



TIGER TATTLER

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Drafting and woodshop students create newest CASA playhouse

By **Julia Jamison and Rachel Young**

Every year, Herrin High School students build a playhouse to raise money for CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. This non-profit organization works to protect and defend the rights of abused and neglected children.

This year's playhouse, which is built to resemble a helicopter, is on display at the Illinois Centre mall in Marion, along with playhouses constructed by other area schools.

Raffle tickets are available at the mall for purchase, and the playhouses will go to the winners of the raffle. Raffle tickets cost \$1 each or six for \$5. The winners of the houses will be announced at the mall on Dec. 22.

Drafting students Tyler Cain and Seth Lawrence drew up the plans for this year's playhouse and Jim Wangler's woodshop students constructed it.

Drafting teacher Wayne Albers said Wangler came up with the idea for the playhouse and the drafting students drew up the plans. The plans were shown to Wangler and ended up being changed several times.

"They kept going back and forth for two or three weeks," Albers said. "I think that's the hardest thing, since I've been here. The students have a hard time understanding why, once they draw it on paper, it's not approvable,

why it has to be changed."

Albers said the experience of designing and redesigning the playhouse is a good one for the students. He said dealing with Wangler is much like dealing with a customer.

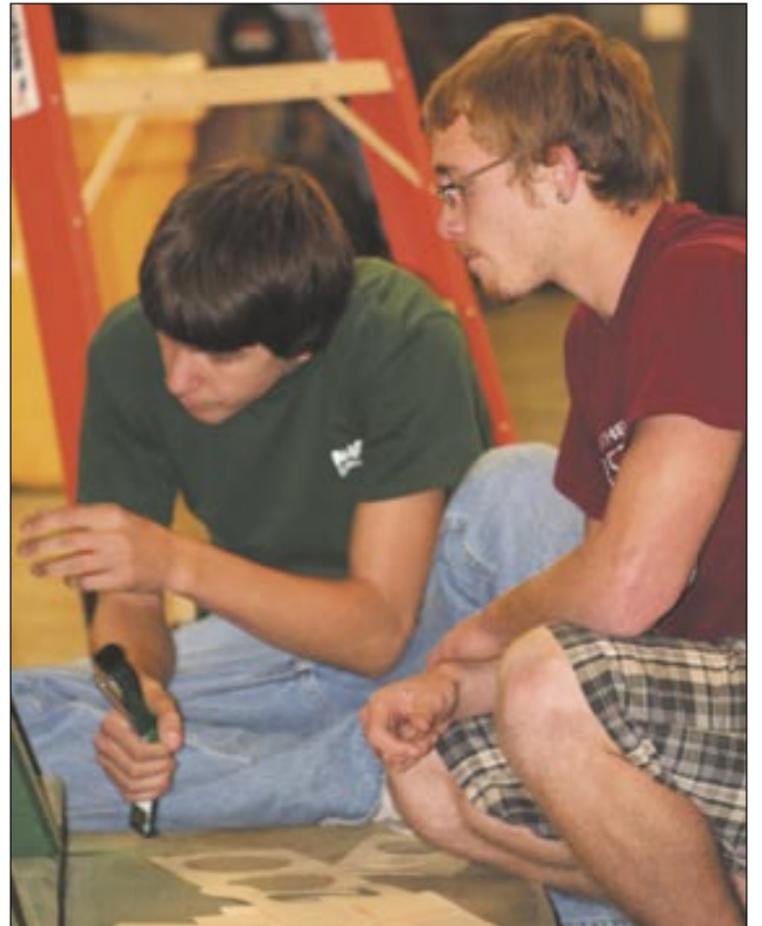
"I did drafting for 30 years," Albers said, "and I know what it's like. You always have a customer; no matter what you do you're always going to have a customer. You have to please the customer."

Albers said the drafting students have been involved in designing the playhouse for several years, but were unable to contribute much last year because of a problem with the computers.

"For whatever reason, we had trouble getting our software up and going on these computers," he said. "So before we knew it, the project was done before we had our software up. Last year was the only year we didn't have a lot of input."

Albers also said he thinks the project is for a "good, worthwhile cause." He said the money raised from the raffle of the playhouses goes to support CASA and the children it serves.

"I would encourage students, faculty, parents, grandparents, and anybody in the area to visit the mall," he said. "See what the kids are doing, and for a dollar you can have the chance to see our playhouse sitting in your backyard. I encourage everybody to take part in that."



Sophomores Marco Andresen and Corey Thomas work on putting the finishing touches on the helicopter playhouse. The playhouse is now on display in the Illinois Centre Mall in Marion. For more photos see page 10. - Tara Emery photo.

Students take trip to U of I for Science Saturday

By **Hannah Snider**

Herrin High School teacher Tina Lillard and 17 HHS students recently took a trip to the University of Illinois at Champaign to attend Science Saturday.

Hosted by the College of Engineering, the day was an opportunity for minority students, here meaning women, African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, etc., to learn more about science and math fields of study.

Five different schools attended, three of which were from the Chicago area.

While there, the students were able to see many different exhibits and presentations from different fields of study.

In the physics area they saw a light exhibit, an electron exhibit, and a dry-ice exhibit. They were also able to see exhibits from the field of computer science and learned about robotics, video games, and how Disney and Pixar 3-D movies are made.

The students were also able

to meet other students with similar interests and experience some of the different math and science fields in the world today.

One student who went was Teresa Diego-Rivas. She said she liked watching how little things were turned into robots and seeing how video games were made.

"I would like to go again because you get experience and it helps you think about what you want to do when you grow up," she said.

Another student, Dimitri Johnson, said his favorite part was the lecture at the beginning of the physics class. They learned the different motions of pulling your arms in and out to spin faster.

Lillard, who has a background in math and chemical engineering, felt that they day was a great opportunity for the students to experience how math and science are used in real world applications. She said the day was "a great experience for all" and that they will be going again in the spring.



Junior Codie Spears experiences the effect of static electricity as she touches a homemade electron charger. She and 16 other HHS students attended Science Saturday at U of I on Nov. 7 to learn more about math and science. - Submitted photo.

French Club celebrates holidays

By Rachel Young

Every year the fall season brings various holidays, and with those holidays come celebrations of many kinds. Herrin High School's French Club has not been left out of the festivities. The group has been busy celebrating the holidays and learning French culture at the same time.

Last Wednesday, the group celebrated Christmas with a holiday potluck where everyone brought something French to share. They also had a white elephant gift exchange.

The French Club members also celebrated Halloween and Thanksgiving.

In October, the students celebrated Halloween with a hayride and bonfire at sponsor Michaelann

Stanley's house, and last month celebrated Thanksgiving with French turkey sandwiches. They also colored bags for the Santa house and helped the Student Government with the canned food drive.

Stanley said she likes French Club because it is an opportunity to introduce the culture to the students while doing fun activities they are not able to do in class.

Stanley also said that in addition to celebrating holidays, the members of the French Club and French Travel Club sold cheesecakes to raise money for their activities. They sold 715 cheesecakes, more than they have ever sold in previous years. The cheesecakes were delivered on Nov. 23, in time for Thanksgiving.



Juniors Devin Snoddy (left), Julia Jamison (center), and Megan Stanley enjoy snacks at a recent French Club meeting. - Sarah Jankowski photo.

Four attend IMEA

By Sarah Rash

In early November, several Herrin High School students attended an event hosted by the Illinois Music Education Association, or IMEA. This event is held for students interested in band, chorus, and orchestra.

Seniors Kaylee Mezo, James Parmer, Allison Spiller, and freshman Spencer Gualdoni attended this event. The students were encouraged to join by chorus direc-

tor Jene Simmons.

Gualdoni said that the students went to Edwardsville High School to audition for the senior chorus. He said, "I got to perform with the best."

Parmer said he went because he wanted to learn more about music.

"I wanted to see how far I could go," Parmer said. He also said he liked "learning new songs and meeting new people, including our nutty professors."

