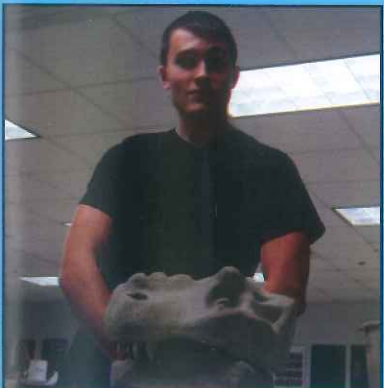




Sam Zimmerman (pg. 22)



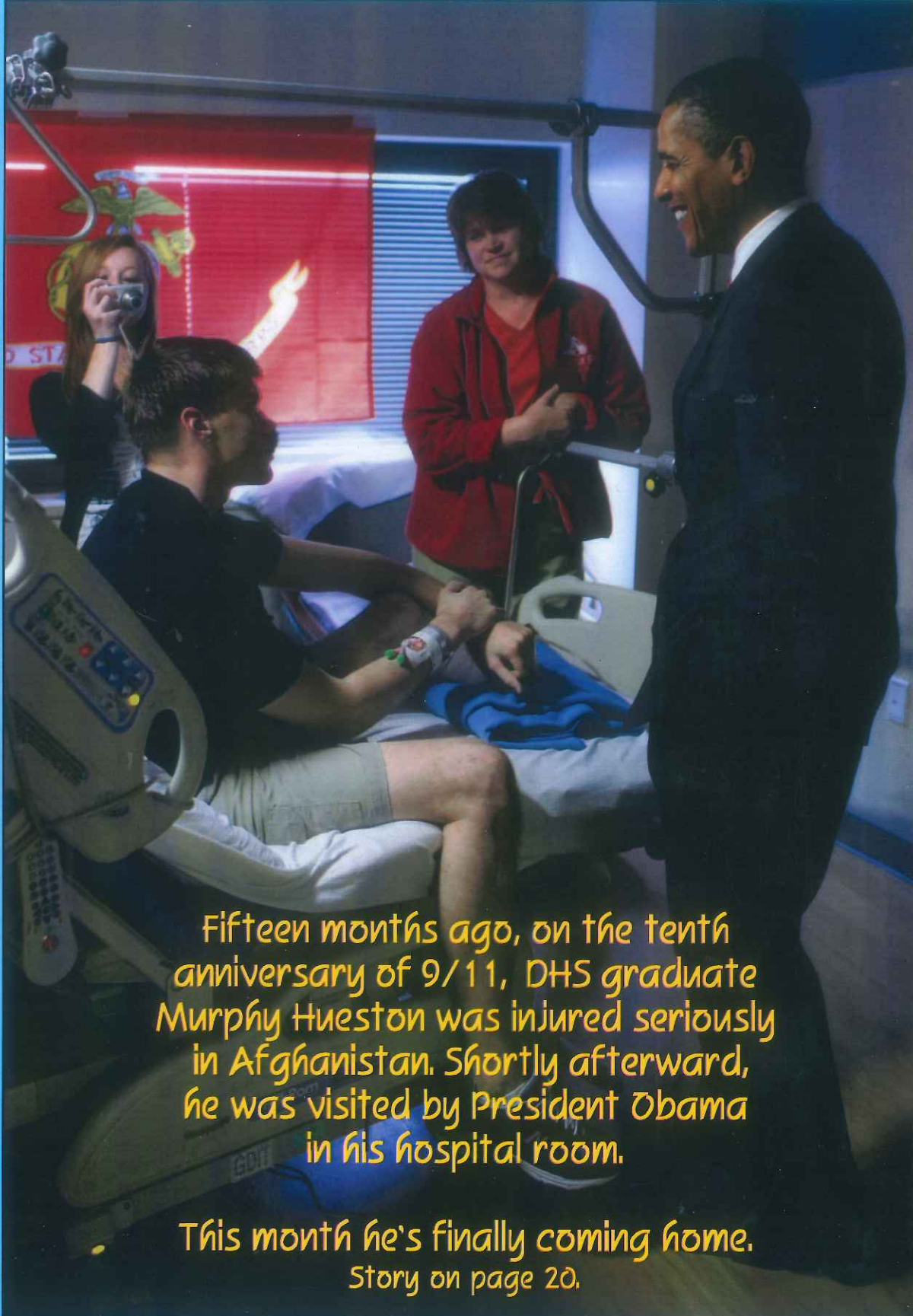
Miss Harshbarger (pg. 8)



Jacob Hollars (pg. 33)



Evan Rodenberger (pg. 12)



Fifteen months ago, on the tenth anniversary of 9/11, DHS graduate Murphy Hueston was injured seriously in Afghanistan. Shortly afterward, he was visited by President Obama in his hospital room.

This month he's finally coming home.
Story on page 20.

Follow the Tweeter

Here's how to get celebrities to follow you on Twitter

By Shelby Richardson

Accounts of celebrities litter the Twittersphere, but most of them are not willing to follow everyone.

Junior Jordan Fenwick is one of the lucky few who gets to experience the thrill of having famous followers. MC Hammer and LL Cool J are following Fenwick on Twitter.

It wasn't a hard task to get these celebrities to follow him, but it was still really exciting for Fenwick, especially when he saw that MC Hammer followed him.

"I played the song 'Can't Touch This' and danced profusely," Fenwick said, laughing.

Also, junior Taylor Adams is followed by several celebrities, including David Hasselhoff, Corbin Bleu, and the Backstreet Boys. She didn't even try to get them to follow her.

Even though some students, such as Fenwick, only have to retweet the celebrity once, and others, such as Adams, just get a random follow, it isn't necessarily that easy for all celebrities.

Depending on the celebrity, you may have to do a lot more than retweeting them once. Some celebrities, no matter how hard you try, just won't follow anyone that they don't actually know, so don't take it personally if you encounter one like this.

"The ones I try the most for are the ones who don't follow me," Adams said.

Waka Flocka Flame is known to follow people who really try at it. Senior Zach Anderson and



freshman Sam Williams both earned a follow from Waka Flocka. They just tweeted at him as much as they could. It took about two days of constant tweeting for Waka Flocka to follow them.

"Just use all of your time to suck up to them on Twitter," Anderson said.

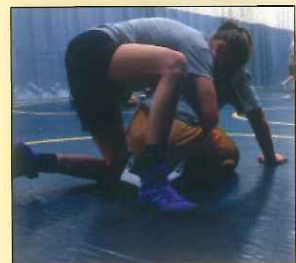
Anderson is also followed by Maybach, Hopsin, Lil' B, and Lil' Kies. He even had a conversation with Hopsin, an up-and-coming rapper, over direct message. Hopsin had tweeted that he was bored, so Anderson messaged him, and they started talking about Jolly Ranchers.

Twitter is a huge site with nearly 500 million users and counting. You have to catch someone's attention to get them to follow you, which can be done if you pop up in their mentions a lot.

All of this may seem time-consuming, but it may be worth it in the end. Who knows, you may even get a chance to talk to your favorite celebrity.

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Mr. Brian Brewer, Mr. Tim Cleland, Mr. Chris Conley, Mrs. Jodi Cook, Mrs. Marilee Creech & Together We Can, Mr. Stan Daugherty, Mrs. Cheryl Dominick, Mrs. Cathy Giammichele, Ms. Joey Gossett, Kurt & Lauren Griffis, Mrs. Tammy Hahn, Hanna Kikendall, Mrs. Emily Lamb, Paul & Jennifer Orchard, Mr. David Reade, Mr. Gary Seidner, Mrs. Connie Stinson, Mrs. Heidi Zickgraf



Delta Athletics

Good luck to all of our winter athletes!

Be loud and proud, Blue Crew!

Adopting Tough News

Adoptees react differently to their new ways of life

By Brianna Parsons

At a young age senior Jade Gardner was given up by her biological father and taken in by a man that at the time was married to her mother. Feeling emptiness, she sometimes wonders to herself, "What's wrong with me?" This grievous feeling is a part of Gardner's life.

When Gardner was four years old papers were signed so that she could finally have a father figure in her life. Although her biological father hasn't been a part of her life, she was adopted and taken in by a man who has children of his own.

"I feel like they did what was best for me at that point in time. I'm so thankful that someone was willing to take me as their own because if he didn't adopt me, I wouldn't have a dad," Gardner said.

Gardner said she often wonders who her biological dad is and why he opted to give her up. Aside from this, Gardner also has the heartache of wondering why when she has tried to contact her biological father he has not wanted anything to do with her.

Although Gardner has not heard from her father, she has heard from other members of her family on her biological father's side. Gardner has had interaction with her biological grandfather and with her biological aunt and half-sister. Gardner's biological grandfather had contacted her through Facebook and she had dinner with her half-sister but no longer has contact with her. Gardner also remembers having small talk with her aunt through Facebook.

Gardner is now 17 years old and also has lost contact with her father who took her in, leaving her without a father figure in her life.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, approximately 120,000 children are adopted each year in the United States alone.



Upper right, senior Jade Gardner shifts from an innocent happy baby with her father that adopted her, to a fatherless teen. (Bottom Photo by Brianna Parsons) (Top Photo Provided)

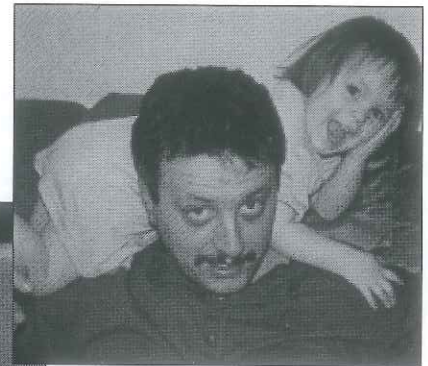
Athletic director Mr. Shane Hill has also been adopted, but his story is much different. He was adopted right out of the hospital through closed adoption. Hill says he would not have known he was adopted if his new parents had never told him.

"I had a typical childhood; it was never abnormal. I never felt there was a piece of me missing," Hill explained.

Hill believes he was told about being adopted when he was in his late elementary years and explains that he has no regrets about being adopted.

"I was put into an awesome situation," Hill said. "Almost 40 years ago my parents walked into a hospital to pick up a kid they didn't know. I can't repay them for that."

Hill maintains a positive attitude about being adopted. He feels that being adopted was for the better because his biological parents were college students. Hill is grateful that a couple willingly came into the hospital to pick him up the day he



was born.

"It put me in a stable home," Hill explained.

He has an older sister who his parents also adopted. However, Hill's sister was adopted from a different family. There are four children altogether in Hill's family. Hill's mom and dad did not think they would be able to have children, which is why they had adopted Hill and his older sister. Later, his parents had two children of their own.

The only downside for Hill is not knowing any of his parents' medical history, which could be important for his own health.

Like Hill, senior Chris Wymer also was adopted through closed adoption. Wymer has never met his biological parents and feels that this is the biggest downside to being adopted.

"I've really always wanted to try to find my biological parents. I've never really had a whole lot of time to try to find them, but it will be difficult due to the fact that I don't know anything about them," Wymer said.

Although Wymer wonders at times where his birth parents are, he tries to stay positive.

"I feel like being adopted has had its advantages throughout my life. The best part about being adopted is knowing that there was a family out there who cared enough to take me into their care," Wymer said. "If I wouldn't have been adopted, I definitely wouldn't have the opportunities to do the things I do now. Being adopted is something that I'm really thankful for."

Continued on page 7



Hannah George wears her T-shirt that she received when she met swimmer Amanda Beard. The number 5 in the eye stands for the number of Olympics Beard has been in. (Photo by Josh Hicks)

Students Get Peek at Fame

By Teaghan Dishman

When United States Olympic swimmer Amanda Beard tweeted that she would give away three t-shirts to whoever found her at the Olympic Trials in Nebraska, Hannah George jumped off the block in search of Beard. Little did George know Beard was in the hotel lobby where she was staying. George, sophomore Delta swimmer, then received the shock of her life when she was one of the three recipients of a t-shirt.

George was able to meet many of her idols while on her trip to Omaha for the Olympic Swimming Trials in June 2012. Some of the other popular swimmers she got to meet included Ryan Lochte, Michael Phelps, and Missy Franklin. These were just some of the many famous Olympians she met on her trip.

George said, "I met a lot of them in the hotel lobby and a few of them at meet and greets."

George was able to have a swimmer's experience of a lifetime while on her trip to Omaha. Sophomore Zach VanCleave, though, got the shock of his life while walking through the Circle Centre

Mall in Indianapolis. He was able to meet Derron Williams, point guard for the Brooklyn Nets, as he was passing through stores at Circle Centre Mall.

VanCleave said, "I was amazed that he was next to me!"

VanCleave also was able to meet Colts head coach Chuck Pagano. He also met Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, wide receivers Reggie Wayne and Austin Collie, and punter Pat McAfee while attending the Colts training camp in Anderson.

VanCleave got the opportunity to talk to McAfee about the punter's arrest for swimming in the Indianapolis canal and his thoughts about it.

"McAfee said that it was extremely cold and he regrets his decision and that he will not do it again," VanCleave said.

Other students have also had encounters with celebrities. Bailey Sulfridge, junior, was able to meet Waka Flocka Flame at the Drake concert. Sulfridge was most shocked by how huge he was. Also Bobby Nickel, senior, has had the opportunity to meet Jim Davis, Garfield creator, not just once but more than 10 times. "I remember

meeting him as a kid, and the last time I met him was last year," he said. Nickel has been able to get these opportunities because his father works for Jim Davis.

Not only do students get worked up when getting to meet some of today's most famous people, but teachers also get that same feeling. Mr. Tim Cleland, journalism teacher and tennis coach, has gotten the chance to meet many famous athletes, including Michael Jordan, Pete Rose, Larry Bird, Jack Nicklaus, Zach Randolph, Pete Sampras, and many more.

Cleland was able to meet many of these familiar names and faces while working at *The (Muncie) Evening Press* as a sports writer for 13 years before he became a teacher. Cleland recalls the best interview being with Cincinnati Reds star Pete Rose the night that he broke the all-time hits record for Major League Baseball. "I literally walked next to him for 1-2 minutes right after the game on our way to a large interview room," Cleland said.

He has also had the opportunity to interview one of the most famous basketball players of all time, Michael Jordan. Cleland got this opportunity when he was just starting out as a sports writer. Cleland said, "I interviewed him one-on-one in the Bulls' locker room after a Pacers game. This was early in his career before he was increasingly famous. I was a little nervous."

One star athlete that he met in a different way was Randolph, who plays for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies. Randolph was a student in Cleland's sophomore English class at Marion High School during his student-teaching assignment.

It used to be that everyone wanted to be famous, but in today's world celebrities say it isn't always what it seems. This still doesn't stop students today with their dreams of becoming famous.

"I would love to be in a famous band playing in front of millions of people," Nickel said.

Even though some students would love to be in the starlight, there are also other students who would disagree with that.

Sulfridge said, "I don't want to be famous because you would never get any privacy."

Much like the people on *My Strange Addiction*, where the most ordinary people do the most unusual things, that person sitting next to you in Algebra very well may watch an unusual TV show.

We found some Delta students and teachers who are ...

Tuned in to

WEIRD TV

By Jay Robillard

Breana Anderson, junior, likes to watch *Bad Girls Club*, a reality show about a group of girls living together in a mansion for three months. Every contestant thinks they're superior to the rest, so they often get in fights over who's better. The show illustrates who they really are, so most of them actually come out bettering themselves. Anderson started watching it three years ago at a friend's house and says she continues watching because "the drama is addicting." You can find *Bad Girls Club* Monday nights at 8 on the Oxygen network.

Dawn Raleigh, English and theatre teacher, prefers to watch *The Bachelor* and *666 Park Avenue*. Mrs. Raleigh enjoys *The Bachelor*, a reality show where a single man picks a potential wife out of a group of contestants, because it's easy entertainment and "it's nice to know that there are people out there that I'm smarter than." She also likes *666 Park Avenue*, a show about a couple who moves into a Manhattan apartment building that, including its tenants, might be possessed by a demonic force. She said it's good entertainment. You can find *The Bachelor* on Monday nights at ABC and *666 Park Avenue* airs Sundays at 10 p.m.

Hunter Maynard, junior, often watches *Long Island Medium*. This is a show about a psychic who claims to have the ability to talk to the deceased. The show follows her as she tries to balance her clients with her family. Maynard doesn't have an exact reason as to why she watches it, but finds it funnier and more entertaining than most shows. You can find *Long Island Medium* on TLC, Sunday evenings at 10.

