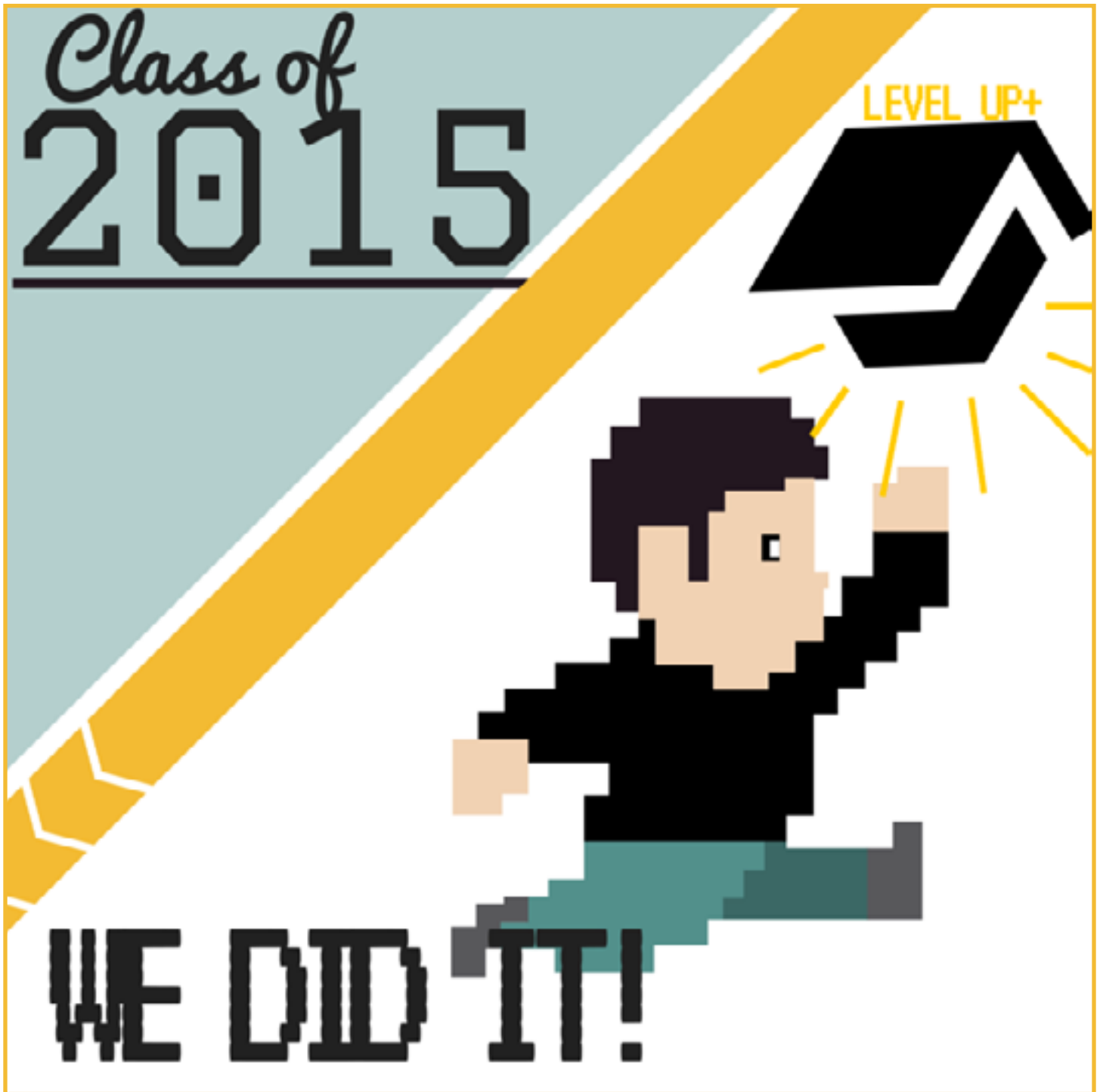


The Bagpiper

June 11, 2015

Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

Volume 6, Issue 6



FAREWELL
ALLEN & WICHMANN

Colophon

The Bagpiper

2014-2015 Staff:
Editor-In-Chief: Ruby Falciani
Editors: Katie Ophus, Emma Sheldon & Isaac Stokoe
Staff Writers: Hanna Hansen, Neanna Hansen, Arieanna Hoisington, Haley James, Joella King, Hannah Storro, Grace Tesch, Kori Thurman & Kelly Wright
Adviser: Ms. Pia Longinotti

Our Equipment: 3 Dell Computers, 30 Dell Laptops, Nikon D3200 & Canon SX160 IS cameras, Rico h6501 scanner/printer
Our Software: Adobe InDesign CS6; Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & Fireworks CS3; Picasa 3; & Microsoft Word 2010
Our Publisher: Freeman School District
Our Fonts: Adobe Garamond Pro, Arial, & Bernard MT Condensed
Our Cover Art: Designed by Emma Sheldon using canva.com
Our Newspaper: Volume 6 of The Bagpiper had 6 issues printed in newsmagazine format on 11x17 white copy paper.
Our Mission: To bring the Freeman School District the stories of the community.
Our Awards: Senior Emma Sheldon was awarded first place in Photo Illustration & Senior Ruby Falciani was a finalist for Student Journalist of the Year in the Youth Journalism International's 2015 Excellence in Journalism Awards.
Our Special Thanks: To the staff who supported our need to interview during 5th period. To the coaches and advisors who submitted articles, pictures and information to the staff. To the editors who volunteered countless hours to layout each issue. To **Mr. Jim Straw, Dr. Randy Russell & Mr. Todd Reed** for supporting the paper's cost and equipment needs. To the photographers who shared pictures of events our small staff couldn't attend, especially **Mrs. Janet Crosby, Mr. Rick Schultz** and **The Freeman Yearbook staff**. To our adviser, **Ms. Pia Longinotti**, for the countless hours she's spent discussing, proof reading, printing and encouraging our learning.