Speech Team begins competing

By Rebecca Weber

Herrin High School's speech team has begun its year.

The team started off with a competition in Benton on Nov. 7, where sophomore Katie Butler won third place in poetry reading after breaking into the junior varsity finals.

At O'Fallon on Nov. 14, sophomore Amelia Hicks won fifth place for JV Humorous Interpretation and Butler won first place for poetry reading.

Butler again won first place for poetry reading at a meet in East St. Louis on Nov. 21, and won third place in Carbondale on Dec. 5. The team has a meet coming up in

Harrisburg on Dec. 21.

Head coach Amanda Wheaton said she is "very proud of the students' hard work" and "can't wait to see how students improve in general."

She said, "I can't wait to see more people build their confidence as we go to more meets!"

Scholar Bowl Team has winning record

By Raelynn Hinerman

The Herrin Scholar Bowl Team has a winning record so far this year. The varsity team was 12-1 and the JV team was 10-6 as of Dec. 9.

"Every match we win helps [to] prepare for regionals," coach Amanda Hickman said. Regionals are in mid-March.

The students must answer questions for the matches about almost any topic, including math, science, sports, English, and literature.

Hickman said to do well, the students "must be tuned to detail and have speed."

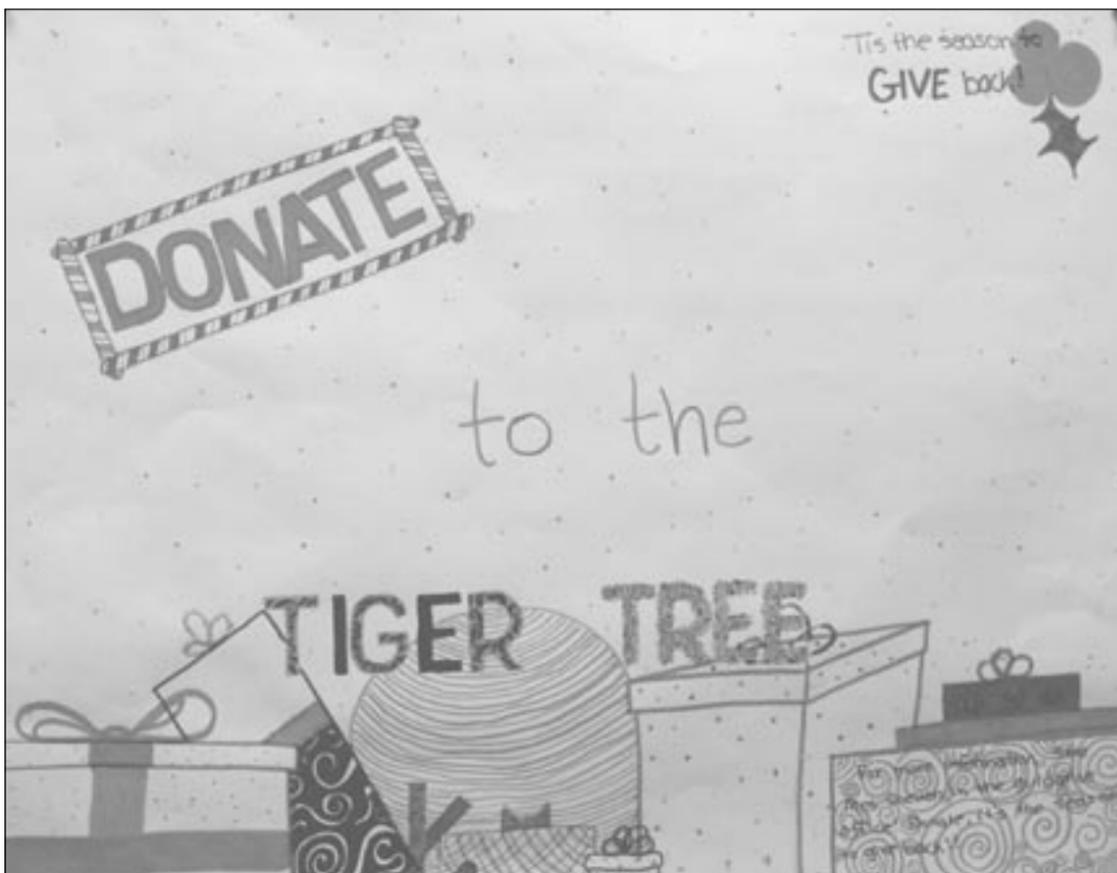
Hickman also said the team is very competitive.

"They are so wise and pull

knowledge so quickly. They draw on personal knowledge and their experiences," she said.

She added that the Math Team is also important to the Scholar Bowl Team's success.

"We wouldn't be as good without a strong Math Team," she said, "[because] sometimes we get a math question that only a Math Team person would know."



Lifesavers establishes Tiger Tree

This sign hangs in the guidance office and encourages students to donate to the Tiger Tree (pictured at left). The Tiger Tree is set up by Lifesavers and is a way to help students in need. Students and staff are asked to take an ornament from the tree and bring a wrapped gift to help the student in need. For more information see guidance counselor Cathy Shelton.

**2009-2010
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Editorial Policy

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 300 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

**Lessons learned
from being an editor**

Being the editor of the newspaper is one of the most frustrating things I've ever done.

It's a big job in itself, and what makes it even harder is trying to motivate people to do their assignments. I consistently get assignments turned in two or three weeks late, and I'm forced to pull the newspaper together at the last minute. There are times when I'm so frustrated I want to give up.

I get some good excuses for why an assignment is late and some not-so-good ones, but either way, excuses are just frustrating.

One day I was particularly frustrated and said something to the extent of, "I can't depend on anyone but myself!" But pretty much as soon as I said that I realized it wasn't true. First of all, I can't even depend on my own self. I let even myself down. I procrastinate on my own assignments. I'm not perfect. Nobody is.

The next thing I realized is that there *is* someone else I can depend on. Someone who *is* perfect. And somehow, through all the frustration that comes with being the editor of the newspaper, I found myself thanking God for his wonderful stability and faithfulness.

God never goes back on his promises. He never changes, he never lies, and he will never let you down. That's such a refreshing truth! How great it is to know that in this crazy life, there really is someone you can completely depend on. I know that when life gets tough, God is the rock on

whom I can stand.

Another thing I realized is that while I find other people's excuses quite frustrating, I myself am daily making excuses to others and even to God for why I'm not doing this thing or that thing. I imagine God is quite tired of my excuses by now. And yet, he is still so patient. I don't understand how, but he is infinitely patient and is always willing to give me another chance. What a great God I have!

I love it how he teaches lessons through everyday things. Newspaper is still just as frustrating, but I'm learning to be more patient. The experience has also taught me things about human nature, about myself, and about God.

I'd say it often takes some experience like this to realize for yourself how great it is that God is always there and is completely dependable. I've heard this plenty of times before, but it means more when you realize that humans in general fail miserably at being dependable.

No matter what situation you're in, you can never depend on any human to never let you down. No matter how great or reliable someone usually is, nobody's perfect. Human nature gets in the way. Life gets in the way.

You can, however, depend on God. You can depend on his un-failing love, his infinite patience, and his boundless grace. He will never leave you nor forsake you. What a wonderful and refreshing truth that is!

These are the initials of several popular Christmas songs. Can you guess the songs?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. COTB | 9. CROAOF |
| 2. LDB | 10. DTH |
| 3. GRYMG | 11. ISMKSC |
| 4. AWHHOH | 12. WTK |
| 5. RTRNR | 13. JTTW |
| 6. FTS | 14. TTDOC |
| 7. WWYAMC | 15. DYHWIH |
| 8. TFN | 16. HYAMLC |

See page 9 for answers.



Pourquoi?

Assistant Editor Lindsey Craig

**Junior year stressful
but provides life
experience and good
memories**

ACTs, term papers, book reports, etc, etc. Sound familiar? That's junior year in a nutshell. I thought last year was bad but it's nothing compared to this year. So much is expected of us and sometimes I wonder how we're even supposed to manage it all.