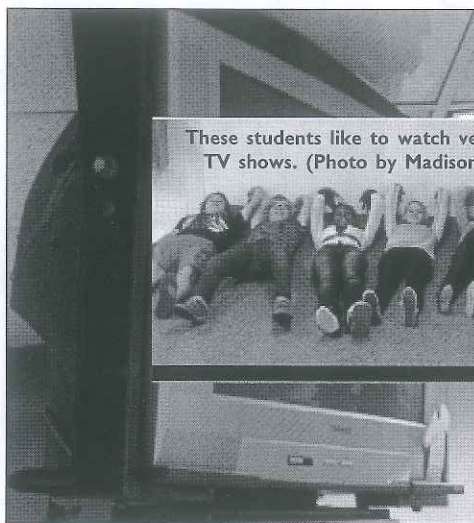
Chandler Davis, junior, may watch the weirdest show of all. Davis watches *Man Vs. Beast*, a show in which humans faced off against animals in various challenges. For example, in one episode an Olympic gymnast faced off against an orangutan to see who could hang on a bar the longest. Also, they had a sumo wrestler in a tug of war against a chimpanzee. Davis enjoys the show over your ordinary TV show because he would rather watch an animal make a human look stupid. "It gives me hope that humans won't be overtaken by apes one day," he said. Even though the show doesn't have new episodes, reruns can eventually be found on Fox.

Christian Robinson, senior, watches *Through the Wormhole*, starring Morgan Freeman. Airing Wednesday nights on the Science channel, *Through the Wormhole* is a show about weird, unexplainable science phenomena. Robinson started watching this show when Direct TV dropped MTV, because he had to find something else to watch. "I recommend it because it actually exercises your brain and makes you think," he said. Robinson prefers *Through the Wormhole* over mainstream TV shows because "you don't feel dumber after you watch it."

Olivia Shoemaker, freshman, and Nick Zachary, sophomore, both enjoy watching documentaries on various topics. Zachary prefers documentaries on drugs because they're really fascinating and he learns more than watching a normal show. Shoemaker watches them because "they're real life, not like most TV shows that are staged or fake." While Shoemaker watches documentaries alone, Zachary prefers to watch them with his sister, Samantha, who is a senior.

Tara Harshbarger, an art teacher, watches shows on the Salem Witch Trials on the History Channel. The Salem Witch Trials were a series of persecutions against alleged witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts in the 1690s.

Harshbarger enjoys these shows because she learns something when she turns on the TV. Harshbarger got started on the shows when she started reading author Kathleen Kent, who had ancestors that were a part of the witch trials.



These students like to watch very unusual TV shows. (Photo by Madison Savage)

Students must
make tough
decisions over
their priorities

Homework VS. Hunting

By Jenna Parsons

Instead of shooting for good grades these students are aiming to get an animal during their hunting season.

Some students at Delta High School have two priorities, hunting and school -- not necessarily in that order. Many students hunt after school until dark. Some say they do homework before they go or afterward, but only their teachers know the truth about that.

Deer season is usually the biggest season for the students. There are two different types of deer seasons, bow and firearm. Bow season runs October 1 until November 30 and late bow lasts December 6 to January 4. Firearm season takes place December 20 to March 21.

"I love hunting and I would never give it up for school," senior Joseph Jackson said. When his grades do slip, though, his father takes his truck and hunting privileges away from him until they are brought back up. He also says that hunting helps him wake up in the morning since he is used to this routine every weekend.

"Bow season is my favorite since it actually takes some skill," he says. Jackson still participates in firearm season, but he doesn't enjoy it as much.

Jackson uses hunting mainly as a benefit to get an



animal so he can practice more on his dream profession of being a taxidermist.

Junior Devon Greene hunts 20 or more hours a week. He hunts both during the week and weekend.

"I would never quit hunting; it's more important to me than school," Greene explains about his priority order. "If I didn't hunt, though, it would give me more time and my grades would be better."

He said his mother does not punish him, though, if his grades go down because she knows how much hunting means to him.

Cody Schuck, also a junior, believes that hunting is more important than school. However, his parents don't feel the same. "They think that school is more important than leaving to go hunt," Schuck says. Schuck usually hunts from 5:30 or 6 a.m. until around noon on the weekends and after

school on the weekdays. Senior Matthew Shaw's priorities are a little bit different. "If hunting affects my school too much, I would quit hunting because grades are more important," he said.

Shaw finds time after he gets done hunting at 8 p.m. to do his homework. He said his grades do fall down during season, though, even though his commitment toward school is higher than hunting.

Agricultural teacher Mrs. Nancy Kunk believes that regardless of the type of hunting, students still have plenty of time to do homework.

"There is no reason a student cannot manage both, since it isn't any different than students that work part-time jobs after school," she said.

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'THE BIGGEST THING TO HAPPEN TO IPHONE SINCE IPHONE'

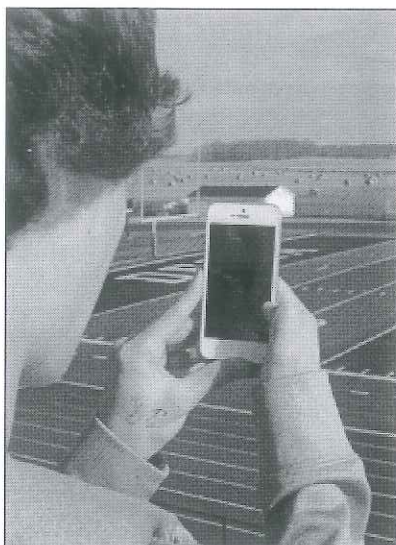
By Justin Oakley

Not only does the new iPhone 5 have a bigger screen, but a lot of other new features that allow users to have more expandability with customization. The iPhone 5 has been one of the most favored phones on the market in awhile. All the teens interviewed absolutely love this new model of phone the best.

Although Apple has made a few small changes to the same device people continue to buy the same thing, over and over. The features that get changed are small, but they manage to keep the customers happy.

The iPhone itself has been around for a few years since being released on June 29, 2007. For these last five years Apple has been on top. They seemingly just repair what was said to be wrong with the other models. This is why they have kept their place on top.

Sophomore Trey Bland was one of the many people who pre-ordered the phone, because he knew it would be a big deal. Right after his parents told him they were able to get an upgrade, Bland



Sophomore Nate Brown uses his new "baby" to capture a stunning shot. (Photo by Gracie Hollars)

was quick to suggest the iPhone 5. This would be Bland's first iPhone. After getting the phone he was sure not to lose it because, "My phone is a very important part of my everyday rituals." Using his favorite application or "app", Google Maps, "I get to see what all the other cities look like from a sky view." Bland said the picture quality was great as well.

Junior Chandler Davis liked the model 5 the best, too. "It's the latest and greatest," he said, adding he often uses his favorite app Instagram in his spare time. Davis also likes how light the new model is. After receiving it on October 25 of this year, he had soon found a passion

for his phone. He has not let the phone get lost yet.

Within the first three days of its release, the totals already reached five million sold. Another one of those people who got the new device was sophomore Joe Spegal. He liked all the iPhones before this version, so he was quick to ask his parents to buy it for him. "Angry Birds is my favorite app because it's fun," said Spegal. The game often consumes most of his time, while he's not busy being an outstanding athlete.

Freshman Arian Coffey heard about all the new features and thought he would like the new iPhone. His favorite app is "Get Off My Island, because it is sort of like Angry Birds"

He got the phone for his birthday. "I wouldn't say I'm addicted to my phone, although I do use it every day," he said.

Fellow sophomore Nate Brown got the new iPhone 5. He was excited to finally have a newer phone. Brown was sick and tired of his flip phone and went to his parents to talk to them about an upgrade. Sure enough he now has it and calls it his "baby." Brown likes to spend most of his time on Youtube watching funny videos.

Has the iPhone 5 taken over? Most of these people would say so.

Adoption

Continued from page 3

Sophomores Allyson and Brandon Buckner also have experience with closed adoption being in the family. Their younger brother Cameron was adopted six years ago at the young age of two and hesitated to go with the family at first.

"When we went to pick him up we had to get him from his aunt's. He came out and got halfway to the car and then turned around and cried," Allyson explained.

Cameron refusing to go with the Buckner family has not been the only difficulties they have had. When the family finally got him into their care they tried to change his name to Brian. Cameron was not willing to get his name changed, and he reminded the family that his name is Cameron.

Along with this, the Buckner family had trouble when it came time to give Cameron a bath when they first got him.

"He was scared to brush his teeth and take a bath. He would

scream," Allyson said.

Although Cameron was so young when he was adopted, he has questioned older sister Ashley, a DHS graduate, about his adoption. His questioning about why he was adopted was very touching for Ashley and nearly brought her to tears.

Although Cameron had his troubles feeling a part of the Buckner family he is now adjusted and doing just fine at the age of eight.

"He has a big heart and cares about all of us," Allyson says.

Beyond the Paintbrush

Harshbarger's students' work is more important than her own

By Lindsey Reagon

Starting out as a little artist, Tara Harshbarger turned her hobby into her career.

Her mom was her earliest influence in art.

"My mother painted around me my entire childhood," Harshbarger said. "As I grew up I became very interested in art."

Growing up on a 40-acre farm in Ft. Wayne and being around nature daily became a big influence for why she was so aware of her surroundings.

She was that little girl who won every coloring contest in her elementary and the one who always had the most creative projects throughout her school years, yet planning to be a dietician, and ended up going to school for art.

Harshbarger got her four-year bachelor's degree at Ohio University and her master's degree at Ball State University, all for her art. She does mostly 2D art but went back to school for ceramics.

She played volleyball at Ohio University, but by the end of her sophomore year it had seemed like everything revolved around her athletics. She wanted something different, very different.

She needed something creative in her life since athletics was taking up most of her time. She didn't quit volleyball, just added art into her daily routine.

She chose teaching because many artists become "starving artists," meaning they barely make ends meet since their art may not sell.



This piece is an example of Miss Harshbarger's watercolor and indie ink painting. It's one of her favorite pieces she has created.

using her art skills," junior Caleb Greene said.

Harshbarger thinks that her students' artwork is more important than her own. She doesn't have any of her own artwork in her classroom because she would rather display her students' work instead of hers.

"I think Miss Harshbarger is a good teacher because she interacts with her students. She also is good about showing her students a demo since a lot of kids nowadays are visual learners," sophomore Teaghan

Dishman said.

Harshbarger doesn't talk about any of her awards or new art projects; she only talks about her students' awards and artwork.

Even though she loves to do art, she would rather teach. She has learned a lot from working with students and from being an educator.

"One has to be really thorough when teaching art techniques. I have become a much better artist from being a teacher," she said.

She explains that art has become a part of who she is, and she is going to fulfill art throughout her life.

"When I get too old to hold a paint brush I'll start painting in the style of Pollock!" joked Harshbarger, referring to Jackson Pollock, a famous drip painter.

"They don't call them 'starving artists' for nothing. And, I didn't think I wanted to get into commissioned work. Maybe in the future, though," Harshbarger said.

Always being brave and taking chances with her creativity is something that helps her get emotions into her art. Her emotions inspire her to create a beautiful masterpiece.

Her emotions come out in her work by the colors she uses. If she's sad she may use blues and purples in a gloomy forest, or if she's happy she may use bright reds and oranges in a peaceful sunset.

Harshbarger's favorite aspect of teaching is that every day is different. To her students, she makes just about everything she explains look easy.

"She is an art teacher and knows what she is doing, therefore she explains and helps the students

Agriculture Moooves Our Economy

By Connor Kissick

Have you ever wondered where and who has the time to raise crops and livestock to feed the whole United States or just your family?

Farmers all over the country spend years preparing for harvest or buying and raising livestock. Farmers plant, water, fertilize, count, harvest and repeat yearly or they buy, sell, breed, feed, water, halter, brand, tag, and process livestock. That's now, but think about our future.

Many students' families at Delta either farm or raise livestock. Sometimes things can be easy and some can be hard. Crops of 2012 were not too decent due to the drought.

Elizabeth Smoot's family farms 6,000 acres. About 4,000 acres of that is corn, and 2,000 acres of soybeans. "A lot of the corn is diseased, but soybeans are right on it," she says.

Smoot says the hardest thing about farming is not having control of the weather or mud. Smoot Farms prepares for harvest by washing combines and having technicians make sure everything is running properly.

Smoot's great, great, great grandpa started Smoot Farms, and now her father Jeff, uncles Rod and Gene, brothers Evan and Neal and cousin Sam all help with harvest. "I really don't do much; I just take them food and ride along," Smoot said.

She would like to continue farming when she is older and has a family of her own. "Oh yeah, I ain't marrying no city slicker," Smoot explained.

Smoot also shows and sells cattle and hogs in 4H.

4H is a youth development organization that teaches young people how to be responsible and care for their community, their living and health. The four H's stand for Head (to managing, thinking), Heart (relating, caring), Hands (giving, working), and Health (being, living).

This year will be senior Jacob Sprong's eighth year in 4H. Sprong and his younger sister show and sell their hogs for meat.

Sprong's family also farms. "We farm corn and soybeans and sell cattle for side money," Sprong explains. "My grandpa started farming at my age." Sprong's grandfather, dad, and he now continue farming. "The hardest thing about farming is not having control on what comes up," he says. "There are not a lot of corn bushels, so prices go up."

"Soybeans are booming. There were late rains in August so it's perfect," Sprong says "Corn did horrible all over the country." In the future, Sprong says, "I will take over the farm and continue."

Farmers all over the country take their time and money to grow crops and raise livestock. The country depends on farmers.

Corn and soybeans are harvested, dried, and taken in to be



Sophomore Elizabeth Smoot rides a mechanical tractor in her "early" farming days. (Photo Provided)

counted by bushels. Corn ranges \$7.42 per bushel and soybeans at \$15.07 per bushel at the Andersons Grain. Today the Andersons have more than 20 facilities throughout Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska with a storage capacity of 107 million bushels.

Livestock is raised, bred, and sold. Livestock generally goes to market, local stockyard, auctions and other breeders. When going to market or to shops meat usually sells by cuts, per-pound, and size.

Pork each averages 80-90 pounds by hanging weight. A whole pig goes for \$1.90 per pound. half a pig ranges around \$1.95 per pound. Beef on the other hand; each half averages 350 pound hanging weight. The side of beef: \$2.79 per pound: Angus. \$2.59 per pound: Holstein.

No matter how much meat or vegetables cost in the store, think about how much progress and money the farmers went through just to put it in local markets.

Agriculture today is one of the most important businesses around. This is today, and our future.



Pride Team members include (from left) Ashley Hansel, Elijah May, Ashley Jennings, Rebecca Jennings, Brayton Conley, Kennedy Drago, Krisha Conley, and Maddie Holdren. Not pictured is Stacie Sanders. (Photo by Kennedy Belangee)

Eagle PRIDE Soars Above the Influence

By Kennedy Belangee

Nationally, nearly 72 percent of students have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) before the end of their high school career. At Delta High School there have been five students accused of having illegal drugs at school this semester. This resulted in 10 days out of school suspension with possible expulsion.

One way to live a healthy lifestyle would be to surround yourself with people who make good choices. One group of people to follow would be the Pride Team. The team is a group of high school students from the nine schools in Delaware County. They promote being drug and alcohol free to younger generations of students.

Delta High School is represented by the most kids on the Pride Team. Mr. Chris Conley, principal, said this is a source of pride for the school. It shows a high level of commitment from Delta students.

The Pride Team members from Delta include Brayton Conley, Krisha Conley, Kennedy Drago, Ashley Hansel, Maddie Holdren, Ashley Jennings, Rebecca Jennings, Elijah May, and Stacie Sanders.

Drago, sophomore, is in her second year of being on the Pride Team. "I want to help educate the kids about the importance of not using drugs and alcohol," Drago said.

Being on the Pride Team may seem like an important role to have. If you're going to join the Pride Team, you should be drug and alcohol free.

Brayton Conley, sophomore, said Delta should "help spread the word" that students should be drug and alcohol free.

Hansel, junior, joined the Pride Team her sophomore year. "I occupy my time with dance and that helps keep me drug and alcohol free," Hansel said.

Holdren, freshman, surrounds herself with positive influences. "I feel like we need to be positive influences on other kids," Holdren said.

Students on the Pride Team get the chance to go to other schools and perform skits, dances, and give counseling sessions to students.

Besides helping other students, the Pride Team members help themselves to become better

people in and out of school.

