

THE BURROW

The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

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IHSA stands behind new steroid law



Jacob Harrowood
The Burrow

In this past year, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia passed laws to discourage steroid use by high school athletes. All but New Jersey's have been signed by the governor.

Starting July 1, individuals who provide steroids or drugs to minors could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. This law boosts the state's anti-steroid rules from one of the weakest to one of the toughest laws in the country.

Students who use steroids and get

caught become ineligible to play sports for up to two school years. Teachers and coaches who do not report student steroid use can lose their teaching jobs for life.

HCHS tutor Mr. Fry said, "I think this could be a good thing. If they do the juice then cut them loose."

An annual survey by the University of Michigan, reported in April that 2.5 percent of high school athletes used steroids in just the past year.

A survey by the Centers for Disease Control in 2003 reported that 6.2 percent of students had taken steroids illegally at least once.

Another survey from Harvard showed approximately 5 percent of teenage boys

and 2 percent of teenage girls use a nutritional supplement or a steroid weekly to improve themselves.

Senior Ricky McVay said, "If they aren't going to test people in smaller schools, then a lot of athletes won't get caught and it will just be a waste."

The IHSA believes testing will prevent high school athletes from using harmful drugs and maintain a competitive balance among the schools. School officials say it will cost around \$175 per test, and an estimated \$100,000 per year.

Senior Brody Mitchell said, "This law doesn't really affect us as much because they're only testing bigger schools. This



will probably just be a waste of money for most of Illinois."

Music for every occasion



Samantha Russell
The Burrow



Valentine's Day. It's the time of year when love is in the air, and corny love songs are playing nonstop on the radio. Walk into a department store and the first thing that catches your attention is that cute little stuffed animal that's dressed all in red with a big TRY ME sticker on the arm. Next thing you know, "Wild Thing" is playing while the animal is dancing a little groove for you.

Music plays a big role in all of our

holidays, but around Valentine's Day you hear oldies that your parents used to listen to as well as the new hits that today's artists are coming up with. "Let's get it on" by Marvin Gaye is a perfect example of an old song that is always popular around this time.

Music is the way to the heart and soul of a person. The constant, steady beat is that of a heart, the melody plays the spirit, and the lyrics speak to the soul.

In many religions, music is the way to show worship and praise. On birthdays, it's a form of celebration. Funerals use music as a form of remembrance. Some people, who get in trouble with the law, blame their behavior on violent music.

And on the sappy, romantic T.V. dates, a violinist plays a romantic song for a couple in an impractical restaurant.

Remember, when you're giving that special person flowers or chocolates for Valentine's Day, or whatever special occasion arises, it never hurts to add a little tune to set the mood.

Young voters cast ballots



Matt Bryson
The Burrow

Young voters have stepped up to take on the challenge of choosing our political leaders in 2008. Polls show a 9 percent increase in young voters turned out on Super Tuesday to cast their ballots.

The larger numbers of youth voting puts an ease on the older generations.

Myspace and Facebook have contributed to these numbers, according to government officials.

Both of these popular websites give candidates the opportunity to express their positions on topics in a format that appeals to young people. Such issues as the war, healthcare and education prices are just a few of the many problems that worry this demographic.

Voters at HCHS are also getting in on

the political process. Students who were old enough were able to register to vote right at school this year. A group of Mrs. Kinder's students had the opportunity to register during a field trip to the court house last semester.

"Being able to vote makes you feel like you have a chance to make a difference," senior Johnny Barrow said.

Teachers, too, do their part in the political process. "Voting is one American right that people take for granted. We have the privilege to vote for our president..." stated Mrs. Cockrum.

The quantity of voters in these primary elections has set in motion a record-setting turnout for the general election this November.

New problems emerge all the time, which will hopefully keep voters motivated to stay interested and involved in United States politics for years to come.

Ice dismisses school



Brian Harland
The Burrow

During the month of February, it seems as though HCHS students have spent more time playing in the snow than anything else. With six snow days already taken, most would think that February has been an abnormally snowy winter, but the statistics prove otherwise. According to travelforecast.com, this month has only .16 inches of snowfall above the average.

The safety of the students and teachers was the key deciding factor when presented with the task of canceling school. Although the snowfall is not a significant amount higher than the normal average, the ice and road conditions have been too harsh for not only students but the entire town.

"I don't think we need any more snowdays, even though it was good to take a break," said sophomore Mat



Owen. The HCHS administration built eight snow days into the district calendar that are available to use without disrupting the graduation plans.


Senior Brittany Webb said, "I'm ready to graduate, I want to get out of here as fast as I can." Senior Tanner Spicuzza said, "I agree with Brittany completely." As of Feb. 27, graduation has not been set.

