the appleton north

ANOCTILUCA

North sees surge in AP test takers

Appleton, Wisconsin February/March 2013 Vol. XVIII Issue V

By Abigail Edmonds

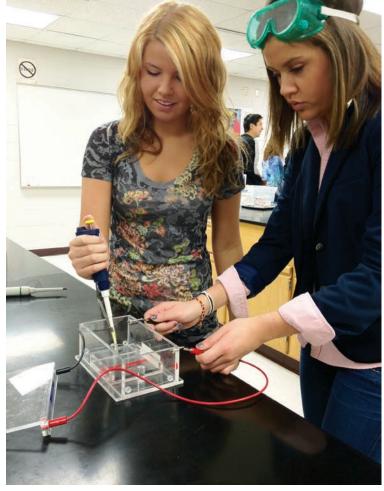
What does AP stand for? Apparently *Adding Pupils*.

Between 2009 and 2012 the number of North students taking Advanced Placement tests grew 62 percent, from 216 in 2009 to 350 in 2012. Despite this large increase in testing, the percentage of passing scores fluctuated only one percent, from 76 in 2009, to 75 in 2012.

"When I first started I had probably two AP psych classes, and a whole schedule of regular psych," AP Psychology teacher David Meixl said. "Slowly that started to change."

In comparison to other Appleton high schools, North's numbers are atypical. The number of students taking AP tests at Appleton West grew by 2.79 percent over the same period, while at East the number decreased by 10.7 percent.

This year at North, there are 15 AP classes running, with a total enrollment of 888 students in those classes, or 434 individuals taking one or more AP classes. Next school year there are 1,019 total requests to take an AP class, and close to 15 AP



Seniors Morgan Huss and Megan Harvey work with electrolysis in their AP Biology class. Last year 29 North students took the AP Biology exam, up from the 24 who took the exam in 2009. Photo by Nate Correia

classes will be running, Mr. Pynenberg said.

North's dramatic surge in testing has not gone unnoticed

"You can't just be a good gymnast, now you have to go to the Olympics."

- Esther Roselaar



"I think more and more students are looking at it as cost effective."

- Mr. Pynenberg

by staff or students.

Assistant Principal Dave Pynenberg hypothesizes that the growing popularity of AP at North is because the tests potentially save students thousands of dollars. "I think more and more students are looking at it as cost effective," Pynenberg said.

Cost is only one motive for students to take AP tests.

Related Editorial How the AP standard is taking over the classroom, page 3.

"I think I do it because it provides a more enriching environment, and it's expected to take AP classes to get into a good college," said senior Rebecca Fitton, who has taken 10 AP classes at North.

What's expected of students has inflated, sophomore Esther Roselaar said. "You can't just be a good gymnast, now you have to go to the Olympics."

Meixl believes stigmatization of non AP or "regular" classes also contributes to the increase in AP students. "I think it's more of a trend. Kids feel that they need to be at a higher rate."

Despite the heavy emphasis on AP at North, a full schedule of AP classes isn't a golden ticket to college. "You don't need AP classes necessarily to get into college," said Ken Anselment, Dean of Admissions at Lawrence University. "We see lots of kids pile on and pile on AP classes, and they are burned

See **AP Exams**, page 2

New finals schedule faces scrutiny, possible changes

By Marit Bakken

By now, everyone has long finished the first finals week of the year. All the studying, all of the stress – it's all over, at least until June. Administrators of Appleton North also have their share of stress over the finals schedule.

As sophomores, juniors and seniors recognized, the finals

schedule was very different this year from previous years, with only two finals a day this year, with four normal classes filling up the remainder of the day. Plus, there was one half-day on Friday.

This is in comparison to last year, when finals only took up three days instead of four, with there being four finals on the Wednesday of finals week, and two finals each on Thursday and Friday. Both Thursday and Friday were also halfdays

Many students have asked questions about the new finals schedule and why the change had come about.

The schedule change came about mainly due to a district calendar change, Mr. Huggins said, with only one half-day being allowed per semester instead of the two half-days that had been allowed previously.

Due to this, district administrators could not run the same finals schedule that had been run previously. There needed to be a change, he said, and it provided an opportunity to do

things differently.

Huggins

Discussions started at the district level and carried forward to the different school sites. As Huggins explained, "I think each exam is stressful enough, and I didn't want a situation where students have to take three or four exams in



Naomi Roselaar works on an assignment in class. The new finals schedule had students taking exams and attending regular classes during the course of the day. Photo by Abigail Edmonds

one day if it could be structured differently."

"We needed a schedule where we still had final exams and maximized teacher instruction," he said.

Huggins said he went with these views into the meetings of the North Administration Council, a committee composed of North teachers from a wide variety of disciplines.

So how did North end up with the schedule that it had? Why didn't North run a regular bell schedule for finals week, as Appleton West and East did?

Survey coming

Share your thoughts about the new finals schedule. Watch for a Noctiluca survey coming soon.

"The idea of a regular bell schedule wasn't well received here at North," Huggins said. The North Administration Council believed that it was important that students have more time for their final exams – as evidenced by the 80 minute exam periods, he said.

According to Mr. Huggins, the members of the Admin Council also believed that it was stressful enough to have exams – that it was important to minimize the amount of homework given during finals week along with the final exams, plus have more structure to finals week.

With traveling teachers moving from school to school,

See Finals, page 2

NEWS

Appleton, Wisconsin February/March 2013 Volume XVIII Issue V Page 2 inals: Global Week 2013: Culture comes alive

Finals: Feedback sought on schedule

From page 1

the schedule needed to resemble a normal day - so no mixed up class schedules.

Mr. Huggins said all these reasons were the rationale behind the new finals schedule: adjust the schedule to change to the district calender, minimize the number of exams per day, incorporate closed campus, and regular classes mixing with final exams. Plus, only one half-day to fit with the new district calender.

So what were some students' take on all of this?

Senior Ani Thomas said "It was a waste of time to be here for normal classes along with finals, and the extra classes made finals week seem even more stressful."

Senior Erika Jensen agreed, "It was not worth it to be here the half of the day that I didn't have finals."

Although some student response may be negative compared to last year's schedule, Huggins explained "The finals exam schedule wasn't changed on a whim, a lot of discussion and thought went into creating a schedule that was reviewed at the district and site levels."

