

The Oracle

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Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

October 2014

School implements new security screening measure

by Bri Schwartz, Kyle Donovan and
Claire Costello

Changes and advancements in security have recently been taking place in the United States, most notably in our schools. Following the tragedies in schools across the country, schools in the U.S. have taken a step back to ensure their number one priority is safety.

For the 2014-2015 school year, a new security measure was taken to ensure safety in the Shaler Area School District. The system is called Raptor vSoft, and it is one of the many security products made by Raptor Technologies.

Made specifically for buildings with grades K-12, the goal of the Raptor is to identify and track all visitors entering the building. The visitor identification and tracking system is used to monitor all people who enter.

The Raptor is a web-based software that works by reading a visitor's ID or driver's license. The information from the license (name, birth date, photo) is sent through a database of registered sexual offenders in the United States.

The Raptor can only identify sexual offenders; no other criminal background information can be obtained.

If no match is found in the sexual offender database, the system prints a visitor's ID badge with the individual's name and photo to wear during their visit. If a sexual offender match is identified, the school building administration and two members of the district office are notified.

The staff will also do a facial recognition check

"Safety and security of our students and staff is very important to us. We want to take every opportunity to try to ensure that our visitors are safe and that we are not allowing threats into the building without constant monitoring,"

-- Dr. Wesley Shipley

of the offender's picture on the database and the visitor. This is necessary in case of a "false positive", meaning that the visitor is not a sex offender but has the same name of a registered sex offender somewhere in the United States.

If the visitor is a registered sexual offender, the purpose of the visit determines whether or not the individual is allowed access into the building. If allowed access, the visitor will be escorted to their place of visit, and the escort will remain with the individual until they leave the building.

"I think the parents are pleased that we are trying our best to provide for the safety of our students and community members/visitors understand that it is

important to limit access to our buildings and they appreciate that we are doing our due diligence. Interestingly, the individual who had the false positive was impressed that our system found a match and that we were able to identify that it was incorrect", said Shipley.

Created in 2003, the Raptor system is used in 11,000 schools throughout the country. There have been 15,000 sexual offenders identified. Since the Raptor was put in place at the Shaler school district, there were "false positive" identifications that were cleared and no sexual offender matches.

The Raptor system cost the Shaler school district almost \$16,000 and after two years there is an annual subscription fee.

Schools are taking preventative measures after the tragedies that took place in the U.S., most recently the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut. The Butler Area School District responded by arming their security guards. Other schools have invested in more security staff and surveillance equipment.

With violent incidents occurring in schools more often than not, it was clear that something needed to be done in every school. The Shaler Area School District's investment in this advanced security feature was added as a precautionary tool ensuring the safety of the district.

"Safety and security of our students and staff is very important to us. We want to take every opportunity to try to ensure that our visitors are safe and that we are not allowing threats into the building without constant monitoring," said superintendent, Dr. Wesley Shipley.

Ebola Outbreak

Viruses have and will affect Shaler

by Adriana Imhof & Kaitlin Parente

Ebola may not be a big threat in Pennsylvania at the moment, but Shaler isn't a stranger to viral outbreaks. From the rare respiratory virus to H1N1, Shaler has seen it all.

H1N1, commonly known as the swine flu, started in North America in April 2009. By June 2009, it has spread across the country and into other countries. The swine flu showed regular flu symptoms including fever, runny nose, coughing, bodily aches, fatigue, vomiting, and diarrhea. H1N1 was highly contagious, being spread by coughing and sneezing around non infected people.

In March of 2010, the swine flu vaccine was given out in priority groups. Pregnant women, children, health care workers, people with significant respiratory diseases, and people with immune deficiencies were the first to receive the vaccine. In the fall of 2010, the vaccine was given out in addition to the regular flu vaccine. The vaccine is now included into your regular flu shot.

Before 2009, it wasn't uncommon for people to skip out on their yearly flu shot, but once the swine flu hit, it became extremely important that everyone received their flu shot yearly.

In Pennsylvania alone, 10,940 cases were reported with 78 deaths.

"We do attendance by percentage so on an average day, there's a 3-5% average absence for all reasons. That includes early dismissals, leaving early for sports, doctors appointments and getting your braces tightened. When the H1N1 virus hit, we had 15-17% absence," Scheuer said.

Around late August, early September, an Enterovirus D68 swept across the Northeastern part of the U.S., affecting 68 people in Pennsylvania.

Enterovirus D68 has mild symptoms such as fever, coughing, runny nose, sneezing, and body and muscle aches, but people who suffer from asthma and other breathing problems can have severe symptoms such as wheezing and difficulty breathing.

"Shaler will probably get it if it continues to spread across the country. We

Ebola in the U.S. causing concern

by Adriana Imhof & Kaitlin Parente

The largest outbreak of Ebola since 1976 has swept over West Africa and has now made an appearance in the United States. Ebola is a potentially fatal illness that has already infected over 9,000 people and caused over 4,000 deaths in West Africa as of October 20.

Based off of data obtained in August by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there could potentially be up to 1.4 million cases in four months.

