



TIGER TATTLER

"The Student Newspaper of Herrin High School"

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IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2 ... New Chemistry Club; Student Chamber blood drive; Student Government activities; Jensen Falker performs in Macy's Parade

Page 3 ... Columns by Devan and Rachel

Page 4 ... Student plans for Christmas; junior feature: meet 5 juniors

Page 5 ... Article and photos from HHS's performance of *Schoolhouse Rock Live Too*

Page 6 ... Andy's review on *Limbo*; Liz's review on *Eat, Pray, Love*; Sudoku puzzle; wordsearch; CASA house

Page 7 ... News in brief: Tiger Paws officers; Speech Team; Rotary Interact

Page 8 ... Wrestling; bowling; a review of football, cross country, golf, girls' tennis, and volleyball

COMING UP

Dec. 17 ... End of first semester

Dec. 17 ... Teacher Institute (no school)

Dec. 20-31 ... Christmas Break (no school)

Jan. 3 ... Second semester begins

Jan. 17 ... Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)

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Tiger Trust lowers interest rate to 2 percent



Senior Stephanie Diaz, a banker at the First Tiger Trust, counts change to give to a student. The Tiger Trust recently had to lower its savings account interest rate from 3.15 percent to 2 percent. - *Olivia Caldwell photo.*

Lifesavers attend training retreat at Camp Manitowa

By Emily Lind

This year, Lifesavers broke away from the traditional training retreat and created their own with the help of Camp Manitowa in Benton. The retreat was a change for past members, as it was the first attempt in a few years to host a Herrin-only retreat.

In the past, a few schools at a time joined together for a three-day retreat under the direction of Judy Ashby, Lifesavers organizer. Herrin students chose to break away from this retreat and take a risk planning their own training this year.

The event was cut down to a two-day retreat filled with group bonding, icebreakers, bonfires, music, listening skills training, and much more. Going into the retreat, new member senior Patrick McNeill said, "I anticipated getting to know my classmates better and learning new ways of taking care of a situation."

At the retreat, Lifesavers members were trained to be listeners rather than advice givers. With these skills, members try to become people who can listen in a non-judgmental way and respond to situations such as stress, grief, and thoughts of suicide.

"My favorite part was Listen-

ing Circles," sophomore Sierra Richardson said. To help with listening skills, members are broken into small groups to form "Listening Circles" in which everyone participates in group-bonding activities and opens up to form close friendships.

Group Leader senior Abby Eaton had been to the traditional retreat the year before but still enjoyed this year's experience. "I loved getting to know the people from our school on a more personal level. I will have a closer relationship with the friends I already had and I now have many more friendships."

In response to the previous retreat Eaton said, "I liked how the other retreat was longer. I could have had more time to get to know the other fellow Lifesavers I didn't already know."

This year's retreat was made possible by the staff of Camp Manitowa, The H Group, Cathy Shelton, Tracy Cornelius, Group Leaders, and other volunteers.

"Lifesavers is great. You make so many new friends and it's great knowing you can always be there for people," said new member senior Danielle Smith.

Lifesavers is continuing to grow every year, with hopes of bigger and better things to come.

By Rachel Young

The First Tiger Trust, operated by students of Herrin High School, has boasted the remarkably high annual interest rate of 3.15 percent since it was established in 1996, but it has now been forced to lower the interest rate to 2 percent.

Brittany Thompson, faculty sponsor of the Tiger Trust, said the change in the interest rate was due to a drop in the rate the Tiger Trust gets from Herrin Security Bank.

Thompson said Herrin Security Bank has always offered a higher interest rate on the Tiger Trust's account; however, due to the economy, Herrin Security Bank dropped the interest rate dramatically in October, forcing the Tiger Trust to do the same. Thompson said that in order to not lose money, the rate may even have to be cut again later.

When the Tiger Trust was earning the higher interest rate, Thompson was able to use some of the extra money to provide a scholarship for one of the student bankers.

She said the scholarship was given to the banker who worked the hardest, displayed diligence, and had a good attitude throughout the year. However, because of the loss in profits due to the interest rate change, the scholarship may not be possible this year.

"We're just going to have to see," Thompson said.

Students with accounts at the Tiger Trust will be affected by

the interest rate change as well. Not only will savings accounts earn less interest than in previous years, but the bank may have to make up for lost money by raising the passbook, loan, and savings fees.

Senior Ian Miller said that the change in the interest rate is a downgrade from something that was really good.

"It's still good, but not as good," he said. "The bank is for the students, and I think it's awful that Herrin Security Bank lowered the interest rate."

Although the interest rate offered by the Tiger Trust has dropped dramatically, 2 percent is still by far the highest local interest rate offered on savings accounts.

Students may open a savings account with the Tiger Trust for only \$5. The bank offers promotions throughout the year and gives away items such as gift cards to local restaurants. The giveaway for December was a \$25 gift card to Applebee's. Students who opened a savings account or deposited \$5 got their names entered in the drawing.

Thompson said this year's group of student bankers is the largest she has ever had, with 14 students. Bankers of the First Tiger Trust are seniors Alyssa Bayles, Emily Cripps, Stephanie Diaz, Kristy Gualdoni, Katie Guebert, Victoria Gwaltney, Michael Jones, Zack Lindsey, Josh Loyd, Miller, Daniel Snider, and Tashi Taylor, and juniors Haley Pangburn and Danielle Stricker.



Juniors Alyssa Pribble and McKenzie Hatfield share a hug during the goodbye ceremony of the Lifesavers retreat at Camp Manitowa. - *Emily Lind photo.*

Chemistry Club's first meeting has good turnout

By Hannah Snider

The sound of miniature explosions echoed through the science hallway after school on Nov. 1. The sound came from Pete Rose's Chemistry lab, where Rose and members of the Herrin High School Chemistry Club were blowing up pumpkins and playing with oobleck, among other things.

