



# The Bagpiper

October 13, 2017

Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

Volume 10, Issue 1

## Forever Strahan strong

By Meg Neely  
*Editor-In-Chief*

Sam Strahan—a name that brings so much meaning to the Freeman Community.

Strahan is a hero; a fifteen-year-old, video-game loving, kind-hearted, brave hero.

On September 13, 2017, tragedy struck Freeman High School at 10:08 am. Sam risked his life for the better of all the students on the second floor of the high school building.



Courtesy of Leo's Photography

Although Sam lost his life, he will never be forgotten. He will always be remembered as our hero.

Sam left a legacy- a legacy to be kind to all, to be brave and stand-up for others. We must keep Sam's legacy alive; we must live how Sam did.



Courtesy of Tony Aguillar

Photo above: Sophomore Kelby Cochrane tells us a story of her most memorable time spent with Sophomore Sam Strahan. "Last year, the lunch one day was tomato soup. When Sam sat down at our table and began eating, he realized that he had grabbed a fork...not a spoon. People offered to get him a spoon, but he declined, saying I can make it work." A week later, Cochrane found a quote saying 'Life is soup and I'm a fork.' She found new meaning in the quote and realized no matter how hard life is, she has to make it work.



Courtesy of Katt Parry



Courtesy of Tony Aguillar

Photo above: Sophomore Tony Aguillar, a good friend of Sam, recalls his favorite saying of Strahan's, "Banana Jesus will peel back the lies and reveal the truth." Aguillar left a banana at Sam's memorial remembering the saying.

Photo left: "Sam loved video games," sophomore Katt Parry said. "One day I was at his house, and he was playing Call of Duty 1v1. He kept on winning, and through the headset the guy Sam was playing kept yelling 'Hacker.' After we shared a good laugh about it, it remained an inside joke for us."



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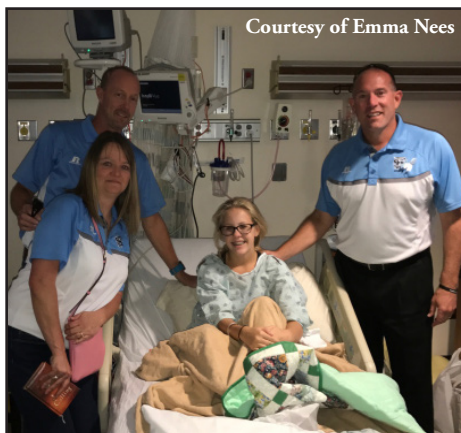
## Support from friends and family helped us heal



Courtesy of Gracie Jensen



Photo by Meg Neely



Courtesy of Emma Nees

Freshmen Jordyn Goldsmith, Gracie Jensen and Emma Nees have recovered from their injuries and have returned to school. Nees has also returned to cheerleading, while Goldsmith and Jensen are cheering on their teammates from the sideline while in rehab.



Courtesy of Jordyn Goldsmith



Courtesy of Jordyn Goldsmith



Courtesy of Emma Nees

**By Meg Neely**  
*Editor-In-Chief*

Support is defined as bearing all or part of the weight of; to hold up.

Freshmen Emma Nees, Jordyn Goldsmith, and Gracie Jensen were held up by the support of their friends and family while they healed after being injured on September 13.

"It got a lot off my mind," Nees said of seeing all the people coming to visit her while she was healing in the hospital and at home.

From all of the support the girls received, they learned how much they are loved.

We need "to cherish life together as one," Goldsmith said of the Freeman community.

Although coming back to school has been a challenge, Freeman is still their home.

"Just because this happened doesn't make Freeman a bad place," Jensen reminded us.

