

THE BURROW

The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

Vol. 5, Issue 3

McLeansboro, Illinois

November/December 2007

Seniors set sail with scholarships



Samantha Russell
The Burrow

When the last of a student's four years of high school is upon them, the main thing on their mind is college. Many students face financial problems with college which is where scholarships come into play. Scholarships are grants of financial aid awarded to a student. New scholarships are available both in the Guidance Office and on the school website under the "Guidance" headline.

Senior English classes are awarding 2 extra credit points per scholarship application, pending the application is typed and turned in by the deadline. This is something that hasn't been available before. Senior Ethan French is taking



Senior Ethan French gets a copy of his transcript for scholarship applications

advantage of the extra credit opportunity. French said, "The only reason I plan on filling out the scholarships is for the extra credit." There is no limit to the amount

of applications a student can submit and negative repercussions if he/she is turned down for the scholarship.

"If you don't apply, you're not going to get it," said Mrs. Lueke, school guidance counselor. "Thousands of dollars are given away every year to students who fill out scholarships."

There are four main things a student generally needs in order to completely fill out a scholarship application: a copy of the student's high school transcript which can be found in the student portfolios in the guidance office, fill out a short form on the application, 1-4 letters of recommendation, which can be provided by teachers, managers, bosses, etc., and a 100-200 word essay explaining themselves, hobbies, extra curricular activities, and future interests.

Sk8 or die!



Libby Cox
The Burrow

Skateboarding is the act of riding on or performing tricks with a skateboard. Often, skateboarding is portrayed through media as an extreme sport. A 2002 report by American Sports Data found there were 12.5 million skateboarders in the world. Eighty-five percent of skateboarders polled, who had used a board in the last year, were under the age of 18, and 74 percent were male.

Skateboarding originated in California during the 1950's. The first term applied to the sport was, "Sidewalk Surfing." The skateboard consisted of a small wooden plank with roller skate wheels attached to the bottom. Ever since the 1970's skateboarding went mainstream, and has been gaining popularity.

Although it is viewed as an extreme sport only attempted by professionals, it has gained popularity in a local way. Here at Hamilton County Senior High, there are students who view skateboarding as a main pastime. Other students, such as sophomore Dylan Mitchell, view skateboarding as a "way of life." Even though skateboarding is not a school oriented sport, it is still a focal point of some students' lives.

Not only is skateboarding used for recreation and fun, it can be used as a means of transportation. Skaters can use their boards to take a trip across town, or just a trip across the neighborhood. "It's a great way to save my gas money," senior Michael Bowers said.

Students at HCSH may see some fellow classmates walking down the hall at 3:02 with skateboard in hand. Other times, people might catch a glimpse of a group, "tearing it up," on the sidewalks around the school. But, sophomore Austan Lasswell said, "It doesn't matter where we are, we are always having fun!"

Hard candy rocks at HCHS



Arissa Vineyard
The Burrow

It's that season again. The time when students crave one thing, hard candy. It's the perfect medication for that aching sweet-tooth. Junior Alec Vineyard said "Hard candy is the bomb digity."

The crunchy and moist taste creates a mellow sensation. Freshmen Sydney Walker said, "Its ok. I mean candy is just plain candy to me. But I am new to high school and I am not sure what this hard candy will taste like."

Mrs. Kinder said she's been making hard candy, "A long time. I started at home over 30 years ago." It was introduced to Hamilton County about 5 years ago. "Students enjoy making this,



it is very popular."

Although hard candy is very good, it takes time and effort to make. With a well organized group it could finish within one class period. Others may need more time. Kinder's classes made the confection, Wednesday Nov.26.

Mrs. Kinder offers choices to make out of the following oils. They made Cinnamon, Cherry, Grape, Watermelon, Strawberry, Orange, and Raspberry. This year the class really enjoyed it. They worked hard, and doubled the recipe.

For some people hard candy, can be a mess to make and especially hard to clean up. It is made with sugar syrup, which means the mess will soak up in water easily. If students listen to tips, clean-up will be easier.

Here's what's cookin'! How to make Hard Christmas Candy:

Ingredients

2 cups of sugar
3/4 cup white syrup
1 cup water
1/2 teaspoon flavoring oil
Desired food coloring

Directions

Cook sugars, syrup and water to hard crack stage on Candy thermometer.

Remove from heat, add oil and food coloring.

Pour into large buttered platter allow to set about 1 minute.

Cover board on cookie sheet with powdered sugars.

Pour candy onto cookie sheet.

Foxes basketball tips off



Michaela Morlan
The Burrow

The scoreboards are being turned back on. Jerseys are brought out and Coach Curt Reed is making new plays for the 07-08 season. Hamilton County Senior High Foxes Varsity boy's basketball season has begun.

The basketball teams will play a total of 30 games this year. The coaches, along with the team, have great intentions of beating their 15-13 record from last year. The season is already off to an excellent start.

The Foxes won their first game



2007-2008 Foxes

against Goreville with a score of 74 to 68.

"It was a great game. We lost a lot of talent last year, so I was a little worried. I think the boys will be able to pull together and be able to deliver an excellent season. I can't wait to watch everyone get fired up for the Foxes...especially Coach Reed," senior Callan Howton stated.

The coaches and the players have high

expectations for the season. "We should be pretty good this year as long as we take care of the ball, play as a team and take the ball to the hole," said senior Bryan Thomas.

"There are three things we need to work on; quickness, playing harder and stronger, and putting the ball in the hole. Those are three pretty serious problems, but if they can do that they'll be fine," Coach Reed said.

Stories worth skipping to:

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Staph infection spreads nationwide



Knee infected with staph



Jonathan Cantrell
The Burrow

Little red bumps, that resemble spider bites or pimples seem like nothing one shouldn't worry about them. These little bumps are actually the Staphylococcal bug, commonly called staph. The bumps will eventually turn into abscesses, which, if they get into the blood system or the heart or lungs, can actually kill someone.

Staph eats the living flesh on your body. It is usually harmless, but when injury or a break in the skin enables the staph organisms

to invade the body and overcome the body's natural defenses, consequences range from minor discomfort to death.