The club was started this year by Rose, and even though it has only had two meetings, there are already over 40 members.

"I was extremely excited about the turnout with the first meeting," Rose said. He said it "speaks highly of Herrin High School students" to come out for

Chemistry Club to have fun with Chemistry.

Rose started the Chemistry Club so students could have fun with chemistry and to allow students the chance to do some demos and experiments that are too messy, dangerous, or are not appropriate for class.

"Some things don't fit into a classroom setting . . . but they're just plain fun," he said.

The club also met on Monday, Dec. 6 and did demos with sodium in water and played with bubbles and different elements.

In the spring, Rose hopes to do a thermite reaction, experiment with diet coke and mentos, and do many other fun activities as well.



The newly created Chemistry Club had over 40 people attend the first meeting, where they experimented with using chemical reactions to blow the pieces out of a half-carved pumpkin. - Submitted photo.

Student Government helps community

By Jensen Falker

Herrin High School's Student Government has been very busy this year. First semester is almost over, but members are staying active.

The beginning of the year was very successful for Student Government. The 5th Quarter Dance and Homecoming raised enough money to purchase a computer table at lunch. The table will allow students to use their netbooks away from the food during the lunch period.

The money from the dances will also provide scholarships for seniors. This year, Student Government will be giving four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors.

On Nov. 17, students collected change for charity during both lunches. The money collected was matched by the club, and the donation was sent to the Herrin food pantry.

With Christmas just around the corner, Student Government is ready to help out this season. Candy cane messages will

be sold during both lunches. A candy cane can be purchased for 50 cents and a message can be attached and sent to a friend. The candy canes will be delivered during third hour.

Members also helped with the Santa House on Dec. 3 and 4 at Maytag. The Santa House gives children the opportunity to shop for presents for their family. The money raised is donated to the Child Advocacy Center. Students were elves who helped the children to shop and wrap gifts. Many clubs at Herrin High School also decorated shopping bags for the event.

Student Government will also be contributing to the Herrin Security Bank Angel Tree. Four names were chosen from the tree and each class will be donating items for one of the children. Members will shop for items such as toys, coats, and even bicycles.

Student Government president Rebecca Herman says, "I think it's really great that Student Government can use our funds to go out and help kids in need."

The group will also donate

items to the school's Tiger Tree. The Tiger Tree will help students of Herrin High School.

Also, this year a Pink Out is being planned for the Feb. 4 boys' basketball game. Student Government is teaming up with Student Chamber for this big event. Money will be raised for the American Cancer Society through the school's Relay For Life team. Students hope to sell t-shirts, have raffles, and honor survivors of cancer at halftime. Student Government will also be working concessions.

Details are still being arranged, but senior Emily Lind, chair of the Student Government Relay For Life Committee, is very excited. Lind hopes to raise \$2,000 before the Relay For Life event in June. "We were just around \$1,000 last year after a few little fundraisers so we think with an event like this we can get a lot more," Lind said.

All proceeds will be given to the American Cancer Society to honor survivors and current cancer patients.

Student Chamber blood drive collects 28 pints

By Tyler Labelle

Herrin High School is saving lives: 28 HHS students and teachers donated blood in the Student Chamber's blood drive last month, exceeding the Chamber's goal of 25 pints.

The drive was on Nov. 8 and was arranged by the HHS Student Chamber in connection with the American Red Cross Association.

Approximately 34 people signed up for the blood drive, but only 28 of those came to donate. However, it was still a great turnout because the Red Cross received 28 pints of blood, and the Chamber's original goal was to obtain 25 pints.

"We did not have as much participation as last year because only people who had previously donated were allowed to donate this year," said senior Liz Calero, student coordinator of the blood drive.

One pint of donated blood has the potential to save three lives. Before donors are allowed to give blood, however, they must meet certain eligibility requirements. Donors must be healthy, be at least 17 years old (or 16 with parental consent), and weigh at least 110 pounds. Potential donors may also be turned down if their iron count is low at the time of the blood drive.

By participating in the blood drive, HHS students helped replenish the blood supply and save many lives. According to the Red Cross, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day, and patients depend on generous donors to supply the needed blood. Donated blood is used both locally and shipped to areas across the world. Donating blood saves lives, so the next time you hear of the high school having a blood drive, go ahead—donate, and save a life.

Falker is a member of the Herrin Tigerettes dance team, and she registered for this unique opportunity when the group attended a week of camp at SEMO over the summer. All she had to do was register and pay.

Falker, accompanied by her mom, left for New York City on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Not only was it her first time to visit New York, but it was also her first time on a plane.

"It was super exciting," she said.

When they arrived in New York, they found the staff members for Spirit of America Productions and checked into the 5-star Hilton hotel. The hotel had 46 floors and housed the 2,000 dancers and staff associated with the group, not to mention other guests.

Falker performs in Macy's Parade

By Rachel Young

Millions across the country tuned in to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade this year, but one HHS student got to experience the parade a bit closer—senior Jensen Falker performed in the parade as part of the Varsity Spirit dancers.

The group practiced several hours a day, and practice was "brutal."

Falker said being with so many people she didn't know was "kind of overwhelming," but that it wasn't as bad as it could have been because the girls were divided into groups of 10 to 12 with an instructor.

There were two groups of dancers within the Spirit of America Productions—the Spirit of America and the Varsity Spirit, and they performed different routines. Falker performed with the Varsity Spirit.

The group practiced several hours a day, and practice was "brutal."

"Just imagine trying to get 750 girls to do the same thing," Falker said. "The instructors would get kind of mean."

