

The Oracle

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Hard work pays off in “Tarzan” performances

by Emily Matthews

After two weekends of performances, all of the time and effort students and teachers have put into preparing for this year’s musical, Tarzan, have paid off. They spent hours after school, staying anytime ranging from six o’clock to nine o’clock, trying to perfect their performance.

While practices were still going on, some students shared their opinions.

“Not knowing when I’m going to get home and sleep is the worst part,” junior keyboard two player Danielle Roger said.

“The practices have been intense. It’s almost like a workout as well as musical practice, but everyone’s having fun,” senior Olivia Harris said.

Shaler was the first high school to perform Tarzan. This allowed everyone involved to set the bar for how the musical should be executed.

“The rights to perform the musical just became available to the public only a few short months ago. What was most different and really exciting for me from a director standpoint is that there were not precedents of what the musical should look like. I pretty much had creative reign to do what I wanted without having to live up to certain standards,” director Ms. Kristin Demsey said.

Many people are familiar with Disney’s Tarzan. It is about a baby who is left in the jungle to be raised by gorillas. He is brought up to act like an ape his whole life until he encounters three people exploring the jungle who are deeply intrigued by his unusual behavior. The cast of the musical spent rehearsals trying to mimic the strange actions and behaviors of their characters.

“Jane has been a challenging character to portray just because she has so many emotions and she’s more introverted than the audience would expect. I think bringing out that side of her was one of the hardest things I’ve done, but it’s taught me a lot about myself and my acting, and it’s been fun,” Harris said.



Jordan Schreiber as Tarzan (Keith Rees)

This was a challenging task for every cast member and dancer in the musical.

“The most difficult part is figuring out not only our characters and how we should portray them but also the fact that many of the characters are animals, so we have to be cautious of every facial expression, every way that our hands are turned, every position that we contort ourselves into. It’s challenging in that sense in knowing how to act like an animal and how to look like an animal, but it’s also exhausting to be running around on stage like that 24/7,” Harris said.

Along with the cast, the pit also spent tedious hours in the auditorium. The music that was presented in Tarzan is unique in the sense that it is different from the pieces that many of the musicians are used to playing.

“I usually play stuff with a melody, and now I

just have chords to hold out for bars upon bars... Keyboard two, which is the chords and rhythm, backs up the melody, which is keyboard one and three. I pretty much just back everybody else up,” Roger said.

Playing along with the singers also issued a new challenge to much of the pit.

“There’s a lot of different key changes,” junior clarinet player Margaret Gerthoffer said.

“For the string players, where you’re used to seeing just one type of note, it’s really hard to go from flat to sharp and vice versa,” said junior bass player John Beckas.

While you could watch the cast and listen to the pit, there were also students working behind the scenes. These students belonged to the stage crew, which worked to perfect all of the technical details of the musical including the lights, sound system, and scene changes.

Stage manager Matt Pontzloff said being a part of the stage crew “takes leadership, time to put into the show, and always being on time.”

The audience at each performance during the past two weekends had only positive things to say about Tarzan.

“I loved it! I enjoyed everything about it,” sophomore Brittany Moletz said.

Surprises throughout the musical kept the audience entertained.

“The acrobats in the air surprised me,” freshman Bri Dobson said.

“I wasn’t expecting people to fly,” Moletz said.

Tarzan proved to be a success, and the show sold out its final two performances. Standing room only tickets had to be sold for \$5.

“Almost every performance was either sold out or very close to being sold out. There was even one performance that standing room only tickets were sold, and they were bought! These students deserve to be proud of their talents and that is exactly what the performances were all about!” Demsey said.

Student receives National Globe Changer Award

by Anna Cunningham

On March 6, junior Alexis Werner received a National Globe Changer Award for her work with Seeds of Hope. The ceremony was held at the Pierre Hotel in New York City.

Globe Changer Awards are a part of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service. Werner has worked with the Jefferson Awards for three years and was nominated for the Globe Changer award this year.

Werner won a Globe Changer award for her work with Seeds of Hope, an organization she helped found, whose mission is to raise awareness about the issues veterans deal with after coming home. Seeds of Hope focuses on post traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, and the lack of a support system for veterans.

“We’re trying to reach all aspects. We plant victory gardens in local communities, we’re filming a documentary called ‘Our Way Home’ and I just published a children’s book through Highmark,” Werner said.

Werner started Seeds of Hope because of her stepdad, who suffers from PTSD. Thanks to this award, Werner and Seeds of Hope will be able to continue their work and expand on what they’ve done.

“We’re putting victory gardens in all 58 Fisher

Houses across the US and we’re offering them to anyone who would want to have one,” Werner said. “The award will spread awareness to a different population. My target so far has been high schools so this will get it out on a national level.”

Fisher Houses is an organization that provides a place for the families of injured military soldiers to live while their loved one is being taken care of.

The awards ceremony was the first opportunity for Werner to present her ideas to a group of people with the funds to help her.

“All the sponsors of the Jefferson Awards were



Alexis Werner (The Oracle)

there and the message of raising awareness for post traumatic stress disorder will go out on a larger level,” Werner said.

The Jefferson Awards were founded to recognize public service in America. There are three sections for students to be nominated for an award. They are Students in Action, Youth Service Challenge, and Globe Changers.

Only three students each year are awarded a Globe Changer Award. Werner has been working with the Jefferson Awards for three years. A few weeks ago, her national director, Diana Sherbacow called her and told her that she had won the award.

“I’m really honored to be one of the three. There are probably about a hundred [students] up for it. I didn’t even know it was an option until Diana

called me. I’m really excited to meet the other students,” Werner said. “I was really surprised. It’s an eye opener; it provides opportunities, not just for me but for Seeds of Hope. It opens doors that otherwise wouldn’t have been open. It’s an honor.”

OPINIONS

¿Qué restaurante es el más delicioso? ¿Taco Bell o Chipotle?

by Brett Ford

From what I understand most of you hipsters think Chipotle is “better” than Taco Bell. I think I need to set the story straight. Taco Bell is a far better establishment in every possible facet; their prices are lower, their drinks are better and their food is absolutely delightful.