All last year people warned me about my junior year. They said it would be far harder than freshman and sophomore year combined. I believed them to an extent but I have to say I didn't expect it to be this bad. We have to start thinking about college and studying for our ACT in April all while getting good grades and maintaining a social life. That leaves almost no time for extracurriculars and yet most of my friends do at least two sports plus a million other clubs and activities.

Why stretch ourselves so thin, you may ask? College, of course. We all want to go to a good school to make a good life for ourselves. Who doesn't want that? But there's so much we have to do and I'm sure I'm not the only one finding myself overwhelmed. Not just with school but with life. Because, believe it or not, in a year and a half we'll be done with high

school forever.

I don't want to terrify all the underclassmen, so don't worry. Along with all the stress you get so much more. I have the best friends and family ever, helping me feel less stressed—people I've grown up with and people I met freshman year through bowling or mutual connections. They make everything so much better.

But it's strange to see all the people I've known forever growing up. Every time Mr. Long talks to us about our plans I get a tiny bit scared. I feel unprepared. I'm not ready to grow up and to leave the home I've always known. I know I have to, but still. I know I'm not the only one. I used to say, "I can't wait until I leave Herrin," but now I almost want to stay here just a little longer. We all find comfort in the familiar.

So for the recap: stress pouring out the ears, thinking about the future and how scary it may be, ACTs, term papers, and book reports. That's a typical junior year. But with all that you also get best friends, good memories, and believe it or not, life experience... and you know what? I wouldn't have it any other way.

Quote of the Month:

“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.”

-Albert Einstein

First Tiger Trust is open for another school year

By Hannah Snider

The First Tiger Trust bank, operated by Herrin High School students, has opened for another school year.

Started in 1996, the First Tiger Trust of Herrin is located in HHS's own commons area and provides savings accounts with the highest interest rate around—3.15%.

Originally founded by Kathy Dann, the First Tiger Trust of Herrin is a partnership between The Bank of Herrin and Herrin Security Bank. Each year it opens about a month or so after school starts and closes around the end of April. It is operated by HHS students who have backgrounds in accounting.

This year, the bank opened on October 13 and is run by ten students: seniors Brooke Barwick, Paul Haynes, Wyatt Pangburn, Josh Thompson, Jakki Valdez, and Trey Wilcox; juniors Victoria Gwaltney, Michael Jones, Henrik Sunila, and Tashi Taylor.

These students have to calculate all the interest by hand every month. No computers are used—it's all bookkeeping. This not only takes a lot of work, but helps the

students understand what banking is and how it is done.

As well as offering regular accounts, the bank also provides lunch loans and will even cash payroll checks.

To help promote the bank and get the students interested in saving their money, the bank gives away prizes. In October, it gave away Polar Whip coupons good for a free double cheeseburger, fries, and a drink, and in November gave away t-shirts.

This month the bank is giving away gift cards to Subway. Any student who opened an account with \$5 or added \$5 to an existing account this month was entered into a drawing to receive one of five \$10 gift cards to Subway. The drawing will be tomorrow.

Once deposited, the money will stay in a student's account as long as it is left there, up to the end of the student's senior year, gaining interest even during the summer.

The main purpose of the bank, though, is to teach students to save. Sponsor Brittany Thompson said, "My hope is to instill [in the students] the value of saving their money" and to give them "more of a business mind-set".



Senior Trey Wilcox hands teacher Tina Lillard her change. - Tiger Tattler photo.

Student Chamber busy with holiday activities

By Raelynn Hinerman

The Student Chamber of Commerce at Herrin High School has been very busy serving the community.

Last month, Student Chamber members sold stickers for a hat day for Hospice. The fundraiser made 102 dollars. Students who purchased a sticker for one dollar could wear a hat to school on Friday, Nov. 6.

The Student Chamber members also helped the community by working the Trail of Treats at the City Chamber and the Herrin Civic Center during the Halloween season and de-boning turkey at the Civic Center for the city

Thanksgiving dinner.

The group has plans for Christmas as well. They worked at the Santa House for the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center and are ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

Student Chamber also has plans for other activities and fundraisers. The group did a battery drive for St. Jude Children's Hospital last year, "and there is another fundraiser in the works for this year," sponsor Cheryl Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald also wants to remind students that the Chamber is still collecting cell phones and printer cartridges for recycling.



Seniors Cody Robinson (left), Cally Mooneyham (center), and Freshman Tyler LaBelle help out by working at the Trail of Treats. Student Chamber set up a fishing pond game for the children to play. -Submitted photo.



Senior Stevie Ruzich and freshman Shauna Bayles, members of Student Chamber, ring bells at Herrin Kroger for Salvation Army. - Submitted photo.

Name That Teacher!

By Amelia Hicks

October's mystery teacher was Mr. Dusty Mallow. Can you guess who this mystery teacher is? The answer will be posted in the next issue.

- Her favorite color is blue
- Her favorite sweet treat is Godiva Dark Chocolate
- Her favorite TV show is The Closer
- Her favorite part of teaching is having a positive impact on the students' future
- She has two dogs
- She likes scrapbooking.
- In high school, she participated in track, drill team, and softball
- She went to college at John A. Logan, UIC, and SIU.
- She has two children
- She always dresses up for Spirit Week

Modern-Day Slavery

What it is and what you can do about it

By Rachel Young

If you ever paid attention in history class, you will know a little bit about slavery. You may remember details about the slave trade, or life on Southern plantations, or certain prominent figures such as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass. You may remember that the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolishes slavery in the United States all together.

But did you know that slavery still exists today? Yes, it is true that slavery is illegal in virtually every country, but it still thrives worldwide.

According to organizations such as Free the Slaves and Faceless International, there are an estimated 27 million people still enslaved today, including people in the United States.

There are an estimated 17,500 victims trafficked into the United States each year, and the number of US citizens trafficked within the country is even higher.

What is human trafficking? According to www.polarisproject.org, it is the modern-day practice of slavery and is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. It generates more money worldwide than the arms trade and is second only to the drug trade. Every year traffickers make billions of dollars at the expense of their victims.

Victims of human trafficking are forced into two main kinds of trafficking: labor or sexual exploitation.

Labor trafficking is widespread and includes situations from domestic servitude to sweatshops to forced labor on farms.

Sex trafficking involves any form of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution, pornography, bride trafficking, and the commercial sexual abuse of children.

According to the International

Labour Organization, 8.4 million children are trapped in slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities.

To watch videos of the stories of modern-day slaves around the world and within the U.S., visit www.freetheslaves.net.

On this website you can watch videos of the 2009 Freedom Award Winners and learn the stories of victims of human trafficking like Sina Vann, the 2009 winner of the Frederick Douglass award, who was tortured and raped for two years as a sex slave in Cambodia, but escaped and now returns to the brothels to help others escape.

You can also watch the Dreams Die Hard documentary about slavery within the United States. It relates the stories of several people who were victims of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced labor.

Human trafficking is widespread and will not disappear overnight, but there are ways to help combat the spread of modern-day slavery. There are many organizations that work in different ways to raise awareness and money to help free the slaves.

Sarah Freeman is one of the co-founders of Faceless International, an organization that exists to raise awareness and education on social issues happening throughout the world.

She said Faceless started in Haiti when she and Stephen Christian, of the band Anberlin, traveled there with some friends in the music industry to see firsthand the injustices being done in the poorest country of the Western world.

"While we were there we saw the lives changed of not only the beautiful Haitians we worked with," Freeman said, "but also within the lives of the group

members, including the two of us. We knew [the experience] had to be repeated."

She said their next trip included taking 15 more members of the music industry to India after they had heard about the horrors of human trafficking. She said that after this trip, the idea kept getting bigger and bigger.

"Two years later," she related, "and we have taken over 200 high school and college students on trips to places such as India, Guatemala, Ukraine, and two U.S. cities—Los Angeles and Nashville."

