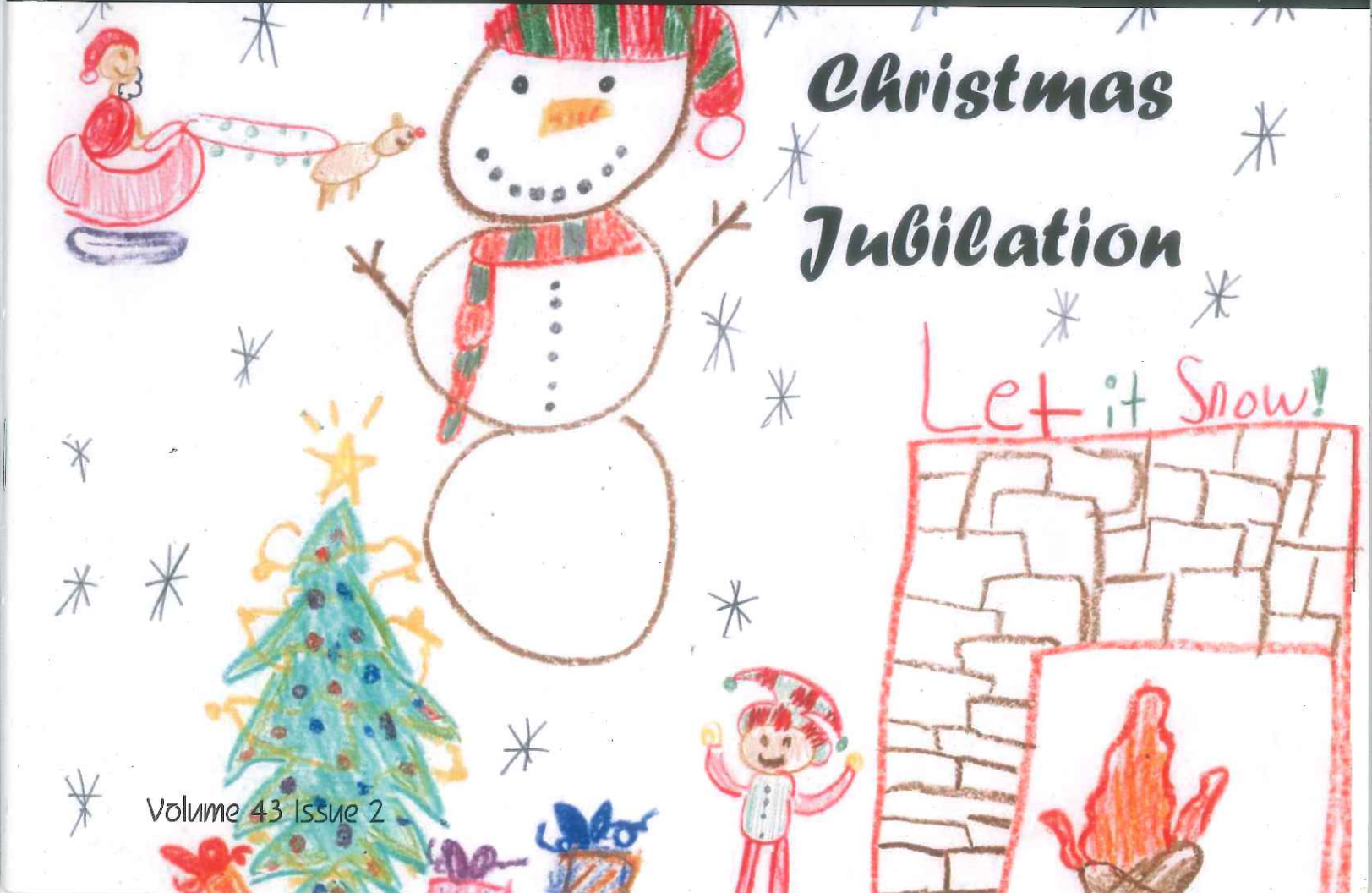


Students from Eaton Elementary submitted artwork for the cover of our 2011 Holiday issue. Winners were fifth graders Madeline Gowin (top) and Abbi Sprong (bottom).



Artists' Corner

By Tiffany Flowers



Junior
Michaela
Hahn
conveys her
gift of art
with
drawing

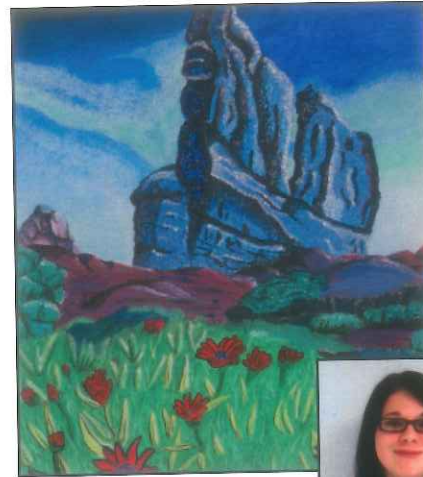


and painting. Her drawing of Sylvester and Tweety bird shows her passion for cartoons. "I love cartoons. I've watched them ever since I was little, and they're just fun to draw," said Hahn.



Artwork for the covers of our Holiday issue were made by district elementary students. The pieces above were done by Royerton Elementary fifth-graders Abbie Parker (green) and Maria Stadnik (red).

Sophomore
Liberty
Richardson
expresses her
talents in her
drawings.
She pulls her
inspiration for
her artwork
from songs
and the dark
side of reality.



One of her latest projects in Drawing II is her oil pastel landscape.

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Enrollment continues to take a hit

By Kyndal McDonald

This year's senior class has 219 students. Of the other 12 grade levels in Delaware Community Schools, only one – the current seventh grade with 249 students – is bigger.

There are only 166 kindergarten students, only 177 second-graders and only 198 eighth-graders. The enrollment in the Del-Com school district is clearly and dramatically decreasing.

As the school district loses more students, Del-Com loses more money.

"We lose approximately \$5,400 for each student," said Superintendent Steve Hall. "Over the years from the peak enrollment years we have lost nearly 1,700 students."

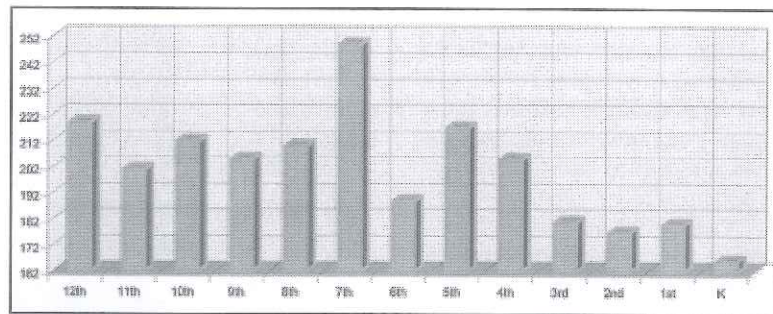
The peak years were in the years of 1975-1990. If we still had those 1,700 students, we would be bringing in \$900,000 per year.

Hall said that as the small classes move to the middle school and then on to high school, fewer staff members will be needed. If the number of students continues to fall, some elective classes may not be able to be sustained, he added.

Miss Kortney Gray, child development teacher, said the declining enrollment is a concern since she teaches elective courses. "They can cut our classes," she said.

A major reason why there is a decrease in student enrollment is that people are moving to find jobs outside of East Central Indiana. Hall said other reasons include the growth in housing that

Current Grade-by-Grade Enrollment for Del-Com



Graphic by Zane Naylor

is moving more toward Interstate 69 and that some of our existing housing additions have older residents with fewer school-age children.

The school corporation is trying to attract more students by offering dual credit college courses, maintaining safe schools, accepting transfer students (except for Royerton Elementary), and performing well on standardized tests.

"There might be room to start

considering accepting both inner and out-of-district transfers there (at Royerton Elementary) in the coming years," Hall said.

He believes there may be a movement to consolidate with other districts at least at the Central Office level. This means one school corporation might govern more than one high school. Hall said this is a complicated process that sometimes takes years to develop.

"The last big round (of consolidation) surfaced in the mid to late 1960's and as you look back at history we are about due for another round," Hall said. He added that he thinks schools will change in many ways over the next 25 years.

"I think more online courses, distance learning, and technology will shape what our schools look like in the future," he said. "I am convinced the look of schools will change drastically in the next 25 years. Education will be offered in a variety of settings and not just in the red brick school we all know."

The current seventh grade class is the largest in the school corporation with 249 students. Hall added that there is no real reason why that class is so huge. They have accepted some transfers but not that many.

"In my career as an administrator every once in a while you have a bump in the enrollment that impacts your school in a number of ways," Hall said. A large class requires administrators to find enough staff and textbooks to handle the bigger numbers.

"When we have bigger classes we order more textbooks and supplies that later may not be needed," he said, adding that school corporations sometimes share extra supplies in these situations.

The numbers in K-3 are unusual but Mr. Hall is fearful that they will become the new "norm."

"We have been declining for several years, and I see that trend continuing for at least the next few years," Hall said.

Delta HS Enrollment

2011-12 ...	828
2010-11 ...	863
2009-10 ...	876
2008-09 ...	900
2007-08 ...	918
2006-07 ...	921

The Many Clubs of Delta

"It's really fun, I've made tons of friends and it keeps kids busy."

By Leah Williams

After many years, Spanish Club is back. Senoras Linda Case, Lourdes Davis, and Melba Fox are spearheading the club with Will Moore, senior, as president.

"We celebrate different cultures in a fun way to help us learn and also get to know each other," Moore said.

The Spanish Club has two main goals: to provide a social outlet for Spanish students without another activity, and to learn about topics that they may not have time for in class, such as culture and food.

On the week before Halloween, they celebrated Day of the Dead with Mexican food and games. As for the rest of the year, they have many hopes, but no concrete plans. Among their hopes is hosting a Christmas party, visiting a Spanish restaurant and watching Justo Lamas, an Argentinean performer the Spanish classes saw last year.

French Club

French Club is dedicated learning and appreciating the French culture and language. French Club is now run by Madame Jennifer McNely, the new French teacher. President is junior Makayla Smart.

"If you're interested in French, it's a great way to learn about the culture," Smart said.

They have already celebrated National French Week with various French-themed contests and a movie night. Senior Alex Selvey won the science matching contest, sophomore Bailey



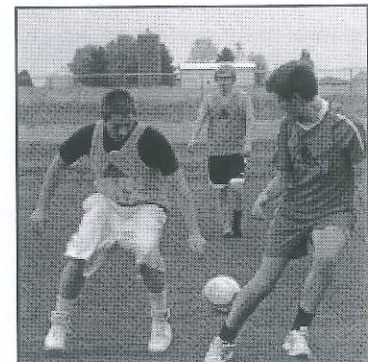
FFA members prepare to attend the National Convention. Not pictured are Cody Dyke and Corey Seals. (Photo provided)

Walton won the Eiffel Tower sculpting contest and Team Haiti won the Mini World Cup.

FCA

FCA stands for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, but members like to think of it as Fellowship of Christian Anybodies. Mr. Stan Daugherty is the sponsor and Blake Reynolds, junior, is Delta's huddle leader, which is FCA's equivalent to a president.

Their main event is Fields of Faith, held this year on Oct. 12. There were more than 300 Fields of Faith events across the nation all at the same time. As for future activities, they have lots of ideas. Reynolds would like to have a dodgeball tournament.



Students battle it out in the French Club's Mini World Cup (Photo by Celeste Taylor).



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Best of Buddies

He said that FCA provides a sanctuary for kids. "We're all just ordinary people who have experienced an extraordinary love that changes lives. I just want people to come in and feel that love," Reynolds said.

Baking

A new club has come to Delta. Seniors Shelby Starkey, Morgan Shideler and Jordan Parsons all had foods class together with Miss Kortney Gray. They came to her one day and asked her about starting Baking.

"We're just going to get together and learn how to bake," Starkey said. They plan to meet once a month to work on baking techniques with Miss Gray, their sponsor.

Plans call for a theme for each month. They would also like to have baking contests and donate some of their treats to nursing homes. They are even planning to make dog treats for ARF.

Anyone can join with a first-time fee of \$10.

FFA

FFA is not just for farmers. It's for anyone interested in agriculture. The Delta chapter of FFA is sponsored by Mrs. Nancy Kunk and Mr. Matt Lyons. The president is senior Cy Alley.

They participate in activities around the county, such as soil judging, the Albany Halloween Parade and a district leadership contest. Students in FFA also run a petting zoo at the Albany Christmas and attend a national convention.

Their main fundraiser is the fruit sale, in which members sell fruit, meat and cheese.

"We're just a fun group. It's a good time," said Kunk.

Bowling

While not what most students think of as a club, the bowling team is not a school-sponsored sport, and therefore a club. They practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays with their coach Kay Miller, senior Beth Miller's mom. They have meets on Saturdays.

"Almost every school has a team," said junior Kameo Kirby.

Ten students bowl varsity. Anyone can join.

"It's really fun, I've made tons of friends and it keeps kids busy," Kirby said.

By Chelsie Taylor

Every Monday at four o'clock, Sherlyn Peckinpaugh and Mandie Youngdale are balling it up with all of the Best Buddies group. The cheerful duo goes bowling together at a weekly Best Buddies event.

Sherlyn is the president of Best Buddies, and the main organizer of the Delta chapter. Mrs. Marilee Waugh and Mrs. Lisa Needham are the sponsors, however Waugh said that she prefers it to be student run.

Sherlyn and Mandie are just like any other pair of friends. They talk on the phone about gossip, life, friends, family and everything in between. Mandie says that Sherlyn's easygoing personality makes it easy for her to open up.

"I can practically look up to her as a bigger sister," Mandie said. "She is one of my main role models."

They both benefit from Best Buddies. "Someone who doesn't have any intellectual difficulties could learn a lot about a person who does," said Waugh. "They can make a difference in that person's life."

Sherlyn said, "I joined because I saw the challenges that my cousins have to go through, and they're not even teenagers yet. I thought I could help," she said.