Symptoms begin to appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola. Like many other illnesses, it starts with a high fever. Then come stomach pains, vomiting, and shortness of breath. Victims then begin to bleed internally and bruises and large blisters cover the skin. Those who suffer from extremely severe cases have the potential to uncontrollably bleed from their nose and eyes. 60% of cases are fatal.

Ebola was initially transmitted by wild animals to humans. It is now spread between humans through direct contact of blood or bodily fluids such as urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen. There is also a possibility that a person can become infected through objects like needles or syringes.

"It's just horrible. It's so hard in a country when there's so much political turmoil. There's not very good infrastructure so getting people to hospitals for treatment is so difficult. I'm grateful that they are bringing people back to the United States and treating them. It shows that it is treatable. Since it hit the news, everyone thinks it's a huge outbreak, when it's really not. Because it didn't start in the U.S. or Europe, a vaccine has not been made. There isn't as much funding for treatments in Africa. It's very sad," Leslie Scheuer, Shaler Area High School nurse, said.

The first case of Ebola in the U.S. appeared in Dallas, Texas. Thomas Eric Duncan was diagnosed with Ebola after traveling from West Africa to Dallas to visit his family. Initially Duncan visited the hospital with a high fever. He was given antibiotics and sent home. Eventually Duncan returned to the hospital and

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OPINIONS

Water is a necessity, paying for it shouldn't be

by Kyle Donovan

Water, one of the most abundant resources and, after oxygen, the most vital nutrient for virtually all forms of life on this earth, is relatively unimportant by the standards of the school's lunch provider, The Nutrition Group.

For years, cartons of milk have been provided as the standard beverage for school lunches. Lactose free milk may be provided for people who are lactose intolerant, but what if students don't want milk, or don't like milk?

The school's confusing meal standards make it difficult, but possible, to have a reimbursable meal without milk. Reimbursable meals, of course, are the only ones that matter to the school; they are cheaper and can be charged to a student's lunch account. They consist of proteins or grains, fruits or vegetables, and dairy.

Because only three are required, milk can be excluded by, for example, choosing proteins, grains, and fruits, but what else besides milk can a student have to whet their whistle without breaking the bank?

TNG's answer? Absolutely nothing. Drinks like iced teas and bottled water are provided in the lunch line, but are all a la carte, not part of a lunch. The fact that teas are not part of a school meal and cannot be charged to a student's tab is understandable due to their high amounts of sugar. That those are in the main lunch line is problematic, that bottled water is treated the same is inexcusable.

When asked about this at a recent student government meeting, Shaler TNG director Jenny Pearson said: "We cannot replace a dairy item in the

If a student decided to buy water every school day, he/she would spend \$225 on water alone...If you went to a restaurant every day for 180 days and ordered water you would spend nothing.

\$225 on water alone, plus the cost of everything else in a meal separately. That means that depending on what you choose, you can be spending hundreds of dollars more on lunch at school just by opting for water instead of milk. If you went to a

school lunch."

This is of course despite the fact that the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act, federal legislation that brought on these nutrition reforms, says nothing of students being required to be provided dairy, just that if dairy is provided it must be lowfat. What it does require is clean drinking water.

From the bill, "Schools participating in the school lunch program under this Act shall make available to children free of charge, as nutritionally appropriate, potable water for consumption in the place where meals are served during meal service."

The idea that requiring dairy is to promote the students' health is laughable. After all, why are such foods as greasy pizza and French fries considered part of the school lunch, but water is not?

Also, why is milk the only source of dairy that the school can provide on a regular basis? TNG is famous for its cheese sticks, why not just force students to take one of those rather than milk? If dairy truly is that fundamental, it's not that hard to come by.

Health reasons aside, the economics of the issue are absurd as well. Water is \$1.25. If a student decided to buy water every school day, he/she would spend

restaurant every day for 180 days and ordered water you would spend nothing.

But even more ridiculous than the price and the health defense are the excuses that are used to get around the fact that water is required.

At that same student council meeting, Pearson continued, "If you want water, you can simply ask a lunch lady and they will provide a cup for you."

I appreciate the high effort put into a hypothetical plastic cup full of tap water that will most certainly spill all over my food and the floor as I walk around with it on my lunch tray, but is this even the case?

The Oracle decided to find out. We went to cafeteria workers from every serving area of the cafeteria, when asked for a cup of water not only did all say that they could not do that, often times looking quite confused, but some told us to go and buy a bottle.

Water is not a privilege, it is a right and a necessity. The Mayo Clinic recommends that people drink over a liter of water a day. I fail to see how it harms the health or reputation of the school to include water in lunches. There is absolutely positively zero excuse why it is not an option for a school meal.

Arming teachers is a really bad idea

by Justin Jockel

Maybe you have always put trust in your teachers to provide you with a quality education, but would you trust your teacher to protect you with a gun?

State Senator Don White is proposing a bill that would allow Pennsylvania school employees, upon obtaining licensing and certification, to carry firearms in school buildings and on the grounds. This is just a one way street to disaster.

