

## School Alert System New Y to Build Spurs Controversy Kids, Families, Community

Science/Technology

Some students and staff at FAHS have recently complained about the Alert Now calls to home phones, which some people believe are being overused. But not everyone feels this way.

"I don't feel they're overused. The information is always very useful," says senior Tiffany Wentzel.

High School Principal Michael DeAntonio explained that the call system saves paper and is a lot more efficient and cost-effective than receiving printed announcements. Most of the information is important for a majority of the student body, and the calls normally last less than a minute.

"I don't think I overuse it. Most people are upset when they don't get enough information from school," DeAntonio commented

DeAntonio continued to defend the practice by explain just how easy it is to delete the messages or hang up the phone if the listener feels annoyed by the calls.

Still, an anonymous faculty member had the following to say: "The concept behind it is great. I think the technology is great as well. The only thing that gets people upset about it is that it's called an emergency alert system, but sometimes it is used for announcements."

Most people use their phones constantly in this day and age. In a society ruled by technology, we can expect similar controversies as technology becomes a more prevalent means of communicating ideas and information previously transferred through paper and ink.

By Maria Johnson

## King's Holiday Continues to Fulfill Dream

Obituary

Every year on the third Monday in January, Americans celebrate the life of a very remarkable man, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior.

"Like all great influential figures in history, some stand above the rest," says history teacher Craig Ghessi. "People have to judge the long-term effects that these individuals had on History. King's impact on the civil rights movement of the 1960s and beyond

has been enormous. He not only represented African-Americans, but he also represented all people who experienced discrimination."

In 1979, the bill to make King's Birthday a national holiday was brought before congress, but at first it was five votes short of passing. The argument from Congress was that it would be too expensive to have a paid holiday for federal employees simply because of a private citizen (King never held a position in public office). Eventually, with six million signatures, Americans created the largest petition in U.S. history to establish a holiday for King, which was declared in 1983 by President Ronald Regan. January 15th was chosen because it was King's birthday.

In most states, the holiday was not



actually observed until 1986. A few states did choose to have the holiday as long as it was combined with another holiday, but in 2000 all fifty states finally began celebrating this date for its true, memorial meaning. In fact, a few cities in other countries also choose to acknowledge the holiday in honor of King.

In the Japanese city of Hiroshima, mayor Tadatoshi Akiba has encouraged his city to observe this holi-

day, and he has even held an annual banquet in honor of King and his service to civil rights and peace.

In addition, Israel also pays respect to Dr. King every year because of their mutual views on peace. Israel even has a national forest named after King.

The Canadian city of Toronto also celebrates this holiday.

Since his death, King has had more postage stamps issued in his honor than any other Black American in the nation. Over 166,435,000 King stamps have been produced since his death to help Americans remember both him and the civil rights movement.

By Alyssa Delp

Community

Looking for a nearby location to work out? The grand opening of the YMCA at Willow Creek Elementary School was held on January 9th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

But this YMCA is not just a gym. The Tri Valley Y offers a wide range of activities, including fitness for youth and adults, youth sports, family events, summer camp, and more. The YMCA's goal is to meet all the needs of the community as well as the needs of the Fleetwood Area School District by providing a fun and safe environment for everyone.

The normal hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The YMCA charges fifty dollars to join, and the daily fee is five dollars for children and ten dollars for adults.

Among the many activities at the

YMCA is a healthy living program. Participants can choose from Cardio Pilates, Cardio Kickboxing, Zumba, Kettlebells, Boot Camp, and Hip Hop Hustle. These exercise are all great cardiovascular workouts.

Personal trainers are available to conduct a fitness evaluation to create personalized programs. The cost of six training sessions is thirty-five dollars.

With summer still far away, the YMCA will also continue to provide winter swimming lessons as well as a winter swim team, both of which are held at the Kutztown University Campus. These swimming lessons are for all ages; even private lessons are available by reservation. The YMCA even provides a nursery for members with children who are participating in Y activities.

By Kaitlynn Stott

## Houp Wins Contest, Deemed "Biggest Loser"

Health/Medicine

Who is the Fleetwood Area School District's biggest loser?

Who else but our very own Mr. Houp?

English teacher Zachary Steven Houp defeated all other competition in the district by losing the largest percentage of body weight during the first half of the school year. This amazing accomplishment was a product of pure will power, determination, and Weight-Watchers®.

"I was expecting a bit more competition than I appeared to actually face," stated Houp.

Over a grueling nine weeks, Houp managed to lose approximately 20 lbs., or about 11.5%, of his body weight. Houp has a history of being a "loser" within the Fleetwood Area School District. Last year, Houp was the high school's biggest loser and the district's 7th biggest loser.

"I owe a lot of credit to WeightWatchers® for this year's and last year's victories," Houp said.

Weight Watchers® is a program that works on a system of point values. Each person, according to the person's body type, is given a certain amount of food points to eat each day. He or she can eat whatever he or she wants; however, foods that are healthier are worth fewer points, so everyone is encouraged to eat better so that they do not remain hungry after meals.

Along with WeightWatchers®, Houp also cut out foods with "empty" calories. Empty calories are calories within foods that have little nutritional value for your body. For Houp, the most devastating loss was

cutting out cream and sugar in his daily coffee.

Even though Houp is basking in the glory of being the biggest loser, he is still glad the competition is over.

"My wife and I recently celebrated my birthday, Christmas, and our anniversary, so I've been eating a lot of unhealthy foods," said Houp, citing holiday pastries, birthday cakes, and chocolate as his biggest weaknesses.

Regardless of his current poor eating habits, Mr. Houp remains this district's biggest loser, and he has the Golden Sneaker Trophy to prove it.

By Alyssa Delp



# Thinking Robot to Play Jeopardy! Champions

Science and Technology

In 1997, the “Deep Blue” IBM computer beat a human world champion in a game of chess. It made true artificial intelligence a likely possibility for the masses. Deep Blue used logic to outsmart a human being in a game of analytical skill and judgment. In 2010, IBM took the next step. A computer named Watson will take on two of the most knowledgeable humans, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter, in a game of Jeopardy!

Watson may seem to possess a clear advantage in that, as a robot, he would have the ability to possess instant and correct responses by simply accessing data. But Watson will possess only the same skills and resources that a human contestant does. His “brain” consists of a small room with a few refrigerator-sized computers that house two key sections. The first and, seemingly, most important is Watson’s “knowledge.” Watson’s memory is simply a mass of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other factual resources that any human could read and understand. Watson will analyze these documents and pinpoint what each sentence means and how it relates to his answer.

The second facet of Watson’s intelligence is his understanding. Artificial Intelligence development requires an understanding of human in-

quiry. This necessitates knowledge of “natural” language. Natural language is a term that encompasses the grammatical elements of language as well as the idioms and nuances associated with how we speak every day. Jeopardy! requires contestants to answer questions that are sometimes phrased in puns or that include sarcasm. Watson is not merely programmed with “Question=Answer” algorithms; he must deduce the meaning of the question and then search through millions of documents, infer their connotations, and answer the question only if a definite level of certainty exists.

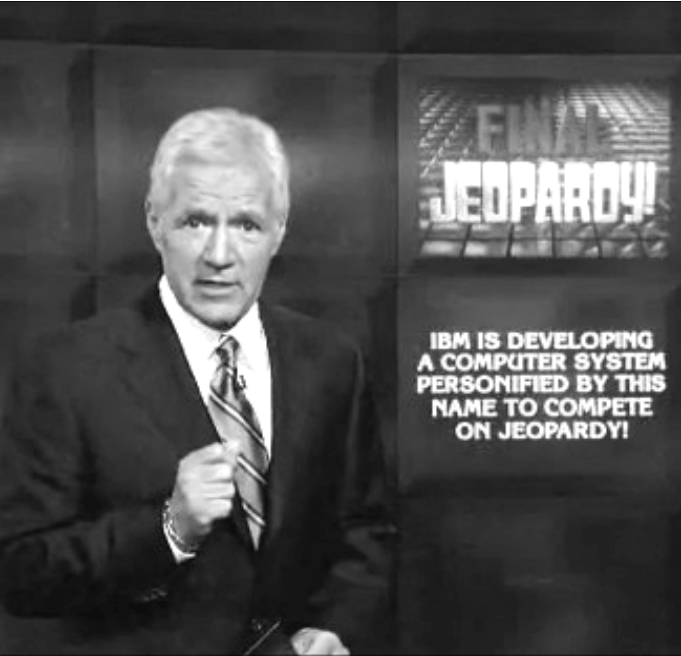
Watson is by no means perfect. He will sometimes misunderstand questions and give incorrect responses. He will not buzz in if his level of conviction for the correct response is not above a certain threshold. Watson, however, is surprisingly self-aware and manipulates his strategy based on his own strengths and weaknesses during a given game.