If I’m going out to grab a quick bite I’m looking for two key things: quick-ness and price. I know if I go to Taco Bell I can walk in, order, eat, and leave all within fifteen minutes of entering that holy temple of the taco gods. Also, their food is cheap. *Extremely* cheap. Where else can you get a quality burrito for \$2.00? If you go to Chipotle, chances are you’ll have to wait in a 10 minute line to get your \$7.00 burrito. Have fun with that. Seriously though, your wallet won’t end up hating you if you just go to Taco Bell.

If their cheap prices don’t have you on the Taco Bell bandwagon yet, their delicious cuisine and countless marketing deals will have you drooling. From what I can tell Chipotle’s food and drink selection is just plain boring. Taco Bell has a taco with a shell made out of Doritos. Yeah, *Doritos*. Or you can just go to Chipotle and have a plain old taco or burrito. Your choice. Also at Taco Bell, you can enjoy a wide variety of refreshing beverages. They have Baja Blast! Does Chipotle have Baja Blast? Nope, because Mountain Dew only allows good restaurants to serve Baja Blast; it’s like the most sacred soda known to man. Beat that, Chipotle.

Honestly, I don’t get why Chipotle is so “superior” to Taco Bell. It’s basically the same place with some “art” flung up on the walls and much higher prices. And if you think it’s terrible that Taco Bell’s meat has sand in it, you shouldn’t. Maybe Chipotle’s food would be on Taco Bell’s level if their meat had sand in it too. It gives it that extra “oomph.” So, if you feel like spending all your money on tacky, overpriced Mexican food go to Chipotle and if you value your taste buds and wallet go to Taco Bell. Choose wisely.

by Casey Funtal

With all of the Mexican restaurant options that are lined up along most busy roads, it can be difficult to choose one that has the best “to-go” option also attached to it. The most popular options are Taco Bell, Chipotle, and Qdoba. While Chipotle and Qdoba serve practically the same thing, Chipotle is a much better option than the Taco Bell drive thru.

Chipotle is mainly a take-out restaurant. It is a spin-off of fast food, but it has a classier feel to it than Taco Bell does. Inside are pictures and dim lighting to not make it feel like a cheap food run. Customers are able to customize their food the way that they like by choosing toppings like different types of beans and salsa instead of just ordering a specific kind of taco that is pre-made with certain toppings already included.

There are different kinds of main dishes such as tacos, burritos, burrito bowls, salads, and even a kids menu. They also have the option of buying chips and either salsa or guacamole. Although Chipotle is a spin-off of fast food, it is not as cheap as McDonalds, or Taco Bell.

The food is priced reasonably considering that it is much better quality than Taco Bell. They are both Mexican food, but Taco Bell’s food is much smaller. A burrito alone from Chipotle is too large to eat with only one hand, but Taco Bell’s is so small that it can be eaten up in a few quick bites. Sure, Taco Bell may sell tacos for less money, but you have to buy double the amount in order to fill yourself to the capacity that Chipotle’s food does.

Taco Bell is famous for its cheap prices, and quick meals. Compared to Chipotle, their food is not as substantial or as fresh. Out of the fast food Mexican restaurants, Chipotle is by far the most satisfying.

Penguins, Pirates, Steelers and some March Madness

by Nick Polito and Brett Ford

* The Pittsburgh Penguins are always a contender to win the Stanley Cup, and this year is not any different. As of March 14, the Pens are first in the Atlantic Division, seven points in front of the rival New Jersey Devils. The Pens only have 8 losses on the season and 2 of them have come again the Devils.

However, the Penguins and Devils will only play one more game against each other this season, so the Pens really do not need to worry about them. Offense has not seemed like a problem for the team early in the season. The Penguins are in third in power-play percentage, converting on 25% of their power plays and are also in first for goals scored with 98. The team is in third in the goal differential department. The defensive end of special teams could improve as the Pens are ranked twenty-fifth in the NHL in penalty-kill percentage at 78.2%. The Pens will need to improve on the defensive end and penalty killing in a Cup run will be in their future.

* The part of the college basketball season that everyone looks forward to is the “big dance” and March Madness. Although some years, the tournament never turns into madness, this season is capable of giving fans plenty of madness.

In college basketball this year, there is not one dominant team. Sure, there are teams that have proven to be better than everyone else, but these teams can go down on any given night. The fact that the number one team in the country lost four straight weeks, including 3 out of the top 4 ranked teams all losing in the same week, proves this point.

Although, a 1-16 upset is extremely unlikely in the NCAA tournament, this would be the year to predict one. There has already been an upset this season that would be worse than a 1-16 upset. Kansas, with a BPI ranking of 6, lost to TCU, with a BPI ranking of 246. This is a bigger BPI difference than any of the 1-16 games from the NCAA tournament a year ago. Also, Miami, a team that had won 14 straight games was upset by Wake Forest by 15 points. Wake Forest is 8th in the ACC and has a record under .500. These two major upsets shows anybody can beat anybody. So, when filling out your bracket this year, picking the favorites might not be the best choice, so pick some upsets; they are going to happen.

* As opening day is fast approaching for the Pittsburgh Pirates, many questions still need to be answered about the team. These key decisions that are to be made will greatly outcome the season. If I were the general manager these would my answers to the following questions:

What will the starting rotation look like?

A.J. Burnett, Wandy Rodriguez, Francisco Liriano, James McDonald and Jeff Locke.

Once Liriano returns from his arm injury I believe he will regain some of his old form and take the third spot on the rotation. I’m expecting an E.R.A. in the low 4.00’s from him. The 5th spot is basically between up for grabs; Jeff Karstens, Jonathan Sanchez, Kyle McPherson, Justin Wilson, Jeff Locke, Gerrit Cole and Charlie Morton (once he returns from his hip injury) all have a legitimate chance of earning the spot.

To start out the season I believe that Jeff Locke will end up getting it, much in part to his solid spring training. So far he’s amassed a 3.60 E.R.A.

in 10 innings pitched.

Who will start in right field?

The possible choices: José Tábara, Travis Snider, Garrett Jones, Jerry Sands and Alex Pressley.

As good as I think Tábara can be and as much as I’d love to see him start right field opening day, I feel that Travis Snider has the potential to hit .260/20hr/70rbi and will win the position. Expect to also see Garrett Jones spend time here too when Gaby Sanchez is playing at first base.