Huggins said he is willing to embrace feedback, saying "It's always important to review what you do and look for ways to improve."

Huggins said he will broach the topic with Principal's Cabinet and seek students' ideas, as well as to review with the Admin Council. The discussion with the Admin Council has already begun.

The Noctiluca also will be conducting a survey on the finals schedule to see the students' take on finals week, and get feedback.

The finals schedule is just one part of the debate over whether students should even have final exams to begin with.

Is it necessary to have a cumulative exam each semester? Are final exams necessary to prepare students for college? Although changes will not be made for quite some time even if they are implemented, it is possible that Appleton North will someday not have cumulative exams at all.

Global Week 2013 in early February featured a variety of presentations of cultures from across the world. North's World Language Department sponsors Global Week to promote cross-cultural learning and understanding. Photos by Nate Correia and Paige Beckum



Anthony Yang poses in traditional Hmong cloth-



Right to left, Kazua Vang, Nancy Vue, Nou Lee, Sheng Thao and Jannie Thao perform a traditional Hmong dance.



Kitt Richards shows off her Indian sari before the Indian Fashion Show.



Ka Houa Xiong and Michael Thao Mrs. Cofeil wears an Indian present about Hmong culture.



sari.



Right to left, Ka Yang, Andrew Lo, and Ka Zia Vang perform a modern dance during the Hmong Club presentation.



Tyler Smith examines DNA in AP Biology. Photo by Nate Correia

AP Exams: More students taking AP classes

From page 1

out before college."

Anselment suspects that in the future, admissions officers will see an increase in the number of kids taking AP tests to amass as many credits as possible to spend less time in college. "I understand, but they are definitely missing out on something," he said.

According to Pynenberg,

the rigorous standards of AP classes remain unaffected by the influx of students.

"All AP teachers are subject to an annual audit, and if we don't set the bar high enough, we don't run the class," he said.

Meixl agreed. "Even though AP might be the new norm, kids are still passing."

"I'm pretty proud of our teachers, they want students to

take the test, and I don't know if that happens everywhere," Pynenberg said. He estimates that about 85 percent of students who take AP classes, take the tests.

"I think more and more students are confident about taking the tests, and our instructors are doing a great job getting them ready. It still comes down to that," he said.

Noctiluca Editorial

How the AP standard is taking over the classroom

Four? Five? Even... you must be kidding, six? How many Advanced Placement (AP) classes can a student handle? More importantly, how many should one handle?

With over 130 more North students taking these tests in 2012 than in 2009, it seems like taking these tests and classes is the new norm. "I honestly don't know if they're not intimidated, or if they feel the need to take [AP tests] in order to get into colleges," said Mrs. Wohlt, who teaches a junior-level AP communica-

AP classes are increasingly set apart from other classes by their objective: Pass, pass, pass the test!

tion arts course at North.

Although numbers change from class to class, Mrs. Wohlt has noticed a significant swelling in the amount of students taking the AP classes she teaches. "The sizes of the AP classes I teach are too big. Thirty-three students for my class 6th hour... I believe it would be a much better class with fewer students."

As the threat of college costs and other pressures compel students to take AP classes, other drawbacks emerge.

Sometimes, the trend of AP courses becoming mainstream can put pressure on teachers to lessen their rigor. "I would try to give them more material, but I'm cognizant of the other classes they're taking, and there are only so many hours in the day, so they may end up doing calc homework in my class," Wohlt said.

Especially in recent history, AP classes are increasingly

set apart from other classes by their objective: Pass, pass, pass the test!

This goal, becoming ever-more important in the classroom, can demand starkly dif-

ferent teaching and learning styles. "Is the knowledge superficial? Is it internalized? Or is it, 'What I need to know to get to the next step?" Wohlt said.

Indeed, it can seem as if students are barraged with a hail of information that, if need be, may pass swiftly from the ear to the hand that is writing down test answers. Mrs. Wohlt then voiced her fears of AP classes in general: "What if they reach a point where

and they have to have the taking the corresponding AP gumption to seek knowledge instead of being fed information? Bored kids follow their curiosity, and AP classes may inhibit some of that natural curiosity. It kind of makes me sad; Thoreau would always say, 'simplify, simplify, simplify."

However, not all AP classes were created the same. These differences are most visible

test. This is compared to the 165 students who took the test to the two AP English courses offered at North, AP English Language and Composition and AP English Literature and Composition. The AP sciences seem to

have a more manageable number of students per class than the English courses.

As creativity does not play

as much a role in these sciences as communication arts, they are made more compatible with the AP format. is easier to focus the accumulation of knowledge

than learning life-changing epiphanies from that knowledge.

"You could argue that there's too much stuff in the AP curriculum," Davis said, "but if you know it well for the 80 percent you study, then you should be fine." When asked about the pros and cons of teachers running classes according to what they believe to be best, regardless of the AP curriculum, Davis stated that "You would learn less, because

ics, and those fewer topics you would learn in-depth."

It seems unfair that in recent

"Bored kids follow their curiosity..." -Mrs. Wohlt

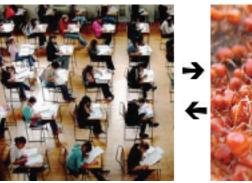
years AP classes have in essence become the gold standard of education, even when they are different on so many more levels than rigor. The rigorous approach towards academics is the cornerstone of AP classes, but is also its Achille's Heel as students are not given a moment to pause and simplify.

As Mrs. Wohlt stated. "Bored kids follow their curiosity"; so should certain AP classes be held in higher regard just for their brutal workload?

But when the arguments both for and against these classes are so often centered around what colleges want most, the fight will never be fair. Classes that are tailored to stimulate a student - to make them apply their whole selves – will never necessarily be "more rigorous" or "more testable" than APs.

Well, there must be some life lesson or other in here. Possibly, it is "Don't learn outside the lines."

Thoreau would be turning in his grave.



