



# TIGER TATTTLER

"The Student Newspaper of Herrin High School"

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## COMING UP

**April 2, 5 ...** Easter Break (No School)

**April 8 ...** Winter Sports Banquet

**April 30 ...** Benefit dinner for Rebecca Griffith's family: Commons Area, 5- 7:30 p.m.

## CONTACT US

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# Drafting team captures seven awards at regionals

By Lindsey Craig

The Herrin High School drafting team competed in the regional competition at John A. Logan College on March 5 and took home several first place and other awards.

Placing first in the bridge competition with a bridge that held a record 760 pounds were seniors Eli O'Saile and Tyler Cain, junior Emily Lind, and senior captain Seth Lawrence.

"Bridge team was a lot of fun and I'm definitely looking forward to it again next year," Lind said.

Other members who placed at the regional are: freshman Brock McGee, first place in Intro Board; Lind, first place in Machine Board; senior Kyle Borders, third place in Architectural CAD; junior Dylon Aud, first place in Architectural CAD; senior Eli O'Saile, first place in 3D Solids; and senior Seth Lawrence, third place in 3D Solids.

Besides placing in their events, some members will be attending the state competition on April 24 in Bloomington. Members attending the state competition are McGee, Lind, Aud, and O'Saile.

Lind and O'Saile also received 2-year scholarships to John A. Logan college.

Other members of this year's drafting team include seniors Tyler Bevis, Sarah Hall, and Theresa Stout, juniors Matt Booth, Mason Davis, Cody Ward, Trenton Miller, and Hannah Snider, and sophomore Rebecca Palmer.



This year's bridge team placed first at the regional competition with a bridge holding a record 760 pounds. Members of the team stand with their bridge (l-r): senior Eli O'Saile, junior Emily Lind, senior captain Seth Lawrence, and senior Tyler Cain. Other members of the drafting team also received awards, including four first place awards and two third place awards in various categories. Lind, O'Saile, junior Dylan Aud, and freshman Brock McGee advanced to the state competition, which will be on April 24 in Bloomington. - Submitted photo.



Senior Jessica Cogdill was named the Young Citizen of the Year by the Herrin Chamber of Commerce. She received this award at the annual Chamber dinner on Jan. 22. The plaque reads, "In grateful recognition for your strong endeavors and commitment in all that you undertake." - Olivia Caldwell photo.

## AP American History classes to publish stories of local WWII veterans

By Hannah Snider

Jeff Johnson's Advanced Placement (AP) history classes are working on a project to record and publish the stories of local WWII veterans.

At the end of last school year, Kelly Green from Herrin Security Bank asked Johnson if he would be interested in identifying World War II veterans from the Herrin area and allowing students to interview them and tell their stories.

Green had been made aware of a program in which the bank would help pay for the basic costs of the binding of a book so that they could make a book based on these WWII veterans. The original plan was to try and start the project at the beginning of the school year but the start of the project was delayed until after Christmas break.

The students from Johnson's AP American History classes were paired up with the veterans and had to sacrifice their own

time, in school and out of school, in order to interview the veterans.

Johnson said that at first, many students were apprehensive about talking with the veterans, but after they got started they realized how interesting and important the information they were getting actually was.

"I can give them a textbook and let them read something about World War II," Johnson said, "but for them to hear it straight from the veterans, from the guys that were there, leaves a lasting impression that they'll take with them for years and years."

He also said, "It puts a more serious light on how bad things really were during that time period, how important what these guys did really was."

All of the veterans' stories will be compiled into one book called *Herrin's Greatest Generation*, which will be unveiled on Memorial Day at the Doughboy memorial. Each student and each

See WWII, p. 2

## Students attend Multicultural Festival for first time

By Amelia Hicks

As part of the International High School (IHS) program, teachers Michaelann Stanley and Jamie Wilson involved their classes in a project called Women and Leadership in the Muslim World.

After a week of studying Islamic women leaders, the French III and IV classes and the creative writing class participated in Carbondale High School's annual Multicultural Festival on Feb. 2.

John A. Logan college, the regional director for IHS, provided Middle Eastern snacks of cheese,

dried fruits, and nuts at the event. The HHS students represented Turkey and the Islamic World at the festival.

Michaelann Stanley said that at Herrin's display table of the Turkish country, they taught students how to make tessellation bookmarks and showed slides of their trip to Turkey in the summer of 2009.

This year was the first time Carbondale invited other schools to participate in the festival. Stanley said the event was a "great success" and hopes to participate again next year.



Students from French III and IV and the creative writing class participated in the Multicultural Festival at Carbondale High School, where they set up a display representing Turkey. Left to right: junior Devin Snoddy, junior Taylor Morris, sophomore Katie Butler, senior Patti Howell, senior Emma Porter, senior Sammi Park, and senior Megan Inboden. - Sarah Jankowski photo.

## Team Quest advances to Midwest Finals

By Jensen Falker

After placing first in the local competition, Herrin High School's Team Quest team competed in the regional competition and was able to advance to the Midwest Finals.

The local competition was held at Herrin Civic Center on Feb. 2. The team consisted of senior Atif Cheema, senior Seth Lawrence, junior Craig Bartelsmeyer, and junior Rachel Young. The com-

petition requires skills in creativity, math, engineering, teamwork, and problem solving. The team placed first and advanced to regionals.

The regional competition was held in Mt. Vernon on Feb. 23. The team competed against 22 local high schools, including Marion, Murphysboro, and Sesser.