Those more apt to get the staph bug are newborns, women who are breastfeeding, individuals whose immune systems have been undermined by radiation treatments, chemotherapy or medication and intravenous drug users.

Staph infections produce puss-filled pockets located just beneath the surface of the skin or deep within the body. People who are very young or very old are more likely to get staph infections, because their immune system is weakest at that point in their life.

Freshman Natalie Anselment said, "I'm freaked out by the fact that staph is spreading fast and dangerously. "I'm going to do whatever it takes to not get staph infection," says Natalie. Junior Molly Hathaway says, "Yes I am scared of staph, but mostly scared that if one student has it, how long will it be until the entire school is affected by it." The most you can do is to wash your hands frequently, using hot water, and soap and try to keep yourself and any cuts that you have clean. If you have any cuts be sure that you are cleaning the often, and pay attention to it, and see if it gets worse

The best thing to do is to keep our school as clean as possible since it is where students interact with everyone and everything.

HCHS neglects red ribbon week



Jacob Harrawood
The Burrow

Every year, the last week of October is Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is the largest drug prevention campaign in the history of the United States.

During this week, large communities and individuals take a stand for the hopes and dreams of children and adults to make to a

personal commitment to live drug free lives. The goal of this national campaign is to one day let this nation become a drug free land.

In the past, people have come and talked to high school students about drugs. Some students make it a joke when people express how drugs can harm a person.

High schools in the surrounding area were involved with Red Ribbon Week. Hamilton County Junior High also participated, while the senior high did not.

People often begin taking drugs in their teenage years. So some students and teachers wonder why Hamilton County Senior High didn't promote drug prevention week. High school students here didn't even know the national campaign had passed.

Senior Luke Seidel said, "It's not like this campaign will stop people from doing drugs. People know what can happen to them and they still do it, so it's probably not a big deal that we missed it."

So maybe it's not a big deal that no ribbons were handed out, no guest speakers showed up and no announcements were made.

But some students disagreed. Junior James Taylor said, "People need to take this campaign into consideration. Drugs can kill people."

Drama is for the stage



Leah Millenbine
The Burrow

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Crain are currently putting together a play called The Bachelor King. The play is based on and makes fun of ABC's hit show, The Bachelor, which airs every Monday night at 9 p.m.

Students tried out and are memorizing lines, getting into character, and doing everything they can to prepare themselves for the upcoming play. The cast includes Senior Brian Harland as the play's bachelor, and sophomore Jason Litherland as Prince Daft, the evil prince who wants to steal the throne.

There is a slight twist in the meaning of Prince Daft's name though. The word Daft means stupid. That should give hints of Prince Daft's character.

Senior Lucas Adkisson is Prince Daft's bodyguard. The way it sounds Adkisson is going to be fighting a lot for the mischievous Prince Daft.

Litherland said, "I'm excited about the play coming up. It's going to be really funny and I love my character, it fits me."

It sounds like many students are anticipating this play but there are also many who don't know to anticipate it. Freshman Sydney Walker said, "I haven't heard much about the play and I'm not much into those kinds of things, but it actually sounds kind of interesting. I might just be there opening night to watch."

The play's date has yet to be set, but it's anticipated to be some time in January. The date will depend upon the availability of the facilities and the cast memorizing the lines and preparing themselves.

Student Council and Spanish Club reach out to underprivileged children



Samantha Russell
The Burrow

Mr. Guzman and the Spanish Club are joining Student Council members in sharing this season's spirit with underprivileged children of Hamilton County. Every year, our Student Council groups together and gathers gifts to pass out to families in McLeansboro that may not have sufficient funds to buy for themselves. Our new Spanish teacher, and Spanish Club sponsor, is also gathering gifts this year to hand out to disadvantaged families.

In the past, the Spanish Club hasn't been as involved in the community as it has been this year with Mr. Guzman presiding over it. This club has big goals and so far has accomplished everything they have set out to accomplish.

Student Council has been doing the Angel Tree for several years and is now under Ms. Crain's supervision.

Other clubs and organizations have also contributed to this cause, such as FCCCLA headed by Mrs. Kinder. Walking into her classroom you see many toys stacked up on shelves that



"Tis the Season to Give rather than Receive"

she and her club donate to the families of McLeansboro around the Christmas season.

Wal-Mart stores have an "Angel Tree" that is decorated with tags. On each tag is a different name, age, sex, request of gifts and size of a child who doesn't have the financial means to receive the material gifts that we have grown accustomed to nowadays. Anyone who walks into the stores can grab a tag off the tree and shop for the particular boy or girl to help them have happier holidays.



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NEWS

California destroyed by wildfire



Jonathan Cantrell
The Burrow

Although the wild fires are now demolished, it seems like forever since they started. It did not take but a few moments for the fires to burst into a rage and destroy everything in their paths.

Now with homes destroyed and people dieing, it seems to be a never-ending catastrophe. These fires have left many homeless, some have nowhere to turn and will have rebuild from the ground up.

Firefighters worked as hard and as fast as they could, however, sometimes the fire was just too powerful. The intense heat and the heavy equipment they must carry,

firefighters found the job exhausting.

Over 300 firefighters, six water-dropping helicopters and two fixed-wing planes attacked the fires. The men got up as early as 3 a.m. to start their day.

Some believe a 10-year-old child playing with a box of matches may have started the fires. The boy has not been charged with starting the Buckweed fire, although most believe he did. This fire charred 38,000 acres and destroyed 21 homes in Agua Dulce and Santa Clarita last month. Prosecutors believe the boy had no intentions of starting the fire.

At least 35 homes have been burned and thousands more were threatened in Malibu. The 50 mph wind-driven fire raced through nearly 1,500 acres and destroyed everything in its path.

An evacuation was issued and people were trying to get their valuables and themselves out of their house before it was too late.

Saving the world one bin at a time



http://www.naefrecycling.com/pictures/GGI_Syr.jpg



Leah Millenbine
News

Most have heard the terms reduce, reuse and recycle, but Hamilton County Biology teacher, Mr. Vallowe, is taking it to the next level.

Every Friday, two students from study hall go to every classroom to gather the white

paper. After the paper is gathered it is put in larger bins and shipped to be recycled.