Fiction has depicted artificial intelligence for years. Since then, we have developed robots programmed to perform set tasks and others to understand data. But Watson differs from these imaginary robots in that he simply understands. The thousands of wires connecting the computers that provide him with his abilities are akin to basic synapses of a human brain.

In February, Watson will listen to Alex Trebek speak, understand his questions, and provide answers of his own. Watson is the beginning of a new era in artificial intelligence. The public will marvel at what humans have created and will anticipate the day when A.I. surpasses Watson and exists symbiotically with each and every one of us.

Watson is truly a mark of our species’ progress in modeling a being that exists in our own image.

By Matt Voyer



# America Likes Zuckerberg, "The Social Network"

Science and Technology

“Brilliantly entertaining and emotionally wrenching, Fincher and Sorkin have created a work of art. Audacious and funny, and ineffably beautiful; absolutely emblematic of its time and place, the best movie of the year,” said David Denby of the New Yorker about the popular film The Social Network.

Released October 1st, 2010, The Social Network depicts Mark Zuckerberg’s rise to fame after he created the largest social networking site, Facebook. At nearly 600 million users, the young Zuckerberg, at just 26-years-old, could not have imagined that what he created while a sophomore at Harvard University would become this phenomenon.

Not only has Facebook itself attracted fame, but David Fincher’s The Social Network has recently been equally popular, particularly among cinema critics. Up for six Golden Globe awards, including best picture, director, screenplay, leading actor, supporting actor, and original script, the film continues to retain its status as a hit. Starring Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, and Justin Timberlake, The Social Network landed on the American Film Institute’s top ten films of 2010 among other greats such as The Black Swan, Inception, Toy Story 3, The Kids are all Right, The Fighter, 127 Hours, True Grit,

Writers’ Bone, and The Town.

On top of what Zuckerberg has already accomplished in just a few short years, he was recently named TIME’s 2010 Person of the Year. He was named the winner above other finalists, including the Tea Party, Harmid Karzai, Julian Assange, and the Chilean Minors.

Mark Zuckerberg is part of the last generation that will remember life before the Internet. In just seven years, Zuckerberg has created a Facebook empire that is nearly twice the size of the United States. In fact, if Facebook were a country, it would be the third largest.

“We have entered the Facebook Age, and Mark Zuckerberg is the man who brought us here,” said Lev Grossman in a TIME article.

“For connecting more than half a billion people and mapping the social relations among them; for creating a new system of exchanging information that has become both indispensable and sometimes a little scary; and finally, for changing how we all live our lives in ways that are innovative, and even optimistic, Mark Elliot Zuckerberg is TIME’s 2010 Person of the Year” concluded TIME’s Richard Stengel.

By Elizabeth Bergman



# Lohan's Legal Troubles Continue

Arts/Entertainment

Lindsay Lohan was recently released from her third trip to rehab. The actress told The Sun, “I tried to mask my problems with cocaine, alcohol, and mind-altering substances. I ran myself down and lost track of who I was.”

Ironically, Lindsay pledged to be in rehab for about another year, but she decided to leave just a few months after starting her recovery.

“She should still be there and not next door at her girlfriend’s house,” said Senior Karley Eberhardt about Lohan’s choice to leave rehab early.

With the star commuting in and out of rehab, people have begun to ignore the faded star.

“Already? Isn’t she supposed to be in jail?” remarked Computer Room Monitor Matthew Kellet.

With the ongoing slip-ups, one can only wonder if the actress will ever get back on her feet. Even worse than leaving rehab months before she planned, Lohan was recently accused of attacking Betty Ford employee Dawn Holland and wrestling her phone away from her. If Lohan is convicted of the crime, she may be sentenced to 90 hours or more in prison. Worse yet, if she’s convicted of the crime, she will have violated her probation, which will be factored into the amount of time she may have to serve.

“The important, yet limited, investigatory role of the police to gather facts and collect evidence is well-established,” said Lohan’s attorney. “The fact that the Palm Desert Police Department went outside this limited role to issue a press statement expressing its opinion about Ms. Lohan’s case is highly unusual and deeply troubling.”

The world can only wonder if Lohan will get back on her feet, and one can only hope she finds the stability to return to the star she once was.

By Derek Evanosky

# Students Represent Fleetwood in Senior County Band

Arts/Entertainment

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors were recently eligible to audition for Senior County Band. Fleetwood’s musical department has always had an amazing reputation, and this year’s Senior County results were no exception.

Sophomore Taylor Delehanty, who plays clarinet III, was overjoyed to have made the cut: “It felt great to make it. I worked extremely hard and put a lot of time into the audition piece. It also felt very rewarding to beat seniors and people who have been playing much longer than I.”

Delehanty plans to continue auditioning during both her junior and senior years as well.

Another sophomore, Abe Jacobyansky, who plays Baritone Saxophone, also expressed his sense of accomplishment: “It is pretty cool making it my first year. It also makes me more confident about trying out for things in the future.”

“To the best of my knowledge,” said band director Charles Ebersole, “we’ve been attending since the 1950’s or 60’s when Berks County began their festivals. Senior Counties is a music festival for Band, Orchestra, and Chorus students. They audition for the respective groups in the fall by learning a solo piece of music and scales. The try-outs are often very competitive, so it is truly an honor to be accepted into the group. We had fourteen students make it last year, and this year twenty were accepted as a result of their auditions.”

Ebersole continued, “When students audition for honors bands, I am always glad that they took the initiative to learn the scales and the extra music. However, to have so many make the group is rare, and I am happy that we did so well.”

Other Fleetwood students attending Senior County Band include Elizabeth Bergman, Sarah Miller, Piper O’Keefe, Laura Schwartz, Summer Lileck, Elizabeth Tracy, Kristin Hartman, Josh Hartman, Steven Toney, Aaron Nelson, Jordan Shomper, Emily Metcalf, Isaac Moore, Kevin Stephen, Ryan Schlegel, Robert Paganelli, Dorie Wolford, and Erin Phillips.

By Melanie Lehman

# Betty White Turns 89!

Arts/Entertainment

On Monday, January 17th, 2011, Betty White, a veteran of Hollywood, celebrated her 89th birthday. The adored comedic actress has decades of success to celebrate.

Born in 1922, Betty White rose to fame by hosting her own radio shows. White moved with her family to Los Angeles during the Great Depression, which may have been what sparked her career. Once in California, she attended the Horace Mann School in Beverly Hills—the same school that celebrities Angelina Jolie and Nicholas Cage attended. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, White was on and off of several variety shows. In 1962, she made her film debut in the drama, “Advise and Consent.”

In 1973, White was cast in “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” and remained with the show until its end in 1977. Immediately following, she starred in her own television show, “The Betty White Show.” Unfortunately, the show was cancelled after only one season. She then began guest-starring in several television movies throughout the 1970s. White finally hit “gold” in 1985 when she was cast in the largely popular

television show, “The Golden Girls.” The series ran until 1992.

More recently, Betty regained her fame by starring in the hit 2009 movie “The Proposal” with Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. Betty White is currently starring in TV Land’s “Hot in Cleveland,” which is now in its second season.

Apart from being an actress, Betty White is a huge pet enthusiast and animal welfare activist. She has donated over \$100,000 to the Los Angeles Zoo. While on the David Letterman Show after her birthday, Betty said, “I like to do most anything, play with animals mostly.”