"Being drug and alcohol free lets me play sports and music to the best of my ability," Brayton said.

The students get to meet other high school students from the nine schools in Delaware County. "You meet new people and become very close with them," Hansel said.

If you support being drug and alcohol free, then the Pride Team is a great opportunity for you. To join, fill out an application, write an essay, and audition with a talent. They hold these auditions at the beginning of summer, at the Delaware County House.

The Pride Team members seem to enjoy educating kids about being drug and alcohol free, and maybe you will, too.



2013 yearbooks on sale online at Delcomschools.org / DHS or in room 120 with Mr. Cleland

Wish Lists

What's Going Under Your Tree?

By Delaney McCaslin

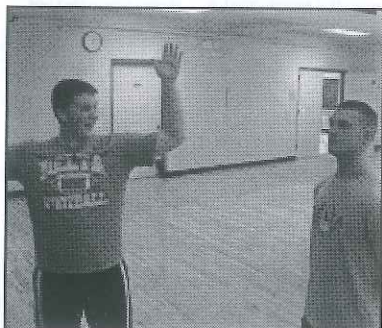
Every year around Thanksgiving we all put on our thinking caps and decide what we really want for Christmas this year. Is it a new read for all of those bookworms out there? Or the latest movie for the fanatics? How about perhaps the newest version of the iPhone? Or maybe the newest album from the greatest band? Try these answers on for size.

For junior Lindsey Welsh, her number one choice is a brand new red Chevy Camaro. "I want it because it is beautiful and nice. What's not to like?" she said.

Junior Bailey Walton has a fairly unusual request on what he wants. "I would really love for Rob Fox to be less emotional because it affects me every day and it would be nice not to worry about it," he said.

If Walton doesn't get Fox to be less emotional, he says that he would have to talk him down from the ledge every day.

Mrs. Suzy Fox, English teacher and mother of Rob, shared that what she really wants for Christmas is for her husband to find a new job and for her children to stay healthy. "If that didn't happen you just deal with it. You have to be careful and watch what you spend," she said. "Hope for the best, it's all you can do really."



Bailey Walton (left) gets excited since his Christmas wish came true. (Photo by Delaney McCaslin)



Lindsey Welsh stands by her dream car. (Photo by Delaney McCaslin)

Ipod case because you can't press the buttons on her current case, Groover said.

"A Pegasus: that's what I want because they can fly and I would be the first person to

have it," junior Dylan Christman said. "We buy for both sides of the family; we have a lot of Purdue and Notre Dame fans so clothes are very popular," she said.

Senior Maija Lewis said, "I am really hoping for a cute little puppy, preferably a Husky with blue eyes. And a new flat iron and curling iron because I am obsessed with puppies and I am a pretty girl."

Sophomore Jillian Renbarger is expecting new clothes and shoes because she really enjoys them. She also wants a new laptop because her current laptop is terrible, she said.

Freshman Anna Groover is wishing that she will get a new camera lens because the original lens on her camera isn't very good. She also wants a new

"For Christmas I want a bud. That way I am never lonely," junior Noah Burford said. If he didn't get a bud for Christmas Burford said that he would get over it because he is not materialistic.

Burford said that the two things he really doesn't want for Christmas are "fake Christmas smiles- a lot of people do that and I can see right through them and I don't like them-and coal, of course."



Anna Groover rocks out to music. (Photo by Delaney McCaslin)



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Senior Evan Rodenberger returns the ball while in a match this fall. He is a two-time All-State player and also succeeds in his academics. (Photo Provided)



SENIOR ACES HIS SERVE AND REPORT CARD

By Seth Neal

His mother made him start playing tennis in eighth grade because of his "laziness." From watching senior Evan Rodenberger play on Delta's tennis team, though, he seemingly doesn't have a lazy bone in his body.

Most athletes would be considered lucky and extremely skilled to have one of their pictures up on the "Wall of Fame" in the two hallways on the north side of the high school, but Rodenberger's tennis abilities will allow him to have two.

Rodenberger, 2011-2012 number-one doubles player for Delta, has been a First Team All-State player two years in a row: junior year with 2012 graduate Ethan Grove (with whom he placed third in the individual state finals) and senior year with sophomore Nick Wilson.

His picture with Grove was placed on the wall last year, and the picture with Wilson will be placed this school year.

"When I was a freshman, I had a tennis lesson with Stephen Hopkins, who was one of the boys' tennis coaches at the time," Rodenberger explained. "I asked him, 'What do you have to do to be on the wall?' and he said you had to be All-State."

At that moment, Evan decided that he wanted to be on the wall. As a freshman, he wasn't really sure what being an All-State tennis player took, but he has clearly accomplished his goal. Twice.

As current valedictorian of his class with an 11.2 cumulative grade-point average and a 1960 SAT

score, he qualified as an Academic All-State athlete. His academic honors will be displayed on one of the two pictures on the Wall of Fame.

Not to mention, he was also honored as an Indiana All-Star, being one of only nine players from Northeast Indiana to receive the honor. This will also be shown on one of his two Wall of Fame pictures.

Rodenberger is the only tennis player in the state to receive All-State, Academic All-State and Indiana All-Star honors for the 2012 fall season.

He is one of the clear leaders on Delta's team, being able to teach and direct his fellow teammates.

Senior David Hoopingarner, also a doubles player, described him as having the attributes of a great leader, but with the personality of a class clown.

"He steps up and is a really excellent leader any time we need a leader. And then when we don't, he's just another player," Hoopingarner said. "He's very transitional in a good way."

Head coach Tim Cleland agrees with Hoopingarner and declares that Evan is essential to the

team in a special way. "He's as close to a coach on the court as you're going to get," Cleland said. "On a day-to-day basis, he's a hard worker and always pushing for more. People always gravitate toward that and respect that."

The relationship between Evan and the tennis team is anything but a one-way relationship, though. Evan says he has benefitted greatly from being on the team for four years.

"I've learned how to work, how to get results, how to motivate people, and how to be a good

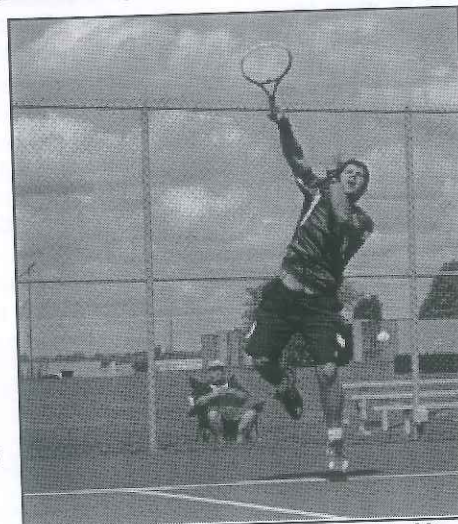
teammate and a good friend," Rodenberger said.

If it wasn't already impressive what Evan has accomplished just looking at the surface, it's even more unbelievable with the home life that he endured not too long ago.

At one year old, Evan's parents divorced, and he stayed with his mother. At two years old,

his mother remarried. The second husband stayed with the family up until Evan's freshman year of high school when his mother requested a restraining order against him.

After divorcing her second husband, Evan's mother needed long-term care in the hospital. Evan stayed with Hoopingarner and his family for a majority of this period. His sister, Hilary, also stayed in different friends' homes, but not the



Evan hits a big serve during a match. He ended his career with 55 varsity wins and a 24-3 senior record. (Photo Provided)

same ones as Evan.

"I look up to my mom," Evan said. "She's just such a fighter."

The Hoopingarners hosted him for four months during the fall of his freshman year.

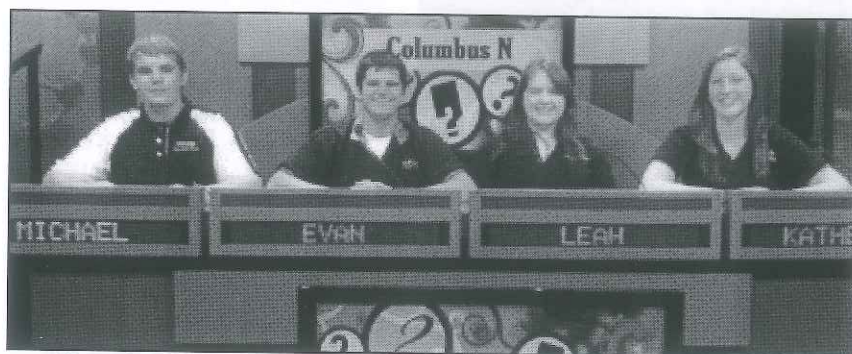
"I feel like I'm just his obligated brother," David said.

Evan and David grew even closer together than they already were during this period of time, seeing that they slept in the same room for the entire time. They also had an extremely similar class schedule and were both on the tennis team. From what other can see, "obligated brother" might be a fairly accurate term to use for their

being valedictorian of their class and two-time All-State....

"He reminded me that as a coach, you shouldn't make judgments on people too quickly.... He didn't necessarily look like an athlete, and some of his tennis strokes had flaws. You have to be careful to not say that he won't amount to anything on the court.... There's an intangible in sports that separates the champions from the good players. He certainly has proven that he has that intangible. It's almost uncoachable."

Currently, the Rodenbergers own a home in Muncie that they have been staying in for the past three years.



(From left to right) Michael McKean, Evan Rodenberger, Leah Williams and Katherine Smith compete in the televised *Brain Game* in Fall 2012. (Photo Provided)

relationship.

"We watched a lot of old James Bond movies, a lot of computer games, a lot of Spongebob, a lot of food. Just chilling," Hoopingarner said.

Evan made the best of the situation and was grateful for the Hoopingarners hosting him for this period of time.

"Even though I could've told myself that I'm living with my friend because I'm in a terrible situation, instead I told myself that I'm living with my friend and I'm going to make the best of it," Rodenberger said. "It made me more motivated."

Cleland understood where he was coming from during this period of instability.

"I admire where he came from," Cleland said. "Life has thrown him some curveballs. When people are 14 years old and getting ready for high school, (what he went through) is a handful to deal with. There are a lot of people who go through that, but most certainly don't end up

Evan's mother is studying at Ivy Tech (with all A's at the time, according to Evan) and is working toward a degree in nursing.

Evan's biological father has come back into the picture the past three years, being at nearly all of his tennis matches and other major events to support him.

All the while, Evan has maintained his very high academic standards, improved his tennis game, worked out at the local YMCA and even kept his great friendships intact, especially with the boys' and girls' tennis teams. He has also lost 55 pounds since November 2011, coming down from 235 pounds to 180, through a strict fitness and nutrition program.

These accomplishments almost seem over-the-top, but there is a method to his madness.

He often writes down weekly goals that he wants or needs to accomplish, forcing himself to do them no matter what.

"If I really want something

done, I'll write it down," he said. "A problem that a lot of people have is that they'll have a goal in mind, but it's just a thought. I think that when you write it down, it's more of a formal thing."

When he first started working out last year, he hovered around the same weight for a period of time. After he realized this, he wrote down his goal: he wanted to be down to 200 pounds by April. Between February and April of 2012, he worked harder than he usually had and achieved his goal.

It might be typically thought that a person with all of the attributes Evan portrays might not have much of a personality – at least not one that people would want to spend a whole lot of time around. But the case is exactly the opposite for Evan.

Comedy and sarcasm are Rodenberger's bread and butter – something he uses often around his friends to loosen up and have fun. This is an area where Evan shines, according to his close friends.

"He's really witty, and he's really fast with his humor," Hoopingarner said. "I love his really obvious, loud sarcasm."

Evan lives up to his reputation as a funny guy with a comment about his All-State pictures.

"I think they should move (my picture) next to Jacob Henry in the cafeteria," Evan joked. "But it's no big deal. Maybe we can get a Twitter hashtag like #EvanToTheCafeteria or something like that and try to get me where people can see me more."

On a more serious note, not only is he a guy everyone would love to be around because of his humor, but he's also respectful, as his coach describes him.

"He has his own style and is his own person," Cleland said. "But he is able to do that without being rebellious or inappropriate.... He's got enough comfort in who he is that he isn't constantly looking for someone else's approval."

As an obviously well-rounded Delta student, Evan is anything but lazy. As compared to eighth grade, "lazy" might be one of the last words to come to mind for senior-year Evan.

what gets you in the holiday

M O O D ?

By Maggie Thompson

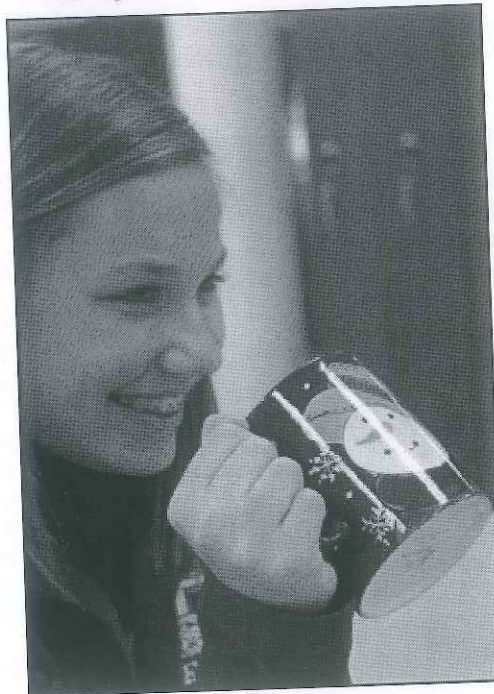
There really is nothing quite like the holidays. Seeing the blinking lights on the Christmas tree, catching the aroma of grandma's cookies in the oven, watching Frosty the Snowman on high-definition, and listening to jolly music just have a way of getting us into the mood for the holidays.

Junior Jalen Hammond said what gets him in the holiday mood is going out to buy Christmas trees and baking some homemade Christmas treats. He said he and his family watch "Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer" and "It's a Wonderful Life."

Music helps sophomore Kristina Grove ignite her Christmas spirit. In fifth grade she used to repeatedly listen to a CD that had all the Disney Channel stars singing Christmas songs. Now, she just listens to Christmas songs on the radio.

To help her get into the Christmas spirit, senior Natalie Alexander likes to listen to Christmas music and color pages in a coloring book. She also watches "Elf." "My family loves this movie," Alexander said. "We watch it every Christmas Eve. 'It's a Wonderful Life' is another one we watch Christmas Eve night. My ultimate favorite Christmas movie is 'Christmas Vacation.'"

While these two are all jolly about the holidays, there is one person who isn't too excited for them. English teacher Mr. Kip Omstead, or "Professional Scrooge"



Sophomore Kristina Grove enjoys a drink out of her holiday cup. During the holidays her mom will change all of her regular dishes to Christmas dishes.

the Christmas lights earlier before it's too cold. They also decorate the house by putting up a Christmas tree, lights, and snowmen. His family has about 20 snowmen that they decorate their living room with, and they also put up wooden reindeer that his grandpa makes.

Grove's family also does some decorating. Her mom will decorate her house with six different Christmas trees and switch all of their regular dishes to Christmas dishes. They also have a "countdown to Christmas" activity for her nephew. He gets a magnet for each day until the day of Christmas, and he puts all of the magnets on her fridge.

Alexander and her family put up Christmas trees in every room of her house and they hang lights outside like many other families do.

When it comes down to it, most people have something they like the most about the holidays.

Hammond said, "My favorite part would be the family dinners that we have and the family closeness that we get."

We all have something that gets us in the mood for the holidays. From listening to the radio or making homemade Christmas treats, the holidays can bring us closer to our families.

Even "Professional Scrooge" Mr. Omstead, finds something to like about the holidays. "When it's over," he said.

as he called himself, does not like the holidays. "They are nothing but commercialism, greed, wasted time and don't have anything to do with the real meaning of Christmas," he said. He added that "It's a Wonderful Life" should be dropped in the ocean.

When it comes time to decorate, Mr. Omstead's wife will decorate around the house. He said, "We have different kinds of Santa Clauses. We have an African American Santa Claus which only seems logical for us." This is logical for his family because Mr. Omstead and his wife adopted two African American girls several years ago.

Another way to go about decorating is to do it the day after Thanksgiving, such as Hammond's family. Hammond said that they raise

'Tis the Season for Holiday Food

By Michale Kissick

Every holiday, people look forward to Christmas and seeing presents under their tree that one special morning you get once a year. With that white glow shining in through the window, that makes the day better. For some people, they love the pumpkin pie and the eggnog. But for Mrs. Suzy Fox looks forward to her mother's punch every Christmas.