Students may not think they do things to help the environment, but every time they put their scrap paper in the little green tub they are saving our earth.

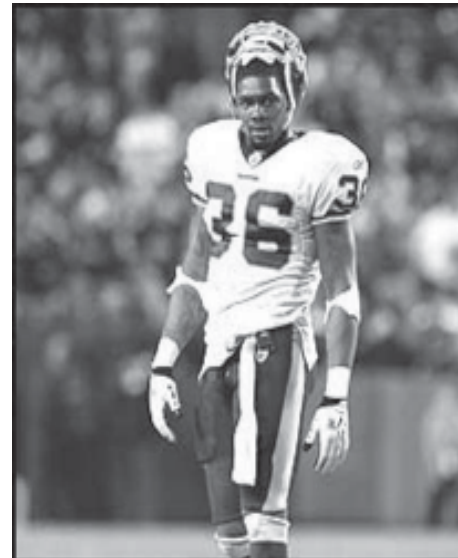
Many schools are involved in helping the environment in an organization called the Go Green Initiative. The slogan for the Go Green Initiative is "We Believe." This organization is designed to create a culture of environmental responsible school campuses across the nation.

So why go green? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the world population is expanding at a mind-boggling rate. The world reached 1 billion people in 1800; 2 billion by 1922; and over 6 billion by 2000.

It is estimated that the population will swell to over 9 billion by 2050. That means if the world's natural resources were evenly distributed, people in 2050 will only have 25 percent of the resources per capital that people in 1950 had. This information was provided by the Go Green Initiative online at www.gogreeninitiative.org

People may not think recycling really matters, but in reality it does. Everyday people carelessly throw their trash on the ground, not realizing the hurt they are causing the environment. Remember ... just go green.

NFL suffers tragedy



NFL star, Sean Taylor.



Jacob Harrawood
The Burrow

On Nov. 27 one of the worst tragedies in the NFL occurred. Sean Taylor was killed by a gunshot wound. The 24-year-old safety for the Washington Redskins was shot in his Miami, Fla. home by an intruder during the early hours of Nov. 26.

His girlfriend was awakened by noises

coming from the living room. Taylor went to investigate the noises and was carrying a machete that he kept in the bedroom. The intruder kicked in the door, and then shot twice, hitting Taylor in the leg.

Taylor lost a significant amount of blood because the bullet hit the femoral artery in his upper leg. Several family members were at his home at the time, including his 18-month-old daughter. Taylor was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital, but fell unconscious upon arrival.

Doctors said Taylor showed improvement after surgery because he was answering to certain commands. However, at 5:30 a.m. the next day, Taylor was pronounced dead at Jackson Memorial.

Doctors said he lost too much blood in so little time that he couldn't recover.

Junior Trevor McGeehee said, "The NFL has had some bad luck lately. Darrent Williams who played for the Broncos, died recently from a shooting and now Sean Taylor is gone."

Taylor was in his fourth season with the Redskins. He led the team with five interceptions, but missed the last two games due to an injury. The 212-pound Taylor played in his first Pro Bowl in 2006 and was becoming a huge threat on the defensive side for the Redskins.

Senior Brody Mitchell said, "The Redskins will miss him on and off the field. They said he was like a brother to them; but he was also a great player."

THE BURROW

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*The Burrow is the student newspaper of
Hamilton County Senior High
and is produced by the
Journalism & Desktop Publishing classes
under the instruction of
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Students find common ground during deer season

 **Jeff Robinson**
The Burrow

Deer season is here and students are ready and willing to begin the hunt!

"I'm very excited about this year's season," senior Ethan French said. Deer season is now in its fiftieth year in Illinois.

In order to hunt legally, one is required to purchase licenses and deer tags, which can be done online. You may also register a kill online. To do so, simply navigate the Illinois DNR (Department of Natural Resources) Website.

Bow hunting season began Oct. 1 and continues until Dec. 31. The first firearm season was Nov. 16-18. The second firearm season was Nov. 29 through Dec. 2.

Over 85,000 deer were registered as kills in Illinois, during the first firearm season alone.

"Every deer season is the same; I wake up early in the morning to eat a fast breakfast get ready and go sit in the stand. It gets



Former student Josh Wiggins and senior Ann Marie Wiggins celebrates this season's kill.


boring until you see that big buck coming through the woods. You start to get excited as it gets closer and you sight it in," senior Ann Marie Wiggins said.

At our school students are very active with Illinois hunting season. "I won't lie I have skipped school to hunt before," junior Kane Smith said.

Our school actually supports the sport. Mr. Sloan's FFA program hosts a "Big Buck Contest" every year.

Junior Sarah Aydt said, "The big buck contest brings the sport of hunting into school and kind of helps to get it noticed among some people who may not have thought about it before."

D&D fans await Fourth Edition

 **Lucas Adkisson**
The Burrow

Despite what people believe, there are some who enjoy a good RPG. I'm not just talking about video games. I'm talking about one of the most popular and oldest Role Playing Games: Dungeons and Dragons.

Dungeons and Dragons (or D&D, as it is widely known) was made in 1974 by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson. Since '74, several editions have been made: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Edition, v3.5, and next year, 4th edition will come out.

For those who don't play D&D, here's a brief summary:

It is what is known as a "tabletop" RPG, mostly because it is, indeed, played on a tabletop. In this fantasy game, players make a sheet that shows their characters' statistics; the health, attributes, skills, race, and other physical characteristics are all included. Nowadays there is also a space for the items one is carrying, including their weapons and armor.



"A born player."

There are also things called miniature figurines that are, of course, plastic, miniature representations of creatures and players. They are put on a play-board divided into squares that each represents about 5 feet.

The players collect experience points by battling monsters and other enemies. The

experience adds up into levels. Each character starts at level 1 and can go as high as they want; experience levels peaking at 20 (that is, until 4th Edition comes out).

There are certain skills and abilities that you get at certain levels. Players also use polyhedral dice (with sides ranging from 4 to 20) to decide their skills and combat.

For those who are interested in this game, there is a group that meets from time-to-time in McLeansboro. And for those who don't want to play with them, can't find them or find them disbanded, can wait for 4th Edition, which will include online play.

