



TIGER TATTTLER

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Spring play to be "Curse of the Werewolf"



Sophomore Amelia Hicks (left) and senior Bailey Kinsey read from the script to audition for parts in the spring play, "Curse of the Werewolf." Hicks got the part of Little Messalina, the child terror, and Kinsey got the part of Veronica. -*Olivia Caldwell photo.*

Student Government hosts sleep-out for Habitat for Humanity

By Jensen Falker

Herrin High School's Student Government started the new year off right by raising funds for Habitat for Humanity and disaster relief in Haiti.

HHS Student Government hosted the annual Habitat for Humanity Box Out on Jan. 17. One hundred students attended from five schools, including Marion, Benton, Mt Vernon, and Gallatin Co.

To understand what it is like to be homeless, students made boxes and "slept" outside for twenty minutes. Other activities of the night included a box design contest followed by pizza and a dance. Sophomores Maris Parks and Bradi Cislagi won Most Creative with their orange car design, and freshmen Taylor Winn and Charsi Kane won Best Engineering with their castle and drawbridge design.

The event raised \$1,153 from school entry fees and the money was accepted by Deon Colp, president of Habitat for Humanity.

Student Government sponsor

Michaelann Stanley said plans are being made to possibly build a Habitat home in Herrin next year. Stanley said the city will give land for the home. "It's looking very possible, and it's very exciting," she said.

Student Government also helped raise money for Haiti relief with Hats for Haiti. Students had the opportunity to buy a ticket for \$1 on Jan. 20 and 21 that would allow them to wear a hat to school on Jan. 22.

A total of \$172 was raised and sent to the American Red Cross to aid its disaster relief efforts in Haiti after the country suffered a massive 7.0 earthquake.

"It's not much," Stanley said, "but if every little town could donate a little it would make a big impact."

Also, Student Government would like to thank Denise Williams for helping to sell the tickets. "She was very sweet to do that," Stanley said.

Student Government's next event is a prom dress sale in February. More details are to follow.

By Sarah Rash

With 2009 came a love-struck prince, various witches, a hilarious clown, and giant oranges. Now, for 2010, the directors of the spring play have switched their focus from fantasy to mystery in their production of "Curse of the Werewolf."

"It's basically a murder mystery that pokes fun at the monster movies of the 30's and 40's," director Jamie Wilson said. Wilson and Tamara Pullum co-direct the spring play. They preside over every aspect from the choosing of the script to performance night.

To choose the script, the directors "go through a process of ordering a whole bunch of random scripts," Pullum said. "We read and trade and comment, and we just like this one."

Auditions for the play were held on Jan. 20 and 21. Students attending acted out scenes from the play to decide the 12 cast members. Deciding on the cast "is tough," Wilson said.

Pullum said, "It's always great to see new talent come to audition because then we may be surprised. . . The more you direct every year, the easier it becomes to cast."

The characters in the play include the housekeeper Mrs. Grimm, who will be played by junior Liz Calero, the attorney Joan Tarbuckle, who will be played by sophomore Kasey Paris, and the child terror Little Messalina, who

will be played sophomore Amelia Hicks.

Other cast members are: senior Israel Lopez, playing Algernon Snipes, senior Tyler Horn, playing Humphrey, senior Matt Witt, playing Hushabye, senior Devin Wade, playing Connie Pigeon, senior John Rolape, playing Buzz Haliburton, senior Bailey Kinsey, playing Veronica, senior Brandon Bates, playing Boris, junior Sarah Rash, playing Sheriff Birdsong, and junior Megan Stanley, playing Olga.

Senior Paul Sims is the male understudy and senior Casey Hubbard is the female understudy.

The crew members are: seniors Ashlee Cosio, Jessica Epps, and Allison Spiller, sophomores Austin Martin and Dannielle Kerrigan, and freshmen Jordan Hutson, Jaylen Janes, Cody Lynch, Danielle Pierce, and Trevor Thompson.

Every person involved with the play will be practicing until the first show.

"There is nothing like the adrenaline that runs through the cast and the crew. There's a feeling of euphoria of knowing that you made it through this journey," Wilson said.

"Curse of the Werewolf" will open on March 25 at 7 p.m. at the Herrin Civic Center, and another performance will be given on March 26, also at 7.



Freshmen Charsi Kane (left) and Taylor Winn spend time in their cardboard box at the Student Government's sleep-out for Habitat for Humanity. Their castle and drawbridge design won the prize for best engineering. - *Olivia Caldwell photo.*

Author John Griswold visits HHS to speak with students

By Hannah Snider

John Griswold, the author of *A Democracy of Ghosts* and *Herrin: The Brief History of an Infamous American City*, came to Herrin High School on Jan. 19 to talk to students. His historical novel and nonfiction book are about Herrin's history and the infamous Herrin Massacre.