During White’s prosperous career, she has won seven Academy Awards and three American Comedy Awards. In 1988, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

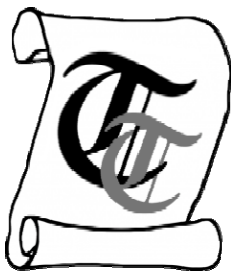
The day after her birthday, 89-year-old Betty had a giant party in New York to celebrate. At the party, she expressed how much fun she was having with all of her co-stars in “Hot in Cleveland.”

Happy Birthday, Betty White—and may there be many more to come!

By Justin Bruno







## Join the 2011-2012 *Tiger Times* Staff!

### Opinion/Editorial

During the past three years, I have been a member of the Fleetwood Area High School newspaper, The Tiger Times. For the past two years, I have been a primary editor for the paper. In that time, I have worked with Mrs. Nancy Mellon and Mr. Zachary Houpp to create the newspaper that you are all privileged enough to receive at no expense. In all honesty, it has been my most favorite class of my high school career.

In Journalism, the class in which Tiger Times reporters are enrolled, you are free to write about anything and everything that is newsworthy, using your own writing style, and having fun at the same time. Every member of the newspaper staff has his or her writing displayed in both the paper and the new website, TheTigerTimes.com, which was a recent addition to the club made by the new advisor, Mr. Houpp. This is Houpp's first year, and he has many ideas for the future of the newspaper.

"I want every home in the school district, even those without school-age children, to regularly see either the website or a print edition of our newspaper," says Houpp. "I consider it to be a community newspaper. The fact that it is written and produced by FAHS students makes it more unique but no less relevant to everyone in the area."

"Journalism gives me the opportunity to spend time with the best teacher in this school, Mr. Houpp," says Curtis Ryan, who is also the treasurer of the newspaper.

Ryan has been enrolled in Journalism for the past two years and served as the vice president last year.

A newcomer to the paper, senior Chad Dymeck, added, "Writing for the newspaper has given me an opportunity to expand my horizons and try something new."

The Tiger Times is an opportunity of which students should take advantage. If you would want to work in a writing, photography, or news field someday, taking this class will strengthen your résumé and credentials. Even if you are not interested in those fields, taking journalism would be an enjoyable class to take while still expanding your English skills.

As the newspaper grows, it will need more and more writers and viewpoints. To have your voice heard, your opinions expressed, and your words read, join The Tiger Times staff of the 2011-12 school year by signing up for Journalism during the upcoming months of course scheduling.

Speaking from personal experience, I can guarantee that you won't regret it.

By Cale Abeam

## FAHS Students will Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, and Dodge

### Sports

One of the most exciting and intense sports is coming to Fleetwood. A dodgeball tournament is being organized by the Fleetwood Olympians Club and will be held in the FAHS gym.

The tournament will be held at the end

of the school day on Friday, February 18th, 2011, which is a half day. The competition should be a rather thrilling event. Games will start between 12:30 and 1:00. The cost for spectator admission will be just \$1.00. Refreshments, pizza, and snacks will also be available for purchase.

The tournament will benefit the high school's weight room just as the volleyball tournament did several months ago. Physical Education teachers Susan Cammauf and Amy Barnett expect to have raised enough money to make their first purchase after this tournament.

Six players (with a minimum of one girl) will be permitted on each team. The cost for

having a team is \$5.00 per player. The tournament will be double elimination, and the games should last about seven or eight minutes each. Every team is guaranteed to play at least three games.

Stated Cammauf, "From past experiences, the games go very fast and are over in a blink of an eye."

Practice rounds will be permitted for all teams so that they can warm up before the real matches. Games are going to be set up using the volleyball court lines as boundaries. Normal Dodgeball rules will apply. If a player steps out-of-bounds, he or she is out. If a player catches a live ball, then he or she retrieves one teammate from the sidelines.

Contact Mrs. Cammauf or Miss Barnett if you have any questions or if you would like to know more information about the tournament.

By Justin Bruno



# Budget Meeting Offers Hope

### Finances

Despite the threat of fierce weather conditions, the Community Budget Workshop scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> occurred as scheduled in the Fleetwood Area High School Auditorium.

Superintendent Dr. Paul Eaken presided over the event alongside the elected school board, board president Tim Heffner, fellow administrators, and business manager Heidi Orth. The focus of the workshop was to analyze the current financial state of the school district and propose solutions to potential budget crises that the district may face in coming years.

The evening began with an informational presentation during which Eaken provided an overview of the current financial situation and how the budgeting process will progress in coming months. The foremost concern was the decrease of school revenue because of diminishing real estate values, reduction in state funding, the elimination of federal stimulus money, and the decrease of income tax funding because of greater unemployment. These limitations come in tandem with what Eaken termed "unfunded mandates," state and federal requirements that are not supported by increased money from the government; such requirements include transportation costs, records reporting, increased teacher training regulations, and charter school funding.

To proactively anticipate budgetary complications in the coming months, Eaken presented several cost cutting measures designed to maintain the school's diminishing revenue. Current plans include athletic cuts, limitations on facility use, employee reduction, elimination of bus runs, supply cuts, and limitations in technology and curriculum review spending. If more action is required, further bus runs may be cut, teaching positions may be

eliminated, departments will continue to decrease spending, and activity fees will be issued for certain extracurricular activities. In the end, however, Eaken did make clear that the elimination of certain school programs (Driver Education, Japanese, Latin, Elementary Strings) remains an ongoing possibility.

"Based on district projections," said Eaken, "the district must cut costs for the 2011-2012 school year by \$750,000."

Eaken then opened up the meeting for comments and suggestions from attending community members. Each person was offered three minutes to share his or her ideas, and while no answers to questions were guaranteed at the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, a Frequently Asked Questions page on the district website ([www.fleetwoodasd.k12.pa.us](http://www.fleetwoodasd.k12.pa.us)) is expected to confront these concerns within the next two weeks.

Community suggestions included potential use of green energy sources, the consolidation of buildings, collaboration between

school groups, retirement incentives for senior teachers, and the elimination of certain elective curricula. The program that was most under attack was the current bussing procedure, which many community members deemed as wasteful and inefficient. While Eaken proposed reducing three bus runs to a mere two, some community members expressed concern about the prospect of fifth graders being exposed to eighteen-year-olds during daily transportation.

While many supported the district's attempt to reduce costs with a minimal decrease to school personnel, few seemed open to the notion of a referendum that would potentially increase property taxes beyond the state limit.

Many of the district's budgeting concerns remain uncertain while the state's financial plans remain unclear; for this reason, Fleetwood's budgetary situation remains, as Eaken described it, "vague" and "nebulous." In addition to the unfunded mandates, state and fed-

eral regulation was the subject of additional criticism by some community members who believed that increased state testing may be putting restrictions on the academic potential of the students. Many speakers pleaded for continued petitioning of state and national politicians to maintain funding that is commensurate with prescribed regulation.

In addition to offering suggestions for resolving the financial dilemma, many citizens offered heartfelt anecdotes about certain educational programs. Several individuals defended the need for adequate foreign language instruction and pleaded with board members to maintain the diverse selection of languages offered by the district; defenders of German as a school subject seemed to have the largest following. Community members also expressed strong support for athletics, prizing its value as a socialization, character-building, and health-maintenance tool. Others, however, responded by expressing equally strong concern that the focus of community suggestions were too devoted to rescuing sporting teams rather than developing students intellectually. This line of questioning evolved into concern that budget cuts not restrict the capacity for effective and successful educators to persevere in the district.

Overall, the tone for the evening was relaxed. Eaken closed the meeting with his sincere gratitude for the community's time and suggestions. He then fielded some of the community's biggest concerns.

The workshop concluded with an invitation from Eaken to attend the formal school board meeting immediately following the workshop and to communicate national and state concerns to the appropriate politicians.

By Zachary Steven Houpp

### Eaken's responses to frequently asked audience questions included:

- limitations on the weight room only pertain to community usage and not to student usage;
- grants and sponsorships remain a constant focus of FASD administrators;
- the operation of the former Fleetwood Elementary School is not a district expense but also does not provide revenue;
- the relationship with the Tri Valley YMCA does not provide district revenue but does offer additional curricular opportunities for the district;
- a two-tiered bus schedule would require an alteration of school hours for some grade levels;
- bussing middle and high school students together has reduced behavior problems in other districts;
- parents, not the district, fund a majority of field trip experiences;
- the district has considered offering space in Willow Creek Elementary to the Berks County Intermediate Unit as a means of securing revenue.