AP classes and tests may mean more work and less creativity. Photos from http://www.usa.gov/.

between more creativity-based

courses, such as communica-

tion arts, and more knowledge-

based courses, such as math

and science classes. Mr. Davis,

who teaches AP Biology and

AP Physics, seemed to take a

different stance on AP classes.

are different between AP sci-

ence and AP communication

arts courses. Of the three AP

science courses offered at

North in 2012, AP Chemistry,

AP Biology, and AP Physics

To begin with, the numbers

AP pushes hard for many topthey're not a student anymore, B, only 67 students ended up

that, every month,

a fifth of seniors

drink and drive.

I thought that this

craze was over by

now. Maybe ev-

eryone should just

take a deep breath

and get their priori-

Seriously,

(19.9)

whole

ties in order, namely by plac-

ing "driving to school while

percent)

guys?

"YOLO"

The World of Allen

Woah, students Outagamie You're County. freaking me out at the moment.

a visit back to the results of the Outagamie County

2011-2012 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a major source for last month's editorial about anti-drug propaganda. I dug deep, and, for the most part, we Appleton North students seem to be perfect little angels. But in all honesty, there are a few issues that you and I should really sit down and have a nice, friendly intervention about.

Let's begin with the fact



ions editor and a junior at North.

smashed" at the very bottom. Hmm, let me see... oh yes, here's one: a quarter of students have not eaten potatoes in the past seven days. Hey, it isn't "China White" (a word that the survey uses for smack, which is a word it uses for junk, which is a word it uses for heroin) but with potatoes known by street names like "Adirondack Blue" and "Golden Wonder" in a survey about youth risks, you bet there is something elicit about our growing potato epidemic.

Peculiar findings from the Outagamie County Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Oh, now what do we have here? Six percent of seniors carry a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property? Golly, I don't even think that this takes into account seniors that bring, like, all three at one time, or more creative weapons not on the list (armored vehicles, vicious animals, etc.).

Now, I sincerely give a great big "Bravo!" to the good people who keep us safe from such things as, say, any more than six percent of seniors carrying weapons on school property. But I must say that any marginally small statistic, when applied to the entire population, can make us a little jumpy. Take for instance the approximately 63 students at North, right now, who must not have heard that it is against school policy to be sporting instruments of mortal destruction whilst on campus.

Jeepers.

All in all, however, these were basically the only startling statistics evident on that survey. Around half of us bring home mostly A's on our report cards, and hardly anybody uses "crank," which is ice which is speed which is methamphetamine (I've learned a few new words from this survey). So really, take my word for it: there is nothing to fear. Well, except for seniors driving drunk in armored vehicles with three weapons and a chained tiger.

Stay in school, kids.



The majority of local students (75 percent) admit to using potatoes in the last week. Photo from http://www.usa.gov/.

All statistics provided by the Outagamie County Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2011-2012

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 Mr. Ramponi, the staff advisor, at: ramponiaaron@aasd.k12. wi.us.

Noctiluca Mission Statement

To publish news, information, entertainment and opinion articles for and about students, 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 and 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 nine 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 majority 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 tht to 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 reserves the right to publish content in both print and online format.

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Congressional redistricting silences voters

By Austin Grimmer

Do voters choose the officials, or do the officials choose the voters?

This has been called into question by recent nationwide efforts by Republicans. After suffering a crippling defeat in the 2012 elections many Republicans have turned to the unthinkable: political motivated redistricting.

I am sure the last three words were anti-climactic for some of you, and I cannot blame you. It is difficult to imagine redistricting as a nefarious activity.

But by changing the borders of districts, officials can maximize the number of races they win. If one can round up most of the opposition support into one district, then they can only win that district. This allows parties to win a majority of the seats while having the minority of support.

Gerrymandering has been around since 19th-century and has been used to gain an undemocratic edge on the opposition. However, it has never been seen on a wider scale than in 2013, in which many politicians found themselves at a crossroads: Change or CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL BOUNDARIES BOUNDARY CHANGES REPUBLICAN PLAN Journal Sentine

cheat. Unfortunately, some of the more dishonest ones have chosen the latter.

Please, trust that this article was not made to defame the Republicans. Many Republican governors are honest and good people. However, this does not excuse them to sit idly by as their fellow party members attack the democratic pro-

The majority of Republican governors have spoken against this process, and some have even vetoed plans for redistricting. And it is not just Republicans doing this. In 1991, Democrats in charge of the redistricting process in Texas packed Republican voters in to one district in order to rig elections in their favor. Prior to the plan, Democrats only won 49 percent of the vote, but after the plan was put into place this shot up to an overwhelming 70 percent.

While we can all agree that this is a practice that needs to be stopped, the problem of how to fix it comes into play.

One idea is to switch over to a direct vote system. This would bypass the Electoral College and congressional

What do you think? Are you strongly opinionated, meekly opinionated, or somewhere in between? Reply with your own side of things. Send your letter to the editor to Sam Allen via Facebook. For the rules on letters, read the policy in the left-hand column of this page.

Speak up!

districts, as winners would be elected by popular vote. While this may seem like a good idea, there are some problems with it, including the fact that it would give some states far more say in the election than others, leaving less populous areas ignored by campaigners. Another is to limit the amount of time between redistricting, but this could harm valid redistricting efforts.

A solution is not easy to find, and the only way to find one would be to have cooperation between both parties. And in all honesty, how often does

Cheers and Jeers

By Sam Allen



Cheers

North's sports teams-

Most of them presumably won something or other this month. Way to go.

Valentine's Day- Single or not, we usually find ourselves with chocolate somehow

Wisconsin's sturgeon spearing season- This month, we celebrate Wisconsin's venerated pastime of jabbing pointy sticks at weird-looking fish.

AP tests- *If you take* enough of these suckers, the college of your choice might as well mail you a diploma.



That deformed thumb in the title of Cheers and Jeers- We love you, deformed thumb, but you're

really creeping us out.

Norovirus- Just your typical, average Joe pathogen making its rounds in Appleton. This one is a true disappointment in North's otherwise distinguished line of diseases.

That one day that totally should have been a snow day- Curse us Wisconsinites and our freakish ability to take anything.

Google Translate- For being blocked in our school district. Now we'll never be able to pretend to know a foreign language!

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The *Noctiluca* is also available online. Visit us at www.aasd.k12.wi.us/north.





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Horoscopes

By Amanda Lyons



Artwork by Abigail Zabronsky

Aquarius

You're going to go someplace new and post a picture of something completely random.