Despite the tough practices, Falker still had opportunities to have fun and see the city. One of her favorite parts of the experience was seeing the Broadway musical *Billy Elliot*.

"That was really good," she said.

After a hard day of practice on Monday, the group got Tuesday off to explore the city. Falker and her mom visited the Empire State Building, saw the Rockettes at the



Senior Jensen Falker traveled to New York to perform with the Varsity Spirit dancers in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. - Submitted photo.

Radio City Music Hall, and did some shopping in Chinatown.

Falker said the city is very different from Southern Illinois.

"It's very busy," she said. "There are a million tall buildings, there are a lot of people, and there's no grass. It's concrete to concrete. . . I don't think I could ever live there. It's just not my thing. But I could definitely visit there more often."

The group practiced again on Wednesday, and again Thursday morning before the parade. The parade started at 9 a.m.

The Varsity Spirit dancers performed their routine, which featured a summer beach theme, at 10:30 at Harold Square. It was aired on NBC for national viewers.

Falker said she thought the routine went well.

"It looked really good, I think, because there were so many of us," she said.

For the rest of the parade, they walked and did cheers.

"[Doing cheers] was pretty fun," Falker said. "Because there were so many of us, it would echo off the buildings."

See **Macy's Parade**, p. 6

What We Think

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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

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Devan's Moment

Staff Writer Devan Meeks

The scoop on reality TV

Many Americans tune in once a week to catch the new episode of their favorite reality show. The shows range widely, from fashion designing all the way to finding love. Reality shows have really taken over the majority of television networks, but few people know the inside of this "reality".

When we tune in to watch the episode of any show, we want something with a little humor and just as much drama. One of the original shows of reality, MTV's *The Real World*, places ordinary people in a house for months at a time, where cameras capture every moment.

An array of events often happens on these types of shows, from people fighting and getting drunk to sleeping with a different person each night. This has

actually become the new fast and easy way to gain instant fame. It is amazing what extremes people will go to just to be on television.

That is what these networks are giving their viewers and also paying these people to do (act immature). Some people even get paid thousands of dollars each episode and for what, just a little fame and entertainment? No one thinks about how shows like this influence people. They make young people believe it is acceptable to go out, party, and have sex on a regular basis.

A lot of the shows are in some way scripted—if not fully, they do follow some story line. This is needed to keep its audience interested and wanting more. Stations have studied what shows have the highest ratings, and in recent

years it has become the reality shows. So, in a weird way, it is the viewers who help boost these shows to the level at which they are.

Certain shows do not consist of this demeaning behavior. For instance, there are shows like *Project Runway* and *American Idol*. The shows are pretty self-explanatory.

Project Runway shows the stressful situations fashion designers are put under and is hosted by a well known runway model by the name of Heidi Klum.

American Idol is a show that many people audition for by singing in front of three judges. Contestants go through many rounds to determine if they will make it to the finale and win the show to become "the next American

Idol".

I enjoy watching most of these shows. My favorite reality show for now and ever is *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, which highlights the life of a Los Angeles-based family. They are always doing some photoshoot or going somewhere to party. There is something that separates this show from the others. Because this one is based on a family, no matter what has happened throughout the episode, they always manage to solve their problems and stick together. For the Kardashians, love is more meaningful than the money. That may not sound like a structured lifestyle, but somehow they have managed to make a career out of it. Lots of other reality stars have managed to do the same.

Rachel's Reflections

Editor Rachel Young



Christmas spirit is in the air

It's that time of year again—the time for Christmas trees, lights, candy canes, Santa, gift-making elves, and shopping.

The rush to get the perfect gift started, of course, on Black Friday, that crazy day of getting up early to catch the best sales. I've never participated in this day of shopping madness, mostly because I value sleep over walking around a mall, and also because I don't really buy into the big Christmas shopping rush.

I find that the modern way of gift exchanging is much more stressful than it should be, not to mention the way it places undue value on materialistic things. While it's nice to receive a gift, and often fun to buy gifts for others, gifts should not

be the central focus of Christmas.

The Christmases I tend to remember as the most enjoyable are not the ones where I got the coolest gifts, but the ones where I made the most memories. Spending time with family and friends, whether baking cookies, ringing bells for Salvation Army, or attending the Christmas Eve service at church, is one of the most meaningful parts of Christmas to me.

While giving and receiving gifts can add to the fun of the

holidays, I think it can also detract from "Christmas spirit". Disappointed that I didn't get exactly what I wanted or because it seems as though I didn't get as much as my brothers did, or something else silly like that. When I focus on the gifts, I enjoy the day less.

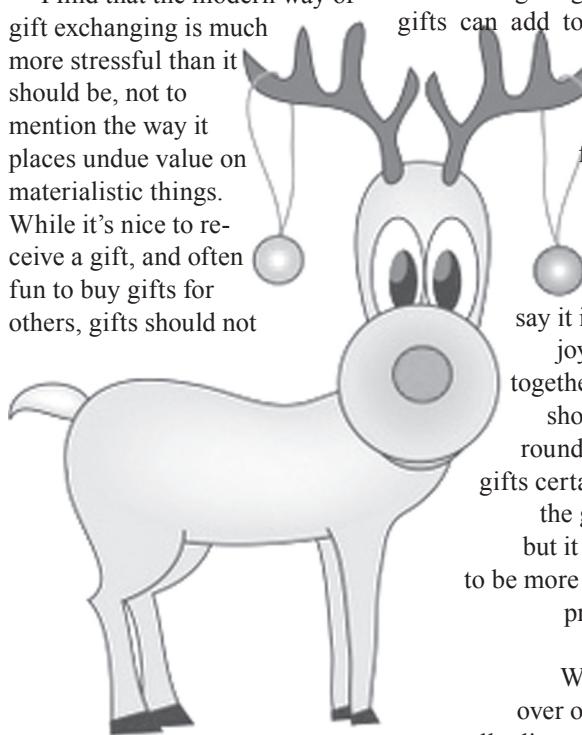
However, when I focus on important things—on the true meaning of Christmas (the birth of my Savior), on spending time with family and friends, on serving others—I enjoy the holiday season so much more, regardless of what gifts I might get.