# LeVan’s Website Offers Tips for Improving Student Diet

Health/Medicine

Eating healthy is a recommendation that people hear often, but most people do not seem to really know what it means to truly be healthy in their eating habits. Fleetwood’s very own physical education teacher Carole LeVan took it upon herself to help inform students of healthy ways to eat by creating a website centered around good eating habits and selecting foods that help athletes perform better.

“While teaching *Health* and *Sports & Nutrition* classes, I was amazed to hear the misinformation many students have about nutrition and how to get a competitive edge,” said LeVan. “It is kind of scary to hear about some of the unhealthy choices athletes are making. They do not realize how dangerous those decisions can be.”

“The website,” LeVan continued, “is meant to be used as a resource for providing nutritional information to athletes, coaches, and

parents. If athletes would make changes to their diets, they could feel better and see improvement in their overall strength, speed, and performance. These changes can help give them a competitive edge over other athletes and teams.”



Scan this QR code on a smartphone to access LeVan’s website.

Fleetwood student and wrestler Austin Haas is one person who has found success with some of the tips and information on the website.

Said Haas, “I think the website is good for helping to inform people about ways to eat healthy and to inform them of what foods are ‘healthy foods.’”

In general, people are exposed to so many dietary options that are bad for them that nutrition seems to be a lost cause. With this website, LeVan hopes that she will soon be able to reach out to people and cure their bad eating habits and poor food and drink choices.

LeVan’s competitive nutrition website can be accessed at the following URL address: <<https://sites.google.com/site/fwcompetitivenutrition>>.

By Derek Petersen

# Camel Craze Continues

Community

Many people who live in or drive through Fleetwood know of the Fleetwood camel. The camel currently resides next to Boyer’s with a variety of other animals.

“I think he looks friendly, and he brightens my day, and I wish I knew him,” says FAHS student Autumn Noll.

Believe it or not, camels originated in Asia and came to America over the temporary land bridge connecting Alaska and the continent of Asia. Camels are nomadic, so it is logical that they migrated to South America and South Africa. Camels are omnivorous and eat whatever is available. They are also good at adapting to their climates. That means no worries for our friend in town.

Erica Groncki, currently a freshman at the high school, says, “He’s really fun to watch. I know he doesn’t really do much, but I just love camels and I think they’re adorable! I have always wanted to go up the fence and just pet him!”

The camel has been in Fleetwood for a number of years, and no one really seems to know why it is there or how old it is. Fortunately, camels have a very long lifespan of 40 to 50 years.

Mrs. Shelton, the drafting teacher here at Fleetwood Area High School, says, “I did not know a camel was here because I don’t live in Fleetwood, but when I saw it while on a trip to Boyer’s one morning, I had to do a double take because I didn’t believe it!”

The camel is sure an interesting twist to this suburban town, and it will always be enjoyed. What other small towns in Pennsylvania have a camel residing in them? This camel surely makes Fleetwood different.

Tyler Lance, a sophomore in the high school, agrees: “It is very awkward and irregular, but pretty sweet.”

M & M Mechanical, the apparent owners of the camel, refused to comment on the animal. However, the camel’s Facebook page does indicate that it is bilingual.

By Desirae Leshner

# PDA a Nuisance for All

Opinion/Editorial

Many students dwell on the topic of Public Displays of Affection. Students see couples practicing PDA in the hallways almost every day. Teachers reprimand these students, telling them that it is unnecessary and that they should go to class. Efforts have been made to stop PDA in school, but many seem to fail.

In the beginning of the year, Public Displays of Affection were not as prevalent as they are now, at the beginning of the third quarter. PDA makes both students and teachers feel uncomfortable.

Said drafting instructor Sara Shelton, “If you have to wipe the slobber off your face, then you know you are into it too much.” She also stated that the area around her room attracts a lot of students interested in PDA.

“It’s disgusting,” says English teacher Sarah Wilkinson.

“I, for one, can’t figure out why they want to kiss in the first place,” says English teacher Zachary Houpp. “The only things that ever came of kissing were disease-swapping and chapped lips. And don’t even get me started on

cooties.”

Most students and all teachers don’t like walking through the hallways and seeing an over-exaggeration of PDA. For FAHS Principal Michael DeAntonio, it goes beyond modesty and becomes an issue of respect.

“We should be in a place where students should be respectful enough to not make out in the hallway,” states DeAntonio.

It may be disturbing for students when they see others making out, but it is the teachers’ responsibility to stop the couple in the hallway; students should not be the heroes of modesty at FAHS. The students should not attempt to stop the gesture because it could create more of a problem than it solves.

Holding hands and sharing quick kisses would be okay in the hallway as long as these acts didn’t disturb others in the hallway. But when those gestures grow in intensity, a line has been clearly crossed.

Offenders were too lip-locked to comment.

By Brittney Stuffle

# Para-Less?

Entertainment/Arts



In mid-December, Paramore fans all over the world were shocked by the news that guitarist Josh Farro left the band with drummer Zac, his brother. The Farro brothers helped create the band in 2004 along with bassist Jeremy Davis and lead singer, Hayley Williams. They picked up Taylor York, who is another guitarist, along the way.

Paramore is a group of young adults who come from Franklin, Tennessee. The band started recording its first album, “All We Know is Falling,” when Williams was only 17 years old. In 2007, the band’s album, “Riot!” sold over two million copies worldwide, and the group was nominated for a Grammy for “Best New Artist.”

Paramore’s latest album, “Brand New Eyes,” was their most personal work yet. With songs like “Looking Up” and “The Only Exception,” the album was a hit. The rollercoaster ride Paramore has been on during the past few years helped to shape “Brand New Eyes” and made the group stronger as a whole.

Or so it seemed. Sometimes being a successful band isn’t enough. Paramore fans are still unsure exactly why the Farro brothers left.

“We want Josh and Zac to do something that makes them happy and if that isn’t here with us, then we support them finding happiness elsewhere,” said Williams in her blog on the Paramore website. This was the first confirmation to fans that the Farro brothers had indeed left.

Meanwhile, Paramore is embarking on its most successful year, yet the band no longer seems as limitless as it once did. The remaining members have already found a replacement drummer and guitarist and still plan to make a new album. Williams recently tweeted that she is already making demos for the new album.

“We really hope that you can be encouraged by the fact that the three of us who are still here are ready to take on another chapter of our journey together,” said Williams.

By Madison Rice

# "Misa's Fugue" Continues Scripting and Editing

Entertainment/Arts

With each passing month, the end of the school year grows nearer and nearer, and accompanying the end of school is the anticipated release of the FAHS Holocaust documentary. The documentary has a tentative release date of late May, and Media teacher Sean Gaston’s students and production staff are working very hard to have the film ready for that time.

“The editing phase had begun,” Gaston stated regarding the film’s progress. “We are about halfway through a rough cut, which is strictly dealing with the audio. We also took a trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where Mrs. Goss, and I spent two days filming inside the permanent exhibit. We also spent time inside the film and photo archives finding footage. We are now waiting for the footage to come back from the lab.”

Gaston also had nothing but praise for his student editors: “They’ve been doing well. Some have been getting fatigued—some more than others. It is tedious, the work, but I think it will pick up once we receive the footage from the museum.”

The film’s screenwriter, English teacher Zachary Steven Houpp, has also been working diligently on the documentary.

“In the beginning, I eliminated everything that wouldn’t go into the film, organized everything in the script, and then shaped all of our subject’s monologue into a narrative,” said Houpp.

But, according to Houpp, his responsibilities are not yet at an end: “I will be responsible for the smaller writing assignments like the DVD cover and things of that nature as we move closer to the release date.”

With all of this happening, one would think that the project is nearing completion, but that is not the case. According to Gaston, there is still a lot left to do, and the filmmakers are only about four months away from their premiere.

But, as the saying goes, you can’t rush perfection.