Dungeon Masters can go online and make maps and plan out campaigns. Players can go online to make custom miniatures and play. Virtual dice, written with random number generators ranging between 1 and whatever size dice it is, will be used.

Actions will be animated and armor, weapons and treasure will appear when they are bought or won.

"It's the bomb-diggity!" says junior Linda Wheeler, "It's fun to make a character and play with the odds."

Family traditions last a lifetime

 **Breanna Brock**
The Burrow

The holidays are just around the corner. Holiday traditions give a feeling of cheerfulness and glee and now, they are close at hand once again.

A common tradition occurs when the snow falls. The first thought on the minds of many parents and children is to break out the sleds.

One only needs to remember those snowy evenings as a kid to understand the anticipation on the faces of younger siblings whose noses are pressed to the windowpane. When several inches of white powder falls through the night, one cannot wait to get up the next morning to find school cancelled and a bunch of neighborhood kids gathering with their favorite sleds for a day of good old-fashioned fun.

According to christmas.howstuffworks.com, some Christmas traditions are ancient. They have roots in Pagan winter-solstice celebrations or Roman festivals.

Today, significant holiday traditions include decorating, family gatherings, parties and food. Most families have at least one tradition they follow every year.

Black Friday



Macy's sign

 **Brittney Brewer**
The Burrow

Black Friday: the day after Thanksgiving. It is the opening of the Christmas shopping season. Hundreds of stores open as early as four in the morning. They offer the kind of deals you'll find only once a year. It is the day shoppers set out to find that perfect Christmas gift.

Black Friday can be traced back to the 70s, but it wasn't for shopping originally. In the beginning, it was named for the heavy traffic the day after Thanksgiving. It served as the unofficial beginning of Christmas. This also traces back to the beginning of the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in 1924.

More recently, Black Friday is called such because it is the day of the year when stores start operating "in the black." It is said that many stores operate "in the red," meaning in a deficit, a majority of the year. While operating in the red, they don't make a profit. On Black Friday, they are able to make a true profit.

On Black Friday it is not uncommon to see people lined up in front of the stores hours before they open, some shoppers even camp out in the parking lot the night before. This is because stores often offer deals to the first 100 people in line, or only have a limited number of products in stock.

From 1993 through 2001, Black Friday ranked as the tenth busiest shopping day of the year. In 2002 and 2004, it ranked second busiest, and in 2003 and 2005, it reached first place, making it the busiest shopping day of the year.

Most often the sought after items are newly released toys and electronics.

Most people look forward to this big shopping day. Crazy things, such as fights, shoving and name-calling are common on Black Friday.

However, it hasn't stopped the people from coming so far, nor does it look like it will anytime soon.



sled racing

Sophomore Ashlynn Braden said, "Every Christmas my family draws names and gives their gifts to the one they drew."

A majority of families exchange gifts for Christmas. Most have heard the old saying, "'Tis better to give than to receive," but christmasfacts.com said, although they may not admit it, the majority of people would rather receive than give gifts.

Travel is also a commonality during the holidays.

Sophomore Lexi Karcher said, "My family goes to my grandma's to celebrate Christmas and exchange gifts."

Personalinsurance.com said most car accidents occur during Christmas weekend, which should give an idea of just how many people travel in order to carry on Christmas traditions.

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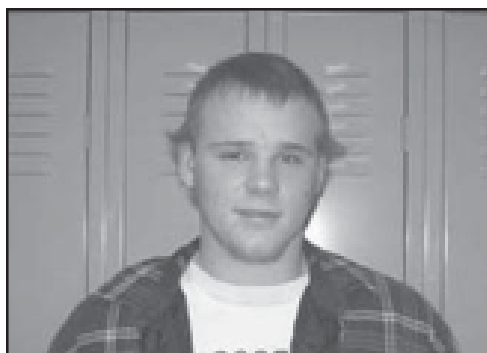
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Student Profiles



Freshman Kaylen Sweeten, A.K.A. "Kay," is a new face in the hallways here at Hamilton County Senior High. She was born on April 13, 1993. She has two siblings, one of them being sophomore Blake Johnson. Kaylen wants a Chevy 4x4 truck. She thinks the worst thing about high school is all the homework. "The best thing about high school is being with friends," Sweeten stated. Her favorite subject is art. She likes to hangout with friends, her boyfriend, and her family on the weekends. Her plans for thanksgiving and Christmas break are to eat a lot of food and shopping.



Sophomore Blake Johnson, A.K.A. "Yake," is becoming a familiar face in the hallways at HCSH. He was born on Sept. 21, 1991. He wants a GMC as his first vehicle. He thinks the worst thing about high school is football. "The best thing about high school is "messing" with the teachers," Johnson stated. His favorite subject is math. He likes to hang with his friends on the weekend. His plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas break are to visit with family and to hunt.



Junior Aaron Bullock, best known as "Seth," is a well-known face at HCSH. He was born on April 5, 1991. "I love high school and really don't have any dislikes about it so far." His favorite ice cream flavor is chocolate. He likes to race his dirt bike on the weekends. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas break he will be visiting family and eating.



Senior Amanda Harrawood, best known as "Mandy," is a well known face here. She was born on May 24. She drives a 2000 Chevy Impala. Her least favorite thing about high school is all the work. "My favorite thing about high school is being with my friends," Harrawood stated. Her favorite ice cream flavor is vanilla. On the weekends you can catch Amanda with her friends or at work. Over Thanksgiving and Christmas break she plans on visiting family.

By Brittany Brewer

Janitors work to maintain our school



Jeff Robinson
The Burrow

Our school employs five local men as janitors; Allen Miles, Ron Smith, Brandon Reyling, Jamie Knight and Richard Easley. The job of keeping our school clean and operational belongs to these men.

Miles said, "My average day is cleaning and doing minor repair work."

You can't go a day without noticing the effect custodians have in our school.

Senior Sam York said, "They keep our school clean."

Walking down the hall you may run into Smith on the floor buffer or Miles or Knight sweeping. The janitors all said that they like their job.

"I like being around the kids," Miles said.



Janitor Ron Smith hard at work

Smith agreed and also said he liked the hours and being close to home. Knight said he liked being helpful to the students.