This organization helps special-needs children and teens

all over the world. Locally, only Delta, Southside, and Central are participating.

Their focus is creating friendship and developing leadership skills for people who struggle with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They aid in positively impacting almost 700,000 individuals throughout the world.

You can sign up for Best Buddies at any point during the year, but by signing up now, you would likely be put into a "pod." A pod is a group of mainstream students paired with one buddy.

This year Best Buddies has a total of 56 members. It sounds like a fairly high number, but they could always use more donations and volunteers. Annually, \$164 million is raised worldwide to aid in the development of kids with these disabilities.

So far, Mandie and Sherlyn have had two outings outside of school or planned Best Buddy activities. They are planning to go to a movie and hang out with some other friends soon.

They will continue to hang out every Friday at group lunch, and continue to be balling it up every Monday at Clancy's.



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Dr. Lance Brand advises students about the chapter in anatomy. (Photo by Olivia Brown)

Dr. Brand turns childhood tragedy into caring career

By Christi Dalton

Biology and anatomy teacher Dr. Lance Brand understands how close he came to death as a child.

At age 8, Brand lost both of his parents in a small plane crash. In the past Brand and his family had gone on ski trips to Michigan. However, that one unlucky trip took his parents' lives away.

When emergency workers found the plane wreckage, the

searchers discovered children's clothing at the wreck site. Brand and his sister were supposed to go on the trip, but with a change of mind they did not.

"You could call it a miracle, full of luck, that we were not on board," Brand said with a very calm voice.

After the accident, Brand and his older sister Tiffany, 10, lived with many different family members. They stayed with their grandparents, with a few uncles and aunts, a church couple, and later with friends while in high school. At the age of 21, Brand was adopted by the church couple that took him in.

Losing parents at such a young age can have an effect on how a person shows his emotion. For Brand, the result would be showing no emotion.

"I guess having that experience at a young age...you realize there are more important things and don't get all worked up about little things," Brand said.

The loss of Brand's parents has helped shape who he is today. It has made the teacher that Delta High School staff and students have gotten to know.

"It makes me more aware of what is going on in students' lives here at school. I try to assist them in any way. I try to be a role model for students," Brand said.

Brand is one of those teachers who not only teaches the lessons, he breaks it down so that students can understand what is going on.

"I would hope that students would get a basic understanding of how the process works in your body, along with the complexities of life," Brand said. "Along with some kind of work ethic, along with better study skills."

Senior Jenny Edmonds is one of Brand's teacher aides and takes Ball State University anatomy.

"The most important lesson that Dr. Brand has taught

"Intelligent," Jenny Edmonds said.



The Brand family enjoys Norway last summer. Dr. Brand and his wife, Lisa, are joined by son Riley, 9, son Tyler, 13, and daughter Katherine, 10. (Photo provided)

me is studying skills and to be well-prepared for tests," Edmond said.

Media Specialist Amy Lewman has gotten to watch Dr. Brand in action. She has seen him prepare his anatomy classes for a lab practical and get his biology classes ready for labs.

"I think he does an amazing job. He is well prepared for his classes. For countless nights, he will come in and prepare his

anatomy classes for the lab practical. He is not a last-minute person. He is very prepared," Lewman said.

Like many staff members at Delta, Dr. Brand commits to helping students in need. However, Brand is not just committed to his students.

"He has a positive attitude; he has a commitment to education. He wants to make sure that students can get every opportunity that they can get," Lewman said.

Edmonds has experienced seeing Brand prepare for his lessons.

"I think he does a

here at the high school. He also teaches at Ball State University. So not only has he taken the role of a high school teacher, but a college professor.

There is an obvious difference in the size of a class when it comes to college vs. high school. However, when it comes to just teaching college it is not in

the picture. "I would miss out on the students. Delta High School has great kids. I am really

lucky to have kids that I have. I might consider a transition to half days at the high school and Ball State University. I think I will always remain at the high school level," Brand said.

A college student has learned the skill of time management, along with students that are taking Brand's classes.

"He definitely pushes me to learn better and faster. The work load is also a lot so I think both of those prepare us for college," Edmonds said.

Brand has many different species of animals in his classroom. From the cold-blooded bearded dragons, king snakes, or

wonderful job preparing his lessons. They always include every detail we need to know. He's funny and his lectures aren't boring," Edmonds said.

Brand does not just teach

geckos, to the warm, cuddly, fuzzy chinchillas Darwin and Davinci, his room is welcoming to all who need help.

English teacher Mr. Kip Omstead goes in and has a little talk with Darwin. Omstead used to come in every day to see Darwin, until Darwin got himself a buddy during fall break.

"Omstead talks to the chinchilla about how his day has been and enjoys scratching under his chin. Darwin would lift his leg like a dog," Brand said.

Choosing what animals should be in a classroom requires a lot of thought. A person has to take into consideration how the animal would react with being around people.

"I choose them based on if they could be held and interact with the students safely. Hopefully students will get a better appreciation for life and respect for animals," Brand said.

Last summer, for three and half weeks, Brand and his family took a trip to Norway. While there, he saw what a person cannot see here in America. Norway unlike America is unpolluted and still has a lot of its nature.

Brand had earned a teacher's grant from Eli Lilly. This paid for his part of the trip. With a lot of saving, and not very much for Christmas or any birthdays, the Brand family took a trip as one.

Brand and his family stayed in three different Norwegian cities, Oslo, Burgan, and Roway. Here his family took in the natural beauty and hiked a real glacier.

"I will remember the hiking up a glacier. We got to get a corpus, an ice ax, and got to hike up and collect glacier segments, and we got to look down at the crevasses," Brand said.

After losing his parents, Brand has been more conscious about spending more time with his own children. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children, Tyler, 13, Katherine, 10, and Riley, 9. This trip allowed Brand and his family to bond and to create memories that will last for a lifetime.

"Passionate,"
Mrs.
Lewman said.

Life can change in an instant

Normal drive home turns into long recovery for Schwindt

By Ashley Hansel

Derek Schwindt left school like a normal Friday on September 2 with band practice on his agenda until all of a sudden that changed in a split second on State Road 67. He was pulling out from State Road 28 onto 67 when an



Schwindt

out-of-sight van hit him in a side on collision. Another vehicle was in front of the van making it invisible to Schwindt. Out of sight, but not out of the way. The van was making its way straight on 67 while Schwindt was turning.

With a glance, Schwindt saw the van just feet from his car. "I turned away and closed my eyes," he said.



The aftermath of Derek Schwindt's crash. (Photo provided)

An instant later, the van hit his car on the driver's side door going what Schwindt thought was 50-55 mph without the driver even touching the brakes. His car was pushed sideways about 15 feet.

After the impact, Schwindt used all the strength he had left to climb over the center console to escape from his car and then collapsed on the ground.

A middle-aged man approached him while on the ground and helped him to the backseat of his now totaled car.

While sitting in the

backseat, he used his cell phone to call his mom since someone who witnessed the accident had called 911 already. Schwindt's mom, Kelly, who was mowing at the time, answered her phone. She heard her son telling her about the accident, which resulted in her freaking out and not believing the news she had just heard.

The driver's side door was crushed as well as the front left part of the car. The left front wheel was broken off the axle, and the roof was bent.

"My car was running with the CD blaring," he said about his

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car's condition after the accident.

Soon after the accident, Schwindt arrived at the emergency room at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital. When he reached the hospital, the doctors thought Schwindt had a bruised hip which would result in sending him home. Before they could send him home, they had to take x-rays and a blood test. While waiting for the results from the test, he picked up the phone to call Shaun Hansel, a senior and close friend.

"I needed to tell him I wasn't going to make band practice," Derek said.

Later, the doctor came back with news that he had fractured his pelvis in three places and had internal bleeding. The doctors decided to send him to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis because they didn't have the equipment to find out what was bleeding internally.

He arrived at Methodist at 10:30 p.m. and had tests run for the next four hours.

With friends and family scared and concerned, Derek's sister Mallory needed to hear from Derek himself to make sure he was alright. Derek phoned his worried sister while waiting for the results of the test.

At 2:30 a.m., the results came in that he had a torn spleen and kidney, a fractured pelvis in three places from either the impact or falling out of the car to the ground, cuts around his neck from his seatbelt and a few glass cuts on his left arm.

Early Sunday morning the doctors decided surgery was not needed since his spleen and kidney started healing on their own. Monday consisted of observations of his progress. Physical therapy was needed, which consisted of Schwindt pushing himself to finish the standing and walking exercises. He had to do physical therapy for two days because he couldn't use

a walker well enough. To make sure his pelvis would heal correctly he couldn't put any weight on his leg. Derek missed two days of school because of the accident. He then spent two months in a wheelchair at school.

The wreck could have been prevented if he had seen the van.

That one turn onto 67 changed someone's life in a matter of seconds. If he would have not turned onto 67 at that very moment all of this would never have happened. Schwindt said he would like to change what happened that day so he could have his car again, which allowed him to have more freedom.

After three days in the hospital, he was released, but right when he got out of the hospital he was soon pushed into Shaun Hansel's birthday party in a wheelchair.

"It put into perspective it can end at any time so you need to live life to the fullest," Hansel said.

Schwindt's accident didn't just impact his own life, it impacted others, too. Hansel realized how important his friendship with Schwindt was when it was almost taken from him in a matter of seconds.

The days went by with struggles for Schwindt such as making simple food. He couldn't drive or go many places because of the barrier stairs now created.

"I couldn't fend for myself at all," he said.

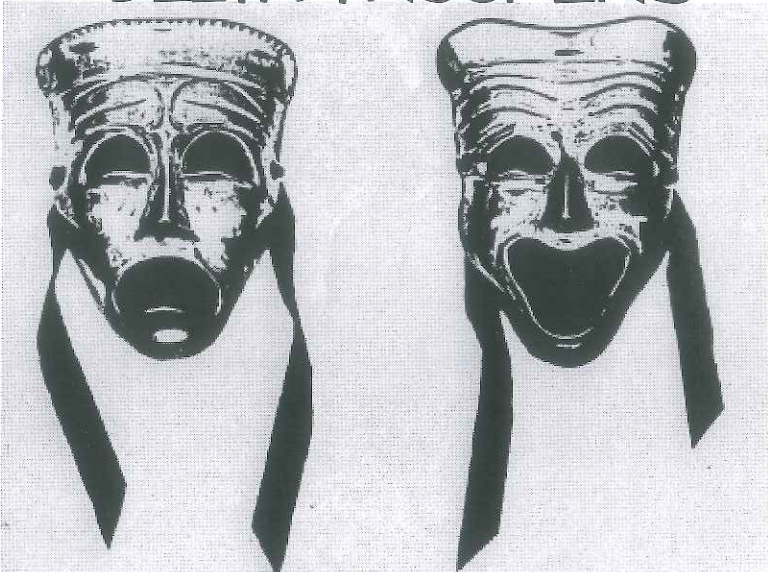
Schwindt is on the fast track to recovery and will be able to walk, but not run. He believes his pelvis has healed, and there is only a slim chance of internal bleeding.

In the future, he could possibly get another car this spring. As for his totaled car, he pulled off the three wheels but the rest of the car was either scrapped or is possibly going to be sold.

With the car out of mind and his life in perspective, Schwindt took a moment to think of people he had in his life, and the people he needed to have in his life. The mood begins to be somber with him saying in a whisper:

"It made me think it could have ended right there."

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Unimaginable

Grief

Students who lose
a parent
are forced to
grow up quickly

By Audrey Benbow
and McKenzie Sulfridge

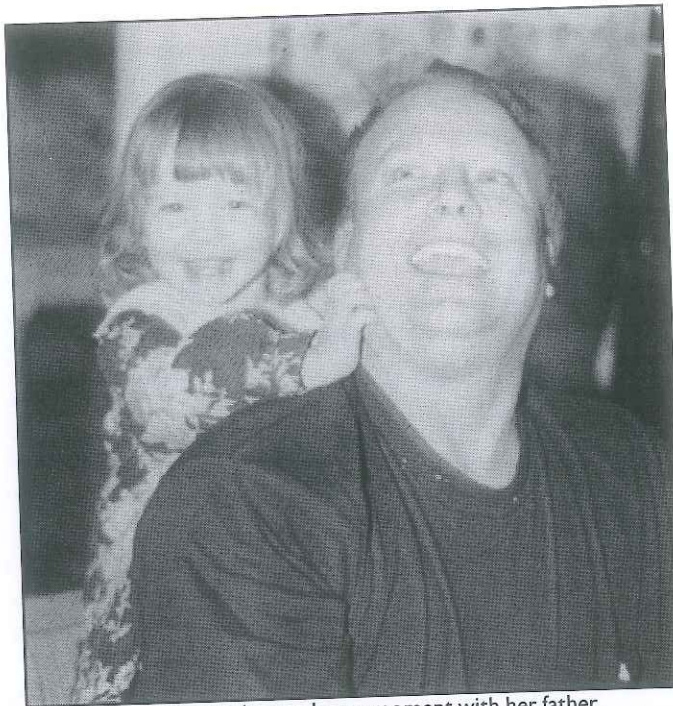
Some of the toughest moments that build character come from the impact of the loss of a parent. It's something unimaginable unless it happens to you.

"Time flies. When I think back it seems like it was just yesterday," junior Olivia Brown said about the day she lost her father, seven years ago. For only being nine years old, it made a huge difference on who she is today because it forced her to mature faster.

When it happened she was in fourth grade, and it took some time for her to get back to school because her mom home-schooled her and she had to switch to public schooling. She is one of six children, and since their dad's death the children have become a lot closer.

"Just think of straight crying for a month. It sucks," she said. Finally she got back to her old routine. As she has gotten older she can cope with the misfortune more jokingly by telling people that her dad works the graveyard shift. Even though she's comfortable enough to joke about it, there are still the hardships of losing a parent.

"I'm going to go to prom, graduate, get married, have kids ...



Olivia Brown shares a happy moment with her father.
(Photo provided)

and he's never going to see any of that," she said.