He was asked to HHS by English teacher Jetta Chiaventone, who said, "His books and the information [they] provide us about our heritage are important to share."

While at HHS, Griswold talked to students from Jeff Johnson's Illinois History classes, Jamie Wilson's creative writing classes, and some of Chiaventone's English classes. He talked about his life and the processes he went through to be where he is today and about his books and what he learned in the process of writing them.

Griswold began with his personal history. He said he was raised in Herrin and graduated from HHS. He said that after high school he was accepted to the University of Illinois but couldn't afford it, so he entered the military because it offered a "financial escape" and he was also "interested in the outside world."

After he got out of the service,

Griswold knew what he wanted to do.

"I knew what I wanted," he said. "I wanted to read and write. I knew I wanted to be an English teacher."

After serving in the military, Griswold went on to Northern Illinois University and later the University of Miami, where he earned his Masters of Fine Arts in creative writing. He now teaches literature, rhetoric, and creative writing at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Griswold went on to tell the students about his books and answered any questions the students had.

He said he has been writing for a "long time," and that his interest in reading and writing started at a young age.

Griswold said his recently published fiction book, *A Democracy of Ghosts*, was "almost a 10 year effort" and is set in Herrin during the time of the Herrin Massacre in 1922.

He said the idea for his novel began in 1999. His first idea was to write an epic novel of the 20th Century in the voice of his mother, but then decided this was "too much." He decided to start with an important place in recent American history, the "historic hot spot" of the Herrin Massacre.

Griswold said his novel "was an attempt to get a more personal

look [at the event]."

Writing the novel involved much time spent reading and researching in libraries, and Griswold said he came to have a better understanding of the event.

He said the Herrin Massacre was "something that could have happened almost anywhere" and "there were reasons for the massacre that are understandable – though maybe not justifiable."

He said he found that "the seeds of destruction were already planted in [the community]. The violence was sort of an afterthought."

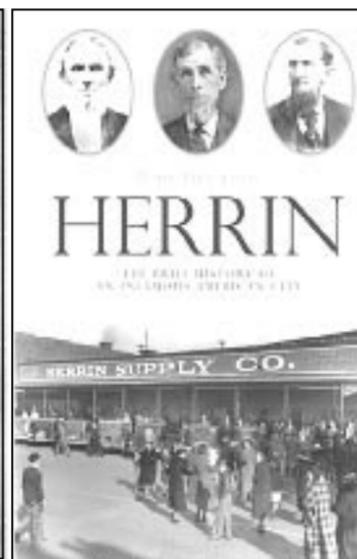
Griswold said once he understood the background and the "various historical battles," he found the novel "easy to write, interesting, and exciting."

Griswold's nonfiction book *Herrin: The Brief History of an Infamous American City* is the culmination of all the research he did to write his novel.

Griswold said the reception of his books varies.

"In Southern Illinois, it couldn't be better. People have been so supportive," he said. "Outside Southern Illinois, people have been very—interested." He went on to say that it is "difficult to get people's attention."

As well as book talk, Griswold answered questions the students had, including questions as to what advice he had for creative



John Griswold's historical novel *A Democracy of Ghosts* and his nonfiction book *Herrin: The Brief History of an Infamous American City* are about the history of Herrin and the Herrin Massacre. On Jan. 19 Griswold came to HHS to speak with students.

writing students and how he got past writer's block.

Griswold advised students to "read all you can, as widely and deeply as you can, according to your interest," and to keep on writing.

As to the writer's block, he claimed that he doesn't believe in it.

"Just keep at it," he said. "It's hard work."

He also said, "If you want to be a writer, you really just have to have it be your passion."

Griswold said that though these are his first two books, he's "got a couple more lined up."

He said his future books will not be about Southern Illinois, but instead he will be "paying debts" to other people and experiences

in his life.

He said his books are "mostly about relationships, America, and who we are."

Griswold's visit provided the students with an opportunity to speak with a published author, and, no less, a published author who has written books about the students' hometown – not an opportunity one gets every day.

Chiaventone was pleased with the outcome of the visit and said she hopes "that the students will be interested in reading his books to learn more about who we are as citizens of Herrin."

Griswold's books can be found at Herrin City Library and other area libraries and can be purchased at various bookstores and web sites.

Scholar Bowl Team has winning record, prepares for more competitions

By Amelia Hicks

The Herrin High School Scholar Bowl Team already has many victories under its belt for the year and is ready for more.

The team's record is 24-7 and the members are looking forward to several more competitions, such as the River-to-River Tour at Herrin First Baptist Church on

Feb. 16 for the JV and Feb. 23 for the varsity. The varsity team is also looking forward to the SIAC Tour in Mt. Vernon on the 25th.