Not one of the men said they set their career goals as being a janitor. They all agreed that the school system was just an opening and they are glad they got the job.

Knight said, "It was an opening that I was lucky enough to see and take advantage of."

Cleaning, minor repairs and landscape work are the main responsibilities of the janitors but they aren't the only tasks they have.

Janitor Ron Smith is active with the basketball and baseball teams. All the janitors are here for the students on a friendship level. Students are often spotted chatting about their day or laughing with the janitors.

They play a crucial role in our school's process of functioning. Without the janitors, our halls would go unswept and our bathrooms unclean, along with a hundred other duties they handle.

Teacher Profiles



Arissa Vineyard
The Burrow



Mr. Brian Keith Ward has been a teacher at Hamilton County Senior High since the year 1989. He teaches geometry/trigonometry, calculus, pre-calculus, computer programming and psychology. In his spare time he enjoys playing chess, computer programming, scouting with his son's den, hunting and fishing. He said he became a teacher because, "I enjoy the social interactions in the school, as well as the subject matter." According to Mr. Ward, an interesting fact not too many people know about him is that he used to have a lot of hair.



Mrs. Deborah Ann Vaughan has been a teacher at Hamilton County Senior High for a little over 11 years. She was a coach here for 18 years before she became a full-time teacher. She teaches algebra, pre-algebra and foundation math 1 and 2. She misses teaching in the computer department; also she misses working with Mrs. Auten. "I like teaching math, but I miss Mr. Allen. He taught me everything I know about math in high school. I'm glad to be with working with Mrs. Nottmeyer; she's my new math buddy," Mrs. Vaughan said. In her spare time she enjoys watching her son, senior Rhet Vaughan, play whatever sport that is in season and also going to Jamaica and riding on the Harley with her husband Bret. Something that not too many people know about her is that she is not a morning person.



Ms. Hillary Nottmeyer teaches foundation math, pre-algebra, algebra I and intermediate algebra. She enjoys teaching. She is a new teacher here this year. In her spare time she enjoys visiting friends and family, Watching television, going to Cardinal baseball games, shopping and traveling. She says what made her want to become a teacher was that she "always enjoyed math and helping others understand it better." An interesting fact not too many people know about Ms. Nottmeyer is she is going to Europe next summer with her family.

Rev up a soapbox to race



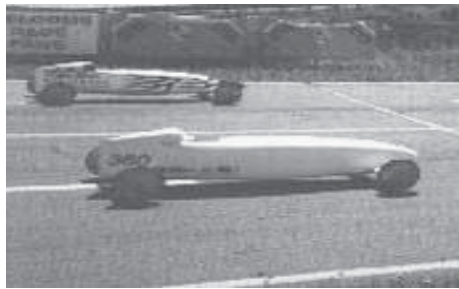
Brittni Blades
The Burrow

Who doesn't want to race cars like Dale Earnhardt Jr. or Jeff Gordon? Soap box car racing is a practical alternative. One designs and builds his or her own car, which can go fast enough to get that racing rush.

The history of soapbox racing dates back all the way to 1933 in Dayton, Ohio. It started with a bunch of kids racing down hills in orange crates, sheet metal, wheels off a baby stroller and even soapboxes. Year after year the races kept getting bigger and the cars better.

A soapbox championship was being held every year with kids and their cars coming to Ohio from all over America. A few years later, the event became international with kids coming from all over the world including Canada, Mexico and South Africa. The races that take place throughout the year are now called the All American Soapbox Derby.

The key to soap box racing is being a good builder. It's a rule that each racer builds his or her own car. That means that someone can't pay another person to build the car for them.



Soapbox Car

Sophomore Chris Zarek said, "I'm not creative enough to build a car so I couldn't race."

There are soapbox-racing kits that come with everything needed to build a car, but many kids still build their cars from scratch.

Sophomore Jasmine Artman said, "Yeah I'd like to try this out, as long as I had everything I needed to build the car."

The key to winning a derby is to have a sleek car and good racing form. The car has to be aerodynamic and racers have to be able to curl their body as close to their toes as possible to become pretty much a part of the car. The kids who usually race are between the ages of 6 and 16.

Junior Cal Muehlenbein said, "I think soapbox car racing sounds like a lot of fun."

P.E. is not just exercise



Libby Cox
The Burrow

Physical Education is a course in the curriculum which utilizes learning in the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains in a play or movement exploration setting. Here at Hamilton County Senior High, physical education is a required class with few exceptions.

The purpose of P.E. is to provide students with knowledge, skills, and values with the enthusiasm to maintain a healthy lifestyle into adulthood. With the increasing obese population of our country, HCHS is not excluded from the affects. P.E. gives students a chance to get their needed exercise.

Not only do students get exercise in this class, they learn to get along. In the changing society people sometimes forget how to work together. In P.E. classes students learn to get along with team-based games. Towel ball, which is a popular game among HCHS students, teaches teamwork and getting



Ashley Miller and Dirk Lowery in P.E. class

along with one another.

"Team based sports help students understand the concept of working together," Coach Gray stated.

Other activities going on in P.E. include going to the weight room, playing volleyball, and the usual walking around the track. An upcoming activity that will be started is soccer. HCHS does not offer it as an organized sport. Many students feel it will be great to learn the rules of the game.

"I am pumped to play soccer. I am ready to learn something new," senior Ashley Miller stated.

P.E. is not only an exercise based class, it teaches students how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Although some activities are favored over others, senior Dirk Lowery said it best, "I love P.E., it rocks!"

Go, Fight, Win! Cheer!



Hamilton Co. Sr. High Cheerleaders



Brittni Blades
The Burrow

There are 12 girls at Hamilton County Senior High School who are full of S-P-I-R-T. They are our cheerleaders. These ladies work very hard at what they do. They practice everyday that they don't have a game. The cheerleading coach is Connie Welch.

This year's freshman cheerleaders are Cejay Phillips, Lauren Reyling and Tara Hartley.

The sophomore cheerleaders include Danielle Zachman, Leah Millenbine, Sierra Dearing and Juliana Karcher.

The junior cheerleaders are Libby Cox, Sarah Aydt and Morgan Barnett.

The senior cheerleaders include Veronica Shelton and Aribi Auten.