"I like it because it is fruity and has a bubbly taste like pop, and the memory of knowing it's only at Christmas," said Mrs. Fox.

She thinks her kids will make it when they are older, because every year they ask if she is making "Grandma's" famous punch!

"They love it and will keep the tradition going," said Mrs. Fox.

Her mother has made this punch every year during Christmas since she was a little girl. Mrs. Fox looks forward to drinking this punch at her family Christmas gatherings.

"The punch is a holiday recipe," said Mrs. Fox, "but I have cheated and made it on my kids' birthdays or parties."

Although Mrs. Fox has a unique favorite drink, she is not the only one. Abby Bailey looks forward to her grandma's ham and mashed potatoes all year long.

"I love the mashed potatoes because of the goodness of the butter melting in my mouth," said Bailey.

After a long few hours of all of her family cooking and eating all the yummy food, Bailey and her family sit and watch the traditional Christmas movie *Elf*. They sit together while eating a delicious leftover piece of pie.



Miss Shelli Smith (left) enjoys homemade chicken and noodles, while Mrs. Suzy Fox can't wait to drink her "grandma's punch."



Bailey and her family are all unique and crazy, but during the holidays, you see their real side. One Christmas dinner, Bailey bent over to pick up something and her grandmother tripped over her. The mashed potatoes spilled all over Abby and ruined her Christmas.

Even though she loves ham and mashed potatoes, she dislikes her grandma's coleslaw. She makes it every year and Bailey avoids it.

When Bailey has kids, she hopes to continue the tradition of all of her family getting together every year, other than her grandmother bringing her coleslaw.

Keeping the tradition is exactly what math teacher Miss Shelli Smith tries to do with her family each year.

Every year Smith makes her mother's chicken and noodles which has been passed down from multiple generations.

"My favorite thing about my mom's chicken and noodle soup is that they're salty, make great leftovers and best of all, they're homemade," says Smith.

Each year her family has something different they have to bring to their gatherings. This year, Smith was asked to bring Hawaiian Rolls.

Smith's family chicken and noodle soup is really good, and she looks forward to them all year long. One thing she doesn't look forward to is eggnog. Smith does not like it at all.

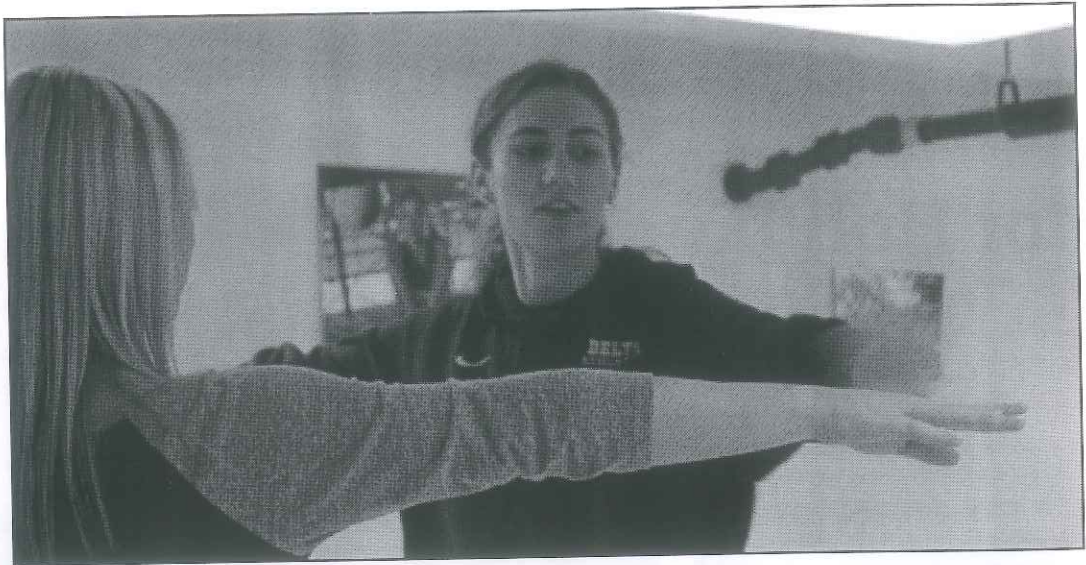
We all have different families. Some are funny, some unique, and some very odd. We have funny memories that happen and jokes that are said. Smith's remembers once unusual tradition from her grandma Jenny that happened several years in a row.

"We all would be finished eating and Grandma would come out of the kitchen with a dish that was forgotten during the whole dinner," Smith said.



Abby Bailey has her ups and downs about Christmas, but is always excited to spend time with her family during the holidays.

Athletic Trainer Diana Castleman tests Maci Pickering for a concussion. Pickering got a concussion at cheer practice when she fell on her head trying to do a back handspring. (Photo by Logan Bland)



SMACK! Concussions keep students sidelined

By Logan Bland

Macy Whitehair fell off a horse. Elizabeth Smoot got smashed in the face with a volleyball. And Maci Pickering landed on her head during cheer practice. These are three of at least 17 concussions so far this year at Delta High School.

When one is out playing a sport, the last thing to come to mind is getting a concussion. A concussion is an injury to the brain that results in temporary loss of normal brain function. There are between 1.6 and 3.8 million sports-related concussions in the United States every year.

People may wonder why all of a sudden this year concussions have become such a big worry. "It's a bigger deal now because Indiana has made it a law that if a kid has a concussion they need to be treated by a doctor to take the liability off of athletic trainers," said Diana Castleman, athletic trainer at Delta. In the first three months of the school year, Castleman had already diagnosed 17 concussions.

From the National Football League all the way down to high school sports, concussions are a big topic of debate all over the country. Some concussions are less severe than others and won't take as long to

heal, but all concussions need to be taken seriously.

For freshmen Pickering and Whitehair and sophomore Lankford, their recoveries were rather quick and they were back at it in a couple of weeks. For freshman Taylen Martzall, sophomores Kyle Cox and Elizabeth Smoot, and senior Landon Sullivan, recoveries took much longer.

"Three major concussions that I have had are during seventh grade football when I hit my head on another player, tenth grade basketball I slammed the back of my head down on the basketball court, and this year during senior night I hit my head on another guy during the football game," said Sullivan. "Each concussion I have had took a long time to recover since I had so many of them. It made me more susceptible to other concussions."

Sullivan's sophomore basketball season and senior football season ended early because of concussions.

Even though he has had three major concussions he is

still taking a risk and playing basketball his senior year. "I'm a Celtic Warrior with the grace of God on my shoulders," Sullivan said.

Cox was thrown down on the ground during the Rushville football game and hit his head on the ground. As a result, he was out for the rest of the year.


Most people find out they have a concussion by going to the athletic trainer or doctor, but for Martzall it was different.

Martzall found out that she had a concussion from the dentist. The dentist had gone to a meeting on concussions and said that since she was unconscious for more than two minutes she had one.

Getting tested for a concussion involves completing multiple tasks to find out if a student has one.


"I ask questions about the past like who they played, or what they had for lunch and then I ask questions that they should be able to know like their own number, position, or pretty much just who they are," Castleman said.

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The Delta athletes were tested on memory, strength, and balance. "I had to do balance tests like stand on one foot and close my eyes. I can barely do that without a concussion let alone with one," Cox said.

Everyone agreed that sleeping was a big part of dealing with having a concussion. "I was tired a lot and I was really sensitive to lights which caused really bad headaches," Pickering said.

Whitehair got through her concussion by taking a lot of Tylenol, sleeping frequently, no physical activity, and not getting on the computer, phone, or watching TV.

"It's not very fun, it kind of makes you feel like you are sick all of the time," Cox added.

Athletes might wonder what it's like to have a concussion or how people feel during it. Martzall and Sullivan both agreed that they were tired all the time and had a hard time concentrating. For Smoot it was different. "I was crazy. I started laughing, then I started crying and wasn't making much sense," said Smoot.

After having a concussion athletes usually try to take better precautions to prevent themselves from getting another one.

Next year Cox thinks he will be getting Sullivan's special helmet that has been passed down from Jake Bryan to Sullivan and now to Cox. The helmet is supposed to help prevent players from getting a concussion a little better than a regular helmet. Other people just take basic precautions like being more careful.

"I don't overwork myself during sports, and I take medicine every day," Martzall said.

A lot of athletes are very upset when they find out they have to sit out of sports due to injuries. Most people agreed that if the doctor would let them play, they would. But there are a few that said they wouldn't.

"I might need my brain sometime in the future," said Sullivan. Pickering and Smoot both agreed that they would play if they were allowed because they both love the sport.



FFA students pose together before leaving for the National Convention in Indianapolis this fall. (Photo provided)

FFA students share experiences

By Dusti Cummins

To many Delta High School is known as a "country" school. Driving by Delta you will notice the cows across the road, fields all around, and bales of hay.

Future Farmers of America was founded in 1928 by a group of about 33 farm boys in a Kansas City hotel. In the 1950's Congress realized the importance of Future Farmers of America and granted them a federal charter. Currently the organization, now known officially as just FFA, is expanding and trying to infuse agriculture into the classrooms.

Junior Cody Schuck has been involved in FFA for two years

now. He joined FFA the beginning of his sophomore year.

Mrs. Nancy Kunk, agricultural teacher and FFA co-sponsor, asked Schuck to join at the end of his freshman year.

Within the two years Schuck has been to soil judging three times, National Convention once, and Ag Days once. One of the traditions that he has attended would be the Christmas Party.


"National Convention was the best event I have attended. I learned more about different colleges and different things I can do in the future," Schuck said. He also said that FFA has taught students to be more responsible.

According to freshman Kacie

Sloniker, it's been a bit different. Since this is her first year in FFA she hasn't attended that much. She has only been to soil judging and National Convention, which she enjoyed the most.

"You learn to be a better person, you also learn how to work together and learn about agricultural stuff," says Sloniker. "I joined

Continued on page 28



Joe Bales

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From Delta to the Big Ten

Indiana University defensive back Greg Heban (left) steps in front of a Virginia receiver to try for an interception. (Photo by Mike Dickbernd, IU Athletics)

Painter: 'Champions never stay on the ground'

By Madison Savage

Tension filled the Yorktown gymnasium as the final buzzer was about to sound. The Eagles were about to fall to their biggest rival. With only one second left on the clock, a shot went through the air and swished into the basket, giving the Eagles the lead, and ultimately, a victory.

The basket was made in December 1988 by Matt Painter, a 1989 graduate of Delta High School. Painter played a big role on Delta's basketball team, but went on to play a bigger role as the head coach for the Purdue University men's basketball team.

Painter knew from a young age that he wanted to be a coach. He was enamored with the game of basketball and enjoyed talking about it with other people with the same passion and knowledge of the game as him.

Painter's former high school coach, Stan Daugherty, remains proud of him.

"He was an outstanding player in high school and has gone on to be an outstanding coach," Daugherty said, "It has been fun to see him advance and

end up at such a high level of basketball."

But how did Painter get to where he is today? From a coach's point of view, he feels it is very important to not forget how it felt to be a player.

"Coach Daugherty gave me the right balance of freedom and discipline for me to grow as a player," Painter said. "I am forever grateful for him believing in me. As a competitor, it feels good to know that your coach believes in you."

Daugherty said that Painter added key elements to his high school team: leadership and brilliance.

"Matt was one of the smartest players I've coached in 34 years," Daugherty said.

One of Daugherty's favorite moments was when Painter made the Indiana All-Star team. He was honored that one of his players had reached that achievement.

Painter was also honored to make the team, but it didn't come without challenges. When he was in eighth grade he was recruited to transfer to a city school in Muncie. The coaches trying to sway him said he would never reach his goals if he



Matt Painter coaches his Boilermakers in a game. The Delta graduate is one of five coaches to win Big Ten men's basketball coach of the year three times. (Photo by Purdue Athletics)

stayed at Delta.

"I am proud I stayed at Delta with my friends. It's where I belonged. It taught me to be loyal, and I was still able to make the Indiana All-Star team," Painter said.

Similar to making the Indiana All-Star team, Painter's life has been filled with innumerable memorable moments.

One of his favorite moments as a coach is to see someone use basketball to better their lives. He always tells his players they can be "cool" or they can be "good," but not both. He thinks it is amazing to see players mature and begin to really get the big picture.

Coach Painter has accomplished many things

since becoming the head coach at Purdue. He had six consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, two sweet 16 appearances, and was a finalist for national coach of the year. Beating the odds, Painter was one of five people ever to win the Big Ten coach of the year three times.

Painter's best advice for high school players is to wake up every day and try to outwork your competition and refrain from distraction. Win the day, and don't worry about tomorrow. Embrace your challenges and get up when you get knocked down.

"Champions never stay on the ground," Painter said.

Heban rises from walk-on to IU's leading tackler

By Emily Thompson

Two years ago, Greg Heban was only a walk-on for the Indiana University football team when in four of the final five games, he became a starter.

"I took full advantage of it and had to prove to the coaches what all I could do," Heban said.

Now, he not only starts, he just finished his senior year. He was the leading tackler on the Indiana University football team. Because he didn't play as a freshman, he has one more year of eligibility. Heban is planning on playing and is now a defensive back. His first year as a freshman in college, he played for the Hoosier baseball team. Heban joined the football team during a preseason camp.

"I felt like football was more fun and entertaining than baseball was," Heban said.

This year, Heban had a great season with a 91 tackles and three interceptions. Last Sunday, he was chosen Teammate of the Year overall for the IU football team.

Currently, Greg is majoring in exercise science and plans to have a career in physical therapy. Back in high school, he was an all-A student and still makes good grades now. He has made All-Academic Honors for the Big Ten Conference for three straight seasons.

Heban said that it is very hard to find time for both football and school.

"I am usually up at 6 in the morning and not done until 7 at night," Heban said.

Heban, a 2009 Delta graduate, played three sports (football, basketball and baseball) while he was in high school. All three coaches, Mr. Zgunda, Mr. Keller and Mr. Summers,



agreed that he had great work ethic and weren't surprised at all about Heban playing at the college level.

"He is a raw combination of athletic ability, mental toughness, and work ethic," said Zgunda, the football coach. "He is just one of those guys who is unmatched."

"He was very determined, focused, intense, and just about everything else," said Keller, the basketball coach of Heban.

"He is one of the best athletes I have ever coached," said Summers, the baseball coach.

Heban feels that his role on the team is wherever and whenever the coaches need him. IU won one game last year and won four this year.

"What I have enjoyed most about this season is turning the football program around," Heban said.

Heban believes that his dad has been his biggest inspiration. He also credits his college baseball coach with encouraging him to join the football team. Lastly, he said his friends helped in supporting him.

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BRIAN HOLLARS
 Principal

Mother Carol Williams, girlfriend Shelby Morgan, and injured Marine Murphy Hueston meet President Obama while at the hospital. Hueston will be returning to Muncie this month.

Injured in War, DHS Grad Soon Will Be Home

By Kaylin Gibson

On September 11, 2011, as people went about their day remembering the lives lost in the collapse of the Twin Towers exactly 10 years before, Delta graduate, Murphy Hueston was on routine night patrol in Afghanistan. What happened that day would change his life.

Hueston attended Eaton and Royerton elementary schools before moving on to Delta Middle School. Eventually, Hueston graduated from Delta in 2008 and joined the Marines soon after his graduation.

While at Delta, Hueston was a member of the swim and wrestling teams. He said Mr. Paul Orchard was his favorite teacher because of his laid back attitude and his interest in history.

When Hueston first told his parents about his plans of joining the military, his mom, Carol Williams, remembers being "very proud" of her son. Hueston could've waited

another month to go and sign up by himself, but he wanted his parents to go along with him to show their support.

In late April 2011, Hueston was deployed from his base in Hawaii to Afghanistan. He remem-

bered being nervous but excited for the new experience coming his way.

His mother also remembered being nervous and anxious for her son, but she knew that he had to go serve his country.

