

The Oracle

Volume 40 Issue 6

Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

April 2012

Precautions taken at high school after air duct collapse

by Anna Porter

On April 4th, the Shaler Area community was shocked to learn that an air conditioning duct fell from the ceiling of the Elementary School. The catastrophe, which occurred during a lunch period, sent seven students and two teachers to the hospital.

Thankfully, all affected are now recovering; however, the school board and Superintendent Dr. Wesley Shipley are taking precautionary actions at the high school to ensure another incident does not occur.

After receiving news of the accident, Shipley and the school board made a conscious decision to also prevent entry into Gyms A and B. Both gyms house air conditioning systems supplied by the same company that was responsible for fitting the Elementary school with their faulty air ducts.

"[Dr. Shipley and the school board] decided that since the duct work was similar we should err on the side of safety and make sure we double check it. They are confident it is okay, but we aren't taking any chances," High School principal Mr. Timothy Royall said.

Both gyms have been closed since April 4th in order for inspections to be made.

"Right now Gym A is being inspected by an engineering company. In fact, one of the engineers was walking on top of the duct work; that's how confident he was," he noted.

Each cable that holds the duct work in place is being double checked to make sure they can withstand the appropriate amount of weight. Although the inspection has not found any defective cables, they are all being reinforced to guarantee the student body's safety.

Last week Royall said he believed Gym A would



P.E. classes are forced to make alternative arrangements because of the gym inspections (Anna Porter)

be open within a week. The same cannot be said for Gym B, which has more complexity and number of ducts than Gym A, requiring more time to examine.

While inspections are being made, the district also faces the possibility of lawsuits, due to the injuries that were inflicted.

"I don't think anyone will find fault or negligence by the district for what happened. However, it's pretty common that when lawsuits are filed, they lump everyone associated with the issue together," Shipley said.

"I don't see us as a target for a lawsuit, but I wouldn't be surprised either. I think as we continue to reflect on the incident that we'll find things we'll want to do differently."

Foreign exchange students to visit Shaler Area

by Audrey Schreiber

For the first time in history, about 25 Shaler Area students will welcome a group of French foreign exchange students into their homes and lives for two weeks. This cross culture experience is a once in a lifetime chance for many of the students who are hosting. For some students, their interest in the French culture and language inspired them to host, for other students, interest in a unique experience encouraged them to sign up.

Some students, like junior Megan Sieber, have prior knowledge of the French language which opened the opportunity to host.

"When I heard about the chance to host a French exchange student, I was immediately set on being a part of this unusual and once-in-a-lifetime experience. Being an Honors French 4 student and member of French Honor Society, I really wanted to try something completely new and out of the ordinary. What better way to learn more about a language than host someone who fluently speaks it?" Sieber said.

Senior Rachel Roth has other reasons why she decided to host: "I became friends with Grazi, who is a Brazilian foreign exchange student at our school, and thought it would be a good experience if I had the opportunity to host a foreign exchange student myself."

While they are here, the students will be expected to take it as a learning experience, both for the exchange student and for the host family. French teacher Mrs. Connie Stover set up the program and has big expectations for the students.

"What's so great about this program is that it is both a vacation and a learning experience! They are coming during their spring break to practice their English as well as experience what it's like in an American high school," She said. "It's a big responsibility for the teachers, students and staff

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Second annual dodgeball tournament is a hit

by Ali Tappe and Julie Rankin

On April 4th students held the Second Annual Dodgeball Tournament in order to raise money for a great cause and fulfill senior project requirements. With the help of their mentor Mr. Bill Mitchell, seniors Andrew Abt and Jonathan Rankin held the tournament.

The idea for this tournament originated last year.

"Sam Spagnoletti did this for her senior project last year. It raised a lot of money so we thought it'd be a good idea," Rankin said.

One of the goals of both Rankin and Abt was to raise more money than last year, which totaled \$1,300.

Costing teams \$25 each, a total of 28 teams signed up to release some energy and raise money for a great cause, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

"I feel that this cause is so important mostly

because of Andrew: he has diabetes and knows what it's like to go through it. And to see someone who has the disease raise awareness through a charity event that could potentially raise money and help others, who are also affected by the disease, is honorable," Mitchell said.

As with any event, preparation was needed in order to assure the tournament's success.

"We spent the month leading up dealing with sign-ups, waivers, and concessions. Scheduling with other activities taking place in the gym was also needed," Abt said.

The day before the event was to be held, an air-duct fell at the Upper Elementary School, causing the gymnasiums at the high school to be



The winning team, The Return of the Mighty Melon Heads, celebrates first with coordinators Andrew Abt and Jon Rankin (Nate McIntire)

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OPINIONS

Is that a dog? How to free the leashed kids

by Casey Rastetter and Jon Rankin

In life, little boys and girls grow up to become the parents that they swore they would or would never be. Along the way, many mistakes are made such as: bringing the crazy girlfriend home for Thanksgiving, growing out your beard to look like ZZ Top, or even going through a "stick it to the man" phase. These mistakes and acts should never escalate to the point where putting a leash on your children with pride is even in the cards. Our message is to take the alternative route! Steer clear from becoming the Mom or Dad that you laughed at and most importantly, FREE THE LEASHED KIDS!

