

# 90's Mania

You know your a child of the 90's... p.12-13

Obama goes techno Editorial Cartooning at its finest p.8



# THE PAWPRINT

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CLAY CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOL  
February, Volume 5 Issue 7

## Revallo steps into line of fire

By: Jesse VonSpreckelsen  
Staff Writer

Four to five minutes, that is the amount of time it takes the average American person to get dressed each morning before beginning their day. Thirty seconds is how much time Clay Center's newest volunteer fireman has to get boots, bibs, jacket, and Nomex fire resistant hood on.

Another 30 seconds to pull on his air mask, oxygen bottle and regulator, gloves and helmet is all the time Mateo Revallo has to be ready before he has to leave for the fire.

In this situation, the fire is actually a stopwatch timing his progress before he meets his limit to pass this step in his training. Without a doubt

Revallo passed this test on his way to becoming a fully certified firefighter.

Revallo's task of become a Volunteer Firefighter while still in high school is very rare and difficult because of the amount of time spent balancing training and schoolwork.

Clay Center Volunteer Firefighter Clay Fisher said, "It is pretty cool to see a kid step up to the plate for something like this, it is impressive when you step into the fire hall and see only older men with Mateo sticking out, not with oddness but with bravery and passion."

After all the training is through, Revallo will have completed six different sessions of training, he attends training each Monday in Grafton. It

will take approximately a year for Revallo to complete all of his training.

"I think it will be a fun learning experience, and it will help me also when I train for the armed forces. This will help me get a jump start on my way if I want to make a career out of firefighting," said Revallo when asked just why he was becoming a volunteer fireman.

Valiant, motivated, gritty, dogged or determined, these might be a few words that come to mind when most people think of firefighters. Firefighting is a task that calls for more than just the average person to accomplish and Mateo Revallo is just that person for Clay Center.



Senior Mateo Revallo listens intently to advice from a Clay Center Volunteer Firefighter during training. Revallo must complete six different sessions of training before he can become a Volunteer Firefighter.

## Art class has kids

### all wrapped up

Art I/II class goes outside the box with unique tape sculpture project

By: Kayla Essink  
Staff Writer

"Why are those kids taping each other?" You may have asked yourself this question after being in the art room recently. Mrs. Haasenstab has started her Art I/II class on a figure unit. In this unit, they start by drawing the human figure, which was practiced by students posing in the middle of the room, while others used 30-60 second timings to get the position and form drawn. "I liked being a model," junior Blake Whitcomb added. The purpose of these particular lessons, are to get the students to pay attention

ment is to make tape sculptures of their own figures, which are to be posed in a certain environment, and fit into their chosen theme. They start by selecting the environment they want their "scene" to take place. Then they decide on how to pose appropriately to accommodate that scene. Finally they take turns taping different sections of their body to create the basic form. They then carefully cut the tape forms off and fix them to their original shapes. "It was pretty interesting. Taping the shape of my body was



Senior Jairo Perez works on wrapping Senior Jessie Sorensen's lower body for her tape body sculpture. Groups worked together by taping different sections of their bodies to create the basic form, then cutting the forms off and fixing them back together. Each group came up with their own unique scene to put the figures in.



Sophomore Mersaydes Tessman wraps tape around Sophomore Brooke Yates to form the shape of her body sculpture for their "Athletics" scene.

to the proportions and capture movement. After several sessions, the timings begin to get longer, to give the students more time to apply shapes and details to their drawings. "Figure drawing seems easy, but it is actually tough to understand how to draw in that way," senior Jessie Sorensen said. "But it is fun once you get used to it."



Kalib Faltys, Blake Whitcomb, and Garrett Calhoun connect a leg onto one of their tape sculptures in Art class.

cool because I see what I look like to other people," senior Nick Neuwrith. Three themes were chosen by the students for the project. "Athletics", "Random blind man at Emergency" and "When horror attacks" are the various scenes you can see displayed in the school hallways. "The kids always seem excited when I start this project. They like to see life-size figures of themselves," Art teacher Mrs. Haasenstab said.

The latest project is an idea based off of the life-size plaster sculpture work of George Segal. The assign-

## Vlk "Czech's" into US

By: Mat Nolan  
Staff Writer

When all the students came back from Christmas break, they discovered a new face in the halls.

That face belonged to the foreign exchange student, Filip Vlk, who is staying with host parents Bill and Doris Hoyt. Vlk came here from Liberec, Czech Republic.

Many of his hobbies back home include playing soccer, being on the computer and being with his pets.

At first, Vlk had doubts about coming to America, "I was scared of flying because I almost got lost at the airport," Vlk said. He really wasn't enthused about coming to America at first. Vlk, like many people traveling to a different country, was worried.

After he got here, however, his doubts were put to rest. "I don't miss anything from my town because it was so big and Clay Center is nice and small," Vlk said. Take that back, there is one thing he misses, and that's all the good Czech food.



Filip Vlk carefully works on a figure drawing project in Art class.

# Speechers speak well

**By: Vanessa Ponder**  
Business Manager

The speech team is off to a great start.

The students have been up at the school night after night working their hardest to get their speeches perfect so they can be the best.

There are 22 dedicated students out for speech.

At the Deshler meet on January 24th Mat Nolan placed 2nd and Jesse VonSpreckelsen placed 4th in Extemporaneous. In Poetry Ceirra Tompkin placed 4th. Brooke Yates placed 5th and Sara Slater placed 2nd in Informative. In Persuasive, Jill Baxa placed 2nd.

At the Sandy Creek meet on February 14th Slater placed 6th in Serious and 5th in Informative. Baxa placed 4th in Persuasive. VonSpreckelsen placed 4th and Nolan placed 2nd in Extemporaneous. In Entertainment, Morgan Woodbury placed 6th.

"It's a really short season, but our kids are making excellent progress. Those that are working are seeing many awards and are also encouraging others to work hard too," Speech Coach Jeremy Heneger said.

In Sutton on February 21st Nolan placed 5th in Extemporaneous. Slater placed 3rd in Serious and 7th in In-



jeremy CHEVALIER/The PawPrint

Morgan Woodbury gives her Entertainment speech on Edward Cullen in finals at the Sandy Creek meet February 14.

formative. Working his hardest Chad Veik placed 7th in Poetry.

"I've never placed at a meet before in an individual event. When I placed at the Deshler meet it was exciting to be rewarded for all of my hard work and effort I give to speech," sophomore Brooke Yates said.

Clay Center will be hosting the Conference speech meet that the speech team placed 2nd at last year on February 25th.

Then the team will go to districts on February 28th and hoping for a bit of luck they will be district champs like last year.



jeremy CHEVALIER/The PawPrint  
Aaron MacArthur gives his Humorous Prose titled Seafood Science Lab.

# Singing Along



jeremy CHEVALIER/The PawPrint

Sophomore Kalib Faltys signs a duet with senior Jessie Sorensen at the Winter Concert on January 8th. The two sang an acoustic version of "Swing Life Away" by Rise Against.

The UNK honor clinic was held January 26 at the UNK Health and Sports Center in Kearney. Sophomore, Kalib Faltys was the only student to tryout from Clay Center. "I wanted to try out for the honor choir so I could get a better chance of singing in a choir at college," Faltys said. The tryout included recording a scale and the first verse of America the Beautiful. There were three choirs, women's choir, festival choir, and honor choir. Faltys was in the honor choir. Over 106 schools were at the event and around 720 students participated. After rehearsing the entire day, they performed five songs that night. They sang songs such as: Sing, ye Righteous by Viadana, Agnus Dei by Halley, Arise my Love and Omnia Sol, both by Stroepe, and Stomp Your Foot by Copeland. "There were really cool students there and I think it really pushed my limits vocally," Faltys said.

# Foreign newcomers experience speech

**By: Ceirra Tompkin**  
Staff Writer

Foreign exchange students go outside the box and away from what they are used to and give speech a try.

Speech season just started and two foreign exchange students, Jeremy Chevalier and Stefan Weiler, are prepared to perform in their first speech season.

"I have never really done anything like speech before, just presentations in front of the class," Chevalier said.

He has never done anything like this before but that is a different story for Weiler. "I have done things similar to speech before, with my piano performances and it's also just like doing a play on stage," Weiler said. He performed in his first speech meet

on February 14 in Sandy Creek "I was very nervous for my first speech meet because there were judges listening and they determine how well we do," Weiler said.

While Chevalier presented his speech at the Deshler meet, which was on January 24. "I was really nervous to do my first speech because I thought people wouldn't understand me and I wouldn't do very good. But after I did it the first time it wasn't so bad," Chevalier said.

Chevalier also performed in the Sandy Creek meet, but found it easier since he already experienced this at Deshler. "It was easier to do my speech at this meet. I wasn't as nervous because I knew what to expect and what was going on," Chevalier said. He placed third and fourth in his rounds at Sandy Creek with his

entertainment speech on the four reasons you shouldn't be an exchange student.

Weiler also placed well for his first time, placing fourth and fifth on his informative speech about the author JRR Tolkien, who is the author of Lord of the Rings. "Speech is very interesting and I enjoy doing it. At first I didn't think I would do well but it wasn't bad and I also made new friends from this experience," Weiler said.

Both were nervous but surely they have a good reason for going out for speech. "I decided to go out for speech because it allows me to express my point of view and that is what I like about it," Chevalier said. "I decided to go out for speech because I thought it might be a good experience for me," Weiler said.



kayla ESSINK/The PawPrint

Belgian exchange student Jeremy Chevalier gives his Entertainment speech on why people should not go on an exchange trip to an audience at the Sandy Creek meet.

# Students learn careers while designing to impress

**By: Jill Baxa**  
Assistant Editor

"First of all, how good-looking is my wife?" These were the first words stated by the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama at the beginning of the Inaugural Ball on January 20th. Michelle Obama revealed her second stunning outfit which was a white chiffon one-shoulder gown designed by Jason Wu.

But what does this hoopla of fancy dresses and star designers all have to do with high school classes? Family Consumer Science teacher Mrs. Schlautman took the opportunity of the events of the President's Inauguration and ran with the idea to explore the world of a fashion designer in her freshman careers class.

Studying career paths as part of the second quarter, Schlautman introduced many ideas for students to study to spark an interest in a career that they could be interested in pursuing. Earlier in the quarter, students

designed a pizza product by coming up with the pizza related food item, box with the name of the product along with nutritional facts and any other information. They also made a commercial skit while being paired in partners for the assignment.

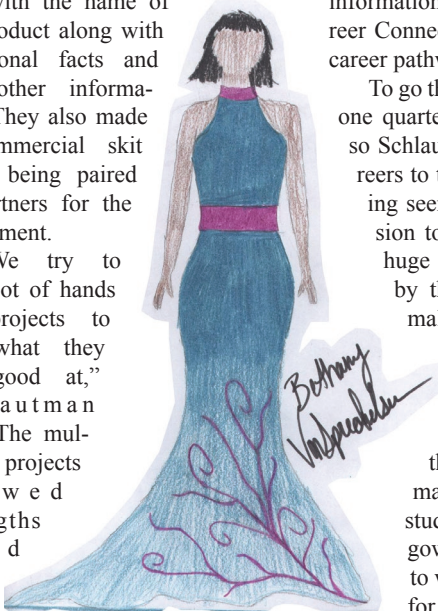
"We try to do a lot of hands on projects to see what they are good at," Schlautman said. The multiple projects showed strengths and weaknesses in the students' career fields. The class is based on a new curriculum that was put together this past summer. Schlautman also uses information from the Nebraska Career Connections website to look up career pathways for each job.

To go through all of the careers in one quarter is virtually impossible, so Schlautman picks out a few careers to touch on. Fashion designing seemed to be a great profession to consider because of the huge production that is made by the many choices of formal wear for the First Lady during the Inauguration Ceremonies.

To incorporate fashion designing into the career class, Schlautman got the inspiration for students designing a formal gown for Michelle Obama to wear from an emailing list for FCS teachers that she is part of. The students were allotted one day to design their formal gowns for the inaugural events.

Michelle Obama's first Inauguration attire featured a jewel-collared, pale yellow-gold lace coat, sweater and sheath dress which resembled the gown that freshmen Brett Peshek designed. However, no one else's gown design was a look-a-like of her fancy evening ball gown. Schlautman

did compliment the students on their work and creativity. From colorful exquisite dresses to a Texas Longhorn gown, the students had fun using their creativity. "I like to be creative with this class," Schlautman said. "The students had a blast!"