State budget puts pressure on schools to accommodate for lost wages

By Ruby Falciani
Editor

Government cuts aren't something that is unheard of, but they are something that should be examined and talked about. These cuts make a drastic influence in everyone's lives, even if it doesn't seem like it.

Washington State's cuts, in this case, are pointed towards education. Not just the lives of the children in school, but the people responsible for shaping the minds of the future generations are being negatively affected by Washington State's budget for schools.

These cuts and lack of funding are causing mass protests that are emphazi ng how far the govern-ment's disregard for education has gone. Last May, teachers around the Spokane area staged a walk-out to protest the small budget and their unfair pay.

Government spending is out of control and hopefully enormous issues like teacher pay and public school budgets will finally be given the attention and care they deserve.

"Any cuts that happen at the federal or state level have an impact on us," Superintendent Dr. Randy Russell said. "There is a trickle-down effect. When cuts are made at the state level, school districts are asked to do more with less. Over the past 6 years, we have been asked to do more and more and more with less. It affects the kids, staff, and parents as well. It can also be an opportunity because you have to look at what you're doing and see what you can provide."

According to the Washington Education Association (WEA), "the average Washington classroom teacher has lost almost \$247,000 in salary over the last 35 years due to salaries not keeping up with inflation," and that "Washington's average teacher salary lags thousands behind top-ranked states."

WEA also stated that the average classroom teacher's salary would be almost

\$19,000 more in 2014-2015 if the state budget had included the voter approved Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) over the past 35 years. As if that's not bad enough, the average Wash. classroom teacher salary rank dropped from 5th to 23rd place in the nation.

"Teachers in Freeman have had no Cost-of-Living Allowance in the past 6 years," Russell said. "Inflation at 3 percent a year, and insurance can fluctuate from a 7% to 12% increase per year. By not having a COLA, you're not able to offset the cost of insurance and medical coverage. Most teachers are paying out-of-pocket to get supplies and to help their students out. It is having a real effect on

whether students in college right now are going to go into education, which has an impact on teacher shortages. There is a lot of pressure on school districts to get creative in ways of helping offset the lost wages."

The WEA also says that Washington's average class sizes are one of the highest in the nation, and that if Washington were to match the national average, the state would need to hire an additional 11,960 teachers. Because Washington ranks 45th out of the 50 states in the pupil-teacher ratio, there are several disadvantages to the absence of nearly 12,000 teachers in the school system.

According to the WEA, disadvantages of having large classes include the facts that reducing class sizes in the early grades improves learning in all subject areas, especially for children living in poverty. Also, students who are in small classes in the early elementary grades are significantly more likely to graduate from high school.

Additionally, reducing class sizes can improve classroom behavior and give students more individualized attention. When less time is spent on discipline issues, teachers can spend more time on instruction.

Until the state government can come

Continued on Page 3

“We will never be able to tell the community how much we care for and appreciate them even if we told them every day,” Russell said. “Our community is always willing to help out.”

New ASB officers have big plans next year

By Katie Ophus
Editor

April 3, Freeman elected its new Associated Student Body (ASB) Officers. The senior officers elected were President Peyton Smetana, Vice-President Jack Paukert, Secretary Sebastian Hyta, Treasurer Avery Oja, Historian Megan Paternoster, and Spirit Commissioner Noah Schmick.

All of these students are involved in AP classes, National Honor Society, as well as participate in activities, clubs and sports.

Smetana is a two-sport student, who participates in APEX, a weight lifting program, while also in FBLA.

Paukert is a three-sport student participating in football, basketball and baseball. He also is in Conservation Club.

Hyta is also a three-sport student, participating in football, wrestling and baseball, as well as being involved in Conservation Club.

Oja plays basketball and softball and is a member of FBLA and

Conservation Club.

"I'm really looking forward to the leadership role I will be playing throughout the school," Oja said. "We are seniors next year, and we want to show our senior leadership in a good way to set examples for the other kids."

These students will all make great leaders and set great standard for the years to come.

"We are going to make sure we can keep up with the spirit already at the school and encourage even more," Paukert said.

The officers' plans to encourage more school spirit is to get students to come to games and wear more spirit gear. As well as increase the spirit, they also want to keep the culture of Freeman the same and better.

"We want to keep up the loving culture and tradition Freeman already has," Paukert said. "It's important that we stay close-knit like a family."



Photo by Katie Ophus

The ASB officers showing off their humorous side with a selfie stick after being sworn in.

State budget will have profound effect on FSD

Continued from page 2

to a conclusion on the issues of not enough money being put into public schools, there is not much that can be done other than doing the absolute best we can with the situation we are given. Although things are tight in the budget, there is always faith in our community. And Russell has not let these cuts affect how close-knit the community is.

"Thankfully our community values education and they have approved the 2015 levy," Russell said. "Because of that support, we are able to offer more to the kids. We will never be able to tell the community how much we care for and appreciate them even if we told them every day. Our community is always willing to help out."



Photo courtesy of Freeman yearbook

Congratulations class of 2015! Thanks for four years of great moments and firsts.

Freeman gets new bleachers

By Kelly Wright
Staff Writer

Freeman has been working on installing new, expanded bleachers for spectators at Kent Smith Memorial Field. The new bleachers will have a maximum capacity of 750 people, much larger than the prior maximum capacity of 440.

The operation, which includes preparation, the concrete pad, the bleacher unit, and installation, will cost a total of \$125,000, and will take about 6 months to complete.

