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The Hawk

The Voice of Birdville...Fair & Unbiased

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Security awareness increases with recent violence

Within the past month, an alarming rate of school related violence has left many students and teachers dead as well as many frightened citizens questioning the purpose and intent of the gunmen.

The most recent wave of school violence started August 24th. The shootings in Bailey, Colorado, seem to have sparked a phenomenon as more and more violent situations have occurred at schools across the nation in the past month following the incident.

Occurring on October 2, the latest episode of school violence left a mark on a small one-room Amish school house in Lancaster County located in rural Pennsylvania.

Similar to that of the Bailey shootings, the gunmen targeted all females. Out of the dozen girls taken hostage, at least three were killed and many others were injured, and as in the in-

stance of the other shootings, the gunmen then turned the gun on himself. Caught up in the recent dilemmas faced by schools across the nation is a concern of the rising gun threats and how schools plan to prevent the violence from taking place.

While Birdville High School has not come across any violence that pertains to hostage situations or random shootings, actions to prevent and prepare for the worst are practiced by students, faculty and police forces in association with Birdville.

"We have sporadic drills, and the NRH police have automatic drills that every police officer goes through yearly. All the faculty and students practice lockdowns as well," Officer Bedford said.

Since the shootings in Columbine, Colorado, the effect of modifications to the systems of security in



Cameras, corner mirrors, Officer Bedford and other security officers help protect students from intruders.

schools have reached even the safest neighborhoods including North Richland Hills, bringing updates to the school.

"Birdville has maintained since Columbine and has been able to fine tune the safety system," Bedford said.

A major problem associated with the past and present shootings is that many students have no idea what to do in the event of an attack on their school.

Panic and fear became the basis of their actions while logic and reasoning are lost in the terror.

There are many things students can do to become more aware of how to act in the instance of a school shooting or threat situation.

"Be aware of your surroundings and anytime during a lockdown, go to a safer place, such as a classroom immediately. Especially if

you are in a main hallway, find any place that can provide safety," Bedford said.

Also, no student is completely helpless as many last resort actions can prove to be helpful if confronted with a hostile situation.

"Anytime you are in a room you have so many objects that you can use as a weapon such as shoes and belt buckles," Bedford said.

While Birdville is by no means completely safe from school violence, all the precautions and reassessments applied to the school have helped Birdville take a step further.

Leaning more towards becoming a safer and better prepared place for any hostile situations that may come about in the near future, students recently attended safety awareness assemblies.

~ Shane Crawford
Sports Editor

BISD bond for vote November 7

Early voting has begun to vote on a new bond created by the community committee. The bond proposed totals \$128.6 million, covering costs for school updates and a new career and technology academy.

"The plan is based on comprehensive review by a community committee that would reduce portable buildings and provide classroom and lab space for career and technology programs," Director of Communications for Mark Thomas said.

The package includes building replacement campuses at Stowe and Binion elementaries. Binion currently functions with 27 portables and Stowe has 10, which poses a safety issue. Both schools were chosen because of their age, location and crowdedness, Binion has a total capacity of 488 and is functioning at 580. Replac-

ing the two schools would cost \$26.2 million.

"The committee identified the following priorities in developing their final recommendation: health and safety, overcrowding and reducing portables, and minimal functional requirements. Each of these affect student learning," Thomas said.

Also included is replacing Richland High School, which was built in 1961. The new building would be built in the current student parking lot, when finished the existing school would then be demolished and turned into the new student parking lot. Included in the new building would be the 1989 classroom additions and theater renovation. Costs for this building would be \$57.2 million.

Expanding Haltom High School is also in the plan, which

would cost an estimated \$18.8 million. By doing this it would replace the need for 14 portable classrooms.

The district's seven middle schools would receive new four lane tracks and expanded locker rooms. This would help in overcrowding and limitations of the physical education and athletic instructions. Cost of the new renovations would be \$11.5 million.

In the plan is also a new Career and Technology Academy. The proposed new academy would allow for more students to participate in such classes as Cisco networking, health science technology, culinary arts, media technology, construction technology, automotive technology, computer maintenance, criminal justice and cosmetology. The new academy would be 83,000 square feet and cost an estimated \$14.5 million.

If passed, construction for projects will begin mainly in 2007, after which a Citizen committee will be formed. The committee will oversee progress of construction and make reports for the board.

