little incentive to push through the mid-week blues.

Photo from centralmediaserver.com
Glee is proving to be one of the most popular TV shows in quite awhile.

Set in a stereotypical high school, where jocks and cheerleaders reign supreme, the misfit students and teachers come together to form Glee Club, a show choir. The motley crew of Glee members led by advisor Will Schuester include the over-achiever (Rachel), the quarterback of the football team (Finn), the male fashionista (Kurt), the head cheerleader (Quinn), the diva (Mercedes) , the misunderstood (Tina), and the physically handicapped (Artie).

The different characters undergo realistic life struggles that many viewers can relate to. Underlying themes such as relationships, cooperation, sexuality, pregnancy, conformity, drugs, and many others are found woven into the plot enhancing the already exciting show.

Besides the dramatic and humorous plots of each episode, viewers often look forward to the many musical numbers performed by the Glee cast. Every episode so far has included musical numbers such as hit songs like "No Air" (Jordan Sparks), "Somebody to Love" (Queen), "Last Name" (Carrie Underwood), "Single Ladies" (Beyonce), "Gold Digger" (Kanye West), and "Don't Stop Believing" (Journey). Dance routines to these musical numbers vary widely and are almost as electrifying as the songs themselves.

Fans of Glee just cannot get enough. The Glee Cast versions of the songs performed on the show are sold on the Itunes and are frequently on the Top Sellers List on Thursdays. Also, "I'm a gLeek" shirts are sold at Hot Topic as well as other Glee merchandise.

With the echo of Glee music growing louder and louder, the show's popularity is on the rise. Those who have seen the show find themselves glued to the couch on Wednesday nights. Those who are busy on Wednesday nights, have no fear. The popular website Hulu.com features Glee as one of its most watched shows on its site.

If you have not seen the show already, you will not be sorry for making the choice to join in the chorus of Gleeks singing along to the refrain of this outrageous new comedy.

Where The Wild Things Are

By Jensen Enz

Nearly everyone has, at some point in time, read Maurice Sendack's *Where the Wild Things Are*. The book was originally challenged by parents who were concerned that the subject matter was too scary and mature for young children. The award-winning book, now considered a classic, has been taken on as a full length movie by the visionary Spike Jonze. Jonze's film adaptation was written with the help of renowned writer, Dave Eggers. Some die hard fans may have worried that the movie would lose track of the overall feel of the short story, but the film takes the themes and elaborates on them.

The young antagonist Max, played by Max Records, is a rambunctious kid with too much energy and not enough time in the day. His single mother, busy juggling parenthood and a full-time job, and his stuck-up older sister are both too wrapped up in their own endeavors to give the attention Max craves. Frustrated and clad in his wolf-suit pajamas, Max heads to the woods close to home where, after discovering and sailing across a body of water, the movie really picks up steam.

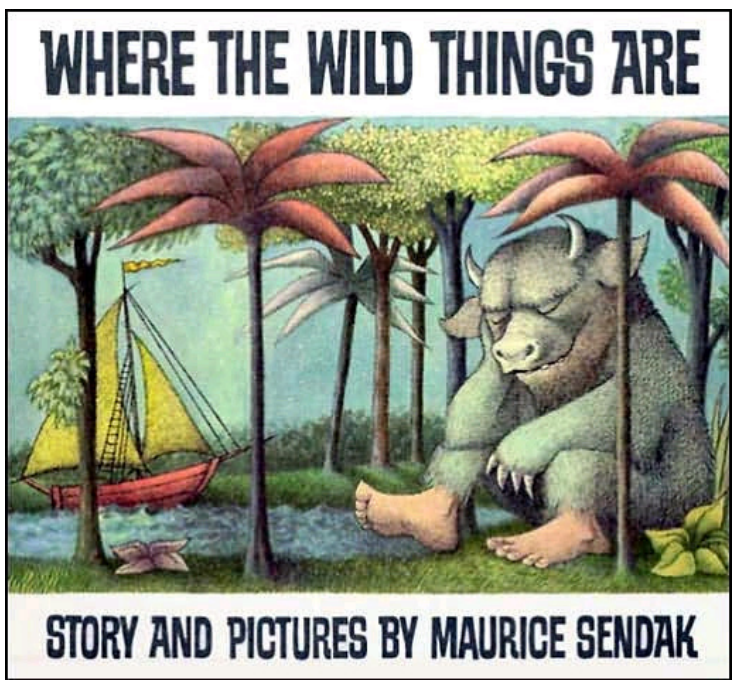


Photo from Barnes and Noble.com
The movie hopes to keep the new fans entertained.

In the story, the "wild things" that Max encounters are nameless and indistinguishable personality wise. In the movie, these characters are fleshed out fully with the rest of the stellar cast. Max's life as ruler of the wild things starts out as a fun adventure with activities that include building forts, exchanging tokens of affection, and dirt-clod fights. In general, Max tries to construct a world in which, in the words of Carol (one of the wild things), "only the things you want to happen would happen." But this "wild rumpus", like any, cannot go on forever. Max discovers that "king" is merely another word for "parent".

Much like the original story was criticized by worrisome parents, the movie has its fair share of overprotective, sheltering parents who claim that the movie is too much for a younger audience. It is safe to say that *Where the Wild Things Are* is a movie about childhood and not necessarily a children's movie. However, it is definitely a movie worth seeing.

Power of One

By Jenna Otto

An exciting event for many, Power of One was held a few weeks ago at Appleton North. Power of One was a fun filled event that incorporated music, faith, and friends into one powerful day.

Power of One is a Christian music festival that works hand in hand with Lifest. Contrary to popular belief regarding Christian music, Power of One ditches the boring hymnals and organ music and instead features modern music that could be compared to what any pop radio station plays. The only difference with these songs is the strong positive message attached.

Superchick, Pillar and Barlow Girl were some of the major headliners this year and they certainly did not disappoint their fans. Excited attendees were left screaming for encores from these talented musicians. Visual effects that went along with the music also added to the great atmosphere.

While many who attended would say the music was the best part of the day, they would most likely all agree that the message passed on to them made the event even better. With musicians doubling as speakers, students along with adults were given something to think about as they listened to the stories and speeches about faith and learning.

Student Carleigh Werlein had nothing but positive remarks in regard to Power of One. "It was an amazing event and I'm coming next year!" This is great advice for anyone who is interested in a wonderful day of new experiences.

Photo from Christianitytoday.com
Superchick stole the show at Power of One.