Construction began in February and the new bleacher unit is expected to be fully installed by Mid-July.

And as most of you can figure out, there were some problems with the old bleachers that caused this project to happen.

For starters, the old bleachers were at a ripe old age of 25. Second, the bleachers did not meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities



Photo courtesy of Randy Russell

Garco Construction finished laying the new bleacher cement pad on June 2.

The project also required a bit of funding. Money for the project has come from multiple sources including School District Capital Projects, donations from the FES, FMS, and FHS ASB. The district also held a Facility Fund-raiser breakfast on June 4 at the high school, with a goal of \$50,000 in mind. As of June 9, over \$40, 000 has been raised for the project

People are also excited about the new bleachers, with football head coach Jim Wood saying “the bleachers will give a place for everyone to sit, rather than people sitting all over the place.”, and when asked about what kind of impact the new bleachers will have at track meets, Track coach John Hays was quoted as saying “if they’re big enough they can provide storage for the hurdles” and “it will be nice to have bigger bleachers and have an opportunity to host the district meet.”



Photo courtesy of Randy Russell

Seniors face tough choice when looking at future

By JoElla King
Staff writer

Now that we are heading towards the end of another wonderful school year, our seniors are preparing themselves in different ways for their future. The upcoming graduating class of 2014-2015 is making some tough choices, such as choosing whether or not they want to go to college.

Every senior has a different plan for their future, whether that includes staying close to home, going away for college, or not going to college at all. Each one of the 79 seniors had their own unique and different answers.

Most of the class of 2105 is planning on attending college next year, including Spokane area schools such as the Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington,

Whitworth and Gonzaga.

“It’s okay to be close to home,” senior Grady Arnen said of his choice of Gonzaga University.

Others, though, enjoyed the thought of going out on their own and exploring other states.

“I want to expand on the social aspect of what college represents,” senior Devin Pavlishak said.

Of course each one of our amazing Scot-ties is going to be studying and aiming towards different things in college. For example, Ben Mitchell plans on going to Grand Canyon University to study Pre-Law, while Addy Clark is planning on attending BYU for a music degree,

“I plan to go abroad and teach music to poverty children,” Clark explained.

Those two aren’t the only young adults with goals for themselves; Brayden Aller is attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee to study Civil Engineering.

Not every one of our seniors is going straight to college after high school because each person has their own plans.

“I want to see multiple parts of the world before college,” Devin Douglas said.

A few seniors are planning on entering the armed forces after graduating

“I want to get more mature and gain money for my college tuition,” Markus Goldbach said.

Our seniors have worked hard the past 4 years and now there hard work is paying off, good luck in the future seniors!

A trip for the history books

By Isaac Stokoe
Editor

On April 21, the Freeman’s Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) class embarked upon a legendary trip to McMinnville, Oregon and then to Tacoma, Washington. The seven hour road trip crossed state lines and opened the minds of 11 inquisitive students to the wonders of our nation’s mechanical and technical advancements throughout history.

So why McMinnville, you ask? For the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum. It is home to the legendary Spruce Goose, a wooden plane used during WWII that is the largest plane ever constructed.

The museum is also famous for its other exhibits, featuring other famous planes and war relics, along with a converted 747 airplane on top of a building used as a water-park.

The park also offers an IMAX screen featuring movies like Living in the Age of Air-planes and Lewis and Clark . Providing hours of awe-inspiring exhibits and even an interactive area for the kids, the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum is worth checking out for anyone that is interested in a plane the size of a football field.

The museum was “an awesome experience that I would definitely relive,” senior Brayden Aller said. “My favorite part had to be seeing the size of the Spruce Goose. It’s amazing!”

The next stop was The LeMay Car Museum in Tacoma. Built in June 2012, the museum holds over one million dollars of classic, race, and odd cars.

The museum was split into different sections such as British classics and classic trucks. The museum also had a gift shop and a new top floor café where visitors could eat good food and look down on the beautifully polished cars beneath them.

“The trip was awesome and I actually learned a lot,” senior Matthew Gilbertson said. “My favorite part of the trip was the Le-May. I wanted all the cars!”

History teacher Kenny Davis has certainly upped the ante when it came to school field trips this year and made his APUSH students leave with smiles on their faces.



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

The Spirit of St. Louis was flown by “Lucky Lindy.”



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

Another beautiful car on display.



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

These old plane engines could be the size of a man!



Photo By Isaac Stokoe

A Chevelle on one of the lowest levels.



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

One of the personal planes donated to the museum.



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

An old Ford in the section devoted to old Ford Trucks



Photo by Isaac Stokoe

A gorgeous MG in the british section of the musuem.

Wichmann leaves for job closer to home

By **Hannah Storro**
Staff Writer

Drama and band teacher Carol Wichmann is known for her outgoing and caring attitude. She always has a smile on her face making every sad day a better day. So it's sad to hear that she will be leaving us next year to teach in Colville, but we will always remember her.

Freshman Haylee Storro said kids in her class love her for "her energetic spirit." Students worked hard in her class to make music for band concerts and in drama to prepare plays. All of it would be hard to do at the same time,

but Wichmann was able to do it on time.

Band concerts were always done nicely and the music prepared was beautiful. When a new song was up next to be played, Wichmann would talk about

what piece it was and a little fact about it. In class, students were learning new things everyday about music and their instruments. Wichmann took her students to EWU for a field trip, to see jazz performances which

were fun for the whole group.

Drama performances take a lot of work to put together with all the props and makeup. Wichmann took on the challenge of a drama teacher and was a great one. She worked hard to get everything prepared and helped kids to study there scripts. Getting the props ready are hard to do, but the most recent play Phantom was a success because of Wichmann's hard work and her class too.