I honestly couldn't tell you very many of the gifts I've gotten over the past couple years. I'm sure it was all very nice, and I'm pretty sure I liked everything I got, but I can't seem to remember what exactly I did get.

What I do remember, however, is spending time with my parents, grandparents, and brothers. I remember taking silly pictures, decorating the tree, playing Christmas music on the piano (I can only play one song), and baking Gingerbread cookies.

The things I remember are the people I spent time with and the things we did, not the gifts I got.

So, while I will still be buying and receiving gifts this Christmas, I know that gifts are not the reason for the season, and that they are not what I will remember



What exactly is Christmas spirit? I would say it is generosity and joy and love mixed together, something we should have all year round, in fact. Giving gifts certainly factors into the generosity thing, but it is often too easy to be more focused on what presents are under the tree for you. When I value gifts over other things, I am usually disappointed.

in the years to come.

I encourage you to keep this in mind while you are giving and getting presents, and not to focus on what you may or may not be getting on Christmas day.

Instead, value the time you have and enjoy spending it with family and friends. Find something to be thankful for, and do something to bring the spirit of Christmas to someone else.

Ideas for spreading Christmas spirit include making cards and mailing them, baking cookies for someone, or making a special gift instead of buying one. It is these types of gifts that mean the most, in my opinion, and will be remembered for many years to come.



Plans for Christmas break vary

By Sarah Rash
and Rachel Young

As the holidays quickly approach, students are anxiously awaiting Christmas Break. Here are what several students have to say about their plans for the holidays:

Freshman Christina Cruz: "I plan to go to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and bake cookies with my four nephews and then make some music with my brother."

Freshman Kaitlyn Holden: "I'll be spending time with my family and going up north to see my grandma."

Freshman Brandy Miller: "I'll be staying home and having all my family come over and eat in our pajamas. That's what we do every year."

Sophomore Amanda Ranchino: "I'm going to go to my family's and eat dinner."

Junior Rebecca Weber: "I am going to be working a spotlight for the Christmas play at my church. I will also be par-

ticipating in the 'Tree of Gifts' event where we anonymously buy gifts for the children of our church families."

Junior Katie Butler: "I'm going to spend lots of time with my family and friends, and drink lots of hot chocolate."

Junior Alyssa McKinney: "I'm going to eat lots of food and stay warm, hopefully."

Junior Jordan Preston: "I'll do really cool fun stuff on Christmas."

Juniors Elizabeth Gillespie and Brooke Crisler: "During Christmas break, we are planning on making some fantastic 'junior' shirts, eating lots of Mexican food, and spending time with our families."

Junior Brianna Bartelsmeyer: "I plan to bake Christmas cookies and stay warm!"

Junior Brandy Prather: "I go to my grandparents' house and I help my mother and grandfather cook, and around 4 o'clock everyone comes and passes out gifts. After we pass

out gifts, we have dinner, and then we watch Christmas movies until 10 o'clock."

Junior Marris Parks: "I plan on spending time with my friends and family who are coming home for the holidays."

Senior Dylan Orso: "Every year our family meets together at my grandma's house and we spend all day there."

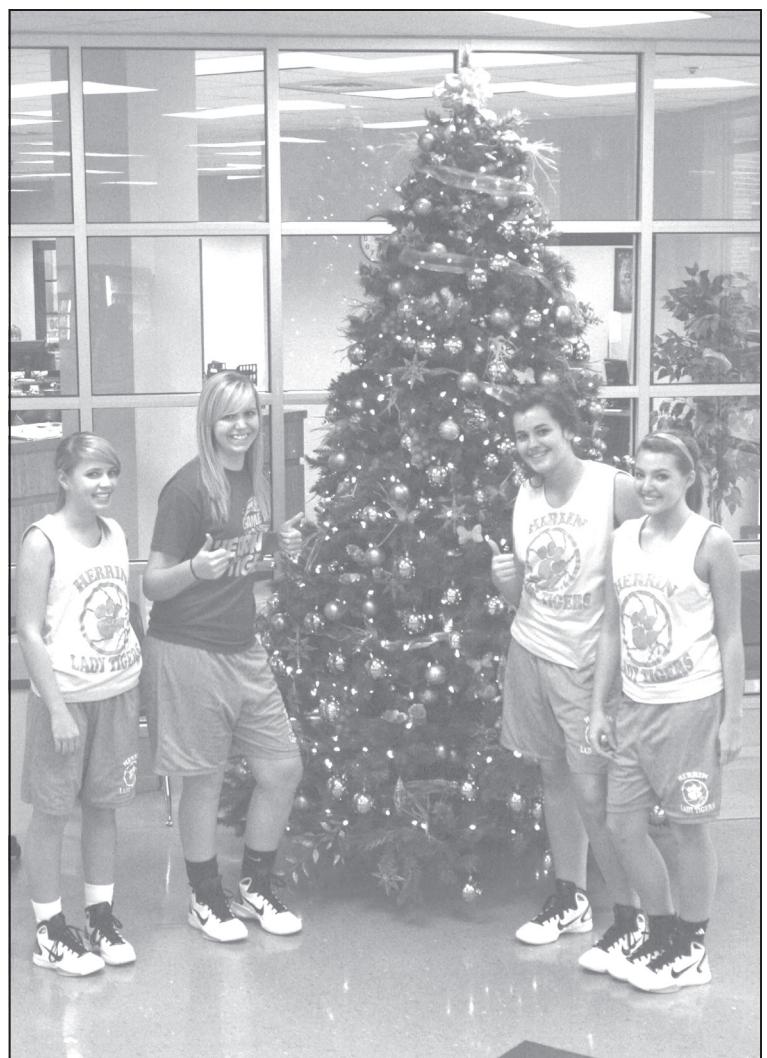
Senior Jay Suddeth: "My family and I are going out to eat on Christmas day at the Wok N' Roll."