Pisces

You will try foods you've never tried before, and who knows, maybe you will like Libra them.

Aries

You're going to meet someone new and become great friends with that person.

Taurus

You will reflect on recent decisions you've made in your life.

Gemini

You will get tons of homework, but on the plus side, you will finish it all on time.

Cancer

You will discover a new hobby to thoroughly enjoy.

You're going to be dragged

to a film you won't like, but you will consume a lot of pop-

Virgo

You're going to come up with a new and completely awesome idea for a story.

You're going to spend countless hours reblogging and retweeting the most pointless things on Tumblr and Twitter, but still find them amusing.

Scorpio

You're going to make a delicious chocolate cake this month and everyone will praise you for it.

Sagittarius

You're going to dance around in your bedroom singing songs as obnoxiously as possible into a hairbrush.

Capricorn

You will try a new activity that will have significance in your life.

Travel Log





River rafting is a thrilling activity for those summer days. Try it, as well as a multitude of other outdoors activities, at Chute Pond. Photos by William Archie/KRT @ Observer/MCT and Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star-Telegram @ Observer/MCT.

Visit Chute Pond for thrilling adventure

By Amanda Lyons

Chute Pond, located in Oconto County, is one of many interesting places in Wisconsin to travel to.

Camping and fishing are two of a variety of activities offered at the campground. Perhaps the most interesting fact about this place is that it has easy river rafting on the river shooting off of Chute Pond.

River rafting is a fun, exciting experience that not many people take advantage of when going to Chute Pond.

However, this is an inexpensive activity, and all that is necessary for this adventure would be some water tubes, rope, and bathing suits. It is

If you go:

- Camping
- Hiking
- Boating
- River rafting
- Fishing
- Playground
- **Picnics**

For more info: https://www.co.oconto. wi.us/parks/camping/ chute_pond_county_ park/

definitely recommended that visitors travel with friends as

an aid to stay on course. The small waterfalls that never fail to make a rafter scream like they're on a roller

coaster are a favorite part of the rafting adventure for many. The only downside is if rafters go toward the shores of the river.

If this happens, they are forced to get out of the tube and then redirect themselves back on course.

River rafting is something my family and I always did when we took trips up north to visit friends of the family. Our neighbors told us about the rafting and we decided to try it.

It was so much fun, we've done it a few more times. It will be an exciting opportunity to return to once the summer comes around this year.

LK SASSI'S FUNHOUSE!



By Lauren Sassi

TREKing thru high school



By Abigail Zabronsky

Top 10 Movies

By Alexander Larson

Watch these for a special night with that special someone.

- 1. "Romeo and Juliet"
- 2. "Beauty and the Beast"
- 3. "Cinderella"
- 4. "The Phantom of the Opera"
- 5. "Lady and the Tramp"
- 6. "A Midsummer Night's
- Dream"
- 7. "Tangled"
- 8. "Enchanted"
- 9. "Sleeping Beauty"
- 10. "The Princess Bride"

TOO GLOSE FO

Public displays of affection don't get much more public than during passing time. Spend those six minutes strolling acros want to or not. Here's your guide to the PDA scene at North.

STRIKE APOSE

Master the most frequently spotted hallway couple behaviors

HANDS ON THE HIPS

Stand with both hands on your dearly beloved's hips, or one hanging on to each side strap of a backpack. Stare deeply into each other's eyes.

LOVING LIMP

Drape your arms around

BUBBLER BUDDIES

Water is precious, and so

are your sweetie's hips. Instead of merely escorting

and other to the bubbler,

grind on the outbourt, and especially as the other

that special someone's shoulders, and grab on to their waist. Proceed to class, hanging off them for support.

RULES OF LOVE

our official school policy

- According to number 15 of North's Behavioral Expectations listed in the student handbook:

"displays of romantic affection in public are not appropriate and should not occur while on the school premises or at school sponsored functions.



I think it's disgusting. I think

It grosses me out.

-- Katie Cudnowski

t's not appropriate for school.

hate PDA. It's gross. I think we should get spray bottles and spray the really gross people. Mallory Garrison

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW

Before departing for your next bends down. class, stand in the doorway to your boyfriend or girlfriend's class, and make out with them until the bell rings. In the last thirty seconds before it sounds, begin to peck furiously at each other's faces, like malnourished chickens

RIDING THE RAILS

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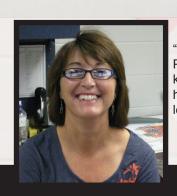
Conduct any of the above poses in a stairwell, with one person leaning up against those lovely maroon handrails.



There's nothing hotter than two adolescents making<mark>s sweet</mark> love in the hallway! Ping Wangdra.



STAFF **REACTIONS**



"I don't want to see PDA in the library. Just keep it clean. Holding hands I have no problem with."



THE F These coup

have taken a door. Th

a room wi public high

THE COMMOI

The benches attache

lunch tables are very

No need for student

top of each other...

ful of that is eno

make anyone

their appetite

Mrs. Weber



RCOMEORT?

the hallways of North, with 1,600 students streaming about s school, and chances are you will encounter it, whether you Enjoy, but not too much...

PRACTICE ROOMS

oles are on the right track! They the time to find a room with e next step would be to find th a door that's not inside a i school.

d to the spacious. s to sit on an eye-

ugh to

The hallway near the orchesmodate a half dozen pairs

ORCHESTRA ROOM

tra room widens out, but that doesn't mean it will accomof kissing adolescents.

BEHIND THE STAIRS

Calc is a real turn on.

The doors adjacent to this secluded little spot aren't often used, except during fire drills. If these couples are too preoccupied to notice a few hundred kids streaming past them, what would happen if there was an actual fire?

STAIRWAYS 10&11

Perhaps these notorious "stairway couples" are simply trying to heat up the coldest part of our school, but they should be advised, there are much cleaner forms of energy. Also, bear in mind that the stairways have enormous windows.

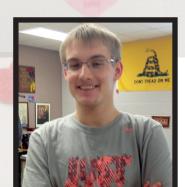
THE MAIN STAIRWELL

Talking shield? More like shield your eyes!