Some individuals may be unsure of what a so-called "leashed kid" is. If you have ever ventured out into the fun and exciting world of the zoo, you may have stumbled upon some of these horribly mistreated children. They are forced to endure the humiliation and pain that come with the duty of being a leashed kid.

One can only imagine the brush burn and sweaty back that would develop over time on a long walk to see all the exotic animals that the zoo has to offer. (R.I.P Komodo Dragon) Now that you have been debriefed on this social issue, here are some recommendations on how to release the children that you can peruse as you browse this article.

If you want to stop a Ugandan warlord or free some oppressed leashed kids, posters and t shirts are the ways to go! Kind messages and catchy slogans can really drive a point home and get people talking. Here are some starter ideas: "The only thing that should be leashed up is my dragon". The t-shirts with this specific quotation would have images of one of our favorite monsters, Ord, from the hit TV series



"Dragon Tales". Also depictions of leashes with Little Orphan Annie attached to them would go nicely with your smooth catch phrases.

Now onto the posters; these should contain photos of the atrocity that is occurring. This may seem a little unorthodox but it will get the attention of the masses. Really go for the yellow journalism effect and feel free to use bold flavors. Now if you are more of a Malcolm X than a Martin Luther King Jr., this next approach is for you.

To end this outlandish, uncivilized belittling of children, people could also begin a... FIGHT CLUB! The main premise behind this action is to really send a message to the ghastly parents behind this diabolical plan. The best way to go about doing this is to create an alter ego of yourself that looks like Brad Pitt, go to your local saloon's basement, and

fight as many people as you can. Said fighting serves a critical purpose in completing the mission. You shall rally as many followers as possible in order to confront the barbaric parents. Hopefully, one can and will show off all of his/her new found roundhouse kicks and "beat" some sense into the enemy. Remember what rule number one of fight club is along the way.

Finally, the last idea that comes to mind is to completely turn the tables on the parents and leash their rancid necks. This is the most complex and risky approach to completing the mission. It involves a series of steps.

Some collusion with factories will be necessary in order to create an XL sized leash to bring out into the streets. All of these activities will likely cause uproar and the fuzz will crack down. The police will then force individuals to create a black market; in the event of this, one would have to recruit ex con Tony Montana to be the Leash Kingpin and smuggle leashes up from Cuba.

Once the leashes have been mass produced, the leashing can begin. Troops will then be rounded up, and they will march into the local supermarkets, amusement parks, gas stations, and many more places, to do the dark deed that has been bestowed upon them.

If you don't find any of these ideas appealing, then you will not be participating in the assuaging of a child's pain and the "leashed kids" will be forced into hours of therapy from trying to repress these childhood horrors.

This is a serious social issue that needs to be brought to the attention of everyone. No matter what your style is, passive or aggressive, there is an approach that floats everyone's boat. And remember kids, don't drink society's proverbial Kool-Aid and don't leash your kid!

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Dodgeball tourney is a hit

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closed until further notice. The next twenty-four hours, Abt, Rankin, and Mitchell feared that they would have to either cancel the event or postpone it until the gymnasiums were reopened. Fortunately, the tournament was able to be moved to the Middle School and everything ran as planned.

Finally it was show time; a bracket was set up and the games began. Two teams would battle it out in a best-out-of-three fashion. After much

ball-slinging and whistle blowing, a team rose victorious: The Return of the Mighty Melon Heads, which consisted of seniors Brandon Berringer, Mike Brown, Nate McIntire, Sean Boyle, and Tom Orr.

Through team signups, admissions, and concessions, the duo reached their goal and surpassed last year's total, raising \$1,370.

When asked why this event was so successful, both Abt and Rankin responded with a simple "Well, everybody loves dodgeball."

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.

Opinions expressed in The Oracle are those of the individual writers, not necessarily of The Oracle staff.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. Any letter intended for publication must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Articles and letters may be mailed to the high school (ATTN: The Oracle) or emailed to oracle@sasd.k12.pa.us.

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

Kony campaign plans to "Cover The Night"

by Audrey Schreiber and Casey Rastetter

For the past month the Invisible Children's Kony 2012 campaign has shocked and awed the nation. Celebrities, political figures, and everyday citizens have banded together in an effort to "Make Kony Famous."

The video, "Kony 2012", sparked interest in a cause that blew up beyond anyone's expectations. Despite this newfound exposure, the abductions and violence has not stopped. Between March 5th and April 1st, fifty seven more children have been abducted for the Lord's Resistance Army.