Freeman currently lives in Nashville, Tenn., and is the director of operations for Faceless. She takes care of planning all the trips and is involved in other various aspects of the organization. She said everyone involved in Faceless is a volunteer, and they all have other jobs in addition to their positions at Faceless.

"I do what I do because enabling and encouraging young people is what I am passionate about," Freeman said. "I love that as a result of our trips, young people have started their own companies, raised money for the young people we have met in India, and even gone on additional trips with us."

She described herself as passionate about giving everyone freedom.

"It is ridiculous that in the 21st century people are still being enslaved," she said.

She went on to say, however, that she does not consider herself as an end to the problem, nor does she consider Faceless as responsible for finding the solution to end the problem. Instead, she hopes to enable this generation to make a difference in the world.

"Both Faceless and myself see the possibility this generation has to end slavery," she said, "and we

want to enable you to make a difference and to be the change this world desperately needs."

Freeman said high schoolers should care for two reasons: "One, high school age children around the world are being enslaved—it could very easily be you. It's happening right here in the United States. Two, young people between the ages of 16 and 30 are the most targeted demographic by marketing companies for the sale of products. Our generation truly has the power in consumerism to change and end modern-day slavery."

She went on to say that high school students can get involved in many ways.

"You can start by researching companies that have regulations about using slave labor," she said. "Write them letters telling them that you appreciate this and will be buying their products. Then send letters to their competitors letting them know that you are not using their products because of their lack of slave labor regulations."

She also said, "Even simple things, like buying Fair Trade chocolate and coffee, make a big difference."

Fair Trade is a label found on some products such as coffee and chocolate, certifying that the product was made ethically and without the use of slave labor. Fair Trade products can be found at the local co-op in Carbondale and at some grocery stores.

Freeman said that those interested in identifying additional ways to get involved in the fight against slavery should visit www.facelessinternational.com and click on the action tab.

"On this (web) page are many easy ways you can get involved in fighting modern-day slavery with your everyday life," she said.

Freeman also mentioned that

there are safe houses within the United States dedicated to helping victims of human trafficking.

"Basically," she said, "there are only about 100 beds in the whole country devoted to victims of human trafficking. Most of them are beds in women's shelters . . . It is important to give shelters that are devoted solely to victims of trafficking all they need to allow them to stay open."

"Collecting anything from food to clothes to makeup to soap goes a long way with these homes . . . Just imagine being in a country where you don't speak the language, being raped multiple times, then being rescued and brought to a nice home with some sweet smelling bath supplies waiting for you. Sometimes it's the little things that mean the most to ladies in this situation."

She said there is one of these safe houses in Illinois, and "having a safe house in your own state makes it so easy to help."

Herrin High School's own Rotary Interact club is planning on having a drive to collect such items to send to the safe house. More information on the drive will be available in January.

Freeman added that everyone has gifts and talents and should find ways to use those to get involved and make a difference in the world.

"Make it your goal to find fun and unique ways to combine your gifts and talents with your passions to make this world a better place," she said. "Whether it be fighting modern-day slavery, feeding people who don't have homes, or teaching people to read who don't know how, find a way to use your gifts to get involved. It's easier than you think and literally means life or death to so many. Be the change you wish to see in the world!"



This is a picture from one of Faceless International's trips to India. There are millions of children around the world who are trafficked and enslaved. -Submitted photo.



Kris Bryerly, a radio producer from Florida, plays guitar while on a trip to India with Faceless International. -Submitted photo.

Students perform *Snoopy* for fall musical

By Zachery Gilio

This year Herrin High School performed the musical *Snoopy*.

This musical, directed by Jene Simmons, required weeks of hard work and dedication to pull together. Most of the parts were double cast, and everyone rehearsed from the first week of school to the last week of October.

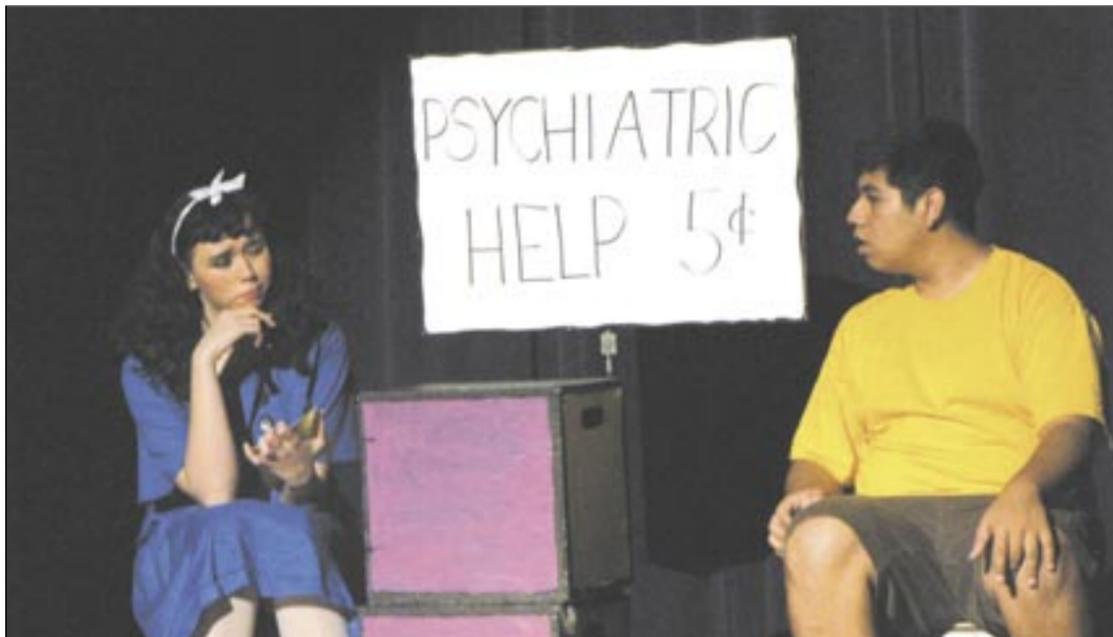
Simmons said she had no worries about the performance. "I had the utmost faith in my cast," she said.

Simmons also said she thought that freshman Zach Palmer, who

played Snoopy, senior Allison Spiller, who played Lucy Van Pelt, and freshman Trevor Thompson, who played Linus, were some of the hardest workers because they had their lines memorized first.

She said her favorite parts of the show were the "Edgar Allan Poe" song and the part right before the song "I Know How." She also said, "Allison's delivery was hilarious."

Snoopy was performed at the Herrin Civic Center on Oct. 29 and 30, and was watched by about 350 people.



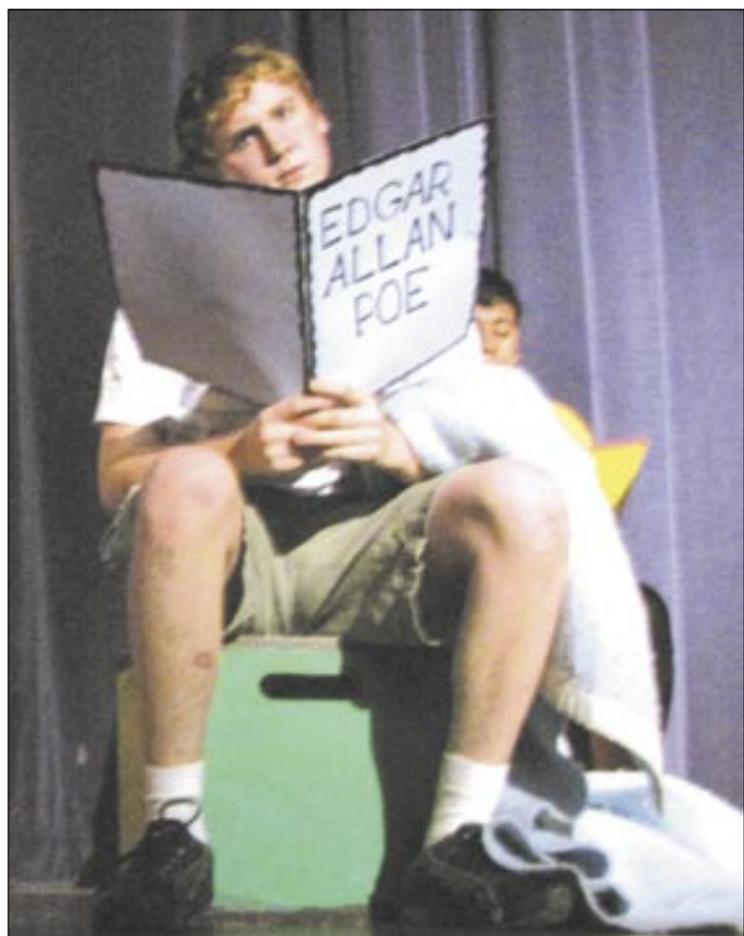
Lucy Van Pelt (senior Allison Spiller, left) offers some advice to Charlie Brown (senior Israel Lopez). - Sarah Jankowski photo.