Senior Danielle Smith: "I plan to shop as much as possible!"

Senior Victoria Gwaltney: "I'll be out of town to O'Fallon and Greenville, because that's where my family lives."

Senior Abby Eaton: "I'm getting my wisdom teeth removed four days before Christmas."

Senior Lyndsey Woodis: "I'll probably be opening up presents with my family on Christmas Eve and having fun family time together."



Left to right: freshman Kristen Ritter, junior Tessa Forquer, freshman Micaela Cerutti, and freshman Megan Stone, members of the Lady Tigers basketball team, are excited about the Christmas tree in the commons area. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Junior Feature: Meet 5 juniors!

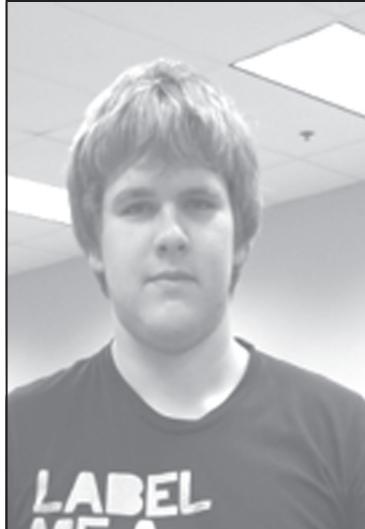
By Sarah Rash

Jacob Loyd



Jacob's favorite teacher is Mr. Mallow, his favorite class is World History, and his hardest class is English. This year he wants to "pass, especially English." He says being an upperclassman feels the same as being a sophomore, and that this year "hasn't been very memorable yet."

Caleb Benitone



Caleb's favorite teacher is Mr. Rose, his favorite class is Chemistry II, and his hardest class is English. One of his goals for this year is to get a 30 or higher on the ACT. He says being an upperclassman "feels bad because [high school] is so close to being over, yet so far." He said the most memorable event of this year so far was the football game against Marion.

Kasey Paris



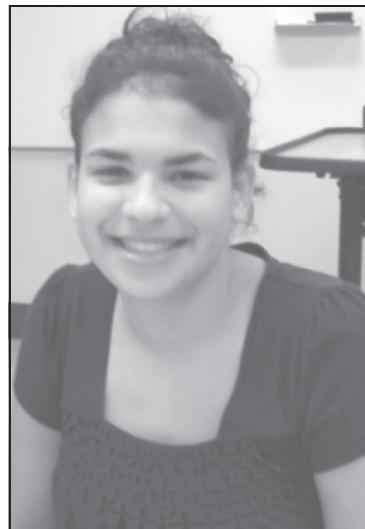
Kasey's favorite teacher is Mr. Kelsey Lewis, her favorite class is Geometry, and her hardest class is English. This year she wants "to win State for Dance Team." She likes being an upperclassman and says, "It's easier because you're more socially accepted." She said the most memorable event of this year for her so far was "the 53rd day of school."

Alyssa McKinney



Alyssa's favorite class is Psychology, her favorite teacher is Mr. Mallow, and her hardest class is English. She said that this year she wants to focus more on school, and that being an upperclassman is "kind of bittersweet, because you're older but closer to graduating." She said the most memorable event so far was Homecoming Week.

Nicole Gharbawi



Nicole's favorite teacher is Mrs. Loyd, her favorite class is Algebra, and her hardest class is College Anatomy and Physiology. This year she would really like "to get a 36 on the ACT." She said that being a junior "feels the same. I've always considered myself an upperclassman." She said the most memorable thing about this year so far is her lunchtime conversations.

Students entertain with *Schoolhouse Rock Live Too*

Submitted by
Grace Stevenson

Lights, camera, action! Herrin High School presented *Schoolhouse Rock Live Too* for the fall musical this year.

Schoolhouse Rock Live Too is the Emmy Award-winning 1970s Saturday morning cartoon. It taught children grammar, math, science, history, and politics through songs. Today it's being performed on stages everywhere, from schools to regional theatres all around the country.

The musical was casted and directed by Jene Simmons. Auditions were held in the chorus room on the first Saturday after school started, and rehearsals

were at 6 a.m. nearly every school day and on Saturday mornings. The cast members worked very hard, but still had a blast. The show was performed on Oct. 28, 29, and 30 at Herrin Elementary School's new gym.

The cast of this performance was junior Baker Wiggs as Cookie, junior Skylar Drummond as Nina, junior Erin Wilson as Rebecca, junior Katie Butler as Julie, sophomore Zach Palmer as Lucky, and sophomore Spencer Gualdoni as Tom.

Members of the chorus include juniors Amber Adams, Lynsey Hentrich, Samantha Taylor, Kasey Paris, Nina Williams, sophomore Zach Gilio, and freshman Pepper Frost.



Left to right: Junior Lynsey Hentrich, chorus member, junior Erin Wilson as Rebecca, and juniors Kasey Paris and Samantha Taylor, chorus members. - Photos on page submitted.



Junior Erin Wilson (left) as Rebecca and junior Katie Butler as Julie in HHS's production of *Schoolhouse Rock Live Too*.



Left to right: Junior Katie Butler as Julie, sophomore Zach Palmer as Lucky, junior Baker Wiggs as Cookie, and junior Erin Wilson as Rebecca.