Tonight, April 20th, marks the start of a new wave of activism, past the efforts done on social networking sites. The Kony 2012 campaign has dubbed this event "Cover the Night."

The latest Invisible Children's video, "Beyond Famous," includes information regarding the global phenomenon.

Ben Keeseey, CEO of Invisible Children, explained within the video: "On April 20th, We will turn this digital revolution into something more... Join us, wherever you are, wherever you live, for Cover the Night."

The main objective of this event is to create awareness within cities across the nation and to publicize the atrocities of Joseph Kony and the Ugandan war crimes.

With this goal, people are encouraged to rally their friends and family to literally cover their designated city with "Kony 2012" posters in hopes of making the problem at hand even more of a topic of conversation and concern.

In order to make this newest project a success, participants are encouraged to visit the Invisible Children's website and take note of the four recommended steps.

Along with forming a team with friends and hitting the streets of your local cities, people are expected to contact local policy makers and serve the local community with volunteer projects.

The video stressed the importance of engaging in all of the steps in the process. In order to serve the community, the website recommended participating in a project, such as cleaning up and volunteering.

The Invisible Children Organization also made it known that contacting policy makers is just as important, because if local figures do not realize the significance or importance of the issue, then chances are, not as much political effort will be put into the project as it has the potential to be.

Here at Shaler Area, The Committee for Social Action, led by juniors, President Heather Ivanoff and Vice President Brenna Berkley, is taking initiative to continue the participation and interest with activism. The group has already declared "Cover The Night" their first project.

Ivanoff said, "Honestly, I really think Pittsburgh is going to bring down the house. I've seen and heard of so many small towns and cities that have huge groups of people that are advocating for 'Cover The Night' and I think people in Pittsburgh know what's up."

Everyone who is going out to "cover" his/her town is asked to wear a "Kony 2012" shirt to show even more support.

When discussing the importance of the event, Ivanoff stated, "We don't have to do this, but we should."

French to visit Shaler

from page 1

of Shaler Area High School to represent "America" and make sure our guests have the best experience possible."

Most of the host students have received a portfolio detailing their individual exchange student, including their looks, interests, activities and the like.

"I am hosting a 15-year-old girl named Solenn. Solenn lives in Lycee, France, which is right outside of Paris. She goes to a small Catholic school and has taken English for over 5 years. She has a younger brother and enjoys activities such as skiing, horseback riding, reading, badminton, shopping, and photography," Sieber said.

Some students, like junior Alexandra Sorce, have already begun to communicate with their exchange students.

"My exchange student is named Akhesa Moumami, her mother is French and her father is Algerian. We have been emailing back and forth for a couple weeks, and I have received her portfolio that the exchange program requires the students to send," Sorce explained.

This project is a huge opportunity for both the French students and Shaler students. With it, they may be able to gain a better knowledge and understanding of a culture that exists halfway across the world.

Mrs. Adrienne Endy, another Shaler French teacher has high expectations for the program: "I hope that there is a broadened cultural understanding and a forever bond for the host and exchange students."

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-- Audrey Schreiber



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Anthony compares life & learning in Latvia

by Anna Porter

The opportunity to travel and see the world is not one that comes around often. Fortunately, two years ago, English teacher and avid traveler Mr. Aaron Anthony was presented with the chance to teach in Latvia. Looking back on his years abroad, Anthony recalls the lessons he learned personally and as a high school teacher.

Anthony, whose life has always been enriched through travel, began looking overseas for schools that were searching for willing educators to come to their countries and teach. The match making service paired him with the International School of Latvia, located in Riga, Latvia.

“Travel is always really important to me and I think it’s one of the best ways to educate and to be educated,” he explained. “As a teacher, you can have a really nice set of traveling opportunities out there. As a native English speaker, there are also a lot of opportunities for that too.”

Latvia, an incredibly small land mass, is located in Northern Europe, but populated by over two million people, one million of which live in the Riga, the country’s capital.

During his two year stay, Anthony taught English classes comparable to Shaler’s Honors and CP classes. Aiding in the delivery of his instruction was that every student had previous English experience, just varying degrees of mastery. The mind set of most non-American students is that the best universities are either English or American, so that by knowing the language they would go on to either a college in the United States or United Kingdom.

The school, which usually has less than twenty graduates each year, was a melting pot of both students and faculty ethnicities. Anthony recalls the staff as being about a little less than half Latvian, and the other half a mix of American, British, and Australian, even with a boss from South Africa.

“It was a really cool dynamic between the faculty and as well as with the students. It was a great international mix so everything was kind of with a joke. They would make fun of Americans for fast food, but at the same time they made fun of the German kid for being so anal about time and precision, and they would make fun of the Russian people for being so cold natured,” he said.

Even though there was such diversity at the school, Anthony realized how



Anthony, front and center, with other teachers from The International School of Latvia (Mr. Anthony)

universal teaching truly is.