Concerning the cost to taxpayers, in 2006 the Texas legislature passed a tax reduction plan to reduce property tax, so cost will not rise.

"This was developed by citizens committees consisting of people who supported, opposed and were neutral on the last bond. This is not the same plan," Thomas said.

Any registered voter in the BISD boundaries can vote. Check with your local city hall for polling locations. Early voting is through November 3rd. Final voting is the seventh.

~ Kylie Morrison
Co-Editor-In-Chief



- Two earthquakes occurred in Hawaii during October. One was a 6.7 followed by a 6.0
- Hurricane Paul, a category three hurricane hit the western coast of Mexico with winds up to 110 mph.
- At least 44 Iraqis have been killed due to war violence across the Middle East this month.
- U.S. military has announced that 83 American service members died this October.
- The U.S. military has still not found a U.S. soldier that is believed to be kidnapped in Baghdad, Iraq.
- College tuition rises six percent, and average salaries have not increased at the same rate.

What is your favorite practical joke or prank?



"I put glue in my mother's brand new desk chair."

Elizabeth Castro
Freshman



"I put sticky notes on my friends' backs."

David Croft
Sophomore



"My favorite practical joke is scaring little kids."

Tyler Ferguson
Junior



"My favorite is when I told a kid a fake answer on a test."

Kim Tran
Senior



"My favorite prank is toilet papering Dr. Ledbetter's house."

Jason Wells
Faculty

Rising college tuition overwhelms students, parents

The rapid rise of college tuition in the United States has overshot the rise in household income and inflation. If neither public nor private universities drive the price down, or if federal and state governments do not step in to help, students will be graduating college with higher debts than ever before.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average household income is roughly \$45,000. The sticker price of

an Ivy League school, out-of-state public university or art school added to room and board, additional school fees, can equal that \$45,000 for one year.

In a research conducted by College Board, the median cost of one year at a private college or university has climbed to \$21,235 and the cost of one year at a public college now rests at \$9,287. To put into comparison, the household income in the United States has risen a mere 4% in the past two decades, a

stark contrast to the 40% college tuition has reached and three times the U.S. inflation.

Many parents of Birdville students express as one of their top financial priorities paying for their child's college education. They are not alone. A survey conducted by several sources found that around 65% of Americans place paying for college as their number one financial worry, beating house and car payments.

Colleges and universities

need to let tuition rise with the American income or inflation in the United States, rather than bump the sticker price up beyond reach and then use financial aid as a cover up. The boosted promises of financial aid is still not enough to compensate for the high prices.

There are several possible reasons why prices for attending a higher education have soared. Universities compete against one another for "the best education money can buy".

While more is being spent on technology by colleges, the state governments, however, are providing less for public universities. Except for military academies, the federal government does not directly provide for higher education. Universities turn to partnering up with business, which is not always reliable as businesses face their own financial ups and downs.

College Board has already noted that the average student will leave college with \$18,000 in debt. Graduate students face the prospect of up to \$100,000 in debt, not including credit card debts and outside loans.

To offset this, college and universities need to lower their tuitions. State governments should return to their old ways of supporting state colleges. The federal government may not control tuition rates, but if higher education costs more, the government should be willing to contribute essential financial assistance to universities and colleges.

If the government is willing to spend billions—up to a trillion—dollars on the military, why not chip in extra to colleges and universities?

~ Priscilla Totigapungprasert
Entertainment Editor

Hate Crime laws require revision

The weak Texas hate crime legislation needs to be strengthened because it is not doing the job.

On April 27, two white teenagers severely beat and sexually assaulted a 16 year old Hispanic boy who they believed had tried to kiss a 12 year old white girl at a party in Spring, Texas.

The attackers forced the boy out of a house party and beat him with a metal pipe, shouting epithets "associated with being Hispanic," said Lt. John Martin with the Harris County Sheriff's Department.

This is exactly the kind of crime that should be prosecuted under Texas' James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Law. State Senator Rodney Ellis, (D-Houston) has asked Lt. Governor David Dewhurst for a review of the hate-crimes statute next summer.

"The hate-crimes law won't apply in this case and is rarely used to pursue enhanced penalties for hate crimes. With a weak statute in place, prosecutors have little incentive to pursue hate-crimes convictions," Ellis said.

The Senate should address this important issue, both because of the impact that hate crimes have on entire communities, and because the law is not proving sufficient to prosecute the crimes it was designed to deter.