Senior Kaylee Mezo sings as Sally. - Sarah Jankowski photo.



Woodstock (sophomore Kasey Paris, left) and Snoopy (freshman Zach Palmer) spend some time singing together. - Sarah Jankowski photo.



Blanket-holding Linus (junior Adam McCowen) reads some of Edgar Allan Poe's stories and poems. - Sarah Jankowski photo.



Cast members of *Snoopy* perform. From left: sophomore Katie Butler, sophomore Kasey Paris, senior Kaylee Mezo, senior Allison Spiller, senior Israel Lopez, and freshman Molly McNeill. - Sarah Jankowski photo.



photos courtesy comicvine.com

Plans for Christmas vary

By Rebecca Palmer and Julia Jamison

Q: What are your plans for Christmas break?

Sophomore Brandon Ryker: “I plan on going to Olney, Illinois to spend time with my family, eat food, and decorate the house all Christmasy while watching Family Vacation because it’s a tradition!”

Senior Kaylee Mezo: “Nothing special, just the usual—presents, food, and celebrating Jesus, duh!”

Junior Cadle Burrell: “I plan on going to Colorado and going shopping.”

Junior Danielle Smith: “Presents, shopping, church plays... and I love to look at Christmas lights!”

Senior Matt Witt: “I plan on getting loads of money for Christmas, staying a couple nights with friends in St. Louis, and going skiing in Indiana with my church youth group. Oh, and I love waffles.”

Freshman Emilie Sgutt: “I am going to bake cookies on Cookie Day with my family. I am also going to spend a lot of time with my family this year because I didn’t get to spend time with them last year.”

Sophomore Layton Chiaventone: “I plan on going tanning to keep my perfect tan during the cold times. I am also planning on pool-hopping Brandon Ryker’s hot tub and making snow angels in my bathing suit!”

Freshman Max Klickner: “I am

going to videotape Layton.”

Junior Nicole Staples: “I’m going on a cruise to the Bahamas.”

Senior Marshall Anderson: “I’m going to my grandparents’ house where I will eat a lot, get fat, then lose it all at wrestling practice.”

Sophomore Olivia Caldwell: “I plan on drinking hot chocolate and opening presents with my family.”

Junior Sarah Jankowski: “I’m going to California to visit my father, maybe.”

Senior Brandon Bates: “I’m heading up to Chicago for a family get-together.”

Junior Liz Calero: “My family is coming to visit, and then I’m going to visit my dad in Tennessee.”



This Christmas tree sits in the commons area to greet students and visitors as they walk in the front doors. -Sarah Jankowski photo.

Black Friday is day of shopping madness

By Jensen Falker

Many people find Thanksgiving a wonderful time to relax. After a big meal it is nice to sit back, relax, and digest. It is strange that following such a peaceful holiday is one of the craziest days of the year. How many people do you know who get into Black Friday shopping?

The day after Thanksgiving is the beginning of the traditional Christmas shopping season and is known as Black Friday. The name Black Friday often refers to the beginning of a period in which retailers go from being in the red, posting a loss in the books, to being in the black, turning a profit. Another theory of the name’s origin refers to the black markings on the roads due to heavy traffic.

It is not hard to see why many retailers turn a profit on Black Friday. Stores offer many sales, creating a shopping frenzy.

Junior Megan Stanley said, “It’s fun to watch how people interact in small spaces with large amounts of sales.”

The National Retail Federation

(NRF) estimated that 195 million people visited shopping malls and online retailers this year. The estimated amount spent on the weekend sales was \$41.2 billion.

This year, malls were packed. The NRF survey showed that department stores ranked as the top Black Friday destination with 49% of shoppers visiting at least one.

The survey also showed that more people arrived at stores by 5 a.m. to sacrifice sleep for the doorbusters. Best Buy opened this year at 5 a.m., but began dispensing tickets for doorbuster items as early as 3 a.m.

To avoid heavy crowds and hysteria, some simply shopped online this Black Friday. Amazon was the number one Black Friday website, followed by Best Buy at number two, and Apple at number three.

Junior Abby Eaton said she likes to do her Black Friday shopping at Target, Toys R Us, and Wal-Mart. Others, however, do not like to participate in the crazed Christmas shopping.

“I think it’s a waste of time and money,” junior Emily Lind said.



Tiger Paws teacher Cally Mooneyham (right) helps pre-school students to make Christmas crafts for their family members. - Sarah Jankowski photo.



The day after Thanksgiving is a crazy day of shopping for many. Black Friday, this year Nov. 27, is the beginning of the traditional Christmas shopping season. Here, a crowd lines up in front of Toys “R” Us in Marion in the early hours of the morning, waiting for the store to open. -Jensen Falker photo.

A review

A Christmas Carol's great animation and acting make for an enjoyable movie

By Andy Siefert

Christmas is almost here, so holiday movies will start coming out (or probably are out by the time you read this). Seeing as there hasn't been a new version of *A Christmas Carol* since last year, Disney kindly decided to fill the gap (again). In case you haven't guessed yet, this is a review of *Disney's A Christmas Carol*.

The story begins with Ebenezer Scrooge, who can't understand why everyone gets so worked up over Christmas. He doesn't see the point in taking a whole day off when you could be using that day to make money. Because of his greed and ill will, he is visited by his dead business partner Jacob Marley who warns him that he will later be visited by three ghosts. Sure enough, he is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come who attempt to get Scrooge to have a change of heart.

Since the story is so well-

known, the animation is what really shines. The computer generated characters and environments are incredible. Though the characters may dip into the Uncanny Valley here and there, they are for the most part wonderfully animated. The Ghost of Christmas Present was so well done that I once thought it was actually Jim Carrey.

Speaking of Jim Carrey, his performance is about like the animation: there are a few rough spots but it's mostly top notch. His voice for Scrooge at the beginning of the film seemed over exaggerated and the Ghost of Christmas Past's voice could get a little annoying, but seeing as Carrey voiced most of the major roles, its easy to overlook these two complaints.

Although you've probably heard this story dozens of times before, *Disney's A Christmas Carol* is still an enjoyable experience. Great animation and acting make it a great film to see for the holidays. **B+**

A review

Brütal Legend a fun game and features great cast and story

By Andy Siefert

Tim Schafer has a new game. To some of you, that means nothing. To those of you who know who Tim Schafer is, you should be ecstatic (assuming you didn't already know). This new game comes to us in the form of *Brütal Legend*, the heavy metal-themed action RTS by Double Fine Productions. How will fans of Schafer, metal, and umlauts feel about it?

The game begins with the world's best roadie, Eddie Riggs (voiced by Jack Black), sitting backstage at a nu metal concert thinking back on the metal music of years past. When a cocky guitar player for the band climbs on some of the stage scenery and falls, Eddie quietly saves him and slips away, only to be crushed by the scenery. His injuries cause blood to fall into the mouth of the demon head on his belt buckle, and he is transported through time and space to a land where humans are enslaved and ruled over by monsters from metal album art.