“If you’re a good teacher in one country, you’ll probably be a good teacher somewhere else. That was cool for me to learn. It’s mostly about connecting with your students, and your content is secondary. If you can connect, than you’ll get the content across,” he said.

Although just the teaching aspect of the stay was fulfilling, Anthony also was taught lessons about high school students in general.

“High school students are largely the same, regardless of what country they come from. It’s the same kinds of things that are fun and interesting, whether its video games or girls or Hollywood movies, or TV shows. It’s more the same than I think most people would realize. That was surprising for me,” he noted.

At the time of his stay, the approximate tuition of attending the International School of Latvia for seniors was €9,000, an expensive price tag for the cost of a high school education. With this figure in mind, Anthony assumed the children were from wealthy families and would be enthusiastic and motivated to learn, but soon saw this wasn’t exactly the case. The same challenges he faces at Shaler coincided with what he experienced there.

“There weren’t any of the behavior problems. There were no fights in the hallway, or theft, or vandalism or things like that. But the kids weren’t necessarily top, top notch students either. Some

were- some were great, some were brilliant, challenging and eager to learn. But, any English teacher struggles to get his students to read a book; I still struggled to get students to read a book,” he said.

This visit to Latvia, along with traveling as a college student and previously leading international trips abroad with students to Europe here at the high school, Anthony praises travel and the many benefits it has to offer students not only enhancing not education, but their entire outlook on life.

“I really love the concept of delocalizing education and making it more of concept rather than a place and taking the learning to the world rather than keeping it to the walls of a school,” he said. “If people never leave Pittsburgh then they can be content. But once you start to see how much is out there, you need to keep seeing what else is out there. It opens a whole world. There’s a world beyond Shaler.”

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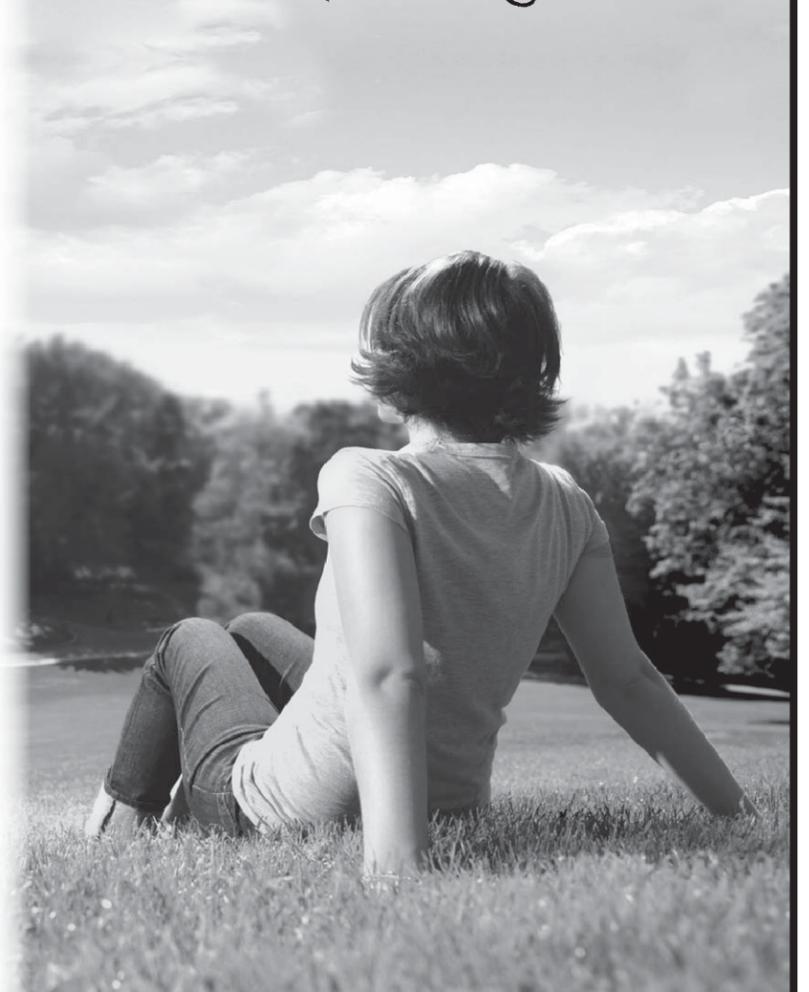
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Junior attempts to win prestigious scholarship

Nick Carey waits for acceptance from United World Colleges organization

by Ross Budziszewski

Junior Nick Carey is currently pursuing the opportunity of a lifetime. Carey, a junior at the high school, is attempting to be accepted into the United World Colleges (UWC).

The United World College organization only accepts elite students from around the world and only 50 students each year from the United States are accepted. Former members from UWC include the current queen of Jordan, Nelson Mandela, and several Rhode Scholars; so if accepted, Carey would be in extremely good company.

United World College's have 13 campuses around the world in many different countries. There is one branch located in the United States along with branches in Italy, Africa, Costa Rica, and Hong Kong.