Designed by: Bethany VonSpreckelsen



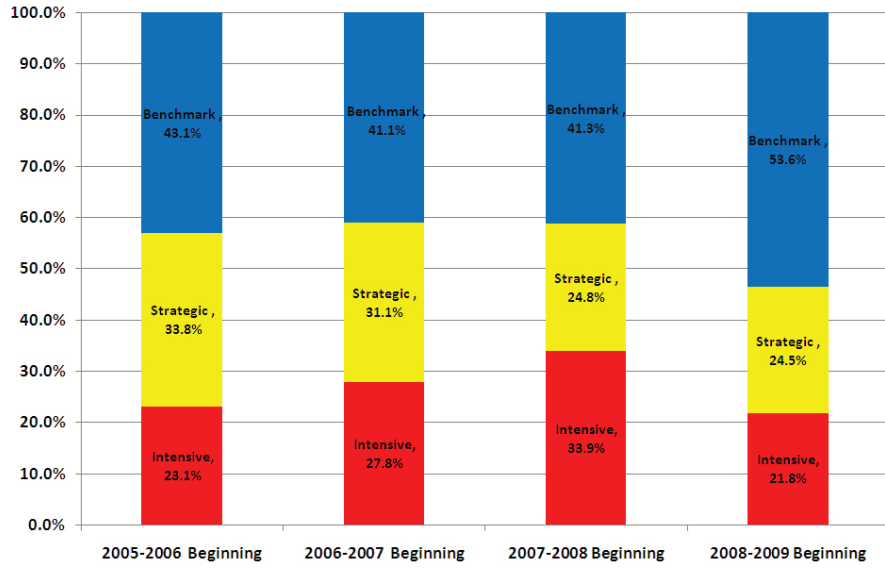
Designed by: Brett Peshek



Designed by: Dakota Hoyt

# Encouraging reading skills

Students' Instructional Recommendation In The Fall Across School Years



During the summer break students often lose skills they have gained through out the school year. The graph above shows that Clay Center students came back with little loss after one year of the new program and instruction.

**By: Mat Nolan**  
Staff Writer

Last year, Clay Center Public School instituted a new reading program in grades K-4 and added 5th and 6th grade this year.

This program is designed to help teach the K-6 students what they need to learn according to data, not just what the teachers think they need to be taught.

Literacy Coach and Title I instructor Kaela Heneger said. "The program is designed to teach all

students the skills they need to be successful readers, each year is aligned to the years before it so that students can build on previously learned skills" Heneger said.

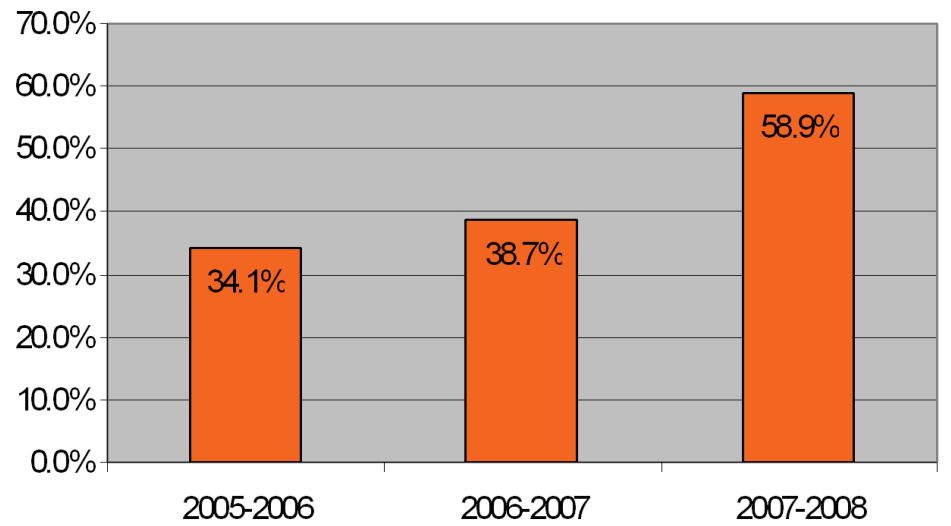
The way the program is set up is that each class has a 90 minute reading block that is being used to teach the students at their level. For a half hour, the students work in a whole group and then for the remaining hour, they are split up into small groups, which are rotated every twenty minutes.

These groups are changed every two weeks, based on needs and curriculum.

When they are working in small groups the teachers plan instruction for all three groups. The para-educators come in during the small group time to run small a group that the teacher has planned for.

"We group the students by their interests, skill needs, skill strengths, and also grouped with their peer models. Groups change often and are seldom ever exactly

% of Students at Benchmark At The End Of The Year  
Grades K-4 DIBELS



At the end of the 2007-2008 school year Clay Center students made a 20.2 % growth compared to the pervious year. This was after the first year of implementation of the new reading program.

the same," Heneger said.

After putting in the program last year, there have been excellent results. "We had a 20% growth in the students just last year compared to the previous two years," Heneger said.

According to the data, students only lost 4% of their skill level over the summer.

The students are benefitting from this program in many ways, not in just developing their reading skill levels.

Other additional changes have

come in the form of late starts and early outs.

Late starts are used for planning.

Teachers are now being asked to plan a minimum of four lesson plans for each 90-minute reading block. The early outs are used for going over data. The teachers look for trends and growth of each students' growth. This data is then used to inform instruction. "It is definitely worth the extra time and effort to see the students benefit," Heneger said.

## Literacy done right One-on-one reads

**By: Abby Sorensen**  
Staff Writer

"During a data meeting one afternoon, we were trying to figure out ways we could get the community more involved with the students and the reading program," Literacy Coach and Title I teacher, Kaela Heneger said.

A few times a year, a team of teachers from the elementary organizes a program that is called Literacy Night. Every session has a theme with different activities.

Some past Literacy Night themes have been Dr. Seuss, Patriotic, Halloween Story-Telling, where the children got to dress up, and Olympics are just some of the themes.

Five to seven stations are set up with different activities for the children to do, some things that both preschoolers through sixth graders can be involved with. "Chainey, my sister, came with me. I read books and we made hanger thingies," first grader Cassidy Tompkin said.

"This is a way for the students to show their parents what they have been learning in school," Heneger said. "We have such a strong, supportive community. We wanted to involve them more and Family Literacy Nights are a great way to do this."

The teachers try to hold a Literacy Night at least a couple times a year. It is sometimes difficult to work around other things that are going on such as high school sports, league teams, and community events.



Carson Jones plays presidential bingo with smarties during the February Family Literacy Night.

A Literacy Night is held about every six to eight weeks. "I drew hearts for the Valentine's day one," first grader Dominic

Wilkerson said. "It was Fun!" The next Literacy night will be held on April 20th at 6:30 p.m.

**By: Jesse VonSpreckelsen**  
Staff Writer

The new reading program has resulted in drastic gains in reading skills in the elementary students.

These gains would not be possible without the assistance of the para educators. Mrs. Heneger said, "We could not provide the current level of education without para educators. They allow us to differentiate instructions for all students and we are able to have more one on one interaction with each student."

The paras are a vital factor in the implementing of the new reading program. Mrs. Koohmariaie said this, "It is great for the kids. We can use phonics, word structure, comprehension, and even sight words throughout this program." Ms.

Pallas said, "The paras are skilled at adapting lessons to the needs of the students. They add so much to our ability to meet each kids needs."

The kids receive more reading instruction that results in improved reading. Now instead of receiving instruction from one teacher they now receive three opportunities to improve their reading skills.

"The teacher instructs the whole group lesson or the main lesson, then we split into three groups. In these groups we can focus on specific skills. It is a great program," explained Mrs. Paulson.

The reading program has been a great addition for our school and the data has shown just how important it is for our students.





## Class says no to drugs, yes to DARE

by JASMINE HARRIS and DEEON WILKERSON

We feel that the D.A.R.E. program is a good source of education about how to stay drug-free and violence-free throughout your life. We liked the video that taught us how to say no to drug and alcohol offers. We think Jeff Franklin is an excellent teacher and knows a lot about the way to stay drug free and violence free.

He is the nicest D.A.R.E. officer in the whole wide world. We started on Monday the ninth of February. We have learned to say no to drugs and to avoid the wrong kinds of people such as a gang, a drunk, a liar or people that try and start fights with us. We have learned that friends can put pressure on you to make bad decisions and that we should choose things that will be good for us and not bad for us. Alcohol is a drug and is the most abused drug in America. When you drink alcohol you might get addicted. It's okay if

you drink alcohol every once and a while in moderation, but sometimes you overdo it and get intoxicated and do things you normally would not do. Some people drive after and while drinking alcohol and they have hurt themselves or killed themselves and even others. Over 100 people die each year because of this. Can you imagine how many lives could be saved each year if people didn't abuse alcohol? People that drink alcohol are not able to learn, remember, think, or even walk in a straight line. Gosh, that must be awful,

don't you think? Drugs are awful things. If you take them they will take control of your mind and body. No matter what you do after the first try with drugs, they can take over and become the ruler of you. Drugs kill people and everyday teens and adults are getting hooked. Any kind of drug like a stimulant (which speeds you up), a depressant (which slows you down), or a hallucinogen (which affects the way you think, hear, and speak) is dangerous and may hurt you and all the people around you. Peer pressure is a force that

acts against you so that you will do something, and it is by people your own age. These people are called peers. This is one of the main reasons that drugs are abused but if you know how to say no to drugs when people offer them you will have a better chance of living a wonderful life. Even though it is hard to say no to drugs and even causes you stress, you should still say no. Your friends and family are counting on you to say no and you know deep down inside of you that it is the right thing to do.

## Cougars vs. Cardinals What will you be in 2010?

by RACHEL SHACKELFORD and DEIDRE FREITAS

What school are you going to in 2010? That is a question being asked a lot right now. Because of a decrease in the number of students, Clay Center will most likely not have a high school and possibly a junior high by the fall of 2010. Nebraska law states that if a high school has less than sixty students enrolled for two years in a row then the school could either lose tax money or close the school down. One option the school has is to have a levy override. With that the school would have citizens vote and if it passed the taxes would be raised on land. "The problem with this is that if the taxes go up too much, farmers may take their land out of payment for Clay Center. Our best choice would be to consolidate with either Sandy Creek or Harvard Public School. Harvard would give Clay Center a little more say in what happens. Harvard might get the reading program and they already have Saxon math, the same as Clay Center does.

Other reasons for going to Harvard could be like Deeon Wilkerson who said, "My mom works in Harvard, so it would be easier."

As you know our other choice is Sandy Creek. Most people seem to want to become cougars. The advantages of Sandy Creek are that we will keep our elementary in Clay Center and our gyms may be used. Another reason people may be choosing Sandy Creek is for social reasons. "I feel it would be easier to make friends," Katie Bell said. Some people might be going for friends that already go there. "I want to go to Sandy Creek because my friends are there," Jacob Veik said. The last advantage is Sandy Creek is a little closer to Clay Center. So now can you say "I am a cougar or I am a cardinal?"

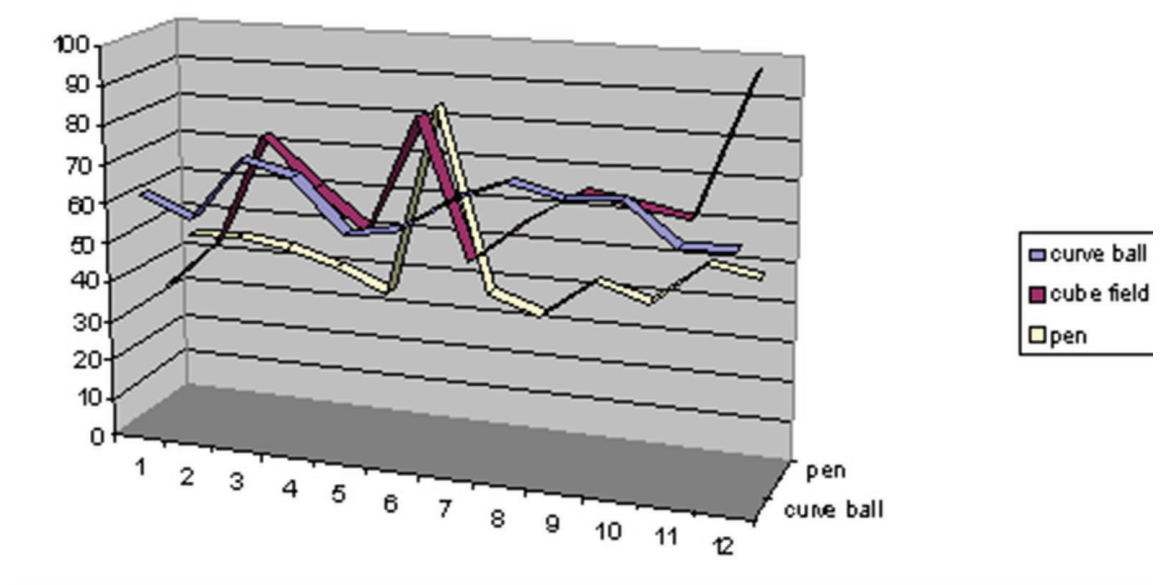
## Are video games unbeatable?

by ZACH FALTYS

A wise man once said practice makes perfect. As far as we know some of the internet gaming companies could be taking that away from us. As you may know some games use the internet as a memory device on your computer to auto save how far you are in a game, but are the most popular video game titles using this advantage to make the game harder the more you retry the game? I've suspected this by playing games that seem to have more opponents the more times you retry.

To solve this question I selected three popular titles, Curve Ball, Cube Field and Pen, listed the scores from each game, rounded the highest score to the next greatest power of ten, divided the next greatest power of ten and one hundred to find out what number I need to divide each score by to get a percentage, divided all the scores into percentages and graphed them.