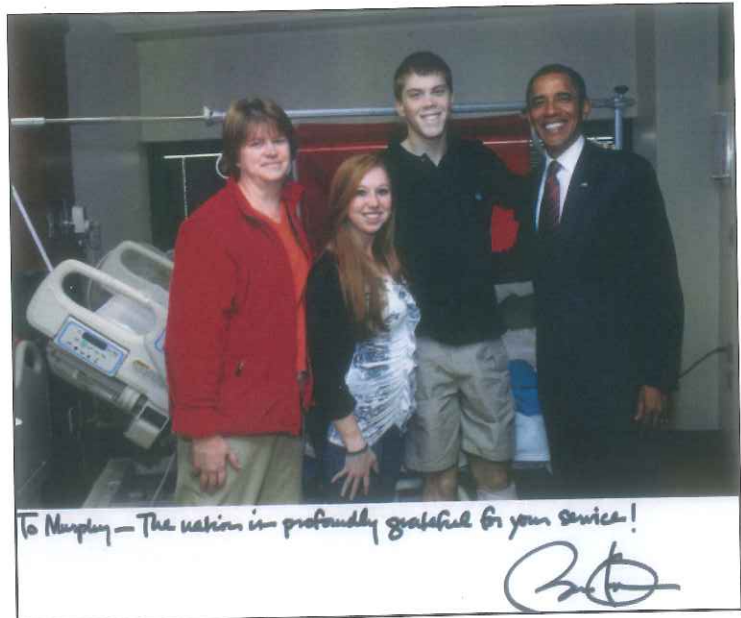
On September 11, 2011, nearly five months after her son had been deployed, Williams got the call that no military parent ever wants to get: news that Hueston had been injured in an explosion. She remembers telling herself, "Don't panic! Don't panic! Don't panic!" Officials kept telling her it was only a broken ankle, but she knew that a bomb explosion and a broken ankle didn't quite equate.

Hueston was on patrol in search of improvised explosive

devices (IEDs) buried by the Taliban the night of the explosion. These devices are primarily used to cause death or injury.

Hueston was sitting down watching for Taliban members when he brushed his left foot over a buried IED, setting it off. Hueston recalls thinking, "What just happened?" after the explosion and didn't initially know he was injured. When he tried to stand up, he fell over immediately, soon realizing the extent of his injuries.

Just as Williams had suspected, her son's injury was more than a broken ankle. He ended up having his left leg amputated just below the knee.



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After the explosion, Hueston was taken to several different military bases throughout Afghanistan and one in Germany, before he arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, which has been his home for more than a year. For two weeks, Hueston was in surgery nearly every other day in an effort to save his leg. He went through 15 to 20 surgeries, ultimately resulting in an amputation.

Through his tragedy, Hueston has had many unforgettable opportunities.

Hueston got the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama during a visit to the hospital in October 2011. During his visit, the base on which the hospital is located was on complete lockdown and the floor he was visiting was shut down. There were Secret Service agents in and outside of the elevators monitoring where people were going,

and dogs searched all rooms, bathrooms, and bags to make sure the President was safe. To control the amount of extra people, the nurses were temporarily locked in the closets. In his very brief visit, the President thanked Hueston for his service to our country.

"He (Hueston) was pretty calm. I was more nervous than he was," said Hueston's girlfriend and 2010 Delta graduate, Shelby Morgan. She spent a vast amount of her time with Hueston while he was recovering in the hospital and also got to meet President Obama.

Hueston received a Purple Heart medal of bravery in late September 2011 and said his family was excited and proud of him.

Now, more than a year after the explosion, Hueston is doing better than ever. Williams said her son has never felt sorry for himself about the challenges he has had to go through, but instead sees it as a

blessing in disguise.

Throughout his tragedy, Hueston has learned many things.

"Overall, all the things people take for granted, I don't," he said.

He has become more aware of how precious life is, the value of family and friends, and just how great our country is. He has been able to take this negative experience and, rather than sitting around feeling sorry for himself, has turned it into a positive.

Hueston will be medically retired from the Marines near the end of this month and will be returning to Muncie. Next spring, he plans to attend Indiana University to study nutrition.

Despite his injury, he has no regrets about serving his country. "If I could go back, I would do everything the same, except step in a different spot."

Students Differ on Snow Day Outcomes

By Doerte Stephan

Superintendent has the job of issuing the delays and cancellations.

Most students like to be awakened by their parents or by text messages from their friends: "Hey, snow day today!" Often this means this: Sleeping a long time, eating a lot, hanging out with friends or doing activities outside such as snowball fights or sledding.

"I love snow days because you get to sleep in and can sit around the whole day," junior Taylor Adams said.

But not everybody is so enthusiastic: "I do not want any snow days this year, because then we can get out of school earlier," junior Mackenzi Roe said.

Who makes this big decision if it's a snow day/delay or not?

While most people are still sleeping, Superintendent Mr. Steve Hall and Transportation Director Mr. Mark Clawson are going out around 4 a.m. and driving the routes. Through experience they can usually

tell if it's clear enough to transport students safely.

"Many of our parents will need to arrange child care if we delay or close so I try to make the decision before 6 a.m.," Mr. Hall said.

Sometimes people have the feeling that some of the snow days or delays are not really necessary.

"My decision making is

always based upon safety first. And sometimes as all humans we error," said Mr. Hall, who always has the very last word on all decisions.

"The Board of Education gives me the authority to make decisions and being wrong puts our children at risk, and I take that seriously," he said.

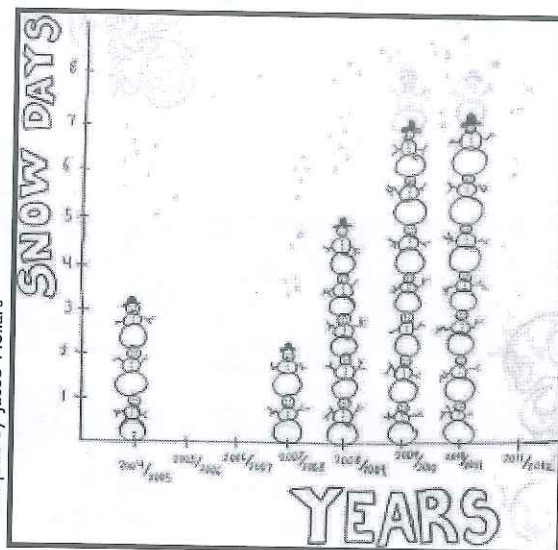
Last year was a special year. Delta High School did not have any cancellations or delays last winter.

"In my career as a teacher and administrator that has never happened before," Mr. Hall said.

In each of the previous two school years there were seven snow days and several two-hour delays.

What can we expect this winter?

"I wish I could predict the weather, but I cannot. So I have to make sure we are as prepared and have a system in place to deal with last-minute changes," the superintendent said.



Delta's Own Ironman

Three-sport athlete Sam Zimmerman has big dreams of traveling the world in a submarine and competing in one of the biggest Ironman competitions in the world

By Gracie Hollars

It's a lifeguard's nightmare: 2,000 hands splashing rapidly in the water, all heading for one direction - the finish line. In the increasing humidity, Sam Zimmerman coasted on a rescue board picking up wet suits that swimmers left behind from overheating in the water.

"We were out on boards helping people not drown," Zimmerman said.

Sam Zimmerman served as a lifeguard at Muncie's Ironman triathlon. The triathlon took place at Prairie Creek Reservoir on July 5.

As the 17-year-old watched, he dreamed of doing an Ironman triathlon himself one day, but the age limit is 18. An Ironman consists of 1.2 miles of swimming, 56 miles of biking, and running 13.1 miles.

This may sound dreadful, but to Zimmerman it will only be the beginning of his triathlon career. He has another dream of traveling to Hawaii to compete in the Ironman world championship, which is twice as long as a regular Ironman triathlon. It involves 2.4 miles of rough ocean swimming, biking 112 miles, then running 26.2 miles in the wind and heat of the islands.

"Ever since I've known him, everything he does, he dives into it," said Steve Wray, who has coached Zimmerman in cross country and track. "It wasn't enough to be a swimmer or a runner, he also became



Sam Zimmerman swims his best event, the 100-meter breaststroke, at the Delta vs. Muncie Southside meet. (Photo by Gracie Hollars)

'It wasn't enough to be a swimmer or a runner, (Sam) also became a biker to compete in triathlons, where he can take it to the next level.'

- Coach Steve Wray

a biker to compete in triathlons, where he can take it to the next level."

Since Zimmerman's freshman year, he has been a varsity three-sport athlete. What we see is a short hairy runner/swimmer, but did

you know he's a physics geek? He has his eye on a scholarship for nuclear engineering at Purdue University.

Right now, Sam is taking four Ball State dual-credit classes, which are world history, physics, English, and advanced calculus. He also ranks in the top 20 percent of his senior class.

As likely as Zimmerman is for a scholarship, he does have a backup plan ready and made with the Navy. Zimmerman has planned out his future to great detail and he hopes to end up working for the Navy in a submarine hundreds of feet underwater.

Basically, Zimmerman wants to be the guy to make sure the

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submarine doesn't blow up into a million little pieces. He'll be working around a nuclear reactor and he will split up atoms that generate heat and steam. Sounds difficult, but it's all in a day's work to him.

It's hard for Zimmerman to recall what inspired him to go into the nuclear engineering field, but his father started out the same way. Brad Zimmerman went into the Navy for nuclear power right out of high school, but sadly he absolutely hated it. His son has higher hopes for his future in nuclear engineering, since he enjoys chemistry and physics.

Currently, Sam's father is at the Ft. McCoy military base in the tiny town of Tomah, Wis. He operates military radios and communications and has been away in the service the past six years at different bases.

Zimmerman and his family

are fortunate enough to have their father come home at least once a month and every major holiday. His father always is excited to attend whatever sports event of his son's that he can when home.

"I wasn't really dependent on my dad, but I still miss him," Sam said.

Right now, Sam has his mind on swimming, with the help from his mother, Kelly Zimmerman, the swim coach. Sam has confidence in this year's team, hoping to win sectionals and see a good portion of the team advance to state.

"I think it's sort of a pride thing," said sophomore swimmer Jack Hart. "Sam isn't one of those people who takes losing well, so he tries as hard as he can to be ahead. He is also one of the swimmers who pushes me the most and leads the

whole guys' team, which is why he has been voted captain for the swim team two years in a row."

Since Sam is a three-sport athlete, he really never has a break. Even over the summer he is training for triathlons and bikes nine miles to his lifeguard job every day.

"If he's not running, he's biking. If he's not biking he's swimming," Kelly Zimmerman said. "He doesn't feel right if he doesn't do something."

In truth when Sam started swimming and running, he claims that he never tried till his eighth grade year. Now he can't get away from his sports.

Sam said, "I don't see myself swimming in an adult swim club, but I can see myself being like that 80-year-old guy who still does triathlons."

Four heads are better than one

By Gus Brown

Who are the four eagle mascots? Why are there four instead of one? While we can't reveal the names of the eagles we talked to, we can assure you, all of them were mascots, not real eagles. For now we'll just call them Eagle 1, Eagle 2, etc.

Athletic Director Mr. Shane Hill says that the secrecy is supposed to be a challenge for the students on who they might be. Eagle 1 says that although we started with five eagles, there are only four of them now, and that their identities are supposed to be a secret. Eagle 1 said that a lot of people know now, however.

"A lot of people don't know it's you," said Eagle 3.

Mr. Hill explained why there are multiple mascots.

"The reason why we did (four) instead of having one is so they could try to be at every event," Mr. Hill said.

Eagle 1 said the cheer coach, Ally Richards, thought of the idea to pick multiple eagles because she wants a mascot for as many sports as possible. Eagle 2 said that the idea is to cover a wider spectrum of school-based activities, and it would be for a replacement if

someone couldn't make it.

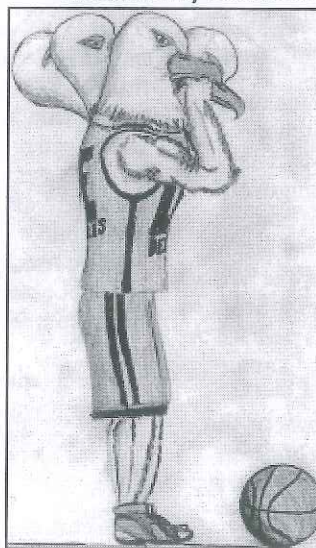
Mr. Hill said that in the past, all they would go to was football and basketball. Now some other activities such as volleyball and soccer have been added. Eagle 1 says that they will mainly just go to sporting events or pep rallies.

Mr. Hill doesn't know how, he just knows that the cheer coach sets it up. Eagle 1 and Eagle 2 say that the coach will text them sometime before an event, or that a mascot will text with an assigned event.

So far they're not going to every school event, but that's the goal, says Mr. Hill. Eagle 2 says that even with multiple mascots some events just aren't covered.

When Mr. Hill was asked if he knew of other mascots at other schools, he said that Central has a bearcat, Yorktown has a tiger, Daleville has a bronco, and Wapahani has a couple of Indians. He said he hasn't seen them at the games a lot.

Illustration by Gus Brown



Mr. Hill was asked what the mascot can do and not do at the event. He said, "The purpose of the mascot is to pump up the crowd, and to be respectful to the students." He also said that the mascot usually doesn't talk a lot.

Eagle 1 said that they can interact with the student section, little kids, and fans or

parents. She added that they aren't supposed to fight with the other mascot or be rude to the opposing team.

"It's fun going out there messing with people," Eagle 3 said.

Eagle 3 said dancing to Gangnam Style at the PowderPuff football game during Homecoming week was his most fun experience as mascot.

Eagle 3 had some advice for future students who might want to be one of the mascots.

"Have fun and be courageous," he said.

BEHIND the MATS

These are some of the things that go on behind the "scenes" of wrestling

By Sarena Clay

While you're at the dinner table eating with your family on Thanksgiving and Christmas days, wrestlers are sleeping in their room, trying not to smell the aroma of all the food cooking in the kitchen.

"Waking up Christmas morning hungry and having to sit through Thanksgiving and watch everyone eat, while I get my little bowl of cranberry sauce, yeah, it's a big commitment. You have to want to do it; you've got to go 100 percent or else there is just no point," senior Adam Gordon said.

Every day after school, these dedicated wrestlers work nonstop until 5:45. They do a variety of drills mixed in with conditioning. They practice different moves so they can get them down for the meets in the future. They depend on their practice partner or opponent for many seasons. They help each other out as well as provide competition among one another.

In season, they can kiss their Saturday mornings good-bye. Depending on how far the meet is, all the wrestlers, managers, and coaches meet at the school bright and early, ready to dominate on the mat.

"I like that I get to beat up on people for an extended period of time unlike any other sport," said

senior Tristan Noble.

Getting hurt becomes almost a habit to most of these wrestlers. Bloody noses are the most common, along with black eyes.

"I wouldn't call them injuries; I'd say you definitely get bumps and bruises," said Gordon.

"Wrestling is such a mentally demanding sport that those little bumps and bruises turn into bigger things and everything just wears you out..."

Senior Anthony Webb suffered from cauliflower ear earlier in his junior year of high school. He said he had to drain it every day and was not able to practice or compete because it would swell.

"I could have made it to regionals that year, but because of my ear, I wasn't able to and that really affected me a lot after that," he said.

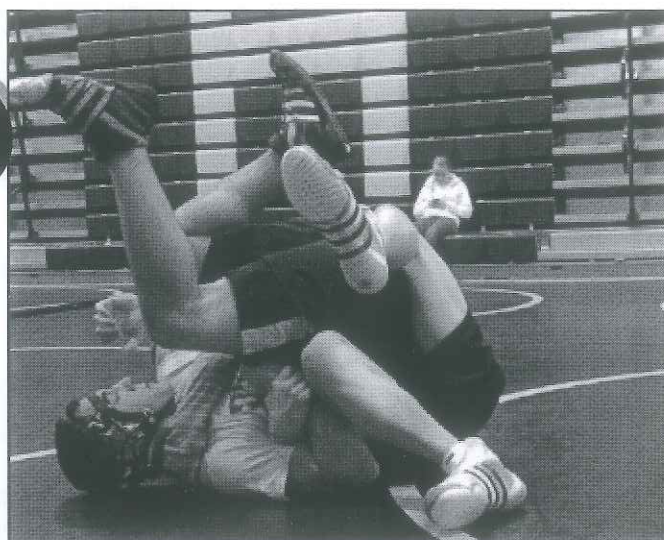
Cutting weight is a huge aspect in the sport of wrestling.

"I have to cut a solid seven pounds, which means I can't eat anything fun such as stuffed breadsticks and pudding," senior Justin Dilts said. He wrestles in the 138-pound weight class.

Cutting weight affects your diet the most. It affects the portion size as well as what types of foods, said sophomore Logan Melton.

"You go a little hungry sometimes, but it's not really that bad. That's all part of the sport," he adds.

The workouts are extremely intense from day to day.



Seniors Adam Gordon and Tristan Noble battle it out on the mat during practice. (Photo by Sarena Clay)

"Honestly, it's one of the hardest sports I have ever done, and I've run cross country, I've played football, I ran track," Gordon said. "... Just the level of commitment and intensity, it's so intense, you're constantly going. It's like a six-minute sprint as hard as you can."