Sophomore cheerleader Sierra Dearing said, "I like practice; it's always fun."

But cheerleading is more than a lot of practices and a lot of games. It increases strength and coordination. It teaches commitment and responsibility.

It also builds relationships. In November the cheerleaders made a weekend trip to Paducah, Ky. While there, the girls practiced cheers, went out to eat, went shopping and had an all-around good time. The trip was a shared-time not to be soon forgotten.

HCHS students seem to like the 12 ladies who "work the crowd" for the Foxes at games. Sophomore Austan Laswell said, "I like watching the girls I think they are awesome!"

Sophomore Matthew Owen obviously agreed when he said, "I think our cheerleaders are great."

Red Sox head to Japan



Matt Bryson
The Burrow

The Boston Red Sox are packing up and heading to Japan for a World Series two-game series. They are scheduled to play against Oakland Athletics on March 25 and 26 of next year. This game plans to be an exciting match up.

Two of the Red Sox players are a little more ecstatic than others. That is because both Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima are both Japanese. Boston and Oakland will be the third set of teams to open the regular season at the Tokyo Dome.

Before the Red Sox were the New York Mets and Chicago cubs in 2000 and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and New York Yankees in 2004.

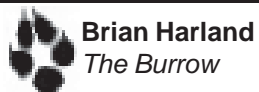
"Opening our regular season in Japan for the third time is another example of Major League Baseball's commitment to continue the global growth of the game," Commissioner Bud Selig said.

Sophomore Jesse Nevarez is very excited about the games. He recently stated, "Those two games are going to be awesome. I always like watching the Japanese play baseball because they are so athletic."

Many people agree, including freshman Kira Irons. "Even though the Red Sox lost Nomar Garciapara they still are a very strong based team and should be able to go all the way," Irons said.

Red Sox hope to use their opening games of the season to set the tone for the rest of the year. They also hope to follow up from this year's MLB World Series Championship and win two in a row.

Superman to Nac-nac



Brian Harland
The Burrow

The concept seems to be impossible. Whipping around curves and flying through the air on a two-wheeled adventure contraption. In wood and abandoned fields across the United States, people are strapping on their helmets and kick-starting their dirt bikes as motocross becomes a way of life.

Motocross, derived from the words motorcycle and cross country, is simply racing specially strengthened motorcycles over terrain designed to display the talent each rider possesses.

The demonstration given by an athlete is only as complex as they make it. Tricks can be thrown in to add a heightened sense of risk or achievement to the race. The tricks

have wild names, such as the Superman.

As with any other sport, motocross requires intense physical and mental training. The races call for confidence and complete focus.

Junior Jesse Seals said, "Whenever I race I only see the bike and the track. The crowd just disappears."

For many at Hamilton County High School, motocross is not just a sport. The activity takes on more than just a hobby on the weekends. It is a form of expression and existence.

Day after day, students practice and endure the heart-pounding risks entailed within the bustle of motocross for the same reasons that many will strap on football pads or lace up running shoes.

Seals said, "I can't run and I can't hit a ball with a stick, but I can ride my bike and that's what I do."

Turkey with a touchdown



Seniors Brian Harland, Jeff Robinson, and Ricky McVay chase down HCSH Alumnus Derek Johnson during the Turkey Bowl.



Mathew Bryson
The Burrow

Suspension is often thought of as a punishment, an extreme discipline consequence or even just a waste of time, but one group of seniors made a stand and decided to turn a negative situation into one of fun and excitement.

In 2001, then a senior, Ryan Johnson was suspended from school for skipping his accounting class a record 27 times. Johnson received a 5-day suspension and served that punishment the week before Thanksgiving break. With an extra-long vacation sitting in front of him, Johnson decided to celebrate his situation by organizing the one and only McLeansboro Turkey Bowl.

The Turkey Bowl is an annual football

game held at the McLeansboro football field. It is open to all who dare to show up. Athletes, nerds, has-beens and legends of all ages get themselves out of bed for one day a year to show what they can do.

The Turkey Bowl takes place the Saturday before Thanksgiving, thus the name.

"It's what I live for during the Thanksgiving season. I get the chance to play the game I love and have a blast while doing it," senior Ricky McVay said. McVay's "Team Vengeance" served the game with an unending source of excitement.

The Turkey Bowl has been going for seven years and shows no signs of stopping anytime soon.

Sophomore Brandon Potter said, "It was awesome. I can't wait till next year."

HCHS Rules

Samantha Russell
The Burrow



Everyday you walk down the hallway. There's no doubt that you hear at least one person complaining about getting into trouble at school over something "stupid." This is something most of us have ignored all through our high school career, myself included, until I heard a few students who were new, either at the end of the previous school year saying how strict our school is.

One particular student, an anonymous contributor, said she couldn't believe how we followed the rules at HCHS. The PDA (Public Display of Affection) rule was what really got her attention. She believes if a student is old enough to have a relationship, he or she should be able to display that relationship and not have to hide; regardless of where the couple happens to be.

A few other rules she found over-the-top were the student dress code, particularly the "no holes in jeans above the knee" rule, and not being able to wear hats in school. She said, "As long as the students remove their hats during the pledge and other moments of respect, there shouldn't be a problem with them wearing hats at school."

Other students, who transferred from schools not too far from here, commented on how our rules are extreme but they fit the students' behavior. Being a student from Hamilton County, I was extremely curious to dig a little deeper into that comment. Several "outsiders" feel that McLeansboro is a small town with way too much time on the residents' hands, which usually leads to trouble.

There's that famous quote: "Idle hands are the Devil's play things," which seems to hold true to Hamilton County. Many students, or young residents, have a lot of free time and we all know what boredom leads to.

There have been several physical fights and countless verbal conflicts at HCHS. Law Enforcement Officers have often been called to the school itself, or to be present at school functions in order to keep the peace.

The new school has often jokingly been called "the new prison" because of the video cameras in the building and the parking lot, all the locked doors and the presence of law enforcement officers. We seem to be on "lock-down."

Most students don't realize it's for our benefit. I will be the first to say that some of the "crack downs" are completely

unnecessary and I will stand behind that, but at the same time, we do not attend an "ideal" school with "ideal" students.