As you can see on the chart below, the first selection, Curve Ball, begins to drop on the first



time through to the second time through, but quickly ascends and descends and repeats causing a fluctuating affect and levels out. The second selection Cube Field fluctuates to, but only more radically. Lastly, Pen at first continues forward with a few small bends, but next everything takes a turn

for the best and takes a lucky turn upwards but quickly crashes and burns at the bottom of the hill where it started and creates a stair like affect and ascends. In my opinion for the conclusion of this mystery, Pen seems clear. The reason I say this is because altogether, besides the lucky turn up

the scores all seem even along the graph. Cube field I am still unsure of because of all the fluctuating. Curve Ball also seems clear, because of the hill-like bends of the line. These three games, in conclusion seem clear. I will continue my research and perhaps find if my hypothesis is correct.

## Steelers claim title again

by DEVIN CALHOUN and NICK HANKINS

Super Bowl XLIII was played on February 1st in Tampa Bay, Florida. It was played between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals. The Pittsburgh Steelers came out with the win with their rookie head coach Mike Tomlin. Before



the game was played a couple of Clay Center students had their opinions about the game. Here are some thoughts from a student and a teacher; Dane Meese, a 4th grade student said, "I wanted the

Steelers to win, and at halftime I was pretty sure the Steelers would pull it out. At the end of the game I thought the Steelers had an awesome come back and was very happy that they won," Dane Meese said. "I wanted the Cardinals to win. At halftime I was thinking that the Cardinals coach would come up with a big plan to stay in the game. Then at the end of the game I felt dejected and depressed but was still happy for the Steelers," Mrs. Briggs, the 6th grade teacher said.

## Kindergarten celebrates 100

by PAIGE GOSSER and KRISTA JOHNSON

Ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred! On January 28th 2009, the Kindergarten class celebrated 100 days of school. They were to bring 100 of something, They could bring little things like paper clips, cheerios, or crayons. We asked two of the Kindergarteners a few questions. Sam VonSpreckelsen brought 100 buttons while Derek Story brought 100 nails to school. Their favorite part was making necklaces out of cereal and straws. They learned many crafts and both had a lot of fun!

# 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

# May the force be with you

by WYATT SIMMERMAN and CHANDLER FRAZIER

Are you crazy about Star Wars? Some kids are. "It is a passion for me," fifth grader, Christopher Dyer, said. "I like the big explosions and the battles," sixth grader, Chandler Frazier, said. Different people find different reasons to like Star Wars. Some people enjoy the light saber battles, but some think the space and battle scenes are better. It was said that when Star Wars first came out thirty years ago that it was "cutting edge" for special effects. People also like it because you knew who was good and who was evil. It was pretty obvious, by the way Darth Vader dressed and talked that he was the bad guy. Some people like the new movies (Episodes I, II, III) better than the original trilogy because

of the computer generated special effects. Other people like finding out how Anakin Skywalker become Darth Vader, and how he lost Padme, and it's always good to see Yoda in his younger years. Nobody does a back flip through the air like the little green Jedi Master. Star Wars isn't just a movie anymore. There are several different video games that are based on the movies. You can enter the world of the Jedi, and battle with the Sith, or you can become a Stormtrooper and fight the Rebels in places like Hoth, Endor, and Bespin. If you're feeling a little sad, just pop Lego Star Wars Two in your game system, and enter a world of comedy and excitement. In the game you'll see Gamorrean Guards play air guitar on their battle axes, Stormtroopers will make face plants after

short leaps, Ewoks do some major damage with super catapults, and Chewy will pop the Lego arms off Stormtroopers. If the games and movies aren't enough to fill your Star Wars needs, a new video game, The Force Unleashed, for PSP will be available very soon. You can use moves such as force maelstrom, and force push which sends your opponent crashing through walls. In addition, there are rumors about Episodes 7, 8, and 9 being in the works. George Lucas and his crew never seem to get tired of visiting a galaxy far, far away. So grab your light saber, get a droid for a sidekick and watch for the new movies, and if you haven't had a chance, watch the first six and brush up on your Star Wars Knowledge. Until the new films come out, may the force be with you.



## Sharin' the love

by BAILEY JONES and JAKE VEIK

On February 13, 2009 there was a blizzard outside. So the whole public school had no school. The elementary had their Valentine's Day party on Monday but the first graders, which had theirs on Tuesday because Ms. Pallas had a work shop. What does Valentine's Day mean to you? "I think that it means my family loves me," first grader, Riley Krager said. "I think Valentine's Day is a great day because it's nice to be loved by my family," first grader, Josh Bertrand said.



## 5th, 6th graders show improvement under Baxa's guidance

by KATIE BELL

I have the latest on the 5th and 6th grade girl's basketball and I am going to share the information with you. The 5th and 6th graders have practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6-7, and sometimes till 8. The girls play on Saturday in the morning around 11 a.m. but they played a tournament at Blue Hill coming in 2nd place. The team contains ten girls, there are five starters and they have subs. The starters are Devin Calhoun, Krista Johnson, Bailey Jones, Rachel Shackelford, and Katie Bell. The other five join during the 2nd period or even before it depends on the team they are playing. I asked some of the girls what they like about basketball practices and about their coach, and this is what they said. "It's fun most of the time but some of the time we just do the same thing the whole time. I think our coach is the best, he works with us great, and he really knows what he is doing," Rachel Shackelford said. "I think his coaching helps us physically, and we learn basketball better by what he teaches us. I really like Mike Baxa and the way that he coach-

es," Deidre Freitas said. "I think he is really nice to be willing to coach us," Krista Johnson said. I think that Mike is an awesome coach because he helps us when we ask him to and he is always explaining things that all of us don't understand. I am just glad

that we had him for our coach this year. It means a lot to me and the girls that play with him.

So my big shout goes out to Mike Baxa for always helping us with basketball and being there when we needed a coach. Thank You!



Krista Johnson, defended by classmate Katie Bell, looks for an easy shot in the lane during the Elementary Girl's basketball scrimmage at halftime of a High School Girl's Varsity game.

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See insert in this issue of The PawPrint

### 6th Grade

#### PawPrint Staff

- Katie Bell
- Devin Calhoun
- Zach Faltys
- Chandler Frazier
- Deidre Freitas
- Paige Gosser
- Nikolas Hankins
- Krista Johnson
- Bailey Jones
- Tristan Kalvoda
- Elsa Knight
- Rachel Shackelford
- Wyatt Simmerman
- Blake Skolaut
- Jake Veik
- Deeon Wilkerson
- Adam Woodbury
- Jasmine Harris

# Just not that into new flick



Walking out of the theatre after watching *He's Just Not That Into You*, many thoughts consumed my mind. First, why did I just waste seven dollars on a movie that basically bashed women the entire time, and second, I hope to God that I never act like the women in this film.

The movie follows a group of Baltimore adults, ranging in age from their early twenties to their mid thirties, all interconnected in some way or another, trying to figure out their relationships.

We first meet Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin), the film's narrator, who spends entirely too much time reading into her various relationships with men. Of course most of her relationships crash and burn because of her compulsive ways when it comes to the "signs" she gets from men. She eventually finds herself relying on, and falling for ex-fing Conor's (Kevin Connolly) best friend, Alex (Justin Long).

Conor has been longing to be with Anna (Scarlett Johansson), who can't decide between the boring, settled-down Conor, or Ben (Bradley Cooper), the hot married man. As for Ben, he's dealing with the fact that he can't trust himself with free-spirited Anna and his wife Janine (Jennifer Connelly) can't trust him. Janine's co-worker Beth (Jennifer Aniston) can't quite figure out what she has to do to get her boyfriend of seven years, Neil (Ben Affleck), to pop the question, while Neil has no problem



Alex, played by Justin Long, gives much needed advice to Gigi, played by Ginnifer Goodwin, at his bar in the film *He's Just Not That Into You* directed by Ken Kwapis and based off of the book by Greg Behrendt and Lis Tuccillo.

living his whole life with Beth just as a girlfriend. Last but not least is Mary (Drew Barrymore), who can't keep track of the five different technologies she's using to keep in touch with her men.

In the end, each character goes through their own triumphs and disappointments before it's over.

This film, directed by Ken Kwapis and based off of the book by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo, is in my mind, a huge disappointment. Give credit to who ever created the trailer

to this film, because they convinced me to spend seven dollars hoping to watch a cute, chick-flick, filled with talented, popular celebrities.

Little did I know, the trailer had the movies only good scenes in it, making it seem like the perfect fairytale love story.

I wouldn't be surprised if all the women who have seen this movie felt a little low after watching it. Maybe some women are compulsive freaks like some of the women in the movie but I certainly am not.

The creator of this story definitely has the complete wrong interpretation of what women are like in relationships.

Okay, he's probably got a few of them figured out but honestly, what kind of women is this guy hanging around? Not the normal ones that's for sure.

Now before I make this sound like it was a complete waste of money to make this movie, I do have to add that there were a couple (yes, only a couple) proud moments I had while

watching.

Not every woman in this movie was entirely ignorant when it came to their relationship. Like I said before, I seriously hope I never act like most of the women in this film when it comes to my relationships I will encounter.

I guess if I had to muster up a positive thing about this movie it would be that it made me take a good look at myself and promise myself that I will never be one of those neurotic, obsessed girls that always has guys running away from them.

## Twisted for *The Unborn*



David S. Goyer writes and directs this supernatural thriller about a 19-year-old girl haunted by a "dybbuk" a malevolent wandering soul of Jewish folklore that was once a young boy ruthlessly slaughtered in Auschwitz called *The Unborn*.

Casey Beldon was just a young girl when her mother vanished out of her life.

And though Casey has never forgiven her mother for abandoning their family, she begins to understand why when a tortured ghost begins stalking her by day, and horrific nightmares make her scared of falling asleep at night. Hoping that her spiritual advisor, Rabbi Sendak, possesses the power to make these awful visions stop, Casey enlists his aid and gradually uncovers a family curse that stretches all the way back to Nazi Germany.

An entity with the ability to possess anyone or anything that it comes into contact with is stalking Casey from another plane of reality, and its gaining strength with each new pos-

session.

Now, as the curse is unleashed, the frightened girl realizes that her only chance for survival is to close a door that was pried open by someone who was never born, and prevent the force from crossing over into the physical world.

Though her sympathetic boyfriend and best friend do everything

cially when she's in the bathroom and these bugs come crawling out of the wall all over her.

Then she was throwing up in the bathroom and in the end she found out she was pregnant. In the end it all tied together and everything made sense.

It wasn't really scary it was just more startling. Watching the previews for this movie really caught my attention.

The part where she goes to a nursing home and talks to this elderly lady and the lady freaks out on her.

Then later in the movie she calls her saying she needs to visit with her. Casey finds out then that the elderly

lady is her grandmother and the so called "dybbuk" that is haunting her is her Great uncle.

The graphics were gruesome and the random clips throughout the movie were attention getting.

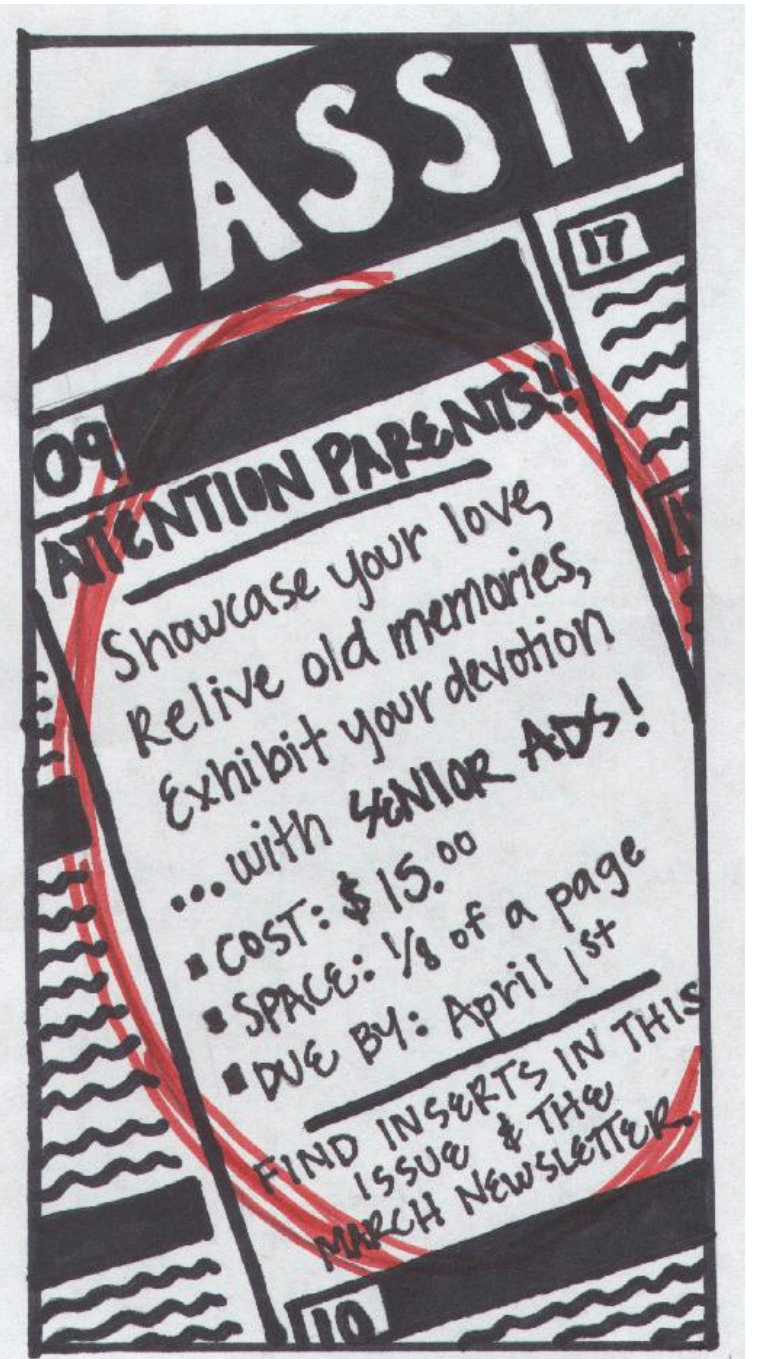
If you're into horror movies then this is a movie for you.