## Freeman community reclaims high school

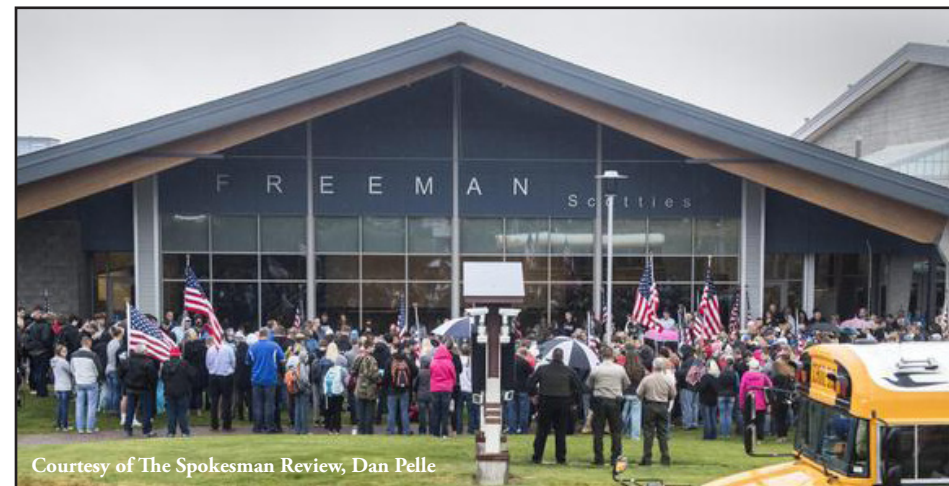
**By Abbie Peters**  
*Staff Writer*

On Wednesday, September 13, 2017, a shooting took place at Freeman High School. This event was an event none thought would ever happen, and it left the community with fear and devastation.

A place where people felt safe and at

home suddenly became a place of fear for the Freeman community. However, the students and staff refused to let it stay that way. Instead, they chose to rise up in strength and love rather than sit in fear and sadness.

Monday, September 17, students, staff and parents returned to school with a tremendous amount of love in their hearts, supported by the greater Freeman community.



Courtesy of The Spokesman Review, Dan Pelle

Students, staff and families joined community members and local pastors to start the first day back with prayers by gathering around the flagpole before entering the building.



Photo by Meg Neely



Courtesy of FHS yearbook



Courtesy of The Spokesman Review, Dan Pelle

Firefighters from Fire District 8 and Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich showed their support as students and families entered the building Oct. 17.

Many of students thought of the first day back as something that came with stress, fear and as something they weren't ready for—as something they weren't strong enough to handle. They walked in and took their school back. They did not cower in fear because of what happened, but stood up with great courage and hope for what is yet to come.

They proved themselves wrong. They were able to do this because they are strong. #Freeman Strong



Photo by Meg Neely



Courtesy of The Spokesman Review, Dan Pelle

Top left: Junior Dylan Passey hugs service dog Skipper, who spent the day with students. Top center: Freshmen Emma Nees and Jordyn Goldsmith surprise the student body, dropping into the Welcome Back assembly to a standing ovation.

Top right: Junior Meg Neely also gets a chance to cuddle with Skipper, who's sporting a Freeman Strong t-shirt.

Bottom left: Freeman students link arms to enter FHS and walk through the upstairs hallways for the first time after the school reopened. They went through a tunnel of staff, parents and volunteers who welcomed them back to the building.



## Freeman sports lead way in returning from tragedy



By Brayden Cordova  
Staff Writer

Many people think sports are just a game, but they are truly more than that.

After tragedy struck Freeman High School, it was very hard on the students and the community. Many thought that it would take a miracle for everybody to come together and support each other. But the September 15 football game found a way to bring the community together.

It was not just a game. It was a game for Sam. Everybody that came out to the game didn't just come to watch the game, they came to show their support for the Freeman family.

Courtesy of Spokesman-Review, Tyler Tjomsland



Photo by Pia Longinotti



Photo by Pia Longinotti



Photo by Pia Longinotti

## Volleyball team plays for Goldsmith and Jensen

By Meg Neely  
Editor-in-chief

"Let's start and end this together," a quote that has brought so much meaning to the Freeman volleyball team.

With two of our own players unable to play with us for the rest of the season, the team has had to come together more than ever. The girls have had to learn to play in different line-ups and positions, but more importantly with a different purpose.

No longer do they only play to win; they play giving 110% effort every time they step on the court for Gracie Jensen, Jordyn Goldsmith and Emma Nees, and in remembrance of Sam Strahan.

Even though they don't get to play with Goldsmith and Jensen, they get to come together as a team to play for them.

With immense support from volleyball teams all around the Spokane-area and from the Freeman community, the volleyball team has been able to continue to strive towards success.



Photos by Paul Okert



Photos by Paul Okert



Photos by Paul Okert

By Kassidy Reilly  
Staff Writer

Freeman soccer is finding its way back to normal. The first game back was tough, but really was more than that.

It was an opportunity for Scottie soccer to get back in the flow of things. They found ways to remember those who were missing as they took the field. The team had Freeman Strong written on their ankles, and had new sweatshirts with the phrase made. Newport gave roses to each member of the team before the game. The team has never been closer.