The school board and teachers are responsible for us and they expect us to take responsibility for our actions. When we fail to do that, they have to take matters into their own hands in order to ensure us the education we all deserve and need.

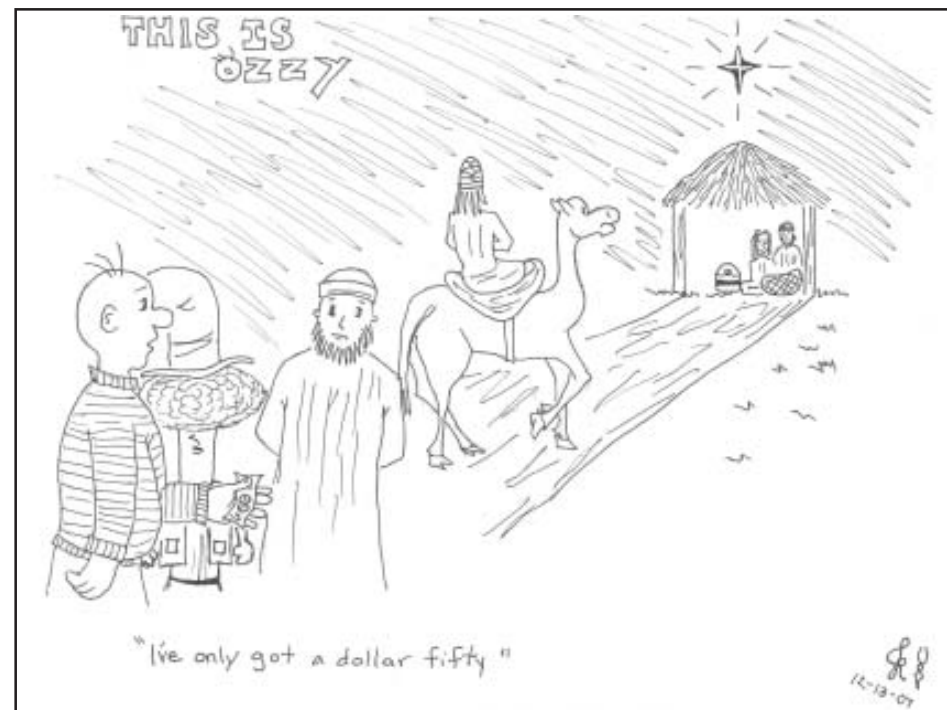
HPV not for me

Rachel Wall
The Burrow

There is a new vaccine that may save a life. Gardasil is a series of three shots that may help protect against diseases that are caused by the sexually transmitted disease, human papillomavirus (HPV).

HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases. It is so dangerous because it sometimes shows no signs or symptoms, especially in men. Gardasil protects against four types of HPV, which cause 70 percent of cervical cancer in women.

It has recently been proven that certain types of HPV can lead to cervical cancer and other conditions. HPV changes the cells



in the women's cervix, but usually clears up on its own. If it does not take care of itself, the cells on the women's cervix will continue to change. They will become precancerous if not treated over time.

The Gardasil shot is recommended for girls 11 to 12 years of age and can also be given to women up to 26-years-old. The vaccine can be given to girls as young as 9-years-old because the idea is to give the vaccine before the girl becomes sexually

active. The sooner the vaccine is given, the more likely it is to prevent HPV. There is currently no way to prevent HPV in men.

Many insurance companies cover the cost of the vaccine. If not, the cost of the vaccine is about \$120 per shot (\$360 for the series), but it is well worth it. Everyone eligible to receive this vaccine should. Gardasil has the potential to save millions of women's lives all over the world.

Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays

Rachel Wall
The Burrow



menorah in their holiday celebration.

Similar businesses, such as Wal-Mart, were also criticized for using "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." Recently, Wal-Mart has withdrawn this new policy for this year's holiday season.

Many believe that the phrase "Merry Christmas" will offend those who are not of the Christian faith, but studies show that 95 percent of people are not offended when they hear these words. Actually, 1 in 3 people are very offended when they hear "Happy Holidays" instead.

Freshman Desta French believes that you should be able to choose whatever phrase you want. "It's the First Amendment. We have freedom of speech," she stated. Freshman

Daniel Kirsch has a different perspective. "I think people should say Happy Holidays to respect everyone's religion," he said.




It doesn't matter what your religion, everyone has an opinion on this subject. We should all respect the religion of everyone, but how we do it is up to us.

Every Christmas, businesses and organizations around the world struggle with the decision of how to greet the holiday season. Is the correct term "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays?" Many people also question whether decorations should be displayed for all religious holiday celebrations.

Some ask if businesses have the authority to tell employees what they can and cannot say or what decorations they can display. Last Christmas, many places of business were under fire because of the way they celebrated the holiday season.

Fourteen Christmas trees were removed from Sea-Tac Airport in Seattle because of a complaint from Rabbi Elazar Bogomilsky. He threatened to file a lawsuit against the airport if they did not include a Jewish



<p>THE GOOD</p>  <p>Christmas Break</p>	<p>THE BAD</p>  <p>Semester Exams</p>	<p>THE UGLY</p>  <p>End of Christmas Break</p>
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Oprah deals with scandal



Kayla Wellen
The Burrow

Oprah is famous for being a very popular and wealthy celebrity. She has the perfect inspirational story a young African-American underprivileged girl that went through many struggles and still came out in triumph.

The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls opened their doors on Jan. 2, 2007. There are presently 152 young girls living at the school. This school cost almost \$40 million, which is nothing compared to the \$225 million she makes a year. The school was built almost 6 years after the former president of Africa; Nelson Mandela was promised it would happen. Everything was going well until there were rumors of abuse to the girls.

"It is my deepest hope that the accused is brought to justice and that this serves as a reminder that any time a child has the courage to step forward, it is our duty as adults to listen and take immediate action," Winfrey said in a statement posted on the South African school website.

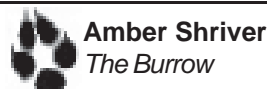
The school announced Oct. 17 that a teacher had been suspended amid the



allegation of serious misconduct. The school representatives said they hired detectives to investigate and reported allegations to the South African police. "The things that have happened to these girls are terrible," Alexis York stated.