“There are a lot of twists to the movie especially when she's in the bathroom and these bugs come crawling out of the wall all over her.”

-Vanessa Ponder

they can to help, Casey is ultimately left to face this otherworldly horror on her own.

I really liked this movie, it was hard to understand at first and you really had to pay attention in order for you to actually understand it. There are a lot of twists to the movie espe-



### REMINDER

There is NO SCHOOL on March 5th and 6th!



# Senses do not fail head bangers

UNIQUE  
TUNAGE



Jessie Sorensen

“Punk was always about being yourself and not caring what other people thought. Today the most punk thing you can do is be yourself and not have an image,” Lead vocalist of Senses Fail, Buddy Nielsen, said.

I love this band, Senses Fail, and a friend of mine who also loves them introduced me to them awhile ago. They are unlike anything I have heard. They make their music for them, no one else, not to make other people happy but to make them happy. They don't worry about their image and they are honest about their inspirations. You can hear the passion in their music through every word, every hit of the drum, and every guitar riff. They are absolutely amazing to me, you can feel what they are feeling and that's what music should be.

Senses Fail formed in 2002 when Nielsen put an advertisement on the internet and started recruiting members. Dan Trapp, who was fifteen at the time, read the article and brought his friends from his previous band, Dave Miller and Garrett Zablocki who both play lead and rhythm guitars. They started

playing locally building a fan base and shortly after they entered a studio and started to record. Their first album, *From the Depths of Dreams*, was recorded when they were signed with Drive-Thru Records. I really like the album cover artwork, it is peaceful compared to their other covers. *Let It Enfold You* was their debut album when they signed with Vagrant Records in 2004. The title of the album is taken from a poem written by Charles Bukowski. “We just love making music and writing good songs. I feel like I've got a lot more to say and we've got a lot more to contribute.” Nielsen said of the album. This album cover is a little different than the first, it's a little creepier but they are just expressing how they feel and that's fine with me. Don't judge a book by its cover right? After their first album they started touring but by now they were on

Warped Tour and Taste of Chaos tour playing with bands like The Used, My Chemical Romance and Killswitch Engage. But, in 2005, by

tual agreement, guitarist Dave Miller left the band and was replaced with Heath Saraceno. They took a break from touring for awhile and started to write their next studio album, *Still Searching*. This album eased up on the aggression of the two previous albums and focused more on emotion. The lyrics are open for interpretation and that's

the way the band wants it to be. They want the fans to be able to relate through their words. After they finished *Still Searching* they began touring again. This album is probably my favorite of their four so far. I could listen to it over and over again and not get sick of it. It is one of those albums where you can sing every word, lyric, and chorus while headbanging in your room and just feel so free from everything. They have currently finished their follow-up album to *Still Searching* with *Life is Not a Waiting Room* and it is just Senses Fail being Senses Fail. They are going to



Two of Senses Fail's CD covers are featured above. Above Left: From the Depths of Dreams. Above Right: Let it Enfold you.

ing to play at The Saints & Sinners Festival and have also been asked back to Warped Tour and Bamboozle Left.

They are definitely different, but to me that is a breath of fresh air. I'm sick of hearing the same old boring lyrics through mainstream music. I relate more with bands who want to relate with me and other fans through their passionate lyrics about truth. Everyone has problems, but when you listen to someone singing about the same problems you have, you can feel reassured that you aren't the only one feeling how you are. Through self examination and exploration you can get over a lot of the things that hold you down in life and that the past is something to learn from, not to be buried by.

# Warm sense of pride fills heart



In a time of discrimination and the will to fight for what's right, a young man finds himself in the midst of an age of freedom, yet freedom hides itself behind closed doors.

“A Summer of Kings”, a novel written by Han Nolan expresses the time of partial unity between two sides of the pendulum, blacks and whites, during the 1960's.

King-Roy is a profound young man with only one thing on his mind, to prove his innocence against murder of a white man. He is sent to live with the Young family, long-time friends of his mother who was once a house maid for Mrs. Young during childhood.

Upon his arrival King-Roy is faced with the obstacle of living with a white family when his views are much different than thought of. Esther, the child of Mrs. Young is

quite intrigued when finding out about her new house guest and decides for herself that they will become the best of friends.

Only, King-Roy has an opposite taste for Esther and tries to keep his distance while figuring out that staying away from this mischievous fourteen-year-old girl is impossible.

Soon these two start up an unheard of friendship that dangles on

back on white man once and for all.

With all her effort Esther finds her way into King-Roy's feelings and organizes a plan that blatantly causes him to discover what freedom and unity are really all about.

This powerful and uplifting book deserves two thumbs up for such a true and unbelievable plot. Not only did this book draw me in through its pages, it gave me a new-found appreciation for civil rights and what our country is made of today.

I recommend this book to anyone who is fascinated and wanting to learn more about what exactly our great democracy is known for and how Martin Luther King Jr. changed this country's ways.

It makes me proud knowing what an incredible country America is and how it has evolved through the years.

Discrimination has been thrown out the door and unity is being brought forth and placed on our doorstep for this country to share once and for all. Martin Luther King Jr. had his dream on that faithful day and now we the people of the United States are living that dream.

“This powerful and uplifting book deserves two thumbs up for such a true and unbelievable plot.”

-Sara Slater

the edge when King-Roy expresses his hatred for white man and the non-violent teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. But of course Esther cannot keep away from her new friend and tries desperately to pry King-Roy away from a man, Malcolm X who advocates black revolution.

But confronting King-Roy is harder than it looks as he turns his



# Techno no-no

## Leader of free world should have access to latest technologies



On the DoorMAT



Mat Nolan

When you become the head of something, you usually get all the bonuses you want. More money, better travel, but one other perk is that you get the latest

technology.

CEOs get all the fancy gadgets, including advanced phones, etc. Well, it always happens when you get a job like that, right? WRONG!

The President of the United States is not one of those people. To me, that doesn't make any sense at all.

The President is the most powerful person in our country, but is denied access to basically all technology? There is something wrong with that.

As the President, you get almost every bit of technology you rely on taken away. No cell phones, no personal laptops, nothing at all.

You know why that is? It's all because those items are easily hacked into, and that poses a security risk. Also, anything that the president sends or says on the phone are recorded publicly and put into file after he leaves office. Everything they say.

I can see why they do that, to make sure that President isn't saying anything wrong or contacting the wrong people. But what about their personal lives? They have none. That's a big turnoff for people wanting that job.

There is hope though for the president. That hope comes in the form of President Barack Obama and him wanting to keep his Blackberry phone. Yes, the President is actually

going to be able to keep his phone. That phone isn't just a normal one, it's a special spy-proof, anti-hackable phone worth over \$3500. Now if they can do that, why can't they put all that anti-spy stuff on laptops and other things?

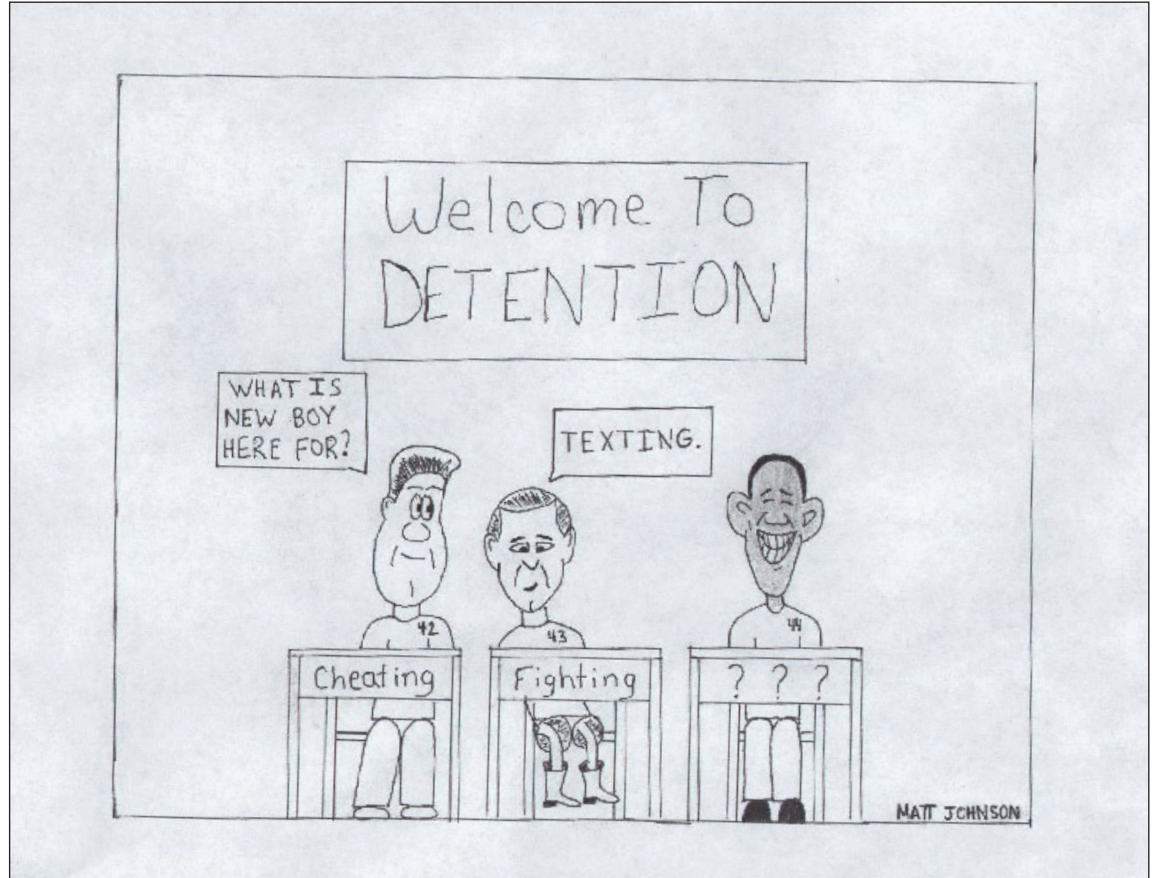
We live in the 21st century, and that means that we are almost dependent on technology. Everyone uses some form of it everyday and we are only going to grow more dependent on it.

So how are we going to change it so the President can be like everyone else in being dependent on technology?

One way we could go by that is to maybe have an official go through all the transcripts of phone calls, e-mails, text messages, etc. and decide which of them are personal and business.

The way I see it is that if it makes no mention of any business at the White House or any governmental business, it shouldn't be put on file for everyone to see.

And also, they need to put all the anti-spy stuff on all electronics that the President wants to use so he can be like everyone else in the country.



## Obama Pushes Technological Envelope



# Staff Editorial

## Through the eyes of the students

While the rumors continue to stir and the fate of our school remains unclear, students are left in an unfamiliar place, not knowing what the future holds. However, one thing is certain; after the next school year, Clay Center High School will be banished and only a building full of memories will remain.

It's common to hear several conversations in the hallways before school or at the lunch table during noon break, discussing what we, the students, would like to see happen to the school that many of us consider a second home.

Administration and School Board are currently discussing and exploring options with county schools Sandy Creek, Harvard, and Sutton. Sandy Creek, a C-2 school is located just six miles south of Clay Center and is made up of several small towns similar to Clay Center. Harvard, located ten miles north of Clay Center, is a

D-1 school, just slightly larger than Clay Center. Sutton is a C-2 school approximately 15 miles northeast of Clay Center.

No decisions have been made as far as the future of our school goes, but students are constantly hearing new proposals brought up by the Boards and Administrations.

While our Administration and Board are doing their best to educate the school as well as the public on the progress of the merger, it's inevitable that we are going to be hearing things "through the grapevine." In most cases, this leaves students with a bad taste in their mouth, mainly due to the fact that their voice isn't being heard. As many of us see it; if we are

the individuals who this change is going to affect in many ways, don't we get some say in this before it is all said and done?