Courtesy of Kyla Hansen



Photos by Paul Okert



Junior Nolan Doloughan joined the football team's effort to return to normal by competing in the September 15 cross-country meet. His friends and family came to support his efforts on behalf of the school.

By Kassidy Reilly  
Staff Writer

Not long after the shooting, we students went back to our new "normal" lives. Junior Nolan Doloughan, one of our many competitors, spoke about his first race back.

Doloughan thought it was a good idea to get back to the regular flow of things. Before the race, he knew it would be tough because the team had taken 4 days off. So it was a challenge for Doloughan to race right away.

"Even the short time I had it off made a difference," he said. "I was exhausted after the race."

Doloughan chose to run because he thought it was good for his community and his family. He was the only runner for Freeman that day and was surrounded by people questioning and talking to him about the race. But he was sure that if he did his own thing he would be just fine.

Through all the hardships, Doloughan found his remedy in running.



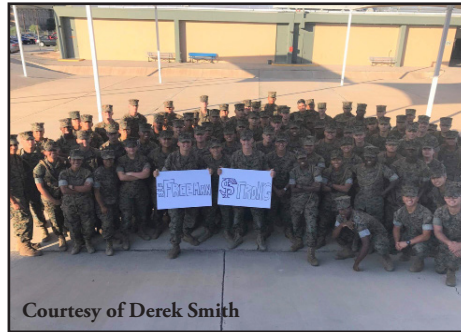
All photos courtesy of Robyn Doloughan







Courtesy of Spokesman-Review, Colin Mulvaney



Courtesy of Derek Smith



Courtesy of Allie Campbell



Courtesy of Chrissy Rasmussen



Courtesy of Emily Mikkelsen

Throughout the last few weeks, the Freeman community has been surrounded by an outpouring of love and well wishes from the Spokane-area and beyond. These small acts of kindness have helped us heal and feel strengthened as we returned to the high school and work to move forward. Thank you to everyone who sent us messages, photos, food, gifts, and prayers. It has meant the world to us!



Courtesy of Hardin Valley Academy



Courtesy of Danielle Troup



Courtesy of Noah Schmick



Courtesy of Spokane Chiefs, Larry Brunt



Courtesy of Jack Paukert



Courtesy of Michelle Riggs



Courtesy of LK Williamson



Courtesy of Jack Paukert



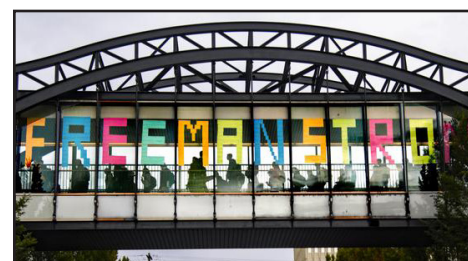
Courtesy of Aaron Hein



Courtesy of Broadway Elementary



Courtesy of Spokesman-Review, Colin Mulvaney



Courtesy of Spokesman-Review, Colin Mulvaney



Courtesy of Samantha Jensen, Hamblen Elementary



Courtesy of Spokesman-Review, Colin Mulvaney



# Schools send messages of support



Photos by Kassidy Reilly and Abbie Peters

# Community coming together at the fair

by Nicole Smith  
Staff writer

After the situation that occurred on September 13, we have come together in many ways as a school and a community. Walking past people at the Rockford Fair, everyone was laughing and having a good time.

During the parade, there were many signs with signatures from students and faculty from other schools, and almost all of the people in the parade had on Freeman Strong shirts. Immediately after the parade, everyone gathered in the park for a moment of silence.

The fire station had decorated a fire truck and windows with encouraging words. There were vendors available to purchase Freeman Strong items with money raised going to the families impacted by the recent events.

In the fair building, there was a display dedicated to sophomore Sam Strahan, our hero that included two photos and white roses.

Going to the fair helped in many ways by showing how much support we had from the community, other Freeman families, and alumni. It's amazing how this tragedy has brought together a community filled with strength, hope, and love. We truly are Freeman Strong.



Photo by Nicole Smith

The community put up gold hearts with victims and people that helped during this past situation. We all appreciate those who helped during this incident and we are forever grateful.



Photo by Nicole Smith

The fair's award-winning flowers displayed with a Freeman Scotties blanket made a nice entrance to the fair barn.



Photo by Nicole Smith

The Freeman band plays together for a crowd of people during the parade.



Photo by Nicole Smith

Families and friends in the fair barn set out white roses and two pictures of Sam Strahan, a hero that will be in our hearts forever.