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worth skipping to:

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Weather brought on a cold early spring break

 **Brittany Brewer**
The Burrow

The snow and ice started falling on Monday, Feb. 11. The snow caused many schools to let out early, and left the roads a mess. Some students and adults ended up in ditches or stuck. Those who didn't drive waited in the cold. Those who did drive took twice as long to get home.

Although HCHS was among the schools to dismiss students early, the roads were a mess and already "a sheet of ice," which made it difficult for buses to get the kids home safely. Thank goodness there were no bus accidents.

The ice storm forced Hamilton County to cancel school for four days. In these four days many were stuck at home. Parents wouldn't let their kids leave, because of the

poor road conditions.


Some were without power for all four days. Power outages caused some to look for hotel rooms. Some hotels had to turn down customers, because they were completely booked.

A lot of us were out sledding, watching T.V., or catching up on sleep. Some of us even decided we could work to make that extra money. This ice storm is said to be the worst some have seen.

A layer of ice and HCHS was out of school two more days.

This weather is absolutely crazy. One day it's sunny and warm and the next it's snowing. I hope everyone is careful while out on the roads and enjoying the conditions. Stay warm and drink a lot of hot chocolate until spring decides to show up.

Fair Tax plan will benefit everyone, not just a few

 **Lucas Adkisson**
The Burrow

The tax plan of this United States has driven us into the dirt. What do we do? The FairTax plan is what. I know what you're saying, "Hey, we're in high school. We don't pay taxes!" You people who have jobs pay taxes to the government. You people who buy anything pay taxes. Even if you don't have a job and are programmed by your parents to not buy anything at all, your parents still pay taxes, which fall back to you and how much your family has.

"They get money back from the government, though," you say? With the FairTax you will have more money to spend to begin with and you get a compensation check at the beginning of every month for how much you spend on the goods you need to survive. With the FairTax the IRS is eliminated. The income tax is eliminated. All payroll taxes are eliminated. It is all replaced with a 23 percent sales tax.

Now this sales tax is only a percent higher than most people are paying right now in hidden taxes. Just to make this clear, if you go and buy something for a dollar then twenty-three cents of that dollar is given over to the government. You don't have to pay any extra money. Besides this, with all the taxes suddenly taken off these corporations,

they will push their prices down since it costs less to make whatever they're making. This will also let them open up into the world market and sell better internationally.

With all this extra money flowing back into the economy we will be able to pull ourselves back onto our feet. This money won't just go into the hands of the rich. No, this money will be given back in respective quantity to those who work harder and spend more on the necessities of life. In short, this plan is great.



The FairTax Book
Saying Goodbye to the Income Tax and the IRS*
*Not to mention the Social Security tax, the Medicare tax, corporate income taxes, the death tax, the self-employment tax, the alternative minimum tax, the gift tax, capital gains taxes, tax audits, and some major headaches every April 15.
NEAL BOORTZ
SENATED TALK SHOW HOST
& CONGRESSMAN JOHN LINDER

It's a love/hate relationship

 **Brittany Brewer**
The Burrow

Valentine's Day is the one day of the year that makes most males insecure and clingy. They practically make fools of themselves to fit the clichés. The day makes women feel as insecure and bad about themselves as when they are buying a new bathing suit.

I hate Valentine's Day.

I hate the fact that we all have to say "I love you," whether we mean it or not.

I hate that if I am in a relationship, I have to go out to dinner. Most often, instead of dining quietly with the person I care about, Valentine's Day dinner morphs into a big event at a restaurant where the rest of guilt-ridden America is bumping elbows.

I truly feel bad for the entire male gender. You are either stuck catering to one hysterical female or several. I don't like the fact that guys try to suck-up on this day. Why can't they act like this all the time?




Valentine's Day is an excuse to make guys all lovey-dovey and not themselves.

In some ways Valentine's Day is ok. My dad celebrates his birthday, and it's the time when we are all together.

My Valentine's wishes for you: go out and enjoy your day, but don't do it because it's expected of you. Do it because you want to. Have fun, be safe, and be yourself guys, we won't bite your head off.

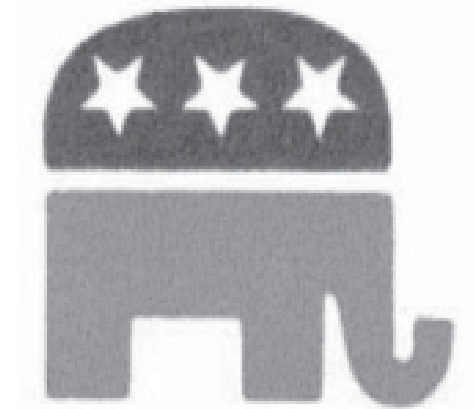
Republicans can go all the way

 **Lucas Adkisson**
The Burrow

Republicans are just given too bad a name nowadays. Seeing as the Democrats agree with the people on almost everything, even though they never act, they still get a wide range of support from the politically ignorant. The Republicans are still pulling up some good old' fashioned honesty. Remember honesty? This and the support of one Chuck Norris. But I digress.

