



“15 Days of Giving” a success

By McKenzie Setter
Staff Writer

Every year when the holiday season rolls around

the Freeman School District sets aside 15 days to give food and toys to the North Palouse Food Bank. By giving the food to the North Palouse Food Bank the food and toys will help out those in our community. This year, Freeman students brought in canned food for two weeks, including 20 turkeys during Turkey Tuesday (three more than last year). During the third week, Scotties brought in toys. The high school collected alone

has brought in 1,450 items of food and toys. The class winners for food were Mr. Munstedt's class for the first week, and Mr. Hay's class for the second week. Mrs. O'Connor's class brought in 71 toys making them the winner for toy collection. “Although we didn't do as well as last year, we can't complain with everything that was brought in,” said ASB president Blair Riddle. “I'm glad that Freeman was so giving even with tight budgets.”

Freeman wants to help out those in need during the holiday season. Anyone can help out by dropping food, toys, and/or clothing to the North Palouse Food Bank. There is no such thing as giving too much to a family that needs it.



Picture by Mary Zakheim

ASB President, Blair Riddle, and ASB Secretary, Katie Baure, sort through the dry goods for the food drive.

High School construction looks to finish on-time

By Terin Saylor
Staff Writer

Freeman School District has encountered many unforeseen conditions in the construction of the new high school. These conditions slowed down the initial progress so far.

“Unforeseen conditions –conditions we did

not know existed- included unsuitable soil. Soil that could not handle the weight of the building until it was compacted properly. Vermiculite (old asbestos material) was found in areas we had no idea it existed. The vermiculite had to be removed before we could continue with the demolition,” said Superintendent Sergio Hernandez.

The completion date of the entire project has not changed. Construction workers have already completed the ground footings and the founda-

tion wall installations are underway. The precast columns have been erected and braced.

The district office is still expecting to occupy the entire building by the third week in August, 2010. However, the first phase, which includes the multipurpose room, modernized gym and shower

facilities, choir/band/weight room and shop areas, is behind schedule by 72 days. The students will remain in the portables until that part of the building is ready for occupancy.



Photo Courtesy of Sergio Hernandez



Picture by Misty BeBout

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Award-Winning Author Terry Trueman Visits Freeman

Mary Zakheim
Staff Writer

Carrying with him an aura of energy and wit, young adult author Terry Trueman plopped onto his chair in front of an audience of high school students and said, “You can ask me whatever you want about anything you want.”

That quote embodied the next hour or so with Trueman. He talked about anything and everything; from profanity usage to his chick-magnet car to the manuscripts he has waiting in a New York office.

Did I mention? Terry Trueman is the most famous person you’ve never heard of. He wrote a novel 10 years ago that won the Printz Prize, marking his book, *Stuck in Neutral*, the best young adult book of the year. Since then, he’s written five novels, one other has been nominated for the Printz award, and Trueman was competing for the Margaret A. Edwards Lifetime Achievement Award this year, the author’s equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

There’s a noticeable reason for his success. Facing a half-filled room of teens, an almost 62 year-old man was himself and he connected. He was being real and his realness caught the attention of the young adults in that room as he has since the debut of his meaningfully dark novel.

“One of the best things about writing books is, even when I’m gone, my books will still be on library shelves and being sold,” Trueman said.

Dealing with his resentment towards the world after having to deal with a loved one’s suicide and his son who suffers from cerebral palsy, Trueman converted his anger to his long sought-after love of writing and wrote a best-selling and award-winning book after 52 years of fallen-through jobs and unhappiness.

Trueman is a genuine guy, who incorporates his life’s struggles into his books and through them touches the country. His definitions of words might be different than

most (realness to him means that you use expletives), his views may be unlike the majority, and his personality could be described as blunt and dry, but he’s taken his unusual uniqueness and made a better

life for himself, one that he’s been dreaming about since he was 17 years-old.

In the author’s own words, “So there.”



Photo by Pia Longinotti

Freeman students pose for a picture with Terry Trueman in front of his “chick-magnet” car.

Snow’s coming: tips for safe winter

By: Carlie Dickson
Staff writer

When you drive in the snow and ice, it is best to be prepared for the worst thing possible. Here are some tips that you can do to help you avoid any difficulties.

- Check windshield wiper blades to make sure they work.
- Have a mechanic test your anti-freeze and coolant to pro-

vide the correct level required.

- Make sure your tires are fully inflated. Under inflation can reduce gripping of the tire treads which will not meet with the road.
- Don’t depend on all-season tires. Instead, install snow tires which are made of softer material and have a unique tread design to provide better traction .

- Keep your gas tank at least half-full to help reduce moisture problems within your fuel system. It also adds weight to your vehicle.
- Add a sandbag to provide extra for cars which have rear-wheel drive.
- Scrape the ice and snow from every window and the exterior mirrors, not just a small patch on the windshield,

as well as from the headlights and brake lights to improve visibility.

- Remove snow and ice from your shoes before entering your vehicle. As they melt, moisture builds up, causing the windows to fog on the inside
- You and your passengers should all use safety belts, both lap and shoulder straps. Drive slower and remember that the posted speed limits identify the maximum speed allowed in ideal weather conditions.
- Always drive with your lights on. In fog and heavy snow conditions, low beams may be more effective than high beams.
- Keep your vehicle stocked with simple emergency equipment in case you do get stalled or have an accident. Consider keeping a blanket or extra clothes, candle with matches, snacks, beverages (never alcohol), flares, CB radio, cell phone, a small shovel, a flashlight, a windshield scraper, tow rope, a bag of sand or cat litter for traction, and long jumper cables.

You can get more information by contacting your local AAA. If you follow all or even some of these tips you can make the winter season a lot easier.

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