A key member to the team is coach Brett Clark. "Though middle school, all the guys that I've wrestled with quit or have gotten hurt and never came back, and I've had so many different coaches though the years, a new coach is nothing. My sixth, seventh, and eighth grade year, I had a different coach every year. Then, to come up as a freshman and have the same coach for all four years of high school; it just shows that he is just as committed to the sport as we are. He doesn't want just himself to succeed as a coach but also to see our team succeed," Gordon said.

You may know a lot about other sports and the things they go through and have to deal with. You may be aware of how demanding and hard each may be. But there is always going to be a sport that you may know little about. It may impact and mean a lot to many people you go to school with day to day.

Wrestling is a sport that takes dedication and a love of the sport, which is what every wrestler portrays every time they step foot on the mat.

There's NO Rules, Wait There's 10!

By Nate Osner

The Blue Crew has been a major factor in our sporting events over the last few years. It's been filled with crazy chants, signs, body paint, and a crew of more than 300 students, all filled with energy and dedication. Did you know that when Delta started its Blue Crew it only had between 150 and 175 students?

Even though most of us have always known of a lively Blue Crew it hasn't always been that way. Years ago we had been greatly underachieving in the student section area and so Mr. Greg Hinshaw, former principal, needed a solution.

He and Mr. Stan Daugherty, athletic director at the time, sat down and decided that they would start a Blue Crew to generate more student participation. The Blue Crew has grown over the past couple years into a phenomenal and somewhat "rowdie" bunch that is filled with pandemonium.

The Blue Crew is really fun for students but do they really know what it means to the players and coaches, that are out there giving it their all, Mr. Daugherty, head basketball coach of the past three years, knows what the Blue Crew does for his team, "It can bring a real positive enthusiasm and it creates a home court advantage," said Daugherty.

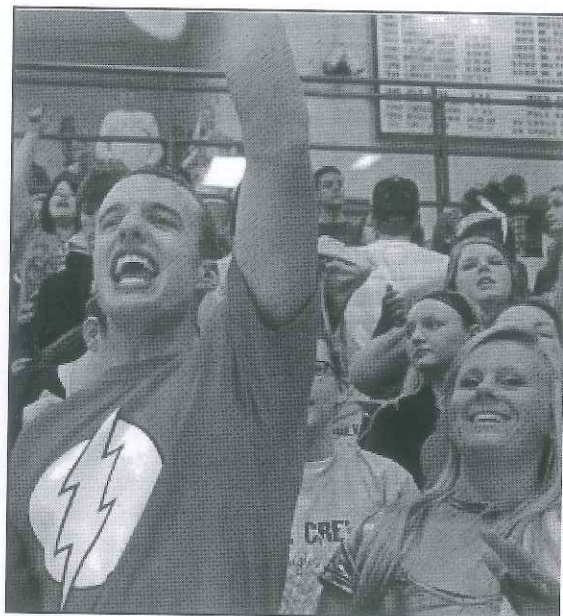
The Blue Crew means so much to so many people and even the students feel extremely strong about the Blue Crew.

Senior Ashley Loffer said, "I think it's really awesome to be a part of it in such a big role and cheering on my boyfriend and my best friends, and it definitely brings the whole school together."

Loffer has been said to be

one of the most dedicated Blue Crew members. She and her friend Lauren Eldridge went out every Thursday night to get all of the signs, noise makers, etc.

The Blue Crew is definitely a difference maker and if you aren't aware of what to do or what to have we have come up with the most essential items to have when you're in the Blue Crew.



Senior Ryan Bickford shows his Blue Crew enthusiasm alongside senior Lauren Ogle. (Photo by Gracie Hollars)

1. Energy-

This may be the most important thing because to make our Crew great you need to be crazy and loud to make the game exciting

2. Blue Crew Card- The Blue Crew Card is vital because to get into the game for free, which we all enjoy, you need to present this before going into the game.

3. Delta Fan apparel- When at the games, you don't want to go looking bad. You need to wear your blue and gold to show your eagle pride.

4. Paint- Paint is an option if you do not want to wear a shirt. Please under no circumstance should you ever show up in your natural state.

5. Signs- These are a must have if you lose your voice or someone is has bad hearing.

6. The Cow bell- The cowbell is the ultimate noise maker and it's just fun to have at a game whether it be a basketball or football game.

7. Funny Outfits- These create a fun atmosphere to the game and it gives everyone around you

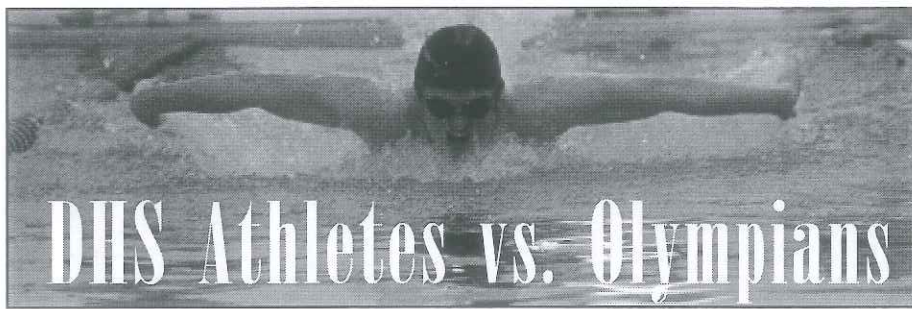
something to laugh at.

8. Dedication- If you don't have dedication why show up because our Blue Crew affects the game greatly and we want the greatest student section we can have.

9. Voice- Your voice should be used to pump up our players and to lift the crowd up off their feet, and quite frankly be used to scream until you can't scream anymore.

10. Money- You need money for many things especially to buy drinks so that your mouth isn't dry and so you can use your voice more.

The Blue Crew is a vital part in making Delta a great atmosphere for high school sports and it really builds the Delta family. If you go to any of our great sporting events, please participate in our amazing Blue Crew to make Delta a great place to watch sports and to hang out with your fellow students and remember when you're in the Blue Crew, stay rowdie!



DHS Athletes vs. Olympians

By Reed Borgmann

The difference between a high school competition and an Olympic competition is titanic, but the passion is not.

Jenna Parsons vs. Caster Semenya

Sophomore Jenna Parsons is the top 1600 meter runner for the track team, and Caster Semenya is one of the top 1500 meter runners in the world. Parsons looks up to Semenya because of her dedication and willpower.

Parsons's personal best in the 1600 is 5:33.92, which amounts to 20.87 per 100 meters. Comparatively, Semenya's personal best for the 1500 is a 4:08.01, which is 16.54 seconds per 100 meters.

"I would love to run the 1500 meter, (there is no 1600 in the Olympics) and be out in front of the crowd and show everyone who I am," Parsons said.

Parsons likes to run because it's an individual sport, so only her performance and skill determines how she does.

"It's a hard sport. You inflict pain on yourself, and not a ton of people will go out there and do it. It's about as hard as football," Parsons said.

Mason Bechdolt vs. Usain Bolt

Sophomore Mason Bechdolt is the boys' track team's best 100-meter sprinter, and Usain Bolt is the best 100 meter sprinter of all time. Bechdolt likes Usain Bolt "because he's really fast."

Bechdolt's personal record for the 100 is 11.23 seconds. Bolts's best is 9.58, which is also the world record. One Mississippi, two

Mississippi, that's how far Bechdolt is from the world record.

In order to maintain a speed that fast Bechdolt trains in the weight room year round and conditions through football in the fall.

"It takes a great amount of technique and not just speed," Bechdolt said about sprinting.

Vanessa Miller vs. Aly Raisman

Vanessa Miller, a freshman gymnast, is one of the few left here in Delaware County. Aly Raisman her role model, won individual medals in the floor exercise, and on the balance beam.

"She's a good role model, and she made it to the Olympics," Miller said about Aly Raisman.

Miller practices 24 hours a week, during which she stretches for an hour, conditions for another hour, practices two events, and then if there's time left over, she conditions some more.

One event that Miller participates in is the balance beam, and her series is the same as Raisman's.

Miller has received some special training from two huge names in American gymnastics, Shawn Johnson and Blaine Wilson.

"Shawn hung out and worked with me for about two hours.... I worked with Blaine all week at a gymnastics camp," Miller said.

Wilson won a silver medal in men's gymnastics in 2004 at Athens, and Shawn Johnson won medals for the individual balance beam, individual all around,

Jack Hart swims the butterfly. He is one of the best swimmers at Delta. (Photo by Gracie Hollars)

individual floor exercise, and the team event; at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Miller's dream is to make it to the event finals and win the team all-around in the Olympics.

Jack Hart vs. Michael Phelps

Sophomore Jack Hart's time of 51.17 seconds in the 100 free is record worthy here at Delta, but Hart's favorite swimmer Michael Phelps's personal best of 42.53 seconds is Olympic medal worthy.

Hart idolizes Phelps "because of all the medals he's won and records he's broken."

For Hart and a few other Delta swimmers, there is no offseason. Hart lifts four days a week and does abdominal workouts three days. Hart also does sprint workouts in the pool where he swims short, fast sets.

"I want to go to the Olympics in the 100 free and the 50 free, and win, of course," Hart said.

Hannah George vs. Ryan Lochte

Sophomore Hannah George is one of the best female swimmers at Delta, and her favorite swimmer Ryan Lochte is one of the best swimmers in the world.

George's best event is the 500 and her personal best is 5:54. Lochte's best 400 (equivalent to 500 yards, short course) freestyle time is 4:10.66.

"I like Lochte because he talks to his fans more than Phelps does, and he's more attractive," George said.

George has a training regiment much like Jack Hart's, with each session lasting two to three hours. George lifts four days a week, does abdominal workouts three days a week, and practices swimming long distances instead of short distances.

George dreams of swimming the 1500 freestyle and the 400 IM in the Olympics and bringing home the gold.

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Time on the **Court** and Time at **Home**

Coaches often must make sacrifices

By Kenzie Sulfridge

After spending a full day at school and enduring two-hour practice, most student-athletes can call it quits for the day. But for their coaches, they still have to take care of a family and plan tomorrow's lessons and practice.

"Being a coach, teacher, and keeping up with your family will really make you learn to manage your time well," said assistant football coach Steve Wuthrich, who is also the head coach for boy's golf.

For Mr. Wuthrich he has to sacrifice watching his son, Bradley, play tennis and give up time on the golf course, but to him it is worth it because he loves football so much.

Varsity volleyball coach Heidi Zickgraf has two young children. She and her husband both coach along with their normal day job, so this makes it hard for them to have family time.

"I continue to coach because I love to watch girls develop and enjoy the sport of volleyball. So to teach volleyball to girls who want to learn and watch them develop into young women is gratifying to me," Zickgraf said.

Her husband is an assistant varsity football coach, middle school girls' basketball coach, and middle school boys track coach in the Hagerstown community. They realize that it is only for a few months out of the year so they continue to coach despite the major time commitment.

School season is only a few months out of the year for one sport, but when you have three different sports and a volleyball club to run it lasts a lot longer than that. Mrs. Zickgraf directs the Delta Junior Volleyball program for girls who want to play from kindergarten up until eighth grade. With everyone always running different directions it is hard to find time to just sit down as a family.

During school season, a



Ashtyn Zickgraf gets her picture taken with her mother, Mrs. Heidi Zickgraf, varsity volleyball coach. Ashtyn often attends varsity practices. (Photo Provided)

typical non-game day would consist of school for the kids and work for Mrs. Zickgraf all day, and then she would practice until 5:50. Next she gets her kids and they do homework while she makes dinner. Around 8:30 or 9:00, they are taking baths and getting ready for bed. Even though that seems like a very busy day, it is even worse on game days. If neither Mrs. Zickgraf nor her husband can get the kids from daycare she has to find another family member to go get them.

"Thank goodness for family! I don't know what I would do without them," Zickgraf said.

Wes-Del's head volleyball coach is Mr. Biff Wilson, who is a government teacher at Delta. His view on the amount of time you have to spend in the gym is a little different.

"I don't see it as a time commitment; it is simply what I do with my time," Mr. Wilson said.

He is single with no kids so his situation is different. He said if he did not coach he would not know what to do with all of his extra time. He not only coaches at Wes-Del High School, but also for Munciana Volleyball club which runs for about

seven months.

"Coaching IS my everyday life," Wilson said.

Some coaches that do have families have decided to end their time coaching. They realized all the things they were missing out on in their kids' lives as they grew older. Their children had their own sporting events that they could not attend due to coaching commitments.

"I eventually stopped coaching to devote more time to my family. I wanted to be more of a part of my kids' lives," Mr. Randy Glaze said.

Going from coaching three different sports (cross country, track and basketball) to coaching zero sports was a big change for Mr. Glaze and his family. He and his wife used to both coach cross country, and they would try to make time for family while still coaching by making team dinners and camps into something for the family. Even though they did incorporate family time into their coaching, they enjoy their lives now that they have more free time to do what they want.

History teacher Mr. Paul Orchard quit his job as an assistant football coach because he had coached for 26 years, and he said that is enough. Other than the fact that he had coached for so long, he is getting older and is ready to be able to relax with his family more. Even though he is not an official coach, he still helps with the football team.

"Being able to go straight home after school is definitely my favorite part about not coaching," Mr. Orchard said.

When you are running a million different directions every day you have to decide which ones you want to keep in your routine and what you can go without. For some coaches like Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Zickgraf, there is no doubt in their minds that this is how they want to spend their time.

"I'm not sure what I would do with my time if I didn't coach," Mr. Wilson said.

Students discuss interesting hobbies

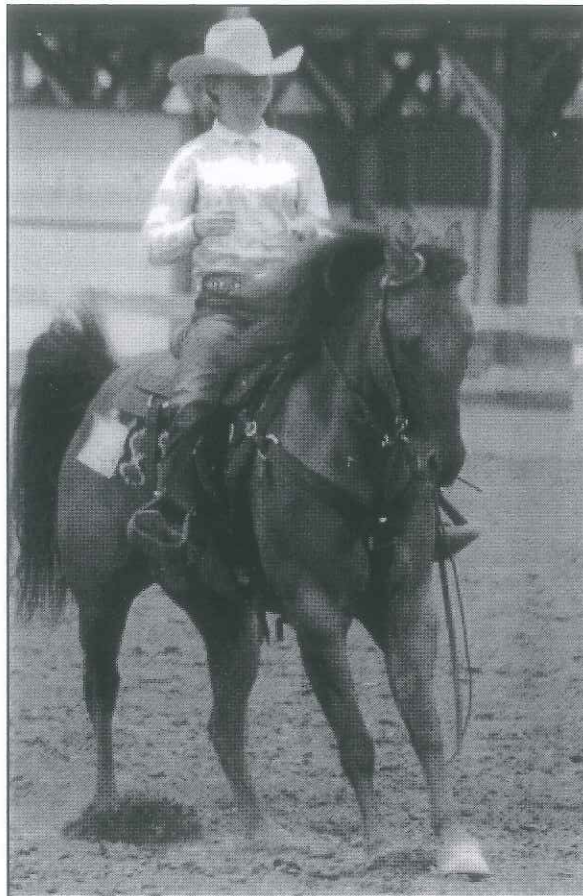
By Sidney Barkdull

Many Delta students have hobbies that are uncommon and unusual, but most of us don't even know what they are. An example is a sophomore taking old computers and toys apart and soaking the pieces in hydrochloric acid. Looking at the students of Delta you wouldn't even guess that some of them have these hobbies, but they do.

Emma McDaniel and her sister Ellan, both freshmen, have been riding and showing horses for quite some time. They got their love for horses from their parents who both ride — and used to show — horses. D.J., their younger brother who is a sixth grader at Delta Middle School, also shows. When you win in a class you get a belt buckle, trophy or cash prize. Ellan says Emma has won the most but she plans on making a comeback, “We have some sibling competition, because we're in the same age group but it's fun competing against each other.” Ellan's favorite category to show in is cutting, which is where you have a cow that you have to separate from the herd while on your horse for about two minutes.

Elijah Roper, freshman, has been working on cars for about three years and he loves it. “I started out with small engines and my dad's tractor, then I went to my uncle's house and saw his old go-kart and I asked him if I could work on it, he said yes.” Roper says about how he got started working on cars. His dad and uncle sometimes help him when they get the time, but usually it's just him. His sister's boyfriend, Jon Shufelt, works on semis at the Night of Fire at the Muncie Dragstrip and he gets to help him. “I love working on cars because when I get my license in a year and have my own car I can fix it myself, and not a lot of people my age get to experience this sort of thing.” Roper says.