Carey became aware of the program in early November of 2011 when UWC, along with various other colleges, sent him letters through the mail. The letter included an application in which Carey had to fill out and also write an essay to go along with it, to be scored and considered for this opportunity.

The decision for Carey was extremely tough between his senior year and leaving the school. Carey, an excellent student at Shaler, would most likely get a full scholarship to college without the program but he still applied for the program for the experience.

"The decision was missing my senior year, including things like prom, my senior football season, wrestling, and many other things I get to enjoy at Shaler. But honestly, it came down to money. The



Junior Nick Carey (Ross Budziszewski)

fact is if I get accepted, I am going to travel half way around the world for free and then get college paid for, along with a more challenging and demanding education. It was a really hard choice to leave all of the people who I have grown up with, but I had to do it," Carey stated.

The pre-college program that Carey would be enrolled in at UWC would consist of a more advanced and challenging curriculum. The two years that Carey would spend at UWC would act as his senior year and almost a "thirteenth grade" between college and high school.

Not only will the program challenge Carey in the classroom, it will also increase the opportunities of full scholarships to many colleges in the United

States.

"By taking the courses I will be taking at UWC, I will be getting classes that our high school simply cannot offer. Through this program UWC has a partnership with 80 colleges including: Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and many other Ivy League Schools that offer UWC's members full scholarships to attend," Carey pointed out.

All of this sounds extremely nice, but to be able to receive the full benefits of being a UWC member if accepted, Carey must pass several difficult exams to obtain an International Baccalaureate (IB) degree. His score would determine which of the 80 colleges would offer him a scholarship.

On March 23, 2012, Carey was accepted to an interview in Indiana to meet with members of UWC. Only the top 125 students out of the 600 in the United States who apply make it to the interview round. The day included a personal interview, group discussion, and meetings with former UWC members from foreign countries such as Bosnia, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

"It was a really good experience to meet people who have been through UWC and went through the things I am doing currently. I was able to talk to them and get insight about the whole process. By going, I feel like my chances of getting into UWC are a lot higher than they were before," Carey stated.

At the end of April, Carey will find out if he is one of the 50 students chosen to attend UWC, being accepted he would be placed at one of the 13 campuses around the world. His dream campuses are the UWC Adriatic in Italy, UWC Costa Rica, and UWC Africa.

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SPORTS

Boys' volleyball staying positive for the season

by Ali Tappe

Entering the week with a record of 2-5, the boys' volleyball team looks to improve for the remainder of the season and hopes to earn a spot in the playoffs.

"I think we played some very tough, and some very good teams. So far our losses are to the one, two, and four ranked teams in the section. The one and two teams are ranked two and five in the state," head Coach Paul Stadelman said.

Only having two wins so far this season, frustrations from the players are rising.

"It can be a bit frustrating for our team to lose because we practice so hard and then when it comes time to play in a game, we don't compete as well as we should," Senior Sam Schrmack explained.

Players and coaches alike find themselves faced with frustration.

"I have a great group of guys that work hard, and I really want their hard work to pay off in the form of wins. So it is frustrating for me to see if we're not doing our absolute best every game, every point, and every play," Stadelman said.

Despite the frustrations, the team still looks to improve and perform their best at each game.

"I expect our team to play to our full potential and give 100% at each and every match," senior Captain Jeff Schmidt stated.

Fortunately for the team, one of their strengths is



Senior Sam Schrmack and Sophomore Max Reno deflect the ball at the net (Ali Tappe)

the desire and will to win, which will allow them to put in the time necessary to improve.

"Our biggest thing to improve right now is to have deliberate practice that has purpose and then to translate all those skills from practice into a game situation," Stadelman explained.

This season, players have really stepped up to the net to help carry the team.

"Jeff Schmidt has been our rock both defensively and with serve/receive. He is involved in almost every play on the court. He has not disappointed me. The level and rate in which the sophomores are improving has been nothing but a pleasant surprise. With their continued hard work, dedication and commitment to the program, it'll be exciting to see how they develop in years to come," Stadelman said.

Due to the incident at the Upper Elementary School two weeks ago, the team has not been able to use their regular home courts.

"Right now we are not able to use either gymnasium at the high school. It's uncertain when we will be able to use our gymnasium and home court," Stadelman explained.

On Tuesday the team will travel to Butler to take on the Golden Tornado.

"The first time we played Butler, it wasn't our best effort," Stadelman said. "Butler is a strong team and we can definitely give them a headache. I'm excited to see our matchup and see what we will be able to do this time around at their house."

Baseball hopes to continue success into WPIAL playoffs

by Ross Budziszewski

After a disappointing finish to the 2011 season, the boy's baseball team looks to redeem and establish themselves as one of the elite programs in the WPIAL. Although the team lost many key components of last year's team, they still contain a solid mixture of talented seniors and young players with large amounts of potential.