This year's varsity members are: seniors Maggie Bailie, Atif Cheema, Hayden Franklin, Tyler Horn, Casey Hubbard, Seth Lawrence, Andrew Renshaw, Jason Rutherford, and Jilli Timmermann; juniors Craig Bartels-

meyer, Liz Calero, Lindsey Craig, Travis Frasier, Rebecca Herman, Emily Lind, Joshua Loyd, Jacob McClure, Patrick McNeill, Sarah Rash, Megan Stanley, Cody Ward, Ben Wayer, and Rachel Young.

The Scholar Bowl Team also has the regional, sectional, and state competitions to prepare for, the dates of which dates have yet to be announced.



Members of the Herrin Varsity Scholar Bowl Team discuss the answers to a bonus question. Left to right: seniors Andrew Renshaw, Seth Lawrence, Jason Rutherford, and Jilli Timmermann. - Rachel Young photo.



Seniors Atif Cheema (left), Seth Lawrence (center), and Jason Rutherford work diligently on finding the answer to a math question. - Rachel Young photo.

Name that Teacher!

By Julia Jamison

December's mystery teacher was Mrs. Michele Loyd. Can you guess who this mystery teacher is? The answer will be posted in the next issue.

- Her favorite color is purple.
- She is always drinking Diet Dr. Pepper.
 - She has 2 kids.
- She has been teaching for 17 years.
 - Her favorite sport is baseball.
 - She is a Steelers fan.
- She graduated from Eastern Illinois University.
 - She likes country music.

**2009-2010
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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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Rachel's Reflections

Editor Rachel Young

Into the unknown

Sometimes I just get the feeling that I really don't want to grow up.

It seems like in life we're always looking forward to something, or trying to get past something. For example, the ACT is looming ahead and most of the juniors are starting to feel a bit apprehensive. But once the ACT is over and we've finished our junior year, we're seniors! And with being a senior comes thinking about where we're going to go after high school. Then, finally, graduation! And college! And the rest of life!

All this future stuff seems far off right now, but I know it will all be here before I know it. And time only speeds up as we get older! And once we get into the "real world", the responsibilities only get larger.

I'm not scared of the future, and I know that it will have its share of ups and downs. I'm excited, really, for college and whatever lies beyond.

But my parents won't be there to hold my hand through everything; I'm going to have to grow up and take care of myself, and honestly, that's kind of scary. Sometimes I just don't want to grow up. Who wants to start paying taxes, and insurance, and rent?

It's weird to think about the future. It's scary but exciting. The whole future is open and I have no idea what it holds. As of right now I don't even know what I want to major in when I get to college. Who knows where I will be in 10 years?

The future is a mystery to me. I don't know what's going to happen. Like I said, that's scary and exciting.

The one thing that reassures me is that I know that whatever may happen in my life, God will be there.

"I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too—your reassuring presence . . ." (Ps. 139:5 The Message).

God doesn't promise us that all the days of our life will be happy. But he does promise he will always be there. His words offer us peace and strength to face the unknown.

I know that in 10 years, 20 years, and on, I'll look back and wonder where the time went. High school will seem to be almost a lifetime ago.

But that's the future. While it's wise, of course, to think ahead and plan for the future, it's not wise to think about it too much or worry about it. There's no sense in missing what's going on now. I'm living for the present, because that's all we really have. We're actually not even assured of tomorrow.

"Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6: 34 NIV).

I will trust in God's unfailing love and infinite wisdom. The future is a big, looming, unknown entity, but my God is bigger than that and he will be my strength to face the future. I'm just taking each day as it comes.



Pourquoi?

Assistant Editor Lindsey Craig

It's a good idea to help those less fortunate

I recently heard a story from a friend about a family member of hers who said we shouldn't be helping Haiti because they didn't help us after Hurricane Katrina. I thought to myself "Wow. Is this what we've come to?"

It seems that many people have an "Americans first" mentality. To those people, I'd like to ask, "Where is that going to get us?" If we remained concerned about America and America alone, what are we going to do when we need help and other countries turn their backs on us?

It is my personal opinion that we should help Haiti. What if the French had said, "No, we're just not going to help the Americans win their revolution, they don't need us"? We might never have won our independence.

I think that if people keep thinking this way it will go from "Americans first" to "New Yorkers first" and then to "me first". And then one day when you need help there won't be anyone there for you. So maybe helping those less fortunate is a good idea.

Quote of the Month:

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right."

- Henry Ford

Student says teens can make a difference now

Junior Liz Calero wrote the following to her fellow students:

Inspire... what does that mean to you? To dictionary.com it means "to fill or affect with a specified feeling, thought, etc."

To inspire someone, to me, means to leave an impression or to change that person in some way for the better.