Virginia Makapoo, who was accused of physically and sexually assaulting the students, faces 13 charges of indecent assault, assault and criminal injury committed against at least 6 students aged 13-15 and a 23-year-old at the school. Makapoo said she was innocent when the charges were read during a bail hearing in Johannesburg. She was allowed to go free on Nov. 12 on a bond of \$450. Her next court appearance is Dec. 13.

Fashion: It's what you do!



Amber Shriver
The Burrow

"Fashion talks, it can be an understated whisper, a high-energy scream or an all knowing wink and a smile. Most of all, fashion is about being comfortable with yourself, translating self-esteem into a personal style..." says Cynthia Durcanin, International Fashion Editor of Elle Magazine.

Style is always changing; each year new trends come in and old trends go out. Clothing styles can be a fashion and could become customary if handed down from generation to generation. A fashion that goes in and out of style is called a fad.

This fall it looks like bold colors, shades of gray and ladylike accessories, such as chunky and cozy knits, and fur boots will be in," says journalist and a former fashion buyer Cynthia Nellis.

But no matter what one wears, they should always feel comfortable and confident with their style, regardless of where they shop or how expensive it may be.

A T-shirt from a thrift store can mean more to someone than an expensive bag from

FASHION
DELIVERS

Courtesy of <http://www.pixuno.com/images/np-images/fashion.jpg>

Coach.

"I think fashion is a good way to express your personality," teacher's aid Pam Barnett said.

The clothes people wear separate them into different groups. In high school, groups have different names, such as goths, skaters, preps or geeks. They can cause people to label others and create stereotypes. In the world we live in today, people will either accept or reject someone based on what he or she wears.

"Today's society needs to focus less on popularity and looks and more on being comfortable," said senior Jared Russell.

Fashion creates a wordless communication between people everyday. It is all up to us how we decide to start the conversation.

Celebrities influences youth



Kayla Wellen
The Burrow

In the past few months, celebrities have been making the news and not for all their accomplishments. Lately all we hear about in the news is how they are getting thrown in jail or checking into rehab countless times.

Most people know about Vanessa Hedges' nude photo scandal, which was featured in an earlier edition of The Burrow. Those kids looked up to her after the High School Musical movies; she is setting examples for those little kids. They will probably think there is nothing wrong with what she did since she's famous.

Then, what about Lindsay Lohan's many trips to rehab, she was living a life of partying, drinking and drugs, but what message is she

sending? Is she telling teenagers that it's okay to live life like that and to not handle your own problems?

Sophomore Kristine France has her own opinion, "These people are all acting ignorant and they need to clean up their acts."

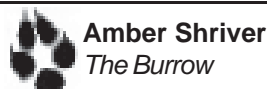
There are so many other cases just like these, but the same situations are happening everyday to regular people, and they don't get published in a paper or magazine. "In my opinion, if the celebrities do something bad they shouldn't be published or broadcasted where kids can see them," said freshman Paige Rawls.

Some may wonder why magazines make such a big deal when someone checks into rehab. There are plenty of celebrities involved with charities who aren't being covered by the media. Those who set a good example aren't those we hear about.

Where Are They Now?



Courtesy of http://www.starstore.com/acatalog/Starstore_Catalogue_MOVIE_POSTERS_2007.html



Amber Shriver
The Burrow

There is no doubt that celebrities have changed throughout their times in the spotlight. Many have moved up on the ladder of fame, while others have gone down. If one takes a look at the stars who were so popular in 1990s, they can see they have changed a lot. When people look at The Backstreet Boys or the Olsen Twins they can see the change.

The Backstreet Boys are one group that has went up and down the ladder. They went from "Backstreet's Back" album, to "Backstreet Boys Black and Blue," to "Millennium," and to their latest release, "Unbreakable." A devout Christian, Brian Littrell stated that he felt that God wanted him to use his gift and fame to serve Him as a ministry. Thus, he decided to make a Christian album and become a contemporary Christian singer, while maintaining his duties as the lead singer of the Backstreet Boys.

Another well known artist that has changed dramatically is Britney Spears. At a young age, Spears was always heard singing, no matter what else was going on around her. She earned a part with the Mickey Mouse Club along with Christina Aguilera and Justin Timberlake. Her fifth album "Blackout," released worldwide October 2007, with the lead single "Gimme More," is far different from her debut album "Baby One More Time." As for the personal aspect of Spear's life, it has received just as much attention as her music. From Justin Timberlake to Kevin Federline, she has had her fair share of relationships.

In January 2007, Spear's aunt died of breast cancer, soon after she shaved her head to show remembrance and support. On March 2007, Spears and Federline reached an agreement. "All parties signed a global

settlement agreement on all issues concerning their marriage and custody of their two children," said Michael Sands, a spokesperson for Federline's lawyer. Everyone has their own opinions of Spears, but most will say she has went from good girl to bad.

Tom Cruise makes \$15 million per movie these days, while actress Sandra Bullock is going at a rate of \$12-\$15 million. Some celebrities get paid millions just for living their everyday lives. While a lot of people say that celebrities get paid way too much for what they do, others say they deserve it.

"I think celebrities get paid way too much for what they do and they don't even do anything important," sophomore Daniel Nalley said.

Then there are the two stars we know as the Olsen Twins. The girls became superstars as toddlers starring on the hit sitcom Full House. They later expanded their career with records and home videos. "In 1998, the now-teenaged Olsen siblings launched a new TV series, the short-lived Two of a Kind, as well as a new album, 'You're Invited to Mary-Kate & Ashley's Ballet Party.' 'Cool Yule' followed a year later, and songs from each album appeared on 2000's 'Mary Kate & Ashley's Greatest Hits,'" said Jason Ankeny from All Music Guide.

As the girls grew older, their interest in fashion became greater. The New York Times named Mary-Kate a fashion icon for creating a new look called homeless or hobo-chic. It consisted of oversized sunglasses, boots, loose sweaters and flowing skirts.

When people look at the stars today and remember how they were in the past they can see how much they have changed. Some have went from good to bad while others have worked their way up. Everyone looks at them in a different way and chooses who we want to look up to.

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