Often, we find ourselves discuss-

“...in the end we know whatever decision is made, it was done in the best interest of us, the students.”

ing what we would do if the decision were up to us. As odd as it may sound, most of us have the same general consensus.

We all agree on the fact that it will be “weird” knowing Clay Center High School will no longer exist. We aren't the biggest fans of the merger but we know we can't change it. Seniors and Juniors who won't be affected by the merger feel for the underclassmen and agree that it just won't be the same coming home from college and not being able to visit our former teachers, or drop in to watch our former team and coaches.

For some of the upperclassmen however, they are still affected because they have younger siblings who will go through the merger. They agreed that they want what's best for their younger siblings.

As a whole, one important thing we ask is that the School Board to

remember things like the activities available to us, creating a new identity, and keeping traditions such as senior sneak when deciding our future. We would love to see as many of Clay Center's traditions in our new school as possible.

Sure, we want our voice heard, but in the end we know whatever decision is made, it was done in the best interests of us, the students. With the negatives, our town possibly losing its identity and missing the idea being a Clay Center Wildcat, floating in the back of our minds we constantly try to replace those thoughts with the positives of starting fresh and gaining more opportunities with this merger.

In the end, despite the uncertainty of the merger or consolidation, we believe one thing will always remain crystal clear; each and every one of us will hold on to that Clay Center Wildcat pride that has been instilled in our hearts forever.



# The horror: Parents log in to new fad of social networking



**Morgan Woodbury**

Until recently, I have been a fan of Facebook. I used to get on a couple times a day and stay on for a couple hours at a time but because of certain recent events, I have been forced to get a life. Yes, this is true, I now have to actually talk to people to find out what is going on, instead of relying on the most convenient Facebook 411. You might wonder what sort of tragic experience could have caused such a dramatic shift in interests, and that is what I am here to tell you. This is my story of how something I enjoyed immensely was

taken away from me.

It all started a couple years ago when divine intervention brought Facebook into my life. It didn't take my mom long to realize that something was different and to see that I was spending considerably more time online. She was curious and slightly skeptical about privacy but I calmed her fears and that was the end of that.

She bugged me a couple of times after that for me to set her up a Facebook account, but I obstinately persuaded her from such a course of action. I never once dreamed that she would try to navigate the unknown world of the internet and set up one herself, but I underestimated her. I came home from school one day to hear the catastrophic news...she had set up an account, and had added me as a friend!

I couldn't deny my mother, the person who gave me life, my Facebook friendship and putting her on a limited profile just seemed immoral.

So, under fear of losing privileges, I pressed that cursed Accept button and sat there as my world crashed around me.

“I came home from school one day to hear the catastrophic news...she had set up an account, and had added me as a friend!”

-Morgan Woodbury

My case is not a unique one, this has happened to many unfortunate teenagers out there as parents, slowly but surely, discover the incredible world of Facebook. They don't see it in the same light as their younger counterparts, no, they see it as just one more thing they can suck the fun

out of. The infinite virtual world of the internet that once used to be the only place teens had to themselves is now, like everything else, being in-

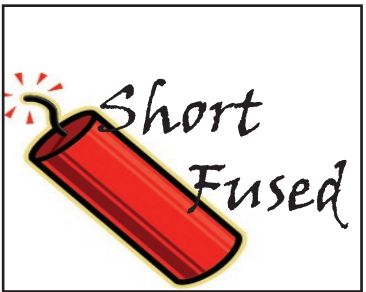
dence. Now that my mom can see my profile I can no longer put my status as something that mentions how I hate my life, how much of a “jerk” some girl is, or some long tragic story about how ticked off I am and why I wish I had never been born, for fear that my mom will pull me aside and want to discuss feelings. It takes away all the fun of an online profile. I can no longer pretend to have a tragic, dramatic life to get attention from the online community; I now have to be normal and boring.

This introduction to a harsh cruel reality has been tough for me. Deep down I know it's for the best but it still makes me ask: Why? Why must parents do this to their children? Life was peachy when I had an alternate reality every time I logged in, now my one source of unrestrained expression is taken away. It has left the world dull and gray and I am left wondering what to do to stay up with the high school scene. Wait! I know...I'll get MySpace!

vaded by parents.

Saying that makes it sound like I'm doing naughty things online and have a guilty conscience but that is not the case. There are just some parts of your life that you don't want your parents to be a part of. It's all about a teen's need to assert their indepen-

# Student vents on 'touchy' subject



**Kayla Essink**

We've all seen it. You know, that couple that just can't seem to keep their hands off each other and therefore leaves friends embarrassed and feeling awkward to be around or witness such displays of affection? Well regardless of how students feel about it, PDA is an issue, one of which I'm going to address.

The student handbook states that “public display of affection on school grounds is discouraged and in no instance shall be permitted beyond hand holding or walking arm-in-arm”.

In a typical high school you have

sports, academics, and student organizations. You know, the usual stuff. Another common trend you are likely to see is the relationships students have with each other, either as friends or as “significant others”. But how far is too far when it comes to the levels of affection students are allowed to express towards one another? After surveying grades 9-12, I have come to a conclusion on this issue.

You probably wouldn't be surprised to find that only 33% of our males agree with the school's rule, while 67% of the girls think it is completely acceptable. This is true because boys are much more comfortable with PDA and less aware of who is watching. Girls however, pay more attention to their surroundings.

By allowing more than hand holding and walking arm-in-arm, the school would be allowing students to

practice habits that won't be tolerated in other areas of life. For example, if a person was to touch a co-worker inappropriately in the workplace, even in a joking manner, they can be filed with sexual harassment charges. Even

if the recipient didn't have a problem with it, the boss might. It is just better not to risk such consequences, because if at any time a student feels even a little bit uncomfortable, then something is wrong.

In some Arab countries, you could be arrested for kissing in public. While our school doesn't take

this policy to that extreme, they do encourage students to be respectful of those around them and focus more on their school work and activities, than a significant other during school hours. What you do on your own time

is your business, and no one has to see it but you. I think the same rule should apply at school sponsored activities. Students who choose to participate in or attend these activities are expected to demonstrate good examples to younger children, other fans attending, and their peers. It is simply considerate to keep your actions G rated when in

public, because even if one person sees it happening and feels shocked or embarrassed, then you may have made someone's experience at that activity unpleasant. Families who are looking for a night out don't need or want to see you canoodling (kissing + cuddling) as they go to the movies with their young children.

Common sense is the best option here. Think first about what type of character you want to display. Next, decide whether those actions are appropriate for that time and place. Finally, be respectful to those around you, who probably, and most likely don't want to witness your PDA. With these simple steps, you should be able to determine whether or not your behavior is acceptable.

**Fast Fact**

67% of High School girls agree that PDA should stop at hand-holding and walking arm-in-arm.

## Opinion Page Policies

The opinions expressed on the Opinion Page reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of the PawPrint Staff. All letters submitted must be received in the PawPrint office (English Room) the week before the monthly publication date.

The PawPrint reserves the right to reject letters to the editor. All letters to the editor must be submitted with the name of the individual or group responsible for reasons of verifying authenticity. Letters with inaccuracies will be corrected by the staff, returned to the author or rejected. Letters must be limited to 200 words or less.

If the author of the letter wishes to remain anonymous, the editors will decide if it is pertinent to do so. No letters will be printed with the author's name against his/her will, but the staff may not print the letter if it decides the name should be printed and the author still wishes to be anonymous. Anonymity is a privilege granted to the author of a letter who may be persecuted or discriminated against as a result of the letter.

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With the pictures of your children on :  
<http://claycenter.mycapture.com>

Celebrate the Year!

# Up for grabs



jeremy CHEVALIER/The PawPrint

## Change in the wind Clay Center to reorganize by 2010-2011

By: Jill Baxa  
Assistant Editor

Change is inevitable, sometimes it's easy, but sometimes it's hard to overcome. No matter what, it will come whether you are ready or not.

Clay Center Public Schools is faced with the crucial moment of decision making. The school will be undergoing a transformation that will not only affect the school district but the community.

As the school board is looking at options for a reorganization of the school district, many people are probably asking themselves, "How did we get to this point?"

Due to the decline in enrollment and pressures of budgeting, Clay Center is looking into plans for the future. Clay Center's enrollment numbers peaked in the 2000 school year with a total number of 229 in elementary and high school combined, but since then the figures have dropped significantly.

This school year, there are only 54 students in the high school.

The three major sources of tax income that a school district obtains funding from include state, federal and local receipts.

In the 2006-2007 school year, 99.43 percent of the school's income came from these three financial revenues.

Sixty-four percent of the funding was generated from local taxes. Local funds also account for the levy override that was last passed in 2007 and was set at \$1.43.

To figure the levy amount, the amount of tax dollars required for a district is divided by its total assessed valuation.

State aid is based on need and the enrollment of the high school. Twenty-three percent of the funding was a result of state aid.

In truth, there are a total of 25 factors figured into the state aid formula to find what the need is for the district.

"This is a complicated system," Superintendent Lee Sayer said.

There are modifications made



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint

School Board President Donita Furman addresses an issue to the public at a community meeting on January 12. to the system every year due to the changes in laws and the larger school populations.

These numbers are never consistent from year to year.

The school district received 13 percent through the federal government. There are two areas for aid through federal funding.

All schools receive assistance through title one, special education and free and reduced lunch programs. The other type of federal assistance is impact aid. This type of aid is unique.

Harvard, Sandy Creek and the Clay Center school districts are eligible to receive this type of aid because of the government land in their respective districts.

It was designed to support school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property.

The Meat Animal Research Center is an example of tax-exempt federal property. About 10,000 acres of land belonged to the school district and generated taxes before it was usurped by the federal government before World War II.

Because of valuation changes, tax

funds fluctuate so it's hard to make a guess on what the district can receive from taxes each year. Decreasing enrollment, land valuation, and state and federal aid uncertainty are all factors that figure into the many decisions that the Clay Center School District will face soon.

## Zoning in on the options

By: Kyle Knight  
Staff Writer

Clay Center Public Schools will look much different in the 2010-2011 school year. Due to decreasing enrollment, school officials are looking for reorganization options for the 2010-2011 school year.

Initially the School Board and Administrators have had several meetings with Harvard, and Sandy Creek School Districts. But after the first

meeting to discuss the possibility of reorganization, the

Sutton School District to be asked included in the talks about reorganizing.

Three options have been openly presented.

One is to merge with Harvard. In this scenario, two possibilities were presented.

The first proposal would have each town hosting a K-6 elementary school. The second option presented had both schools with a K-3 elementary and all 4-6 graders attending Clay Center. In both options the high school would be located in Harvard.

Another option is to join the Sandy Creek School District, which is six miles south of Clay Center. In this case, the two schools will consolidate and become one school. In this scenario Clay Center would keep a K-6 building and the High School would go to Sandy Creek.

A merger with Sutton would look similar to the merger with Sandy Creek.

"No options are on or off the table. Everything is up for consideration right now. We'll do our best

to make the right choice that gives our students the best opportunity to learn," High School Principal, Jim Bovee said.

The unification of the school means that the schools combined would share a common identity. Whereas the merger of a school means that one school just becomes a part of another school.

The schools' combining also means school boards combine. If Clay Center consolidates with

Harvard, the two boards will most likely be joined together for the first year creating a six member board. After the first year it is undecided how things will look.

If Clay Center consolidates with Sandy Creek, the boards will look much different. Since Sandy Creek is unified with Lawrence-Nelson, a school board would consist of several elected members from Clay Center, Sandy Creek, and Lawrence-Nelson.

The Clay Center School Board has had two public meetings to answer questions and address concerns of the community. The first was held on January 12 and the second on February 22.

The Clay Center School Board is having another meeting on Monday March 2 where they intend to vote on which district they plan on reorganize with.

The Clay Center school board consisting of Jeremy Anderson, Donita Furman, David Powell, Kim Story, David Walker, and Bryan Woodbury.