This idea came about as a result of the stabbing incident at Franklin Regional. White wondered what if Franklin Regional was located in a rural area, instead of in the suburbs. It may have taken authorities up to 40 minutes to arrive at the scene. Ironically, it was an unarmed security guard and school staff that stopped the attacker at Franklin Regional.

Schools are considered a safe, secure, and peaceful learning environments. Last time I checked schools are doing their best to keep guns OUT of the school; this law would do the exact opposite. What if the guns were accessed by students and/or unauthorized personnel?

If this bill passes, it will put guns in the hands of teachers. Let's run through a possible scenario if a shooter was to enter the school.

The teacher needs to put the students' safety first and find cover. Then, teachers would need to unlock a drawer or cabinet where the gun is stored (I'm hoping they don't carry it on them). After, the teacher would have to turn the safety off, possibly load the gun, aim and shoot.

This whole procedure would be followed while the teacher is overcome by nerves. This could lead to the teacher hurting others. Let's be honest, how many of your teachers have had experience using a weapon to save the lives of those around them? Even professional law officers have trouble handling tough, stressful situations like these.

Teachers shouldn't have to concern themselves with protecting their students with weapons. Kristen Bruck, a former Pennsylvania middle school teacher and a member of the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, feels that being an armed security guard was not part of a teacher's job description.

"There are so many things teachers are there to do, and being a security guard or a police officer is not part of our job," Bruck said to *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Its a shame we need to even be debating this topic. People may agree that more is needed to prevent school violence, but this is the wrong security coming from the wrong people.

Shaler Storyboard

by Stephen Callen



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.

Viruses affect Shaler

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might have already had it and it could've gone undiagnosed. There could've been people who had a mild case of it and did not experience the respiratory affects of the virus," Scheuer said.

In 2003, the band trip to Canada was cancelled due to an outbreak of SARS, sever acute respiratory syndrome, in Quebec. SARS is a serious form of pneumonia. There is no specific treatment because antibiotics do not work due to SARS being a viral disease.

"That was something the nurses were talking about. They didn't know if we should take students up to Canada, possibly get them infected and bring them back with it to Pennsylvania where no one had been infected. I think they talked to the health department to determine what to do. Eventually they decided to go to Ohio instead. The kids have come back from band trips with the stomach bug and that was bad enough!" Scheuer said.

However, currently the biggest epidemic in Shaler is the common cold. Now that school has started, it is important to consider your health by washing your hands before and after meals, covering your coughs and sneezes, get a good night's sleep, and avoid sharing drinks.

Ebola causing concerns

from page 1

was immediately taken into intensive care to begin treatment for Ebola. Despite the hospital staff's extreme efforts, not long after Duncan arrived back at the hospital, he passed away.

In that short amount of time that Duncan was being treated the disease spread to two of the nurses that treated him. Nina Pham, age 26, contracted the disease and is currently being treated in Maryland; she is said to be in "fair, stable" condition. Amber Vinson, age 29 also contracted the disease and is currently being treated in Atlanta; she is said to be in "stable" condition.

All across the nation people are worry stricken due to the lack of preparedness for the virus. Mistakes that could have easily been prevented have been made and the CDC is struggling to come up with a good explanation for it all. Amber Vinson was given the okay to travel on a flight to Cleveland even after she was in direct contact with Thomas Eric Duncan and claimed she felt a little under the weather.

Despite the slip ups, the U.S. continues to fight the virus and is slowly but surely gaining control of it all. Yet, over in West Africa people are beginning to lose hope.