Sophomore Spencer Gualdoni playing Tom.



Junior Kasey Paris holds up the interjection *Hey!* during the 'Interjection song'.

A review

Despite price, *Limbo* a great game

By Andy Siefert

What happens to us when we die? If someone we loved were in grave danger, how much would we subject ourselves to in order to save them? These are difficult questions to answer, and they are also major driving forces behind the Xbox Live Arcade game *Limbo* from the Danish studio Playdead.

There is really no discernible overlaying plot, as the player simply wakes in the forest with no instruction or help of any kind. From what I've picked up, your sister dies, so you follow her into *Limbo* in an attempt to bring her back. From there you are faced with giant spiders, spike pits, and other people in order to get to her. The meaning of the game is really open to interpretation, and can be taken as anything from a metaphor for an abusive childhood to the difficulties of transitioning from a child to an adult.

As far as presentation, the graphics and sound design really

make the game. The entirety of *Limbo* is black and white, which gives it a more ominous, lonely feel that really sets the tone for the whole game from the get go.

As the setting slowly transitions from a forest to a decaying city, white becomes more prominent, but blurring and bleeding effects keep the game from feeling bright, even when it really is.

The soundtrack is unconventional in that it doesn't play throughout the whole game. Most of the game is eerily silent; the only noise you hear is the occasional soft splash or twig break. During climactic moments, however, short, sharp bursts of orchestral music are used as an accent, but that is really the extent of the music in the soundtrack.

The game play is good but those who only enjoy destroying things as a space marine or special operative need not apply. You play a small boy with all the abilities of... a small boy. You can't jump twelve feet or punch through walls; instead you can

climb up to small ledges and push and pull things that are light or on wheels. While you are faced with a number of enemies throughout the game, you never really fight them; you have to out-think them if you want to survive.

At its core, *Limbo* is really a side scrolling physics puzzle game. And to be honest with you, it gets pretty hard. You really have to work your brain to get through the game and strain it to complete all 111% of the game (apparently in Denmark they don't stop at 100%).

In my opinion, *Limbo* is the deepest Arcade release since 2008's *Braid*. They both suffer from the same major problem, too. Fifteen dollars is a little steep for a game that only lasts about three to five hours. Price aside, it is still a great game, and will probably stick with you for a while to come. If the price of admission doesn't scare you away, you will be very pleased with what you find. A-

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 T S A U T R F I E B S N P Y T A O O
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A review

Eat, Pray, Love exceeds expectations

By Liz Calero

Book: Eat, pray, Love

Author: Elizabeth Gilbert

This book blew any expectations I had right out of the water. I had heard about it, seen the previews for the movie, but I had avoided reading it because I thought it was just another boring book on theology. I was completely wrong.

This book is the story of Eliza-

beth Gilbert and her journeys to Italy, India, and Indonesia. Liz goes through a harrowing divorce with her husband after realizing she would rather travel and experience life than settle down and have kids.

A series of events during and after her divorce send Ms. Gilbert spiraling into a deep depression. The story of her trip abroad is how she begins to heal herself, commune with God, and open

herself to the possibility of love again.

I really fell in love with this woman's story of how she rediscovered herself and slowly rebuilt her life. I realized a lot about myself and had my eyes opened in a way I never expected. I don't want to give much away, in hope that you will have epiphanies of your own and fall as utterly in love with this book as I did.

Macy's Parade

Continued from p. 2

Falker said the parade was "a lot more impressive in person than on TV."

She said there were a lot of people on the sides of the street, watching the three mile long parade.

"Occasionally there were even people on the roofs and hanging out windows," she said.

Falker said she was also able to see celebrities while in New York, including Miranda Cosgrove from the TV show *iCarly* and comedian Jimmy Fallon.

Looking back on the experience, Falker said, "It is definitely something I'll always remember. How often do I get to do something like that? I give it two thumbs up!"

Students create CASA playhouse for abused children

By Rebecca Weber

The industrial art students of Herrin High School recently created a playhouse that will be raffled off to help abused children throughout the nation.

The project is called a CASA house. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers who work for the safety of children who have been removed from their homes as a result of parental abuse or neglect.

According to the organization, CASA volunteers have "helped more than two million children find safe, permanent homes." CASA workers stand up for these children and help change lives.

Herrin High School students, along with the supervision of drafting teacher Wayne Albers and shop teacher James Wangler, have been involved in building CASA houses for close to eight

years. Once a house design is planned, it is drawn up by one or more of Albers's students, and the plans are given to Wangler to be built by his students.

Wangler said that this type of project got started when a CASA worker came to him one year and asked if he wanted to have his students build a children's playhouse to be raffled off.

"As soon as the school board approved it, we did it. We have been doing it ever since," Wangler said.

This year's playhouse design was drawn up by senior Mason Davis with the help of Wangler and Albers. It is meant to be a Harley-Davidson house that looks like a garage.

Davis said, "The biggest challenge for me is probably just making sure I draw the right design up." This is the first CASA house project he has done by himself.

Previous houses made by HHS

students have been made to look like everything from a train to a boat to a doghouse. Each year brings a new, unique design.

Once the playhouse was built, it was transported to the Marion mall to be displayed for the public, along with other houses built by schools in the area. The public can buy raffle tickets for \$1, or 6 for \$5, for the house they want, and the name that is drawn wins the house.

Once the CASA houses have been raffled off, all of the money will be used to support children in abusive homes so that they may have a lasting, loving family.

HHS students will continue to work hard together every year so that they may help children in their time of need. For many of these children, it will be the beginning of their future. For others it will be the beginning of 'everyday life'.