My aspiration is to change someone's life. How amazing would that feel to know you have inspired someone? How amazing does it feel just to be inspired or motivated about something?

It is so easy for us to be set in our daily routine of school, friends, and family, completely oblivious to what is going on around us. We sit around, absorbed in what is happening in

our life, thinking that it is important.

I was telling my Alpha class about this a few weeks ago – about how kids our age can make a difference. Just because we are 15, 16, or 17 does not mean that we do not affect what is happening around us.

I heard a classmate say once that what we do here does not really matter. How do you know? You could change the world or someone's life simply by donating to a charity, by being compassionate and understanding towards others, or by doing something about the immoral things in our society.

Every major movement that has ever swept the nation or even the world has had to start with one person—one person saying things needed to change. The

problems happening now are not going to disappear when we become adults. They will only get worse, and our generation, not our parents', is going to have to deal with it. So shouldn't we do what we can now?

I'm not being a hypocrite, for those of you that know me; I realize that I am a completely unmotivated, naive person. What I'm saying is that I want to change that about my character! I want to be motivated about something that will make a difference in someone else's life.

Change is not easy; it is something hard for a lot of people, especially me. Nevertheless, I think that getting motivated about changing our world should be one of our top priorities.

For those of you who agree with me, but don't know how to

get started, just start with changing yourself. Reach out to others by giving a kind word to everyone you see. Get involved in people's lives and in events that are happening here in our community. Volunteer at local shelters or give donations to local charities. If you don't know of any charities, research a topic that you are passionate about and I'm sure you will find some way to give your time or money.

Then, begin to research and find out what is going on outside our community. Watch the news, or read it on the internet! You could even get involved with a group like AmeriCorps, who after a term of service, will help pay for your college. No matter what you do, get out there and get motivated about changing our world! I think we can do it, do you?

Winter Olympics begin tomorrow

By Julia Jamison

It's that time again! It's time to cozy up on the couch and watch the best of the best from all over the world ski, skate, and more. It's time for the Winter Olympics!

The 2010 Winter Olympics will be held in Vancouver. There will be 17 days of Olympic events, which include curling, figure skating, short-track speed skating, bobsledding, snowboarding, ice hockey, and sledge hockey.

More than 80 countries will be participating in this year's Winter Olympic Games, including over 5,000 athletes and officials.

The 2010 Winter Olympics begin tomorrow, Feb. 12. NBC will air nearly 200 hours of Olympic coverage over the game's 17 days. If you enjoy watching top athletes perform and rooting for your fa-

vorites, this is not something you want to miss.

Herrin High School's students and teachers enjoy different parts of the Winter Olympics, and some simply prefer the Summer Olympics.

Senior Devin Wade said, "I really love watching the figure skating," and senior Toni Workman seconded that. Junior Sarah Alongi likes the snowboarding, and teacher Amanda Hickman enjoys both speed skating and figure skating.

Senior Bailey Kinsey had one question: "Is Michael Phelps in the Winter Olympics?"

The Summer Olympics will be held in London in 2012. The Summer Games feature a wide variety of sports such as swimming, volleyball, gymnastics, canoeing, and more.

Student Chamber stays active and serves community

By Rachel Young

Herrin High School's Student Chamber is staying active and continues to serve the community.

Members of the group participate in various activities and find ways to learn and to help the community.

Ten students attended the annual Chamber dinner at the Civic Center on Jan. 22, where some of the students helped to check coats for the guests to raise a little money. One event of the evening was the awarding of the Young Citizen of the Year Award, which went to senior Jessica Cogdill.

Also last month, three students helped out at the city Chamber of Commerce and helped move materials into one of the offices.

Several members of the group

also attended a school board meeting and a city council meeting and had the opportunity to see just what goes on in these meetings.

This month, the group is responsible for collecting the school's recycling from each classroom every Monday. The group has also been making Valentine cards, which will be given to soldiers and veterans.

Upcoming activities include the Relay for Life in June and a possible project to aid St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Cheryl Fitzgerald, sponsor of Student Chamber, said that last year the group collected batteries to send to the hospital, and she hopes to do another project for the hospital this year, but isn't yet sure what that will be.

Math Team preparing for competitions

By Raelynn Hinerman

The Herrin High School Math Team members are putting fresh batteries in their calculators and reviewing formulas to prepare for several upcoming competitions.

This year's Math Team, with 48 members, is slightly larger than last year's team of 42.

This year's seniors are Atif Cheema, Seth Lawrence, Jilli Timmermann, Theresa Stout, Jessica Cogdill, and Hayden Franklin.

"[Our] seniors are really strong. They are setting a good example, and have a great work ethic," Nagrodski said.

This year's Math Team has a large freshman team, with 13 members.

"We have a lot of really strong freshmen," Nagrodski said.