Three of the original four team members were unable to attend the regional competition due to a conflict. Young was joined by

three new team members: junior Cody Ward, sophomore Brianna Bartelsmeyer, and sophomore Elizabeth Gillespie. The team placed 10th, and by placing in the top 12, qualified for the Midwest Finals in Chester.

The team also had a new sponsor this year, Kyle Harlow. Harlow is a new math teacher this year and has the opportunity to sponsor the team.

"It's been a lot of fun being the sponsor," Harlow said.

## WWII: Students record stories

Continued from p. 1

veteran will receive a copy of the book.

This project is a very important and special opportunity for both the veterans and the students. The students are able to learn from the veterans and discover what they really went through during the war, and the veterans have the opportunity to share their stories with the world.

"If we don't get their stories now," Johnson said, "once [the veterans] are gone we've lost

[their stories] forever."

Contributing to a published work will also help students on college applications, Johnson said. Students will be able to put on college applications that they have written work that has been published, something that not many high school students can say.

In the years to come, Johnson said he hopes to do more projects of a similar nature. "I think it's an excellent program...I really do," he said.

Student Government, Student Chamber, and Rotary Interact will be raising funds throughout April to support Relay for Life. Look for different fundraisers and ways to participate every week!

## Four attend science symposium

By journalism students Tyler Horn, Jesse Porritt, Shawna Wagley, and Britanie Smith

Four Herrin High School students recently attended the Illinois Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (IJSHS), where they were able to observe various presentations by other students.

IJSHS is a national competition held in most states that gives high school students around the country a chance to present research they have done either at home or in their classrooms.

Junior Hannah Snider, junior Alexi Dixon, sophomore Jessica Baldi, and sophomore Kyle Cullum attended the symposium as observers this year but did not prepare a presentation. These students had the opportunity to observe the events of the symposium, learn interesting information, and get ideas and tips for their own projects if they choose to attend the symposium again next year.

"Herrin High School has been involved [in the symposium] for as long as I've been here," science teacher Pete Rose said. Rose began teaching at Herrin six years

ago and has helped students with their symposium projects ever since.

Rose said students have presented many different kinds of projects in the past. Projects have included studying fresh water jelly fish, examining the damage acids cause to teeth, observing cancer cells, and studying psychological effects of fear on people as they age.

The students' projects are sent to Southern Illinois University-Carbondale to be judged for competition. If a student does well at the regional competition, they are able to receive cash prizes and advance to next level competitions. Last year a student advanced to the Air Force Base in Colorado, and several years before that a student was able to go to the national competition in San Diego, California.

Some of the people who have presented in the past have done summer research at the labs at SIUC, while others were in one of Rose's Chemistry II classes. However, Rose said that regardless of where you do your research, there needs to be an interest in the subject.

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Opinions expressed in editorial columns with a staff writer's by-line are the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.

Opinions expressed in unsigned editorials are those of the Tiger Tattler Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board is composed of the Tattler editorial staff and the faculty adviser. If the opinions expressed in an unsigned editorial are not unanimously agreed upon by the Editorial Board, the vote count of the board members will be included in or at the end of the editorial.

### Letters Policy

Letters should be 400 words or less and must be signed with the writer's name. Names *will* be published. The Tattler will not publish letters attacking individuals.

Students or staff at HHS submitting letters may give them to editor Rachel Young or bring them to Mrs. Taylor in Room 1097. Letters may be edited by the Tattler staff.

Letters may be mailed to Herrin High School, c/o the Tiger Tattler, 700 N. 10th St., Herrin, IL 62948

*The Tiger Tattler has a circulation of 1,000 copies and is inserted in the Herrin Independent as well as made available to students at Herrin High School.*



## Rachel's Reflections

Editor Rachel Young

# The plague of procrastination

Procrastination. It plagues the best of us.

Why is it that so many people resort to procrastination? Everyone has their own unique reasons, but there are definitely some common themes.

One main reason I procrastinate is that I really don't want to do something. There is a tedious paper I have to write, or a dreadful assignment, or sometimes, something as simple as a phone call I have to make. (I hate making phone calls, especially if I am calling someone I don't know or only know a little bit.)

I procrastinate horribly on these issues. When I know I have to do something that I dread doing, I simply put it off as long as possible.

Procrastination can have dire consequences on many people's lives. For some, it means a poor grade on that writing assignment. For me, though, that isn't the case. I may procrastinate until the last night or two, but when it comes down to that, I do the job and I do it well. It often takes me a while to write, and I stay up until I am satisfied with my work, even if that means 3 o'clock in the morning. This, of course, makes me quite tired the next day. Once, I was up so late writing an essay that I accidentally slept until 8:50 the next morning, completely missing the first class of the day. But, for all that, I managed to get quite a good grade on the essay.

As long as I don't have to pull too many horribly late nights, I can survive with that. Procrastination, it would seem, is not too

harmful after all.

For me, the worst consequence of procrastination is the weight of that assignment on my mind while I am putting it off. Whether it is a newspaper article that I really don't feel like writing, a lab report I really don't feel like doing, or a phone call I really don't want to make, putting it off only provides a half relief.

That job is in the back of my mind, waiting on my list of mental to-dos. I can only half enjoy what I am doing now while I know I will eventually have to face the dreadful assignment.

When you think about it, this is ridiculous. If you procrastinate and watch TV now, you will still have to do that assignment eventually. And in the meantime, the list of things you should be doing weighs heavily on your mind and probably gets larger. The other option is that you get that dreaded assignment over and done with. It is out of the way, you do not have to think about it, and you now have free time to relax or spend time with friends.