THE AWKWARD

MATH CORRIDOR

Couples frequently take advantage of this cold, vacant vestibule, and let's face it, AP



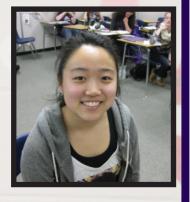
I mean, It's really super wonderful that you're in a meaningless high school relationship that won't last till graduation. I just want to take a firehose and spray them down in the hallway. It's annoying. I mock them openly. Ugh. -- Connor Naden



It discomforts me, even It felt uncomfortable. -- Joev



when I was in a relationship, Krohlow

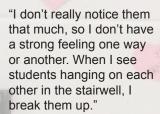


If it lasts more than 20 seconds, it's unneeded. -- Autumn Han



YIKES!

It's embarrassing for students and teachers alike to confront PDA offenders.





Mr. Pynenberg

'I would like to see students govern students. If enough people said "hey, come on! We don't need to be doing that!"



"I think PDA is rude to bystanders, and I also think it shows a lack of self respect. Some of the things I have seen in the hallway are only things that you would do in private."

Mrs. Hermensen

Student Spotlights

By Alexandria Floodstrand and Monica Stoeger



Name: Leah Dreyer Grade: Freshman **Hobbies:** Reading and writing Favorite Food: Mexican Favorite Book: Any good

fantasy novel

Favorite Genre of Music:

Rock

Favorite Movie: "Mystery

Men"

Favorite TV Show: "Psych" **Favorite Sport:** Hockey Favorite Class: English Favorite Place to Shop: Half

Price Books

Favorite Holiday: Christmas Favorite Quote: "Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Just walk beside me so I can be your friend."





Name: Sayde Gabrielson **Grade:** Junior **Hobbies:** Fishing, being around friends, roller skating Favorite Subject: Band Favorite Movie: Les Miserables

Favorite Television Show:

"Petticoat Junction" **Favorite Sport:** Swimming Favorite Quote: "If your head is made of wax, don't walk in the sun." –Benjamin Franklin



Name: Spencer Busnelli **Grade:** Sophomore Hobbies: Singing, socializing with friends

Favorite Subject: Math Favorite Movie: "Ted"

Favorite Television Show: "That 70's Show"

Favorite Sport: Rugby Favorite Quote: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." -Benjamin Franklin



Name: Vannessa Bogran Grade: Senior **Favorite Food:** Italian Favorite Dessert: Cannoli Favorite Movie: "21 Jump Street"

Favorite TV shows: "Pretty Little Liars" and "The Big

Bang Theory"

chester United

Favorite Basketball Team: Oklahoma City Thunder Favorite Soccer Team: Man-

Favorite Quote: "Most importantly, keep smiling, because life's a beautiful thing and there's so much to smile about." -Marilyn Monroe

Interested in writing for Features? Try writing a health article, travel log, horoscopes, and more. Contact Monica Stoeger via Facebook.

Gaming app tests players' vocabularies

By Monica Stoeger

As the use of electronic devices increases, gaming companies are rushing to come out with new and exciting apps.

Among one of the most popular apps of the day is a game called Ruzzle, created by game development studio MAG Interactive.

According to AppData on January 6, Ruzzle has had a lot of success among app rankings and is continuing to receive a lot of recognition. On average, the site reported having over seventeen million downloads of the game with an addition of over four million new players per week.

This app challenges players with their vocabulary by presenting them with a playfield of sixteen random letters. In the space of two minutes, players have to make as many words as possible and are awarded a set amount of points for each word they find. The focus of the game is for players to find friends and challenge them in a quick but exciting word game.

While Ruzzle is receiving attention from many places in the world, it is noted that many North students have taken an

interest in the game themselves.

"I think hype about Ruzzle comes from the ability to connect with friends and the high amount of competition," said Erika Brown, a junior. "It's a good game."

Serina Ludovic, agreed. junior, "The hype about beating your friends at something anytime, and competition can be intense."

Similar to other word games such as Scrabble and

Words with Friends, Ruzzle competes with its free download cost. For Ruzzle players wanting an upgrade, there is a \$2.99 premium version that allows players to track their win/ loss record and more.

"Ruzzle is definitely my favorite app right now. I've been playing for about three weeks," said Megan Stumpf, junior. "The competition can get pretty intense at times. I think that it has helped me



Erika Brown, junior, plays Ruzzle in her free time. Race against friends to identify as many words in the time allotted in this competitive, addicting game. Photo by Monica Stoeger

> to discover new words that I never knew existed before. It is just a fun word game that you can play with friends, and I absolutely love it!"

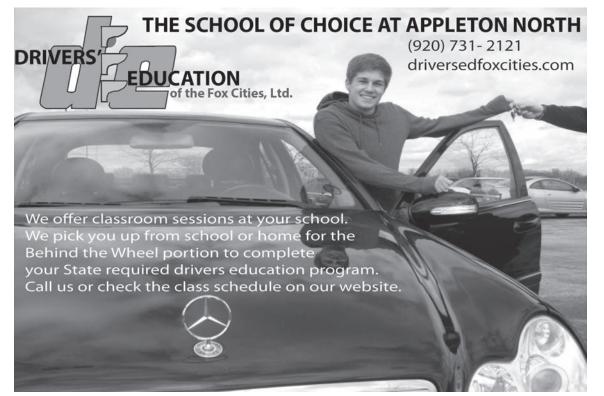
> A competitive and addicting word game, it is highly probable that the amount of Ruzzle players will continue to increase over time. For those who are looking for a quick new app or for those who just love words, Ruzzle is a great game to try.

Top 10 Love Songs

Crushing on someone? Listen to these songs to revel in those lovestruck feelings.

By Monica Stoeger

- 1. "A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri
- 2. "Entwined" by Tim My-
- 3. "First In Line" by Matthew Mayfield
- 4. "River" by Emeli Sande
- 5. "Box of Stones" by Benjamin Francis Leftwich
- 6. "Gravity" by Sara Bareilles
- 7. "Superman" by Joe Brooks
- 8. "Kiss Me" by Ed Sheeran
- 9. "All I've Ever Needed" by Paul McDonald and Nikki Reed
- 10. "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars



CULTURE

Appleton, Wisconsin February/March 2013 Vol. XVIII Issue V Page 9

Fashion bargains: How to find deals

By Rachel Brosman

Fashion is not something that comes cheap. Every season styles are changing, and it can be stressful trying to keep up. While we all like to splurge on something once in a while, there is no excuse to be constantly blowing your budget on new trends. Here are some practical ways to get the most bang for your buck while still remaining on-trend.