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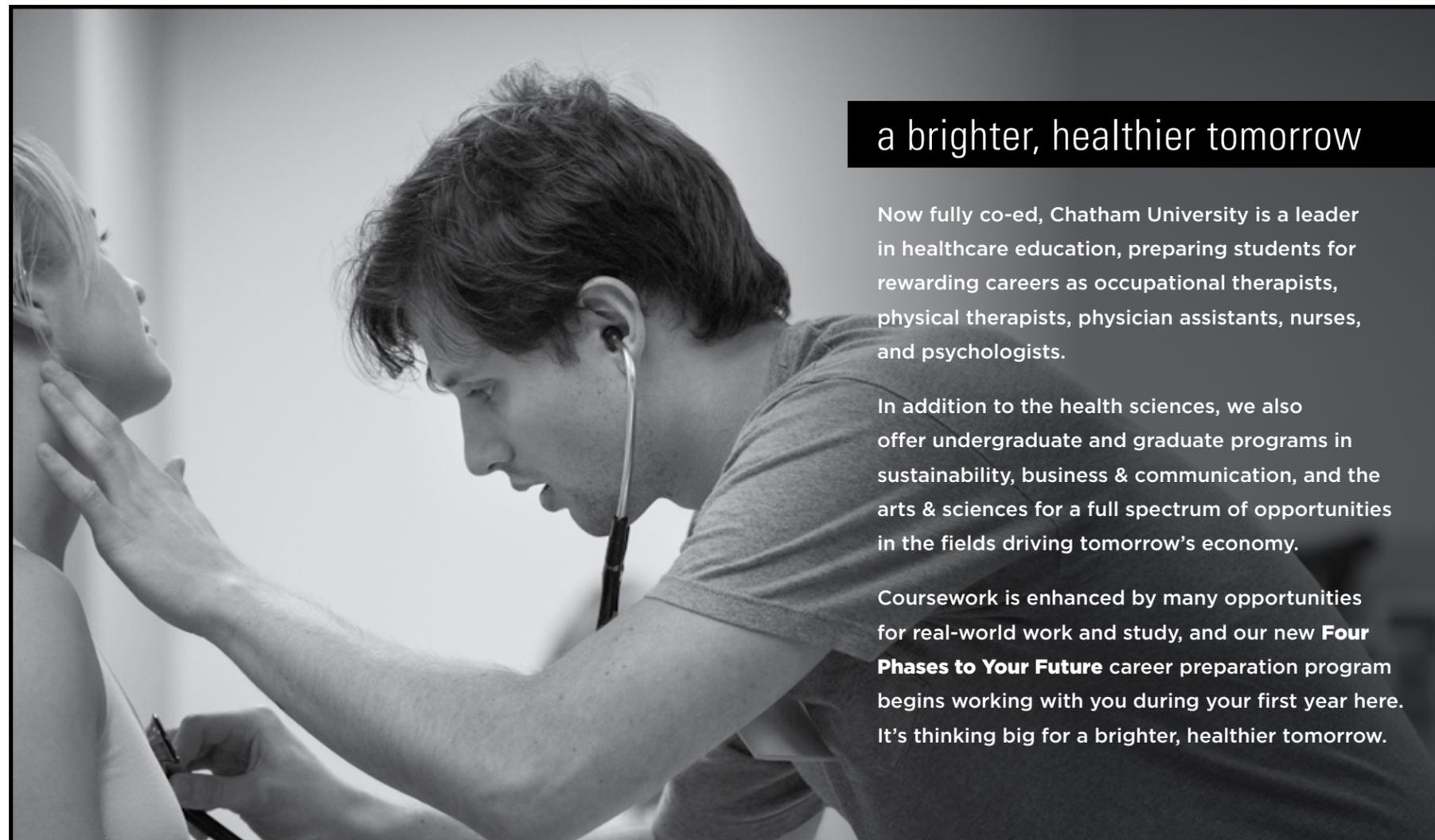



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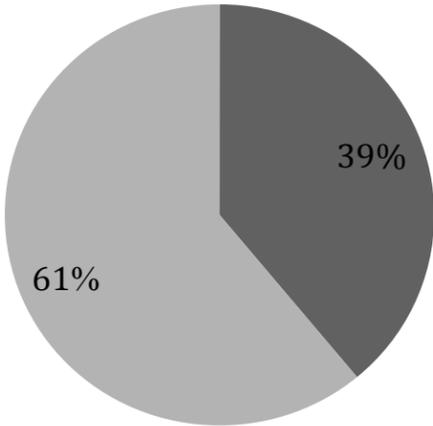
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SURVEY SAYS:

These results are based off a random selection of 100 students who were asked to participate by answering series of multiple choice questions for this survey. The results of the survey are projected below:

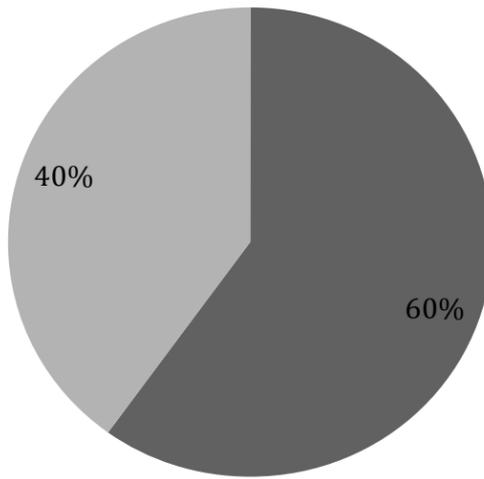
Trick or Treating vs. Costume Parties?

■ Trick or Treating
■ Costume Parties



Apple vs. Android

■ Apple ■ Android



Trending Topics Around the Internet

by Marina Varvaro

Selfie replicas- Australian man, Jarrod Allen, who has over 18,000 followers on Intstagram, has conquered the selfie replica. If you're not quite sure where the selfie replica came from or what it is, well, it's a big, bearded man, posing in the exact same way as seen in a female's picture that he finds on Tinder. Here's some photo evidence to show you what I mean.

Ice bucket challenge- The origin of where the idea of dumping cold water on one's head is unknown, but generally credited to Pete Frates from Boston who was diagnosed with ALS in 2012. It began with the "Cold Water Challenge" where people either had to jump into cold water or donate money to cancer research. The transition from the "Cold

Water Challenge" to the "Ice Bucket Challenge" is hazy, but it got media attention on June 30, 2014. This event spread around among celebrities, high political figures, and even the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron. Recorded as of August 29, 2014, the Ice Bucket Challenge raised \$100 million for ALS and is still continuing on.

Cat Pics- Taking pictures of cats for the population's amusement became a thing when a man named Harry Pointer started dressing up his cats and photographing them. It grew into a much larger fad when smart phones came out and taking a quick cat shot was easy to get and, therefore, easy to get online. In addition, pictures of cats are twice as popular as selfies. About 3.8 million cat pictures or videos are shared online each day, as opposed to 1.4 million selfie pictures.