Republicans are widely known for their non-extremist actions and calm mentality. Even though their reputation is tarnished by conniving Democrats, they still have many true, conservative followers. Over the years they have been pushing tax reforms, civil freedom bills, anti-abortion acts and have been striving for the same values that the founding fathers of this country had when they put quill to paper.

After this amazingly boring yet informative start, I'll now begin. Republicans rock your socks off. They fight in Sam L. Jackson calm against the radical left-wing denizens and their extremist ideas. The entire withdrawing of ALL troops from Iraq and leaving the people there to "do their



own thing"? We started this mess, we should finish it. In hindsight, yes we shouldn't have gone, but that's an argument that has no resolution. We can't go back in the past. Let's do what we can now.

The Republican Party has been hit real hard by our last president. I must agree, he should have taken one step at a time. You have to trust that the Republicans will bring a better candidate into the running for president. One who doesn't showboat like a certain Democratic woman (*cough* Hillary *cough*). Republicans do all they promise and they don't back down when things start to look rough. Republicans finish what they start and make sure they do it right.

THE BURROW

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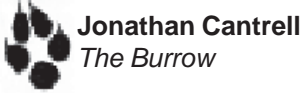
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NEWS

Illinois Weather unpredictable to say the least



Jonathan Cantrell
The Burrow

From ice to snow, cold to hot, no one knows what the weather will be like tomorrow. Ever since the New Year started it seems like the weather has gone crazy.

One weekend you might get a nice warm spring-like day that you can drive with your windows down, or open up the house, but

that night may be a different story.

As the cold front moves in, temperatures drop and tornado watches go out. It doesn't seem like this is appropriate weather for January and February.

Some say it is global warming. Others say it's just the weather acting up. When one looks at the increases in intensity of the climate it's easy to say global warming is the cause of the severe weather. If that's the case, there is something we, as citizens, can

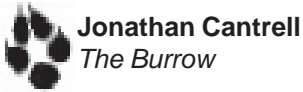
do to change the weather. We can help prevent global warming. Helpful prevention tips can be found at <http://www.liveneutral.org/>.

Many towns and cities have been hit with deadly tornados; Jackson Tenn. was hit with an E-F-4 tornado Tuesday, Feb. 5. Union University was nearly wiped out. Students took cover where they could, some in bathrooms. Luckily not one fatality was announced.

Many places in the nation have been completely wiped out by tornados, but every time a tornado watch or warning is given out, the actual event always seems to miss Hamilton County.

Is it luck or is it just not our turn to be hit with a deadly tornado? It is very important to know what to do when a tornado strikes. That information can be found at <http://www.tornadoproject.com/safety/safety.htm>.

'Farm girl' makes herself right at home here



Jonathan Cantrell
The Burrow

Miss. Kimberly Miller, 21, is currently student teaching with Mrs. Kinder. Once she finishes her first eight weeks of supervised teaching at HCHS, she will move on to spend 8 weeks at Norris City Omaha Enfield Junior High School.

Miller is a student majoring in family and consumer science secondary education at Southeastern Missouri State University, better known as SEMO, in Cape Girardeau, Mo. She has earned two minors, which include nutrition and fashion merchandising.

Miss Miller, a self-proclaimed farm girl at heart, has dreamed of teaching "ever since

kindergarten," and finds the students to be the best part of the job.

She compared HCHS to other schools she's visited by saying, "The students are very good and this school doesn't have as many discipline problems. I really like the faculty; everyone is helpful."

While not in school, Miss Miller may be found spending time with friends and participating in church events. She also likes to "read a lot, and I really like to cook."

As a college student Miller has some advice for those HCHS students who will be graduating. "Get involved in something (in college). Everyone told me that when I went to college and I thought they were crazy. I was so homesick at first, and getting involved would have helped so much."



Miss Kimberly Miller, student teacher from SEMO, pauses while instructing a child development class.

SUIC student experiences HCHS student life



SIUC student teacher Miss. Ann Ochs assists Ag. Students at the computer.

Assault takes place on bus



Matt Bryson
The Burrow

Riding the bus home from school is a safe way to travel – at least most of the time. That was not true for some students from Gilbert, Arizona.

According to ABC News, a fight between 54-year-old bus driver Kim Sullivan and a 15-year-old female student erupted on Feb. 15 when Sullivan pulled the bus over to ask the student to calm down.

The student then tried to exit the bus which started an argument between her and Sullivan. The arguing soon turned to a hair pulling match and Sullivan's 16-year-old daughter jumped in.