Who will be the starting short-stop?

The signing if veteran third baseman Brandon Inge is very interesting to me. Playing third and short can’t be *too* much different, can it? I’d take his bat over Josh Harrison and Clint Barmes’s any day. He won’t be spectacular offensively or defensively but he should play significantly better than Clint Barmes did last year.

* NFL free agency began on the 12th. Those leaving Pittsburgh seemed much more significant than those who have stayed or joined in the first couple of days. Nonetheless, that seems to be the Steelers way. Luckily the season

doesn’t start for another 6 months.

1) Signing Pittsburgh native quarterback Bruce Gradkowski. His moderate experience makes him a solid backup plan if Big Ben goes down.

2) Re-signing guard Ramon Foster to a three year deal. This deal may seem bland but the offensive line is perhaps the most important part of the offense to these Steelers, who have been lacking there.

3) Re-signed veteran wideout Plaxico Burress. I personally love this move because the Steelers need a tall receiver that’s capable of going deep now that Wallace is gone. If he plays well enough, you should expect him to be taking the attention of teams’ number one cornerbacks away from Antonio Brown.

4) Letting go of Rashard Mendenhall, James Harrison, Mike Wallace, Keenan Lewis and Willie Colon. All of these players have made an impact on the Steelers in recent years, but Kevin Colbert must have thought that they weren’t worth the money that they wanted. Losing these four allowed the Steelers to get under the cap and make the aforementioned personnel moves.

The Oracle

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The Oracle is the official student newspaper of Shaler Area High School. Although it is published by the journalism classes, one does not have to be enrolled in a class to contribute.

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The Oracle reserves the right to condense or omit any letters or articles unfit for publication.

Phys. Ed. department exploring new options

by Casey Funtal

The long-term goal of each class here at Shaler Area High School is to teach students what they need to do in order to get to the next step in their education. The Physical Education Department is no exception. There are major changes in the works to improve the level of life-long health and fitness education provide for students.

Phys. Ed. class has always been a class give kids physical activity, but now Phys. Ed. classes may start taking an individual approach for students as well.

There is an obesity epidemic spreading across this nation like never before. Students need to be educated on how to prepare for a healthier lifestyle that they can carry with them past high school.

The first steps to change began two years ago when the department received a grant to purchase mountain bikes. The bikes are not just a free-for-all though. There is a two day introduction that teaches the benefits of biking along with bike safety and bike maintenance.

The idea behind the mountain bikes is that they are a different way for students to participate in physical activity, and the students can use the skills throughout their whole life.

Another long-term goal is to change the usual

PE 9-12 courses into courses the students can choose themselves. The idea is to have individual sport courses such as racquetball, or team sports if someone enjoys the team aspect, or classes on life-long fitness. Even though students are in large classes, the change should inspire students to get active by choosing an activity that they enjoy.

"If you were in college right now and you were to pick, you would go into a course and as part of the curriculum you have to be able to identify rules of the course, instruction on mechanics, and you have to demonstrate through written tests, and physical skills. We do that here but not to the level that I think it should be done," Physical Education Department Chair Mr. Adam Rosenwald said.

Going along with the idea of students choosing their own classes, they are also planning on having an athletic gym class. With that being said, athletes need different treatment depending on what season they are in.

The thought is to have varsity sports athletes and their coaches work with the Phys. Ed. teachers in order to provide the students with workouts that would be tailored to athletes, in season or not. This is to prevent athletes from doing repetitive workouts that may not benefit them as much since they train after school.

"It (the class) would be sports specific; Hampton does something like that. I would like to see that here," Rosenwald said.

These improvements and ideas are not going to change overnight. The Phys. Ed department has to deal with budget constraints when they want to organize new activities or class ideas. They also have to face scheduling problems. It seems that there is not enough time in class to get all of the activities done.

"In a perfect world block scheduling of 90 minute classes would be ideal," Rosenwald said.

The problem is that there are constraints dealing with other classes. Gym class does not have a lab built-in like the sciences do, so they have to use the 30 minutes that are provided to get the most out of their workouts.

These changes being considered in Phys. Ed. classes are aimed to help students be able to carry on life-long fitness. In order for students to get the most out of class they must focus individually on what their bodies need to do in order to stay in shape. The changes will take time and may not occur for the next two to five years.

"We have a very good Physical Education program here compared to the ones in our area, but my personal feel is there is always room for improvements," Rosenwald said.

Community steps up to support family in need

by Emily Pirt

Almost one month ago to the day, one of Shaler's most well known families experienced a tragedy. A little before 8 a.m. on February 13, the Bagwell family lost their house in a fire.

Immediately after the accident, the Bagwells were surrounded by friends and community members offering to help in any fire, friends of the Bagwells orga-

nized a bake sale to help the family.

"I've played soccer with Angie, Jess, and Sam throughout the last 6 years," senior Megan Ochsenreiter said. "We threw it together literally the day before at lunch. I sent out a Tweet and a group text to a bunch of people in my contacts and told people to just spread the word, and it worked."

Despite the late notice, many people were able to help out with the bake sale, including people who did not know the Bagwells personally.

"We had so many people bring things in the morning. It was crazy; it was really nice to see a lot of people being generous and bringing stuff in. People I've never seen before even brought stuff in," Ochsenreiter said.

There was not only generosity through the donation of baked goods but also through the donation of money and gift cards.

"I think it was kind of heartwarming for all of us to see so many people come out. People would come up with a \$20 bill, drop it off and say 'I don't want anything, just keep it'," Ochsenreiter said.

Senior Katrina Gualtieri, another family friend who helped organize the event, agreed with Ochsenreiter.

"I had no expectations of how much people would come together to help out. It was nice to see everyone in Shaler come together," Gualtieri said.

The bake sale alone brought in an impressive \$1,435 in only one day.

"People were honestly coming and just giving money out of the goodness of their hearts. One girl even came and dropped off gift cards for them," Gualtieri said.

Along with gift cards, there was also a Denim Day fundraiser that the teachers organized to help support the Bagwells.

"The teacher Denim Day raised \$2,205, plus there was \$350 in gift cards donated," Activities Director Mrs. Mindy Thiel said.