On behalf of Freeman's students, we will miss you. We hope you enjoyed your years here at Freeman and that you will have fun teaching at your new school.



Wichmann heads to Colville HS next year, her first time living at home in 9 years.

Allen heads to new adventure with smallest Scotties

By **Haley James**
Staff Writer

Our high school Physical Science and Algebra 1 teacher, Mike Allen, will be leaving his current teaching positions at the high school next year to become a physical education teacher at Freeman elementary School.

"He always is telling jokes, and that was my favorite thing about having him as a teacher," freshman Summer Warwick explained. "Tests are very, very important in his class, but all in all he is a pretty easy going teacher."

Many of the students had nothing, but wonderful things to say.

"Mr. Allen taught me that you should always do your work no matter if there was a reward or grade," Warwick said.

Allen has many good qualities, and characteristics as a teacher and as a person. He is very helpful at Freeman; he is always helping out and coaching multiple sports.

"I think that one of the most important

lessons that I learned from Mr. Allen was to never give up, especially when you are given a second chance," freshman Annalisa Stewart said.

Many students agreed Allen was a very funny guy, always joking around, and making students laugh.

Freshmen Ailsa Hansen and Odie Landoe decided the most fun thing about having Allen as a teacher was his sassiness and his amazing ability to argue.

"I will miss Mr. Allen's smile and his laugh most," freshman Brandon Iris said.

Principal Jim Straw had many great things to say about Allen.

"Mr. Allen is constantly crunching numbers; he's always trying to solve problems, and make things better," Straw said. "Mr. Allen is a doer. He is always helping out, he serves on committees, and is always working hard and helping the school out."



Photo by Haley James

Allen will ride his saddle in the HS for the final time Friday before heading to new FES PE position.

Ken Speiring
Art Teacher

On Thursday, June 4 at the Arts Awards Ceremony, we inducted 23 new members into the Freeman Chapter of the National Art Honor Society. This organization exists to honor those students who have a passion for their own creativity as well as who work to further the awareness within the Freeman community of the value of education in Art. We've been involved in many activities, including a holiday card printmaking marathon in December that served as a fundraiser. Benefiting from that fundraiser were eight students who were able to go on our trip to Seattle in the middle of March to take in all the museums, music venues, meals and the sights of Seattle that could be packed into four days.



Photo courtesy of Ken Speiring

Members of the National Art Honor Society had some fun with statuary during their March trip to Seattle.



Photo courtesy of Scott Moore

The yearbook class gets all dressed up on Decades Day during Spirit Week.



Photo courtesy of Scott Moore

FBLA had a little fun between events at FBLA State in Spokane.



Photo courtesy Scott Moore

Seniors Josie Schultz, Miranda Atwood, and Casey Christiansen celebrate after their last home softball game with their coach Scott Moore

Choir, small but mighty

By Danette Garcia

Choir Teacher

The HS Choir was small but mighty! They performed in 4 concerts, sang the National Anthem at a football game, entertained shoppers at River Park Square in December and received a Superior rating at the choir festival in March. It has been a very enjoyable year.



Photo courtesy of Danette Garcia

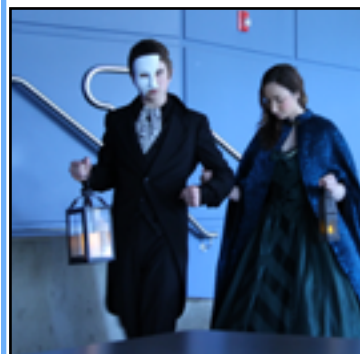
The Freeman choir celebrating the completion of their last concert on June 1.

Bands 2014-2015 season



Freeman's band has had a busy year, including playing at sporting events and participating in an African drum concert.

Drama takes on *Phantom*



Photos courtesy of Janet Crosby

The final play that the drama class put on, *Phantom of the Opera*, left the audience breathless with the excellent acting. Senior Shenoa Rush played Christine, junior Brady Sousa played Raoul, and freshman Sam Voves played the phantom.

The Mathletes great season

By Garold Steed

Mathletes Coach

The Freeman Mathletes have had a great year of competition.

At the WSMC Regional Competition in Ritzville, Freeman finished 1st in the Team Problem Division 2 (Bethany Williams, Alma Longhurst and Trent Smith), 1st Place Topical Team Division 2 (Moriah Longhurst and Nathan Longhurst), and 2nd Place Topical Team Division 2 (Bethany Williams, Alma Longhurst and Trent Smith).

In the Knowdown competition Moriah Longhurst placed 1st, Nathan Longhurst placed 3rd, and alma Longhurst was named an alternate.



Photo courtesy of Garold Steed

Nathan and Moriah Longhurst after winning first place on the topical team.

Knowledge Bowl finishes 2nd in regionals, 5th in state

By John Hays

Advisor

Knowledge bowl is an academic competition in the format of the old College Bowl in which 3 teams of 4 students from different schools compete against each other using electronic timing bars. There are four 50 question oral rounds and a 50 question written test. Questions in both formats range across

the spectrum of academia from

Questions about Picasso paintings to Calculus questions.

This years Knowledge Bowl team had a great season. They finished undefeated in the league play, and went on to finish 2nd in the Regional against all other 1A teams and fourth overall among 80 teams of all divisions. At the state meet finished with the 5th place trophy.



Photo courtesy of John Hays

The knowledge bowl team showing off their trophies at the end of the season



Photo courtesy of John Hays

The Conservation Club gets ready to clean up along Highway 27.