In fact, by procrastinating, we take away our own freedom. We procrastinate on an assignment for days until it can simply not be put off any longer. Then, you make progress. But the progress is being made only because it has to be made. We have no freedom; we are slaves to the work we must do. We are up against a deadline; there is no more procrastination, no more waiting, and no more chances. This is it. It must get done. We have no freedom. If only we had done this assignment

earlier!

It makes sense to do the assignment first and get it out of the way. Work now, have fun later. I generally prefer that. Yet, I still struggle with procrastination and time management. I may start on one assignment, but not focus hard enough to get the job done. I do half of it, leave it till later. Short breaks turn into long ones. Why do we do this to ourselves?

I can get away with a certain amount of procrastination now because school is not all that difficult for me. If I pay attention in class I may not even have to study for that test, and I can pull off a good essay if I stay up late to finish it. But I know that in college, this may not be the case, and once I get into the workforce, procrastination will definitely not be accepted. You can't succeed as a chronic procrastinator.

I, for one, also prefer to get a good night's sleep. I often put homework off until later at night, and sometimes still have a major assignment or two when it's 11:00, meaning I stay up later than I should and get much less sleep than is good for me. I know this will only get worse in college, for the work will be more difficult and will be more time consuming. I prefer not to suffer from sleep deprivation all throughout life just because I like to procrastinate!

On that note, why not kick the habit now? If we start by forming good habits now, these issues won't be such a problem later in life.

Life may seem "easier" when

you choose to procrastinate. It may seem more "fun" to just sit back and relax and leave that work until the last moment possible. But here's my challenge (for myself and for you): do that assignment. Get it out of the way and you won't have to worry about it! You will have better peace of mind and won't have to suffer the consequences such as poor grades or sleep deprivation. And by kicking the habit now, you will set yourself up for success later in life.

So, you've decided to stop procrastinating. What now? How exactly do you do that?

Today there are so many ways to get distracted from what you really should be doing. Technology's a killer. Most people are at or near a computer when doing homework. The internet has an infinite number of things to distract you: facebook, twitter, funny youtube videos, games... the list goes on.

Whatever it is that distracts you, be it the internet or the television or a book or friends... learn to separate yourself from those things long enough to get some real work done. You know your habits and weaknesses. If you want to kick the habit of procrastination, motivate yourself to do so. If you have to, bribe yourself. Say, if you study for an hour, you get to do what you really want to: watch television or take a nap or have a snack. Do whatever works. And don't wait until tomorrow to stop procrastinating!



## Pourquoi?

Assistant Editor Lindsey Craig

# Veterans are the real heroes we should look up to

It is a general rule that in the first few days of school, the teachers tell you about the class and what you'll be doing this year. The first day of my A.P. American History class, Mr. Johnson told us that we'd be doing a project. We would be interviewing World War II veterans and writing up their stories for a book.

Naturally, the thought of writing anything had me inwardly groaning. I'm lazy, as all of my friends will note. However, the more I learned about this project the more interested I became. We would be talking to men who fought in the Second World War. Men who had seen the horrors of battle, who had been to Eu-

rope and gave their lives for their country.

I ended up sitting in on two interviews and also conducting my own. I was in awe of the things I heard. These men had been brave beyond their years, being only 18 or 19 during their time of service. They fought for freedom, their families, and their countries. I shudder to think of what might have happened had these men not fought for the United States. Surely things would be nothing like they are today.

I listened to these interviews and was honestly touched and interested. And suddenly I was proud to say that my grandfather had fought in this war. That he

could be counted among these brave men. I've been to the beaches of Normandy and there I felt the same pride. I saw the place where so many died and during these interviews was reminded of how emotional that was for me.

These men are truly the people we should be looking up to. Not celebrities who can't stay out of jail or any of the other things they do. We should look up to the men who gave us freedom. People who are in our families, or our neighbors. They should be our heroes. And fittingly enough the title of the book we wrote for is Hometown Heroes.

It is my belief that these stories need to be heard. Children need to hear what their countrymen did for them. I urge you, if you know a veteran of any war, to ask them about their story. To ask them to tell you what they did. Soon, these stories will be lost forever. I know that I regret never speaking to my grandfather about his experiences in the war. I could have learned so much from him. Learning about our past can help us prepare for our future. Besides that, you will find yourself genuinely interested. And when all is said and done, you will be proud to know this person.



Junior Haley Elders lights her candle during the National Honor Society induction ceremony. This year's group of NHS members is comprised of 41 students, one of the largest groups in Herrin High School history. - Submitted photo.

## National Honor Society boasts one of largest number of members in HHS history

By journalism students Brooke Barwick, Shawna Wagley, and Paige McMillan

This year's group of Herrin High School National Honor Society members is one of the largest in HHS history.

Forty-one students, including 20 seniors and 21 juniors, were inducted into the society on March 16.

The president of this year's National Honor Society is Jessica Cogdill. The vice president is Atif Cheema, the secretary is Seth Lawrence, and the treasurer is Allison Spiller.

The National Honor Society has been part of Herrin High School for many years; the first society was inducted in 1978.

The society is made up of students who are academically talented and are involved in multiple extracurricular activities.

The only way to become a member of the National Honor Society is by receiving a private invitation. Students to receive

invitations must meet certain requirements and are then voted on by a council of teachers. Requirements include having a high GPA, being involved in school activities, and showing good character and leadership.