These milestone moments can be tough for students who have lost a parent. Senior Joey Longo said that at his senior night for football, he didn't play for himself, he played for his mom. He lost his mother three years ago to cancer. At that time he attended a school in Florida, but after his mom passed away, he and his dad moved to Muncie.

When his mother was living, he would get off the bus after school every day and would walk through the living room and say 'Hey mom,' or ask her how her day was. After they moved, he continued doing that for a few weeks before he realized that she wasn't going to

be there anymore.

He was not alone in this struggle. His dad used to travel a lot with work, but now he's home more often to spend time with his son. Joey said that he always had lots of friends, but when this happened it really showed who would be there for him when he needed them.

When he first came back to school some people that he didn't really know that well would come up to him and ask him how he was. Eventually he just snapped on somebody because he was so

John W. Moore, D.C.

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sick of people asking him. After that, everyone backed off.

His social environment didn't really change, except that for a few months he went from being a fun-loving, happy kid to the quiet kid. Finally he got back to how he used to be.

"If my mom could see me today, she'd be very proud," Joey said.

The Delta High School counselors offer guidance for students who are going through this tough struggle. Students can get out of class whenever they need to talk. Counselors also will give them outside sources to get help if requested. It takes everyone a different amount of grieving time. Counselor Mr. Doug Wilder said the process of grieving and recovering "has got to be on their own time."

Eight years ago, junior Lauren Ogle lost her mother to cancer. Lauren was 10 years old, and in fifth grade attending Saint Mary's parochial school. Her friends there were very supportive when her mother passed away.

"Everyone's just like one big family," she said.

Even though she had a lot of people there for her and her family, at home everyone had to step up their responsibility level in the family. Her mother's cancer was recurring. The family knew that death was coming and had already made adjustments to their lifestyles.

"It didn't hit me that hard at the time," Lauren said.

More than 2,000 people attended her



Joey Longo and his father pose with Joey's mother in Florida. (Photo provided)

"Just think of straight crying for a month. It sucks."

Olivia Brown

mother's funeral, which made everything more realistic for her. In the eight years since that has

happened, Lauren said that she doesn't remember a lot from that time, and that it's all just a blur. Since it has been eight years since her mother's death, it's become a lot more real to her. She said it's helped her mature very quickly.

With a parent's death, the heartbreak and stress overwhelms the students. The feelings can affect school, sports and everyday life in general. Everyone deals with a loss differently. Sometimes people never know about these students' private struggles.

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Outstanding in their Fields

By Joey Dalton

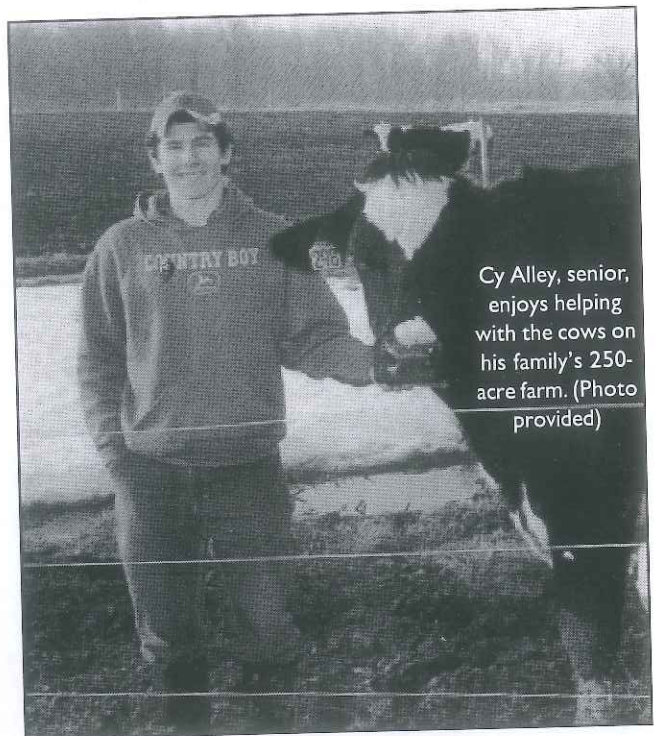
For students and teachers,
life on the farm means
responsibilities, memories

Cy Alley (Senior)

Cy Alley milks cows and takes care of them on his farm. The Alley family raises animals and grows some crops for feed. They farm roughly 250 acres. They bought the land from his grandparents and now plant corn and soybeans. "Everyone should have the opportunity to live on a farm," Alley said. They work with other families to farm. Alley does whatever is needed but likes to help with the cows. He enjoys what he does. Sometime in the future, if he ever gets to choose what happens, he would change the work times and how some menial things happen. "I'd rather stick to what gets the job done," he said.

Mr. Matt Lyons (Teacher)

Growing up on a farm was a great experience for Mr. Matt Lyons. As a kid he helped raise swine, sheep and cattle. "There was always something to do. It has become a great passion and love of mine," said Lyons, who still farms. He plants the corn, maintains the grain bins (nobody else likes to climb them), purchases seed, loads and unloads grain, bails straw and fall tillage, combines crops, side dresses the fields and fertilizes the crops. In a way, he does it all. Even though he does all this work he enjoys doing the tedious and tough chores. One thing that he dislikes about all the work is when he has to miss spending time with his family and the things they do. He hopes his kids carry on the tradition of farming. When he was younger his brothers played many cruel but fun tricks on him. One time he was attacked by a quiney (type of fowl) for picking up her chicks. He also got tricked into hitting rotten eggs with a plastic bat, which resulted in the eggs smashing all over him. Even though he had all these hardships and does all the challenging work, he said he absolutely loves it!



Cy Alley, senior, enjoys helping with the cows on his family's 250-acre farm. (Photo provided)

Mrs. Nancy Kunk (Teacher)

Mrs. Nancy Kunk isn't just one of the normal teachers around school: she's a farmer! She has what some people might call a "hobby" farm. Many things the Kunks do are for mere entertainment and fun. As a family they collect antique tractors and farming equipment such as Cockshutt and Co-op and show some animals for 4-H. Mrs. Kunk and her husband normally grow corn or soybeans but have grown ornamental corn and pumpkins before. She loves that she can teach her two children responsibility and respect from raising them on a farm. She loves farming so much she said, "I wouldn't have it any other way." One day she hopes to buy some more land and maybe expand. Even as a teacher she gets homework. She has to make lesson plans while helping out with the animal and crop needs. "There is always something to do and work to be done," she said. Growing up on a farm was a great experience for her. There were always fun stories and lots of family time. She recalls many good talks.

Joe Bales

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Mr. Brian Brewer (Teacher)

Not only does Mr. Brian Brewer enjoy teaching biology, he also has a hobby: farming. He grows soybeans, corn, alfalfa and animal feed. He prefers to raise crops rather than animals because there isn't as much of a risk. He does all this work on a 65-acre farm in Blackford County. He loves farming and said he wants to farm "as long as the good Lord will let me." Sadly the hobby he loves gets in the way of his family time, and he said he sometimes has to miss his children's school events. Even though he has to put forth all the work, he gets to have some fun and memorable experiences. He said, "One time my new heifer got out and I had to track and chase it for three days."

Michael Scott (Sophomore)

Michael Scott raises cattle, sheep, chickens, goats and horses on his family's 500- to 600-acre farm. His family grows beans, wheat, corn and hay for feed. He also helps harvest crops with his family. They rent some of their fields to increase the size of their yield. He said living on a farm is great and helps keep him out of trouble. He enjoys helping harvest and taking care of the crops. One day when he gets to be the one in charge he would change the time schedule and how some smaller things are done. He doesn't often have to give up a bunch of things he wants to do, but he does have late nights sometimes due to work. One time Michael was bailing hay with his uncle and grandpa. He was driving the tractor while his grandpa was bringing the hay to the wagon and his uncle was on the Bobcat. "I saw a snake. Knowing my uncle was afraid of snakes, I threw it into the Bobcat, and my uncle almost broke the Bobcat," Scott said.

Elizabeth Smoot (Freshman)

Elizabeth Smoot has several roles around her family's 5,000-acre farm. She helps her mom in the office, bosses her brothers around and helps in the fields. The Smoots mostly grow crops but also raise pigs. They harvest corn, sweet corn, soybeans and wheat and rotate crops annually. Smoot said the farm is great for "family bonding." She said she would enjoy farming more if she got to drive the tractors more. She doesn't plan on farming in the future. Her brothers will inherit it, but she wants to be a physical therapist. One time last year there was a fire in one of the fields. "It was really dry and our combine caught on fire and caught our field on fire. It was really bad, and you could see the smoke on the other side of Muncie and out in Selma," she said.

Autumn McCowan (Freshman)

Autumn McCowan raises, trains and runs show horses. She works on a basic five-acre farm and loves to help with her horses. She said living on a farm provides her with a sense of responsibility. While having a great time with horses she sometimes has to give up running track in the spring and spending time with friends. She loves working with horses to the point that she says, "I think I enjoy it too much." She definitely wants to do this later in life. McCowan is always trying to cram together homework and studying time so she can do what she loves, working with horses.



Perched in the hayloft at his family's farm is six-year-old Michael Scott in this September 2002 photo. Scott, now a sophomore (inset photo), loves life on the farm. (Photo provided)

Emily Coats (Freshman)

Emily Coats loves horses. She raises them, rides them and cares for them. Sometimes she even runs from them. Her family raises the horses on a 10-acre farm. Coats thinks that living on a farm has increased her responsibility and work ethic. All the work on the farm doesn't affect her personal time but sometimes interferes with the time she can spend with friends. Someday she wants to have a farm of her own.



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Destiny Coleman
races at the
Delaware County
Fairgrounds.
(Photo provided)

By Megan Baker

Junior Destiny Coleman has to sometimes sacrifice her homework and volleyball, so she can race her dirt bikes. To be able to ride and race, she had to give up horseback riding completely.

She sometimes has to travel around to race, depending on which races she decides to go too. She mostly rides her Kawasaki in Tennessee and also rides up north in a club called Muddobber Motorcycle Club.

Coleman started riding her freshman year because two of her friends, Barak Mooneyhan and Jake Mullinix, rode and kept telling her how fun it was.

"You can't just learn by being told, you have to watch as well," she said. Coleman learned by watching her friends Mooneyhan and Mullinix. Her dad also inspired her to ride.

With dirt bike riding, volleyball and homework, she still finds time to hang out with her friends. Destiny sometimes has to prioritize her days by deciding if she's going to do her homework or ride.

When Coleman was racing at the Stoney Lonesome

Team Race, she got ran over.

"I was at the Stoney Lonesome Team Race last year and it was really dusty," said Coleman. "I was almost done with the first lap and on one of my turns my bike slid out from under me. The guy from behind me ran over me, and these random people had to drag me off the track and almost had to get me. After that I had tread marks all the way up my back."

Coleman said she hopes

"The sensation of riding - the physicality of it - truly is one of those things that you cannot know unless you do it."

to become a professional racer.

Mooneyhan said, "If she practices enough she will succeed and be fast."

High school today, race track tomorrow is the life of Destiny Coleman.

Destiny Coleman stops to talk to her younger brother. (Photo provided)





Ryan Faust performs a card trick for a friend. (Photo by Olivia Brown)

By Kameron Slaven

A few years ago while playing a game of poker with his friends, Ryan Faust discovered a new interest. As Faust and his friends were showing each other some simple card tricks, he became interested and it took off

Whoa, it's magic!

from there.

In addition to being a 6-foot-6 football player, Faust is also inspired to do magic. His favorite magician is David Blain.

He said, "His tricks are amazing! He really encourages me to perform his tricks after I watch him do them."

Over the last few years, Faust has performed at talent shows, birthday parties, and at church camp. In the talent show his sophomore year, he won first in miscellaneous. His junior year, he won best overall.

To stay on top of his

game, Faust practices daily, using his family to perfect more than 100 of the magic tricks he knows.

Faust's most difficult trick is the vanishing bandana.

He said, "It requires sleight of hand."

He said his best trick is one in which he makes a Coke bottle disappear in a paper bag, which is also his younger sister Molly's favorite trick as well.

She said, "His tricks are amazing. I love watching him perform."

It's said that magicians are never to reveal their secrets. Faust won't even tell his sister how to do any of his tricks, but she said she has finally figured out some of them by herself.

Hand-sanitizer's hidden dangers

By Shannon Ellery

Ashton Bonds, a Stauntun River High School student in Moneta, Va., died in 2007 of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). This is a highly contagious disease caused from bacteria, and, according to a study produced by the Center for Disease Control, is accountable for more deaths in America than AIDS. One of the things that makes MRSA so deadly is its resistance to antibiotics.

One of the first things you see when you look at a bottle of hand-sanitizer are the words "kills 99.9 percent of germs!" written across the front in large lettering. What it doesn't talk about is that .1 percent of germs that hand-sanitizer doesn't kill.

That .1 percent of bacteria that survives reproduces and creates a whole new generation, an even bigger fraction of which will have the ability to survive again. Dr. Lance Brand, biology

teacher, believes that eventually there will come a time when bacteria are completely immune to the disinfectants in hand-sanitizer.

"I feel like we're creating a situation where bacteria will be harder and harder to treat," he said.



This genetic mutation is what has happened to the MRSA bacteria, which has already built up immunity to many of the most common antibiotics.

Not only does hand-sanitizer encourage the growth of super-bacteria and viruses, whose protective coat makes them immune to most antibiotics, with excessive use hand-sanitizer can have harmful effects on your hands as well.

Your skin produces natural oil called sebum. This oil reduces water loss and protects you from bacteria and fungi. The active ingredient in hand sanitizer, ethyl alcohol, breaks down the oil and dries out your hands. Another ingredient, isopropyl, has been known to cause eczema.

Eczema is a form of dermatitis where redness, swelling, itching, dryness, crusting, flaking, blistering, cracking, oozing, or bleeding occurs. Another cause of eczema is thought to be the hygiene hypothesis. This hypothesis states that exposure to disease and infections throughout your life strengthens your immune system because your body builds up immunity to the different diseases.

This creates a problem when students use too much hand-sanitizer, because it stops your body from naturally building immunities.