Conservation Club's busy year

By John Hays

Advisor

The Freeman Conservation Club had a very busy year. We started the year out with three backpacking trips. One in September took us into the Selkirk Mountains near the border of Canada. The second two (in October) had us traveling to the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana and the Cabinets of Montana. We had a little snow fall on us during our final trip. The club also was involved in six community service projects this year including cleaning up 2 miles of Highway 27, planting 80 trees on Rock Creek and helping to water and maintain the riparian area near Valleyford Park. The club also took a fall 30 mile bicycle trip along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene. We had lunch and ice cream in Harrison, Idaho. During the winter months, we took three day hikes, two in which we summited Mt. Spokane and Mt. Kit Carson. Another winter activity involved an overnight backpacking trip in Liberty Lake Park. We have two backpacking trips planned for June. We hope you will join us!

Baseball finishes 4th in State



The baseball team after fishing their last game in Yakima against Cashmere, placing them fourth in the state. In the center, senior Jake Phipps holding the trophy.

By Chad Ripke
Baseball Coach

The baseball team just wrapped up their 2nd consecutive league championship, finishing 13-1 in league and currently are 18-4 overall, ranked 4th in the state. The baseball team also won the

district championship played this past weekend here at Freeman. Nine players made the 1st or 2nd team All League Teams. Preston Hoppman (OF), Derek Smith (UTL), and Jack Paukert (C) made 2nd team all league, Jake Phipps (P), Ian Johnston (1B), JT Neely (2B), Desmond Parisotto (OF), Isaiah Crane (UTL), and McKabe Cottrell was named the Most Valuable Player of the NEA League.

Wrestling #1 in state

By Chad Ripke
Wrestling Coach

The wrestling team wrapped up there tremendous year by winning their 3rd consecutive league title in a row, 3rd district title in a row, 2nd regional title in a row, 2nd academic state championship in a row, and their 1st ever State Team Championship. The team qualified 15 wrestlers for the state tournament, with 12 of them bringing home medals. Logan Holt, JJ Iltz, and Jesse Schmidlkofer did not place, Hunter Nees and Bram Schweiger were 8th place, Derek Trumble was 7th place, Preston Hoppman and Konner Forshag were 6th, Isaiah Crane and Noah Vetter and Billy Sims and Peyton Smetana were 4th, Teigan Glidewell was 3rd, Sebastian Hyta was 2nd and Markus Goldbach was a State Champion.



Photo courtesy of Chad Ripke
The wrestlers celebrate their first state championship.

Volleyball works for state finish

By Anna Gallagher
Volleyball Team Member

This season was full of ups and downs. After losing to Lakeside, we had to bond together and train to be able to come back to win the league title. Through extremely enthusiastic home games, getting the win other school's home courts, and a 7th place State finish, we learned that the quote on the back of our shirts is extremely true... "Team work does make the dream work."



Photo courtesy of Rick Schultz
Players Erinn Waite, Josie Schultz, Rachel Arnzen, Emily Dearman, and Addy Clark celebrate a great season.

Basketball grows throughout the year

By
Marty Jesset
Basketball Coach

The 2014-15 Scottie boys basketball team showed tremendous growth throughout the season. The varsity lacked size but made up for that with great effort, ball handling, shooting and defensive tenacity. The Scottie varsity started the season with two one-point wins over Kellogg and Cheney, but then fell into a slump losing six games in a row. The boys did not lose heart, continuing to work hard and improve in practice. The varsity won 11 of their last 16 games, the highlight being a 52-47 home victory over league champion, Lakeside in front of a packed house for the Golden Garment. In the play offs the Scotties beat Newport in overtime, lost a close one to Lakeside, eliminated Medical Lake (avenging two earlier losses to the Cardinals during the regular season), and then was nudged out by Riverside in a winner to state game. The Scotties were led by co-captains Nate Jacobus, Jake Phipps and Jack Paukert. Three members of the team made the all league team: senior Jake Phipps (1st Team), sophomore Ryan Maine (2nd Team), and Jack Paukert (Honorable Mention). The varsity returns nine members and three starters, and add youth from the JV. The JV was young (seven freshman and one sophomore) and very successful going 19-1, 14-0 in league play. Many players show potential to be contributing varsity members for several years. Finally, the C squad had a highly successful season as several inexperienced players came together to go 16-2. Great job by all!!

Scotties earn first bowling victory

By Danielle Troup
Bowling Coach

Through a partnership with Unified Sports and Special Olympics, the Learning Center Scotties earned a bowling victory over the four other schools competing in the tournament.



Photo courtesy of Danielle Troup
The Unified Bowling team consisted of freshman Trevor Cecil, juniors Adam D'Auria Daniel Foss, junior Braden Stejer, and sophomores Mark Bondarenko, Gideon Martin and Jake Nickerson. Danielle Troup coached the new team.

The exciting 2015 tennis season Staying Positive

By Cathy Lee
Tennis Coach

The 2015 Freeman Tennis season was definitely exciting. We watched as our 9 seniors helped teach our new freshmen players not only about the game, but what it means to play tennis for FHS. Our sophomores and juniors have continued to advance their gameplay, and will be instrumental in continuing the Freeman Tennis tradition for the next two years – helping to ensure the ideals of comradery, sportsmanship, and positivity remain the lifeblood of our program. Our kids fought *hard* to overcome some daunting odds this season, as we only had two courts to accommodate 32 players. There were many split practices and 6 AM sessions, but the entire team took it all in stride and made the most of it. We had to travel for every match this season, and would like to thank Horizon Middle School and the generous people at the Spokane Racquet Club for letting us use their facilities for home matches. Keeping the team unified was difficult this season, as we were rarely able to all be together, but it was made possible by the kids' spirit, and the help of my two assistant coaches, Barb Mitchell and Jenna Lee. That being said, it is obvious that no season is ever the same, as the kids grow older and new ones flood in, but we cherish every one. Every season is an opportunity to see growth in play and friendships being made, and for me, nothing is more noteworthy than that.