By Derek Petersen

# High School Cell Phone Policy May Face Future Revision

Science/Technology

In mid-December, a high school faculty meeting inspired discussion on the potential need for a revision of the school’s cell phone policy. The current cell phone policy at FAHS is that students are allowed to bring cell phones into school, but they should be turned off during class time, between classes, and at any other times that they would disrupt school activities.

Dan Milloy, a junior at Fleetwood Area High School, says, “No cell phones are supposed to be used, but it seems different teachers enforce the rule(s) differently.”

Many schools in Berks County have similar policies with only slight modifications. Brandywine Heights restricts the use of cell phones during the school day, in the school building, on school property, and at extracurricular activities. In Wyomissing, students are prohibited to use cell phones before school and during the school day until 2:15, when the school day is over.

David Martini, another junior at FAHS, says, “The rule is that cell phones should be kept off or in your locker.”

Kelsey Roberts, a sophomore at the high school, says, “I don’t know the rule, but all I know is that we are not allowed to have them.”

As of now, Fleetwood is not overtly pursuing a revision of the policy. However, the first step to revising the policy would include a group discussion with students, teachers, and administrators to see if anything needs to be changed. The discussion would focus on the responsible use of smart phones, personal digital assistants, and other electronic devices.

Nonetheless, as a result of the ongoing cell-phone discussion, DeAntonio concluded, “If any revisions are made, we will always try to include them in the student handbook for the following school year.”

By Desirae Leshner





# "Soul Mates" Offers a Stirring Conclusion to *Angel* Trilogy

Review

In Elizabeth Chandler's book "Soul Mates," Ivy starts letting Tristan go, but she soon finds that he has become her guardian angel. For the first time in a long time, she starts believing in angels again. She also starts to grow cautious everywhere she goes. Gregory takes Phillip to the railroad tracks, and this makes Ivy very curious. She goes and finds Will, a friend of hers, to ask for help finding them. As they look for Gregory and Phillip, they realize it is a trap.

The story is coming to an end, and Ivy has to learn to let go. Tristan can only help until she's safe; then he has to move on to his next life.

This book does not take long to finish because it is such an amazing read. The reader is effectively immersed in the scenes where everything is happening. The whole book is full of drama, which keeps you hooked.

Ivy very ambitiously tries to find out who could be after her and why the perpetrator killed Tristan. She also has a lot of emotional moments and has to make some difficult deci-

sions. She finally knows she isn't on her own. She also realizes that Tristan may still be around, but he isn't able to hug her or kiss her like he used to do. Tristan is just finally happy that Ivy believes in angels again.

At last, Phillip can speak about angels around Ivy, and he feels so excited to show Ivy everything that has been going on. Ivy and Phillip grow a lot closer as they try to survive together. Phillip also tries to get away from Gregory because he has a feeling that it is not a good idea to be around him.

As Tristan tries to solve the rest of the mystery, he has to deal with Gregory, who keeps getting into trouble. Gregory starts to demonstrate how his life keeps falling apart. Tristan finds that Gregory starts doing drugs, slowly killing himself.

As time moves closer to the scene at the railroad tracks, the mystery will soon be revealed. But in order to find out, you have to read the book!

By Brittney Stuffle

# STAND Club raises Awareness for Darfur

School

New to Fleetwood this year is the STAND club.

The club's purpose is to make students aware of the issue of genocide taking place around the world.

Media teacher Sean Gaston, one of the club's advisors, decided to start the club along with history teachers Jennifer Goss and Paul Kochanasz. Gaston was driven to form the organization after he heard about a man who organized the worldwide movement "Speak." Gaston was so moved by what the man said that he decided to bring the cause to Fleetwood.

Since Mr. Gaston has been so devoted to the Holocaust documentary project, Mrs. Goss and Mr. Kochanasz have been the main advisors.

The club talks about all of the different places around the world where genocide is occurring.

Megan Fella is the president of the club for its inaugural year, and Molly Flannery and Mallory Christman are the Vice president and Secretary, respectively.

Said Flannery, "We hope to raise money and awareness for genocide everywhere and give money to countries in need, such as Darfur."

Darfur is one of the main talking points in the club because it is a region that has been dealing with the imminent split of its parent country, Sudan, which plans on dividing itself into two separate coun-



tries.

By Curtis Ryan

# Students Offer At-Home Extermination Techniques

How To



Have you ever seen a big bug in your drain spout or kitchen sink?

How about in that spot you just can't reach unless you're Josh Watkins?

I'm sure I wouldn't have had the slightest idea how to kill it!

Here are some suggestions to help you in this awkward situation.

The first idea is the most simple; you just have to squish them.

Ethan Martinez tells anyone who wants to kill a bug that you have to eat them to get rid of them for good.

Olivia Kiska does not kill bugs. She simply flushes the bug down the toilet.

English teacher Sarah Wilkinson doesn't do the dirty work herself; she gets her husband to kill insects for her.

Ryan Cortazzo uses his feet.

Dan Zebrine does not like to kill bugs because he considers it inhumane. Says Zebrine, "Anyone who kills an insect should be put on trial for murder."

Senior Jaron Weeks offers the following suggestion: "You get a paper towel and a plastic cup, and then you put the bug in the cup and light the paper towel on fire. Then the bug suffocates."

Editor's Note: The Tiger Times does not advise the above method, and individuals should be cautious at all times when interacting with fire.

Another idea to kill insects is to get a yardstick with an old sock on the end and use it to get those spots you can't reach on your own. It's a great help if you're not the tallest tree in the forest.

But the best piece of advice is to be creative and make up a new extermination idea that is right for you.

However, the easiest way to kill a large amount of bugs is still just to call an exterminator.

By Erica Ebner

# "Safe Haven" Another Success for Sparks

Review

Nicholas Sparks has proven himself to be an amazing writer who never fails to grab his reader. His new book, entitled "Safe Haven," continues this tradition.

The novel centers on Erin, a young woman who is living with her abusive husband in Dorchester. She has made attempts before to run away, but she has yet to summon the strength to keep going and never return.

But, after being controlled and beaten by Kevin for so long, she finally devises a foolproof plan to leave. She concocts a plan that gives her enough time to make a safe departure before he realizes she is gone.

Erin makes her way down south and manages to get enough money for a small cottage by working at the local diner. In order to maintain her safety, she changes her name to Katie. The first person she meets is Jo, her neighbor and new best friend. Jo convinces Erin to befriend Alex, a widowed man who lives nearby.

No one is aware of Katie's past, and even as her relationship with Alex grows, she

tries her best to keep it a secret out of fear that he will leave her.

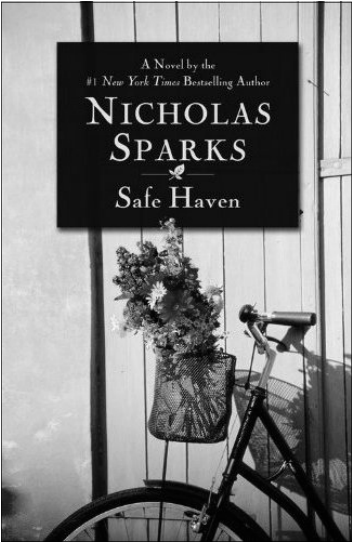
For a while, Erin's whereabouts remain a mystery to Kevin, but he eventually tracks her down. Drunk and disoriented, he makes his way to Alex's home and sees Katie in the upstairs window. Instead of shooting her with his gun, he decides to set the store on fire. It does not take him long to coat the walls in gasoline and set it ablaze.

Miraculously, Katie manages to escape along with Alex's two small children, but only to fall into the wrath of her estranged husband. While the kids run to safety, Kevin grabs Katie and holds a gun to her head.

The rest transpires in typical Nicholas Sparks fashion, but you will have to read it for yourself.

"Safe Haven" is a wonderful story with a fantastic ending that can only be understood by reading the entire novel. Although I would consider the book to be a tear jerker, "Safe Haven" is also filled with love, perseverance, and determination.

By Kaitlynn Stott



Allyson Burt, Nicole Knabb, Matt Qualio, and Bree Rainey of Cinderella.

# Cast of Cinderella Prepares for Broken Legs

Arts/Entertainment

This year, the FAHS Theatrical Society has decided to perform "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella." In case you were wondering, it is not even close to the Disney adaptation!