The story is normal Tim Schafer affair: a ridiculous yet well-written plot and boatloads of hilarious moments. My only real complaint with the story is that I found myself having difficulty taking the few serious parts seriously. Luckily this doesn't happen too often, and the game tends to stick to the funny.

As I mentioned earlier, the lead is voiced by Jack Black. He is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to celebrities in this cast. This game features everyone from comedians like Brian Posehn and Kyle Gass to metal legends like Ozzy Osbourne and Lemmy from Mötörhead. Even Tim Curry found his way into this cast. Everyone's performance is exceptional, and adds an amount of depth to the game that may not have been there otherwise.

The game play, while good, falls a little short of the bar set by the story and acting. It features a unique mix of open world action with a real time strategy game (think *Command & Conquer* or *Halo Wars*). The action part works

well, but when the game suddenly adds an RTS element, it falls a little short on account of lack of any real strategic options other than "stay here" or "kill that". It is a nice touch that you can fly in and assist your troops, but it still takes a while to get used to having to worry about more than just the character you directly control.

The game also has a knack for rarely explaining anything. It tells you early on to "spend Fire Tributes at the Mötörforge to earn upgrades", but it never tells you what a Mötörforge is or how to get Fire Tributes. I went through the whole game without knowing that you could upgrade your troops, which seems like something the game should make a point to tell you, especially later in the game.

Complaints aside, *Brütal Legend* really is a fun game if you can get into it. It's not for everyone, but the great cast and classic Tim Schafer comedy should warrant that you at least give it a chance. **B**

Holiday movies for the 12 days of Christmas

By Tyler Horn

I don't know about you, but as for me and my family, the holidays would not be complete without the viewing of our favorite Christmas movies. So, I took on the task of creating a list of 12 films, one film for every day of Christmas.

On the 1st Day of Christmas: *Home Alone* (1994)

AAAGGHH! This Yuletide classic is the story of a forgotten child (Macaulay Culkin) and his survival as his family flies to France without him. While at home, he fights off robbers, becomes a friend with a hobo, and feels the pain of after-shave.

On The 2nd day of Christmas: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000)

In this rendition of the cartoon classic, the Grinch is played by Jim Carrey. The film stays consistently faithful to the original and is able to throw in its own little bits of humor. Carrey's rubber face and comical lines give the Christmas icon a new life for a new generation.

On the 3rd Day of Christmas: *Scrooged* (1988)

Bill Murray, a cold-hearted network TV president, is visited by three ghosts of Christmas past

in this modernized version of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. The film is full of the jerk humor that only Bill Murray can provide.

On the 4th Day of Christmas: *Holiday Inn* (1942)

This film is jam-packed with powerhouse performances. From the heartwarming voice of Bing Crosby, to the graceful moves of Fred Astaire, this movie has all the makings of a holiday classic. Also along for the ride is song writing genius, Irving Berlin. Berlin shows his song writing abilities in the movie by introducing the world to the timeless Christmas tune, White Christmas.

On the 5th Day of Christmas: *Die Hard* (1988)

I know, I know. *Die Hard* isn't your typical holiday movie. You can argue all you want about its place on this list, but you cannot question the fact that *Die Hard* is one of the greatest action films of all time. But when you take a step back and look at it, it all takes place on Christmas Eve. Therefore it qualifies. It's Bruce Willis running around with bare feet blowing people away with machine guns! Quit your whining!

On the 6th Day of Christmas: *The Santa Claus* (1994)

Tim Allen plays a dad who wants to have a better relationship with his son. What better way to bond with a child than to have Santa Claus pass out on your roof on Christmas Eve, then be forced into fulfilling the role of Father Christmas for the remainder of the evening. This holiday movie is full of funny situations of a person's transition into a plump, jolly St. Nicholas.

On the 7th Day of Christmas: *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)

This film is full of spine-tingling imagery and hauntingly beautiful songs. It's one of Tim Burton's best works, gaining fame throughout the world. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is the tale of Jack Skellington (voiced by Chris Sharadon) as he finds a doorway to Christmas town. He falls in love with the idea of Christmas and tries to discover the scientific formula behind the Christmas spirit.

On the 8th day of Christmas: *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* (1964)

This mascot of Christmas is brought to life in this holiday stop-animation classic. He goes through the phases of rejection from reindeer games, being called funny names, and even finding out that

someone thinks he's cute. As he goes on his adventure, he makes friends with an elf who hopes to be a dentist, a prospector, and a gang of misfit toys.

On the 9th Day of Christmas: *It's A Wonderful Life* (1946)

George Bailie (Jimmy Stewart) is a stressed man who is being pushed to the edge by a horrid old man named Mr. Potter. When George tells himself that the world would be a much better place without him, in a very *Christmas Carol* fashion, he's visited by an angel named Clarence. Clarence takes George on a journey through his life to let him see what the world would be without him. When he comes to realize that he means a lot to a lot of people, he quickly changes his mind and heads home to find his family with open arms.

On the 10th Day of Christmas: *Elf* (2003)

Will Ferrell plays Buddy the Elf, a man who has been raised by elves his whole life. When he discovers he is not one of Santa's little helpers, he decides to make a trip to New York in hopes of finding his real father. As he encounters the real world down south, there are many awkward moments and comical situations. Ferrell's performance of such innocence and childlike behavior makes this

comedy an instant Christmas classic.

On the 11th Day of Christmas: *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (1989)

In my life, there has never been a holiday season without countless quotes from this Yule Tide encounter with the Griswold family. Clark Griswold, played by Chevy Chase, wants the picture perfect Christmas while his family visits for the holidays. But this being a Christmas comedy, his holidays were far from perfect. With lightning fast sleds and dinners interrupted by squirrels, this movie is certain to make you hap-happy.

On the 12th Day of Christmas: *A Christmas Story* (1984)

This is, without a doubt, the holiday movie that defines holiday movies. From breakable Italian leg lamps and pink bunny suits, to Ovaltine and BB guns, this movie is comical genius. *A Christmas Story* makes you remember what it was like to wake up and look forward to something, good or bad. Either it's a letter in the mail or presents under the tree, or your father coming home and beating the crud out of you. It's a movie full of real life humor. So this Christmas, sit down with your family, grab some FUDGE, and enjoy this timeless Christmas classic.

A review

Cosmic Egg good example of modern hard rock album

By Tyler Horn

In 2005, Wolfmother emerged from Australia as one of the most prominent new rock groups on this planet. They were making appearances on award shows, playing at huge festivals and had a debut album that was making waves in the music world. But in 2008, the band split. Front man Andrew Stockdale was forced to get a new rhythm section.

With a new bassist, drummer, and guitarist behind him, the new

generation of Wolfmother has put out *Cosmic Egg*. This disc is a hard and heavy modern rock album full of big, thick riffs and Stockdale's signature ear-piercingly high vocals. Although the lineup has changed, Stockdale still has a pursuit of the funky seventies fuzz.

Cosmic Egg is an earthier, grungier, and freakier album than the self-titled debut album. Song after song, you hear droney, groovy tunes that remind you of a young Sabbath. The track "Sun-

dial" starts off with a heavy stomp of a wah-wah bass line, but "In the Castle" is the anthem of *Cosmic Egg*. "In the Castle" begins with a Zeppelin-like keyboard run. It then turns into a slow but steady build to a gallop of heavy guitars as Stockdale belts the lyrics, "Would you like to walk into the kingdom of the sun?"