Chance Smith, sophomore, takes hydrochloric acid and soaks broken motherboards from old computers and toys to get the gold and silver wiring from it. Although he recommends doing it, he also



Growing up in a family of horse riders, Emma McDaniel has always had a strong love of the animal. (Photo provided)

wants you to make sure you take the correct safety precautions, “It can be pretty dangerous if you aren't careful. You need rubber gloves, a mask to keep toxic fumes out, and plenty of water nearby,” he says about taking measures in safety for this. He learned about doing this when he was online looking at tutorials for things to do. He is excited for when he finally accumulates enough wiring to sell for it. He also likes watching the acid eat away the plastics and other metals from it. “I think a lot of people would like it, if they actually knew more about it.” Smith says.

Cullen Taflinger, sophomore, has been flying planes for more than a year. His first time flying was Oct. 15, 2009. He got a Discovery Flight, which is like a flying lesson, for his birthday in September. No one else in his family flies, but he has friends at Delta that also fly. Tanner Wilburn, also a sophomore, and Emily Grant, junior, also fly. The planes Taflinger

usually flies are a Beachcraft Musketeer or a Cessna 172. “Just being up, alone with yourself, you see a lot of different places,” Taflinger said. He tries to fly one to two times a week, but it's not an inexpensive hobby. Taflinger says buying fuel for a plane is \$5.80 a gallon and it burns about six gallons an hour, plus \$40 an hour for plane rental. Although it's expensive to fly, he doesn't have to do it all on his own. His parents help him out

and give him money, but he has a job to pay for the rest. “Most people drive on the streets, but I drive in the air,” he said.

FFA

Continued from page 17

because my sister, Logan, and my dad were also in FFA and I've always wanted to join.”

Kacie said she would like to stay in FFA through high school because she learns a lot and has fun doing it.

According to Mrs. Kunk there are approximately 35 students currently in FFA. The group of students already involved meets once a month. When joining FFA you can just simply go to a meeting but you would have to pay state and national dues of only \$10.

FFA has always been a part of Delta. It has been this way since the school was built because Eaton Elementary had an FFA chapter.



Recalling a funny memory from high school, geography teacher Mr. Brad Himes shows his cheerleader skills. (Photo by Sydney May)

Laughbox-breaker teacher memories

By Sydney May

Everybody has those awful, humiliating, funny memories from their past that are unforgettable. Your teachers have these crazy memories, too, believe it or not.

Mr. Brad Himes, geography teacher, had many embarrassing memories during his high school years at Delta. There was an event where the cheerleaders dressed up as the football players and the football players dressed up as the cheerleaders. "I made an ugly cheerleader," he said over and over. One incident that Mr. Himes regrets very much took place in phys ed when there was a substitute. It was her first time substituting ever. There were soccer balls out, and the substitute specifically said not to touch them yet. Not listening, Mr. Himes kicked one of the soccer balls, aiming at one of his friends, and the ball hit the substitute in the head. Looking furious, she left the gym without saying anything and she didn't come back. "I felt so bad," Himes said.

Mr. Paul Orchard, history teacher, did many crazy things in his past years. One embarrassing moment came in his junior year of high school when he and his team suffered the very first conference football loss in the history of the school. A few years later in college, he found a CO2 fire extinguisher and coated the entire frat house and everyone inside it. Lastly, he and his friends raided a sorority house, but he specifically said at the end, "No details."

Mr. Joe Scott, health teacher, pulled a prank on his own principal when he was a high school student at DeSoto. He and his friend dropped a lit firecracker out the second story window of his high school and it exploded beside their principal's window. Little did they know that on their way down the stairs, the principal was on his way up. The principal asked both of them if they saw anyone in that hallway. They answered that they didn't see anyone there. The principal never found out anything about the loud booms that were by his window.

Mr. Robert Summer, math teacher, in the middle of his freshman year of high school went to an outdoor school camp for one week and found himself in a gruesome, awful, and hilarious situation during one of the camp's competitions. There were many different funny competitions such as Twinkie eating contests and even one where you would put tights on your head full of a big ball of flour on the end and you would swing your head around to hit people with the flour ball until all of the flour was sifted out. But there was one particular contest that made Mr. Summer laugh the hardest in his freshman year: the belching contest. The object of it was to drink a can of root beer and burp the loudest you could. Mr. Summer did not participate in the contest, but he was standing by J.P., a boy who was the best belcher at camp. Everybody at camp, including teachers and the principal, too, were staring at J.P.'s mouth, waiting for him to make the best belch of a lifetime into this microphone. Suddenly, J.P. threw up all over the microphone in front of everyone, including Mr. Summer. Everybody screamed at first but then started laughing. "It was one of the funniest moments of my life, and I don't think I will ever forget it," Mr. Summer said.

Students Dreaming For a Bright Future

By Candace Gray

We all have ideas about what we would like to do once we walk across the stage at the end of senior year. Whether we change our minds a million times or keep the same dream job in mind, determined to achieve it, we all have that one job that we would love to do for the rest of our lives.

Jessica Johnson

If you have ever had to have braces, then you have gone to an orthodontist for them to fix your smile. And junior Jessica Johnson is dreaming to be that person.

The reason that Johnson want to be an orthodontist is because she loves teeth.

"Teeth are the first thing I notice about a person. I want to help people have good first impressions," she said.

Having naturally straight teeth is what sparked her interest.

"I have always been curious to know what it's like to have braces," Johnson said. "That's why I want to be an orthodontist and not just a regular dentist."

When thinking about the rewards, it comes effortlessly to Johnson.

"I will love seeing how pleased people are with their teeth when they get their braces off. And helping people have beautiful smiles," she said.

Jenna Parsons

When sophomore Jenna Parsons graduates high school, she plans to go to school to become an attorney.

"I want to do it so people can get the justice they deserve," Parsons said.

The main person who inspired Parsons to dream of this occupation is the Juvenile prosecutor of Muncie, Judy Calhoun.

"She has helped a lot of people like I want to," Parsons said.

Becoming an attorney requires many years of schooling.

Usually, it takes about eight years. But Parsons said she is willing to do whatever it takes.

"I would have to intern and go to college and take pre-law. I would also have to pass the bar exam," Parsons said. "But I am going to be an attorney. I am determined to do it no matter what."

Antonia Smith

We see them every day when we walk into a classroom. We do the work they hand us and we follow the directions they give us. But have you ever wanted to take their place? Freshman Antonia Smith dreams of becoming a teacher. Specifically, a kindergarten or first-grade teacher.

The reason she wants to teach the younger students is because she can't get enough of the tiny little humans.

"I love little kids. And I think it would be fun to teach them new things," she said.

One of the most rewarding things about this job, to Smith, would be seeing the kids at the end of the year and seeing how much they have grown and changed.

"Both my step-mom and step-grandma are teachers, so they both have inspired me," she said.



Tiffany Glidden

Have you ever bitten into a huge cupcake with delicious frosting on top? Or maybe a piece of golden apple pie? Or what about the perfect chocolate chip cookie with the gooey center? Did you ever stop and think about the person who made it? Junior Tiffany Glidden wants to be a pastry chef.

"I have always loved to cook anything, but I enjoy pastry cooking more," Glidden said.

Glidden's ultimate goal is to own a bakery in Paris, France. But what she considers more likely is that she will stay in the U.S., but not in Indiana.

When it comes to her inspirations, it comes down to her mother and grandmother.

"I always helped them create dinners or desserts for my family," Glidden said.

The most rewarding thing about becoming a pastry chef to her would be seeing people enjoying the dishes she made.

Chance Smith

Sophomore Chance Smith has his sights set on a dream job and is determined to do whatever it takes to become a biochemical engineer.

Biochemical engineers develop products using knowledge of biology, chemistry, or engineering. They also solve problems related to materials, systems, or processes that interact with humans, plants, animals, microorganisms, or biological materials.

Smith wants to do this job because he finds it interesting.

"I have always enjoyed my science classes," he said.

To achieve this job, Smith is going to have to major in biochemistry and spend about four to six years in school to get a doctorate. But Smith is up for the challenge.

"I am going to become a biochemical engineer because I said so and I'm going to do it," he said.

Alternative for the Typical Lunch

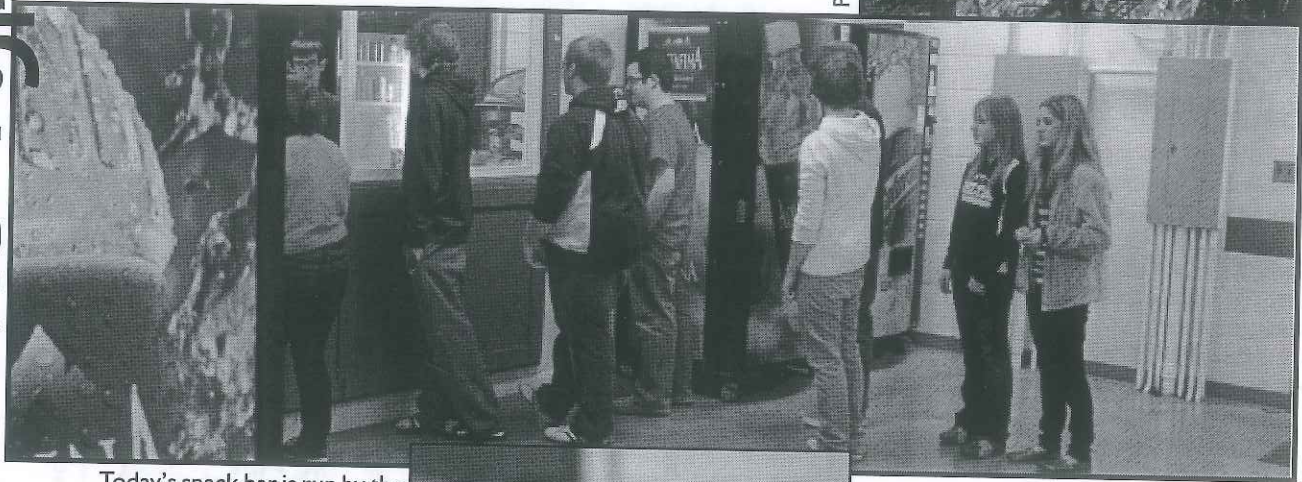
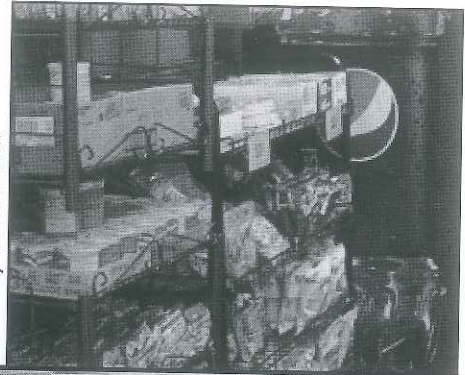
Top 5 most sold items:

By Olivia Brown

Ever hear of "The Eagle's Nest"? In middle school it was thought of as a student work time at the end of each day. Graduates from back in the 1980s would know it as our snack bar. It started many years ago as an advanced marketing class that was run by students as a business for ala carte lunch items. There was a Candy Shop and a Shake Shop, also, as well as the Eagle Emporium.

1. Soft Cheese packets
 2. MegaBite cookies
 3. Small chips
 4. Little Debbie Snack Cakes
 5. Large pretzels
- Healthiest item: Baked chips
- Most fattening: MegaBite Big Cookie

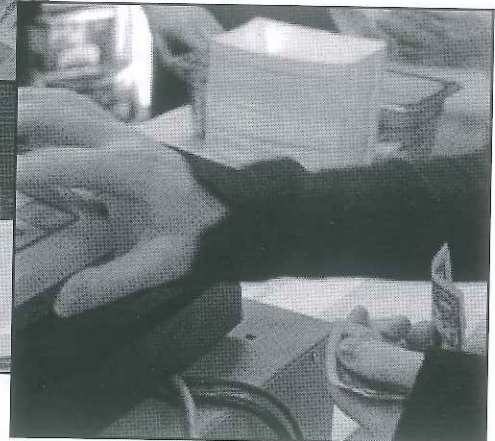
Students daily stand in line when the bell rings, waiting to buy snack bar. They enjoy the variety of choices they can buy for lunch.



Today's snack bar is run by the cafeteria ladies. Karen Starks, cafeteria manager, keeps track of food bought and sold, which helps keep everything in order. She estimated daily 75 percent of the students buy something from the snack bar. They have started selling water bottles for students with prepaid accounts so they can get water instead of from the vending machines. Prices at the snack bar are increasing. Because of the economy, "we haven't raised prices in a couple years, and food cost are going up so we've had to," said Starks.



The items they sell have to be moderately healthy, no pop or sugary drinks. Juice, milk, water and Arnold Palmer tea are sold for drink choices. Low calorie, less fatty snacks for dessert include the delicious Little Debbie Snack Cakes to the healthier granola bars. The rest is ala carte for the students since regular lunch doesn't always have something sweet with lunch, so it's just another option.



Evaporations, Explosions, Risen Dead End of the World

By Daniel Wills

The world as we know it is coming to an end! Actually it probably isn't, but just about everyone has heard the theory that the apocalypse will happen on the 21st of this month.

While it seems unlikely that the world is ending, it's still an interesting scenario to consider. Here are three unique doomsday scenarios.

Adam Gordon Senior

While most people have to sit and think about how they would want the world to end, Adam jumped right on it, saying, "There will be a worldwide crisis that brings on the antichrist and causes a nuclear war."

Not only does he prefer this apocalypse, he's ready for it and wants to be in Jerusalem to be "at the center of the action."

But before all of this goes down, he wants to party, have fun, and spend time "preparing for survival." He wants to try to survive this "so I could be the hero that overcomes the odds, just to be that legendary guy."

First on the list of people he would bring with him to Jerusalem is Jake Mullinix. He wants him there for both his gun and vehicle expertise.

Next on this list would be his grandma so she could "cook up some food and do the laundry."

Adam is still in need of a farmer to help him out, so if you're up to the job then let him know.

If he was able to bring a superhero along with him he said, "I would bring The Flash because he's the best superhero ever. Nobody beats him."

One thing Adam would miss about his life before heroically surviving the apocalypse is the structure and routine of everyday life.

"I wake up at a certain time every day, and I eat at a certain time.

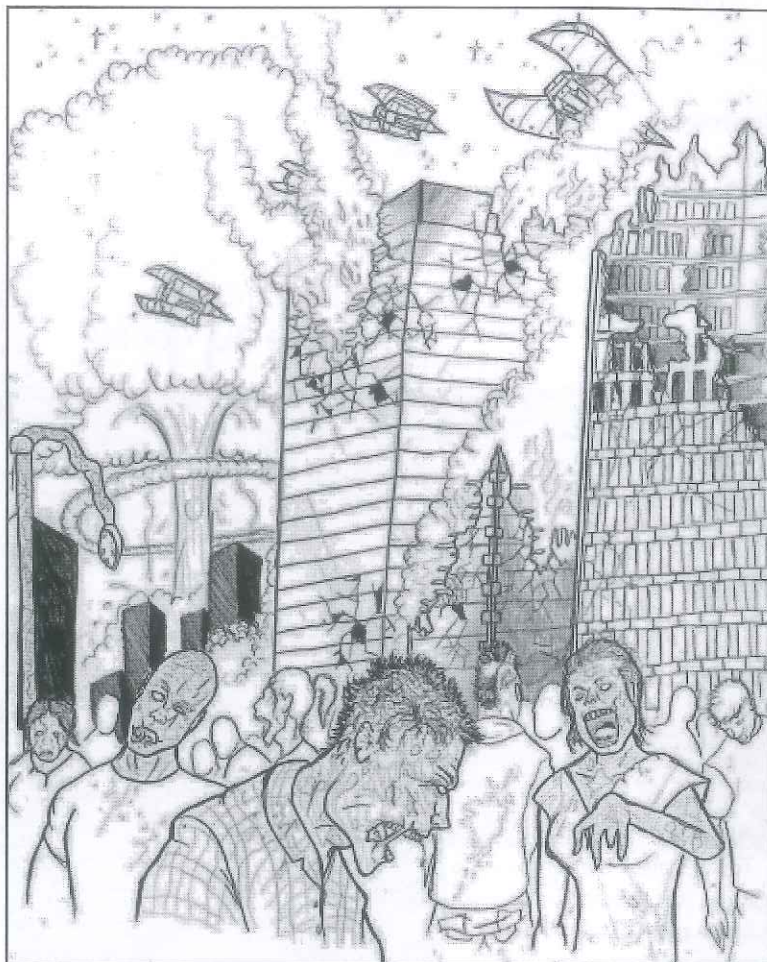


Illustration by Jacob Hollars

I just like the routine. That would get all out of whack if the world ended," he said.