The performance will be held on the following days and at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium: March 17th (Senior Citizens Night), March 18th, and March 19th.

The cast this year is an exceedingly talented bunch. Playing the prince is senior Jordan Shomper; the fairy god-mother, Demi Rissmiller; the step-mother, Marissa Bubbenmoyer; the step-sisters, Elyse Eliker and Sarah Kilgore; the king, Issac Moore; the queen, Alyson Burt; Lionel, Zach Mourar; and Cinderella, sophomore Carly Hawkins.

Director Matthew Biniek explained his selection of the show: "I had fifteen girls who wanted a show, and no guys wanted to do a musical. Cinderella was the best pick."

Continued Biniek, "At this point, no—I'm not ready for the show! Ask me again next month!"

Marissa Bubbenmoyer said, "Generally, I'm not a mad person, so I'm not like the character. When I'm on stage, I'm not myself, but I am happiest there."

Sarah Kilgore wanted to clarify some key elements of her characterization: "Since I'm the awkward step-sister, I think it fits me well because I'm loud and crazy and awkward. The only difference is I'm not a snob."

Actor Kalyn Hess commented, "I've done musicals, but I'm not used to the hours I needed to put into this one. But it's rewarding, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

The show has already been a lot of fun, and spectators will find it more than worth the while. Many people are putting countless hours of work and passion into the show, and they would love to share the end result with the district and community.

If you are interested in helping out, see Mr. Biniek or production designer Elaine Hilbert. Just because you aren't on the stage doesn't mean you can't have a role!

By Melanie Lehman

# Saint Valentine's Holiday Observed

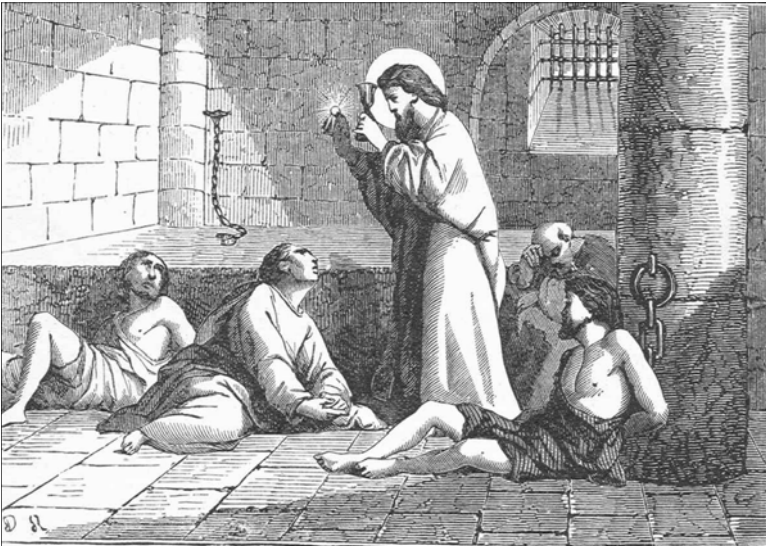
Profile

Valentine's Day is a time when people get together and celebrate love. They give flowers, candy, and cards; they give kisses and hugs. Valentine's Day has been celebrated for years beyond recall, but what started this lovable holiday?

Long ago, the Roman Empire held a celebration every year called the Lupercian Festival. The Lupercian festival was held for the God of Fertility. In this celebration, men would pick out a mate and marry her. Marriage was very common in the Roman Empire, but when Claudius became Emperor, he outlawed the rite.

important holiday in the entire world, but it is the most loved.

By Emily DeLong



Claudius was afraid that men would refuse their duty to fight in battle, choosing instead to stay home with their wives. Even though Claudius outlawed marriage, couples still fell in love and wanted to marry.

A Catholic Bishop named Valentine understood the feelings of love and started secretly marrying couples. Claudius found out about Valentine's secret marriages and sent him to jail until his execution.

While Valentine was in jail, he met the jailer's daughter and quickly fell in love with her. Of course, since Valentine had been issued a death sentence, he was not going to be able to see his love for very long.

On the day that Valentine was beheaded, he wrote his love one last note. It was signed, "From your Valentine."

Every Valentine's Day, we celebrate this holiday by expressing love towards one another. Valentine died for love, and he showed Romans and all who remember his name that love is worth dying for.

Valentine's Day may not be the most

# Random Quotes from Random Kids

Humor

These quotes are designed to make you laugh, giggle, or possibly cry, so have fun. All quotes are recommended by students from Fleetwood Area High School. It is not our fault if you are disappointed; you just need to get a better sense of humor!

- "I don't hate the other surfers; I just don't want them around."--Autumn Noll, suggested by Andy Moran
- "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."--Maya Angelou, suggested by Mrs. Sosik
- "They say I was a bad Batman, that it was my fault, that I buried the franchise. But the truth is, it was a big project. I was pretty intimidated in that world. I did the best I could in the situation I was given."—George Clooney, suggested by Cameron Weeks
- "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."—Jesus, suggested by Mrs. Cindy Steele
- "I'm a good girl."—Hello Kitty, suggested by Jasmine Ohlinger

By Erica Ebner

# January Hosts Unusual Holidays

Humor

There are many unique and bizarre holidays that the average person has never even heard of, yet a few of them would catch anyone's eye. While some of the holidays are hilarious, others are simply absurd.

"Run up the Flagpole and See if Anyone Salutes Day" is a day when people try something new, but no conclusive origin for the celebration is known. January 2nd is the day of the holiday, which seems appropriate since it can reflect individuals with New Year's resolutions.

What would be better than celebrating a holiday that allows you to sleep in? More importantly, What day is it? The answer is January 3rd. There was no real creator for this

holiday. But one quick suggestion: Go to work so you don't get fired!

"We still had to go to school anyways," laments Joyce Zheng.

Everyone always has someone with whom to cuddle, and January 6th is a day called "Cuddle Up Day." This day can be celebrated with a pet, an object, or even a person. Most people choose a person.

"Cuddling with human beings sounds disgusting to me," says English teacher Zachary Houpp. "That's why I have my dog Phoebe. We cuddle until she tries to eat my face."

FAHS student Dan Zebrine said, "Veronica Kraft is who I would cuddle up

with. And my cat is cute, so I would cuddle with it."

Andy Moran stated, "Ryan Cortazzo is definitely someone I would cuddle up with." Fortunately, Ryan Cortazzo agrees: "Yea, I'd cuddle up with Andy Moran."

Some choices, however, were even more improbable. For example, Selena Gomez was Ethan Martinez's selection.

Harold Pullman Coffin created a National Nothing Day in 1973. Nothing is really known about this day, probably because Coffin did nothing to create it.

By Carol Zheng

## Random Cheese

With whom would you spend Valentine's Day, and where would you go?

"Drew Zebertavage. I would take him to Red Lobster."

"Acacia Gerhard. I would take her out for some great wings."

"I am taking Ethan Martinez to Applebee's."

"Edwin Enriquez. I would take him to my house and eat some arroz con pollo."

"Horseback riding with Selena Gomez."

"Selena Gomez."

Kyle Gehret '11 and Ethan Martinez '11

Elizabeth Geisinger '13

"I would go Build-A-Bear with Tyler Lance."

"I would take Piper O'Keefe ice skating."

Colemann Mitchell '13

Top: Ryan Cortazzo '12 and Ethan McGlinsey '11  
Bottom: Chris Lawrence '11 and Andrew Moran '12

By Carol Zheng



# Sports Fan Behavior Causes Concern at Games

Sports

Fans have always been supportive at Fleetwood sporting events by coming out and cheering on the Tigers as they participate in whatever sport is being played. This support has only grown in the past couple of years because of the new stadium and improved athletic facilities. However, with the increased turnout comes a higher population of student spectators. In recent weeks, the student section at sporting events, both home and away, has been deemed “rowdy and unsportsmanlike” by some.

The incident that was most notably documented in recent weeks occurred when a whistle was blown from the stands during the final seconds of the Fleetwood Boys’ basketball win against Oley Valley. This gesture resulted in a technical foul, but the final score was 68-60 anyway.