Not that you'll never be able to use hand-sanitizer again, though. Hand-sanitizer is an excellent disinfectant if soap and water are unavailable, but it could never completely replace hand washing.

Using it three or four times a week would give your hands plenty of time to recover between uses. Just don't become so overworked about germs that you forget about the dangers of hand-sanitizer.

Thanks For The Memories

By Stephanie Garringer

A seventh grader, standing on a football field, his team winless, an injury plastered in this teenager's memory forever.

"I watched him go down and not get back up and it basically killed me right there," senior Jonathan Smith said, recalling when teammate Landon Lambert injured his neck in a game against New Castle.

"There are some things I wish I could forget," Smith said.

Although Lambert recovered fully, that was one memory that Smith wished was not in the back of his mind. But there are some ways that his memory has helped him and not just on tests.

Go ahead and ask Smith any random sports fact and he will most likely know the answer. For fun he reads Sports Illustrated books and memorizes

even the smallest details about games and events such as Super Bowls.

"If it's interesting I will most likely memorize it," he said. Smith also enjoys

memorizing scripts from some of his favorite fantasy movie series, Lord of the Rings and Star Wars. "People tend to think I

have this photographic memory. Well, it's not, it's not entirely accurate. I think everybody has a photographic memory, some just don't have film; some have film, it just needs a bit of a darkroom to develop," Smith said.

Smith is captain of the Brain Game team. Mrs. Dawn Raleigh, the academic team coach, expressed how Smith shows great leadership on the team and how he takes initiative on certain tasks.

"He is quick to learn whatever is required, but on the

flip-side of that, he gets frustrated easily and down on himself when he does not. I think he is harder on himself than anyone else would ever be," Raleigh said.

Smith doesn't just use his memory for academics, he uses it for art. Fine arts that is. The theatre class is performing the play *Flowers for Algernon* where he will be playing the lead character Charlie Gordon. Charlie's character accounts for 379 lines of dialogue; the next largest part has 130 lines.

"Most of us struggle with memorizing anything that contains five or more lines. For Jonathan to be able to read something once or twice and have a majority of it -if not all of it- committed to memory...It's astounding," said Raleigh, who is also the drama teacher.

She expressed how Smith was just "it" for the part. Others did well but Smith stood out from the crowd.

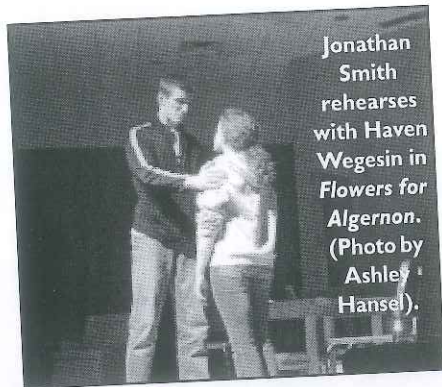
"He puts his heart into this role every time he steps onto the stage," she said.

Smith had told Raleigh that he identifies with this character. He sees where there are similarities between himself and Charlie.

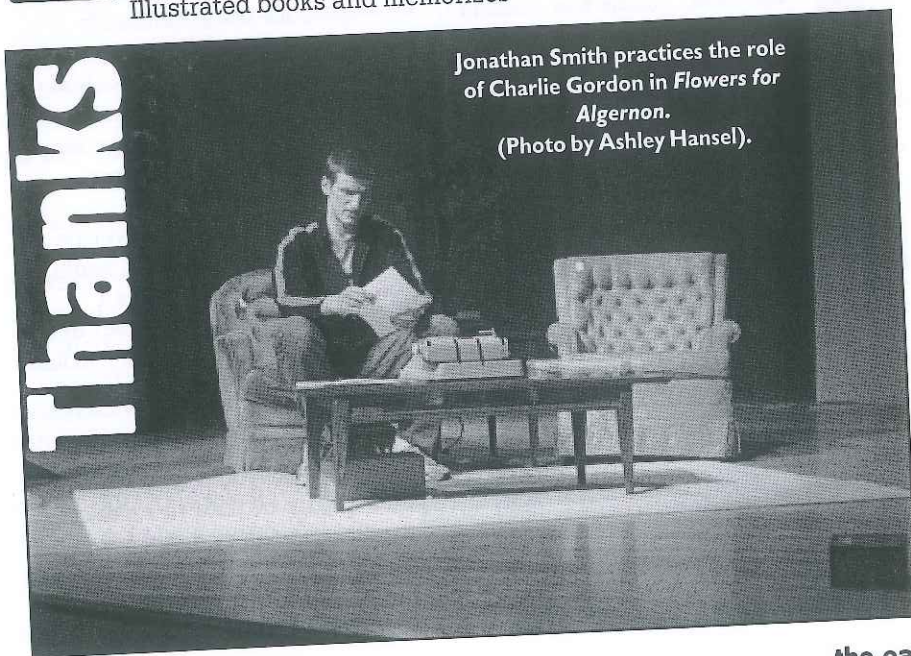
When Smith was younger he "was as happy as a little kid could get," then all of a sudden the happiness just kind of left him and he was not very friendly. Smith went through life questioning and wondering what was wrong. Why didn't he feel like all the other kids did?

"Socially, I was well behind. People wouldn't talk to me and even when they did, I wasn't too good about even giving them a chance," he said.

It wasn't until last year he got any clue about what was happening to him. Senior Carrie Fairchild approached Smith and asked, "Do you possibly have Asperger's?"



Jonathan Smith rehearses with Haven Wegesin in *Flowers for Algernon*. (Photo by Ashley Hansel).



Jonathan Smith practices the role of Charlie Gordon in *Flowers for Algernon*. (Photo by Ashley Hansel).

That's when the questions started to race through his mind. With those questions he went to his parents and asked what was wrong. It turned out Fairchild was partially right, but not completely.

"I do have Asperger's symptoms, I just didn't know where on the spectrum I was put," he said. His sister Katherine Smith

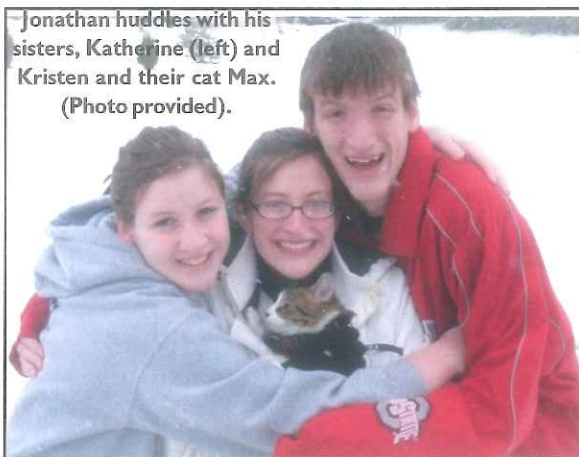
remembers the day about two years prior to Jonathan finding out. "It wasn't a shocker, it just made everything make more sense. It was just an explanation in my mind," she said.

In 1940, an Austrian pediatrician Hans Asperger was the first to discover a set of behavior patterns in his patients such as poor social interactions, obsessions, odd speech patterns, and other peculiar ways of doing things.

These were more frequently discovered in boys ages five to nine. Dr. Asperger noticed that although these boys had normal intelligence and language development, they had severely impaired social skills and poor coordination.

Smith's parents didn't tell him that he had Asperger's until he asked them. "Probably because they didn't want me to make excuses for myself. They knew I was capable of being smart. ... I couldn't be held back by the fact I wasn't good socially," he said.

Katherine went on to say that there are times where Jonathan is brilliantly smart and you think to yourself no normal person should know that, but sometimes in social instances he will say something that others



Jonathan huddles with his sisters, Katherine (left) and Kristen and their cat Max. (Photo provided).

wouldn't say in public. He says nice things to you that most people wouldn't say because it's out of the status quo or it would be awkward if you said that to somebody.

"For him it's just like if you look nice he will tell you, 'You look nice,' or if you look like you need a hug he will give you a hug. He doesn't realize that this might offend somebody and make them feel awkward. He just does it, which in my mind is a good thing," Katherine said. "People are afraid of being made fun of, but if you have Asperger's you don't

care as much about what people think of you."

Katherine is astounded by her brother's memorization skills. When she and her brother watch movies together Katherine will find something about the movie funny and Jonathan will memorize and re-enact the scene word for word.

They can listen to a song for the very first time and he will be able to sing most of it back to her. He also has perfect pitch where he can play a note on the piano and he knows the note being played.

"It's not as much of a disorder. A lot of people think, 'Oh well Jonny has a disease.' It's more like he has something special," Katherine said.

Smith may be awkward now but when he grows up his future will be much different. "Basically your brain comes to you really fast and your social does not. Right now he is awkward but smart. When he is about 35 he will be smart and normal, so his life is basically made in the future," Katherine said.

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It's a Delta Christmas

By Tiffany Flowers

It was a week before Christmas Break and all through the school not a student was listening, from the commons to the pool.

The students were all restless in their seats with despair. They waited in hope that the Delta Eagle soon would be there.

The teachers had finished grading, their pens tucked away. While visions of Power Points danced and swayed.

And athletes in their uniforms and I in my hat had just got out of class and were about to hit the mats.

Then suddenly out on the football turf we heard a loud squawk. The students and I sprinted to the field like a wild geese flock.

To the gates we rushed with quite speed. In the center of the bustle stood an eagle covered in beads.

Its presence was charming and its height quite alarming. Its towering shadow covered the land. We students knew something big was at hand.

On its back hung a bag stuffed to the brim. It was full of enough presents for ten thousand men. Slowly its voice rose high and loud. With a wink of an eye, it addressed the crowd.

Now teachers. Now staffers. Now athletes. Now artists. Now actors. Now musicians. Now writers. Now coaches.

Please gather round for I've brought you a gift. It seems to me that you all could use a lift.

This gift cannot be held or even seen. It's some Christmas cheer so don't be mean.

Here I see school staff members dedicated and strong for the time they put in can be exceptionally long.

From giving students the basics to cleaning up the halls they still get up each morning and go through roll call.

To the athletes here that play I see their weary eyelids growing heavier at the end of each day. Even though they may fatigue their determination puts them into their own league.

Next to the cheerleaders who root the very best for their Eagles and the "nest" they dutifully protect.

On the sides I spot artists who have the ability to create. With more practice their talents can only accelerate.

Right in a line I see actors whose many talents put forth a story. They have the chance one day to be on a stage with brilliant glory.

Here's to the musicians who can sure play a tune. When they finish their pieces applause erupts soon.

Then I see beside me writers of many kinds. With a pen and some paper they construct tales that blow people's minds.

Behind all these people I see coaches who work hard for the win. They stand strong and treat their team just like kin.

Last but not least is to all the students indeed. Who will one day go out into the world and take the lead.

After these last words the Eagle took flight. Then it proclaimed, "A Delta Christmas to all and to all a good night!"



Illustration by Skye Whisenant

Santa comes up with surprises

By Kaylin Gibson

Every kid loves waking up on Christmas morning ready to unwrap their presents. There are the ordinary presents, unusual presents and the present that you really want, but never get. A few DHS students share their weirdest and most unique Christmas presents.

For many kids, getting coal in their stockings is only a scare, but for some, it is a cruel reality.

When junior Tristan Noble was 5, he received only coal in his stocking as a punishment. Tristan and Celli, his sister, were lighting Styrofoam on fire in their house one day when they realized it would melt and burn their hands. Their reaction was to throw it, causing it to land on the couch.

In a mad rush to put out the fire, they were desperate.

Tristan said, "We used everything we could find. We used bottled water and when we ran out of that, we used Mt. Dew."

The fire was finally extinguished, but the punishment had just begun.

Tristan said, "We were grounded for years. We could go to

school and sometimes play outside, but that was it."

Adam Gordon, junior

Adam Gordon didn't get what he wished for the year he asked for a baby brother.

Adam said, "I wanted a baby brother for Christmas because I didn't really like my older one, so I thought a younger one would be better."

Bailey Hood, Freshman

Sometimes handmade gifts really are the best.

When Bailey Hood was 3, her mother made a quilt that was built around her baby blanket.

Bailey said, "It's really special because my mom put a lot of effort into making it."

Alec Taylor, Junior

Apparently the way to a guy's heart, is through his stomach.

When Alec Taylor's grandma asked what he wanted for Christmas, he told her meat.

When Alec opened up his present, he didn't find socks or money. He found a full rack of baby back ribs. The only catch was that they were still raw and he had to make them, but he didn't care.

Alec said, "I was really excited when I opened it because I really like ribs."



Gift ideas for couples

By Shelby Cumings

Do	Don't
0-3 Months <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stuffed animal 2. Favorite candy 3. A card 4. Homemade food such as cookies, cupcakes, or one of their favorite things to eat. 5. Inside jokes gifts are nice. 	0-3 Months <p>Don't buy something that is expensive. Your relationship just started. Get to know them a little more.</p>
3-9 Months <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A t-shirt or sweatshirt of their favorite band, team or college. 2. Homemade crafts. 3. Restaurant gift cards 4. A homemade coupon book. 5. Sports items that your boyfriend or girlfriend would enjoy. 	3-9 Months <p>Don't go over the top and spend more than \$50.</p>
9-12+ Months <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jewelry 2. Cologne or perfume. 3. Customized candy 4. Concert tickets 5. A nice dinner out of town. 	9-12+ Months <p>Don't spend more than \$100. It's only a high school relationship. Wait until you are out of school to spend more.</p>



Delta Athletics

Good Luck to Basketball, Wrestling, and Swimming/Diving Athletes

Julenisse is Coming to Town

By Candace Gray and Isabela Zanelato

Christmas is different in all parts of the world. Delta's foreign exchange students explain how their country celebrates Christmas.

You are kicked back in a

lawn chair, on the beach, watching fireworks. The high for that day is around 91 degrees. Then a little bit later, you and your family have a big dinner and then open presents around the Christmas tree. This is what Christmas is like in Brazil.

Isabela Zanelato is from Brazil, which is over 5,000 miles away from Indiana.