The students who were selected for the society were invited to a banquet that was followed by an induction ceremony where each student was presented with a pin, certificate, and a membership card to the society. During the ceremony, the new members were called to light their own individual candle from one main candle that represents their unity as a group.

The National Honor Society is designed to motivate students to become involved in clubs and strive to be academically successful. For underclassmen who would like to become members in the future, National Honor Society sponsor Michelle Loyd advises that they get involved in everything possible and keep their grades up.

## Lifesavers: preventing problems to prepare for a successful future

By journalism students Kacie Hacker, Devan Meeks, Zach Riley, and Sarah Sanders

You may have heard of the Lifesavers at Herrin High School, but what exactly is this organization?

The Lifesavers organization is a problematic situation prevention program for teens at HHS. Through counseling, the advisers and student counselors work with troubled teens who are trying to overcome life's obstacles that are constantly in the way of personal success.

The Lifesavers advisers are Mrs. Shelton, Mrs. Cornelius, and Mrs. Conley, and the organization currently has about 34 active student counselors and five group leaders.

Lifesavers student counselors are selected based off of their application and interview process. A Lifesavers member should have good speaking skills, be outgoing,

and be able to relate to others, in addition to being able to uphold confidentiality laws.

The program started in Belleville due to suicide cases that happened around 25 years ago. There are regional programs in the surrounding schools, but it is more localized in the southern area.

Several years ago, a young Carbondale student committed suicide and his mother made it her personal mission to look for a program to prevent other children from taking their lives. She didn't want mothers to have to go through the same pain as she did.

Since then, Lifesavers has made a commitment to helping, guiding, sharing, and protecting peers who are in need. Lifesavers is more of a covert program, and is also more proactive than reactive—meaning that this organization likes to prevent things from happening instead of reacting to them after they do happen.

The Lifesavers group meets about one or two times a month and at the meetings the members discuss situations happening at the school, team training, and prevention programs. If there is ever a situation that the students do not know how to handle, they take the case to the sponsors.

Students interested in becoming a Lifesavers student counselor must have the following qualifications: good listening skills, honesty, integrity, and a caring personality. In addition, students must be willing to sign a contract upon joining that requires them to lead a healthy lifestyle and be self-confident.

The Lifesavers organization is held at a higher standard than other programs because it is about saving lives today to have a successful future. Students who are interested in becoming a part of the organization may contact an adviser for more information.

## Spanish Travel Club plans trip to NYC

By Raelynn Hinerman

The Spanish Travel Club is headed to New York City this summer, and the other Spanish clubs are busy learning about Spanish culture as well.

The students and chaperones will travel in the Big Apple June 6-12.

"We decided to do something different this year," Spanish Travel Club sponsor Melissa Hernandez said. "We have gone to Puerto Rico the last two years . . . I wanted to show the kids another element of Hispanic heritage within the continental U.S."

She also said that "the culture in New York is a lot different than [in] Puerto Rico."

The students will see the typical tourist spots in New York City

such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Statue of Liberty. They will also see a Broadway show.

"Not only will the students see NYC, but they will see the Hispanic neighborhoods and the culture," Hernandez said.

Hernandez does not only oversee Spanish Travel Club, but she also sponsors the Spanish Club.

"The main purpose of Spanish Club is to expose the kids to the culture of several Hispanic or Latin American countries," Hernandez said. "We celebrated Christmas and Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with traditions from Mexico and Puerto Rico.

"We have a good time learning about the places. The kids like to ask questions and I try to come up with activities that we can do as a

group to have some fun," Hernandez said.

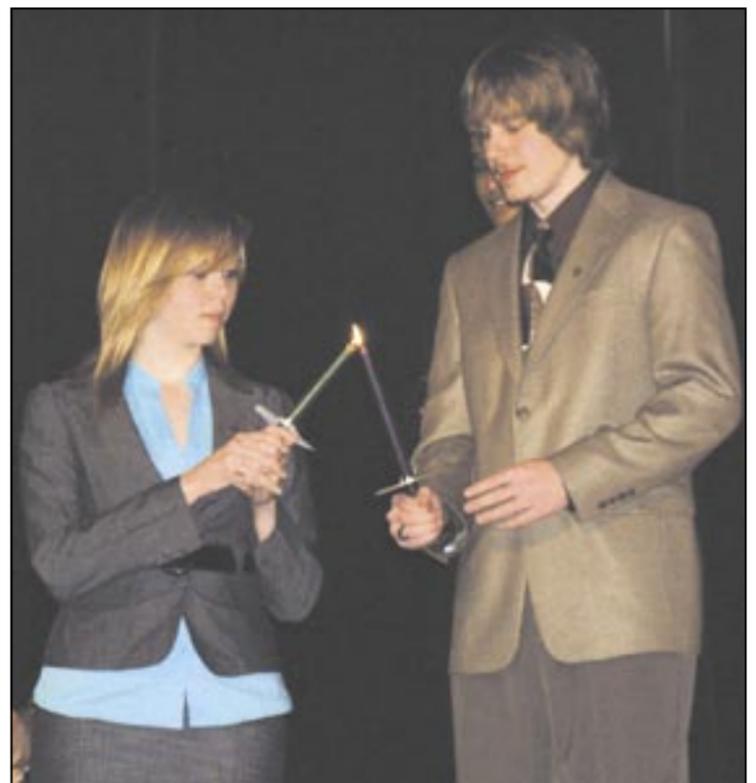
Along with the Spanish Club and Travel Club, there is also Spanish Scholar Bowl.