This incident has led Matthew Diehl, Fleetwood’s Athletic Director, to issue warnings to certain students. As a healthy reminder to all, he has also posted the Berks County Interscholastic Athletic Association’s rules for fan behavior. These rules outline what fans are not allowed to bring, display, or use at sporting events, such as laser pointers, towels, whistles, and signs. The rules also request that all fans cheer for their respective team in a positive manner and behave



respectfully to the opposition. Fleetwood Girls’ basketball coach Matt Kellet added his input on the situation: “Fans should come to sporting events to represent their school in a proper, respectful manner. Those fans that attend the game shouldn’t be drawing attention to themselves instead of the game. It’s just unnecessary.” However, some students disagree. “I believe fans should carry the team with their spirit and be one of the biggest aspects of going to a sporting event,” said Junior Dan Milloy.

Fellow Junior Andy Moran agreed: “I believe that the incident with the whistle was blown out of proportion. It was a single offense at a time that was not crucial in the game because Fleetwood was up 10 with only 7 seconds to go.” Regardless of such conflicting viewpoints, the point of attending a high school sporting event is to support friends, family, and peers in a manner that is not derogatory or offensive to anyone. Professional athletes are paid and, therefore, are more susceptible to heckling or disrespectful fan behavior as a part of their job. High School athletes are students above all else, and treating them disrespectfully is no better than bullying someone in a normal school atmosphere

By Cale Ahearn

# Blocked Websites at School are State, not District, Regulation

Science/Technology

Have you ever tried working on a project in school and have not been able to complete it because the school has every possible website blocked? Here’s why...

Fleetwood initially started blocking websites because they were simply inappropriate. Now the school district is required by law to block these websites. The only websites that are supposed to be unblocked are those with legitimate educational value to students. Sometimes the program 8e6 will re-block websites that the school has specifically told them not to block, which may be part of the reason why so many websites with little objectionable material may be blocked.

According to Technology Supervisor Jane Fawcett, the following content is deemed inappropriate: “pornography, obscene material, adult content, gambling, gaming, criminal skills,



hate and discrimination, illegal drugs, cheating, terrorism/militant/extremist activities or content, instant messaging, hacking, malicious code and viruses, phishing, spyware, shopping, weapons, etc.” The choices for which websites should or should not be blocked are based on whether administrators feel that the site will genuinely support the school’s curriculum. If there is a blocked website that a teacher plans on using for class, the school can make arrangements for it to be unblocked. Although it may seem as though the school is always against the students, trying to ruin their fun, in all actuality the school is simply acting as a caretaker, watching over and protecting teens from the vile images and ideas that the Internet has to offer.

By Chad Dymeck

# New Overtime Tradition Offers Post-Game Fun

Sports

“Overtime” is Fleetwood’s popular new school activity that students can attend after major sporting events.

The concept for Overtime was brought to the attention of the Fleetwood Area High School by Mr. Jim Boyer, a Fleetwood resident. He had heard about Overtime taking place at other schools and wanted to make it active here in Fleetwood. “The purpose of overtime is to give students a place to hang out after a game,” says FAHS Principal Michael DeAntonio. “It’s a safe alternative to other, more dangerous options.” In another local school district, students were drinking and driving after a sporting event, and they subsequently died in an avoidable car accident. This is just one inspiration for Overtime.

Instead of students going out after



events and undertaking illicit activities such as drugs or alcohol, they can come out to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church here in Fleetwood.

There is one more Overtime remaining for this school year, and it is scheduled for sometime in January after a basketball game. One of the highlights of attending Overtime is that there are always tons of free pizza for the students to eat. There is also always a DJ or a live band playing for students. All a student needs for admission is to be a Fleetwood student and to bring his or her student I.D. card.

DeAntonio

and the Fleetwood Area School District would like to continue Overtime in future years. Overtime is a fun social environment where friends and students can meet together to fraternize and eat some free food, so make sure to come out and attend the next final Overtime for the 2010-2011 school year.

By Chad Dymeck

# March Madness Hits FAHS

Sports

On Friday, March 18th, March Madness will hit the FAHS gym. The Fleetwood Olympians Club is holding a basketball tournament for high school students. This is the third tournament in the club’s saga, and the money raised will yet again benefit the weight room at the high school.

The 18th is a half day, so games will begin immediately after school at 12:30 p.m. The entire event will be organized by physical education teachers Susan Cammauf and Amy Barnett. The teams will be 3-on-3 with a maximum of 5 people on a team, substitutions are allowed. Each team must have at least one female athlete. The cost for having a team is \$5.00 per person, and each team is encouraged to create personalized uniforms. The competition will be a double elimination tournament with a minimum of four games guaranteed to each participating team. Warm-up time will be permitted before the start

of the tournament. By also using the auxiliary gym, up to six games will be occurring simultaneously. Each round will be ten minutes long. In the event of a tie, there will be a one minute sudden death match. If there is still no basket made, a competition of foul shots will determine the winner. At the end of the tournament, the final champions will play the faculty team.

The games should be very entertaining for spectators as well. Admission will be just \$1.00. Food and drinks, including pizza, will also be available at the tournament. “I want to see you there, so bring it!” said Cammauf. The Olympians Club greatly appreciates any donations offered for the tournament. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the tournament, please contact Mrs. Cammauf or Ms. Barnett.

By Justin Bruno

# Tiger Mascot Is Unmasked

Sports

For years, the tiger mascot has been a tradition here at Fleetwood, but rarely are people exposed to the thoughts of those who serve as the school’s mascot. Ryan Cortazzo, who recently acted as the school’s mascot during the fall pep rally, describes his time in the costume as “fun.” “Being the Fleetwood Tiger, in my opinion, is a great honor,” says Cortazzo. “Having this responsibility is very important to me, and it was a great experience. I like being able to just run around and act ridiculous for a bit without worrying what people say.”

And who could blame him? Being concealed by the mascot gives the wearer the freedom to entertain as he or she pleases. Andy Moran, who recently wore the tiger suit at the winter pep rally, described his experience as something a bit less than pleasant. “It is the most uncomfortable outfit I’ve ever been in,” said Moran, “but it was still a lot of fun.” Other schools are not nearly as fortunate. “I like that Fleetwood has a consistently used mascot. At my old school, they never had the mascot at games, which I thought was kind of stupid,” says Acacia Gerhard. Hopefully, the mascot tradition will remain alive here at Fleetwood. Students always seem to enjoy his various shenanigans, his spirit,

and his liveliness, no matter who is in the suit. Many believe that the school will change its name before it changes the mascot tradition.

By Derek Evanosky



# Wisdom Teeth Cause a Pain in the Mouth

Health/Medicine

To avoid a toothache, keep your mouth clean. But for wisdom teeth, pain is inevitable.

Many high school students have their wisdom teeth removed, and sometimes people don't have the surgery until well into their twenties.

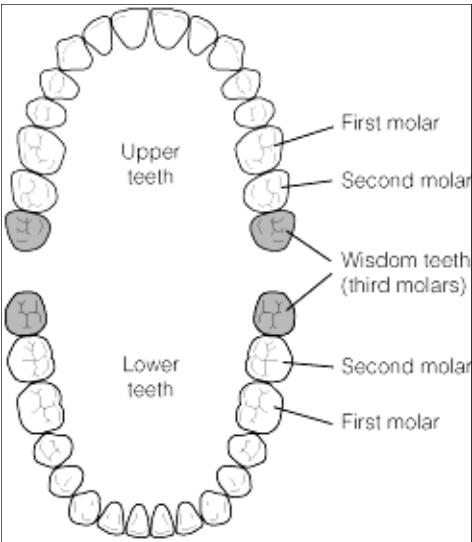
Wisdom teeth are a third set of molars. The majority of the time, they are misaligned, and removal is necessary. But every once in a while, they can be an asset and properly aligned.

When they are misaligned, many potential problems may arise. They can crowd out and damage teeth, the jawbone, or nerves. They can lean towards the second molars and make them more vulnerable to decay by trapping bacteria and inflaming the gums with infection.

Teeth that remain partially or completely trapped within the tissue or jawbone are termed "impacted." If impacted teeth become infected, they can cause pain, swelling, jaw stiffness, and general illness. These teeth are prone to tooth decay and gum disease because of their hard-to-reach location.