The Math Team has begun to prepare for competitions with

several after-school practices, and Nagrodski said they would "begin major night practices soon."

Several competitions are on the horizon. Carbondale Math Field Day is on Feb. 16 at SIU-C. Carbondale Math Field Day is a competition in which every competing member, regardless of grade, will take the same test, and no calculators are allowed. Awards are then given to the top scorers in each grade.

The regional competition is on Feb. 27 at Carbondale High School. If the team wins regionals, it will be the 14th consecutive win for the Herrin Math Team.

Also if the team places first, it will have secured a spot in the state competition, which will be on May 1 at the University of Illinois at Champaign.

"The big picture is state. That is what we are working for," Nagrodski said.

Student-published magazine *Dreams of Mind* taking submissions

By Zachery Gilio

Dreams of Mind is a student-published magazine that has been around Herrin High School since the 70's. This magazine has a long tradition of publishing creative writing stories, poems, and drawings that are submitted by students.

This year, the staff has been working diligently to prepare the 2009-2010 *Dreams of Mind* edition, which is scheduled to come out at the end of April. Last semester the staff members were off to a good start and now they want to end their year with a great magazine.

This year's *Dreams of Mind* editing staff includes senior Me-

gan Inboden as lead editor, senior John Rolape as assistant editor, and sophomore Katie Butler as junior editor. The *Dreams of Mind* staff has about ten total members who work hard to write, collect, draw, and publish pieces that make up the magazine.

Jamie Wilson, faculty sponsor of *Dreams of Mind*, said she thinks the process is going well this year, but said, "I just wish more students would submit more submissions."

Editor Inboden said she has goals in mind for the year. "I want to make a good issue, have fun, and get more people to submit," she said.

Last semester the staff attend-

ed meetings on every first and third Thursday of every month, and created poster advertisements for the school. These posters were posted all around the school, on *Dreams of Mind* boxes that are placed in almost every English classroom, and in the library.

This semester the staff members meet every first and third Monday of the month to edit, organize, and publish this year's magazine.

The staff members encourage all to take part in HHS's history and become a published writer for the magazine. If you are interested in submitting any short stories, poems, essays, drawings, and/or photographs, find a *Dreams of Mind* box and submit.

Twenty-six FBLA members place at regional conference

By Rebecca Weber

Herrin High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently attended a regional conference at SIU-C where 50 HHS students took part in 40 various events, ranging from accounting to computer programming to public speaking.

Advisor Melissa Frankel said 26 of the HHS students who attended the Southern Area Conference, held on Jan. 14, placed in the top three of his or her event. She said Herrin made an excellent showing, considering there

were about 17 other schools competing.

What exactly is FBLA? It has three aspects: social, professional, and community service. The social aspect includes opportunities to get to know each other and have lots of fun. On the professional side, the students learn new things about business, attend conferences, and work on job skills. For community service, they get the chance to give something back to the community that has given them so much.

Frankel said, "We work throughout the year to try to ful-

fill these aspects." Several students involved in the organization said they have a lot of fun and that FBLA is more than just work. Junior Nick Gregory said, "FBLA is a great opportunity to advance your leadership skills!"

Frankel said that in March, the FBLA will be attending the State Leadership Conference in Decatur, and in July will go to Nashville, Tenn. for the National Leadership Conference. From the FBLA organization—"We work hard and have fun!"



Jeff Johnson's AP American History classes are working on a project to record the stories of local WWII veterans. Each student will have the opportunity to interview a local WWII vet (or the relative of one), and write a short essay about the veteran's experiences. The essays will be published in a book describing Herrin's "greatest generation." Here, Johnson (second row, right) and his classes stand with three veterans they have already had the chance to interview. In front, sitting, are veterans Bruno Delai (left), Al Nelson (center), and Taffie Helleny. - Submitted photo.

Art students receive awards



Sophomore Amber Adams received a Gold Key Award for her pen and ink drawing *Grange et Arbre*. - Submitted photo.



Sophomore Jedediah Conley received a Silver Key Award for his pen and ink drawing *The Barn*. - Submitted photo.



Sophomore Nina Williams was given a Silver Key Award for her pen and ink drawing *Tunnel Vision*. - Submitted photo.

By Rachel Young

Herrin High School's art students recently participated in the 2010 Scholastic Art Awards competition and 10 HHS students received awards for their artwork.

The Scholastic Art Awards of Southern Illinois is a competition that draws hundreds of entries each year. This year, out of 692 entries from 21 schools in Southern Illinois, 127 works were selected for exhibit.

From the 127 works, 18 Silver Key Awards and 49 Gold Key Awards were given.

One HHS student was awarded a Gold Key Award, three received the Silver Key Award, and eight received Certificate of Achievement Awards.