The fighting continued for 15 minutes. Another student on the bus called 911. "We

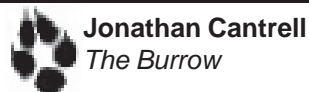


have an emergency. Our bus driver's insane. She just got into a fist fight," the boy told the emergency operator.

Police have agreed that both parties are at fault. The police recommend charges are filed against everyone involved.

The Higley Unified School District, however, backs Sullivan. They believe she acted reasonably by telling the student to "Calm down, just calm down." The whole incident was caught on tape and is being investigated by both the school district and police.

Satellite shot down before entering atmosphere



Jonathan Cantrell
The Burrow

On Feb. 21, the Pentagon said a U.S. missile smashed into the disabled spy satellite known as L-21 and the debris will fall over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

After reaching its low Earth orbit, the satellite lost all power and started falling to Earth.

The Department of Defense is monitored its location in space and tried to calculate where it would crash. The department believed the satellite would possibly burn up in the intense heat of the atmosphere

before it reached Earth but could not be certain.

The main cause for concern was the fuel tank, which would have been used to rocket the satellite. The tank contained toxic fuel that could seriously harm the environment wherever it crashed.

U.S. and European astronomers estimated it was falling about 5 miles a day. The satellite had already fallen about 43 miles, which put it at about 174 miles above Earth before it was shot down.

Marine Gen. James Cartwright, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Pentagon press conference that he could not rule out hazardous material falling to the earth. He did say, "Nothing larger than a football will fall to the Earth."



Jonathan Cantrell
The Burrow

Ann Ochs, student at Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, is currently student teaching with Mr. Sloan. She is majoring in agriculture education and does not have a minor.

"Hamilton County is more technologically advanced, and has more activities within the school, things like the green house," said Ochs.

After Ochs finishes her schedule in college now, she plans to return to SIUC to obtain her master's degree in agriculture

education and will be acting as the FFA Collegiate Advisor.

Hamilton County Senior High School is the only school Ochs taught. However, Ochs had to observe at two other schools before she could start her student teaching.

Ochs stated, "Everyone at this school is very laid back, and everyone knows everyone."

Outside of school, Ochs likes to scrapbook and really likes to cook, and whenever the weather is right, she likes to garden.

Ochs has always wanted to be involved with some sort of teaching. She likes working with students, and plans to have a classroom of her own some day.

MIMMO'S PIZZA

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PIZZA - PASTA - SUBS - STEAKS
LUNCH BUFFET

Choosing the perfect college just got easier

 **Rachel Wall**
The Burrow

As the year is slowly winding down, the lives of many seniors are just getting started. Most seniors have already applied to several colleges, but the next step is choosing the one that best fits their needs and education goals.

"In choosing the right college, a student needs to think about his or her future career goals, whether he wants to be away from home or live at home, and what his financial needs are," said guidance counselor Mrs. Lueke.

The stress of choosing a college can be overwhelming, but there are easy ways to choose the one that is right.

Before one can choose the exact college they wish to attend, they must decide what type of college they want. A community college might be your best bet if you are on a tight budget or you aren't ready to leave the house yet.

At community colleges, such as Rend Lake, students are able to take many pre-requisites for their major and get other classes out of the way for a much lower cost.

Trade or vocational schools, which

offer specialized associate degrees, are also an option if one isn't interested in spending several years in school.

Starting off at a four-year university is a big step, but for some it is the best option. Some credits from community colleges won't transfer to universities, so for some programs starting off at a four-year institution is best.

When the type of college is determined the next step is to determine a possible field of study. Most colleges have a wide variety of programs and degrees to choose from, but not all of them may fit one's needs. Although many students enter college as "undecided," it is helpful if they know the general direction in which they would like their career to go.

If a student is interested in teaching, Eastern Illinois University in Charleston might be a great choice. They have a fantastic teaching program with many different specializations.

If health and medicine interests them, Southern Illinois University Carbondale might be their best bet. SIU-C has many health related majors including their own medical school.

Researching a selected major at different schools could be the best resource



and help to significantly narrow one's choices.

After narrowing down the list of colleges, the next step is to apply. Application deadlines are quickly approaching, so if students haven't applied to their desired colleges yet, now is the time. Important dates are usually listed on college Web sites for things such as scholarships and housing. Students should pay close attention to the deadlines to prevent paying late registration fees.

With college tuition rates soaring, every senior and parent of a future college student is worrying about how they will pay for a college education. Every senior, regardless of his or her financial status, should fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

The FAFSA is the starting point for getting help with paying for college. Assistance is awarded on a need-based merit and varies depending on the college. If you are in need of assistance, financial aid packages should be researched at your desired college before making a final decision.