Under the 2001 Texas hate-crimes law, those who commit crimes with "bias or prejudice against others" based on characteristics such as race, gender, disability or sexuality receive harsher penalties for their actions.

The difference is when a

crime is committed with hatred toward a particular group. Hate crimes can terrorize an entire community.

Hate crimes are particularly effective in sending a message to members of a community. The message is one of fear and control. When someone has terrorized a community rather than simply one person, the penalties should be more severe.

According to Ellis, though 1,617 hate-crimes have been documented statewide since 2001, only seven have been prosecuted under the hate-crimes law. The law will soon be totally meaningless if not reformed.

Ellis has proposed a number of ways to strengthen the law, including the creation of a hate-crimes registry, elevation of minimum penalties

for convictions and allowing hate-crimes victims to have their identities protected. These are all reasonable steps that should be taken to ensure prosecutors have the incentive to pursue convictions under the state law in hate crimes cases.

The brutal death of a black man in Jasper, the beating of a gay man in Austin and, most recently, the forced sexual assault of a Latino teenager in Spring have one thing in common: Those who transform hate into violence are sending a clear message to the communities of this state. It's about time for the state of Texas to strengthen its message by reforming the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Law.

~ Rachel Fountain
Staff Writer

Letter to the Editor

Recently there has been a change in my beverage choices. My Coca-Cola has shrunk from 20 ounces to 12 ounces and my Powerade has been changed. And the Powerade is what gets me the most...how come my Powerade still costs a dollar? I'm paying the same amount of money, but getting almost half the drink.

Now, I know the reason behind this new beverage change. The government is on a mission to cut back on the sugar intake and to get rid of all the unhealthy snacks in the vending machines. If you are trying to solve obesity in American children, wouldn't you start with the cafeteria? What is the fat content in the average plate lunch?

In London, a celebrity chef by the name of Jamie Oliver is making lunch "enjoyable and healthy". Let's try taking a page from his book.

Another question is...does the government have the right to impose its beliefs on my beverage choices?

Change my Cokes and Powerade back to the normal size for a normal price. Don't try to impose change on someone without warning. To know, in advance, that you are about to change my life would be nice.

~ Noel Griffin

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Members of Knitting Club create scarves, blankets



Collin Brewer works on his knitting project during lunch

One of the newest clubs on campus, the knitting club, provides an opportunity for students to learn the art of cross-stitching, knitting and needling.

Founded by English teacher Nancy Sharma, the club includes eight students who meet on Monday afternoons in room B101.

Sharma started this club to include students with interests other than those already included as clubs on camps.

"I saw how successful it was at NYU, and I believe that knitting is coming back with kids," Sharma said. "It's a club that provides more variety."

While most of the participants are beginners, the members plan to display their work in the library and in upcoming art shows.

The students involved have been working on different projects for their respective skills, such as Celtic patterns, blankets and scarves.

"I've found knitting relaxing, and I enjoy being around Mrs. Sharma," club member Collin Brewer said.

Brewer has been working for a total of four hours on his current project, a scarf, and has found that knitting is a time consuming art.

"I'm nowhere near being finished, so I did it in my

spare time in BCIS and was made fun of, but it doesn't bother me," Brewer said.

Club members are hoping to have their projects done in time to wear them this winter.

If interested in an art that is not only relaxing and soothing, but will also add warmth in the winter, join the knitting club, attend meetings and learn to relax.

Sharma's talents also include creating original framed stained glass art pieces which she displays in windows in her home.

~Layne Hancock
Staff Writer

Reinvented Spanish Club anticipates new, fun year

The Spanish Club is reinventing itself by starting off a new school year with stronger motivations and a genuine incentive to learn and enjoy the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Teachers Kaynee Correoso and Terri Wilson are

working as a team to sponsor the club. It is a group effort, where Correoso has the morning meetings and Wilson has the afternoon meetings.

Spanish Club members meet and participate in educational, fun activities including venturing the tasty foods

of Latin America, studying the Hispanic cultures and embracing the language.

"[Our goal] is just to really get people involved and teach them more about the culture and expose them to the

fun parts of it," Wilson said.

They do cultural activities that students do not have time for in class. The activities include a presentation by Wilson over the culture of Spain.

At the end of the year,

around Christmas, Spanish club plans to meet with French club and enjoying an international activity. Correoso also plans to cook Cuban food for the Spanish Club and have many fiestas.