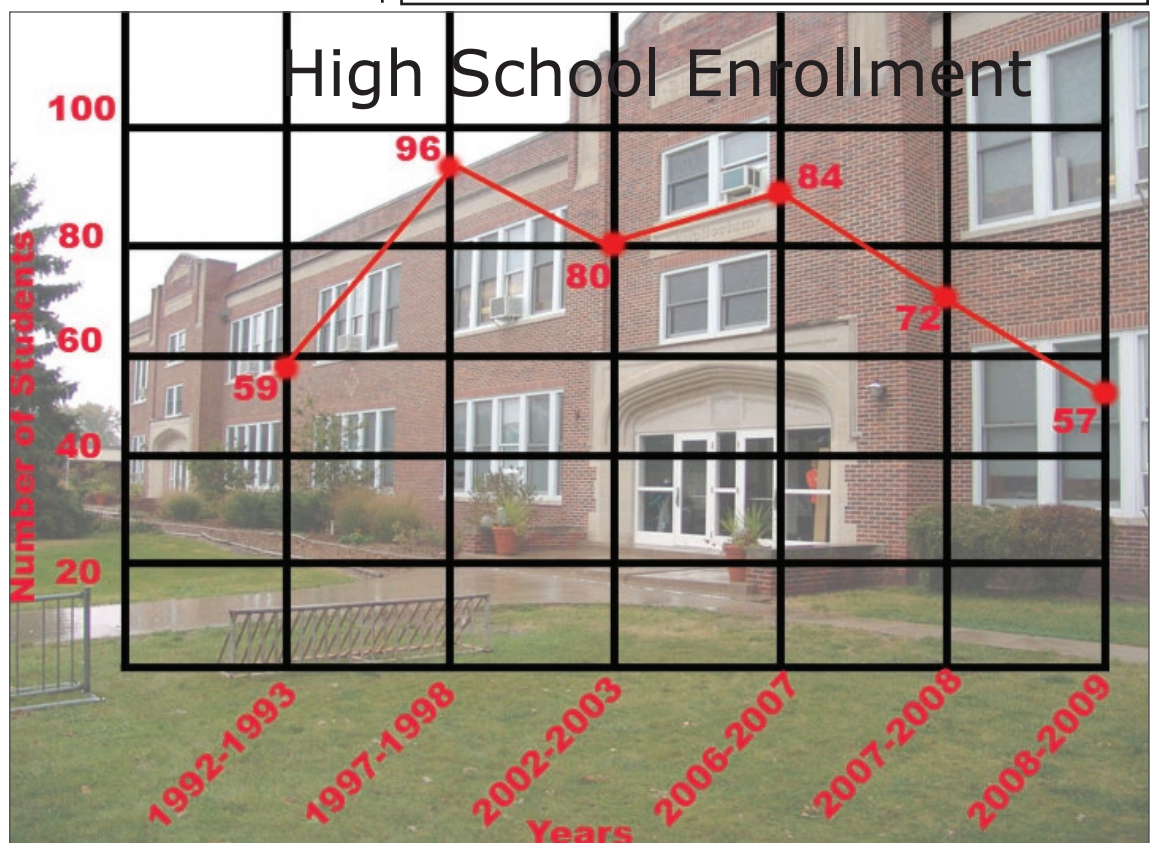
“No options are on or off the table. Everything is up for consideration right now.”

-Jim Bovee



## Fast a c t

In the 2000 school year, Clay Center had 229 students in the elementary and high school.



For more information about school finance you may go to the Nebraska Department of Education's website, [www.nde.state.ne.us](http://www.nde.state.ne.us).

# Holding up future

By: **Ashley Boman**  
Editor-in-Chief

It's inevitable; after the 2009-2010 school year, changes will be made to Clay Center Public School.

Many factors, one being Nebraska's 'freeholder law', have led Clay Center's Administration and Board to explore further options which will later determine the school's future.

The freeholder law allows a land owner to transfer their land out of a district and into a neighboring district.

The law is intended to apply pressure on districts to keep their taxes low and give landowners whose land borders another district a right to seek lower taxes.

According to the Nebraska Association of School Boards' website, [www.nebr-schoolboards.org](http://www.nebr-schoolboards.org), a "freeholder" is someone who is in possession of land and wishes to remove his valuation from his or her current school district.

For a freeholder to pull land out of a district, three requirements must be met.

First, the school which they want to pull from must have less than 60 students enrolled in high school for two consecutive years.

Second, the tax levy must be 15 cents greater than the legal limit of \$1.05. Clay Center's tax levy is currently \$1.43.

Third, the land must border another district and has to have a lower tax than the district they are transferring out of.

"It is an extremely unfair law to both small school districts and land owners because it creates a situation where both sides are not able to work

together," Clay Center Principal Jim Bovee said.

Clay Center School Board President Donita Furman agreed with Bovee.

"The freeholding law is, in my opinion, a law not fair to small school districts," Furman said.

In an article by Paul Hammel published in the Omaha World Herald on January 9, 2009, the requirement for a freeholder of having land that must border another district before they can transfer out was upheld by the Nebraska Supreme Court in a case dealing with the Wynot and Hartington School Districts.

The case in northeast Nebraska was challenged because the land was not "contiguous" to the other district, which is required by the law.

Wynot taxpayers filed a suit to stop the transfer, because they believed the law was not planned to allow "huge" amounts of land out of a district, eventually wiping out that original school district. However, the Supreme Court rejected their argument.

"It just shows that in true legislation, there are those who are determined to close small schools," Bovee said of the Wynot/Hartington case.

As if schools and small towns already have enough on their plates, they are now forced to deal with the Legislation's attempt to close Nebraska's small school districts.

"It makes it almost impossible to provide the best education for students of the school district affected because of the loss of property value," Furman said.

In most cases, even the strongest fight put up, won't be able to stop the Legislation.

# Schools suffer from I-80

By: **Mat Nolan**  
Staff Writer

For many students, the number of school districts has relatively been the same, with the exception of a few school mergers here and there. What they don't know, is that all the districts that exist now are only a fraction of what used to exist.

Yes, a small fraction. It's hard to believe but there are many reasons behind the declining trend of school districts.

From 1890 to 1940, there was the biggest number of school districts in Nebraska. That number was as high as 7264. That is much more than

the current numbers show, which is around 254.

One of the reasons for this was that farms are now much larger than what they used to be because of the increase of technology and farms not needing as many people to work, there are less people living in the rural areas and that leads to less kids going to the rural schools.

Also, with Interstate 80 going straight through Nebraska, many people are moving towards it because if they have to travel, it is faster, and people moving into the state settle there because they don't have to go searching far for a place to stay.

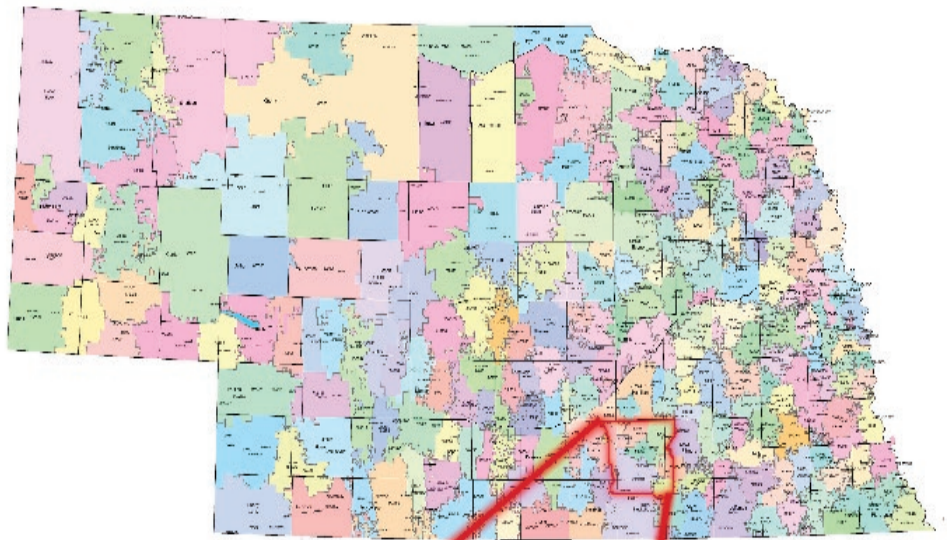
From North Platte to Lincoln on

the I-80 and from Lincoln to Omaha and farther north is known as the "J" Corridor and that's where many people are living now.

Many schools just off of the Corridor are experiencing booms in their student populations. According to Nebraska Department of Education website, [www.nde.state.ne.us/](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/), Gretna School District has gone from approximately 1000 students in 1993 to nearly 2500 in 2008.

Of course population is just one factor that influences budgets and the decisions schools are forced to make. State Aid, Rule 10 and other State and Federal factors figure into the complex issue.

## NEBRASKA'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAP OF 2008

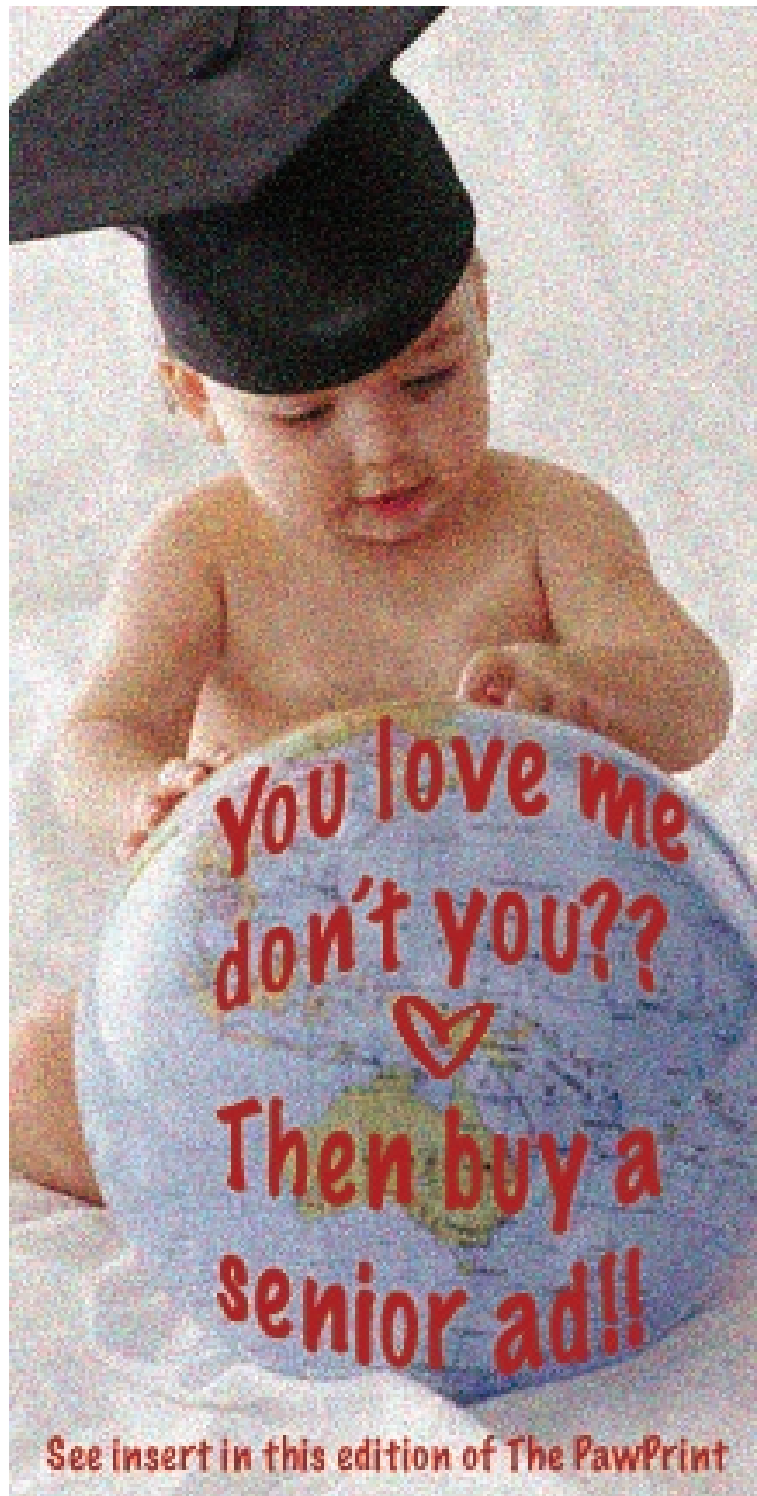


**CC'S DISTRICT AND AREA AROUND IT**



**ABOUT 500 DISTRICT REORGANIZATIONS IN NEBRASKA FROM 1991 TO 2008**

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	YEARS
7264	1920
1500	1978
534	2002
<b>254</b>	<b>2008</b>



See insert in this edition of The PawPrint

Everyone is invited to learn about the future of Clay Center Schools!  
Special School Board Meeting  
March 2nd 2009 at 7:30 pm  
High School Gym





# CRACKING OPEN

## Comeback of the ages

By: Ceirra Tompkin  
Staff Writer

"Well finally, he's here for you. He's the leader of the DK crew. He's stronger, faster, and smarter too. He's the first member of the DK crew. His coconut gun, can fire in spurts, if he shoots ya, it's gonna hurt!

A HUH! DK, Donkey Kong is here!"

Video games that were once a hit in the 90's are now making their way back to the top with a new look, but the same old objective.

These games do not only have a new look but are now appearing in most of the common electronics used in everyday life.

Games like Super Mario, Mario Cart, Crash Bandicoot, Final Fantasy IV, Donkey Kong 64, NBA Live 99, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles can now be downloaded from the internet.

Forty-four percent of teenagers stated that they have played these

games during the nineties on their Nintendo 64, Game Boy, Dream Cast, and PS1.

That percentage of teenagers also said that they have played them in the past five years on their X Box, PS2, Wii, Game Cube, and Computer.

"I still like playing the classical games because it is amazing to

You can download them to your phone, put them on your MySpace or Facebook, or play it on your new PSP.

"I like to play the classical games because they are the best and you can enjoy them no matter how old you are." Chad Veik said.

They have also developed emulators for certain devices which makes a virtual copy of that device.

Emulators allow us to virtually copy anything that we may want and with the memory capacity of the electronics today we could basically download

all of the nineties games to our cell phones or iPods.

With the rapid increase of new technology emulators come in handy by permitting us to update all of the games to the software on that device.