Scholarships are also a great way to help pay for college. There are many different types of scholarships available in the guidance office and questions about them should be directed to Mrs. Lueke. In addition to local scholarships there are many state and national scholarships which can be found online at www.fastweb.com and www.schoarshipexperts.com.

Choosing the right college can be one of the most important education, career and life decisions a person ever makes.

College is a life-changing experience in many ways and should not be taken lightly.

For senior Brandon Miller, University of Evansville is the perfect choice. He chose the school for many different reasons, including financial and academic. Based on his ACT score and class rank, Miller was able to get a trustee scholarship, which will knock 67 percent off tuition.

"I chose the University of Evansville because of its exceptionally strong science department. Because it is a private school, class sizes are much smaller and students get a lot more attention from their professors," said Miller.

Miller plans to receive his bachelor's degree in biochemistry and go on to medical school. He decided a four-year university would be best because medical schools often like to see a student start out at a university rather than a community college.

Another senior, Bryanna Miller, has decided that a community college is the way to go. She will be entering the Rend Lake nursing program this fall and eventually transfer to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to become a nurse anesthetist.


"I chose Rend Lake because they have a great nursing program for less cost than a four-year university."

College is defined as an institution of higher learning but it is so much more than that. College means hard work, dedication and life-long lessons learned. No matter which school is chosen, college is something that should be taken very seriously because it can impact one's life and career forever.

Statistics say: be prepared



Woman taking on an unprepared attacker.

 **Samantha Russell**
The Burrow

In the 2005-2006 school year, Coach Jeff Rush used his time to teach the Girl's P.E. classes a crash course in self-defense. It was his goal to educate the girls on simple techniques to protect themselves if the need ever arose.

Living in a small community, many women feel they shouldn't be concerned with being physically attacked. Sexual and physical assaults on women are often thought to happen randomly and by a complete stranger. Wrong. Three quarters of all attacks against women are perpetrated by someone they are familiar with.

In 29 percent of those cases, the offender was an "intimate" relation (husband, ex-husband, boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, male friend or coworker). 500,000 rapes and sexual assaults are reported annually by women, and over half were committed by friends of

the victim, friends of the family or coworkers.

In the year 2004, the Rape Crisis Hotline received 32,737 calls reporting sexual assaults, 8,049 of these calls were first-time victims. Out of the 8,049 callers, 2,371 reported rape and 1,235 reported incest.

This hotline also had 103 children calling about sexual abuse, 32 percent being under the age of 12.

The most common atmosphere for this type of violence is at colleges and universities. Partying and co-habitation result in irresponsibility and the wrong person could easily take advantage of an unsuspecting student. Many colleges have sexual assaults so common they have support groups dedicated to those attacked, but soon, all college campuses across the nation will have these groups.

Women, no matter where they live or how old they are, should always be on guard. It shouldn't be a creepy stranger standing in a dark corner of street that should be the focus of your attention, but the man walking by your side. Self defense studios can be found in or around nearly every town.

 **Brittni Blades**
The Burrow

Valentine's Day is a day for couples to show their love.

Sophomore Leah Millenbine said she "loves it (Valentine's Day), even though I couldn't spend it with my boyfriend, Colton."

This is what some of the couples at HCHS did.

Junior Brooke Biggerstaff and senior Nick Wiggins went out on a very romantic date that included dinner at Applebee's and movies. Brooke bought Nick some chocolates and Nick bought her a dozen roses.

Senior David Wilson and sophomore Julianna Karcher went out to eat and David bought her some beautiful flowers.

Senior Jared Russell made sophomore Amber Shriver a Mexican dinner and ate it candle lit. It was the most romantic thing a guy had ever done for her Amber said.

Couples keep V-Day low key



Sophomore Becky Hutchcraft and junior Charlie Crow went to eat at Lonestar.

Sophomore Breanna Brock said, "I didn't have a good Valentines Day because I didn't have anyone to spend it with."

This is what only a few couples at HCHS did for Valentines Day. Valentines Day is a day to show your loved one how much you really care. There is no better day than Feb.

Teacher Profiles



Michael S. Johnson, J. as his students call him, is one of the English teachers here at Hamilton County High School. J teaches Mythology, English II and English IV/CP and Short Stories. His favorite class to teach would have to be English II. J really enjoys teaching at HCHS. "I didn't ever really want to leave high school so I thought I would just teach," J stated. An interesting fact about J is he has no tattoos but he does have his ears pierced. J has no special plans for Valentine's Day.



Nora E. Allred, Ms. Allred or Mrs. Wilson as her students call her, is another English teacher at HCHS. Ms. Allred teaches English I and IV/AP and Speech. Her favorite class to teach would be Freshman English. "I love working here. Everyone is so nice," Ms. Allred stated. She decided to go into high school education because she enjoys working with teenagers. An interesting fact about Ms. Allred is she has 8 wisdom teeth instead of 4. She has no special plans for Valentine's Day, but plans on spending time with the infamous Mr. Wilson.