"The greatest accomplishment the Spanish Club can have is to inspire students to be bilingual," Correoso said.

Spanish club shows the significance of being bilingual, helping students learn more and understand the advantages of knowing two languages in this day and age's diverse societies.

Each six weeks Spanish Club meets and does an activity to immerse the students of the cultures of Latin American countries.

It is not too late for students to join the Spanish Club. Anyone interested should contact either Correoso or Wilson. Those interested should anticipate an eventful year and an opportunity to have fun learning outside the classroom.

~Christina Davidson
Photography Editor

Bad luck omens historically rooted in Bible, mythology

Friday the 13th has always been held in regard by superstitious people as a day to take off work, stay in bed and avoid anything remotely risky.

Even those who purposefully walk under ladders and seek out black cats avoid unnecessary travel on the ill-fated day.

According to national-geographic.com \$800-\$900 million in business transactions are lost because people refuse to fly or partake in other normal day-to-day activities. It is a day that is considered by many to be incredibly unlucky, perhaps because of its combined inauspicious historical connotations of Friday and the number 13.

Historically, Fridays have a reputation for being pernicious. Biblically it is believed that Eve tempted Adam with the forbidden fruit on a Friday, Earth was punished with the Great Flood on a Friday and Christ was crucified on a Friday.

Ancient Norse mythology tells the story of Loki, god of mischief, who showed up uninvited to a banquet of twelve other gods at Valhalla, making the total number of guests equal to 13. He then commenced to pit the gods

against each other and one was killed with a mistletoe-tipped arrow, causing the whole earth to mourn and beware of the number 13.

Today the number thirteen continues to instill fear into many people, especially those with triskaidekaphobia, or fear of the number 13.

This widespread dislike of the number leads to its avoidance in everyday society.

Many buildings purposefully leave out a 13th floor, opting instead to name the 13th floor the 14th. Airlines commonly leave out a 13th row. Hospitals and hotels are known to omit room number 13.

If people who are normally not superstitious stub their toe on Friday the 13th, they are more likely to notice it and attribute it to bad luck than if they stubbed their toe on any other day.

According to about.com, there is evidence to prove that the risk of hospital admission due to automobile or other vehicular accidents may be increased by as much as 52 percent. Staying in bed may not be such a bad idea after all.

~JB Martin
Advertising Editor

Est-ce que tu aimes francais? French Club members immerse in language, culture

Parlez-vous francais? Mais oui!

In Madame Michelle Hall's room every Wednesday morning at 7:45 am, an endless chatter of rapid French can be exchanged with generous helpings of coffee and other pleasantries every Friday morning.

There are five AP students who lead French Club--Sara Hampton, Whitney Lindsey, Merrissa Kuylen, Kaitlyn McMurtray and Martha Miranda.

They all share the responsibilities equally as a team.

The French Club organizes a variety of activities, including movie nights every month, parties, picnics and lunches.

An annual caroling trip is taken every December, as well as an annual scavenger hunt downtown, where groups have a list of embarrassing and awkward things to record on video and view afterwards.

"It's going to be really fun and creative this year, and hopefully we can get enough people into it," Lindsey said.

There is also the annual trip to France every Spring Break, as well as an end-of-the-year French-style "fete" feast at Madame Hall's home.

"I'd like French Club to be more of a family than anything else," Lindsey said.

~Rachel Fountain
Staff Writer

Activist Cesar Chavez recognized during Hispanic Heritage Month

The month of October marks this year's Hispanic Heritage Month. Famous people of the Hispanic heritage have been recognized throughout the years and have also received the respect they deserve.

Cesar Chavez rose up and inspired thousands of families who wanted better lives. During the 1960's an organization that led its members in the fight for improved working conditions came together, named the United Farm Workers

In the American Southwest, farmers were devastated by the effects of severe droughts on their crops. Chavez's family could barely sell what they were able to grow--beans, peas, grapes and other crops--- and eventually they were not able to grow anything at all.

They lost the family farm in 1937 because of the

drought and because no money was coming in, they could not pay their taxes.

Farm work was incredibly difficult. They suffered in the hot sun for many hours



Chavez was forced into migrant farm labor when he was only ten years old.

Chavez also had little or hardly anytime at all for school or school related activities. He also frequently experienced racial prejudice because of his Mexican American heritage.

picking grapes.