There have been other fundraisers throughout the community as well. On March 2nd, Mrs. Eden Hart and the Shaler Soccer Boosters organized a spaghetti dinner in the Bagwell's name. The dinner was a success and raised \$9,370.

For the past two weekends the musical has had a Bruster's Ice Cream stand in the lobby to benefit the Bagwells.

"During the opening weekend of the show there was up to \$330 raised from the Bruster's sale," Thiel said.

Due to the generosity of the community members both weekends raised a combined \$761.

"They are the strongest people, ever. That's part of the reason why we wanted to do it: because they are the kind of people who wouldn't ask for help, even if they needed it," Ochsenreiter said.

The Bagwell family was not expecting the outpouring of support from the community.

"We are in complete awe as to the support that we have gotten. We live in a wonderful community. I am very proud to be a part of Shaler," Mrs. Lisa Bagwell said.

The family is very thankful for the support the high school and community has given them.

"My family and I would like to thank everyone who has supported us. The teens at the high school have been wonderful with everything. Shaler has a great group of teens," Bagwell said. "Words will never be able to express our gratitude for everything that this community has done for us."

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Trade Jobs Offer a Successful and Unique Career Choice

by Julie Rankin and Katie Rees

In the world today, getting a job can be a dicey situation. Trade jobs can boost economic growth and increase chances for employment. Our society is stuck in the mind-set that going to a four-year college is the only way to achieve guaranteed success for the future, but many forget about vocational schools and apprenticeships, which can also offer a plethora of opportunities.

“When I was a senior at my school, they asked all of us what we wanted to be when we were older and lots of people said things like Anchorman or a Doctor, but I said that I wanted to go to trade school and become an electrician,” Journeyman Wireman, Dan Pirt, said.

Trade jobs that can become successful careers include: electrician, carpenter, plumber, or a heating and air technician. Many students do not consider these kinds of jobs because we are in a society that focuses on four-year degrees.

“I do not operate under the belief that all students should pursue a traditional 4 year college degree. There are vast amounts of opportunity for students within the realm of technical or skilled trade professions. Current high school students have a number of options/opportunities to explore and identify a potential career field, which may or may not include a continuation of education to earn a 2 year degree,” Guidance Counselor, Mathew Anselmino, said.

There are classes in high school that are offered that can prepare a student for a trade job.

“When I went to high school I took electronics and electricity classes and that was the start of it. I took trade classes in high school, like drafting, metal shop, and they all worked with the type of job that I do,” Pirt said.

Students should consider enrolling in the A.W. Beattie Technical Center if they would like to pursue a career in the technical field. Beattie offers eighteen

“There are vast amounts of opportunity for students within the realm of technical or skilled trade professions. Current high school students have a number of options/opportunities to explore and identify a potential career field.”

**--Mr. Mathew Anselmino
Guidance Counselor**

different technological programs ranging from Auto Body technology to computer systems.

“Seniors would want to consider the possibility of an Apprentice Program following completion of high school, which could include a better opportunity to gain access to Union participation,” Anselmino said.

Pirt received two Associate’s Degrees in Maintenance Electricity and Construction Technology from Triangle Tech. He also got another Associate’s degree in Electrical Science. Every day is a new experience for an electrician.

“After being assigned where you’ll be every day, you look at the blueprint and see what you’re doing for that day. You keep a list of everything that needs done in that room,” Pirt said.

Like any job, trade jobs present issues for workers. Sometimes work is slow and employees get laid off, making it important to have something to fall back on. Also, hours can be tough and the location of work is constantly changing.

“When work is available there is such a tight schedule that you end up working a lot of overtime. A building might take 3 years to build but the company wants it done in 3 months. You end up working 60/70 hours a week,” Pirt said.

Trade jobs differ greatly from typical clerical jobs in the fact that they require hands-on work and a

unique physicality.

“I mostly do industrial and heavy commercial work so everything is heavy, the environments are nasty, dirty; there are a lot of chemicals and cramped spaces. You’re putting your body in a lot of unnatural positions, and it’s pretty hard on your body,” Pirt said. “It’s not as simple as setting a ladder down and changing a light bulb. Those jobs are out there, but they don’t pay as much.”

A positive aspect of many trade jobs is the opportunity to meet new people.

“I meet people from all of Pennsylvania and other states too. You get a different perspective on things. You wouldn’t think that someone who grew up 60 miles away from you would have such a different lifestyle, but they do,” Pirt said.

Using their unique skills, trade jobs in the Pittsburgh area reach out to the community. It has become a tradition among different trades in Pittsburgh to take part in what is called “Christmas in April”.

“A bunch of trades get together to help out someone who cannot afford to have their house worked on. You’ll go and rewire someone’s house for example, and it’s really nice to do something so rewarding to help someone you don’t even know. Pittsburgh is a really old city and there are a lot of fires that happen because houses need rewired,” Pirt said.

When discussing students interested in pursuing careers in the trade field, Pirt gave some advice.

“Do something that you enjoy doing, but also go where the work is. If you’re in the trade you have to keep your ear to the ground, and know what’s going on and where the work is. You can’t just wait for the work to come to you or you’re going to starve. Keep your contacts and don’t burn any bridges,” Pirt said.



Sept 2012—National news: The high school class of 2012 has taken its College Board exams and the results are NOT good. More than half (57%) of the 1.66 million SAT test takers FAILED to hit the combined score at which a student is deemed ready for college level work. Worse, 75% of the 1.66 million ACT test takers ALSO FAILED to meet the readiness standard.



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Titan of the Month: Brad Gillespie

by Anna Cunningham

Junior Brad Gillespie is this month's Titan of the Month. Gillespie is involved in many different activities, ranging from theater, band, volunteering, and sports. He is also in National Honor Society. Gillespie is following the footsteps of his brother and sister, who were both involved when they were in high school.

Gillespie has been in many Shaler theater productions since fifth grade.

"My brother was always involved in the high school play and musical and I aspired to be an actor like him," Gillespie said. "I like the plays better because I feel like it's a closer knit family. I don't mean that the musicals are any less important or I don't like them as much, but I feel like in the play you can develop relationships with each other."