April M. Jordan, Mrs. Jordan as her students call her, is also an English teacher at HCHS. Mrs. Jordan teaches Journalism, English III, III/CP and English IV. Her favorite class to teach is Journalism. "I went into high school education because there's no better profession for me. I had already started a family and this gave me the same days off as my son, which I really liked," Mrs. Jordan said. An interesting fact about Mrs. Jordan is she did graphic design for 2 years for a magazine that gets sent all over the United States. She plans on spending time with her husband on Valentine's Day. On the 15th her sorority has a Valentine's social and she plans on attending that.

Student Profiles



Freshman Jessica Brianne Frailey, called Frailey by close friends or Staley from the girls in p.e, is a fresh face in the halls of Hamilton County High School. Frailey's favorite class would have to be Biology with Mr. Vallowe. Mr. Vallowe is also her favorite teacher. "I loved not taking semesters, that's always a nice memory to have," Frailey stated. In her spare time, you could find her playing guitar or just hanging out with friends. Frailey is not doing anything special for Valentine's Day.



Sophomore Dylan Keith Mitchell, is still a pretty new face to the hallways of HCHS. "Lunch is my favorite, I don't know if you'd really consider that a class though," Mitchell stated. His favorite teacher is Mrs. Vaughan. Mitchell favorite memory would have to be meeting all his friends. When he's not at HCHS you can find him hanging out with friends, skating, or listening to music. On Valentine's Day Mitchell will be hanging out with his girlfriend Moriah Wellen.



Junior Kane Anderson Smith, known to many at Smithead, has become a familiar face in the hallways of HCHS. Any class with Nikki Ojala is his favorite! She actually makes the class interesting. Smith's favorite teacher would have to be Mr. Payne. His favorite memory from high school this far would have to be the Smith-O-Meter, made by Orry Taylor and Nikki Ojala. "Unfortunately I have no Valentine's Day plans, so if anyone wants to listen to blue grass and hang out just let me know," Smith said.



Senior Michelle Nicole Kennedy, know as Shell or MKen is an extremely well known face at HCHS. Kennedy's favorite class is BSAA, but her favorite teacher is Mrs. Kinder. Her favorite memories come from sophomore year. "There's just too many to count. It was such a fun year," Kennedy said. When Kennedy is not at HCHS she's either with her friends or hanging out with her boyfriend Dusten Brown. On Valentine's Day Kennedy will be with Dusten, she's not sure what they're doing but she knows it'll be fun.

By: Michaela Morlan

VALENTINE WISHES




HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

TO: JON & KAIT
FROM: JASMINE ARTMAN

I LOVE YOU!
YOU ARE THE SPARKLE IN
MY EYES! TA YOMO!


XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO



To: Ann Marie Wiggins
From: Jeff Robinson

You're the Bestest!


Happy Valentine's Day!



Happy Valentines Day!


To: James Neil Rooney
From: The lunch table by the microwave (Lunch B)

We love you Jim! Happy B-day!
You are super duper




To: Kaitlyn
From: Brian K.

Hi!




Happy Valentine's Day!



To: Elizabeth
From: Thomas


You will never get this.

To: Brittany Anselment
From: Kyle Ragan




Happy Valentine's, Love you.


To: Mrs. Fetcha



From: Mr. Fetcha




Happy Anniversary!
2/10/08




TO: SIERRA DEARING
FROM: JON CANTRELL

GET YA SOME HOT COCOA



To: Jake French
From: Mariah Barr


I love you very much!!!
You are my everything!!!



Happy Valentine's Day!!

TO: Rachel Wall
FROM: Matt Bryson

I want to make you smile when you're sad. I want to carry you around when your arthritis is bad. All I wanna do is grow old with you.



To: Jacob Denham
From: Lexi

Hey Sweetie! This is a little late but i still love you! Thanks for the flowers they were amazingly beautiful!

I love you so much!
Your Amazing girlfriend,
Lexi

I'm NUTS About You!

To: Kang Smith
From: Orry Taylor

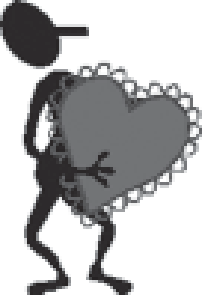
I love my bubby!




KISS ME!!!

TO: JACOB BELL
FROM: KOURTNEY REYLING


I LOVE YOU ALWAYS & FOREVER.



Happy Valentine's Day!!!


To: Cathy Martin
From: Brandon Karcher

I Love you!