Avengers: Age of Ultron uses 141 minutes to sadden it's minority fans

By Ruby Falciani
Editor

Sequel to the *Avengers* (2012), *Avengers: Age of Ultron* was not as awful as it could have been. Making about \$191.3 million the opening weekend, which is admittedly smaller than the first *Avengers* which raised \$207.4 million, *Age of Ultron* does not deserve the praise it is getting. Quite frankly, writer and director Joss Whedon really dropped the ball on this one.

The plot line seems far better than the hour and a half action in the last movie, but it is still a half-baked idea. Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), came across a Hydra program that he later turned into a supercomputer named Ultron. This supercomputer came to life and went far past the boundaries Stark was expecting and, hilariously enough, searched the entire internet and thus decided to end the human race. Orphaned twin Hydra experiments Wanda (Elizabeth Olsen) and Pietro Maximoff (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), also known as The Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver in the X-Men franchise, had sided with Ultron up until exposing his plan to destroy the human race. When Ultron stole the stone from Loki's scepter, he had tried to use it for more power by putting both the stone, and his own mind into a body. However, Stark and Bruce Banner/Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) were able to transform this potentially devastating creature into a life-form of the stone called Vision who knew that Ultron's plan was not the best for humanity. The new set of Avengers had to battle against the most powerful entity together.

The first time watching this movie, it is easy to get swept up in the animation and comedy; however, after taking a closer look, it is quite disappointing to be affiliated with the Marvel Universe.

First of all, it seems as if Whedon went into this movie with total disregard for how several characters

should have been portrayed. In the beginning of the movie, Wanda and Pietro Maximoff are Hydra's experiments (they were changed from being mutants in the original comics due to Fox having rights to the mutants and X-Men movies), but the movie makes them seem like Nazi sympathizers due to volunteering to be experimented on by a neo-Nazi organization. This is a pretty false representation of both characters seeing as they are Romani and Jewish. The casting of Wanda and Pietro caused uproar with fans because it completely destroyed the ability for fans to finally have a minority to look up to. Casting blonde, blue-eyed, white people for the part of a half-Jewish/half Romani set of twins is just one of the many mistakes made in this movie.



Twins Wanda (Elizabeth Olsen) and Pietro (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) Maximoff try to remove civilians from the battlefield.

Another blatant form of disrespect to the idea that a woman can actually function without a man is one of Whedon's ways he completely ruined the potential of this film. As seen in the first movie, there was a connection between Natasha Romanoff/Widow (Scarlett Johansson), and Clint Barton/Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner). This tease purposefully placed in order to include at

least some romance in the first film has been shut down for *Age of Ultron*, making Clint and Natasha's relationship strictly platonic. However, as if he couldn't leave well enough alone, Whedon put Black Widow in yet another man-bound character plot. This could have been executed properly if Whedon had maybe read the comics at one point in life and known that the options for her love interests would have been either Matt Murdock/Daredevil, or Bucky Barnes/The Winter Soldier, because both of those characters now exists in the Marvel Universe. But of course, Whedon did not care what would work for the storyline and made a random romance between her and Banner. Not only was Black Widow's character forced to have a romantic interest at all times, but they had the audacity to claim that her inability to bare children is what makes her a monster! As if a woman's only worth lies in her womb.

In the scene where the Avengers gather around Thor's (Chris Hemsworth) hammer to try to pick it up to see if they are worthy, Tony Stark's line was changed from the trailers in order to fit in a disgusting and sadistic joke. Originally, Tony Stark vowed that if he could lift the hammer, he would then rule Asgard and said "I will be fair but firmly cruel." However, in the movie shown in theaters he says "I will be

(Continued on page 13)



Avengers: Age of Ultron was released Thursday, April 23.

Superhero sequel proves to be a dissapointment

(Continued from page 12)

reinstating prima nocta," which is the right of a lord to insist on sex with any bride under his rule on her wedding night. Basically Iron Man said that if he were to rule Asgard, he would legally be allowed to rape women on their wedding nights. What compelled Whedon to be so misogynistic and completely unsympathetic to women that he actually went as far to insinuate that rape is okay if its law? It is almost like Whedon felt this movie wasn't horrible enough, has even taken it upon himself to throw in a rape joke. Earth to Whedon: rape is not a joke! It never has and it never will!

As if ruining Iron Man's personality and Black Widow's worth wasn't bad enough, Whedon had to drag Captain America/Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) into the mix. One of the Wanda's powers is her ability to force her victims to see their worst fears and thus disarm them for a short period of time, and cause a long term effect on their psyche. When applying this power, she made Captain America remember a time before the war, specifically his dance with Peggy Carter, his lost love from the *Captain America: The First Avenger* (2011). However, this lost dance seems far too immature for a war vet to have a fear of, seeing as his best friend in the universe was lost to him after Hydra created an anti-Captain America. There was no mention or image of Bucky Barnes, code name The

Winter Soldier, in this fear-dream. It was only a crowd of people, some soldiers tending to other soldiers wounds, and Peggy talking about their dance. This reduces Captain America's storyline with Bucky almost as badly as it ruined Black Widow's character. There is no need for a character's fear to be based on his or her ability to love. It should be based on how he or she feels about themselves. Much like the movie had portrayed Iron Man.

There are a few things that were justified in this film. The way they used Iron Man's fear as the basis of the movie helped shaped

Ultron's personality so that Wanda could better understand both Iron Man and Ultron by tapping into their heads. One other thing that greatly amps up the game for *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* was the screen time and multiple lines other Avengers were not permitted in the first movie.