Gillespie has played a wide range of characters over the years. In middle school, he enjoyed playing the mayor of Whoville in *Seussical Jr.* In high school, his favorite character to play was in this year's fall play, "You Can't Take it With You." Gillespie played Boris Kolenkhov, a Russian ballerina.

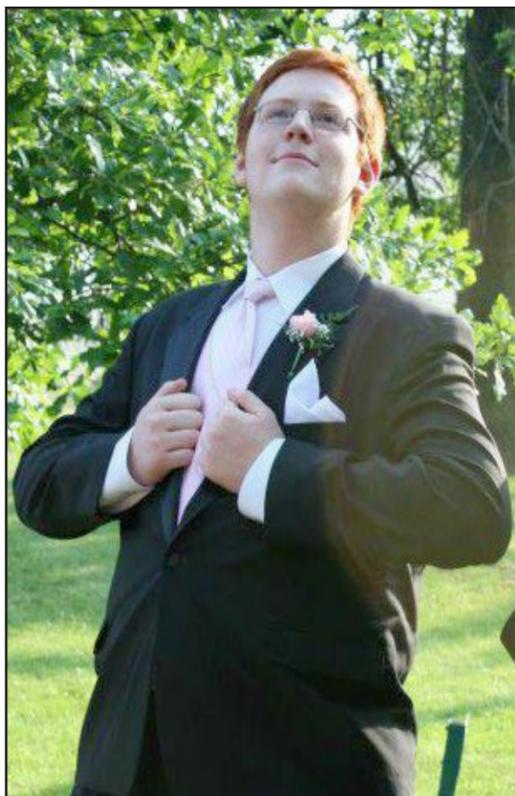
"It was a lot of fun, but it was also really difficult because at practice I had to find my Russian accent and sometimes I would go off and do an Irish accent. It was really different because each time I would try to play my character with more and more flamboyancy and then finally the directors said flamboyancy times ten and I got the hang of it," Gillespie said.

In his freshman year, Gillespie played a munchkin in "The Wizard of Oz."

"Well I thought it'd be funny for me to be a munchkin and I took it as more of a joke, but to punish me, Miss Demsey made me a girl munchkin so that I wouldn't get away with teasing her," Gillespie said. "I always get picked for these small roles with small people and it's very ironic because I'm a huge guy, I'm 6'6", but it was a lot of fun," Gillespie said.

This year, the musical is *Tarzan*. Most of the cast portray apes, including Gillespie.

"It's painful because you have to crouch down the whole time and your legs start to really hurt



Brad Gillespie embraces his title

and because I'm really tall my legs start to buckle up. It's fun, but it's a lot of cardio, it's a big cardio workout," Gillespie said.

Gillespie has been in band since fourth grade. He played saxophone until ninth grade, when he switched to tuba.

"I was so frustrated with saxophone because I wasn't getting the hang of it. I switched to tuba and that was a lot of fun," Gillespie said.

A fun event for the band and choir is the trip they take every year in the spring to a competition in a different city.

"I love the band trips. We're in a whole different city and they plan so many activities for us," Gillespie said. "Touring the city is fun, but doing our competitions, it lets us know that there's more to the trips. It has to do with our musical talents and it feels good getting an excellent, knowing that we put all these hours into it."

Gillespie is involved in theater and band, but he is also a member of the boys' lacrosse team. He started playing in sixth grade, and is now the starting goalie for varsity.

"My sister played lacrosse and I really wanted to take after her. I started playing defense but I never really liked it. My sister was the goalie, and when I got the chance in high school to play goalie I really jumped on it. I love the adrenaline that comes from playing goalie and saving the ball," Gillespie said.

Gillespie is also a member of National Honor Society. To become a member, students must have a grade point average of 3.5, and must have community service hours. Gillespie volunteered his time over the summer at different institutions.

"I volunteered at UPMC Mercy Hospital in their school of nursing for 36 hours over the summer, one day a week. Also, at the Shaler North Hills Library, I'm a part of TAB, the Teen Advisory Board. I did 40 hours of that over the summer," Gillespie said.

Gillespie also volunteered at the University of Pittsburgh. He was involved in a \$30,000 experiment that took place dealing with rats.

"These are rats that have high blood pressure and we were trying to monitor their blood pressure rates through monitors. I would drug their water so they would get the right doses to fulfill these experiments. I would also pick them up and handle them in case the lab technician would have to inject them with a shot," Gillespie said.

Gillespie's time at UPMC should help him fulfill his dreams of becoming a nurse anesthetist.

"I really love taking care of people and comforting them while they're in the hospital," Gillespie said. "I really like that side of being in the operating room and making sure everything's going right and monitoring the levels. I just want to have the first hand in that."

Gillespie is involved in different activities both in and out of school.

"I just like being involved in things. I find the activities fun and I love meeting new people in each activity I do. I'm always doing something different," Gillespie said.

Ready for Change conference held at Chatham University

by Victoria Mikita

The 6th annual Ready for Change Conference was held this past weekend at Chatham University. Members of Shaler's M-Powerment, Tahmina Tursonzadah and Lauren Ferianc, were behind the planning for this year's conference. The conference was held on Saturday, March 16th, 2013, from 10am-3pm.

Ready for Change was created for high school girls to work on their body image and self confidence. Through the activities planned, girls are given the opportunity to work on changing how they view themselves. The day included guest speakers and presentations on body image and representing yourself as a woman, as well as a zumba class for fun and exercise. This allows girls to be given a positive perspective and an opportunity to improve themselves.

The conference was open to all girls grades 9-12, and was not limited to Shaler. Transitioning into high school is difficult, especially for younger girls. Most girls are not ready for such a big change, so the conference aims to prepare and teach girls how to deal with challenges in a new environment. Tursonzadah expressed that because of this, freshmen and sophomore girls have been strongly encouraged to attend.

"Younger girls are now acting much older. They need to find that they can do fun things while still acting their age. I want them to have more self respect, and be able to handle themselves in a male dominated environment," Tursonzadah said.

The goal for the conference is that girls will come out of it with a better outlook on themselves. Not only do the planners want them to view themselves differently, but their peers do as well.

"I want girls to see that it is possible to influence others in a positive way, have a different perspective on themselves, and to just be happy," Tursonzadah said.