"Spanish Scholar Bowl is a lot like regular Scholar Bowl except everything is in Spanish, and we only compete once a year," Hernandez said.

"We practice all throughout the year. We compete on April 15 at Southern Illinois University Carbondale."

There are five people on a team, and this year the team is all girls.

Hernandez is kept busy with teaching her students about Hispanic and Latin cultures, "but I love it," she said.



Senior Allison Spiller, treasurer of National Honor Society, lights her candle from senior Seth Lawrence's during the induction ceremony on March 16. Lawrence is the secretary of the National Honor Society. - Submitted photo.

**Student Chamber is collecting batteries and disposable cameras for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Bring your donations for the children by April 16.**



Seniors Kaylee Mezo (left) and Allison Spiller perform a duet at the annual HHS Talent Show. Mezo and Spiller won a top prize for their performance, along with junior Sarah Jankowski and freshman Macy Russell. The show was comprised of 15 acts performed by 20 students and all proceeds from ticket sales went to help fund the French Travel Club's trip to Europe in the summer of 2011. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

## Students showcase talents at annual HHS Talent Show

By Rachel Young

Herrin High School students recently had the opportunity to showcase their talents and compete with one another at the annual HHS Talent Show.

The top three prizes went to freshman Macy Russell, junior Sarah Jankowski, and seniors Allison Spiller and Kaylee Mezo.

Russell performed a dance, Jankowski played acoustic guitar, and Spiller and Mezo sang a duet.

Jankowski said she played an acoustic version of "Creep" by Radiohead, and that this was her first year performing by herself in the talent show.

"The competition was really tough this year," she said. "Everyone was super talented."

The performances were judged by HHS band director JT Lewis, Herrin Middle School teacher and drama club sponsor Mark Gibson, and HMS teacher Pam Camarato.

Prizes of \$50 went to each of the top three performances.

The show was an opportunity for the students to compete for prizes while entertaining the guests and was also a fundraiser for the HHS French Travel Club. All proceeds from the ticket and rose sales will help the club members to fund their trip to Europe in the summer of 2011.

In the show, twenty students performed 15 acts, which included dancing, singing, and other various talents.

Special guests of the night included a group of teachers that danced to entertain the crowd and the Speech Team, which made an appearance to provide entertainment while the judging was taking place.

Junior Megan Stanley and senior Israel Lopez were the MCs for the evening and introduced the performers.



<< Senior Theresa Stout accepts the second place award for the Jr/Sr 8 person team at the ICTM Regional Math Contest. The HHS Math Team placed first in division 2A and advanced to state for the 14th straight year. - Caldwell photo.

### Math Team Regional Competition Results

The HHS Math Team competed against seven teams in the ICTM Regional Math Contest on Feb. 27 at Carbondale High School. The team placed 1st in class 2A and advanced to the state math contest for the 14th year in a row. The state competition will be May 1st at University of Illinois. The team is coached by Jeanie Nagrodski, assisted by Kyle Harlow.

#### TEAM AWARDS

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Freshmen:</b> 1st          | <b>Fr/So 8 person team:</b> 2nd |
| <b>Sophomores:</b> 1st        | <b>Jr/Sr 8 person team:</b> 2nd |
| <b>Juniors:</b> 1st           |                                 |
| <b>Seniors:</b> 1st           |                                 |
| <b>Oral Presentation:</b> 1st | <b>Fr/So 2 person team:</b> 2nd |
| <b>Calculator team:</b> 2nd   | <b>Jr/Sr 2 person team:</b> 1st |

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Freshmen:</b>          | <b>Juniors:</b>         |
| George Mabley- 1st        | Craig Bartelsmeyer- 1st |
| Emilie Sgutt-2nd          | Rachel Young- 3rd       |
| Maddy Kramer- 3rd         |                         |
| Michaela Davis- 3rd       |                         |
| <b>Sophomores:</b>        | <b>Seniors:</b>         |
| Brianna Bartelsmeyer- 1st | Atif Cheema- 1st        |
| Rebecca Weber- 3rd        | Seth Lawrence- 2nd      |
| Jordan Preston- 3rd       | Jilli Timmermann- 3rd   |

# Finding a Cure for Rebecca Griffith

Student Chamber and the Rotary Interact are joining up with Fazolis to host a benefit fundraiser for Mrs. Griffith and her family

## Benefit Dinner for Rebecca Griffith

April 30, 2010  
5:00-7:30 P.M.

Herrin High School  
Commons Area

Adults - \$8  
Children 12 & Under - \$5



We will also be accepting any extra donations.

If you have any questions or if you are wanting to purchase tickets see Mrs. Fitzgerald in the library or any member of the Student Chamber and Rotary Interact.

**A review****Left 4 Dead 2 better than original but has lost its novelty**

By Andy Siefert

Normally, as this is the beginning of my review, I would introduce the movie/game I happened to be reviewing. However, this particular issue I would like to give you an appetizer of three things I wouldn't usually review, in bite-sized form: *Plastic Beach* by the Gorillaz is pretty good, I would be very unhappy if I were paid in Trident Layers because it's not very good, and *Green Lantern #52* was amazing. Now that I've gotten those off my chest, let's get to the review of *Left 4 Dead 2*, a game developed by Valve for the Xbox 360 and PC.