Care For a Scare?

by Sam Dietz

Scarehouse:

Address: 118 Locust Street Pittsburgh -Pa 15223

With heavily detailed sets and actors that terrorize guests while they're still in line, a haunt fanatic will be entertained from start to finish with this creepy building on the corner. If you're looking for something even scarier and you're over the age of 18, try out The Basement where the frights are allowed to touch you! Don't forget to buy your tickets in advance and use the Shaler code! SH2014

HundredAcres Manor:

1 hundred acres drive

Established in 2004, Hundred Acres Manor is one of Pennsylvania's most well-known haunted attractions. Everything about the place will make your skin crawl, from the incredible castle-like setting with creepy music and lights to the blood curdling screams of other visitors in front of you in line! Watch out for the chainsaw maze!

Cheesemans:

Kennedy Rd, Portersville, PA 16051

Located in Portersville, Pennsylvania, Cheeseman's Fright Farm has everything! A haunted hay ride takes you through the haunted woods and drops you off at the haunted house, while actors terrorize guests the whole time. Bundle up, the hayride can get a bit chilly, but it's totally worth it!

Terror Town:

17th and Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA

Take caution if deciding to head over to Terror Town, the reviews have not been great! It's said to be pretty basic, not very scary, and the actors could be better. No harm in checking it out for yourself, though!

SCG SHALER CULTURE GRID		Favorite scary movie?	Favorite fall treats?	Most creative costume you've ever seen?	Who's ghost would you like to see?	What's your go-to fall fashion?	Favorite Selfie pose?
	Senior Corrina Kissel	High School Musical (Terrible Acting)	Pumpkin Spice everything, 'cause I'm basic	A trench coat, glasses, and mustache. He was handing out candy out of a van. It wasn't Halloween	My boy Michael Jackson so he can teach me how to moonwalk	Fall is an acceptable time to start wearing hoodies and sweats.	 The Classic White Girl (Hands on hip, duck face, peace sign)
	Junior Jake Fitzpatrick	Sinister	Candy Corn	In 3rd grade, I was Howie Mandel	John F. Kennedy	Definitely UGGS	 Peace Sign
	Sophomore Callie Scafer	The Conjuring	Pumpkin Pie	It's not scary, but cute. A little Buzz Lightyear!	Christmas Past	Jeans & a crewneck	 Just the normal Smiling picture
	Freshman Jake Bartosh	None	Gram's brownies	Godzilla because of the scales	Robin Williams	Jeans & a comic book hoodie	 No selfie pose

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SPORTS

Lady Titans undefeated season earns #1 playoff seed

by Justin Jockel

The Shaler Area Girls' Volleyball team has finished the regular season, ending with an undefeated record while compiling wins against the likes of Pine Richland, Fox Chapel, North Allegheny, and Seneca Valley. The girls are thrilled to be in the playoffs, due to all of the skills the team has worked on and perfected.

"Since we are a small team, we have to put our main focus on being faster, stronger, and quicker than the other team. We are at our best when we play this style of ball," Head Coach Kristine Ruppert said.

There is something this team has that not many other teams can say they have.

"This year is especially exciting because five of these girls have started since their freshmen year and they have matured into terrific volleyball players," Ruppert said.

Last year, Shaler was eliminated in the semifinals. Ruppert strongly believes that with the team being the No. 1 seed in the WPIALs, the girls have a legitimate chance at being WPIAL Champions this year, something that Shaler girls' volleyball has never achieved.

"We lost to a very good team (last year). We played the best we could have. This year I think our maturity and confidence has really improved and that can only help us in the long run," Ruppert said.

Players firmly agree that what has contributed

to the team's success the most is the team effort.

"Volleyball is such a huge team sport and when we play our best, we play as a team and use all of our teammates," Senior Annie Bozzo said.

Senior Hannah Bradford also concurs that playing as a team has led to wins.

"There's no weak link on our team. We work together and we all use our strengths to win games," Bradford said.

The match against Seneca Valley currently stands as the team's most critical victory during the regular season. Seneca Valley was ranked No. 2 at the time. The victory continued to solidify Shaler's position as best in the WPIAL. Ruppert believes working as one unit helped Shaler overcome Seneca Valley.

"I think the key to winning the Seneca Valley match was teamwork. We didn't give up after the first two sets and then after that we won the last three games rather easily," Ruppert said.

Bozzo feels the team needs to keep this mindset heading into playoffs, as well as staying focused in order to become WPIAL Champions.

"I think we lost focus a little bit last year and if we stay focused, work as a team, and work on what we know we can improve it will lead us to achieve our goals," Bozzo said.

Bradford says she took last year's playoff run as a learning experience.

"It gave us a taste of how good we can be, gave us some experience, and showed us what it is like to win," Bradford said.



Annie Bozzo at the net vs Penn Trafford (Louis Raggiunti, Trib Total Media)

Girls' tennis team struggles against tough section foes

by Ethan Griffin

The girl's tennis team is coming off one of its tougher seasons this year, due to being in a new section, but sees a lot of positives from this season and positives for next year's team.