Students selected for PMEA District 1 Chorus



Students Scott Hughes, Courtney Ambrozic, Olivia Harris, and Romina Cuglieri were selected to participate in the PMEA District 1 Chorus. Over 600 students from 60 different school auditioned. The festival took place at Quaker Valley High School. (Kristen Demsey)

SPORTS

Hockey team suffers tough loss in first round of playoffs

By Nick Polito

As the season ended on a tough note for the Titan hockey team, the team was looking to use some big performances to make a run in the playoffs. The team ended the season with a 9-10-2, tied for second in the division and tenth overall. One of these performances that was crucial for the team was defeating one of the top teams in the PIHL, North Allegheny by a score of 2-1.

"The NA victory was extremely significant because it gave us the confidence to beat any team," senior defenseman Joe Dorow said.

The North Allegheny victory was also big for Coach Curt Hetz.

"The NA win was huge for two reasons. The first, the team proved it could change its style of play in a short amount of time and still be successful. Second, the players now know they can beat anyone with the right mindset and effort," Hetz said.

Throughout the whole season the team has had to fight adversity. From not having a full roster to suffering a tough 9-4 loss to State College, the team has played through adversity all season. It made them a better team.

Going into the playoffs, the Titans knew it would not be an easy road. Twelve teams make the playoffs and the Titans ended up in tenth. This meant they had a pretty tough first-round matchup.

This first-round game came against the Upper St. Clair Panthers. USC defeated the Titans 2-0 in the last regular season game for both teams. However, the Titans felt good about their chances to win.

"I think our first round playoff game will be



Titans getting ready for a face-off against Upper St. Clair (Nick Skalosz)

tough, but we have a pretty decent chance at moving on," Dorow said.

The game started off just the way the Titans wanted; they got the first goal and ended the first period up 1-0. In the second period, Mike Klena added on to the Austin Martz goal and made the score 2-0, in favor of the Titans. From there the momentum swung. USC got their first goal four minutes later to cut the lead to one. The second period ended 2-1, Titans. The Panthers came out of the locker room composed and ready for a comeback. After tying

the score at 2 early in the third period, the Titans got some help from the referees. Connor Ackerman of the Panthers had his second goal of the night, but the referees did not see it go in and called no goal. Then with 41 seconds left, Ackerman actually scored his second goal, getting the game winning goal for the Panthers.

This last second goal led to a crushing defeat for the Titans. The season ended a lot shorter than expected.

One of the biggest adjustments that led to their consistent play at the end of the season, which got them to the playoffs, was the implement of a new fore-check. It was a very conservative fore-check and was a form of the trap. The Titans successfully used it against North Allegheny.

Although the hockey team lost in the first round of the playoffs, the team still had a great season.

Lady Titans season ends in close loss

By Nick Polito

The girls' basketball season ended in a tough way. After overcoming a rough 1-5 start to the season, the team battled its way into the WPIAL playoffs. Their record and fourth place finish in the division gave the girls a difficult first round playoff game. The team had to play the 17-6 Chartiers Valley Colts.

Although this seemed to be a tough draw for the Lady Titans, they played well and had a good chance of winning the game. After going into half down 15-12, the girls failed to score in the third quarter and entered the fourth down 24-12. However, the Lady Titans came out hot in the fourth and ended up getting within 1 point with 23.4 seconds left. This was the closest the team got as they ended up losing by 2, 31-29.

"It was pretty sad especially since we worked so hard to make it there and only lost by 1 basket," senior guard, Courtney Bauer, said.

"It is always disappointing to lose, especially when we have made it to the second round the last 4 years," junior guard, Paige Quinn, said.

Although this season ended in a disappointing way for the girls, there were some major ups during the season. One of these was defeating their rival Oakland Catholic on senior night, 45-36.

"Winning on senior night was awesome since it was a must-win to make playoffs and Oakland Catholic is our rival team," Bauer said.

Also, the team had a three game winning streak in December that helped them turn their season around. During this streak, the girls won two games in order to win the Hampton Christmas tournament. This championship was a big part of the girls' season.

"I would have to say the best moment of the season was winning the Hampton Christmas tournament," Quinn said.

The way the Lady Titans played this season will help them in the future. They never relied on one player; they played as a team and relied on everybody to get the job done.

"We have a winning, positive attitude already so all that's left is to focus on the little things and success will be coming their way," Bauer said.

Track team prepares for outdoor season

By Nick Polito

The indoor track season has ended. Although there were a low number of meets and some meets that were cancelled due to weather, the team was fairly successful. Many of the athletes made it to WPIALS including Bri Schwartz. She was once again in the spotlight after she ran a sub-5 mile at Penn State.

One of the keys of the indoor track season is to get prepared for the outdoor season. The Titan track team looks to be prepared for the outdoor season.

"We've been working hard at practice and in the weight room to prepare for the upcoming season," junior John Colarusso said.

There are some big differences between indoor and outdoor track.

"Indoor is generally harder to run. The air is hard to breathe; the track is smaller and more sharply curved; we run against schools from all over Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia; and every meet is after a two-and-a-half hour bus ride. However, the temperature is constant and the track is always in good condition," Colarusso said.

The Titans are excited for the upcoming outdoor season and are expecting to have similar success as last season. The girls' team is looking to repeat their appearance in the WPIAL Championship, where they finished second last year. On the other hand, the boys team does not have as high hopes as the girls team. The boys are hoping to win a meet this season, unlike last season. Both teams are prepared for the upcoming season and are hoping to see a lot of success.

Swimming team performs well at WPIALS

By Brett Ford

WPIALS have finally come to an end for the swimmers and they're pleased with their results. The team sent 13 swimmers to compete along with the lone diver Thad Piatt. One intangible that made this year's WPIAL championships all the more interesting for the swim team was the fact that four freshmen got a chance to compete.

Despite the younger swimmer's lack of experience, some swimmers were able to stand out. For instance, sophomore diver Thad Piatt nearly made it to semi-finals in his first WPIAL appearance. Also, freshman Dillon Brown took 11th place in the 500 freestyle. Seeing a freshman take 11th in an event is quite a feat considering how difficult it is to do and also considering how little experience they have in these types of tournaments.