The Hulk was given far more time as Bruce Banner rather than the green monster that smashes enemies. The way Ruffalo played Bruce Banner was extraordinary and the way he and Downey Jr. act together make their friendship as the 'science bros' far more entertaining. The peek into Banner's emotions made there be more appreciation for his character and the fact that he is more than the guy that can survive a firing squad and demolish a flying jet in

three seconds.

By far the greatest gift of 2015 is that Hawkeye get far more screen time in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. Not only did he have ten times the lines than the first movie, but the movie outright said the Avengers would fall apart without him. The most iconic line from Hawkeye was "The city is flying and we're fighting an army of robots. And I have a bow and arrow. Nothing makes sense," after giving a pep talk to Wanda Maximoff to help her overcome the guilt of how she felt responsible for the battle, and helping her make

the decision of becoming an Avenger.

Much like Hawkeye's surprising amount of screen time, Black Widow was also given more lines and time on screen. There was a deeper insight into her personality, but that was quickly ruined by Whedon's input.

Overall, this movie was pretty disappointing. If Whedon had gone into this movie with more care about how important those details about race, romantic involvement, and character development were, this movie would have been a full five out of five stars. Unfortunately for all the darker skinned fans who were excited to be represented through the Maximoff twins and the younger viewers who look up to Black Widow, they will have to wait even longer for there to be a decent movie that doesn't cover up important issues with a random romance and paler races. If Whedon continues with this tactic the world might actually see *Iron Man 8* before we ever get a stand-alone Black Widow movie.



Photo courtesy of Marvel.com
Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) had a much bigger part of this movie which thrilled fans.



Photo courtesy of IMDb.com
This is a still of Captian America (Chris Evans) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) after a battle with a Hydra.

Sparks back with *The Longest Ride*

By Kori Thurman
Staff Writer

The Longest Ride is a film based on the novel written by Nicholas Sparks. It is a romantic love story about two young people in love that have paths that are tearing them in separate directions.

Bull riding champ Luke (Scott Eastwood) and art enthusiast Sophia (Britt Robinson) are deeply in love, but their future paths conflict to tear them apart. Sophia wants to move to New York to explore the art major, and Luke wants to get back into the profession of bull riding. As Luke and Sophia try to come to a conclusion about what they are going to do about their romantic challenges, they come upon an old man named Ira (Alan Alda). His long-lost romance with his wife helped them decide their fate.

The Longest Ride was not like Spark's other adaptations such as *The Notebook* or *A Walk to Remember*. *The Longest Ride* was not as interesting and was very dry. I was surprised by my disappointment for the film based on what I was expecting, which was the tear-jerking, heartfelt romantic movie that's Sparks' trademark. Unfortunately, it is way too flat to generate the interest and excitement that this storyline could potentially have.

This movie was still good as far as the storyline goes. The only thing that was very disappointing to me was the acting. This is because it was almost cheesy and mostly predictable.

"I kind of liked this movie. It wasn't terrible, but I think it was directed more towards girls," said freshman Hunter Nees.

Part of this story that was very surpris-

ing was the ending, but of course, I can't give that away. Other parts that I really enjoy were mostly the parts with Luke and Sophia is incredible and real. Ira and his wife Ruth (Oona Chaplin) had an amazing relationship before she passed away. Their difficult

times and most wonderful times really have a positive effect on the relationship that Luke and Sophia are building.

I also really liked how the movie wasn't about just one single love story; it was about two romances between two different couples that find themselves intertwining together. It made it more interesting.

Lastly, I really enjoyed how Ira, Ruth, Luke, and Sophia show us the way to enduring, sacrificial love as well.

Although the film overall didn't live up to its excitement before it started playing in theatres, it did have a good plot. The storyline was just as good as any other Nicholas Sparks film has been, and the acting was what made it so raw.

I would rate this film a 6.5 out of ten stars because it was very predictable. If you want to watch it, I would recommend it to people that enjoy love stories and are hopeless romantics.



Luke (Scott Eastwood) and Sophia (Britt Robinson) help Ira after a tragic car accident.

Quotes from *The Longest Ride*

"How about we just see where life takes us for a while?"

"Do not worry about tomorrow until you have to."

"Trust people, until they give you a reason not to. And then never turn your back"

"I know I'm not going to be able to change the world, but I think it's important to try to make a difference"

"In other words, our opinions and our thoughts and feelings, anything we experience, need not define us forever."

"You don't know how strong something is until you actually test it."

"In other words, our opinions and our thoughts and feelings, anything we experience, need not define us forever."

Fast and Furious Seven: a movie to see

By Hanna Hansen
Staff Writer

Furious Seven, the seventh in the series of *Fast and Furious* directed by James Wan, is an amazing two-hour, action-packed movie. It is by far the best movie in the *Fast and Furious* franchise. This series has had the same actors and crew throughout the whole thing, which takes massive time and dedication. You could almost call the cast a family because of how much work and dedication they

put towards each other. Not very long ago, one of the cast members, Paul Walker, who plays Brian O'Connor (the undercover cop who made an outlaw gang of street racers with his partner Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel)) passed away in a car accident during the time *Furious Seven* as being filmed. This was a devastating time for the crew members.

"What they did at the end of the movie in remembrance of Paul Walker was my favorite part of the movie." Senior Jake Hansen added.