Despite not making the playoffs this year the team had some good had fought matches against some tough opponents, such as North Allegheny, Pine Richland, Hampton, and Fox Chapel.

"I was especially proud of the attitude the girls brought to each match. No one complained. The kids worked together. There was excellent senior leadership," Assistant coach Brian Duermeyer said.

Throughout the season the girls had some ups and downs, but had a very exciting and satisfying match against Knoch, Shaler won the match because all three seniors - Larissa Guering, Taylor Elrick, and Hannah Boehler, won at the singles positions.

"It was as satisfying of a moment I can remember in my 12 seasons as an assistant. The three of them are fantastic people and leaders and I am really proud of their accomplishments," Duermeyer said.

The team will spend this offseason training and getting ready for next year's season where they'll be facing an equally as tough season as this year. But have been given the skills and understand the leadership roles some will have to take on next year, thanks to this year's seniors.

"I am confident that everyone will approach the offseason seriously and am really excited to work with a special and talented group of kids," Duermeyer said.

Next season the team is expecting about 20 players and is determined to do what it has to do to win and make a run for the playoffs.

"I am optimistic that the returning girls can take the next step," Duermeyer said.

Girls' Golf finds success despite small numbers

by Bri Schwartz

With only four other teammates, junior Natalie Abt led the girl's golf team to win two matches this season, coming close to several other wins.

"Participating in an unpopular sport at our school is very difficult. Since we only have five girls on the team, it puts a lot of pressure on all of us to score well all the time if we had more girls. It would give us more flexibility and a better chance to win matches," Abt said.

Despite the lack of support and popularity of girl's golf at Shaler, the three juniors and two sophomores did not hesitate to work hard and get better this year.

Practice consisted of chipping and putting at hilltop or going to the golf range at Pine Creek. This prepared the girls for matches by getting them into game shape.

The team's best match was against Butler, who lost only one match this year. The Lady Titans were only four points away from a win. Abt's best match individually was against Mars where she shot a 37 on 9 holes.

Abt explained that the team's goal was to shoot under 200 on 9 holes which they achieved multiple times. Her personal goal was to make regionals but 'only' made it to the WPIAL championships.

The humble junior has been the only girl from Shaler to qualify for WPIALs for the past two years. Not only did she make it there but, she placed fourth in Section 4 of Girls Class AAA. The championship match took place at Pheasant Ridge Golf Club (Par 70, Target Score 89). Abt shot an 84 on 18 holes. As a sophomore last year, she shot an 88.

"Qualifying for WPIALs both my sophomore and junior year was exciting and I hope to do it again my senior year," Abt said.

Looking forward to her senior year, Natalie Abt has high goals set for her and her four teammates. She wants to make regionals to cap off an already impressive high school career. As a team, the girls are looking to win at least five matches.

With an experienced and hard working leader, those goals do not seem too far to reach.

"These past two seasons, I learned to never give up because those few strokes could be the difference between a win and a loss," Abt said.

I learned to never give up because those few strokes could be the difference between a win and a loss."

-- Natalie Abt, junior

SPORTS

Tough schedule, injuries contribute to losing streak

by Gavin Cannon

The Shaler football team entered its final week still looking for its first win. Over this season the team has fought and improved. Not one thing, but multiple variables contributed to the poor season.

The team's schedule was one of, if not the most, difficult in the WPIAL. The section the Titans play in, the Northern 8, has produced the past four WPIAL champions and this year has had 2 of its teams ranked #1 at some point.

In non-section competition the team took on Penn Trafford, who was ranked #3 in WPIAL at the time and Woodland Hills, who was undefeated at the time and ranked #2.

Against Woodland Hills, the Titans lost senior Tim Nickel to injury. Nickel was their captain and starting all-conference middle linebacker. The rest of the team however did not shy away from the challenge they faced and players stepped up where the team needed them to.

"We fought through adversity due to injuries. We come to practice every day putting in 110% during every rep to improve as a team," said junior Nick



Nick Fugh returns an interception for a touchdown vs Butler (Louis Raggiunti, Trib Total Media)

Fugh.

Throughout this season Coach Jon LeDonne struggled to find consistent play from his quarterbacks. The Titans are currently using their third quarterback this season. Fugh is now taking the snaps af-

ter being moved from wide receiver where he was the team's second leading receiver.

Fugh has a lot of raw talent and is very athletic but is yet to be molded into a starting quarterback. While he has not had a lot of practice at the position his ability to run the ball has given the offense a different dimension.

"We have improved on our confidence and communication on and off the field. The coaching staff brought confidence and energy to the team," said Fugh.

This is the first season for this coaching staff. As a head coach it can be very difficult to implement a philosophy in just one season, and can be even more difficult for a group of players to be constantly changing systems. LeDonne is the third head coach in four seasons.

"It's hard to adjust to the way they coach and it's difficult to have to keep adjusting," said senior captain Luke Nethen. "We've gone through

three systems. They were similar on offense but the defense went from a 3-3-5 to a 4-3."