The future holds ahead remarkable inventions but the electrifying games of the past will stay active with the creation of today.

I still like playing the classic games.

-Broddrick Dillon

see how each game graphics have evolved from the nineties to the present," Broddrick Dillon said.

These games and many more from the 90's have evolved and made a major come back.

Technology has evolved so much in the last fifteen years making it easy to take these games just about anywhere.

### twisted

Twister was the most popular game amongst Clay Center students in the 90's.



### fact!

## 90's vs Now

BRITNEY SPEARS		← TIE →		HANNAH MONTANA
HANNAH MONTANA IS ANNOYING AND BRITNEY HAS...FALLEN FROM GRACE				
MORTAL KOMBAT		← WINNER →		HALO
MORTAL KOMBAT, FOR THE VOICE "FINISH HIM!"				
DOUG		← WINNER →		SPONGE BOB
THE DOUG THEME SONG IS CATCHIER				
WALKMAN		← LOSER →		IPOD
Ipod...Duh!				
MACARENA		← WINNER →		CUPID SHUFFLE
THE MACARENA NEVER GETS OLD				
BEANIE BABIES		← LOSER →		WEBKINZ
THERE IS A WHOLE OTHER WORLD WITH WEBKINZ				

## Quote that 90's Movie

- "I took a shower washing every body part with actual soap; including all my major crevices; including in between my toes and in my belly button which I never did before but sort of enjoyed."  
A: The Sixth Sense  
B: The Green Mile  
C: Home Alone  
D: Toy Story
- "Ever since I was old enough to skate, I loved hockey. I wasn't really the greatest skater though."  
A: The Nightmare Before Christmas  
B: Babe  
C: Beauty and the Beast  
D: Happy Gilmore
- "I'm gonna be King of Pride Rock."  
A: Jurassic Park  
B: Lion King  
C: Flubber  
D: Toy Story 2
- "My momma always said, Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."  
A: Braveheart  
B: Forrest Gump  
C: Saving Private Ryan  
D: I Can't Drive 55
- "These are s'more's stuff! Alright now pay attention. First you take the graham, you stick the chocolate on the graham. Then you roast the 'mallow. When the 'mallows flaming... you stick it on the chocolate. Then cover with the other end. Then you scarf."  
A: Sandlot  
B: Aladdin  
C: Groundhog Day  
D: Mulan
- "But mostly I hate the way I don't hate you. Not even close, not even a little bit, not even at all."  
A: Lonesome Dove  
B: Boogie Nights  
C: 10 Things I Hate About You  
D: Ever After
- "Oh, it reeks of taste!"  
A: Fargo  
B: The Sixth Sense  
C: Unforgiven  
D: Mrs. Doubtfire
- "I'll have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, peanut butter on top, smooth, but not crunchy and cut off all the crusts please!"  
A: To Grandmother's House We Go  
B: Titanic  
C: The Straight Story  
D: Before Sunrise

ANSWERS 1 (C) 2 (D) 3 (B) 4 (B) 5 (A) 6 (C) 7 (D) 8 (A)

jeremy CHEVALIER/The PawPrint



# THE 90'S VAULT

## 90's tunes still rockin'

By: Kayla Essink  
Staff Writer

Everyone reminisces about their childhood days at some point or another. You probably think of your favorite toys, or what shows were popular. You may even remember your very favorite outfit that you convinced your mom to let you wear at least 3 times a week. But have you ever stopped to think why your favorite bands have faded away?

Boy bands were all the rage in the 1990's. The catchy tunes of many bands could be heard from little girls' homes across America as they made up their own "dance" to their favorite songs.

From New Kids on the Block (late 80's-early 90's) to 98° (1997-2002), there was always a drooling fan club behind every boy band. Now the Jonas Brothers are one of the only boy bands girls can obsess over.

So you may be wondering, why

did these great bands have to come to an end? Maybe it was just the essence of the 1990's era. After New Kids on the Block broke up in 1994, they made a few attempts to regroup.

Those efforts finally paid off in 2008 when the band got back together and released a new album in September, 2008. O-Town was popular in the late 1990's to early 2000's, but disbanded in 2003 after facing some financial problems. N Sync was popular from 1995-2002 but eventually split because Justin Timberlake and JC Chazez wanted to pursue solo careers.

Meanwhile, Lance Bass produced a movie called "On the Line" in which Joey Fatone had a role. N Sync's last performance was at the annual Challenge for Children in 2004 where they sang the Star Spangled Banner.

So far, there has been no mention of a reunion. "N Sync was my favorite band because I could dance

to them. They are really fun to dance to," senior Chrissy Slepicka said.

N Sync's biggest rival was The Backstreet Boys (1997-2002). The

98°. "I remember the first

time I saw a clip from an 98° concert on the Disney Channel, that was where my infatuation began," senior Ashley Boman reminisced

"N Sync was my favorite band because I could dance to them."

-Chrissy Slepicka

band broke up in 2002 but in 2005 made a comeback and released another album.

Hanson (1992-1996), was made up of three brothers. Clarke, Issac, and Zachary were the members of this pop rock band. Not to be confused with today's Kevin, Joe, and Nick aka The Jonas Brothers. Apparently family bands were in style because Nick and Drew Lachey were both a part of

Boy bands started, thrived, and slowly died out for many different causes. Some wanted to chase a solo career, others wanted a "normal" life. Whatever the circumstances, they played a major role in society, especially for kids of the 90's.

## Remembering yesterday

By: Vanessa Ponder  
Business Manager

Back in the '90s remember when you use to wear multi-color clothes when you were a kid and everyone thought you were so cute. There were so many popular things that everyone was doing or wanting to do and it all died out.

What happened?

The '90s style was just a mixture of a bunch of different styles from the '50s '60s '70s and '80s.

At first when you were a kid your parents would make you wear just plain old regular jeans and then once

you got older, you wanted to dress yourself.

You wanted to wear bell bottoms like the older kids because you wanted to be cool like everyone else.

"I use to have this wind suit with a bunch of circles and triangles that were different colors I loved it so much that I wore it every day and I never took it off," Ra'von Hudson said. What happened to the crazy style when everything was glitter? That was the most popular style back in the '90s. If it wasn't your shirt that was glittery then it was your pants, and if you could you would put glitter in your hair or on your face.

Then there was the light up shoes. They were so cool! When your friend would get a pair you would go home and ask your mom if you could get a pair too. The best thing about them was when you were playing hide and seek and you were it and the person would move a little bit the shoes would go off and then the person was busted.

Then there were the fake tattoos. All the younger kids would scrounge up their change and go to the vending machine and get fake tattoos. Then they would go home and put them on and go show their friends what they got and then their friends would want

to do it. Now all of the multi-colored clothes people are actually going to a store, buying them and then wearing them. It's crazy, when you were younger you refused to wear those ugly looking clothes and now you're going to the stores to buy them so you can wear them.

You use to hate to wear those straight legged pants and now there are people everywhere wearing them. Now that it's a new century and new styles have come and gone out, what seems to be happening is the '90s crazy styles are coming back.

## 90's craze stays fresh still today

By: Sara Slater  
Staff Writer

Oh the good old nineties, when acid-wash jeans were in style, light-up shoes were a fashion statement, everyone owned a pet tamagotchi, and cartoons contained no hint of violence. These were the simple days of our childhood, carefree and fad-orientated just like any decade.

As young children we all remember the "cool" fads that no one could live without. These included everything from board games and hand-held electronic toys to fashion accessories and styles. Some of the most popular board games played in the 90's included Don't Wake Daddy, Shoots and Ladders, Sorry, and Trouble which can still be found on store shelves to this day. And who can forget the electronic toys that children drooled over? Tamagotchies, Game Boys, walkmans, and furbies came in all different colors and styles that had the young generation begging for

more. So what happened to these beloved fads? Well, as far as we know, they are still around, replaced by the next generation of fads.

Being a child of the 90's myself, I remember some of the big obsessions. Tamagotchies were a hit among the young audience and sold like hotcakes. Containing a virtual pet, these hand-held, egg-shaped electronic toys taught children how to care for an animal and watch it grow, only finding out it's a lot harder than it looks. Game Boys and Nintendos also traveled their way through the hands of the young generation with a colorful variety of devices and simple yet fun games like Mario Brothers.

Television also played a large role in the 90's decade. With family-orientated shows such as "Saved by the Bell", "Full House", and "Family Matters", one could find a reason to get up on a Saturday morning to watch as teens faced everyday problems and families come through for each other. Some popular cartoon

shows of the 90's included "Hey Arnold", the boy with the football-shaped head, and "Recess", a show about a group of fourth grade friends just trying to overcome bullies, the Ashley's, and the territorial tribe of kindergarteners.

Oh my, and talk about the fashion of the good old 90's. Big hair, big pants, and crazy patterns, this was the age of grunge and laid back styles. Women from all around had nearly the same frizzed-out and volumized hair cut that used the most cans of hairspray known to man to lie just right. Both men and women alike also sported the acid wash jeans and t-shirt style popular all throughout the 90's, and elementary children were never seen without their Osh Kosh B'Gosh. Slap bracelets were also a frequent fad, with a flimsy metal core and wrapped in a funky material, these fashion accessories were fun and collectable. Boy bands, now who in their right mind could forget these girl-crazed obsessions? Such bands

as the Backstreet Boys and N'sync had girls blind sighted and singing every word to every song. Now these pre-twentieth century pop stars have been replaced by the trio of brothers known as the Jonas Brothers and the young Britney Spears has been stopped in her tracks by Miley Cyrus.

The Macarena was also a music phenomenon that still has wedding parties to this day screaming for more along with the more recent dances such as the Cupid Shuffle.

So, where exactly has the 90's gone? Nowhere to be exact, the fads of this past decade are still around as far as we know. They evolved and took a change for the better, or worse. But even if the 90's are not here anymore in reality, they will be long lived in our hearts and minds for years to come.



# No Love: Wildcats fall to T-Wolves on Valentine's Day

By: Jill Baxa  
Assistant Editor

There was no love for the Clay Center boys' basketball team as they took another hit on the road to Exeter-Milligan at Exeter on February 14, 2009. There was more to the 46-68 loss than just the score on the scoreboard as the Wildcats proved that Valentine's Day is more than just the day of hearts, chocolates and roses because of the Wildcats' aggressive attack that they possessed in the first half.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 7-6 lead, but a Jair Perez three-point shot ignited the Wildcats with 2:43 left in the first quarter. The team was hindered by foul trouble as Jordin Franklin and Phillip Gosser each picked up their second fouls within seconds of each other.

Gosser's debatable call was frowned upon by the Clay Center fans as many of them questioned the foul. The Wildcat team was in foul trouble the whole game. "Our inconsistency on offense and rebounding has lead to our missed opportunities this year," Head Coach, Rick Rath said of the team.

Freshman, Dakota Hoyt then came off the bench to hit a three-point buzzer shot to end the first quarter with a Wildcat 15-14 lead.

The second quarter began the same as the first ended with tough head to head competition. Wildcat hacks kept the Timberwolves ahead throughout the rest of the first half. Two Timberwolf fouls put Garrett Calhoun and Gosser on the charity stripe tying the game at 22. However, those points were not enough to hold off a last minute 6-0 run by the Timberwolves sending the Wildcats into the locker room trailing by six with a score of 22-28.

Exeter-Milligan started off the third quarter where they had left off by pulling away from the Wildcats. Gosser then connected with senior,



abby SORENSEN/The PawPrint

Junior Phil Gosser looks to make a pass while an Exeter-Milligan defender applies pressure on Saturday, February 14 in Exeter where the Wildcats suffered a 46-68 loss to the Timberwolves.

Kyle Knight to complete an impressive ally oop pass to make it a 24-30 game. Exeter-Milligan's Josh Sluka then hit a three point shot with 6:25 on the game clock. Nevertheless, Perez answered back with a three point shot of his own two minutes later. With the score at 29-34 Franklin committed his fourth foul on the shot to send Dillan White to the foul line to complete the three point conversion. The quarter ended with a 31-50 deficit as the Timberwolves started to pull away.

Exeter-Milligan's Shane Manning sunk a three point attempt to make the score 31-53 to start off the fourth quarter, but on the other end

of the court Franklin was fouled in the act of shooting a completed two point shot and then capped off with the three point conversion on a free throw. The Timberwolves then hit two three point shots to extend their lead. "We have struggled all year to put a complete ball game together," Rath said.

With a score of 40-68, the Clay Center bench was put out on the court to play a vital role in the game as they kept the Timberwolves scoreless within the last minute while sinking two three point attempts by Brett Peshek and Matt Johnson. "I'm proud of them, since we haven't been able to have any junior varsity games for

about a month. It is very encouraging to have our bench come off and play well," Rath commented.

Knight lead the Wildcats with 12 points, and two rebounds. Perez followed with nine points and four assists. Franklin scored five points and pulled down five rebounds in the loss.

Cupid's arrow shot through the hearts of the Wildcats as the buzzer sounded with the heartbreaking loss to the conference rivals. "I was not disappointed with our 46 points," Rath said. "It was giving up 68 points and the many fouls we had in the act of shooting. That was disappointing."