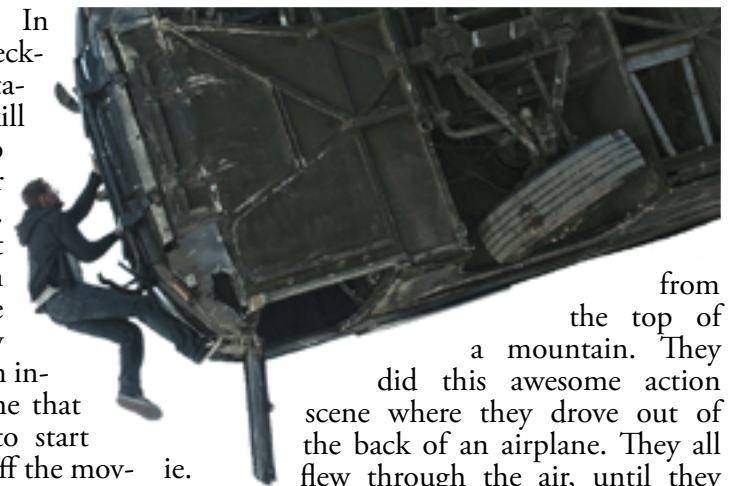
Walker's brothers (Caleb and Cody) volunteered their time to act in the remaining scenes of the movie that Walker was supposed to be in to finish the movie. The scenes that they were in was when Mia and Brian are talking in the garage, when the bus is dangling over the cliff and Brian falls down and gets back up, Brian is getting the device from the car and Dom crashes the car from one building to another, and lastly when they are standing on the Bridge in Los Angeles and discussing their next

course of action. In *Furious Seven*, Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) wants to kill the people who killed his brother in the 6th movie. He's getting a list of the team from Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson). Shaw and Hobbs have an intense fighting scene that ends in disaster to start

off the movie. Shaw took the device and captured a hacker named Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel) and Dom and Brian were sent on a mission to go find Ramsey to get the device back. After a series of intense fighting scenes, and events, they find Ramsey and the device.

The acting in this movie is by far the best out of the *Furious Seven* franchise. The action scenes look so real and you just don't want to take your eye off the movie.

The acting in the scene where Dom and Brian drove through the building to another building was unbelievable. Hobbs is in the hospital for most of the movie, which I didn't like. Dom and Brian were asked to rescue Ramsey



from the top of a mountain. They did this awesome action scene where they drove out of the back of an airplane. They all flew through the air, until they got close to ground, then they had parachutes to land and complete their mission. That was probably my favorite part of the movie.

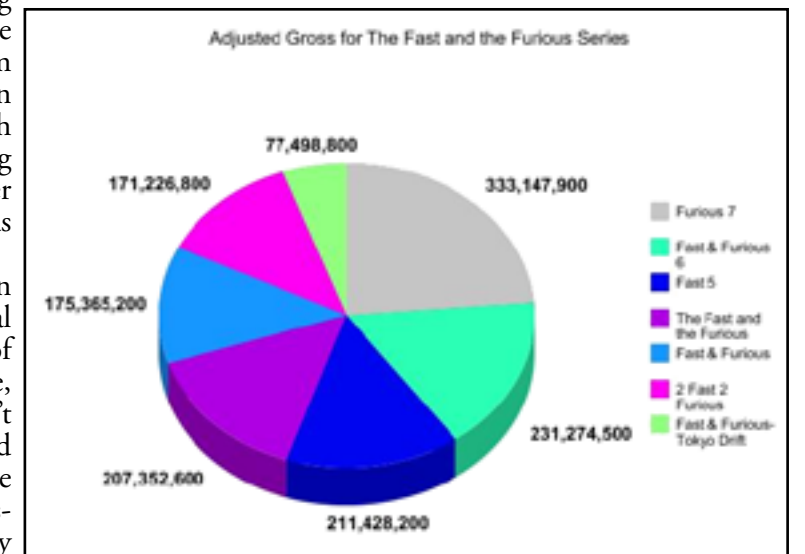
"My favorite part of the movie was when Dom and Brian drove through the building and drove into the other one. It was really cool," freshman Keegan Cottrell said.

"What they did at the end of the movie in remembrance of Paul Walker was my favorite part of the movie. It was interesting to see what all the crew has been through together with him, and how it shows how much they appreciate and miss him," senior Jake Hansen added.

I think this movie is good for any ages because it is a good family movie, and there isn't very much bad language at all.



Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) pulls out the big guns to take down a helicopter.



BLEACHER FUNDRAISER

Sponsorships

PREMIER SPONSORSHIP *Freeman School District*

PLATINUM

ALSC Architects
Freeman High School
Elementary/Middle School
Associated Student Body
GARCO
Northwest Farm Credit Services
Construction-Rockford Lions Club

GOLD

Clear Risk Solutions
D. A. Davidson
Foster Pepper
Gilbert Family
Avista

SILVER & BRONZE

VEBA
Geo Engineers
Leo's Photography

Live Auction Items Auctioneer – Brad Southard

2 tickets to any Gonzaga Men's Basketball Game
Mike White - Parker Toyota
2 Rounds of Golf at Circling Raven GC
Tom Davidson - Circling Raven GC
Fire Pit and Adirondack Chairs
Justin Paine - Walker Construction
4 Front Row Seats to 2015 Freeman HS Graduation
Jim Straw - Freeman HS
2 Rounds of Golf at Coeur d'Alene Resort - June 19
Steve Lelfer - Kimmel Athletic Supply
Generation 4 iPad
Paul Stull - Insights Systems Exchange
Scottie Dawg Basket
Spokane Shock Tickets
Jody Azevedo - Numerica Credit Union

Friends of the Project

Beresford
Centennial Sports & Physical Therapy
Jan Davis - retired Freeman SD Business Manager
EVCO
Food Service of America
PDB Recognition
Chuck Stocker - retired Freeman SD Superintendent

Chester Mining Company ----- Travis Campbell
DCI Engineers ----- Craig Crowley
Event Rents ----- Julie Orenstein
Insight Distributing ----- Luke Pearlstein
Numerica Credit Union ----- Jody Azevedo
Southard's Auction & Estate ---- Brad Southard
Walker Construction ----- Justin Paine
Watson Excavating ----- Scott Watson

Gifts in Kind:

els