Migrant grape pickers in Delano, who worked under harsh conditions for a dollar an hour, went on strike. The National Farm Workers Association members understood what they were fighting for and voted to join the strike.

The *huelga* (Spanish for "strike") was on.

In March of 1966 the members of the strike marched 250 miles from Delano to the Californian capitol of Sacramento to take their demands to state officials. They wanted higher pay for their rigorous work. After their protest, they eventually received a higher pay rate.

In 1965 the National Farm Workers Association was catapulted to national attention.

Chavez died in his sleep on April 23, 1993. He received the attention he was looking for and the support at the wrong time but still succeeded.

In 1994 President Clinton awarded Chavez the Presidential Medal of freedom, the highest civilian honor.

~Felipe Alvarez
Staff Writer

Homecoming

Homecoming brings new traditions

Homecoming week was a week to remember, laced with celebration as it ended with both a victory and the adding of new traditions.

The fifties theme hall decorations included diner scenes, drive-in movies and even *The Sand Lot*. Students spent hours in the halls on September 22nd with mounds of tape and paint to make the event successful.

Spirit posters displayed phrases such as "Rough up the Rough Riders," the western-style Saginaw mascot. Seniors came out victorious for halls by grade levels.

The week was also marked by a sense of fun, with dress-up days for every decade from the fifties to the eighties.

This year was the first parade, the beginning of a new tradition, finishing with a pep rally in the student parking lot.

Many organizations and sports teams had floats, cheerleaders, Rawkin Hawks, and the band followed, and homecoming court couples rode in their own personal convertibles.

Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Waddell, and school

board members also rode in the parade. Former and current principals Dr. Debbie Tribble, Susan Fisher and Dr. Lane Ledbetter rode together as honored guests.

Familiar tinkling of green and gold mums signaled the game the next day, where the home team defeated Saginaw in a landslide victory at forty-five to zero.

The homecoming dance, which was held at the Fine Arts and Athletics Complex, was also a first ever, finally adopting the popular tradition of many other schools.

The celebratory mood of

the entire week was continued at the dance. With a DJ, pictures and refreshments.

"There was electricity in the air; the DJ's really knew what they were doing, and they really helped get the party rolling. In all I had a really great time, and I plan to go again next year," Josh Martin said.

~Kylie Morrison
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Taylor Hines
Queen 2006



Did you think you were going to get nominated?

"I was really unsure as to how court nominations would turn out. A lot of my best friends said they voted for me, so I was hoping for the best."

How did it feel to get nominated?

"At first I was nervous, but my friends were really excited about it and they helped me relax."

Were you scared?

"Nervous, especially on the football field. My dad kept telling me it was going to be fine—just smile and have fun."

How did it feel when you heard you were queen?

"My heart was pounding so I hard I don't remember the sound of the crowd cheering. The coolest part was when I got off the field a little girl, about eight, started screaming, ecstatically, because she got to touch the queen."

Paige Allen

Britanee George Jennifer Grose

Rachel Grimes Taylor Hines

Keely Roberts Chaney Tyner

Homecoming Court

Ruben Aguirre Robert Chew

Tanner Cope Vu Ho

Aaron Sutanto Jason Martinson

Chase Hayes



Photo by Janet Hines

Vu Ho
King 2006



How does it make you feel to be chosen as Homecoming King?

"I was honored, that my classmates chose me. It felt pretty normal."

When you go down the hall, do people wave and greet you more now or before you were chosen as King?

"They act the same, but now more from freshmen and sophomores."

What were your feelings when you were at the game and your name was called out?

"I was like, oh goody; I guess I should go get the crown."

If you had not been one of the candidates, whom would you have voted for?

"I would have voted for Robert Chew."

What is your favorite movie?

"Forrest Gump"

Important candy collecting rules

For many years people have gone out into the night on the 31st of October to collect candy, or sometimes money if one knows where to look.

This special night to all crazy fanatics is known, obviously, as Halloween. The point of Halloween is to get candy or take candy from your friend when he or she is not looking, right? Wrong! The point of Halloween is to dress up in some sort of costume and scare people. Then get candy or take the candy that your friend has in either his or her bag, sack, plastic cauldron, hat or the most effective container, 'the Pillow-case'.

If one does not know how to get the candy, it is quite easy. Every one should know it; it is the phrase "Trick or treat." Or to be more elaborate, say, although this saying is not recommended, "Trick or Treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat!"