**Story**

I should get this out of the way first thing: there is no story. There is dialogue and writing on the walls in safe houses between levels, but there is no reason the characters are there and no drive to keep going (assuming survival isn't enough of a drive). That being said, like *Left 4 Dead*, *Left 4 Dead 2* wasn't designed around

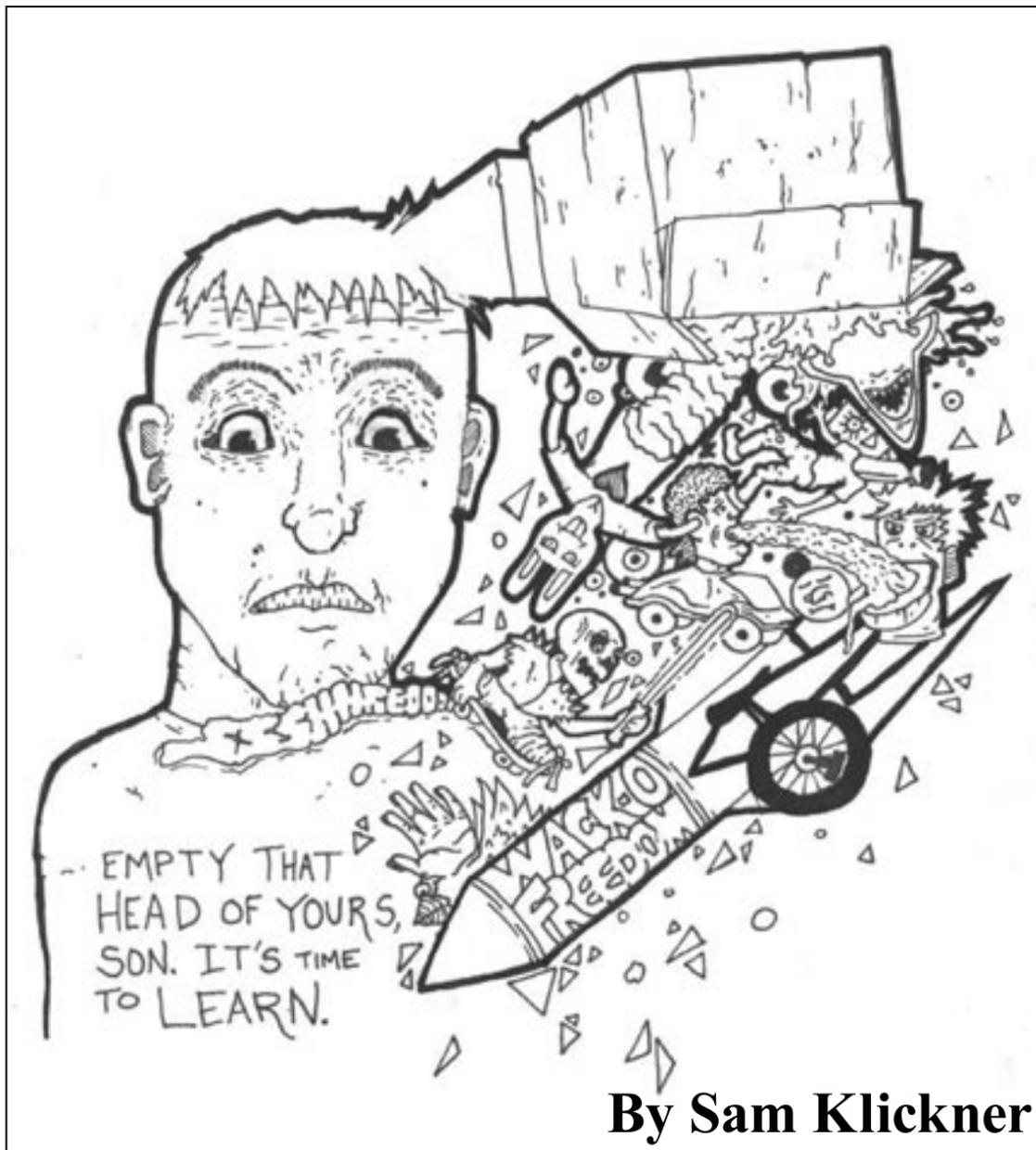
any kind of story.

Just because there isn't much of a story doesn't mean it's just bare bones game play. It manages to get the players to relate with the characters through often witty game dialogue before and even during levels. The witty banter, especially between the characters Nick and Ellis, will have you turning up the volume on your TV just to hear it.

**Gameplay**

When *L4D2* was announced to be released just one year after the original, many fans were unsure about its quality. Although I may be a few months late to the party, I can happily say that the game is still a blast to play; it might even be better than the original. Just like the last game, you and your team of three other survivors must work together to fight off hordes of zombies. They can heal each other, help fallen comrades up, and toss pain pills to a friend that's been injured. In addition to

See *Left 4 Dead 2*, p. 7



By Sam Klickner

**A review****Bottom 10: Ten worst superhero movies**

By Tyler Horn

Flipping through various magazines, I often see "Top 10" or "Best Of" lists. So I thought it would be fun to create a list of some things that weren't so great. I'm passionate about movies and I love superheroes. Wouldn't it be fun to recognize the worst attempts at superhero movies in recent years? I think so. So here we go.

**10. Batman and Robin (1997)**

Although this film was the love of many 5-year-old boys around the country when it came out, this take on the caped crusader fell pretty hard. Although it had an all-star cast including George Clooney as Batman, Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy, and Arnold Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze, this film was full of cartoony sets and cheese-covered acting. It's good for a laugh every now and then and it always seems to bring back childhood memories, but Batman and Robin is nothing but a big corny bust.