If any of these symptoms arise, a dentist or oral surgeon should be a patient's first resource. Chances are, at this point in the process, a doctor will recommend that these teeth be extracted before further problems develop.

Depending on the position of the teeth, the ease of the extraction can be incredibly simple or a complete hassle. Often times, the tooth will be removed in small sections rather than whole to minimize the amount of bone that needs to be removed.



Before the teeth are removed, the teeth and surrounding tissue will be numbed with anesthetic. After this, the dentist or oral surgeon will decide whether to use a sedative to control anxiety. These sedative medications include nitrous oxide an oral sedative (ex. Valium), or an intravenous sedative. Doctors always recommend that patients have someone escort them home after the procedure, both for safe transportation and at-home pampering.

The speed of recovery will depend on the difficulty of the removal. In the first twenty-four hours, patients can expect bleeding and facial swelling. Pain medications, antibiotics, and a liquid diet are the norm for the first few days. Also, recovering patients must be sure to keep their mouths clean. They should rinse with salt water and be careful when brushing.

After the first twenty-four hours, facial swelling will still be evident. Applying ice can help with the swelling. The patient should keep rinsing his or her mouth with salt water, not commercial rinses. The stitches, if they were used and not the self-dissolving kind, will be removed in about a week. Also, patients should be wary of signs of dry-socket, which is a common complication that occurs when a blood clot has either failed to form or become dislodged.

The price of the procedure varies depending on the area of the country, but insurance will usually cover all or most of it. Let time take its course, and all should be well in a matter of a week or two.

By Morgan Adams

# Uggs Have Ugly Consequences for Feet

Fashion

Take a look almost anywhere you go, and chances are you are bound to spot at least one pair of UGG boots. Arguably one of the biggest fashion trends for teen girls right now, UGGs and their imitation brands can be seen everywhere.

After all, what is not to like about them? The trendy sheepskin boots are extremely versatile, wearers can dress them up or down, the shoes come in a variety of colors and styles, and they are easy to slip on and off. UGG Australia has seen nothing but success in recent years. They were named Foot-wear News' "Brand of the Year" in 2003, and UGGs have also appeared on "Oprah's Favorite Things" list five times since 2000.

Although it is easy to spot the pros about UGG boots, it may not be as easy to identify the health risks associated with wearing them.

"Because these boots are soft and warm, young girls think they are giving their feet a break. In fact, they are literally breaking their feet," said Dr. Ian Drysdale, head of the British College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In fact, the only shoe that is worse for your feet than UGGs are imitation UGGs. Because "Fuggs" (slang for "fake UGGs") typically do not have sheepskin on the inside that form fits to feet, they will slide around even more.



"With each step the force falls toward the inside of the foot and the feet splay. This flattens the arch and makes it drop. The result can be significant problems with the foot, the ankle, and ultimately, the hip," said Drysdale.

Just in case you were thinking about purchasing the new UGG Classic Sparkles boot or the new UGG and Jimmy Choo collection, consider this: they are a breeding ground for foot fungus. Foot fungus enjoys a dark and moist environment, both of which are generously provided by sheepskin boots and moccasins. Although UGGs are actually meant to be worn without socks, it may be wise to reconsider. Wearing socks will drastically cut down on the amount that feet sweat.

Avoiding many of these problems can be simple. If you just can't live without wearing UGG boots, consider taking a few simple steps to alleviate some of the risks. First of all, do not wear the same shoes every day; all shoes need about twenty-four hours to dry out completely. Wear socks with boots or moccasins, and it may not be a bad idea to spray feet with an antiperspirant as well. Avoid wearing UGGs for long periods of time, especially when extensive walking is involved. If pain is noticed anywhere in the legs, hips, or back, try adding more supportive inserts or avoid wearing the shoes altogether. If pain is persistent, seek a doctor's advice.

By Liz Bergman

# Answer Your Cat's Questions without Seeming Crazy

Humor

Untangling the mysteries of felines can be hard. If you have ever wondered what is going on in your cat's mind or ever wanted to make your cat extremely happy, mark your calendars. January 22nd is "National Answer Your Cat's Questions Day."

To participate in this day, you must be fully aware of your cat's needs all day long. You have to be attuned to your cat on a more conscious level and notice when it is trying to ask you something. Even though you and your cat live in the same home, you may never have fully understood each other.

Some people may ask, "Why does my cat do this?" or "Why does my cat do that?" Chances are, your cat is asking itself the same question about you. Have you ever noticed that sometimes your cat just looks at you? When you try to pet it, play with it, feed it?

Well, the inventors of this holiday

decided to justify this unsettling act by saying that cats look at us because they're trying to ask us a question. So January 22nd is the day to answer those questions.

It is, in short, the one day when curiosity will not kill the cat!

Some of you may think, how can cats ask you questions? The answer is all in their eyes and actions. When you are cleaning out their litter boxes and they look at you with their big eyes, tilt their head to the side, and just stare at you with such intent curiosity, the question mark in their expressions should be obvious.

For most cats, this happens several times a day, so it's your job to pay special attention to them and try your best to answer their questions as much as you can. If you love life with your cat, take a day to untangle the mysteries and have fun!

By Madison Rice

# Dear Derek: Friends Seek Intervention Advice

Advice

**Dear Derek,**

My best friend is really getting into drugs. He started off by smoking marijuana, but he has recently tried many other drugs. Last week, he said he needed money for lunch, but instead of buying food, he spent it all on drugs. I asked him about it, and he said he can quit whenever he wants. I'm very worried about his drug abuse. His grades used to be really good, but since his introduction to drugs, his grades have taken a serious fall. On top of that, he used to be a great friend, but now he barely talks to me unless he wants more money for drugs. I miss my friend a lot, what should I do?

~A Concerned Friend

**Dear Concerned Friend,**

Try telling your friend about the dangers of drug abuse. Be sure to mention various side effects and addictions that may affect your friend. He should know what he's getting into. It may not hurt to mention that his bad choices are affecting you and most likely his other friends and family. Most importantly, tell him that you miss the friendship you once shared. Above all else, you cannot continue to supply him with money or other resources that enable him to purchase the drugs that are dragging him down. If you know what he is using that money for and you supply it to him anyone, then you can become just as guilty for his fall as he is. Lastly, consider referring your friend to the Student Assistance Program here at the high school by reporting to the guidance office. The purpose of the SAP team is to help students with problems such as your friend's. They are not responsible for interventions, and they never force students to do something that they do not want to do, but they can offer needed support to both your friend and your friend's parents.

~Derek Evansky

**Dear Derek,**

My good friend started secretly smoking cigarettes. I found out and confronted him about it, but he doesn't want to stop. When I asked him why he started, he explained that he smoked to relieve stress. He doesn't want to become addicted, but I'm afraid that sooner or later he will be. What should I do?

~A Secondhand Friend

**Dear Secondhand Friend,**

Tell your friend that cigarettes will take years off of his life—up to fifteen or twenty, in fact. There are various pamphlets and other informational aids in the high school guidance office that might be able to convince him to stop. It might also be worthwhile mentioning that cigarettes are a gateway drug that are capable of leading individuals down a path to more serious, more illegal, and more devastating substances. If he has already become addicted, there are various ways to quit, from gum to patches to imitation cigarettes. With the undivided support of his friends and family, he can overcome his reliance for cigarettes.

~Derek Evansky

# Michael O'Pake: 1940-2010

Obituary

Hundreds of people gathered Monday, January 3rd, 2011, to celebrate the life and mourn the death of Senator Michael O'Pake. O'Pake was the longest serving member in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. He was born in Reading on February 2, 1940, and he graduated from Reading Central Catholic High School in the year 1957. He then attended St. Joseph's University until 1961. Senator O'Pake graduated from Pennsylvania School of Law in 1964.

Michael O'Pake was reelected to the Senate a shocking nine times. In November, he was awarded the Shield of Loyola, an extremely prestigious honor. Senator O'Pake focused on serving children, families, the elderly, and the disabled. He spent his life serving others and helping people. He did a world of good for everyone.

There was rarely a public function in Berks County from which the Senator was absent, even among FASD events such as concerts and performances. His absence will be sorely felt in the coming months.



By Maria Johnson