"It's only one year," said Isabela when asked about how she felt spending the holidays away from her family. She also said that her family back home in Brazil rents a

house on the beach during Christmas.

One tradition in Brazil is to create the nativity scene, or *presépio*. The word originates from the Hebrew word "presepium," which is the bed of straw upon which Jesus first slept in Bethlehem.

People will also set up a fake Christmas tree, because of the lack of evergreens in Brazil.

Papai Noel or Father Noel is

Exchange students (bottom)

Katie Glinder and Isabela Zanelato and (top) Frederik Birk, Pablo Fernandez and Ola Kjaer will spend their first Christmas in America.

(Photo by Marissa Elam)

the gift-bringer in Brazil. According to legend, he lives in Greenland. When he arrives in Brazil, he usually wears silk clothing due to the summer heat.

During dinner, people have lots of fruits, nuts, rice, and vegetables. Codfish and turkey with white rice are the main course. People usually have beer and natural juices to drink.

Now, let's travel over 6,400 miles northeast to Norway. Christmas time in Norway is different in many aspects compared to Brazil.

Instead of a high of 91 degrees, the high is about 30 degrees. Instead of sitting by the beach, you are snowboarding with your friends or skiing with your family.

Ola Kjaer is from Norway. During his stay, he is living with Logan Pyron. Christmas in Norway is on December 24th, and celebrated by most Norwegians with a big dinner on Christmas Eve followed by a Christmas church service.

Dinner usually consists of pork or lamb ribs, or in some parts of the country; codfish. Dinner is usually served with boiled potatoes, sausages, meatcakes and lingonberries, and usually adults drink Norwegian beer.

Following the dinner, children will run to the Christmas tree, to see what Santa Claus, or "Julenisse," has brought them.

One tradition that Ola's



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family shares is to go out into the woods to find a Christmas tree. They chop it down, bring it back to their house, and then decorate it with miniature Norwegian flags.

Now as we continue on our Christmas journey, we travel about 790 miles south, to Germany. Even though Germany is relatively close to Norway, they are very different when it comes to traditions.

Katie Glinder is from Germany, and while she is living here, she is staying with the Heritage family. Katie said that during Christmas time, her family back home goes to church then goes sledding.

Four Sundays before Christmas, people from Germany make an Advent wreath of fir or pine branches with four colored candles. They light a candle on the wreath each Sunday to keep a countdown until Christmas, which is celebrated on the 24th of December.

Now let's travel up to Denmark, which is about 430 miles from Germany.

Frederik Birk is from Denmark, and he is living with Seth Neal while he stays here. When asked how he feels about spending the holidays away from his family, he replied, "I have to do it, and plus my host family is like my real family."

People in Denmark celebrate Christmas on December 24th.

First, people usually go to a church service, then they usually have a dinner, then they light the tree, and some people dance and sing Christmas hymns around the tree. After the dancing, they all sit down and open presents.

To find a tree, Frederik said that he and his family would go out in the woods to find one, bring it back to his house, then they would decorate it with ornaments and decorations created by the family.

For dinner, traditional foods are roasted pork and duck, red cabbage, caramelized potatoes, roasted chestnuts with salt and butter, and usually a Christmas beer.

Now, for our final stop, we travel to Spain, where Pablo Fernandez resides. As well as Ola, Pablo stays with Logan Pyron and his family.

Christmas Day is a national holiday in Spain so businesses are closed, but it is not a day where people celebrate greatly. Instead, people like to spend time with their family. People also often use Christmas as a day of relaxation.

A large family meal is had at lunchtime, though. Children may receive a small gift on this morning, but the day for presents in Spain is January 6th, the Epiphany, which is the Three King's day. In some Western churches, the Epiphany remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child.

Family gatherings are very important during Christmas. The

family usually puts up the tree together. Pablo said he and his family go skiing during Christmastime. Usually, the entire family attend midnight Mass together, where Christmas carols and hymns are performed throughout the Mass.

For the Christmas dinner, families

sit down to eat roasted turkey, roasted lamb, shrimp, lobster, and crab. And then for dessert, they have crumbly cakes and almond cakes.

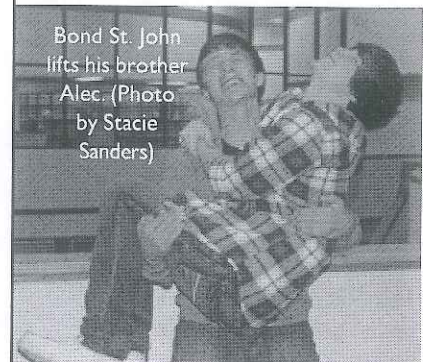
No matter if you are from Brazil, Norway, Germany, Denmark or even Spain, Christmas is still a holiday where we can celebrate and spend time with our families. So to everybody out there, Feliz Natal; God Jul; Fröhliche Weihnachten; Glædelig Jul; Feliz Navidad; Merry Christmas.

I Won't Be Home for Christmas

By Stacie Sanders

For some people, Christmas break is spent in their hometown with families in the area, but for others, they're between 1,100 to 1,700 miles away from Indiana.

Bond and Alec St. John and their younger brother Spencer spend one week in Arizona every year to visit grandparents on their dad's side.



Bond St. John lifts his brother Alec. (Photo by Stacie Sanders)

They celebrate Christmas and New Year's and also spend time with their cousins as well.

Sometimes they hang around Arizona State University and enjoy the warm weather there.

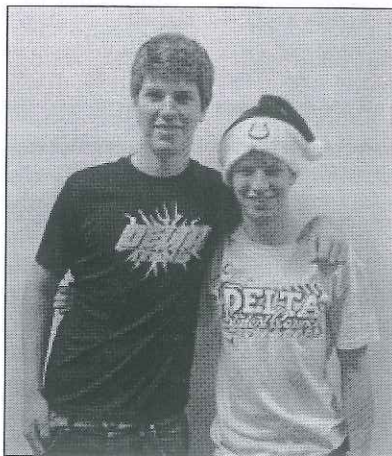
"When we go there, we're all wearing shorts and T-shirts, and people there are wearing jackets because it's cold there to them but warm there to us," Bond said.

They sometimes go down to Mexico and stay on the beach or go skiing and snowboarding in the mountains.

"My brothers and I try to make the most of it because we only get to see them once a year for a short amount of time," Alec said.

Freshman Logan Pyron and his family plan to go to Texas over Christmas break for three weeks. Besides spending Christmas there, he says he will also be visiting family and hanging out with relatives.

"We eat a lot of Mexican and barbeque food," Logan said.



Frederik Birk and host brother Seth Neal are ready for Christmas (Photo by Marissa Elam)

Winter sport athletes face special challenges

By Sam Bales

It's 5:15 on a Thursday morning during Christmas Break. You're fast asleep in your warm and cozy bed dreaming of sugar plums and candy canes when abruptly your dad barges into the room. He pulls the warm covers off and yells at you to get up because you have a wrestling tournament and the bus leaves in 45 minutes.

For many athletes and coaches this is a sacrifice made year after year.

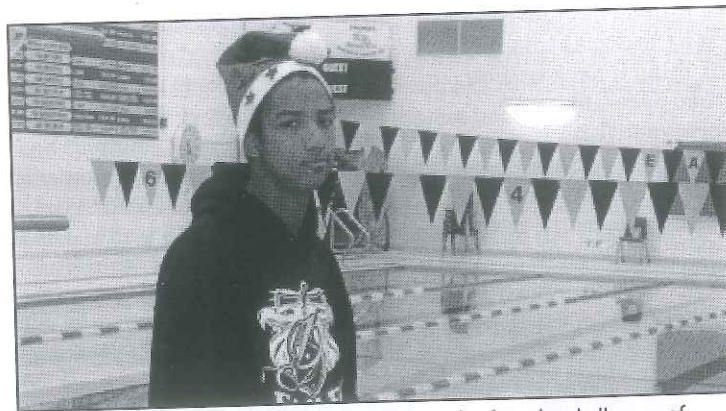
"I haven't had a true Thanksgiving dinner for five years now," said Adam Gordon, a junior 126-pound wrestler.

Gordon has spent many breaks participating in the sport and is normally cutting weight. He typically loses 10-12 pounds over the season. His Thanksgiving dinner usually only includes a slice of turkey, cinnamon apples and a salad.

But wrestlers are not the only athletes who have their lives affected by winter sports. Basketball players, swimmers and divers also must make sacrifices during holiday breaks and their daily lives.

The girls' basketball team practices or plays a game every day except for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. This may sound like a lot to those who do not play winter sports, but senior Alicia Farmer said "it's a winter sport so it comes with its own challenges."

Along with the girls' team, the boys' basketball team is putting in the time on the court. Varsity boys' basketball coach Stan Daugherty tries to balance the holidays and basketball for himself and his



Junior Garland Ivy is among the athletes who face the challenges of winter sports season. (Photo by Chelsie Taylor)

players so that it does not take away from the celebration of the holidays.

Coach Daugherty gives the boys five days off over Christmas for that reason. But, they have games on Dec. 21 and Dec. 30. Daugherty said, "We have to have some practice time in order to prepare for this."

Although their schedule still consumes some of the time of the break, it does not take up as much time as the swim team's schedule.

The swimmers are much like the girls' basketball team with practice every day except the actual holidays. Tyler Sherwood, a junior on the swim team, said that practice is positive because it keeps him in shape though it cuts into his sleep.

Jamie Moynihan, a senior swimmer, said, "I think practices are fair and necessary. Sometimes the level we practice at seems unfair, but compared to other (schools) it's fair."

Athletes and coaches aren't the only ones that have their Christmas breaks interrupted. Mr.

Chris Conley, the athletic director and assistant principal, still has to come to work for competitions. Despite this, Mr. Conley said, "I still will have a good time over the holidays. I just won't be


able to be as lazy as I might like to be."

Winter sports also affect athletes mentally. For instance, Gordon, the wrestler, said that watching his weight, not fully being able to participate in holidays and the aggressive nature of the sport affects him a lot.

Farmer said it affects her because they have a lot of weekday basketball games and it causes her to have to stay up late to finish it all.

Along with the challenges posed by homework and losing weight, the winter sports season is much longer. The average fall sport is 13 weeks long while the average winter sport is 16 weeks from first practice to the state finals. Moynihan, the swimmer, said the length of the winter season makes it feel harder.

Minus these downfalls, many athletes still sacrifice their time to compete. And like the wrestler waking up before the rooster crows, the athletes will do whatever needs to be done to win.



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Questions about drug testing? We've got answers

Illustration by Kody Jones

By Teaghan Dishman

There are 10 high schools in Delaware County. Four schools have random drug testing (Delta, Yorktown, Wapahani and Daleville), and six do not (Cowan, Heritage Hall Christian, Muncie Central, Muncie Southside, Muncie Burris and Wes-Del). Do you think that you know everything there is to know about drug testing? Well, let's see.

Drug testing costs this corporation \$11,000 a year. At first this might seem to be an outrageous amount, but is it? Luckily this money doesn't come out of the school's pocket. It is paid for by a federal grant that the school renews every year.

Are you in "the pool"? Many people don't know who is in the pool. Anyone who drives to school, is in an extra-curricular activity such as athletics or clubs, or anyone whose parents enroll them into the random drug testing program are all thrown in the pool. Out of the 828 students total at Delta 712 are in the pool, which is 86 percent of Delta's student body.

In order to get randomly drug tested, you have to be in the pool. Every time that the drug testing agency comes in, they have already randomly chosen 20 numbers. These numbers are matched with the students' names in the pool and then these students are tested.

These 20 students who were picked have exactly two hours to provide a sample by urinating in a cup. This needs to be completed between 9 and 11 a.m.

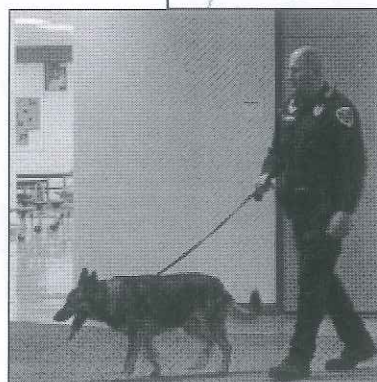
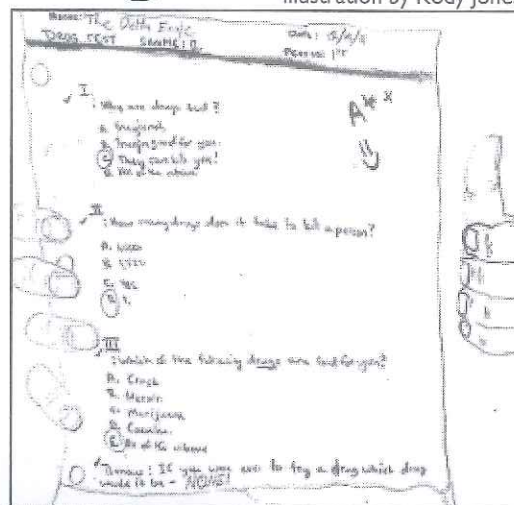
After the samples are gathered from the students, the cups are sent to a nationally known drug testing company, Alere Toxicology Services, to examine and determine who passed or failed the exam. It takes about a week

to get these results back.

What happens if a student fails the drug test? First, privileges are taken away. If the student drives to school, this student no longer has that privilege. A student must provide a negative drug sample before driving is allowed again. If a student is in an extra-curricular activity, then that student becomes ineligible until a negative drug sample is provided. This sample can't be taken until the drug

testing agency comes back into the school around six weeks later. In addition an athlete must sit out 25 percent of the season. If an athlete fails the second test, then he/she is suspended from sports for one year. In addition to that, anyone who fails two or more times is required to seek professional help. This will be paid for by the parents of the student who needs the help. They also can't participate in any extra activities until the professional releases them.

Another disadvantage to failing a drug test is that the student who failed once will continue to be chosen for testing every time testing



Officer Snodgrass leads his dog through the school in a drug search in October. (Photo by Gracie Hollars)

occurs. This is until the student provides a negative drug sample.