Sophomore Amber Adams received the Gold Key Award for her pen and ink drawing *Grange et Arbre*.

The following students received a Silver Key Award: sophomore Jedediah Conley for his pen and ink drawing *The Barn*, sophomore Nina Williams for

her pen and ink drawing *Tunnel Vision* and another for her pencil drawing *Sheng*, and junior Megan Stanley for her pen and ink drawing *3,2,1... Liftoff*.

The following students received Certificate of Achievement Awards: Adams for her pen and ink drawing *Into the Woods*, sophomore Ryan Cox for his pen and ink drawing *Cathedral*, junior Jensen Falker for her painting *Midnight Townhouses*, junior Emily Lind for her pencil drawing *Sunflowers* and her pen and ink drawing *Zen*, senior Paige Ross for her painting *Splash*, senior Dara Spiller for her pen and ink drawing *Casa del Pajaro*, Stanley for her painting *Pop the Top*, and sophomore Rebecca Weber for her pen and ink drawing *Hardware Collage*.

The exhibit is on display at Mitchell Museum at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon through Sunday, Feb. 14. The show will end with a presentation of the awards in the Performance Hall at 3 p.m. Family members and friends are invited.



Junior Megan Stanley received a Silver Key Award for her pen and ink drawing *3,2,1... Liftoff*. - Submitted photo.



Williams also received a Silver Key Award for her pencil drawing *Sheng*. - Submitted photo.

A review***Borderlands* provides hours of entertainment and is 'just plain fun'**

By Andy Siefert

Have you ever been playing a game and wanted your shotgun to fire missiles instead of bullets? If you answered no, then you're wrong. You just don't know it yet because you've never played *Borderlands*, a new first person shooter/ role playing game by Gearbox Software for the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, and PC.

Story

There is very little story in *Borderlands*. As soon as you start the game, you are greeted with a cut scene of four "vault hunters" traveling by way of a bus through the *Mad Max*-esque terrain of the planet Pandora in search of a legendary vault full of alien technology and weaponry.

You pick one of these four characters, including Roland – a soldier turned mercenary, Lilith – a mysterious young woman with powers of a seemingly magical nature, Mordecai – a jaded sharpshooter, and Brick – a tough guy who just likes to blow things up.

It would have been nice if Gearbox had gone somewhere with these back stories, but they won't be seen outside of the instruction manual. In fact there is very little sense of any plot, with the exception of the last main quest missions and a mysterious woman that will pop into the corner of your screen from time to time after missions to tell you that you're doing a good job. I would usually complain about such lack of story, but in the case of *Borderlands*, the game play was so much fun I didn't mind.

Game play

Gearbox describes *Borderlands* as a Role Playing Shooter, meaning it is set up like a FPS but

has the leveling, mission structure, and pacing of an RPG; think *Fallout 3* with more shooting. It sounds strange but it essentially boils down to shooting things, leveling up, and getting better abilities and guns.

It should be easy for anyone to pick up and get the hang of since it uses essentially the same control scheme as the *Call of Duty* series when on foot and the *Halo* series when driving a vehicle. They work well, but the driving can be frustrating to get the hang of at first. It is much easier to get the hang of if you have a friend to take the gunner seat.

As for co-op, this game really hit the mark. On top of single player, you can play with up to four players online or two players via split-screen.

You and your friend(s) can take your characters, regardless of their level, into each other's games and play every single mission as a team. This allows your characters to level up much faster and find much better weapons.

What if you find a gun that you and your friend both want? Well they thought of that, allowing you to trigger a quick duel for the gun. You may be thinking that's not fair for the weaker player, but if the stronger one is generous he has the option of giving his friend a weapon that he no longer uses. It's a rewarding experience and a fun way to kill a few minutes (or more likely, hours) with some friends.

Guns

That's right. The guns get their own segment. This is because the guns are more of the main characters of this game than the main characters are.

They come in combat rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers,

launchers, sniper rifles, sub-machine guns, and alien weapons. At first glance, this seems like a pretty run-of-the-mill arsenal for a game these days, but Gearbox has created a special engine that randomizes parts and abilities to create potentially hundreds of thousands of different weapons.

You may find an SMG that shoots electric bullets or a scoped revolver whose bullets explode on contact. My personal favorite was the scoped shotgun with a hook on the grip that was used for melee attacks.

The guns, not the story or 50 levels worth of leveling up, are what's going to keep you coming back to *Borderlands*.

Visuals and sound

Borderlands is best described as *The Road Warrior* if it were computer generated. Many of the environments look the same within an area, but the areas are distinct enough that it never really gets boring. Occasionally after starting a game or fast traveling, textures will appear blurred, but they usually correct themselves within a few seconds.