Senior Jensen Falker (right) takes a picture with one of her fellow Varsity Spirit dancers. - Submitted photo.

News in Brief

Dec. 14, 2010

Page 7

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Right: officers of the Herrin FCCLA-Tiger Paws organization recently attended a leadership conference to prepare them for their elected leadership roles. Each year, those in the FCCLA Tiger Paws group attend a minimum of three leadership conferences to enhance leadership skills and boost self-esteem, and the officers attend a special meeting each October. This year, the Fall Officer Leadership Conference was held at Aldersgate Church in Marion in late October. Pictured (left to right) are officers Sam Cline, Chelsea Brown, Katy Culbreath, Haley Pangburn, Sydney Norris, Shelby Counts, Sarah Alongi, Sarah Henson, and Jennifer Eklund. Bree'An Mannie is the final officer but was unable to attend this conference. - *Submitted photo.*



Above: junior Courtney Brown practicing her Prose piece. - *Sarah Rash photo.*

Right: Members of the Speech Team stand with their awards from a recent meet. In back, left to right: junior Courtney Brown with her 3rd place ribbon for JV Prose, junior Amber Adams with her 2nd place medal for varsity DDA (Dramatic Duet Acting), senior Lindsey Craig with her 1st place medal for JV Radio Speaking, freshman Katelyn Fix, junior Skylar Drummond, and freshman Bianca Hazen. In front: junior Katie Butler (left), who placed 6th in varsity Poetry and 2nd in DDA with Adams, and senior Sarah Rash with the team trophy for 2nd place in the small schools category. - *Submitted photo*



The Rotary Interact club recently assembled eight shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, an organization that helps provide needy children with Christmas gifts. Using the money raised from their Halloween dance, members of the club bought items to fill the boxes with. Gifts included toys, stuffed animals, school supplies, candy, and hygiene items. Above, front to back: junior Marris Parks, sophomore Charsi Kane, senior Hannah Snider, senior Rachel Young, and sophomore Jessica Sons help assemble the boxes. At right, junior Brianna Bartelsmeyer wraps one of the boxes in gift wrap. - *Sarah Rash photos.*



Wrestlers off to rough start

By Ben Wayer

The Herrin High School wrestling team is off to a very rough start.

For the first time in quite a while the Tigers are giving up several forfeits due to lack of wrestlers. In addition, the Tigers graduated five seniors from last year all in different weight classes, most of which still have vacant spots.

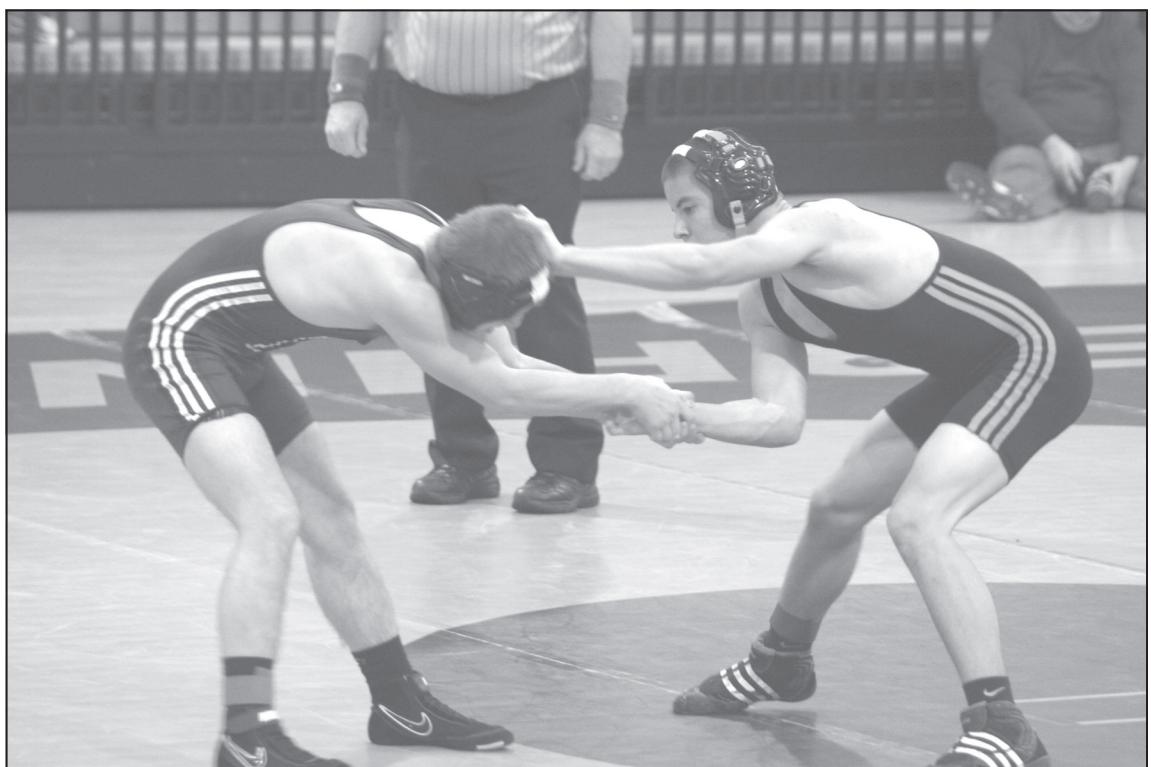
There is, however, good news: senior Devon Lohman is ranked No. 10 in the state, preseason rankings, in the heavyweight class (215-285 lbs.).

Although excited about the

preseason praise, Lohman said, "I might start out as the No. 10 wrestler in the state, but my goal is to finish No. 1."

The Tigers are also returning sophomore Ethan Pullum, juniors Drake Holland, Tyler Cravens, Levi Fortner, Austin Martin, and Jack Wilcox, and senior Zack Lindsey.