To start off, a current fashion craze right now is "thrifting". With the abundance of grunge, and beat-up styles that are popular, thrift stores are the perfect place to find one-of-a-kind clothing pieces with an old school vibe. Shopping at a thrifty store will insure you won't show up to school unintentionally matching your best friend. Thrift shops around town include



A pair of Uggs usually cost \$120. But knockoff Uggs can cost just \$30. Photo by Nate Correia

Goodwill, Bethesda's, and St. Vincent's. The most expensive item you can find should be under \$20. Also, don't be afraid to check out sections that are larger than your size, and even the men's section, because oversized styles go perfectly with a trendy pair of leggings or skinny jeans. So go ahead and browse through the reasonable racks with no shame, because you will be looking good for less in no

We all have our favorite stores, whether they are at the Fox River Mall, or in a city far away. Online shopping is the simplest way to get whatever fashions you want sent right to you. But how is this an inexpensive option, you ask? Well, online shops generally have the same clothes that are featured in their stores; however, their sales can be very different. Certain times of the year, stores will have huge online sales, sometimes even being limited to 24 hours. These are the types of deals that you would never find in the actual

store. Look for these sales after Christmas time and during the months of October and July, as these are considered to be the best times to purchase clothing and accessories overall.

Are you the type to covet designer styles? Don't worry, you're not the only one. Luckily, the most popular designer pieces always have knockoffs. No, this does not just mean a fake Chanel purse from a kiosk in the mall. For example, Jeffrey Campbell, a very popular designer known for his edgy shoes with towering heights, introduced the shoes known as "Creepers" and "Litas" to the scene. These shoes are easily over \$100, but they have many knockoff versions at various stores, for as little as \$20 that give that exact same effect to any outfit that

you would want to pair them with. J. Crew, a brand famous for its soft cashmere sweaters and unique jewelry, recently popularized their "bubble necklace", which retails for \$150. Nonetheless, you can find an identical knockoff necklace in any color of the rainbow for as low as \$12 at numerous fashion retailers. The next time you find yourself drooling over an insanely expensive item, try searching for a knockoff, and you may be surprised what you can get for your money.

With these shopping options, it is very easy to stretch your money to its full extent. You can have the newest fashions while at the same time have a few extra bucks to go see that new movie with your friends. It's the best of both

Indie band Local Natives release second album, Hummingbird

By Elise Painton

Out with the same old Christmas carols and in with the new beachy tunes of a modest LAbased band. With the New Year come new sounds—which the band Local Natives brings.

Their sophomore album, Hummingbird, was released the 29th of January. Inspired by the likes of Arcade Fire, Vampire Weekend, and The Smiths, the indie-rock group brings a comforting and homey sound to cold winter mornings, with an escape to a tropical aura that is expressed through the native drumbeats and smooth-sailing lyrics.

Not only is the band acoustic, but some tracks have a subtle electronic influence between the lines. Compared to their first release, the lyrics and songs have a bit of a darker theme. "...the record is going to reflect a much more expansive palette of sounds and... emotions," say Kelcey Ayer and Ryan Hahn in an interview with Potholes in My Blog.

The band members (Taylor Rice, Kelcey Ayer, Ryan Hahn) had met in high school and experimented with music. They continued friendships through college at UCLA. After graduating, they joined forces with Andy Hamm and Matt Fraizer, then moved in as roommates together. In 2011, after the release of their first LP, Gorilla Manor, which they named after



Local Natives released their sophomore album, Hummingbird, in late January.

the home they shared in Silver Lake, California, they toured in Europe as an opening act for Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, gaining recognition and respect from British audiophiles.

announced Andy Hamm would no longer join them on tour or with recording their upcoming album, due to personal issues. This "break-up" provided a subject matter for the darker undertones of their new album.

On December 13, the band debuted eight of the eleven songs off of Hummingbird at a private show hosted by the Santa Monica radio station, KCRW, at the Apogee's Berkeley St. Studios. The show was played live on January 11, a couple weeks before the re-

The catalog of songs debuted included "You & I," a funky acoustic rendition, "Ceilings," a tropically inspired song that brings you straight to the beach, "Heavy Feet," a poetic and moving piece, "Three Months," a jazzy and emotional number, and "Bowery," a song full of tension and intriguing harmonies.

Their first album, Gorilla Manor, was much more spontaneous, as it was recorded live. Hummingbird required much more careful thought and frequent work. According to Rice, some songs took up to 3 months to write and compose, which resulted in a great prod-

They reached success in the U.K. before being recognized in the United States. After the release of the first album, they had sold out shows in cities like In March of 2011, the band Los Angles, New York City, Oakland, and Brooklyn. They owe most of their status to their fans, some of whom had stuck around since the early pre-college days. They even played at the sold out Walt Disney Concert Hall, with the Philharmonic backing them.

The album is co-produced by the National's Aaron Dessner, who they had recently toured with in 2011. Dessner used new techniques to give the band a fresher sound.

The band now has plans to do a brief tour in the U.K., where they have a steady fanbase, and a brief visit in Asia. They come back to the U.S. in early spring, with a stop in Milwaukee at Turner Hall on Saturday, March 23.

Recipe of the Month: Peanut Butter Cookies

By Julia Lammers

Looking for a way to sweeten your day? Whip up these yummy peanut butter cookies! This recipe comes from my mom's friend. It's one of the best out there! They fill your house with a yummy peanut buttery smell. As always, make sure to wash your hands before beginning.