Will my locker be checked just because I failed a drug test? "No" said Mr. Chris Conley, athletic director. "Just because people failed their drug test, doesn't mean they have it in their lockers too."

Can a parent or teacher request a student be drug tested? Surprisingly a teacher can't request a student be drug tested, but parents can. "Parents call from time to time," said Mr. Conley, "but when they do we usually make them one of the 20 tested on the next testing day."

As you can see, there are myths and truths about random drug testing at Delta. Now you're ready to "pass the test!"

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The Boys of Winter

By Frederik Birk
Photos by Ashley Hansel

Sports have a large impact on the lives of all athletes, but it has an even greater impact on the lives of the top athletes.

For junior Sam Zimmerman, this is his eighth year of swimming. At first, he didn't plan to be a swimmer, but when he discovered his talent, swimming became a big part of his life. He and Tyler Sherwood are now captains on the boys' swimming team.

Sam said, "I hoped I would be one of the two captains on the swimming team because my brother was a captain his junior



Junior Sam Zimmerman prepares to hit the water.

and senior year." The head coach isn't just anyone; she is his mother. His mother means a lot to him and is always there to help him, but it can sometimes get to be

too much.

"It's not very fun to hear the same thing at home as you hear at practice," he said.

Sam competes in the individual medley as well as other individual events and relays.

"I don't get to see my father much because he is a part of the United States Army, so I only get to see him on holidays, but that just increases the enjoyment when I see him," he said.

He has missed him a lot over the years; his father has been in Georgia for three years and in Wisconsin for the last two years working on computers for the Army.



Junior Adam Gordon poses for a picture before hitting the mats.

When Sam's father is able to come to the swimming meets, it puts pressure on Sam to do a little bit better.

Adam Gordon has nine years of experience in wrestling. He joined the cross country team this year to improve his strength and endurance for wrestling.

Wrestling is the only sport he likes to do, and his parents are very supportive of him. They actually formed their schedule around his wrestling.

He started wrestling because his best friend wrestled, but then found out that he was good. He said that the reason why he has improved so much in wrestling is because he always focused on how he should fight in the match. His weight class is 126 pounds, but he is bench pressing at least 150 pounds in the weight room.

"My goals for this season are to win the sectionals and to make it to the semi-state, which are reachable goals in my opinion," Gordon said.

His mother had breast cancer not long ago, and Adam said that it affected him a lot and it took his mind off wrestling. That is special in his case because he usually is thinking about wrestling. But she is in remission now, just a year after being diagnosed.

Basketball player Jake Greenberg has been playing for about 10 years. He has had a great relationship with the team for many years. His and the team's goals for

the season are to win sectionals, conference and the county tournament. He also plays for the football team as a receiver. His parents support him a lot in both sports.

Neither of his parents, Mark and Traci Greenberg, played basketball in their youth, but Jake's father played football and was really good at it. That talent and athleticism was inherited by Jake.

One of his closest friends, Matt Fisher, said, "He has the ability to play basketball at a very high level without practicing or putting in a lot of work."

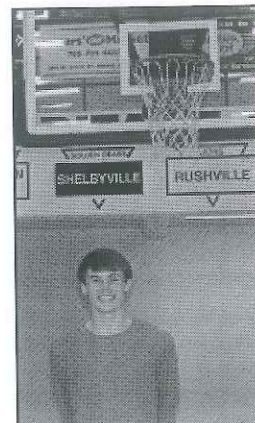
Natural talent in sport is not the only talent he has; his grades in school are also very good.

"Jake is one of the most well rounded players on the basketball team," said Coach Daugherty.

Jake is a very coachable player, which

means he takes criticism well and it helps him improve his practice. He is a very consistent player who works really hard to improve his game.

These three top Delta athletes plan on leading their teams throughout this winter season, hoping to accomplish their goals.



Senior Jake Greenberg is ready to play.

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Heart of a Champion

By Kinsee Collins

When Ethan Grove was little, the doctors told him he had heart problems. But now that he is a senior in high school, all of his friends and coaches say he plays with a lot of heart.

Ethan Grove has played varsity tennis all four years of high school. Tennis is a competitive sport to play at Delta, so being able to play on varsity all four years is a rare opportunity.

Ethan isn't just good at tennis; he is also good at basketball. He has played basketball all four years of high school, including varsity for the past two years.

Most of the people that play basketball lift weights, but Ethan can't do that. He first found out at age five that he had a heart condition called sub aortic stenosis, which restricts him from doing strenuous activities such as weightlifting. Sub aortic stenosis is a condition when part of your heart is narrower than it is supposed to be which restricts blood flow.

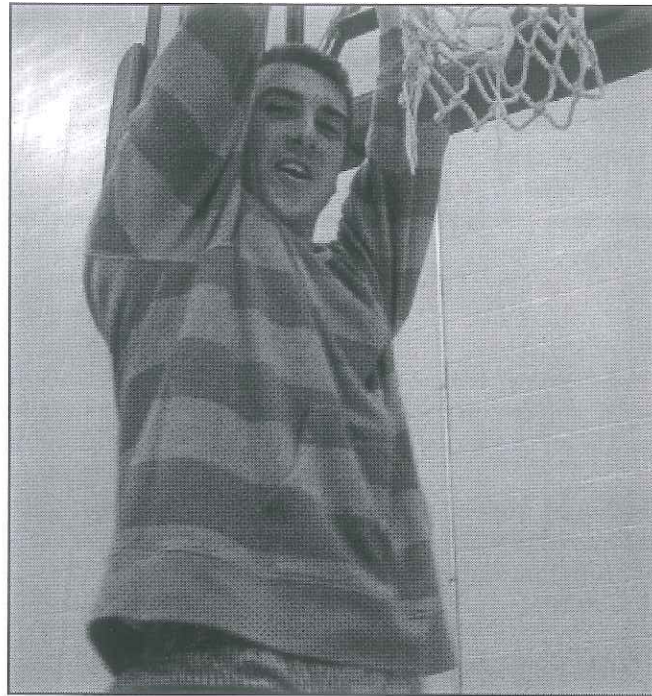
"My parents took me to the doctor for an ear infection, and then the doctor told us I had a heart condition," he said.

Initially, doctors said that Ethan would have to have open heart surgery, but he ended up not needing it. His heart condition also restricts him from playing football, a sport he played until high school.

"I can't do most things that get my heart going really fast," Ethan explained.

Basketball head coach Stan Daugherty said, "Ethan makes up for his lack of weight training by doing extra skill work and leg strengthening. He is unable to do much for his upper body strength."

He played football through middle school but couldn't play in high school. He then decided to take up tennis.



Senior Ethan Grove hangs from a basketball net. (Photo by Olivia Brown)

Ethan began to play tennis under coach Tim Cleland as a freshman.

"His skills were very raw when he first started out. He joined without much experience but proved himself to be a good athlete with raw tennis skills," Cleland said.

Each season Ethan won more matches, from seven victories as a freshman to 28 wins as a senior. He finished third at the state doubles tournament this year with Evan Rodenberger. They were selected First Team All-State and Ethan was chosen as an Indiana All-Star.

Ethan's leadership also grew stronger throughout those years.

"He is always on task,

always doing his best and willing to do the work. Ethan is easy to get along with and has a lot of leadership skills," Cleland said.

Coach Daugherty also praised his attitude and his work ethic.

"He works hard, has a positive attitude, sees the best in every situation and doesn't give up," Daugherty said.

Basketball teammate Landon Lambert has been a longtime friend.

"He's a good team player and leader. He's a really good guy," Lambert said.

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Triple Threat

Kasin Spay on track for 12 letters

Story by Jillian Renbarger

Driving along the beach in Florida with her mom, friend, and friend's mom, Kasin Spay started singing, *Baby Got Back*, out the car window. The older people and grown-ups laughed, while other clapped to cheer her on. Back home however, she is just as well known for her leadership on the court as she is for her off the court antics.

Mr. Chris Conley, athletic director, said that there are two things that stand out to him about Kasin; she has fun, and she works hard.

"If you can combine those two things in life, you will succeed," Mr. Conley said.

Setting a goal her freshman year of 12 varsity letters by the time she graduated has kept this senior a busy student-athlete the last four years.

Mr. Conley stated he did not remember the last time someone earned 12 varsity letters.

"She is one of very few," Mr. Conley said.

Any athlete, who earns 10-12 varsity letters, receives a lifetime sports pass to all Delta athletic events. One has to get 1,000 points, or 10 varsity letters, to receive one.

Since Spay was five, she's played basketball, soccer and softball which she has continued through her high school career. She said her parents made her play early on, but she grew to love the sports. She tried volleyball, but picked basketball instead.

Spay started varsity her freshman year for all three sports. Spay said starting was exciting, but nerve-wracking as well. Having to compete with upper classmen was hard. She didn't want her spot to be given to her. She wanted to earn it. She played goalie for soccer, point guard/shooting guard for basketball, and outfield for softball. Playing varsity for basketball excited her. Worried about age and upperclassmen, she pulled through and had a great time.

"When you get out on the court you forget about age and just play," Spay said.

In the four years Spay has been at the high school, she's

had eight different coaches in 12 varsity seasons.

For basketball, Spay has had three different head coaches in four years. She says it is hard to adjust to different coaches.

"Each coach has a different style and they get things done a certain way," Spay said. "You have to change habits and little things."

In soccer, Spay had four different coaches for all four years. Being the goal keeper, she didn't have to adjust much. For softball, she has had the same coach all four years.

Spay has kept her schedule

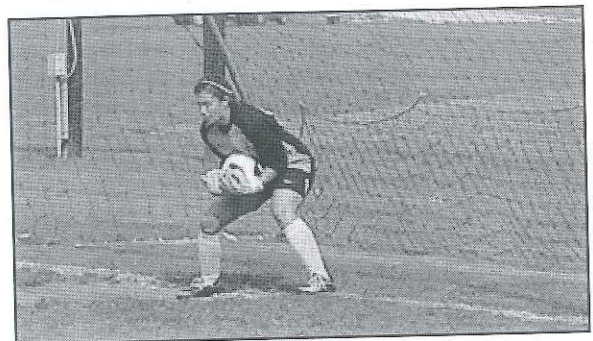
balanced since freshman year. Juggling sport after sport and school all together, it's just a routine in her life. Going to school, going to practice after school, then home to do homework are how her schedule is every day. She keeps her grades up and knows that school comes before sports. She is 18th in her class of 212 students. She is also on the all A/B honor roll.

Spay does not know exactly how many non-practice days she's had in high school, but she usually takes two to three days off between each sport.

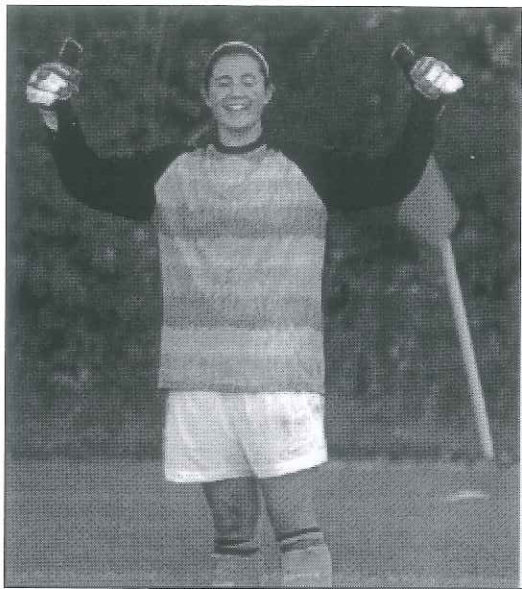
Friends are another way Spay stays grounded. Most of her close friends are soccer, basketball, or softball players.

Alicia Farmer and Chloe Templin both have played basketball and been friends with Spay since elementary school. Farmer and Spay have played basketball and softball at the Delta Girls Softball Association for a long time now. Templin and Spay only play basketball together. Farmer and Templin both agreed that playing the same sports with her has made their friendship stronger.

"When you spend that much time together you form a stronger friendship on and off the court," Farmer said.



Kasin Spay blocks an attempted goal.



Kasin Spay gives a victory "Thumbs-Up."

Both agreed that Spay possesses qualities that make her a great player on and off the court such as having a positive attitude, a good work ethic, and being an all-around good athlete.

Farmer and Templin both plan to stay in contact with Spay even after high school. They plan to call and hang out when they aren't busy.

For Spay, looking at NCAA Division 1 colleges plays a big role on her grades. D-1 colleges can give full scholarships for one to play, but if one fails to make the grades, they won't receive a scholarship.

"If you aren't performing in the classroom, then you won't be performing on the court," said Spay.

Since this is her last year at Delta, she feels like she has more responsibility. Being a senior means she has to be more of a leader on the field and on the court. Spay also helps out the underclassmen players. But, being a senior also has perks. You get more respect from teachers and coaches.

Besides playing sports and being a senior, Spay also is in National Honor Society (NHS), Student Council and she volunteers at Delta Girls Softball

Association (DGSA). On Tuesday and Thursday she volunteers with the Adult Fitness program for NHS. For Student Council, she helped out with homecoming and she helps with the canned food drives. Both NHS and Student Council do a lot of volunteer work.

Spay has volunteered at DGSA for a few years now. She became involved because she's played softball there for 10 years and her mom is on the board.

For college, she has been looking at Earlham College, Franklin College, Manchester College, and Trine University. She plans to study business, and all of the basketball teams are pretty average.

She plans to study business finance and accounting


since she likes to deal with numbers. She plans to receive a scholarship from a school for basketball, but since she would like to play D-3 the basketball program cannot offer scholarships for sports. She can receive a scholarship for academics.

She is looking to go to school somewhere away from Muncie because she wants to get the full college experience.

Although, she doesn't want to go to another state for college she wants to stay close to home.

"I'm going to enjoy it because it goes by fast, so I've heard," Spay said.

In college, she said she will continue her great work ethic, strive for better grades and keep up her motivation. She's also going to take some life lessons and stories her parents and friends have given her. She said she plans to work hard at all she does because it eventually will pay off, but she will always still be her carefree self.