Led by head coach Mr. Brian Junker, the Shaler boys will not let the loss of talent be an excuse to have a poor season. The belief is that they can contend and be a powerhouse in the conference until playoffs.

"Our goal is to win our section and then advance into the far rounds of the playoffs which is what we failed to do last year," senior Eric Friend stated.

The team has many young stars emerging, such as sophomores Jimmy Hughes and Alex McElroy, both in the Titan's starting lineup. Besides several underclassman playing, a large amount of veterans top off the lineup, including captains Ryan Mincher and Derek Sullivan, along with Matt Bernick and Tyler Temple.

Ryan Mincher, a University of Penn commit, is the team's leader after a record breaking season last spring. Mincher, along with Temple and Sullivan,



Senior Matt Bernick winds-up for a pitch against team rival, North Allegheny (Ali Tappe)

are just a few seniors who are going to take their talents to the college level. Temple and Sullivan will both be attending Mt. Union College with the intentions to play baseball.

"I feel like every practice and game is important if you want to improve, and the team would agree. College baseball will be a whole different ball game, so I need to take full advantage of my practices now," Sullivan said.

Bernick and Temple are the top returning pitchers and, arguably two of the strongest in the league. Last season, Bernick had a sub

2.00 earned run average along with a 4-0 record and Temple had a sub 3.00 earned run average. These numbers along with the skilled and experienced fielding of Mincher at short stop, Sullivan at catcher, fellow Senior Taylor Colamarino at third, and an extremely athletic outfield, make the Titans hard for any team in the conference to compete with.

Shaler's current record is 7-2 and the majority of their upcoming games are against conference foes. The boys will face a tough stretch of competition including their rivals Butler, North Allegheny, and Seneca Valley. The boys expect and hope to continue their success and reach towards their goal of playoffs by the end of the 2012 regular season.

Lady Titans facing high expectations

by Anna Porter

Being ranked in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's softball preview as the #1 WPIAL Class AAAA team and having the #1 ranked player, the Shaler Area girls' softball team has a successful season underway, with much more to look forward to.

This year, the Lady Titans have a number of extremely experienced and skilled players. They are led by captains Lauren Hackett, Jamie Roth, Sydney Smyers, and Jess Vanucci.

Along with the seniors, returning Varsity players Juniors Julia Strackhouse and Mad-die Mulig top of the team's roster.

Smyers believes that because of the girls' familiarity, a WPIAL title is within reach.

"This team has come up together since 7th grade. We may have not been on the same team every year, but we have all been working towards the same goal, and for most of us this is our last chance," she said.

So far, the Titans' chance is still bright. As of April 16th, they have an overall record of 8-2-0, and conference standing of 5-1-0, placing them in second place in their section, behind competition Seneca Valley.

The girls' division has proved to be a rather challenging one, having suffered their only two losses from rivals North Allegheny and Hempfield. Both Smyers and Hackett believe that these two teams are their greatest competition this year.

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SPORTS

Track season starts with early successes

by Katie Rees

This spring, the Shaler Area Boys' and Girls' track team is delving into another promising season, hoping to make it to the playoffs in the future. Coach Mr. Justin Eskra feels that with the new potentials and sheer talent that this year's team has to offer, this goal will be accessible.

"Everyone offers so much depth and talent this year. Our biggest competitors will be North Allegheny and Butler, however, I feel that we have a chance of beating them this year. We have a nice group of kids, it would be nice to see them make it to the playoffs," Eskra said.

On Monday April 16, 2012 the girls' track team beat North Allegheny after 38 years. This astounding win puts them at an advantage to win the section for the first time ever and make it to playoffs.

New freshmen athletes as well as returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors, are providing exponential strength to make up for the lost key components that graduated last year.

"I'd say our biggest losses would be Shannon Powell and Angie Bagwell



Freshman Kristen Kealey hurdles to the finish (Lisa Montini)



Junior Tony Dibucci on the pole vault (Lisa Montini)

who both made states last year. Val McQuade and Sarah Cook were both two key components that we lost from last year as well. However, we have a ton of younger kids this year offering enough talent to fill the gaps from last year," Eskra said.

Student athletes are expected to stay healthy throughout the season in order to have a chance at making it to the state track and field championships. Multiple returning athletes have taken home WPIAL medals in either track or field events.

"We have great group of returning athletes that have won WPIAL medals qualified for the state

or track and field championships such as Meagen Carter, Taylor Grosjean, and Audrey Schreiber. Other underclassmen that have qualified are Kylie Farrell, Jessica Farrell, and Courtney Bauer," Coach Mr. Dave Interthal said.

This season, there are many strong runners, throwers, and jumpers delivering both on the track and in the field.

LAX teams overcome odds

by Casey Rastetter

The Shaler Girls' and Boys' lacrosse teams are overcoming the odds and pushing forward with passion into their seasons. With the loss of valuable players and the addition of a new coaching staff, both teams are stepping onto the field with their heads held high.