Ingredients:

- •1/2 cup shortening
- •1/2 cup peanut butter (smooth or crunchy)
- •1/2 cup white sugar
- •1/2 cup brown sugar
- •1 ¼ cup flour
- •1/2 tsp. baking powder
- •3/4 tsp. baking soda
- •¼ tsp. salt 1 egg
- •½ tsp. vanilla

Directions:

First, preheat your oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Next, grab a large mixing bowl and stir all the dry ingredients together. Then, add the wet ingredients and mix thoroughly. Once everything is



Peanut Butter Cookies are a great snack to have with a cold glass of milk. Photo by Julia Lammers

combined, toss the dough in the refrigerator for about two hours. This will help you in the next step. After the dough is chilled, dig in! Use your hands to form balls of dough, about an inch in diameter. Place on a greased cookie sheet, about two inches apart. Next, take a fork and press the tines in parallel to the baking sheet. flattening the cookie. If the fork sticks, you can dip in water. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until they are golden brown. Serve warm with a glass of

Interested in writing for the culture section in the Noctiluca? Contact Maya Murzello via Facebook.

CULTURE

Appleton, Wisconsin February/March 2013 Vol. XVIII Issue V Page 10 North theater takes on Les Miserables

By Caroline Augustine

Do you hear the people singing?

North High School will be one of the first nonprofessional theatres to perform the original score in its entirety rather than the school edition, which cuts songs from the show as well as changes the keys they are sung in.

Based on the popular novel by Victor Hugo written in 1861, *Les Misérables* tells the story of a variety of French citizens struggle during Post-Revolutionary France. From an ex-convict to conniving innkeepers to a heart broken young girl, this musical has something for everyone.

Les Misérables recently celebrated its 25th anniversary making it one of the longest running musicals on Broadway.

The plot follows ex-convict, Jean Valjean, and his search for right and wrong through redemption while he is being pursued by a persistent constable named Javert. Along the way other life stories begin to unfold such as the love interest between Marius, a handsome revolutionary, and Cosette, a sheltered teenage girl, who Valjean has taken care of since the death of her mother, Fantine. But with the perfect love story their comes heart break. An uneducated poor girl by the name of Eponine is willing to do anything for Marius even when she knows he will never love her back. After revolution, robberies, poverty, and death we see an overriding theme; love, whether it is





Above: Students work on the platform for Les Miserables. Left: Josh Lepak practices for his role as Jean Valjean. Photos by Caroline Augustine

the passion between Marius and Cosette, or Fantine's devoted love for her daughter. For some it is their devotion to the people of France such as revolutionary student, Enjorlas. Overall, we see Jean Valjean's redemption through love is displayed.

Of course, preparing for any of these roles takes a lot more than just hitting the notes and learning the words (which of course is quite a feat in itself.) Josh Lepak, who is playing Jean Valjean in North's production of *Les Misérables*, is preparing both physically and mentally for this challenging part

"The vocal and acting demands the musical calls for.

are like none I've ever known. I do a lot of meditation," Lepak explained.

On top of learning the music, getting connected with the role also requires some homework. "I've done quite a bit of research about the life of Jean Valjean already, based on the character by Victor Hugo, but I also like to pull characterizations from other pieces of theatre or film," Lepak said.

It's clear to see that connecting and relating to an actors character is a major component when preparing for a show, but what happens behind the scenes is just as important.

From lights to backdrops to a rotating stage, the visual elements of this production are If you go...

- Tickets cost \$12
- Tickets are sale
 now at the North
 Theatre Website
 (www.appleton norththeatre.com)
 or you can pur chase tickets at the
 North Box Office.
- You can also get them at the door, but to be guaranteed a seat it's best to order ahead of time.
- Shows on March
 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16
 are at 7 p.m.
- Shows on Sunday, March 10 and 17 are at 1 p.m.

demanding. "The time commitment is definitely a lot to handle, but seeing the finished product and knowing you helped make that happen is a very fulfilling feeling," said assistant stage manager, and previous technician, Elise Edwards.

North is not only known for its ensemble work and acting, but its visuals. *Les Misérables* promises to be no different. "With every show it seems the technical components become more demanding, and the end is even more breathtaking." Edwards said.

This show needs all hands on deck from the technicians to actors to the members of the pit. Director Ron Parker

definitely has his hands full, but luckily he has help. From the vocal coach to the parent volunteers to stage managers, dedication to the program is evident. One student who has proved his commitment to the drama department is senior Andrew Place. For Les Misérables he will not only be taking on a lead role, but will be a student director. "It is definitely a big commitment, and I need to be sure to manage my time, so I can do both to the best of my ability, but it's a great feeling knowing I am making a difference in the show," Place said.

This is only the third time in the history of North Theatre that there has been a student director, so this position is not handed over to just anyone. "As an assistant director I am required to be at all rehearsals, remembering actors movements on stage, and running through problem scenes with students. It's definitely worth it, and I am so humbled to have this opportunity," he said.

Even though this show requires more responsibility, those who are involved are willing to do what it takes to put on the performance.

There are a lot of steps that have to be taken before the show hits the stage on opening night, and despite the early mornings and late nights rehearsing, it's worth it. For some, *Les Misérables* will be their first show, and for others their last, but as Jean Valjean expresses in beginning of Act One "Another story must begin."

Appointments: 920.968.0433

Admissions: 920.968.0434

Mystery Photo

In every issue, The Noctiluca will feature a close up of an object around the school. If you guess what the picture is, you could be featured in the next issue's student spotlight. Put your answer in the envelope on the Pub Lab door in the LMC.



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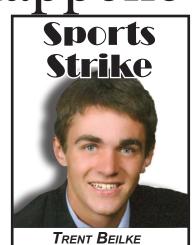
What happened last month in sports?

So what really did happen last month in sports? Well a lot. North continued its excellence in the month of January in the sports world and here are some highlights.

The tumble/cheer team took first at their competition in the Mall of America.

Boys' basketball had an up and down month headlined by a big win over Appleton East and a comprehensive victory over Appleton West. The team finished the month with a 3-3 record reflected by some harsh losses and a win over Green Bay Preble sprinkled in there.

The Boys' swim team had a month to remember with a perfect meet record ending in a convincing vic-



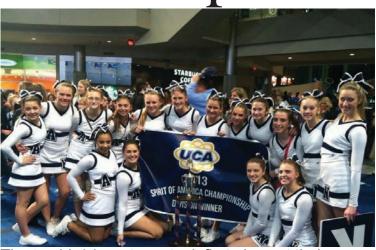
tory at the conference meet. This has continued their already perfect streak.

Girls' basketball finished having a six win and two loss record. The run was spearheaded by a comefrom-behind win at Green Bay Preble.