The process that is most often chosen to use when one goes up to a potential candy giver should be to, of course use the "secret code", scare them and run to the next house as fast as possible. It is important to reach the candy first, before all the good stuff is gone.

Fashion also comes into play when one goes out into the public scavenging for treats.

"Try to wear something reflective, and always bring a

flashlight with you," secretary Becky Rippy said.

Grim reapers and monsters dressed in black are probably not smart ideas, because black is hard to see at night. To be scary and still visible to people, choose to be a white ghost or something bright in color.

Costumes are always difficult to choose, because the potential candy giver grades one on how well their costume looks. If someone has on his or her street clothes, the candy amount will be nowhere near the amount of someone who dressed up as a ghost or wolverine. Although that person may look completely ridiculous, in the end he or she receives more candy than the non-caring street clothes guy.

The most important rule of trick-or-treating is to make sure that all candy is kept away from friends or relatives.

"Take as much candy as you possibly can," Taylor Dukes said.

The importance of this is because once the candy is gone its another year until it comes back again. Halloween can be an enjoyable experience for a dedicated trick-or-treater, if rules are followed.

~Ethan Hutchins
Staff Writer

Harvest

Recipes

Recipes courtesy of Culinary Arts

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

- 3 heads garlic, split in half

3 tablespoons olive oil

2 pounds potatoes, peeled and diced

1 stick butter, cubed

1/2 to 3/4 cup heavy cream

Salt and white pepper to taste
1. Preheat oven to 450°F.

2. Place the garlic on a pie pan and drizzle with olive oil. Season with salt
- and pepper. Place in oven and roast until tender and golden brown, 35-40 minutes.

3. Remove from the oven and cool. Squeeze or remove the garlic cloves from the heads and place in a small bowl. Using a fork, mash the garlic until smooth.

4. Place the potatoes in a pot of salted water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to simmer and cook the potatoes until fork tender, 12-15 minutes.

5. Remove the pan
- from the heat and drain. Place potatoes back into the pot and return to heat. Stir the potatoes constantly for 2-3 minutes to dehydrate the potatoes.

6. Remove from heat and add the garlic and butter. Using a handheld masher, mash the butter and garlic into the potatoes. Add enough cream until the desired texture is achieved. The potatoes should be sort of lumpy. Season with salt and pepper.

Emeril Lagasse, 2005

Cajun deep-fried Turkey

- 1 (10-15 pound) unstuffed wild turkey (thawed and dried thoroughly)

5 gallons peanut oil

2 tablespoons Cajun seasoning

1 stick butter or margarine

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
1. Pour peanut oil into a 10 gallon pot. Place pot on propane cooker and heat oil to 375°F.

2. Either use a metal basket or tie two cotton strings around the carcass so the bird can easily be lifted out of the oil. Carefully submerge turkey in oil. Deep fry until turkey floats, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 minutes per pound.
3. Melt butter or margarine and add garlic powder and cayenne.

4. Remove turkey and immediately dust with Cajun seasoning. Then brush turkey with butter mixture. Allow turkey to cool 20-30 minutes before carving.

Yields 12 – 16 servings.
John Nguyen

Brings...

Halloween

Hangman's House of Horrors provides terror, fear

The smell of smoke machines and sounds of screams send the human senses into overdrive with fear. Hangman's House of Horrors delivers. Admission, which goes to charity, is sixteen dollars for the main haunted house, but only twenty dollars for the combo pack including the main haunted house and three smaller ones. Walking through the main haunted house, which beats the other three, characters were frightening. Decorations were unique, some being colorful and some being dark. One of the scenes was a

room with some kind of thick smoke, making it difficult to see. There was also a room full of "bloody" sheets, a spinning tunnel room and to top it off, crazy characters chasing people with chainsaws. The length of the haunted house was neither too short nor too long. A change that would help would be to get more characters in the scene for each individual room. One of the "miniature" fun haunted houses was called "Revenge of the Hillbillies". It included a two hundred foot maze walking through scenes with characters dressed as hillbillies. They banged on pans and

sang along to songs. The other mini-attraction,

coming out of the walls. Each person was handed two

house and then take them off. The next half of the house was nothing but little lights of different colors. It left a feeling of dizziness and confusion.