After Monday night's game, the girls' lacrosse team is off to a stellar start of 4-1, even with the loss of their Senior Captain and D1 athlete Elizabeth Casertano. After tearing two ligaments in her ankle, Casertano is out for five weeks of her senior season.

Junior Captain Saige Greygor said, "Elizabeth will never be replaced... she is one of our best players, so we all just need to step our game up like we have been."

Along with Greygor, Senior Bethany Snider, Casertano and Junior Andra Labanc take on the role of Varsity Captains.

Greygor said, "The main objective is for us (The Captains) to act as leaders and role models on and off the field, and to help all the players in anyway we can. Most importantly, we try to get the team morale up."

After a loss against one of their section rivals, The Hampton Talbots, the Titans had reached a setback.

Junior Courtney Ambrozic and Sophomore Nellie Phillips have especially risen to the chal-

lenge this season. Ambrozic has been averaging six goals a game, while Phillips has been replacing Casertano to the best of her ability.

"I have such great confidence in Nellie Phillips she has really stepped up to take over the center position and I think that she's going to have a great season. Nellie is great on the draw and that's really going to be an advantage," Casertano said with enthusiasm.

The team is anxious to play North Hills, who is tagged as their biggest competition.

Casertano said, "I think there's always room for improvement in everything, but I think our real strength is the bond we have as a team."

The team has a challenging season ahead of them with a plethora of obstacles to overcome, but the girls seem ready for everything that's ahead.

As of Monday, the Boys' team is 2-1 in section and, just like the Lady Titans, is experiencing many obstacles.

Similar to Casertano, Senior Captain Ryan Senge is out for some of the season due to an injury to his collar bone.

Senior Captain Matthew Geyer said, "One captain position is a rotating one between Arron Werner and Ryan Senge. Werner has taken over control of that spot on game days, but Ryan still completes his Captain duties."

The other Captain positions on the team are held by Seniors Tim Schreiber and James McKee. Being that Schreiber has two years of captain experience under his belt, he knows what it takes to mold a team.

Not only is the team revisiting old and familiar tactics, it is also transitioning from one familiar set of coaches to another.

Geyer said, "Our new coaches' names are Ken Sines and Ed Klein. They've introduced a lot of new movement for the offense and defense that we haven't seen the past couple of years."

Fellow captain Schreiber couldn't agree more, saying, "I think they bring a lot of experience that we didn't have before and it brings a more professional look and approach to the program."

The boys are seeking to make it to the playoffs and defeat their biggest competition, North Hills, along the way.

The endeavor may be no problem for the Titans, for they have high scorers out on the field like Senior Roman Benty and Sophomore Luke Lynch. The defense as a whole is also solid. With talent overall, the team feels as if they could be dangerous.

"We're capable of making the playoffs but it all depends on how bad we want it. I think we have a great chance to make it if we continue taking care of business," Geyer said.

Softball team chasing lofty goals

From page 6

"If we are consistent, there are not too many [weaknesses]. Our team has amazing talent, we just have to play our best every time we're on the field," Smyers said.

However, a fundamental component of Shaler's success lies in #1 ranked catcher Hackett. The senior, who has been starting since her freshman year, hit .604 with 28 RBIs and 6 homeruns last year, and is expected for another impressive season this year. Hackett is not only confident in herself, but her teammates also.

"I do not feel pressured; I am very fortunate to play with an outstanding group of athletic girls," she noted.

If the girls can continue performing the way they have been, a run for WPIAL champions is in their future.

"We're aiming pretty high this year and none of us plan on being taken out of the season early," Smyers said.

Hackett agrees and added, "I do believe there is a WPIAL title within reach. This year is the year we bring home the gold."

The girls will face division competition Butler today at 4 p.m., whom they beat once before, 9-0.

The Back Page

FLBA members compete in state competition

by Ali Tappe

This past week, six members of Future Business Leaders of America attended Pennsylvania State Leadership Conference, which was held in Hersey, PA.

FBLA is a student organization that is dedicated to helping students explore their interests of the business world.

Shaler had a total of ten students that were qualified to attend the competition, but due to prior commitments, four of them were unable to attend. The six students that represented Shaler at the competition were Jon Hyatt, Logan Micher, Matt Geyer, Troy Sciuлло, Sydney Smyers, and Zack Sybo.

To become qualified for the competition, twenty FBLA members had to attend the Regional Leadership Conference this past December, where they faced competition from Fox Chapel, Hampton, North Allegheny and Pine Richland. Once there, each person had to either take an online exam or performance, like a job interview. The top three or four from each subject were then qualified to go to states.

Shaler had two students who took first place for



their individual subjects: Sean Echant for Computer Applications and Logan Micher for Introduction to Business.

After the six students became qualified, they looked forward to the April competition, and knew that there was going to be a lot to do to prepare if they wanted to win.