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Setting herself up for success

By Reed Borgmann

You're a freshman in high school starting on the varsity volleyball team at a school that's in the Indiana Class 3A State Championship. You walk onto the court in Ball State's Worthen Arena feeling the butterflies trying to fly out of your stomach. You know you have to play your best to compete and have a chance to win.

You are playing setter, a position fairly new to you after playing outside hitter most of your life. However, you have been practicing day and night to be the best setter in the nation, and thanks to all that preparation you do your part in helping your team win the state championship.

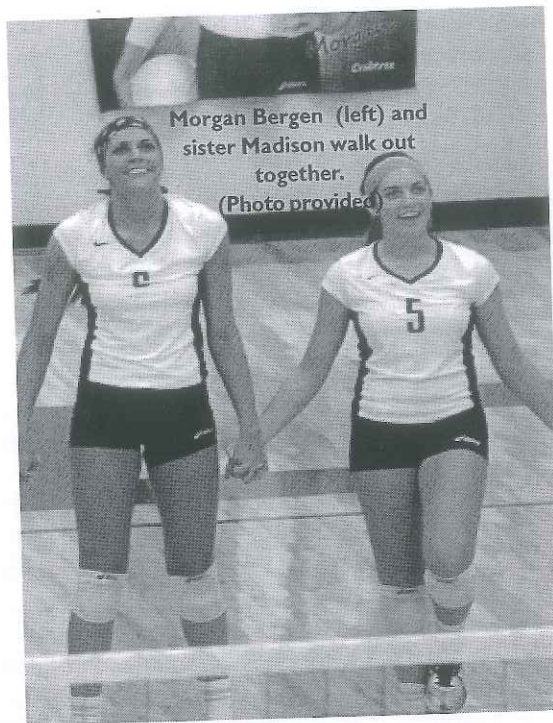
After the game you can't stop jumping up and down out of excitement! You know you have just reached a milestone in your career as a volleyball player.

You know you will never forget this feeling and don't think it can get better than this, but it can. Morgan Bergren went to Orlando, Fla., two years later (last summer), and won the national club volleyball championship with the Munciana Samurai 18-under team.

Morgan was named MVP of the game. Her coach Mike Lingenfelter said she was the most improved player on the team. It's easy to see how Bergren was the most improved player on the team when she had played outside hitter most of her volleyball career. Bergren said, "I would go in (the Munciana facilities) for passing, hitting and private lessons on top of three-hour practices four times a week," Bergren said, recalling the time she put into becoming a top-notch setter.

"Mike, my coach, would tell me it's a marathon, not a sprint. I just had to take it day by day, and that's just what I did."

If there is any question about Morgan's skill set, the fact that she committed to Kentucky when she was a sophomore in high school



ought to lay it to rest.

Craig Skinner a Muncie native who is now the head coach of the Kentucky women's volleyball started watching her when she was 13 said, "There was no doubt in my mind from that time on that she could be a special college player. I can't wait to coach her."

At Kentucky, Morgan will have to compete with junior Christine Hartman and sophomore Elizabeth Koberstein for the starting setters spot.

"All of our players have an opportunity to play.... She will have a chance to compete with our current setters and make us better," Skinner said of Bergren.

How could Kentucky snatch a player on the rise so quickly? "They really didn't have to do any persuading. I was in love with everything about UK on my very first college visit

my freshman year," Bergren said

Hard work goes into getting recruited by a major university, but you also need to be found by the recruiters. One place did that for her exceptionally well. "Munciana is the reason I got recruited," Bergren said. "Because of high school and college season happening at the same time, it is hard for college coaches to recruit high school events. Players only get looks if the play club, and I am fortunate enough to play for one of the best."

Interestingly enough, UK didn't quite have Morgan right away. They had to compete with Michigan State University.

"A lot of my family lives in Michigan, and it would have been fun to play in front of them, but they didn't offer

pharmacy. Since MSU offered me first I think I was more thrilled with the fact that somebody big-time wanted me, more than me actually wanting to attend there," she said.

Since Kentucky has the fifth best pharmacy school in the nation and the eighteenth best volleyball program in the nation, and let's not forget about the love of horses Morgan shares with Kentucky, it's easy to see how she feels like she belongs there.

Now after she has signed with Kentucky it would be hard to believe just four years ago she was a freshman preparing for state championship.

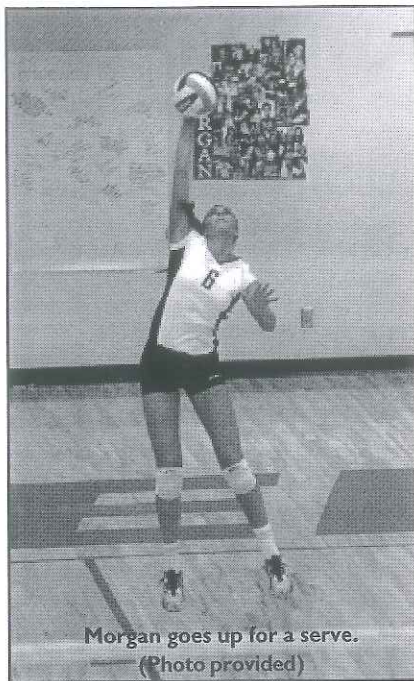
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Morgan goes up for a serve.
(Photo provided)

UK coach expects Bergren to become 'special player'

By Jordan Keppler

Morgan Bergren started playing volleyball when she was just six years old, but it took more than just starting out at a young age to get to where she is today.

Bergren has played on many Munciana teams. She normally practices between 16 and 26 hours a week. Morgan said she doesn't have a lot of time outside of playing volleyball and homework, but when she does have some free time she typically sleeps, hangs out with friends and family or rides her horse.

Morgan said playing so often almost burnt her out. "My 15 and 16 years old team I was not knowing if it's what I wanted to do the rest of my life," Bergren said, but now she couldn't imagine giving up volleyball.

"Where she is now skill wise, to where she started four years ago, is like night and day. She has put in so much time and work to get

to where she is now," says Madison Bergren, her sophomore sister.

The University of Kentucky has had its eye on Bergren since she was just a sophomore in high school. Two years later, she signed that piece of paper committing to attend and play volleyball for Kentucky.

What caused Kentucky to take interest in Morgan when she was so young was

"Her talents. She has been an extremely talented player for years," said Craig Skinner volleyball coach of Kentucky, "I'm originally from Muncie and started watching her when she was thirteen. There was no doubt in my mind from that she could be a special college player. I can't wait to coach her."

Morgan had to work hard to make the varsity volleyball team her freshman year. She said she had to push herself her freshman year because she had always been a hitter, but when she made varsity she was told she was going to be a setter.

"We have recruited her as a setter the whole time. We didn't even watch her as an attacker. Morgan has huge ceiling as a setter and we are excited to see her development at this level. She will be a great player for us," said coach of Kentucky Craig Skinner.

Morgan and Madison both played on varsity together this past season. Morgan said it was awesome to play with her sister, and that they both get along great. Morgan does admit that she pushes Madison more than she does other players, but that's only because she wants her to be the best. Madison loved playing with her older sister because she

looks up to her so much. Both Bergrens agree that playing together has made their relationship stronger.

Madison said, "She's always giving me tips and telling me what I'm doing wrong and how I can fix it."

Coach Heidi Zickgraf said Morgan's flexibility as a player is what made her a Delta standout. "Her ability to kind of change and adapt to different situations," Zickgraf said. She has had to play several different positions here and she has an ability to change and adapt easily."

Madison said, "Her determination to be great, how much she loves the game, the amount of time she puts into it, her drive, and her attitude" is what makes her a good player.

Morgan has already begun setting goals for herself when she plays at Kentucky next fall.

"She knows she's going on to college and she wants to be competitive when she goes on," says coach Zickgraf.

"Morgan will do amazing playing college ball. She's the most determined person I know," said Madison.

Even though Morgan's high school volleyball experience has come to an end, it is just another chapter in her volleyball career.



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Mann of Honor

Ozzie provided leadership on and off the field

By Adam Brown
and Matt Hinds

Every coach's dream is to have an athlete who is a proven leader on and off the field. The Delta Eagles football team had the pleasure of having one of those athletes on their team in 6-foot-3, 220-pound quarterback Ozzie Mann.

It seemed like ever since Ozzie was born he was destined to be a standout. Ozzie's father, Reece Mann, played quarterback at Franklin College so Ozzie had a pretty good mentor growing up.

Ozzie grew up within walking distance of Blackford County High School. He grew up playing quarterback and linebacker. As he got older people started to notice that he was more than the average quarterback.

"Growing up all I did was eat, sleep and breathe football," Mann said.

Ozzie's father Reece has had a major impact on Ozzie's football career but an even bigger impact on his academics.

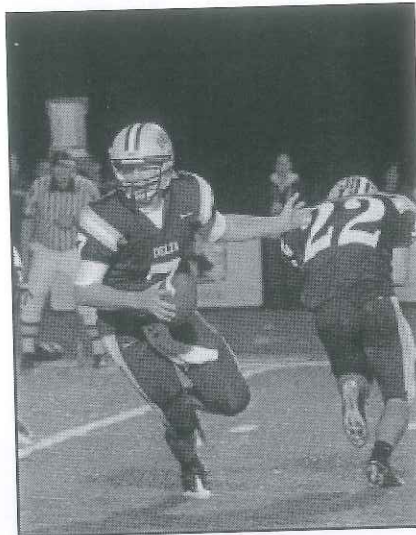
While at Franklin College, Reece Mann was a standout quarterback. Reece threw for 8,511 yards which was the school record for many years. He once threw seven touchdowns against St. Joseph's College and in one game he threw a school record 534 yards against rival Earlham College.

Once it got close to Ozzie's freshman year, he transferred from Blackford to Delta. Ozzie knew it would be hard leaving his friends but he realized that Delta was the best place for him to learn and grow as a player and a student.

But grades aren't the only important thing when it comes to being an elite athlete - it takes a lot of hard work year round.

"Being an athlete doesn't mean you can just show up and play. There is a lot of work in the offseason," head coach Grant Zgunda said.

Ozzie said that during the



Ozzie Mann fakes a handoff to Landon Lambert. (Photo provided)

offseason he puts in hundreds of hours of work whether he's playing pass with his sister, Zoe, or lifting weights. He and his father have gone to many quarterback camps throughout Ozzie's teenage years.

"My dad really has helped me a lot, but I have to say my sister has helped me as much if not more. My sister is always ready to go out in the yard and throw with me and that has helped a lot," Mann said.

Ozzie puts in countless hours off the field, and it is apparent when he steps on it.

"Ozzie's work ethic really shows on the field," Zgunda said. "Every time I see him on the field he is trying to improve his game any way he can."

Each year in high school, Ozzie has been handed a brand new corps of wide receivers. In his sophomore year, his main target was Logan Young, now an Indiana University player. In his junior year, his top receivers were Aaron Fry and Garrett Zgunda. They were replaced with players like Jake Greenberg, Jalen Robinson and Ryan Bickford for this past year.

Even though Ozzie had less experienced receivers this year he still had a 63.4 completion percentage to go along with 1,556 yards passing and 16 touchdowns while throwing just three interceptions. He also rushed for nearly 400 yards and 6 touchdowns.

During his career at Delta he was named all-conference his sophomore, junior and senior year.

"It's a big honor being named all-conference," Mann said. "But if it wasn't for my brothers on the field, I wouldn't ever had the chance to be all-conference."

Although he is very modest, it is undeniable how talented Ozzie really is.

"Ozzie is very similar to many of the quarterbacks we have had in the past, but he has those little things that really set him apart from the rest," quarterback coach Terry Faust said.

Ozzie said he will miss playing with his friends and the tradition of Delta football. As a starter, Ozzie was 29-7 in the last three years.

Ozzie is also a leader off the field. He has tried to set a good example for other student-athletes.

Coach Rob Jones said, "He has really been a good role model to the players. He has helped my son Cade mature as a quarterback. Ozzie is a huge competitor but still keeps the team loose with his humor."

Teammate and good friend Landon Lambert said, "Ozzie is a big goof ball; he always knows how to make someone laugh."

After high school Ozzie plans to attend Ball State University on a full athletic scholarship. Ozzie also received interest from Western Kentucky, Bowling Green, Toledo and Michigan State.

"I really like the Ball State staff and the way the offense is run," Mann said, "and being close to home also plays a huge factor in me choosing Ball State. I can call my parents and see them within a half an hour compared to go out of state where I wouldn't be able to see them."

While at Ball State, Ozzie plans to major in elementary education and hopes to one day be either a high school or college football coach.

"I just want to help kids and be a positive influence on them," Mann said. "I have learned a lot from playing football. I have had the privilege to meet some amazing people," Mann said. "It's a far stretch for the NFL, but that would be really nice."

Barrels of Fun

By Kiera Helm

As you sit ready to bust out of the gate, all you can think of is doing your best and having fun. As you tighten your grip on the reins and the gate flies open, your horse gallops out so you can begin.

Wind is whipping past you quickly and furiously as you skillfully round barrel after barrel. After rounding the last one you speed back into the gate.

Grace Hollars, freshman, has been barrel racing and pole bending for as long as she can remember. On Oct. 4, Grace had the chance she has been waiting for to travel to Wilmington, Ohio for the International Barrel Racing Association (IBRA) Nationals.

Grace said her horse was trained more for pole bending than for barrel racing and she has done quite well at pole bending. She placed 10th in state in her division and also finished 10th in the national event.

In pole bending the rider skillfully weaves her horse through six poles trying to get the fastest time.

A great time for pole bending would be 19 seconds, but for barrel racing the best times depend on how close the barrels are placed together at each event.

Angie Naaman, freshman, competes in a lesser known area of horse competitions called dressage. Rather than racing her horse around barrels or poles to get the fastest time, Angie competes in a world of elegance, precision and grace.