"It is very difficult to place high at WPIALS. Each event has about 35-40 people and our swimmers generally placed in the 20s, which is about the middle," junior swimmer Molly Powers said.

Perhaps the team's best event was the relay; every swimmer who took part in it managed to finish in the top twenty.

Although the team had a good go at WPIALS, they always see the need to improve.

"I think everyone was happy with their swims. We can always do better because we can always improve. Our coach always tells us we should never be satisfied or we will stop improving. In my eyes, it's better if we are not satisfied so we can continue getting better," Powers said.

SPORTS

Shaler alumni thriving on college hardwood



Valerie McQuade (Niagara University)

By Brett Ford

Valerie McQuade is one of Shaler's most distinguished athletic alumni from past few decades. During McQuade's senior year here at Shaler the Lady Titans had a phenomenal season much in part to her leadership and skill on the court. The team went 26-3 and won its first WPIAL championship in 31 years. Her All-State First Team honors alongside her academic achievements earned her a chance to play Division I basketball for Niagara University.

Her success in high school directly translated to college despite much tougher competition. In her freshman year, McQuade averaged 4.8 points per game and 3.6 rebounds per game with an average

playing time of 19.2 minutes. This season she averages 5.6 points per game and 3.5 rebounds per game and has improved in just about every statistical category from her freshman year except minutes played, which proves that she has been able to accomplish more on the court in less time. She is 23-57 from three point range this season, which equates to 40.4%. To put this impressive stat into perspective, only about 6% of NBA players have a higher 3 point percentage from beyond the arc this season. Although she still has success at the collegiate level, it is a much different game than high school basketball.

"I think that the main difference between high school and college basketball is the speed of the game. It goes at a much faster pace. Also, there is a lot more preparation that goes into each individual game and each game plan is very specific depending on what team you are playing. Players are a lot more skilled and bigger so it is important that you are maintaining good health as well," McQuade said.

McQuade was certain right out of the gate that she would need to keep working hard and never take her talent for granted.

"I knew right from the start I was going to have to work extremely hard to make myself better and get time on the court. I worked out with the team and individually to improve my skills. Each and every day I am looking to improve in some way. I never settle," McQuade said.

McQuade has a lot on her plate in college; between academics and basketball she has barely any time to relax.

"I really learned to use my time wisely. With all of the traveling that our team does and the amount of time we spend practicing, watching film, having meetings, lifting, and so on, it is important to stay on top of the books and to keep getting shots up," McQuade said.

It's evident that Shaler has shaped McQuade into a terrific basketball player, but Shaler also prepared her very well for the next step in education.

"I think that Shaler prepared me very well for college. In high school I took a number of AP classes that let me get a feel for what a college class would be like. Getting credits that transferred over from high school to college also helped out a lot," McQuade said.

College has been a learning experience for her and her biggest challenge is yet to come. If the Purple Eagles end up winning the MAAC tournament they will earn a trip to the big dance, the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament. If McQuade and her teammates play up to potential then they will have the opportunity to do something not many people can say they've done in their lifetime: hoist both a high school and collegiate basketball championship trophy.

Wrestling team caps off successful season

By Brett Ford

The wrestling team competed in WPIALs from February 28-March 2 and ended up having a pretty successful trip. The team had an overall better season than last year and ultimately ended up sending four wrestlers to Norwin to compete. Logan Heint had the most success for anybody on the team at the tournament; he ended up coming in 4th place behind the state's top three wrestlers. His two cousins, Austin and Mike Heint, alongside sophomore Jordan McGonagall also participated at WPIALs but none were able to make it to a medal round.

With WPIALs over, the team is looking forward to a bright future. Besides the determination from the wrestlers to get better day by day, the team is bound to be more successful thanks to the current youth on the roster. This upcoming season and the next will be primarily made up of a very talented roster of juniors and seniors that are currently freshmen and sophomores. Although this season was viewed as a success, next season is anticipated to be even better.

"The season went well but next season we're going to take Shaler wrestling back to what it's known for," junior Nico D'Amico said.

Coach D'Agostino was very proud of his team and also has a lot of confidence going into next season.

"We did a good job this season. We have a very young and talented team right now and I feel that we're going to get even better next season. All these wrestlers need is experience which is certainly something they got a lot of this season. Seeing these kids mature and get better will make us a dangerous team in the next few years, even in one of the best sections in the entire country," coach D'Agostino said.

By Nick Polito

J.T. Schwartz had a very good high school basketball career at Shaler Area. He led the Titans to a section championship in his senior season. Schwartz's quality high school career led him to college basketball. He ended up attending Division III Grove City College.

Schwartz ended his senior season with a tough playoff loss, but was still able to go to Grove City College to play basketball. He came in his freshman year and made an impact on the Wolverines. Schwartz started 22 out of his 25 games, played as a freshman, and averaged 25 minutes, 7.0 points, 2.5 assists, 3.4 rebounds, and had 48 total steals. However, this past season, his sophomore season, has been the better of his two seasons.

"My sophomore year was my best individual season and although we did not have a winning season this year, I would say that this was the best season so far. We started off pretty bad, but we kept fighting and working hard and eventually things started working out for us," Schwartz said.

This season, Schwartz was the second leading scorer for the Wolverines, averaging 11.2 points per game. He got additional minutes this season, averaging 27.9 per game. Along with his scoring, Schwartz contributed in other areas with 5.2 rebounds per game, 2.52 assists per game, and 49 steals. Schwartz gives a lot of credit to his high school days at Shaler for making him the player that he is now.

"During my career at Shaler, I feel that I grew into a leader, which has definitely helped me in college. Also, by playing good competition in AAAA basketball and through AAU, I learned how to use my size (usually the smallest on the court) to my advantage," Schwartz said.

Shaler did not only help Schwartz with basketball, Shaler also prepared him for his academics in college.

"The teachers that I had at Shaler did help with the schooling aspect of college. Shaler did not prepare me for every aspect of college, but there are specific things that I learned at Shaler that I still use today," Schwartz said.

Although balancing school and basketball in college may seem like a very difficult task, Schwartz has noticed that he has more time now than he did in high school.