Photo by Nicole Smith

Some of the Freeman Middle School students gave candy out from their float during the parade. They had nothing but smiles on their faces throughout.



Photo by Nicole Smith

The cheerleaders followed behind the band, rallying the crowd for Freeman.



Photo by Nicole Smith

During the parade, a cart drove past displaying a poster with signatures of friends, families, and students from other schools.



# Students use art to begin healing

By Meg Neely  
Editor-In-Chief

Students have been finding new ways to cope by expressing their feelings through art. Throughout the past month, art teacher Ken Spiering has been allowing both art and non-art students to borrow water colors and painting supplies to express emotions through visual art.

Students have expressed their feelings through both visual art and poetry. Using art mediums has helped students on their path to healing.



Painting by Madi Duarte



Painting by Owen Bryant



Painting by Aleyna Kopytin.



Painting by Ada Cashmere



Painting by Nicole Vernon

**Poem** by Julie McLagan  
(Posted to the Valleyford Community FB page)

Too Young to serve our Country, Too young to drive a car, Too young to pick our leaders and too young to travel far, We thought it was a safe place, a place we go most everyday...not knowing that on this day that terror was on its way.

This day has brought us sorrow. It has taught us to live in fear. We now question all our safe places and even the friends that we held dear.

We mourn for the one departed, for his family and his friends. We mourn for all his dreams and goals and things that might have been. We hurt for those that were injured... and carry guilt that we were spared. I know that it will take a long time for our hearts to be repaired.

Our future has been fractured by just one minute left in time. But we will heal together as we vow to carry on. It won't always be easy facing the days ahead, But I know that we can do it because we are FREEMAN STRONG!!!



Painting by Anna Chisholm



Painting by Riley McCluskie



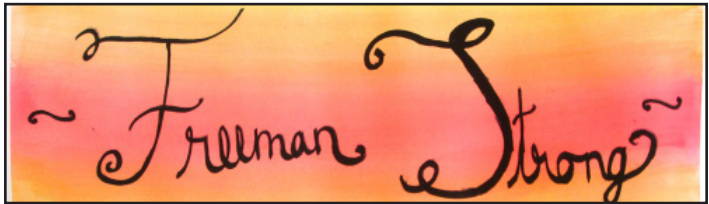
Painting by Isabelle Miller



Painting by Ethan McGill



Painting by Kyle Boyd



Painting by Estelle Carlson



Painting by Janae Mueller



Painting by Garrett Barnes



Painting by Jaycee Goldsmith



Painting by Jake Amend



Painting by Melissa Payton



Painting by Taylor Cobb



# Students share some favorite Freeman memories



Photo by Paul Okert

“Coming to the high school [from the middle school] and finding out we have more freedom, such as being able to sit wherever we want at lunch, like outside,” has been a highlight of freshman Branden Bykerk’s transition to FHS.



Courtesy of Kelly Neely

Head football coach Jim Wood said winning the 2013 football state championship has been a highlight of his career.



Courtesy of FHS yearbook

“Golden Garment Basketball game last year against Lakeside. Hundreds of people wearing gold, even golden pom poms. Fans rushing the court. And a dance off at half-time,” - senior Rhys McVey

by Paul Okert  
Staff Writer

Cheyenne Slack spilling old milk in her locker, causing a funny scene with a strong smell. - freshman Tristan Ruchert

“Nate and Joey were riding the bus after Easter and Joey had some candy. He tried to tell me he had chocolate eggs. To make a long story short, I tried one of the eggs and it was entirely filled with peanut butter. I almost died. The end.” - freshman Nate Schmidtkolfer

“After last year’s 8th grade promo, water 34 degrees, the jumping off bridges, the little puppy, and people getting splashed.” - freshman Nathan McCormick

“Levi singing in Mr. Garner’s closet and scaring the whole class last year.” -freshman Keely Boyd

“Nathan decided to jump on a chair in Mrs. P’s class and ended up breaking it.” - freshman Alyssa Morrison

“We put a hole in the wall in 8th grade. Messing around in the locker room, someone got pushed into the wall.” - senior Dylan Pavlischak

“Basketball fight night. The night after the state championship, we were pretty down, after recuperating we started having pillow fight matches. Coach Pace almost caught us, and there were no complaints from the hotel.” - senior Jackson Clark



Courtesy of Abby Ofenloch

“Coach Wood’s half-time pep talks. When he gets mad his voice gets high; it’s really funny. Also dances, homecoming, prom, those are always fun too,” - senior Desmond Parisotto.