Angie has been competing for four years and loves dressage. In dressage, there are judges who watches as you do tests, saluting

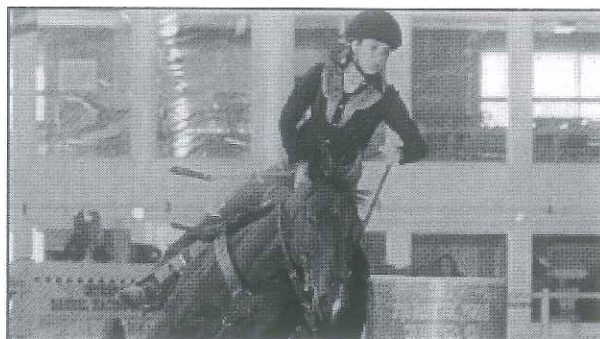
and other tricks, then judges score you, with a 60 being perfect.

"I am able to go to a different atmosphere with the horse to show what we have learned and what skills we have developed. It is also fun," Angie said about competing.

Both types of competition take a great deal of skill and practice. Grace said that when the horse is out of shape, they practice every day, but if the horse is in shape they practice every other day for about an hour.

In practice, Grace and her horse work together on trotting and patterns to be able to get better times. Because Grace goes to competitions year round, they always need to work on bettering their abilities and chances to win.

Angie doesn't compete as much as Grace because of conflicting sports, but she still practices two to three times during the week when possible. Rather than working on trotting and patterns like Grace, Angie and her horse need to



Freshman Grace Hollars speeds through barrels at Nationals. (Photo provided)

work on being prepared for their saluting and tests when it is show season. When it isn't show season, Angie and her horse work on fundamentals and becoming more advanced.

Practice isn't the only thing that comes with the sport. Horse competitions aren't like football or basketball because the equipment isn't a ball, a bat, or a pair of sneakers. It involves a living creature that you must take care of.

Grace loves her horses and said, "You treat them like a baby and just pamper them."

Just like equipment gets broken, the horses can get sick and you have to know how to take proper care of your horse. Before Nationals, Grace found out that her horse was very sick and almost died because it was choking, which forced her to take another horse to Nationals.

Both Grace and Angie compete in two completely different areas, but both of them learn the same things: responsibility, hard work and how to keep your head up. Every day they are put in a position where they can be trampled or thrown off.

Grace said, "If you fall off you just always have to get back on."



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Angie Naaman rides tall in a horse show.

(Photo provided)

Cream of the Crop

Two of the best athletes in Delta history, Greg Heban and Chanda Stebbins, reflect on their opinions on athletics and share the events of their lives since high school

By Seth Neal

Delta has a long history of loving its sports. Basketball, football, wrestling, baseball, tennis, volleyball – all sports that Delta supporters have enjoyed watching at the state finals over the five decades of the high school's existence. The greatest of the Delta athletes became household names in their times – names like 2008 graduate Greg Heban and 1992 graduate Chanda Stebbins.

These two athletes are arguably Delta's all-time best male and female athletes. The term "athlete" does not mean accomplishments or state championships. If so, an athlete who was all-state in three sports might be in the place of Heban.

Instead, an "athlete" is defined as a person trained or gifted in exercises or contests involving physical ability, stamina or strength. In other words, the very best athletes are ones who are strong, durable, fast, explosive and agile.

Heban and Stebbins have been determined as the two people in Delta history who fit

this definition best. Both have been three-sport athletes in high school and also involved in college athletics.

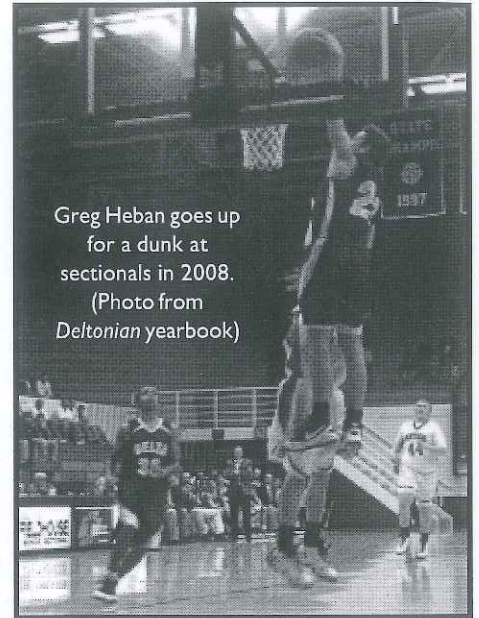
Heban, now studying exercise science at Indiana University, played three years of varsity football, basketball and baseball at Delta, and now starts as a cornerback for the IU football team.

He went to IU and walked on to the baseball team. The baseball team had an intramural flag football team, and their coach was the quarterback. They eventually won the championship, and his coach told him that he might try walking on to the football team.

He set up a meeting with former IU head coach Bill Lynch to try to walk on in the fall of 2010.

"He agreed to let me try to walk on, and from there I just worked my way up the ladder by coming to work every practice," Heban said. "Once you get an opportunity to impress the coaches, you have to take full advantage of it."

And he has certainly taken full advantage of it so far.



Greg Heban goes up for a dunk at sectionals in 2008. (Photo from *Deltonian* yearbook)

To focus on playing football, he dropped baseball. After his short amount of time on the roster, he quickly "worked up the ladder" to the starting cornerback spot. He's quickly becoming one of the leaders of the IU football team, which is one of his goals.

"In high school, not many people want to step up and be 'the leader' of the team, but leadership goes a long way for a team," he said. "I feel that having a successful leader directly relates to



Chanda Stebbins coaches her Santa Fe College team in Gainesville.

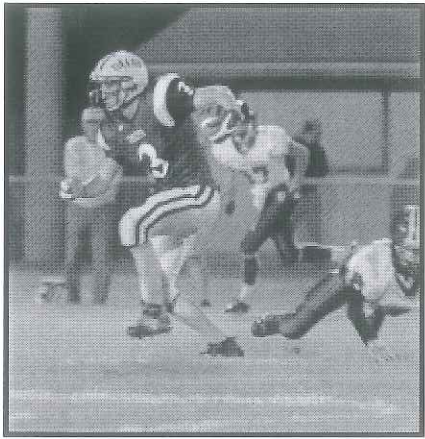
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Greg Heban runs the ball. (Photo from *Deltonian* yearbook)

how that team plays together and their success."

Because he said he doesn't feel like he stepped up as a leader in high school, he has another chance to make up for that by being a leader for his IU team.

Stebbins played four years of volleyball, basketball and tennis at Delta, and also played four years of varsity volleyball and basketball at the University of Florida.

The Florida Gators are a highly competitive college team in every sport in the Southeastern Conference (SEC). Being a varsity player for the Gators (or basically any major NCAA college) in two sports is extremely rare and screams athleticism.

"As a Gator, there was just something special about competing for the University of Florida," Stebbins said. "We always had a target on our back, and everyone always envied us."

While at Florida, she was in two Final Fours for volleyball, an Elite Eight appearance for basketball (with a last-second loss to Old Dominion) and four straight SEC season and tournament championships for volleyball.

She thinks that being an athlete in high school and college helps throughout the remainder of one's life.

"The pressures you face as an athlete really prepare you for the real world well," Stebbins

explained. "I also think the skills you develop in working within a team like communication, compromise, selflessness and work ethic are solid building blocks for athletes to become successful in whatever their chosen career field is."

Her health is another factor that has been affected by her natural athletic ability.

"Sports helped me to stay active and healthy," she said. "When you are raised involved in sports, you have an innate desire to be physically active as you grow older, and this has served me very well."

Stebbins is now the head coach for the women's basketball team at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Fla. She has been coaching there for nine years with a 134-120 record. Her team has won the Mid-Florida Conference for three straight seasons and made the junior college state tournament for five straight seasons.

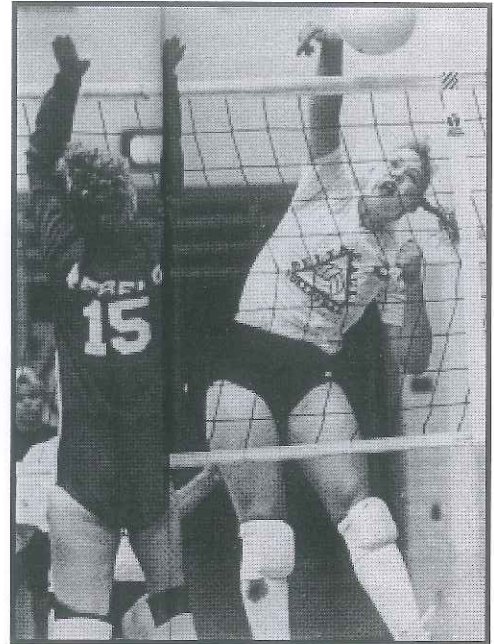
Both Heban and Stebbins agree that being a multi-sport athlete in high school helps one's athleticism and also helps for specializing in one sport in college.

"As I recruit today, I always look for players who still play more than one sport," Stebbins said. "I think playing two or three sports before college and specializing in college is very valuable, and I wish more kids did

it today."

While Heban was a multi-sport athlete in high school, he thinks that focusing on football has helped him in college.

"I feel that once I came to college and focused solely on one sport," he explained, "I was able to fully maximize my ability into one thing and take that coaching to my advantage."



Chanda Stebbins hammers the ball. (Photo from *Deltonian*)

Heban and Stebbins are prime examples of a pure athlete. One that completes the checklist: strong, fast, durable, explosive and agile.

Because these two athletes complete this checklist, they are arguably the best that have ever come through Delta High School.

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Opinion: Writing prompt isn't as bad as you think

Essay writing is a necessary skill that is required in most college essays and in all levels of schooling after high school. This skill should be taught to students at the high school level to prepare them for higher learning.

This chain of reasoning is what brought about the quarterly essay prompts given out during the SRT periods. Students need to learn how to write better essays and most students have an SRT. It seems reasonable, but why is it so difficult to get students on board with this?

The reasons are three-fold. First, the prompts are hit-and-miss. Of the two prompts that have been distributed so far, only one of them has directly related to all students. Students only care to write about, well, things they care about.

Which would sound more exciting to you, a brand new restaurant to open up within the school to offer a variety of food choices to students and faculty, or the standardized curriculum evaluations of differentiated learning approaches in regards to end-of-course assessment in the areas of algebra and English?

Secondly, there is little incentive to do well or work at improving the essays because the grades do not matter. It is difficult to evaluate your progress if there are no comments or marks on your paper. The scores that are received are reported on the grade card, but have no weight in the GPA. No matter if you score a six (perfect) or zero, your GPA will remain untouched by this grade.

Finally, students do not want to spend time they see as wasted in a class that is made for them. SRT stands for Student Resource Time, so it should be used as such. Students would rather spend time working on a project or getting help from a teacher for a class

that is actually incorporated into the GPA.

Suggestions to Students:

As unpopular as it may be, essay writing is a necessary evil in this level of education. So to increase the comfort with this process, we offer these ideas;



Write your own prompt. The PL221 committee helps to plan these writing prompts. They meet periodically to discuss changes to education to help students at Delta. The committee is made up of students, parents, teachers and administrators. Write a prompt you think would be interesting to students and submit it to the administration. If they like it and think it is interesting, they might even use it in the next quarterly writing assessment. Just make sure it is something that applies to all the students and is interesting.

Create your own reward. Many people don't take the essay prompts seriously because the score doesn't affect your grades, but the truth is it can be influential in how you succeed in any class where writing is involved. Start taking this score seriously, and if the number on your

report card is not incentive enough, create your own reward system. For instance, if you get a five instead of your normal three, you could reward yourself with a big cookie at lunch or something to convince yourself it is a positive thing.

Time spent writing is not time wasted. SRT is Student Resource

Time and should be used as such. Two SRT periods every quarter to improve your writing for life seems like a fair trade off to us. Remember that this is only four times a semester and only two periods of which are writing. Your

writing will get better if you use the system in place to evaluate and improve your weaknesses.

Suggestions to Administration:

Let's figure out a way to not only evaluate the scores on students' papers, but to offer critique on how to improve. This will help students improve their writing and make the implemented system work.

Take a look at student suggestions for writing prompts. If these were to become more interesting to students (a good example is the "restaurant in cafeteria" model) they would increase in productivity.

This editorial is the opinion of the Eagle's Eye magazine editorial staff. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of Delta High School.

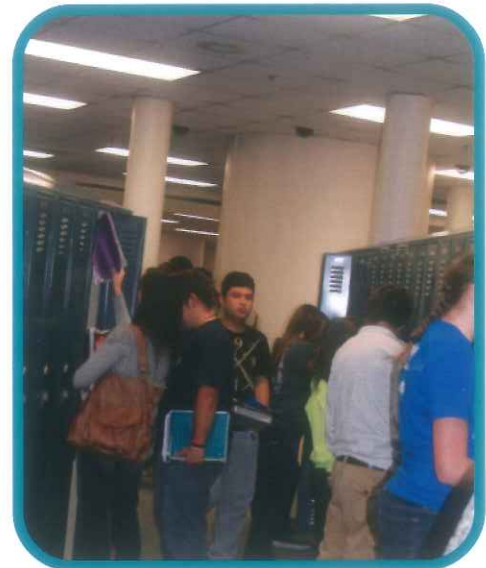


Life of Students in the Hallways

Photos by Marissa Elam



Ben Fitzwater and Nate Bolka goof around and hold hands.



Students get their supplies for class.



Above: Students on the way to class during passing period

Right: Ola Kjaer and Byron Ruiz talk during passing period



Students on their way back to class after lunch.

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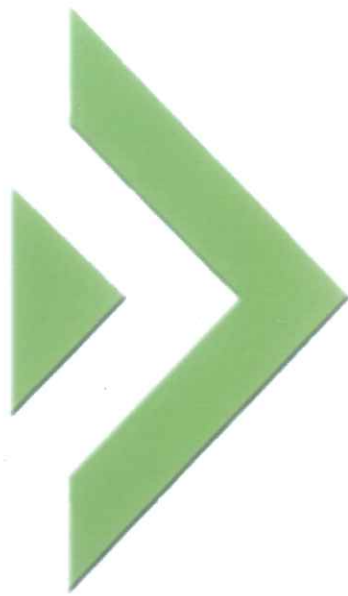
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