# A-Rod's reputation gets juiced



ple got tired of hearing about Brian McNamee accusing Clemens of using steroids. The sooner it gets over the sooner people forget about it.

All this steroid talk just really grinds my gears. Some unknown person is trying to get his name in the paper by saying that he injected some professional athlete with steroids.

If you're going to accuse a professional athlete of taking steroids you better have cold hard evidence to back it up.

And I think our congressmen have a couple things better do than to hold hearings about if someone took steroids. With our country going down the toilet our congressmen need to be focusing on figuring out how to get us out of this mess instead of investigating if Joe Blow got a needle in his butt.

It's pathetic how this whole steroids thing came about. First Mark McGuire was accused of it, then Jose Canseco wrote a book about how he took steroids and tried bringing other people down with him.

After the book came out, Barry Bonds starting getting questioned. Of course, he denied the whole thing. I guess it's just a coincidence that he's completely bald, has a high voice, a lisp, and smacked 761 home runs in



Courtesy of The Inquisitr

New York Yankee Third-baseman Alex Rodriguez admits to using steroids at a press conference at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa held on February 17.

his career.

Then a year later, a man named Brian McNamee came out of no where accusing Roger Clemens and Andy Petite of taking steroids. Petite admitted to taking steroids to help repair a torn ligament in his shoulder.

Clemens on the other hand denied the whole thing. He denied it to everyone including congress.

Where's the passion in sports? Most athletes just play for the name on the back, not the name on the front.

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# Sub-District blues

Defending runner-up Bulldogs end Ladycats season

By: Vanessa Ponder  
Business Manager

On their way to Sub-Districts the Ladycats had a lot of potential to prove to the crowd. The team went into the beginning of Sub-Districts with 7 wins and ended with a win on February 16th to give them a total of 8 wins.

The Lady cats had an exciting victory against Heartland-Lutheran with an ending score of 40-32 and totals of 37 rebounds, 10 steals and 10 assists.

Junior Abby Sorensen led the team with a running total of 19 points and 8 rebounds. Following her with a total of 7 points and 8 rebounds is Senior Stephanie Hoyt.

The Lady cats flattened the Hornets, but fell victim to the Bulldogs with an ending score of 36-57. Still putting up a fight the Lady cats had a total of 36 rebounds, 15 steals and 7 assists against the Bulldogs.

"We had to overcome a lot of adversity trying to get use to a new technique of practicing with our new coaches. There were moments like the Clarkson and Meridian games where we played exceptionally well and then there were other games where we didn't play very well when we should have won," Jill Baxa said.

Sorensen led the team with 264 points in the season. Following behind Sorensen is Hoyt with a total of 164 points.

The senior leaders for the team this season are Ashley Boman, Stephanie Hoyt and Jessie Sorensen who have all been 4 year starters for the Lady Cats basketball team. "Our record may not show it, but we made huge progress this season. "Our schedule was filled with quality teams and going up against them every night put us in a position where we had to show up everyone. The team made huge progress throughout the season. With my injury, people were forced to fill new roles and they all accepted it and



jeremy HENEGER/The PawPrint

Senior Jessie Sorensen is met by a Heartland Lutheran defender as she goes up for a lay-up in the first round of Sub-District play at Doniphan-Trumbull on Monday, February 16. The Lady Cats advanced into the second round by defeating Heartland Lutheran 40-32.

did a great job," Boman said.

With only 14 players the team pulled out a great amount of efforts to win their games. They fought as a team and had fun as a team. The Lady cats have gave a great amount of effort this year and have improved enormously throughout the season.

Totaling up all of their games the team had a great amount of 652 re-

bounds. "We struggled a little bit, but I feel we overcame a lot throughout the season. I love all the girls and I'm so happy they were there with me for my senior season," Jessie Sorensen said. With the aggressiveness of the team all together they had a total of 219 steals. The Lady cats ended their season with a great total of 830 points.

# Freshman Zoucha finds passion on mats

By: Jesse VonSpreckelsen  
Staff Writer

The Lone Ranger. The Mighty Mouse. The One and Only. The single wrestler from Clay Center this year was Jake Zoucha.

Weighing in at 112 pounds Zoucha debuted this year as a high school wrestler for the Harvard Clay Center Wildcards. He competed for the Wildcards on the junior varsity squad this year.

"This year went better than last year, especially being in high school. Next year hopefully I will improve to the varsity level and make it to the state championship as a sophomore," said Zoucha when asked how he felt about his entire career in wrestling and what he thought the future held.

With any luck Zoucha will find himself leading the Wildcards force as the only Clay Center participant again next year as he progresses as a better athlete.

While he could not compete in the district meet because of his junior varsity status, he finished with a solid fourth at the Twin Valley Conference meet January 22nd. "I really enjoyed wrestling this year; it was a lot more fun as a high schooler rather than wrestling at junior high meets," Zoucha said.

When asked about his fondness for wrestling, Zoucha replied, "I love being able to wrestle many different people and being able to build strength throughout the season." Hopefully his passion and his drive will help Zoucha reach his goal that most only dream of.



ashley BOMAN/The PawPrint

Freshman Jake Zoucha tries to escape from a Blue Hill/Red Cloud grappler in the Twin Valley Conference wrestling meet held at Clay Center on January 22.

# Godtel preaches teamwork to Junior High Boys

By: Abby Sorensen  
Staff Writer

In the third year combining with Harvard boys Junior High basketball, the new seventh and eighth graders learned how to play together and work as a team.

This did not come without help from Anthony Godtel, the Clay Center High School assistant boys basketball coach, and now the Harvard-Clay Center junior high boys basketball assistant coach. "The boys got along really well pretty much right from the get-go. They learned how to play as a team with both new boys and boys that they had been playing with since they were younger," Anthony Godtel said. The boys have had to learn to play and work together this year.

With fourteen Players from Harvard and six from Clay Center, there were enough boys to have both A and B teams.

Harvard and Clay Center both being D2 schools, they face some tough competition, playing mostly C2 schools such as Blue Hill, Kenesaw, Sandy Creek-Lawrence Nelson, Sutton, and Heartland.

"I saw improvement throughout the season. They were able to find the open spots and they became more relaxed," Coach Godtel said.

The boys worked hard to improve skills that they will use and High School sports and even in life in general. "Their abilities as individuals grew stronger as the season went on. They will be able to use those abilities in real life," Godtel added.

They played in their last tournament on Saturday, February 28th. "We all got a long with the Harvard boys pretty much from the start. It has been fun playing with them," 8th grader Cole Knight said.



ashley BOMAN/The PawPrint

Seventh grader Gage Davis looks for a teammate while being hounded by a Sutton defender on January 19 at Clay Center.

# A gift that goes beyond any record

By: Kyle Knight

Staff Writer

"This is the truth. Sometimes, people pick a sport. Other times, the sport picks them. And the minute you start playing you know you've found each other. From that moment on, everything else becomes recreational." This quote was on a gift made by Co-Head Girls Basketball coach Crystal Haasentaab for senior Ashley Boman.

Basketball has always played a major role in Ashley's life. She started playing competitively when she was in the third grade with teams in Hastings. Since then she has had big dreams of playing basketball in college. "Ashley always said that she wanted to play for Pat Summit at Tennessee, that was if she couldn't play with Michael Jordan and the Bulls," Ashley's mom Darcie Boman said. One of her dreams included a 1,000 point high school career. This goal

was brought into sharper focus when Bryson Studnicka made it to 1000 during her sophomore season. Boman was well on her way to 1000 career

points before suffering an ACL tear on January 10th against Silver Lake. "I was devastated but I kept an open mind about the whole thing," Boman said. Being left a mere forty eight points shy of 1,000 was devastating not only to Boman but to the team

it's sad because she could've easily made it. But that doesn't take away from the fact that she had an amazing career here at Clay Center," Haasentaab said.

At the time of her injury, plans were already in the works for cel-

the other senior basketball players, Jessie Sorensen and Stephanie Hoyt, came up with the idea of the varsity players giving her the 48 points she needed. "We did it because we really care about Ashley and it was the least we could do for her after everything

eight points needed to reach 1,000. Senior Jair Perez, with the help of Sorensen and Hoyt, did most of the work behind the video. "I wanted to make it because I thought that was the least I could do after her tragic accident and she deserved her thousand

point career in the minds of everybody," Perez said.

The video was shown during a reception for the senior girls after school on January 23rd. "I was really surprised; it makes me feel really good knowing that so many people have my back," Boman said.

Boman had her surgery on January 30th at the Lincoln surgical hospital. She plans to play basketball in college but is still undecided where. "Tearing your ACL is the most common injury in women's basketball, so when I talked to college coaches it didn't really phase them because they see it so much" Boman said. After surgery she will be in rehab for three months.



jill BAXA/The PawPrint

Ashley Boman embraces fellow seniors Stephanie Hoyt and Jessie Sorensen at the Senior Basketball Reception on January 23rd. Hoyt and Sorensen, along with the help of others, surprised Boman with a video which showed clips of her teammates donating their points towards Boman's goal of 1,000 career points which was cut short due to an ACL injury suffered on January 10th.

and even the entire school. "I know I didn't reach my goal but it really feels like I did," Boman said. "It's pretty amazing the she was that close, but

celebrating her milestone. "After she got hurt we knew she deserved something to celebrate her career," Haasentaab said. The coaches along with

she has given us," Hoyt said.

They made a video which showed clips of them making points during games. Each adding up to the forty

It's easy to see that basketball definitely picked Boman. And it's clear that it's not finished with her yet.

## ACL injury tears into athlete's career

By: Jeremy Chevalier

Graphic Editor

High School sports have many positive aspects but as always, there is an inevitable downside, as the students run the risk to be injured. Ashley Boman has unfortunately experienced this drawback as she tore her left ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) during the basketball game against Silver Lake, and it is probably necessary to explain what this common injury in the world of the sport is.

Indeed, an ACL tear is one of the most frequent injury in the world of the sport, because of the demands still bigger that the competitions ask, involving a lot of twisting that the knee needs to bear. It often happens in basketball, soccer or football because the shoes are made to avoid sliding. So as the stud-

entless stay in the ground or as the grip hangs the floor too much, all the body will turn around the knee, involving a tear of the ACL. Coaches and players are often aware of that risk even though they usually hope that the in-



torn ACL

jury is not as heavy as an ACL tear. "I knew what happened and that it was

frequency but I was really hoping for Ashley that it was not that," co-head coach Hassenstab said.

You could be surprised to learn that a lot more of ACL tears occur on girls. Indeed, it happens eight more times for the girls than for the boys. The most common explication is the anatomy difference between the girls and the boys, the girls having a wider pelvis. The pelvis weakness appears to be the major reason for this difference between boys and girls, because it brings extra pressure on the knees. The anterior cruciate ligament makes a cross with the other cruciate ligament, the posterior one. They make the junction between the femur and the tibia, and make impossible the forward movement, as much as a big rotation of the knee. So when the ACL is torn, the tibia can slide on the femur, leading the

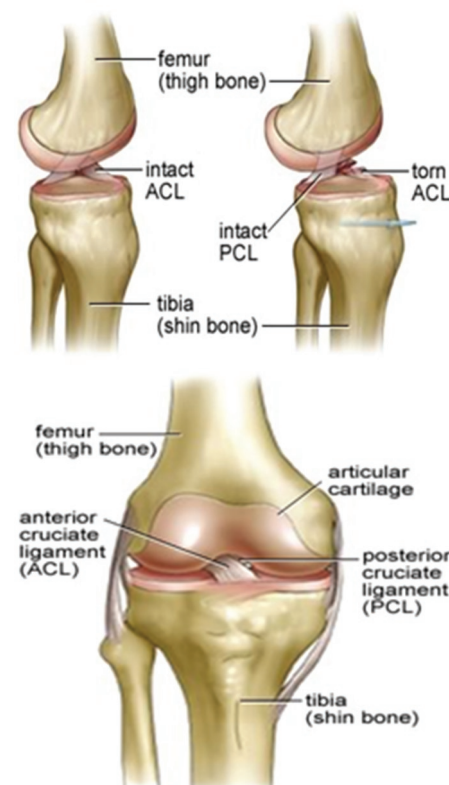
knee to give away.

The recovery of such an injury has become much easier as the technol-

ogy evolved. When you had to almost make a cross on your athletic career in the past, now, it is only the season that is ended.

However, it remains something hard to take for the athletes: "When I found out that it was an ACL tear, I was in shock and I didn't want to believe that I would have to sit on the sideline the rest of the year," Boman said. A surgery is necessary after the detection of the injury, in order to reconstruct the ligament, which is removed and replaced by another one. The rehabilitation after this surgery takes a lot of time and that is why the

athletes usually do not play during the current season anymore. It includes the wearing of a brace along all the



Photos courtesy of www.aclsolutions.com

injured leg and many exercises destined to strengthen the knee and the muscles around it. People are usually able to be back at their previous level, even if the way to reach this goal is not easy but coach Hassenstab is optimistic about Boman's return. "It will take time but she has the strong mentality necessary, she will work hard to be back where she was." Boman hopes to be back where she was by June.