Then that next day when the world is in ruins, he plans to lead the way in building a city with big walls. Adam plans "to start things back up again and just have fun."

Samantha Zachary Senior

If the end of the world is going to come in Samantha's lifetime, she wants it to be brought about by a massive alien invasion.

"I want the aliens to take over human bodies," she said, "and a bunch of UFOs evaporating everything."

While this is all going down, Samantha wants to be in the safety

of the Bat Cave surrounded by TVs broadcasting the invasion so she "can watch it all happening."

With her last few days on Earth she plans to rob a bank and then use the money to shop for a flux capacitor. With the flux capacitor she plans to "... build up a flying DeLorean and go back in time to send a message to the aliens asking them nicely to not blow up my planet."

Assuming that there is a slim chance of survival, Samantha will take that chance "to group together all the survivors and become their leader, starting a new super race."

Before she gets to that point, she needs to survive. She wants her brother, Nick Zachary, to help her live through this because he's "a Boy Scout, so he's always

prepared."

Among others, Samantha would bring Nick Swardson to make her laugh, and the Mythbusters. She says the Mythbusters "could create some crazy technology... and put a cloaking device around the Earth so the aliens couldn't come into our atmosphere."

Some things she would miss include Pop-tarts, Capri Sun and being able to joke about the apocalypse "because it would have become a serious subject."

Then that next day after the aliens have gotten bored and left our planet, Samantha will begin to amass her super race and gather them onto a pirate ship.

"I want to be a pirate when I grow up, so then I could have my dream job and my super race around me," she said with a smile and a curtsy.

Logan Melton Sophomore

Corpses littering the ground, empty cars and houses, near silence in the cities, and the walking dead wandering aimlessly are how Logan Melton pictures the world ending.

He says, "It would be fun slaying zombies all over the place and listening to hardcore jams while shooting stuff."

When the zombie outbreak hits, Logan plans to get his friends, Nick Johnston, Derek Schwindt, and Justin Parsons, together because "they would be good survival buddies."

In the last few days before the dead rise to haunt the Earth he plans to stock up on supplies, find a doctor to take care of them, and go skydiving. If he had the chance, Logan would also get The Punisher

on his side "because he has lots of guns and The Punisher kills stuff."

After the zombies come and dominate the population, Logan is just going to stay home.

"I'm in a rural area so I don't have many neighbors," he said, "and I have a brick house. Zombies can't smash through bricks."

After a couple months have gone by and he's gotten used to living life with zombies there is one thing he would miss.

"I would miss just being able to relax because I would have to be on guard at all times," he said, "and just not having the luxury of feeling safe."

But once they are gone for good, his plans include eating a good breakfast and finding the fastest car so he can race down a road.

"I just want to live it up. It's my time, my town."

Detailed with Every Stroke

By Chloe Crump

If Jacob Hollars' artwork isn't perfect or if he makes one mistake then he tears it into tiny pieces, throws it away, and then restarts.

"Whenever I draw something and it doesn't look exactly like what I see in my head then it's not right," he said.

Hollars has a passion for art. He has been drawing almost daily since he was three years old. When he was a toddler he liked to draw stick figures, cartoons, and dinosaurs. As he grew older he drew more defined figures and shapes. Now, Hollars is detailed with all of his artwork.

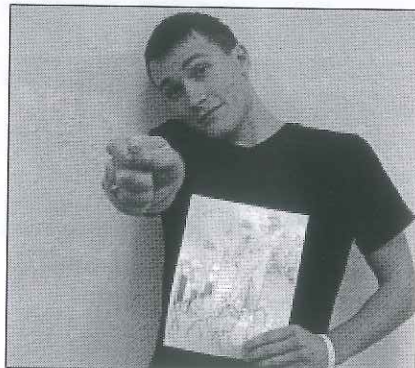
Although Hollars is an excellent artist, he tends to keep most of his artwork to himself.

"No one ever asks for it. I just like having it," Hollars said.

Miss Tara Harshbarger, art teacher, and sophomore Chelsie Taylor believe the reason Hollars keeps all of his artwork to himself is because he is modest.

"His overall awareness of form is best and by form, I mean 3D qualities," Harshbarger said.

Hollars' favorite thing about drawing is creating different scenes



Jacob Hollars shows off his sketch of the end of the world (see page 32).

such as cities, islands, palaces, scary places, sequences, events, or places that could exist. He never names any of his islands or cities, but he likes to draw different ones.

His favorite items to draw are video game characters, cars, animals, architectural buildings, and random people. They all pique his interest because they aren't just shapes. He likes to draw in full detail. Cool stuff such as video games, action movies, beautiful scenery, and other people's artwork inspire him to draw.

Hollars' father, Brian Hollars, is an architect and is also the man who influenced him to start drawing.

Jacob recalled how it all

started:

"One day, about 15 years ago, he asked me if I was bored and I said, 'Yes,' so he handed me a piece of paper and a pencil and I thought, 'Yay, paper airplanes!' and he said, 'No, draw.'"

Hollars has taken many art classes at Delta Middle School and Delta High School. He has taken seventh and eighth grade challenge art, photography, Drawing 1, Ceramics 1 and Ceramics 2. Besides art classes, Hollars enjoys science classes like biology and Earth and space. He likes knowing the origin of things.

Because of his creative mind, many of his friends say he should be a movie director. Hollars has actually thought about being one before. His freshman year, he made a movie for English. It was a movie about the book the class had read, *10 Little Indians*. He played all the characters in the book besides one who was played by his dog. Hollars' sister, Gracie, directed the movie.

Although he has thought about being a movie director, he said that he likes drawing way too much to not put it into his daily life. Hollars plans to major in graphic arts when he goes to college.

Faceless Man Terrorizes Millions

By Nathan Bowers

Taking a stroll in the night down a country road on a cool moonless night, you feel something watching you. You turn around suddenly to find a tall faceless figure right behind you.

This horror spawned from the imagination of Victor Surge, a forum user on the Something Awful forums, on June 10, 2009.

The user made two black and white photos in a Photoshop competition for paranormal entities and dubbed his creation "Slenderman." The photos were simple pictures of children, but with a creepy faceless being behind the kids.

Slenderman is tall and faceless. His skin color is white and smooth, and he is always wearing a black suit with a black or red tie. He stands motionless while stalking his prey, often for great lengths of time.

Senior Bobby Nickel learned about Slenderman a year ago while coming back from a band gig. His bassist had told him about it but he didn't believe him and thought it was ridiculous.

Nickel thinks that if

Slenderman were to exist he would probably just be someone in a tuxedo that kidnaps children. If he ever encountered him he said he would "give him a hug because he is so tall."

Senior Paige Winans first heard about him on an underground forum when another user said that he or she was being stalked by Slenderman.

Winans drew Slenderman before ever seeing him and says that she was pretty accurate but

drew him in a top hat instead. She believes in him but has quite a different view on the Slenderman phenomenon, believing that he is more of a spiritual being and not a monster.

Winans isn't really afraid of anything. If she were to meet Slenderman she would not fear him and would try to talk to him and be respectful. If she had to

defeat him though, she would consult a knowledgeable source on the spirits.

In addition to the popular media like Marble Hornets and

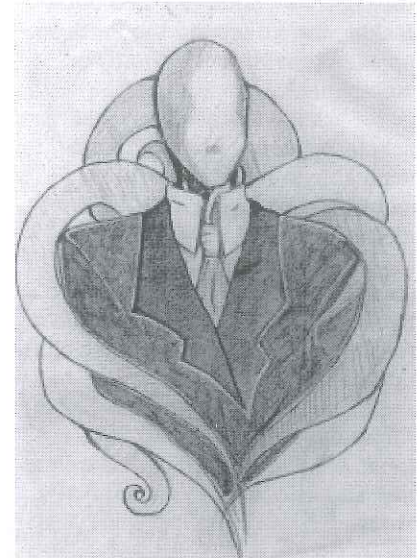


Illustration by Hanna Applegate

If Slenderman approaches ...

Run. Run as fast as you can, because maybe you'll be lucky and get away. But you probably won't.

Stand absolutely still. This will probably happen anyway because you'll be absolutely frozen in terror.

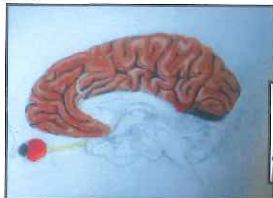
Scream for help. Maybe someone will be around to find your body or at least document your last words.

Aggrieve, rather than abscond. Fleeing makes you seem like prey. He might be willing to let you go due to your incredible (and stupid) act of bravery.

Dress up. Wear a business suit to try to blend in and trick him into believing you're one of his own.

Senior Erika Kischuk took Dr. Brand's Ball State Biology and is currently in his Anatomy course.

"I wanted to go into research psychology. I really like the brain to begin with. I was originally going to do something else, but Dr. Brand suggested I do brain because he thought that I would be good at that," Kischuk said.



Senior Michaela Hahn was asked to do a painting after Dr. Brand saw her semester project of a flower. When looking at Hahn's folders and agenda all one sees is a bunch of flowers and other doodles.

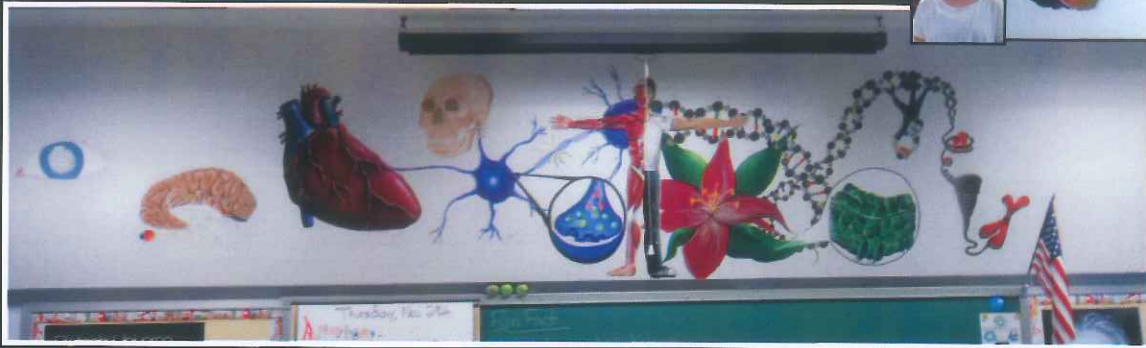
"When I was asked to do this project I was much honored to be picked," she said. "Dr. Brand is an awesome teacher, and I was very happy and excited to be able to use my artistic ability in this way."

Senior Celeste Taylor, unlike most students who did an art piece, has not been a student in Dr. Brand's courses. She also does the designs for the anatomy label on the board and the quote of the week.

"It is really nice to be able to leave your mark on the school," she said. "You have been here for 12 years and wonder if you will ever be remembered. So it is kind of nice to have something you spend time on and that is important to you."



Stories and Photos by Christi Dalton



PAINTINGS SPARK EXCITEMENT

Science classes can be difficult, stressful, and nerve wracking. That's why there is a mural painted by students in Dr. Lance Brand's room.

"Sometimes science can be boring. (The painting) might spark an interest, spark them to ask questions: 'What is that about?'" said Dr. Brand, anatomy and biology teacher.



Senior Ashley Goad, the artist of the eyeball, decided to do this painting as part of her semester project. Goad talked to Erika Kischuk during one of her classes.

"I am very excited that I get a chance to add to Dr. Brand's mural. It is pretty awesome to be able to help decorate his room with my own artwork," Goad said.



Senior Samantha Thompson, while in pre-school, was struck by the art fairy herself. She started out by just taking a few classes a week after she got out of school. The classes ended up being her favorite part of the school week. Thompson drew the human body that is in Brand's room.

"Overall the mural was going to contain images reflecting both anatomy and biology, so I thought that there should be a unifying piece in the center," Thompson said.



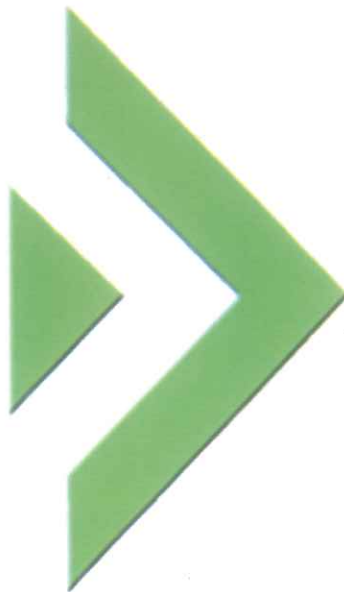
Artist of the DNA chain and chromosome is Senior Emma Sanders, who wanted to take more art classes. However due to complications with the amount of classes, Sanders had to limit her art classes.

"I'm honored I got to contribute to the painting. It is cool to think how many people will see it through the years," Sanders said.

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Students show off their collections

By Bobby Nickel

Two summers ago, senior Nathan Bowers was watching YouTube videos and stumbled across a video of a sword collection.

"Swords would be a cool thing to collect," Bowers said. "I've always wanted to start a collection that was unique, plus swords are practical when the zombies come."

After watching the video Bowers started to collect swords and has been doing it ever since. He owns six swords and gets them online at Trueswords.com.

"The most unique item in my collection is a wooden practice sword called a Bokken," he said. "Most people don't know what it is and the name interests them."

He said swords vary in price from \$15 up to hundreds of dollars. "Many of the collectable swords cost more," he said.

He would like to add more swords, including a claymore, a two-handed long sword.

Bowers doesn't add to his collection very often. "It gets really expensive really fast," he said.

Senior Bryce Needham and his family collect Pez candy dispensers.

"Everyone who comes to our house is really interested in our collection," he said.

"My family started collecting before I was born. They started collecting Pez candy for my sister because it was inexpensive and fun."

The Needhams own more than 2,000 Pez candy dispensers.

"We have boxes full of Pez in our garage. There's too many to display," he said.

He said the favorite items in his collection are giant Pez from the movie *Lost in Space* and Pokémon Pez from Japan.

"The weirdest items we have are Pez bubble blowers and ones that dispense dog bones," Needham said.

Needham's family doesn't add to their collection as often as



Senior Bryce Needham (left) holds a Pez candy dispenser. His family owns more than 2,000 of them. Senior Kameo Kirby (above) shows one of her cameo jewelry pieces. (Photos by Bobby Nickel)

they used to. They now mostly collect during holidays.

They get their items mostly in stores, but the more collectable ones they get online.

Sophomore Josh Hicks collects glass dragon figures.

"I started collecting them when I was around 11 or 12. I thought they were neat," he said.

Hicks gets his dragons from antique shops, festivals and online.

"They can cost up to \$500 or so, but I have never bought one that expensive. The highest I paid for one of mine was \$200," he said.

Hicks owns 15 dragons with his favorite being a dragon that has pictures of a castle on its wings.

The most unique item in his collection is a Chinese dragon wish box. This is a box that has a dragon on top of it and you write a wish and put it inside.

Hicks adds to his collection whenever he can.

"They are expensive so it is hard to get many," he said.

Senior Kameo Kirby collects cameo jewelry. She started collecting when she was age seven. "A lot of older women enjoy my collection. Many people my age don't know what a cameo is," she said.

"I started collecting when my grandma would give me a cameo

necklace every year for my birthday. I really liked that my name was Kameo and they were named cameo," she said.

Kirby's favorite item in her collection is a cameo music box.

"I usually buy cameos at flea markets or people give them to me. I add to it whenever I find something interesting or cheap," she said.

Kirby would like to get a tattoo of a cameo on her back.

Senior Austin Reagan collects guns, knives, and bows. "I started three years ago when I inherited a knife and two guns," he said.

Reagan said that he has been fascinated with guns, knives, swords, and bows since he was young.

"I make knives and bows now and they usually cost around \$50 to \$500 to make."

Reagan's favorite item is his muzzleloader and the most unique item he owns is a Nazi parade dagger. "I would like to add a few swords, crossbows, and a Springfield 03 rifle with a scope," he said.

Reagan said his family and friends enjoy his collection. "One of my friends actually started his own collection after seeing mine," he said.

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