**9. X-Men 3: The Last Stand (2006)**

In most cases, trilogies leave us longing for more. But with the case of the X-Men stories, its grand finale was anything but. It had potential until the story called for very important characters to be killed off. Can you have an X-Men universe without Cyclops or Professor Xavier? There's just too much to cover in the X-Men

world. They crammed too much into too little a time period. It was just too big of a story to be successfully executed on the big screen.

**8. Batman: The Movie (1966)**

I know, I know. This movie was a joke from the get go. It was Adam West poking fun at the whole ridiculousness of the whole 'men in tights' fad. The film was funny, and other than a laugh, the audience doesn't get much more out of it. Each of the actors plays their part with a painful cheesiness. From Cat Woman always purring and the Penguin sounding like an out of breathe duck, to Shark Repellent Bat Spray and some courageous dolphins, the list goes on and on. So if you ever want to bash a superhero and get a laugh out of a movie, be sure to check out *Batman: The Movie*.

**7. Daredevil (2003)**

What can I say? In casting Ben Affleck as your lead there's always a risk. This blind superhero just couldn't seem to hit the spot. He does his best but the story is shaky and the characters are undeveloped. We have our heroine, Elektra, played by Jennifer Garner, who somehow got her own movie spin off, a villainous dead eye named Bull's Eye, played by Colin Farrell, and the head honcho bad guy King Pin, played by the mighty Michael Clarke Duncan. This is another saddening example of an all-star cast who was unable to bring together poor

script writing.

**6. Fantastic Four (2005)**

When you think 'superhero movie' you usually picture big explosions and epic fight scenes. Not the case for 2005's *Fantastic Four*. This movie could put you to sleep with its continuous rambling about nonsensical science projects and space radiation. The majority of the movie deals with these four heroes discovering their bizarre new powers and entering awkward situations that are pleading for a cheap laugh. This film even manages to make one of comic's most menacing villains, Dr. Doom, to be nothing more than an uneducated chemistry student. All in all, *Fantastic Four* is more of a fictional science lecture than an action-packed superhero movie.

**5. Hulk (2003)**

When you attempt a movie as big as the Hulk himself, you need to be sure that you provide a story and enough fight scenes to fill the bill. In *Hulk*'s case, they did not. The biggest thrill we got was a few bashed tanks and mile long jumps. The CGI monster beat up a few mutant dogs and beat the crap out of a cloud. Eric Bann gave a great performance as the accidentally radiated Dr. Banner, but I guess stellar performances aren't enough to beat off a hoard of steroid-addicted poodles.

**4. Spider Man 3 (2007)**

This pathetic attempt at a web slinger story took me to the brink

of tears. From the no-name glider-riding villain, Harry Osborn, to a Sandman who finds a heart, this movie struggles for a story to hold on to. We have a Peter Parker who can't decide if he wants to be a whiney boyfriend or a crappy dancer. The decision to have Venom, Spiderman's most iconic nemesis, share the screen with not one but two other villains will never ever make sense to me. That is a character that needs development, not a brief intro and a pointless defeat.

**3. X-Men Origins: Wolverine (2009)**

Fans of Wolverine went into the theaters with extremely high hopes. There was finally a film completely devoted to the iconic claw slinger. When fans walked out, they couldn't help but point out every single flaw. The manipulation of characters that never occurred on the pages of their comics, special effects lacking everywhere you looked; it all was not there. Hugh Jackman was back playing Logan, and he did an all right job. We've seen what he had done with the character in all three X-Men movies and we had a pretty good idea what to expect going in. This is another movie where nothing seemed to come together. Poor writing and bad decisions were the major downfall of the summer blockbuster.

**2. Ghost Rider (2007)**

Nicholas Cage plays a young daredevil bike rider named John-

ny Blaze, who ends up selling his soul to Blackheart and his father Mephistopheles, the bad guys. When they come for their end of the bargain, Blaze says no and turns into a flaming skull man who rides around destroying demons with his demon, fire chains! Sound exciting, right? Think again; this movie delivers mediocre special effects and acting covered in cheese. With Eva Mendez symbolizing the love of the leather bound flamer, *Ghost Rider* delivers a good example of impulsive decisions made by characters due to poor writing and poor planning.

**1. Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007)**

Awkward writing, cheesy acting, cheap humor, lack of action; you name it and this film's got it. It seems the film was more worried about pleasing house moms instead of its target audience of fans. The dialogue is engineered so specifically to entertain the whole family that it avoids telling a compelling story. It had all of the silliness of the first *Four* film with the addition of more awful jokes and corny insults. The romantic tension between Mr. Fantastic and his wife-to-be, the Invisible Woman, was almost unbearable. A fan of the comic wanted so badly for this film to work, but again, nothing seemed to fall into place for this family-friendly hero flick.

## Left 4 Dead 2

Continued from p. 6

these, this game allows players to bring fallen allies back to life, use and give shots of adrenaline that boosts speed, and deploy caches of specialized ammo. By just adding three new items, Valve has added a whole new level of strategy.

Just as it has plenty of support strategy, Valve has also managed to add more to the combat. They kept the same weapons from the last game, while adding new weapon types, which usually are either stronger or faster versions of the originals. The only truly new gun is the grenade launcher, which works just like you would think and does its job well.

Secondary weapons still include pistols, dual pistols and the new magnum, but now players have the option to opt out of these couple of guns in favor of a melee weapon. Since all of the pistols have unlimited ammo, the only real trade off would be the range with the reload time vs. the instant use anytime with the lack of range. While it may be sometimes smarter to keep pistols on you, there are few other things in games that provide the same satisfaction of charging head on into a hoard of zombies with a chainsaw or pretending you're El Kabong and taking off a few undead heads with a guitar.