As far as sound is concerned, *Borderlands* consists mainly of generic rock music and gunshot sounds and throws in the occasional threat being yelled from an enemy or humorous one-liner from your character. Its generic, but it gets the job done.

Overall, *Borderlands* is just plain fun. The story's not incredibly deep, but the game play and mission set-up tend to keep your mind off of it. Whether you're looking for a fun game to play with your buddies or one you can sit and play for hours by yourself, you can't go wrong here. **A-**

A review***Horehound* a 'gruff and grainy blues album'**

By Tyler Horn

Well, Jack White has done it again. In early 2009 the superhero of modern blues put together his second super group, *The Dead Weather*, in Nashville, Tenn. Only this time, instead of taking the role of front man (*The White Stripes* and *The Raconteurs*), White takes a back seat, quite literally, playing drums in the band. Other band members include vocalist Alison Mosshart (of *The Kills* and *Discount*), guitarist Dean Fertita (of *Queens of the Stone Age*) and bass player Jack Lawrence (of *The Raconteurs* and *The Greenhornes*).

The first track of their album *Horehound*, "60 Feet Tall", is a proclamation of independence. It crawls in with a snide little guitar riff and a chorus that proclaims "I can take the trouble, I'm 60 feet tall." Then it erupts into a fuzzi-filled guitar solo break down.

White throws down the most

catchy drums lick throughout *Horehound*'s second track, "Hang You up from the Heavens". Try to hold back from moving to its heavy two note riff. And during its break, White just gets funky. There's no other way to put it.

The album's first single, "Treat Me Like Your Mother", is a complete White brain child. You could place this song on a *White Stripes* album and no one would be the wiser, from the punch and wind back riffage and the complete groove in the chorus. With White doing some backing vocals that sound almost *Run DMC* inspired, "Treat Me Like Your Mother" is arguably the most catchy song of the band's debut.

Horehound has its distorted twists and turns, but at its core it's an improvised, gruff and grainy blues album and I believe it places the crown on the brow of Jack White, making him the king of the super group. **B+**

Voice of the Student

A student from Mrs. Carla Taylor's journalism class shares her opinion on Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

By Brooke Barwick

"I am not interested in power for power's sake, but I'm interested in power that is moral, that is right and that is good."

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke these words at one of his many inspirational appearances. This quote shows that Dr. King was out for what he believed was right and would do anything to make his dream for our country a reality.

On Jan. 18, most students at school are only thankful for a day off from classes and do not normally observe the true meaning. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day to celebrate King's accomplishments and how his dream became a reality.

The holiday usually goes without much celebration unless you are in a large city such as Chicago or Atlanta. In South-

ern Illinois, most seem to think it is just a day to relax while having a day off of school, but it actually means more than that.

Dr. King had a dream for our country and he inspired many with his speeches and movements. Citizens in our community could do many more things to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Some examples are: having a motivational speaker come to local schools, having a walk, visiting an African American History Museum, or having a discussion to help us realize all that Dr. King did for us.

More could be done to celebrate all that Dr. King has done for our country. He had a dream and worked hard, hoping that some day people of the United States would help make it a reality. Martin Luther King Jr. Day should be used as a day to respect all that he did for our country.



Herrin High School's Team Quest team placed first at the local competition on Feb. 2. The competition was held at Herrin Civic Center and involved activities including a creative, engineering, math, music and trivia challenge. The top seven teams advance to the regional competition, which will be held in Mt. Vernon on Feb. 23. Left to right: senior Atif Cheema, junior Rachel Young, junior Craig Bartelsmeyer, and senior Seth Lawrence. - Submitted photo.

Congratulations to Jill Timmermann for being named a National Merit Scholar. This prestigious award goes only to students who score in the top 1% on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Lady Tigers win conference title, break school records

By Craig Bartelsmeyer

What a season it has been so far for the Herrin Lady Tigers basketball team. Having recently tied the school record for wins, the Lady Tigers' record currently stands at 26-3.

Recently, the team competed in the West Frankfort Mid-Winter Tournament, winning in convincing fashion.

Senior Austyn Ridings was the MVP of the tournament and junior Haley Elders also made the all-tournament team.

Also of note, Ridings recently

broke the school record for assists in a game, 14, and Elders broke the mark for rebounds in a single season.

The Lady Tigers also won their game against Benton on Feb. 4, making them conference champions.

Expectations for the rest of the season include "winning regionals," Elders said, "and becoming the first Lady Tigers team in school history to win a sectional game."

With continued hard work and a little luck, this team looks like it could go there and even beyond.



Senior Austyn Ridings (10) takes the ball down the court. Ridings recently broke the school record for assists in a game, which was 14. The Lady Tigers also recently won the conference title and broke the school record for number of wins. - Olivia Caldwell photo.