The Titans wrapped up the season this past Friday with a game at Seneca Valley.

Boys' golf season recap



by Ed Wynkoop

Finished with a 2-6 section record, but qualified 4 golfers (Tanner Grzegorzcyk, John Romanowski, Nick Cavacini and Gerad Greco) for the Semi-Final round of the Golf WPIAL Qualifier which was most qualifiers from Shaler in over a decade. As a team shot a low score of 191 also hasn't been accomplished in over a decade. Won an underclassman tournament at the end of the season. The team of Tanner Grzegorzcyk, Nick Cavacini, and Bryce Fedak won the first annual Suncrest Cup hosted by Pine-Richland. Some additional stats - Tanner Grzegorzcyk had the lowest scoring average of 39 and Nick Cavacini had 40.7 while John Romanowski had 40.8 to round out the top 3 golfers. (photo provided by John Brough)

Girls' Soccer team enjoys season despite poor record

by Taylor Laffey

With a final record of 4-13-1, the girls varsity soccer team's expectations for the season fell short.

There had been many unexpected setbacks this season. Injuries were debilitating to the girls' record this season. The team lost two starters including the team's biggest offensive threat, Megan Schwartz.

"I think the hardest part was not being able to help my team and play with them for probably the last time. It was extremely hard to just sit and watch and have no control over the game," Megan Schwartz said.

The highlight of the girls' season was winning the section game against North Hills.

"It was nice to break through and score four goals and have things fall in our favor," said Mr. Chris Catanese, one of the team's coaches.

Even though the team didn't win as much as it had planned, the girls still had some great experiences. The team did many activities outside of just playing soccer together. Recently, the girls participated in the Lupus Loop walk. They also go out frequently for team dinners.

"It's really great to be friends with all the girls off the field. It makes the tough season easier," said senior, Julia Jashinski.

Luckily, the future is bright for the team. Due to the injuries, many freshmen were given the opportunity to play in the varsity games. The girls will be able to take this experience and improve in the future.

"Our freshman class has the potential and the numbers to be competitive in the future if they continue to grow and develop," said Catanese.

The season ended on October 15 for the girls. Although the season did not go exactly how the team had planned, they still learned some valuable lessons and are more adequately equipped for successful seasons in the near future.

Titans hope that this year has set foundation for next season

by Ethan Griffin

The Boys' Soccer team wrapped up its final game on October 9, with a 3-0 loss against Pine Richland. The Titans ended their season with a 4-11-2 record. With the season going certainly not as well as they hoped but this season shows promise for the team of next year.

With many losses coming only by a deficit of one goal, players know they are able to compete with the other teams.

"We came close in every game, but couldn't pull off the win," said Ryan Landry, who led the team in goals scored this year.

"I feel if everybody played as a team and didn't get mad at each other if someone messed up we would do a lot better," said Landry.

But Landry is not letting this season get his expectations down.

"I expect to win a majority of the games we play. Next year, we'll make the playoffs."



The Back Page

Q&A: Mikey and Big Bob - Kiss Morning Freak Show

by Jared Panza

Michael Dougherty and Bob Mason have been hosting the 96.1 Kiss Morning Freak Show since 2004. Better known as Mikey and Big Bob, the two have made some memories over the past several years of being radio show hosts and were willing to share some of their stories.

You two have been good friends since the age of ten. How do you think this has helped you two become good morning show hosts?

(Bob) The crappy thing about most morning shows is they usually take two or three people who don't know each other and put them together and expect them to be friends which doesn't always work. We honestly would be talking about most of the same stuff and trying to make each other laugh everyday even if we didn't have this job, the fact they pay us for it is a bonus.

(Mikey) We don't have the same arguments, grudges, jealousy that other morning shows might have because, when it comes down to it, we know that we were best friends before we had a radio show together so we don't let that change anything. We're family; even our Moms are best friends so it goes deeper than just our radio show for us.

What was the process in becoming radio DJs? Is it something difficult to get into?

(Bob) I went to one semester of college and I dropped out. School just wasn't for me to be honest. So I went to broadcasting school and after about two months at broadcasting school, I had the chance to get an internship at a local radio station in the promotions department. I pretty much stayed at the station and worked for free 24 hours a day trying to learn everything and eventually got hired to work in the promotions department and then went on to be part of the night show.

(Mikey) I have the exact same story as Bob. We dropped out of college around the same time, went to broadcasting school together and got our first internships and jobs at the same station together. Radio is just like any other industry though, you have to work harder than anyone else if you want to succeed. It's like being an actor or actress, there's no one path that everyone takes to get on TV or in a movie, everyone has their own path. We just knew that once we got our foot in the door, the key was to just outwork everyone and eventually no one could deny us.

Growing up near Detroit, would you ever expect to be DJing in Pittsburgh? What do you love most about Pittsburgh?

(Bob) Pittsburgh is home for me. We have a pretty awesome city. My parents still both live in Michigan but going back there feels like we are going to visit more than heading home.

(Mikey) Growing up, I never thought my life would have ended up like it has, but Pittsburgh is truly home now. We've lived here for basically our entire adult life now. It's like no other city in the world and you don't realize that until you've lived in Pittsburgh for a long time and then travel to other



Mikey and Big Bob with a guest at the Furry Convention

cities, they're just not Pittsburgh. This is our home.