At the time writing, I have

been unable to play the Versus (co-op splitscreen was fun though). If it's anything like the original, its excellent.

### Artificial Intelligence

Valve used an innovative AI engine in the original game to power dynamic spawning and enemy behavior. "The Director," as they called it, took many things such as player health and ammo into account and changed things like number and type of enemies as well as where they spawn and what weapons you could find accordingly. This allowed literally every play through to be different. With the Director 2.0, all of these things are included and fine tuned, and level manipulation was added to make it feel even more different and fresh every time you play.

While *Left 4 Dead 2* is better than the original, it seems to have lost its novelty. It doesn't feel as fresh and the new items, while incredibly fun to use, sometimes take away from the feeling of desperation that was constantly following you in its predecessor. For anyone who didn't play the first one, though, this would be a great place to start, assuming you have no intention of going back and playing the first game. Otherwise check that one out and judge for yourself how it fares against the newest model. **B+**



Junior Devin Snoddy speaks to students at a recent pep assembly about Operation Teen Safe Driving (OTSD) and how to stay safe behind the wheel. Herrin has adopted the slogan "Don't text and drive. You might not survive." - Olivia Caldwell photo.

## Boys' basketball finishes season with winning record

By Kaitlin Meier

The Herrin Tigers boys' basketball team had an overall good season with a record of 19 wins to 12 losses. Their season ended with a loss to Benton at DuQuoin, 60-50, in the first round of the regional competition.

Junior Ben Wayer said, "It was

a pretty good season overall, even though we had some hurdles to go past. Next year we can only get better."

He added that the team would miss the seniors David Mallow and Nikko Timmons next year. "They've taught us a lot about how to play better [individually] and as a team," he said.

"We also had a pretty good fan base this year," Wayer said. "A lot of people showed up to root our team on to victory."

The boys worked their hardest this season and made the games exciting to watch. It should be interesting to see what they bring to the court next year.



Seniors Courtney Cislighi (front) and Sierra Marvel participate in a pep assembly by performing the school Loyalty. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Congratulations to senior Austyn Ridings, who was named the Girls Prep Basketball Player of the Year by the Southern Illinoisian. This is the second year in a row that a Herrin student has received this award.

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## Girls' bowling team makes school history

By Craig Bartelsmeyer

Returning a talented nucleus of juniors and seniors to the team this year, the Herrin Tigers girls' bowling team was poised to make a run for the ages. If not quite for the ages, at least for school history.

The team competed in the sectional competition at Scott Air Force Base in early February. Juniors Kristy Gualdoni and Julia Jamison took home high honors by sweeping the podium, taking home the first and second place individual awards respectively.

After becoming the first outright sectional champion in school history, the team made its first appearance in two years at the state finals, held annually in Rockford.

They then proceeded to cement their legacy as one of the premier teams by becoming the first Herrin team to ever advance past the first round and competing during the second day of the championships.

Because of the current single class system in place for IHSA bowling, Herrin was competing against the very best teams from the whole state of Illinois. The team finished 11th in the state with individual honors going to Seanna Benjamin, 68th individually, and Kristy Gualdoni. Gualdoni ended up 12th individually at the end of the two-day competition, rolling a perfect game in the opening round. This was the first perfect game in school state finals history.



Members of the girls' bowling team gather for a picture at the state championship. Back, left to right: junior Emily Lind, sophomore Taylor Chaney, and juniors Julia Jamison, Lindsey Craig, and Hannah Snider. In front, left to right: junior Kristy Gualdoni, who finished 11th in the state, senior Seanna Benjamin, who finished 68th, and senior Sonya Benjamin. - Submitted photo.

## Lady Tigers finish 29-4

By Ben Wayer

The 2009-2010 girls' basketball team went into the season with high expectations after a disappointing end to last year's season, and their expectations were not disappointed.

When Lady Tigers guard senior Austyn Ridings scored her 1000th point less than halfway through the season, fans knew that the only place the team could go was up. And up they went.

The Tigers went on to have a record of 29-4 including a regional championship and the Lady Ti-

gers first-ever sectional win. The Lady Tigers' run into the post season would end there, however, as the team lost in the sectional championship game to the Nashville Hornettes, who are currently still in postseason competition.

The Lady Tigers also won Conference this season, their own Herrin Holiday Hoops tournament, and the Mid-Winter Classic tournament in West Frankfort. The Lady Tigers had 4 senior members this season: Maggie Bailie, Ridings, Nikki Hall, and manager Shawna Wagley.



Sophomore Levi Fortner attempts to maintain control of his opponent at the State Individual Wrestling Tournament. Fortner competed in weight class 125 and won his first round, making it to the Consolation Semifinals. - Submitted photo.

Five Herrin wrestlers advanced to the Class 1A State Individual Wrestling Tournament, which was held Feb. 19-20 in Champaign. Senior Trey Wilcox and sophomore Drake Holland did not advance past the first round, but sophomore Levi Fortner, senior Kyle Borders, and senior Marshall Anderson made it to the Consolation Semifinals.



The Tigerettes perform their Pom/Dance routine at the state final competition. The team placed 5th in Pom/Dance and 2nd in Hip Hop. - Submitted photo.

The Tigerettes and the flag team competed in the state finals in Champaign on March 13. The flag team, in only its second year at HHS, won the state championship in Tall Flags. The Tigerettes (pictured left) placed 2nd in Hip Hop and 5th in Pom/Dance.