Girls' bowling team wins sectional competition

By Ben Wayer

The season for the Herrin Tigers bowling team is winding down with only the girls left in action.

The girls won their sectional competition on Feb. 6 at Scott Air Force Base and will be participating in the state tournament tomorrow and Saturday. The team won the sectional by 243 points, shooting a 5956 over six games.

Junior Kristy Gualdoni placed first individually, averaging 218 pins, and junior Julia Jamison placed second, averaging 213. Sophomore Taylor Chaney placed seventh and senior Seanna Benja-

min placed eleventh.

The boys' team ended their season on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the sectional tournament at S.I. Bowl, where they failed to qualify for the state tournament.

Junior Brendan Huggett, a member of the team, said the accomplishments of the boys' team this year greatly exceeded expectations, especially after losing six seniors from last year's team.

Huggett also said that even with as well as the team did, he and others on the team saw this season as a rebuilding one and they expect next season will be better, with losing only one senior after this year.



The girls' bowling team placed first in its sectional competition last Saturday, winning by 243 pins. The team will compete in the state competition tomorrow and Saturday. Back, left to right: senior Seanna Benjamin, sophomore Taylor Chaney, junior Kristy Gualdoni, and junior Lindsey Craig. Front, left to right: juniors Nicole Staples and Alyssa Bayles (fans), senior Sonya Benjamin, junior Hannah Snider, and junior Emily Lind.



Speech team members Amelia Hicks (right) and Liz Calero practice their skit during PIR practice. PIR (Performance in the Round) is an event at the regional and sectional competition in which the team can perform skits with props and must stay in a 16-foot diameter circle. On Feb. 6, Herrin's PIR team place fourth at the regional competition and sophomore Katie Butler placed third in poetry reading. The entire team advanced and will compete at the sectional competition this Saturday. - Sarah Jankowski photo.

Wrestling team experiences highs and lows this season

By Ben Wayer

The Herrin Tiger Wrestling Team is preparing for its post-season tournaments.

This is a perfect time to take a look back at the highs and lows of the team's season. The Tigers have had numerous high points this year.

Marshall Anderson won first place in the 160 lb. weight division at the always-tough Murdale tournament, and in their own tournament, the Herrin Holiday Duels, the Tigers went 3-2.

The team won two huge matches against conference opponent Murphysboro and rival Marion, by tiebreaking criteria, and with the win against Murphysboro the Tigers also helped seal their first SIRR (Southern Illinois River-to-River) Conference Championship this year.

The season has not been without setbacks, however. One set-

back is the IHSA rule on how many matches a person can wrestle, and another is that the team lacks wrestlers in some weight classes, forcing the team to give up six points freely to its opponent.

The team has also had to deal with several injuries. Junior Zack Lindsey missed much of the season because of a dislocated arm suffered in a match, sophomore Tyler Cravens missed the remainder of the season after being in a car accident, and senior Trey Wilcox has been affected by a nagging knee injury he suffered during football season earlier this year. Although he has missed no matches, his pain was evident in the Tigers' home opener against Benton in December.

The team won the regional title on Feb. 6 and advances to the Vandalia dual team sectionals on Feb. 23.

Boys' basketball team faces adversity

By Craig Bartelsmeyer

After opening the season with a win in the Pyramid Plus tournament and starting 4-1, the Herrin High boys' basketball team has cooled off slightly.

This is due partly to some adversity that the team has had to fend off. A tougher confer-

ence schedule and the loss of two starting players have hit the team hard.

Junior Ben Wayer said the team has been working hard nonetheless and he believes that the team is doing a "pretty good job" of picking up the pieces. With regionals less than four weeks away, the team is looking

always ahead, not backwards.

"Our goal is still to go to Duquoin and win, [then] make a deep run into sectionals and beyond," he said.

After the West Frankfort Mid-Winter Classic, in which the team won second place, the team's record stands at 15-8.



The Tigerettes perform at a recent boys' basketball game. The Tigerettes placed first in hip hop at the regional competition at Althoff Catholic High School on Jan. 23. They advanced to the state competition, which will be on March 13 at the University of Illinois. - Olivia Caldwell photo.



Junior Ben Wayer concentrates as he prepares to shoot a free throw. -Olivia Caldwell photo.

Look for the Tigers in upcoming events!

Herrin High School
presents
Curse of the Werewolf

Thursday March 25, 2010
and
Friday March 26, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Herrin Civic Center
Tickets are \$5.00
It will be a *howling* good time!

**HHS TALENT SHOW
2010**

Friday, March 19, 2010
Christian Life Center
6-8pm

Admission: \$5.00
Purchase tickets in advance or at the door

Top Three Win \$50.00 prizes:
All proceeds go to the French Travel Club
for our trip to Europe in 2011.