“Matt Geyer, a fellow teammate, who is also taking the marketing exam, has given me many packets to review for states,” first year member Troy Sciuлло

said.

As for Geyer, who is also the president of FBLA, he relies on a few of his classes to help him succeed.

“Mrs. Spyr’s marketing and advertising class has helped me a great deal to prepare for states. We do a good amount of reviewing in that class, so hopefully it’ll be enough for me to do well,” he said.

Mr. McAdams, who sponsors FBLA, is realistic when it comes to the state competition, but nevertheless, he still hopes that each student does well.

“It’s against everyone in Pennsylvania, so the competition is a lot harder, however, I do have confidence in the students going,” he said before the competition.

McAdams isn’t the only one to have confidence the group.

“I have a lot of faith in my teammates, like Matt Geyer and Sydney Smyers. I believe that our trio will place relatively well in the marketing competition. If we are in the top rankings, that’d be great. It’d mean a lot to us, Mr. McAdams, and our school,” Sciuлло said.

ALABAMA -- A cleaning worker discovered a makeshift meth lab in the bathroom at Walmart.

A custodial employee working on Saturday found a “shake-and-bake” meth lab in the women’s restroom at a store in Alabama, Boaz Police Department officials confirmed to The Huffington Post.

“That kind of blew my mind when I read the report,” Police Chief Terry Davis said. “We’ve found a lot of shake-and-bake meth labs in different places but never inside a business.”

Police also found it odd that the pills used to cook the low quality methamphetamine were of a brand not sold at Walmart.

Investigators with the Marshall County Drug Enforcement Unit disposed of the meth-making lab.

MARYLAND -- Police in Maryland pulled over a motorist dressed as Batman, but the caped crusader escaped without a ticket.

Authorities pulled over the driver of a black Lamborghini with Batman logo tags last week in Silver Spring outside Washington. The driver was

dressed as the Dark Knight — cape, mask and all. Police, however, weren’t impressed and wanted to talk to him about his superhero logo license plate, which isn’t an approved plate in the state.

The driver, who goes by Lenny B. Robinson when not dressed as a superhero to visit sick children at hospitals, was able to show them a proper license plate for the car. A video of the stop shows police officers shaking his hand and taking pictures of him with his ride.

NEW ZEALAND -- Anglican Church officials in New Zealand announced a \$5 million temporary cathedral made with cardboard will be erected to re-

place a demolished church.

The Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, which was forced to demolish its church, vicarage and hall following a Feb. 22, 2011, earthquake, said a top Japanese “paper architect” designed the temporary structure, which will be comprised of cardboard tubes, timber beams, structural steel and concrete, The New Zealand Herald reported Monday.

ENGLAND -- A child on an Easter egg hunt organized by a pre-school group in an English village stumbled upon an unexpected surprise -- a hand grenade.

The hunt was taking place in a field near the town of Holford, Somerset, on Saturday.

The area was cordoned off and the bomb disposal squad destroyed the grenade in a controlled explosion, police said. It also resulted in the closure of a highway for a few of hours.

“We were beginning to count up the eggs at the end of the hunt and I saw a boy of three standing on an object,” Stuart Moffatt, who was attending the hunt with his three children, told the Daily Mail.

“It was brown and about four inches high. It looked like an Easter egg, but it was a hand grenade.”

The grenade was believed to have been a relic from World War II.

DENVER — The U.S. Forest Service might use explosives to dispose of a half-dozen frozen cows that died after getting stuck inside a cabin at 11,000 feet in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains.

Segin said using helicopters is too expensive and rangers are worried about using trucks in a wilderness area, where the government bars permanent improvements and tries to preserve the natural habitat.

Other options include burning the cabin and dragging the dead cows out with pack animals.

Forest Service spokesman Brian Porter said rangers saw about six cows inside the cabin, and several dead cows lying around the building.

The carcasses were discovered by two Air Force Academy cadets when they snow-shoed up to the cabin in late March. Rangers hiked up and verified the problem, then began discussing how to remove the dead animals. They believe the animals sought shelter during a snowstorm and got stuck.

WEIRD News

SCG SHALER CULTURE GRIG		If someone wrote a book about your life, what would they title it?	Would you consider yourself a hipster?	Sperries or Converse?	Where have you found your Easter basket?	Would you win the Hunger Games?
	Freshman Ron Schwartz	“The Greatest Hair on Earth”	I was hipster before hipster was hipster	One on each foot	The dryer	I’m always hungry
	Junior Emily Pirt	“The Girl Who Never Sleeps” 	No!	Connies	The oven	No, but I’m good at hiding
	Senior Sam Schrmack	“The View: Schrmack’s Perspective”	Mac Miller	Neither	Beside my Bed	No chance
	Senior Mark Zalakar	“hey.”	I’m afraid of mainstream 	Sponverse	On my roof	Only if Mr. Stadelman is on my team