Lohman said of the upcoming season, "As a team we just need to stick together and work hard. We are going to give up a lot of DQ (disqualification) points. If we work hard, though, we can overcome it and have a really good season."



Junior Jack Wilcox (right) gets aggressive with the opposition. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Bowling season starts well

By Lindsey Craig

With winter comes the start of the high school bowling season.

Only one member of the boys' team graduated last year and with a mostly returning team, head coach Mark May is hoping for a good season.

Currently, the boys' varsity team is 4-0 and the JV team is also.

At a recent match freshman Austin Carey bowled a 299, one pin away from a perfect game.

Members of the boys' team are seniors Craig Bartelsmeyer, Dylon Aud, and Brendan Huggett, junior Devin Berkhead,

sophomores CJ Kirchner, Jakob Moore, Ethan Gieger, and Chais Schumacher, and freshmen Stephen Benjamin, Carey, Gabe Ridings, Ethan Thompson, and Collin Howerton.

The girls' varsity team is also 4-0 with a fourth place at the Collinsville Kahok Team Challenge.

The girls' JV team is 1-2.

Members of the girls' team are seniors Kristy Gualdoni, Julia Jamison, Lindsey Craig, Hannah Snider, and Emily Lind, juniors Jessi Baldi and Taylor Chaney, sophomore Mary Kate Herman, and freshmen Laura Guebert and Kayla Fann.



Freshman Austin Carey, who recently bowled a 299, one point away from a perfect game, gives senior Brendan Huggett a high five. - Emily Lind photo.

Fall sports: at a glance

By Craig Bartelsmeyer

FOOTBALL

The Herrin Tiger football team had a very successful year, winning six games and making it to the first round of the playoffs. Demarco Harris, Zeb Williams, and Cody Ward made first team all-conference for offense; Antuan Davis, Brandon Bevis, and Tyler Cravens made the second team. On the defensive side, Bevis, Harris, Devon Lohman, and Brock McGee were picked for the first team; Nolan Murphy, Tyler Mabrey, Jakob Caldwell, and DaShaun Hart made the second team.

CROSS COUNTRY

This was a very good year for the boys' team. They were both conference and regional champs and advanced to the sectional meet, placing eighth. The girls' team also advanced to the sectional meet. Many records were broken by the boys' team this year.

GOLF

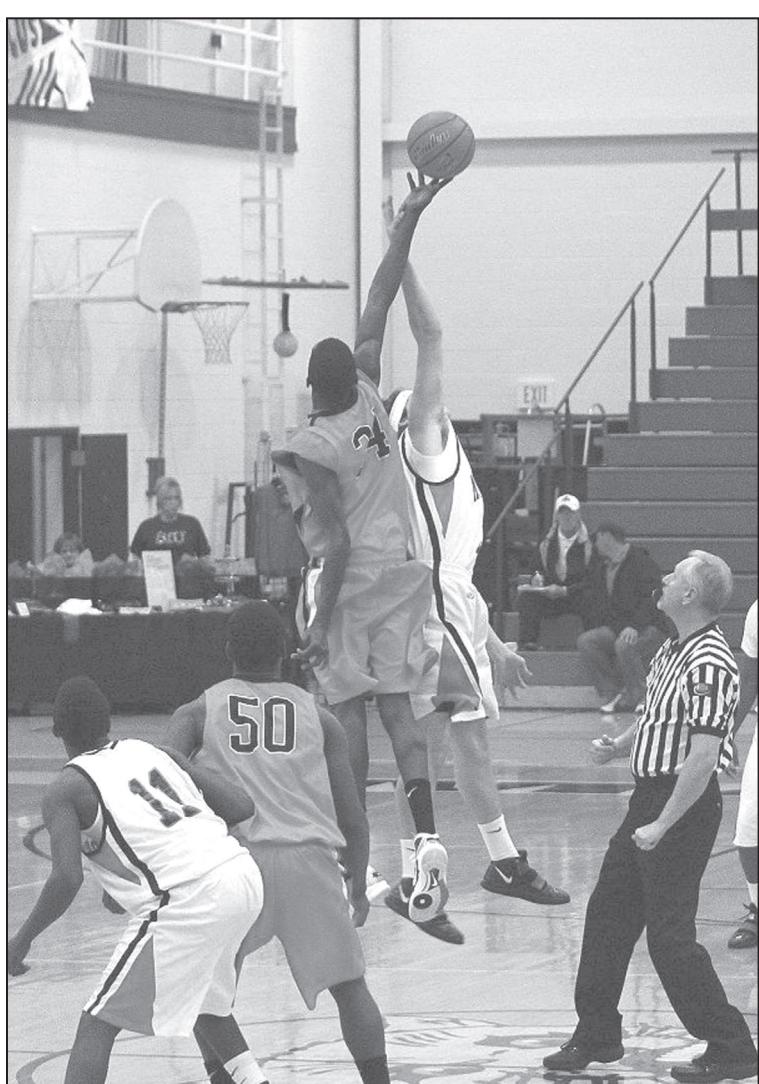
Four players advanced to sectionals for this year's Tiger golfers: Danielle Smith, Kendal Brooks, and Mackenzi Hodge for the girls and Collin Howerton for the guys. Overall, both teams did very well and had exciting seasons.

GIRLS' TENNIS

The tennis Tigers had a very nice season this year, improving on their win total from previous years. This year's team won four matches and made big strides in the development of the program. Tina Black won her first round match and played in the second round of the sectional tournament.

VOLLEYBALL

This year the volleyball Tigers won 13 games, including good showings in several tournaments. This was a very productive season for such a young team.



Senior Vennis Brown starts the game against Mt. Vernon. - Emily Lind photo.