"For me, the biggest difference is the amount of work I have to do outside of my classes in college. I have more time outside of class because I usually only have 3-4 classes a day compared to in high school, where we had classes all day," Schwartz said.

He has really enjoyed his opportunity to play in college and is glad his hard work has paid off.

"I am glad I have the opportunity to play college basketball. It is something that I have worked hard for and earned, so I do not take it for granted. My experience through these past two years of my college basketball career has been good," Schwartz said.



J.T. Schwartz (Gregg Studio)



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The Back Page

Friends' night out during the spring season

by Sarah Breen

In relationships we tend to forget about the other people that matter in our lives like friends and family. Also sometimes we all just need some alone time. It's now time to spoil ourselves and to catch up on all our recorded DVR shows. What's most important is to spend time with your friends though. Don't forget about them they will be there for you before your relationship starts and long after it ends.

In a relationship it's very important to set boundaries. Make one night a week to just either have some free time or be with family and friends. It will help your relationship in the scheme of things.

Make some new memories with your friends. Instead of a girls' night out well known as "GNO" or the boys night, why not have a friends' night out.

First for a girls night you could pull an old school sleep over. Now if your old school sleepover is set you need to go for the fun 80's movies like Sixteen Candles, The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and obviously you can't leave out Dirty Dancing. While you're at it get a game of truth or dare going too.

Next for the guys how about some old school rock and roll and lasers? I know I've already gotten your attention now. Carnegie Science Center hosts

different laser shows such as Midnight Floyd, Bob Marley, Laser Nirvana just to name a few. It's fairly inexpensive to go, too. Each laser show costs \$2 for members and \$8 for non members. Plus you can add an omnimax movie to your experience for only \$5 after buying a ticket to the laser show.

If you have guy and girl friends a great option would be The Pittsburgh Power Arena Football Team. Tickets to the game are inexpensive starting as low as \$15 for good seats! During half time again there is laser shows fireworks and a dance performance by the Sparks. There is something for everyone. It may not be as big as a regular field but it sure has the action. The first home game will take place at Consol Energy Center on Saturday March 23rd at 6 PM. They also will be giving away \$1 hotdogs and fountain drinks during home games as a promotion. This is even something you can do with your family.

Again make time for your friends and family. Don't forget about the people that matter while in a relationship thing.

How to...choose a college

by Julie Rankin

I recall very vividly watching Legally Blonde when I was younger and thinking, "I'm going to go to Harvard and become a successful woman just like Elle Woods." Then I took the SATs and checked my non-existent bank account and realized how incredibly dumb and broke I am. Wait a second, you want me to put myself in debt so that I can study and use communal showers? Boycott, anyone?

Unfortunately, choosing a college is something many of us will have to tackle either in a few months or a few years. I applied to a university this fall only because I knew Denzel Washington went there. It may be possible I'm not qualified to give advice on this topic. But nonetheless, andale!

School size is a huge factor to look into when deciding on a college. If you are socially awkward, I would first like to welcome you to the club. Next I would suggest going to a bigger school, where you'll be more likely to find someone else who brought

their entire stuffed animal collection with them to college and still listens to Hilary Duff at the end of a rough day (#mydeepestsecrets).

If you're heading off to a college, you're going to have to cheer, or at least pretend to be slightly interested, in the sports teams. And everybody knows the most important member of any sports team is the mascot. Before you pay that commitment fee, make sure the school has a worthy mascot. The coolest mascot in the nation has to be the Santa Cruz Banana Slug. I couldn't find any colleges with a burrito as their mascot; otherwise I would have suggested them.

It is also essential to consider location. And by this I mean location of eateries. When you find the nearest Five Guys, will it be close enough that you'll be able to roll yourself back to your dorm without being a major impediment to pedestrians?

I truly believe that upon graduating, instead of earning degrees, we should join forces and focus our time and energy on solving the world's greatest mystery: will the Trix Rabbit ever get to try the fruity flavors of Trix cereal that are "just for kids"?

WEIRD News

INDIANA- An Indiana man got the attention of local police after he tried to order a cheeseburger by calling 911 nine times. 52-year-old Gregory Jackson Sr. has reportedly had past run-ins with police, but this may be the most bizarre. Jackson reportedly made the nine phone calls in just 90 minutes.

The police apparently did not arrive with cheeseburgers in hand. But they also have yet to charge Jackson over the series of 911 calls. Instead, they arrested him on a separate outstanding warrant for failing to show up to an appointed court date regarding a separate charge.

POLAND- A 25-year-old man from Poland endured a three-hour surgery to remove a screwdriver that was lodged about two inches into his head. The man was working in his garden when he slipped and jammed the screwdriver into his forehead.

The man was in no hurry to seek medical attention. The man smoked a cigarette to calm his nerves before calling his neighbor who brought him to hospital.

BEVERLY, Mass. - Fred Butler was married for 65 years, raised five children, served in the Army during World War II and worked for years for the local water department, but the fact he never earned a high school diploma always bothered him.

The 106-year-old was awarded his honorary diploma during an emotional ceremony attended by school officials, state lawmakers and Beverly Mayor Bill Scanlon.

Butler dropped out of school before the ninth-grade to accept a full-time job at a print shop to support his mother and five younger siblings.

A grandson, Mike Calabro, said Butler gave him \$5 for every A on his report card.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY- Students at Columbia University are consuming so much Nutella -- up to 100 pounds a day -- that the dining hall is spending as much as \$5,000 a week on the hazelnut chocolate spread. Instead of getting rid of Nutella, the dining hall says that it may limit the amount of other high-demand items, like lobster tails.

SCG SHALER CULTURE GRID	If you could have any super-power, what would it be?	Where do you think the pot of gold would be?	Lifetime movies or Disney movies?	If you were a superhero, who would your villain of choice be?
 Senior Taylor Phillips	Invisibility	Under the rainbow 	Disney 	The Dirty Bubble 
 Junior Gabby Lazzaro	Earth bending	Ireland 	Disney, I like to sing along	Bane, I like his voice
 Junior Luke Lynch	To grow your fingernails to any extent	Fitzroy Island, Australia	Nick Jr. movies 	Robin 
 Sophomore Jake Potock	The ability to read minds	Kate Upton's house	Disney movies	Mr. Orsini