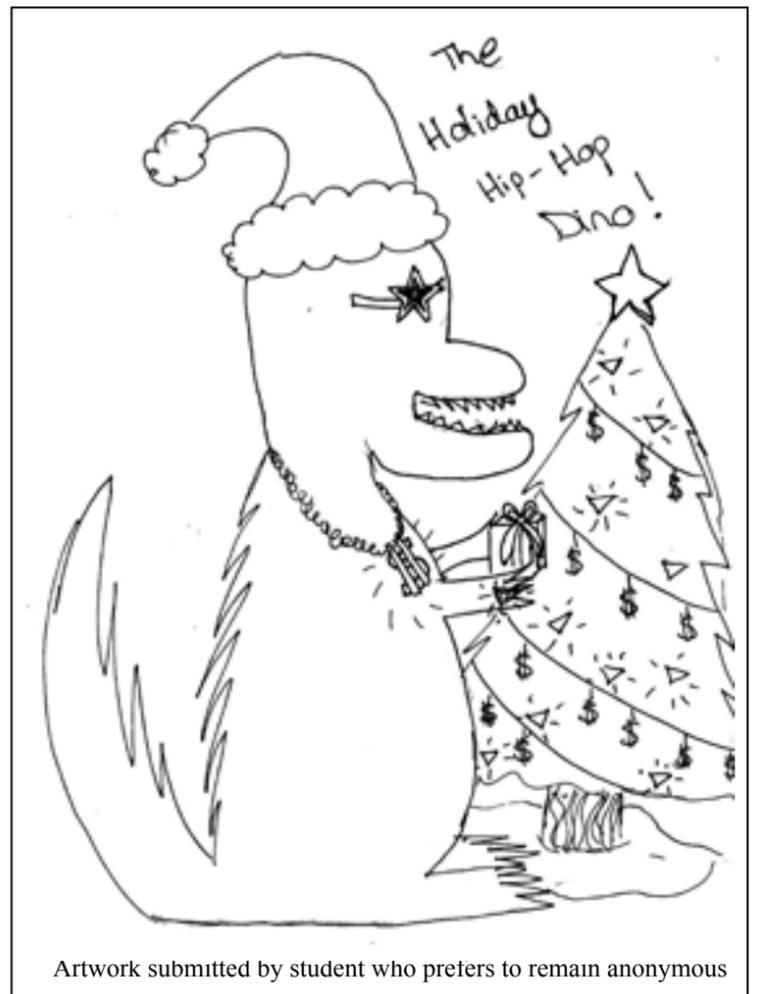
Cosmic Egg may be the result of a rock and roll tragedy, but Stockdale was able to pull it off and make a darn good example of a modern hard rock album.



Fun Christmas Facts

- Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and were dyed green.
- Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.
- "It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.
- If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts.
- Christmas became a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.
- Coca Cola was the first beverage company to use Santa for a winter promotion.
- More diamonds are sold around Christmas than any other time of the year.

Information taken from www.christmas-celebrations.com



Artwork submitted by student who prefers to remain anonymous

Sudoku

By Rachel Young

Can you fill in all the empty boxes with the correct numbers?
Each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 exactly once.

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

These are the answers to the puzzle on page 3.

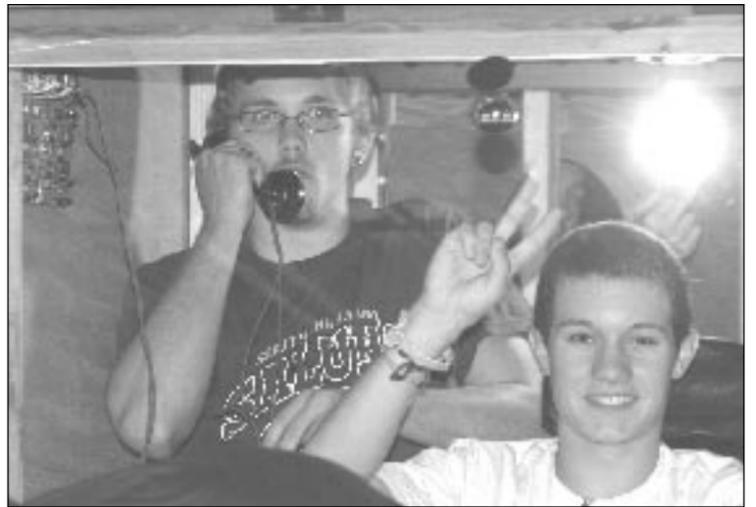
1. Carol of the Bells
2. Little Drummer Boy
3. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
4. Angels We Have Heard On High
5. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
6. Frosty the Snowman
7. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
8. The First Noel
9. Chestnuts Roasting On an Open Fire
10. Deck the Halls
11. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
12. We Three Kings
13. Joy to the World
14. The Twelve Days of Christmas
15. Do You Hear What I Hear?
16. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas



Shop classes' newest CASA house is helicopter



This year's CASA playhouse is designed to resemble a helicopter. Drafting students drew up the plans for the playhouse and the shop students constructed it. The playhouse is now on display in the Illinois Centre Mall in Marion and will be raffled off to support CASA. - Submitted photo.



Corey Thomas (left) and Brad Hendricks have fun in the playhouse. - Tara Emery photo.



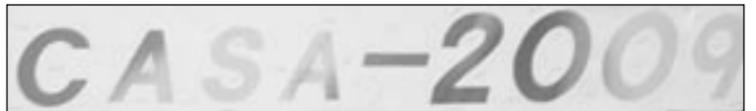
Junior Jon Hutchison focuses on his work. - Tara Emery photo.



Sophomore Dylan Bloodworth takes a break from working to sit on a ladder and enjoy the view. - Tara Emery photo.



Shop teacher Jim Wangler (right) watches as sophomore Dylan Bloodworth works on the playhouse. - Tara Emery photo.



Some of the woodshop students test out the helicopter playhouse. Left to right: Joshua Hunt, Corey Thomas, Brad Hendricks, Marco Andresen, and Jon Hutchison. - Tara Emery photo.

Basketball teams off to winning starts

By Craig Bartelsmeyer and Rachel Young

The Tiger basketball season has begun and both the boys' and girls' teams are off to winning starts.

The boys' team recently won the Pyramid Tournament with 4 wins and 1 loss. The loss was to Mt. Vernon.

Senior Alex Brown was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Brown, senior David Mallow, and sophomore DeMarlo Harris were named to the all-tournament team.

The girls' team is 4-1 and placed second in the Marion Invi-

tational Tournament.

Many have been speculating about the impact that the boys' run to the sectional will have on this upcoming season. Head coach Irv Lukens, however, isn't one of them. Instead, he is focusing on the need to establish a good start to the season.

"Hopefully we can pick up right where we left off last season," he said. "We have to be excited and ready to go out of the gate. I'm expecting good things right off the bat."

Lukens said utilizing senior leadership is a big deal, and Mallow and Brown will provide that

for the team this year. Lukens also said that support from the town and school is very important, and mentioned he would like to see a student section somehow form.

There will be several home games for both teams over Christmas break. The boys' home games include Harrisburg on Dec. 18 and Pinckneyville on Dec. 19.

The girls' team plays Murphysboro at home tomorrow, Massac County on the 22nd, and Hamilton County on the 23rd. The girls are also at home for the Herrin Holiday Tournament on Dec. 26, 28, 29, and 30.



Junior Haley Elders (25) attempts to make a basket for the Tigers. - Olivia Caldwell photo.



Senior Alex Brown (44) prepares to shoot a basket during the Pyramid Plus tournament as junior Jamie Jones (21) looks on. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Bowlers hoping for good season

By Craig Bartelsmeyer

The loud din of pins exploding out of their neat formations greets anyone brave enough to venture into Herrin Bowl after school this time of year.

After winning their sectional and finishing with ninth place at the state meet a year ago, the boys' team hopes to replicate that same success with a return trip to O'Fallon. The girls' team is hop-

ing to match that with a state final run themselves.

Coach Mark May said, "With the girls, we have a lot of experience coming back, I expect optimistically to get back to state. We have the experience to hopefully do that."

Although only a couple of practice weeks into the season, May is beginning to like what he sees from both teams. He said bowling is an exciting sport because of the

"non-stop action—there's always something going on and something that needs adjusting."

He also said bowling is currently the fastest growing high school sport in the whole country and went on to say that bowling is just not widely known by most of the outside world; that many people would be amazed by the amount of physical and mental ability needed to be competitive in it.