TO: Ms. Ashley Allen
From: Your B.F. Kait

I'm so glad we are good friends.
Will you be my valentine?




TO: Alexis York
FROM: Samantha York

I Love You, lil sis!!

Happy V-Day!

Perfect season ends ugly

 **Luke Bowman**
The Burrow

Everything great doesn't always end like a fairy tale. The New England Patriots' undefeated season came to an abrupt halt when the New York Giants did the unthinkable and stunned the Patriots.

The Giants had the perfect answer for the suddenly imperfect Patriots: a big, bad defense and an improbable comeback led by their own Mr. Cool quarterback, Eli Manning.

In one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history, New York shattered New England's unbeaten season by three points, with a final score of 17-14. They drove down the field with 40 seconds left and receiver David Tyree caught a critical 32-yard desperation pass, after Manning escaped a sack by three Patriot defenders on a third-and-five on the

Giants' final drive.

Then Manning hit Plaxico Burrell on a 13-yard fade with 35 seconds left. It was the Giants' eleventh straight victory on the road and the first time the Patriots tasted defeat in more than a year.


It was the most bitter of losses, too, because 12-point favorite New England (18-1) was one play from winning and getting the ultimate revenge for being penalized for illegally videotaping opponents' defensive signals in the season-opener against the New York Jets.

The Patriots were done. Not so much by the pressure of the first unbeaten season in 35 years as by the pressure of a smothering Giants pass rush.

Tom Brady was sacked five times, hurried a dozen more and, at one point, wound up on his knees, his hands on his hips following one of many poor throws in New England's lowest scoring game of the season.



Mules knock Foxes out of regional

 **Jacob Harrawood**
The Burrow

Feb. 18 the Fairfield Mules came to Hamilton County to face the Foxes in the first game of the regional. The Foxes' season came to an abrupt halt that day as the Mules defeated the Foxes 52-46, leaving a terrible taste for the players as well as the fans.

The Foxes were on fire in the first half while leading Fairfield 22-14 heading into halftime. Although the Foxes had a comfortable lead going in, Fairfield came ready to play in the third quarter by starting a run and eventually taking over.

With 4 minutes left in the game, Fairfield began pulling away, going up by 7. With just a minute left, the Foxes pulled within a

tie game at 46 with a three from senior Bryan Thomas.

Senior Brian Harland said, "This game went down to the wire. It's too bad the refs apparently didn't see what all of our fans did."

Controversy took effect in the game from there on. A Fairfield player stormed the court, resulting in six Fairfield players on the floor at once, but nothing was called.

Senior guard Rhet Vaughan had a Fairfield player guarded for clearly over five seconds, but still, nothing was called.

After a few blown calls that left fans outraged and Fairfield made their free throws, the Foxes were handed a loss.

Senior player Brody Mitchell said, "It's disappointing that we lost, but I definitely would say that Fairfield had some help by the refs."

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VALENTINE WISHES



Happy VALENTINE'S DAY!
To: ALEX LEWIS
From: JOHN


EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT THERE, I STILL THINK OF YOU!
I LOVE YOU!

XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO



To: Alex Lewis
From: Mom

You are my valentine every day!

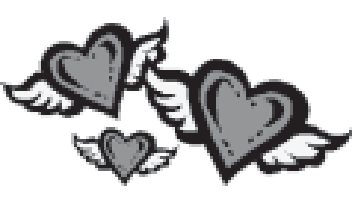


To: Kira Irons
From: Jedd Holloman

Way to go God!

To: ANGELAWHEELER
From: LINDA WHEELER



YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND FOREVER.



Happy Valentine's Day!


To: Kait Sloan
From: Jesse Kelley

Kait Sloan I Love you. You are the love of my life!

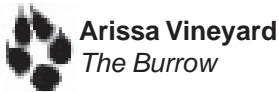



To: Alex Lewis

Love you sis!



Ledger dies a legend



Actor Heathcliff (Heath) Andrew Ledger was found dead in his New York apartment on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

An autopsy was performed on Jan. 23. The New York Medical Examiner's Office announced "Mr. Heath Ledger died as the result of acute intoxication by the combined effects of oxycodone, hydrocodone, diazepam, temazepam, alprazolam and doxylamine."

These drugs are commonly prescribed for the treatment of insomnia, anxiety, depression, pain, cold symptoms, and related ailments.

The death was ruled an accident resulting from the abuse of prescription medications.

Ledger was born April 4, 1979, in Perth, West Australia. He was always interested in acting so in junior high he signed up for drama classes. Ledger tested out of high school at age 16 and left home to pursue his acting career at 17.

Ledger believed Sydney, Australia was where dreams came true. This is where he

starred in his debut movie, "Blackrock." The 1997 film featured a young girl being raped and murdered by a group of surfer friends. Ledger played a character named Toby.