How old were you when you started? Were you nervous for your first shows?

(Bob) I was 19 and I am pretty sure I almost crapped my pants the first time I talked on the radio.

(Mikey) I was 18 and I can even remember driving around with Bob the first time we heard his voice on a promo for the station we worked at. I think he may have said the name of the station and that's it but we went NUTS like it was the best thing ever. The first time I ever sat behind a control board, my hands were shaking so bad I could barely press the buttons. I was just so afraid to make a mistake, I thought I would get fired if I pressed just ONE wrong button.

You've been hosting the show since 2004, what do you contribute this long line of success to?

(Bob) Pretty much we sit in a room and try to make each other laugh every morning and somehow it has worked. We don't have the normal "2 guys and a girl" morning show. We don't have a producer or interns and we don't do a lot of the "fake" things that you hear on other morning shows. Which I think really helped us stand out.

(Mikey) We don't have egos. We just don't. Every single day we're so thankful to be doing what we do every morning. We don't take it for granted. You have to treat every day, every show like it's your first day on the air and your first show. That's what we do. The minute you start thinking you're better than the people listening to your show, you're done. We're still thankful every day that people like to listen to us every morning, that's what keeps the show alive and keeps us humble.

What is the craziest thing that has ever happened on-air?

(Bob) I got arrested on air before by the state police. It's a longer story but the short version is I was on the side of the parkway wearing a mini skirt with a sign. The police were not amused. However we had an attorney that was listening that morning and he got me out of jail by the end of the show.

(Mikey) When we first started, we didn't like the desk in our office so one morning, Bob started to chainsaw it while we were on air. It wasn't like we were just playing chainsaw noises and 'acting' like it was happening, it was all real. The whole hallway smelled like gas from the chainsaw. Our boss came running in yelling at Bob while we were still on air. We came pretty close to getting fired that day.

What time do you get up to go to work and what are your hours?

(Bob) My alarm goes off at 3:15am. I get to the station by 4 something and try to leave for the day by 1 or 2pm. The day doesn't stop there though; we are always updating the website and looking

for things for the next show.

(Mikey) Some people think we get in right before the show starts and leave right after it ends and it's a party the rest of the day. Not so much. Like Bob said before, it's just us....we have no producers, no interns, no sports guy, no entertainment reporter girl, no other sidekicks....it's just us so we're doing so much extra work for our show during all hours of the day that the listeners might not ever see or realize. Our show never ends and that's a good thing.

You meet a lot of famous and important people. Who was the most interesting person you met?

(Mikey) No lie, we met Jay Z one time at a show backstage and interviewed him and played him a version of his song 'Girls, Girls, Girls' that we had done our own version of about girls in the area. Looking back on it, it was probably horrible but he said it he liked it. So, we're watching the show from the area right in front of the stage and Jay Z hands the mic to Bob at the end of 'Girls, Girls, Girls' to finish the last lines of the song. It was an unreal moment. But, honestly....Sally Wiggin is a goddess. She is one of the nicest people in the city of Pittsburgh and has become such a great friend of ours since we started our show. Sally Wiggin has been to my house for dinner before. That's a real thing that happened.

Best place to eat in Pittsburgh?

(Bob) Burgatory

(Mikey) My favorite place to eat lately has been whenever I can catch any of the food trucks like the pierogi truck, the taco truck or the Nakama truck out somewhere. The food trucks are taking over the city!

Who was your favorite caller on the show? What did they say?

(Bob) Eileen from Blawnox. She calls us every morning stays on hold pretty much the entire show. You never really know what she is going to say.

(Mikey) My favorite caller EVER to our show was President Clinton. We learned the night before he was going to call our show and just encourage people to go out and vote. We don't follow politics or anything and didn't even really know what election was going on at the time so we were asking him about random things like if he was excited the McRib sandwich was back at McDonalds. It was also right around the time when Lil Wayne was getting out of jail so we asked him what he thought about Weezy being free and he actually gave an amazing answer about how his daughter, Chelsea, got him listening to rap music in the 90's and how anyone that goes to jail and does their time deserves a second chance. It was impressive. The next thing we know, EVERYONE was covering President Clinton's 'message to Lil Wayne'. It made NBC, ABC, CBS News, MTV, every pop culture blog you can think of...we were even getting coverage from places as far as Australia and China from it.

Has anything ever gone horribly wrong on-air?

(Mikey) Nothing too horrible, no. We've had some major equipment failures in the studio before but we just usually laugh at it and are just honest with our listeners about it. One time the entire studio wasn't working except the microphones. We couldn't play songs. We couldn't play commercials. So, we just talked for 45 minutes straight until the engineers could get us back up and running again. (Bob) Check question about craziest thing that happened on air.

Favorite song in the past 10 years?

(Mikey) Fergie "Big Girls Don't Cry"

(Bob) Justin Bieber "Baby"...Isn't that everyone's?

(Mikey) I'm changing my answer to Justin Bieber "Baby"



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