Juniors Michael Jones (left) and Craig Bartelsmeyer watch as their teammates knock pins down. - Olivia Caldwell photo.



Sophomore Taylor Chaney demonstrates her fine form after sending her ball on its way. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Wrestlers begin season

By Ben Wayer

Herrin High School's wrestling team has officially begun its season.

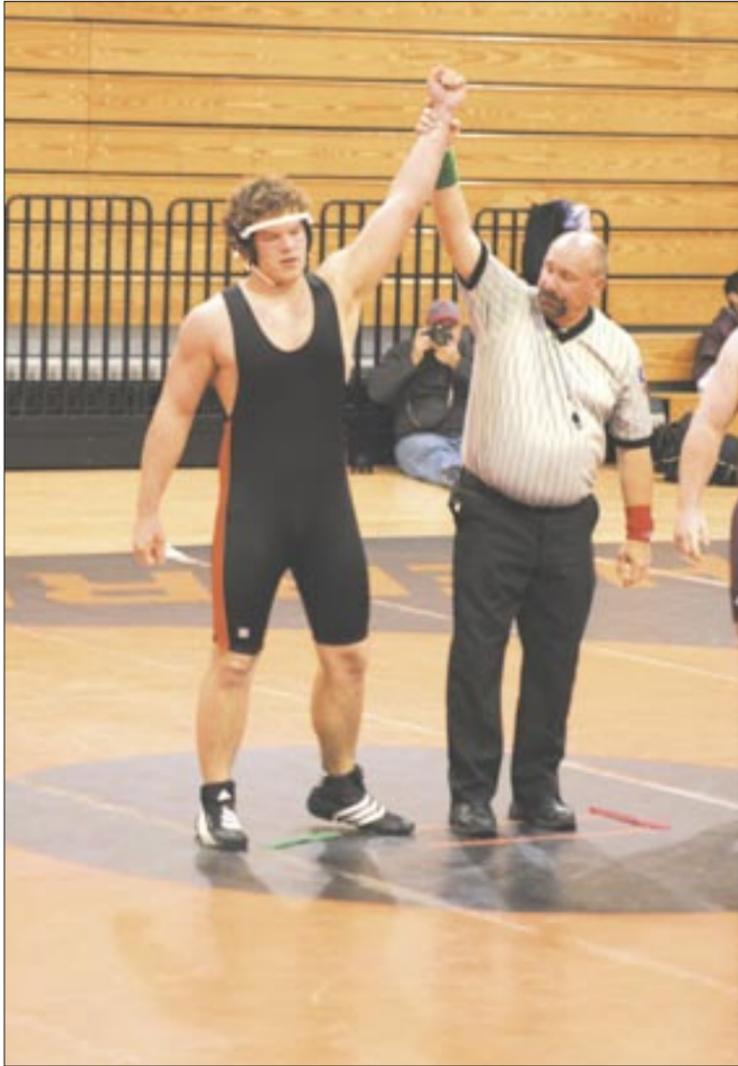
The team's first match was at home against the Benton Rangers on Nov. 30. The Tigers won, 40-33.

The team captains, seniors Trey Wilcox and Marshall Anderson, both got off to a hot start scoring pins, as did junior Devon Lohman

and sophomore Levi Fortner.

The Tigers are depending on these team members as well as other returning wrestlers to lead the team. Other returning members include sophomores Drake Holland and Tyler Cravens and junior Zack Lindsey.

The Tigers wrestling team is coached by Kelsey Lewis and Jim Wangler and is looking to have another great season.



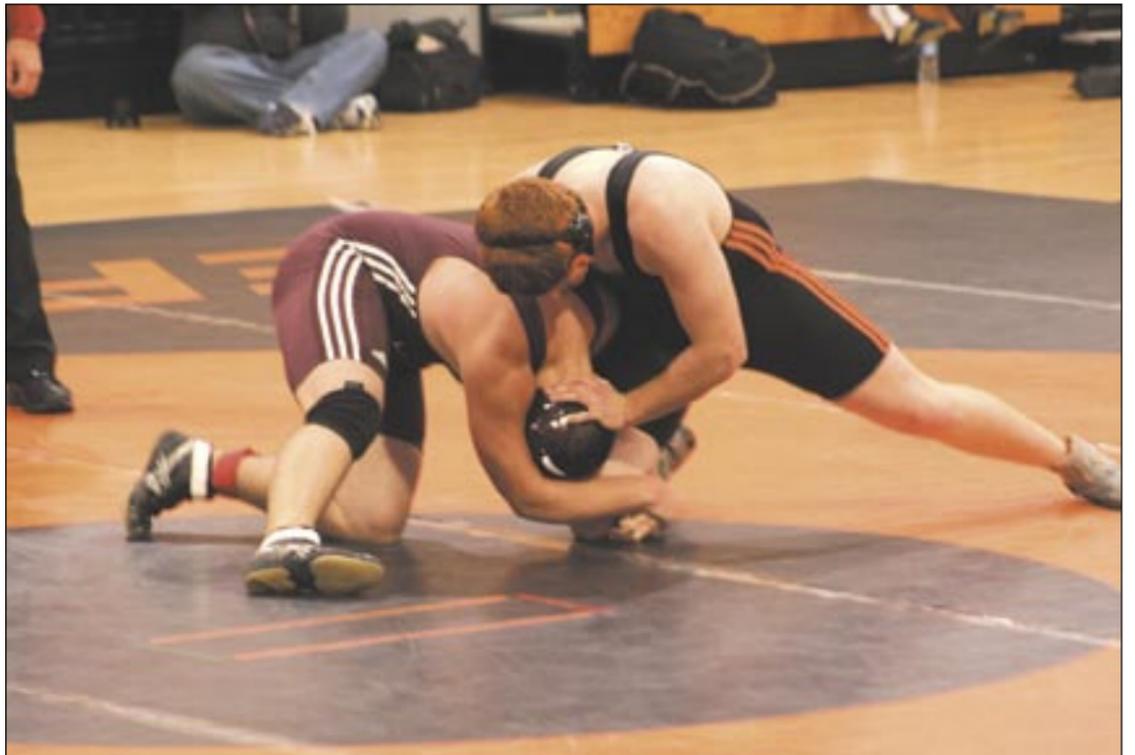
Junior Devon Lohman looks proud as his arm is raised for another Herrin victory. - Olivia Caldwell photo.



Senior David Mallow receives an award from head football coach Jason Karnes during the Pyramid Plus basketball tournament for making the all-conference football team. - Olivia Caldwell photo.



Senior Tyler Vaughn (top) attempts to maintain control of his opponent. - Olivia Caldwell photo.



Sophomore Tyler Cravens (right) uses his power to try to avoid a single leg takedown. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Fall sports: at a glance

By Ben Wayer

FOOTBALL

The varsity Tigers, coached by Jason Karnes and his assistants, finished 4-5 and tied with Mas-sac County and Harrisburg for first place in the River-to-River conference's Ohio Division. David Mallow, Tyler Gooden, Billy Klump, and Mar-shall Anderson were named to the all-conference team.

CROSS COUNTRY

Coached by Dusty Mallow, the boys' team finished first in the conference and advanced to sectionals while the girls' team finished second in conference and also advanced to sectionals. For the boys, Nathan Lukens, Robbie Stone, and Jared King were named to the all-conference team. Hal-ey Elders, Ashley Thompson, and Jensen Falker were named to the all-conference team for the girls.

GOLF

The boys' golf team was coached by Mike Steh and the girls' team was coached by James Starkweather. Junior Kendal Brooks was the only member to advance to sectionals.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team was coached by Irv Lukens, assisted by Kacy Lukens and Jessika Creek. The team placed first in the Herrin Tournament and advanced to the regional championship.

TENNIS

The girls' tennis team was coached by Matt McManaway and Matt Snell and was winless. The boys' tennis season comes in the spring.