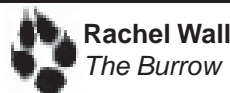
Several other movies that Ledger is better known for include "10 Things I Hate About You" (1998), "The Patriot" (1999), "A Knight's Tale" and "Monsters Ball" (2001), and the controversial "Brokeback Mountain" (2005).

Yet to be released is "The Dark Night" (2008), a sequel to Batman. Ledger played the Joker in that upcoming movie. He was working on another movie, "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" (2009), which was suspended due to his death.

Wikipedia.org lists 19 movies and four TV shows in which Ledger played roles during his career. Since 1998, he was nominated for numerous awards from different entities including Academy Awards, Australian Film Institute Awards, British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Golden Globe Awards, Independent Spirit Awards, MTV Movie Awards and Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The successful Ledger died at age 28, leaving behind his parents, as well as a daughter of his own.

Entertainment across the countyline



On any given weekend in Hamilton County you can find local high school teens aimlessly driving around on country roads, sitting at More-for-Less, or contributing to global warming by making laps for hours at a time. Even though there isn't much to do in Hamilton County, there is plenty to do if you step across the county line.

Ross Cottom Lanes, located in Muddy, is fun for all ages. It is home to the famous "Cosmic Bowling" on Friday nights, which is always a student favorite. The bowling alley includes an arcade, kids bowling and a full concession stand. While you're out bowling, you can always stop by Tequilas for an enchilada or Morello's for some authentic Italian food.

Mt. Vernon is probably the most popular destination for Hamilton County Senior High students. You can go shopping at the numerous stores in Times Square Mall and eat at a variety of different restaurants,

including Applebee's, Chili's and the Pasta House. After dinner, a movie is your best bet with several to choose from under one roof.

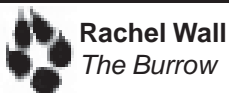
There are also other things to do if you are willing to travel the extra mile. Carbondale and Evansville, Ind. are popular destinations for people in the shopping mood. They both have many things to do. Among them, laser tag and an IMAX theatre.

Long-time couple senior Jimmy Anderson and junior Linda Wheeler enjoy the weekends when they aren't working. "We like to go to the movies in Mt. Vernon and Harrisburg when we can," Anderson stated. "I also like to go bowling," he added.

Other students, such as seniors Holden Jackson and Nick Wiggins, enjoy entertainment more from their homes. "We get together and watch our Chris Angel DVD collection on the weekends," Jackson said. Wiggins added that they are avid fans.

There is plenty to do around here if you just take the time to look. Even though we may think that Hamilton County is a mundane place at times, it just takes a little effort to have a great time.

Writers strike coming to a close



Peace finally returned in Hollywood. Television and movie writers are on their way back to work, picketing finally seized and a promise of three years without strike threats was made. The lengthy writer's strike that affected millions finally came to an end.

The strike started back in November, mainly because of a dispute over digital revenue. The writers wanted a piece of the wealth, but the networks refused to share the money. They didn't know at the time exactly how much revenue the Internet would bring. When the strike was officially settled on Feb. 12, a deal was made that shared this Internet income with the writers.

Hollywood is overwhelmed with "Oscar Fever" since the writer's strike officially ended. The Academy is thrilled that the strike will not continue to affect the award season. With the Golden Globe Awards being reduced to a simple press conference, the strike became a nuisance, especially this time of the year.

The writers strike affected the lives of many, not just the writers participating in the protest. Settling down to watch a new



episode of Grey's Anatomy every Thursday night has not been possible.

"New episodes of Grey's Anatomy are the highlight of my week," said senior Bryanna Miller. "I will be glad when the writer's strike is over so I can continue my regular schedule and pick up where the story left off," Miller continued.

Television shows returning this spring include Grey's Anatomy, Ugly Betty and 30 Rock. Several more shows, including Pushing Daisies and Heroes, are also returning.

For many people, the end of the writers strike means much more than "returning to regularly scheduled programs." It means they can return to their "regularly scheduled life" and finally figure out what happens with Dr. McDreamy and Meredith.

Old men win big at Oscars



On Feb. 25, ABC hosted the 80th Annual Academy Awards, the Oscars.

Celebrities are nominated for categories such as best screenplay, best actor/actress, best supporting actor/actress, director, visual effects and many others.

Many actresses and actors made an appearance such as Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Hudson, Jessica Biel, George Clooney, Johnny Depp and Javier Bardem.

The nominated adapted screenplay was Away From Her, There Will Be Blood, No Country for Old Men, Atonement, The Driving Bell and The Butterfly.

No Country for Old Men won 4 awards, for actor in a supporting role, the best directing, best picture, writing (adapted screenplay).



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