The dance team flew down to Orlando, Florida for the UDA National Competition. There, they represented North fantastically by finishing as National Semi-Finalists.

Wrestling finished the month with a reputable showing at the conference meet and Torren Peebles took home a first place finish. The North wrestling team had four out of five meet wins to give them a strong month overall.

The bowling team came into the month with an undefeated record and the girls continued that success by winning all four of their meets in January. The girls had a dramatic 10th frame win over Neenah where North struck out in the last frame of the last game to win the meet by 5 points. The boys also had



The tumble/cheer team took first place at their competition at the Mall of America. Photo by Mrs. Fields

success by only losing one meet and winning the other

The hockey team won conference this month after defeating Fond du Lac, the second ranked team in the state, in a shoot out. The team also continued its unbeaten record in conference

throughout the month to secure the conference championship.

Power lifting accomplished many firsts in their short history this month. They took home a team first place finish in the Neenah meet by a significant mar-

Meet the athletes of the month

Senior Will Dougherty- Wrestling

1. When did you begin wrestling?

I began wrestling freshman year like the majority of our varsity team.

2. What is the weirdest thing that ever happened while wrestling?

The weirdest thing that happened to me during wrestling is breaking my finger then coming back and dislocating my elbow against the same guy my junior year.

3. What is your favorite memory of wrestling?

My favorite memory is the state tournaments. The atmosphere around the tournament is awesome and it's so intense. The Kohl Center is crazy during the finals.

4. Why should North students go to a wrestling meet?



North students should go to the wrestling state in Madison on February 23 to support us and help us make history. Wrestling meets are very fun and the tournament will be awesome.

5. Will you continue wrestling after high school?

I will not be wrestling in college.

Senior Hannah Lider- Tumble/Cheer

1. When did you start tumble/ cheer?

I was in gymnastics when I was little but I mostly taught myself how to tumble. I didn't start cheering until I came to North.

2. What is the weirdest thing that happened to you in tumble/cheer?

I fell on my back last week doing a trick I've had since the fourth grade.

tumble/cheer?

We had a girl break her hand in the middle of a competition when we had games. to compete again the next day. We spent hours practicing with an alter-tumble/cheer after high school? nate that night and ended up taking 1st both days.



tend a tumble/cheer competition?

3. What is your favorite memory of They would be able to see what we actually work for, not the woohoo chanting stuff we have to do at

5. Do you plan on continuing to

I haven't decided where I'm going for sure, but I plan to try out for cheer 4. Why should a North student at-

Go See...

March 12

Track: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Oshkosh West @ Kolf Sports Center, TBD

March 15

Track: Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Stevens Point @ UWSP Multi-Activity Center (MAC), 4 p.m.

March 21

Softball: Girls Varsity and JV Game vs. Freedom @ Appleton North High School, 4:30 p.m.

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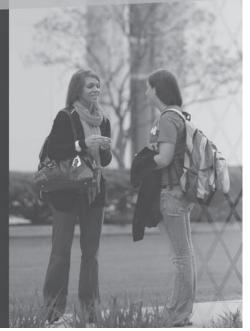
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Swim team freestyles to state

By Miller Jozwiak

Dan Gilbertson and Jordan Kinney are like dolphins in the water. They cut through the water majestically with precise motions and high velocities.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that their dolphin-like abilities got them elected captains of the Appleton Boys' North Swim team.

The aquatic warriors that are Appleton North's swim team finished 6-0 in conference. The team doggy paddled their way to a conference championship over the weekend of February 2nd.

"The whole team has been practicing very hard for state." - Jordan Kinney

One of the team's best relays is the 400 freestyle relay. The power house relay is composed of Garner Kohrell, Andrew Langenhahn, Dan Gilbertson, and Jordan Kinney. The 400s record for this season is 3:22.32

Kinney's events are the 100 and 200 freestyle,

along with the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. Dan Gilbertson's events are the 50 freestyle, the 100 breaststroke, the 200 and 400 freestyle relay.

In addition to winning a conference championship the team won their sectional as well over the weekend of February 9th. State is the weekend of February 16th and the team sent eight swimmers down along with three relay teams.

"The whole team has been practicing very hard for state," said Jordan Kin-

To qualify for state one



Jordan Kinney and Dan Gilbertson prepare to lead the team down at state. Photo by Miller Jozwiak.

sectionals. Dan Gilbertson will compete in the 100 breaststroke and Kinney is

must have a top 18 time at competing in the 200 freestyle. If you see anyone on the Boys' Swim team, tell them congratulations.

North attracts Wisconsin powerlifters

By Trent Beilke

The sounds of people cheering and whistles blowing can be heard as a person walks into North on the morning of January 19. The signs hung up are not ones that are normally seen. The signs read, "Welcome to the USAPL Wisconsin State & Open Competition."

The USAPL Wisconsin State & Open Competition, held at North, is an amateur powerlifting competition that is open to anyone from Wisconsin.

"Because it is an open tournament, it has such a wide range of age and skill here," assistant coach Kevin Veech said.

With the competition open to all there ended



North's gym is packed with amateur lifters. Photo by

up being a wide range of weights. The bench press ranged from 70 lbs to 445

It was the first time the meet was held at North.

"North got the competition because the state wanted to relocate it to a central location," head coach Blazer said.

However, it wasn't just the physical building that North had to offer. North also supplied the weights, the bars, the stands, and the workers. The North powerlifting team pretty much ran the tournament with help from the state judges.

In the tournament there were also some familiar faces lifting.

"It's nice to see coaches from the conference out here practicing their trade," Blazer said.

The tournament did give back to North through financial bonuses. Admissions tickets, raffles, and concession sales made up the financial bonuses.

Overall the USAPL Wisconsin State & Open Competition was a benefit to all involved. If you didn't get out to it this year, they have already planned to be back again next year.



John Battikha dead lifts 525 pounds with a judge looking on. Photo by Trent Beilke

Guess that sport

- Each team has 11 players on the field playing.
- A bowler bowls a ball down pitch.
- You score points by getting runs.
- A player is dismissed if the bowler hits the wicket.
- The only outplayer field aloud to wear pads and a glove is the wicket-keeper.
- At any time there are 2 batsmen out on the field.

What sport am I?

Last month answer: Curling