The last fun house was called "Cirque de Fantomes". It was basically a circus theme with clowns coming out of everywhere. Their props were wigs, bats and anything they could make noise with. Hangman's included a picture station, live band, concessions and karaoke available while customers waited in line. Waiting time was not the worst, the smaller houses were about five minutes, but

the main house line was about thirty minutes. Besides the individual haunted houses the whole feel of the place was one of fright and good Halloween fun. With scary characters walking around, such as clowns and werewolves, thrill seekers were put into a state of terror. Hangman's House of Horrors is located off of Interstate 30 at Forest Park Blvd each year. The house is opened from 7 pm to midnight on Fridays, Saturdays and Halloween night. All other nights Hangman's is open from 7 to 10 pm. Proceeds for this Halloween season go to local charities in the Tarrant County area.



Characters seen at Hangman's House of Horrors

a 3-D fun house, was a unique kind of haunted house. Instead of the usual scary people jumping out, it had 3-D paintings

pairs of 3-D glasses before entering. Directions were to wear the first pair of glasses through the first half of the

What is Your Favorite Pie?

Apple 22% Cherry 11%
Chocolate 17% Other 10%
Pecan 15% Lemon 8%
Pumpkin 12% Strawberry 5%

PIE CHART

Butler follows in father's footsteps, races toward national championship

At the age of five, some children are learning how to ride their bicycles without the training wheels. When Channing Butler was five, she was learning how to ride a motorcycle.

With a father who has been racing for 40 years, Butler's desire to follow in her father's footsteps only came as a mild surprise to her family. It was not until middle school that Butler became highly competitive in the sport. Now as an 11th grader, Butler describes motocross as her life's main focus.

Despite juggling her school life, her job at Niki's Italian Bistro and playing tennis for the school team, Butler still manages to squeeze in two practices a week and four practices when school is out. Practices take her to tracks all over the state and even outside the state. Some of the more local tracks Butler trains at include Village Creek, Oak Hill and Nacona.

Butler's intensity in the sport has truly paid off as she became the State Champion in 2004. After a series of races leading up to the finals at the San Antonio Cycle Ranch, she placed fourth at Nationals. Butler plans on making a return trip this year to San Antonio for Nationals

again.

"I plan on going back over Thanksgiving Break and I have high hopes for that," Butler said.

While winning

a check. She feels that without motocross to dedicate her effort into, she could be getting in all sorts of trouble.

Motocross has also been a way for Butler to make

Reed, the World Motocross Champion, as her idol. She devotedly follows his races around the country and has even met him in person at the Dallas Supercross.

Though Butler has definitely enjoyed the exhilaration of motocross, she has also suffered from the dangers of the sport. Besides the usual bruises, cuts, sprains, concussions and back problems, she has impaled her stomach on handlebars, had her spleen ripped open and her kidneys have been severely damaged as well. For Butler, hospital visits are not uncommon for serious internal injuries from disasters like over-shooting a jump and landing in the face of the next take-off.

The repercussions of the sport may fail to stop Butler from continuing on. This year, she is ranked second in State. As state season slowly comes to an end, Butler is already focusing on the national level.

"Although I know the dangers of this sport and the possible consequences that could come of it, it's my passion and I don't see myself quitting anytime soon," Butler said.

~ Priscilla Totiyapungprasert
Entertainment Editor



Photo courtesy of Channing Butler

Turning a corner, Butler (11) competes against opponents and the course.

races sparks her competitive drive, motocross has given her much more than that. Butler's father still races and the two of them have built a strong relationship through the sport. Butler has also found motocross as a way to keep her in

friends outside school, especially guy friends in this male-dominated sport.

"We're a wild group of friends, but we take racing very seriously. We know our limitations," Butler said.

Butler claims Chad

Offensive Line celebrates victory with traditional 'Fat Man Slide'

The slide is alive in the offensive line's post-game performance.

After a winning Varsity Hawk football game the "Fat Man Slide" can be witnessed at the 50-yard line. The name is an accurate portrayal for a high school offensive line that weighs in at over 1340 pounds.

Started in the playoffs of 2004 by Jared Canter and various other football players, this event was created as a source of notoriety for the five players that make-up the offensive line.

"It's our version of trying to hang onto the rope," coach Gary Helzer said.

With all of the popularity that comes with the other positions, this is the O-line's way of keeping up and making their own fame.

"We needed something that was easy to learn and fun to do, and 'the slide' was just that," Varsity lineman Jordan Conkle said.

It is apparent to fans that the "Fat Man Slide" is just a way for the line to celebrate and express their excitement after a big win.

"With only two sacks in

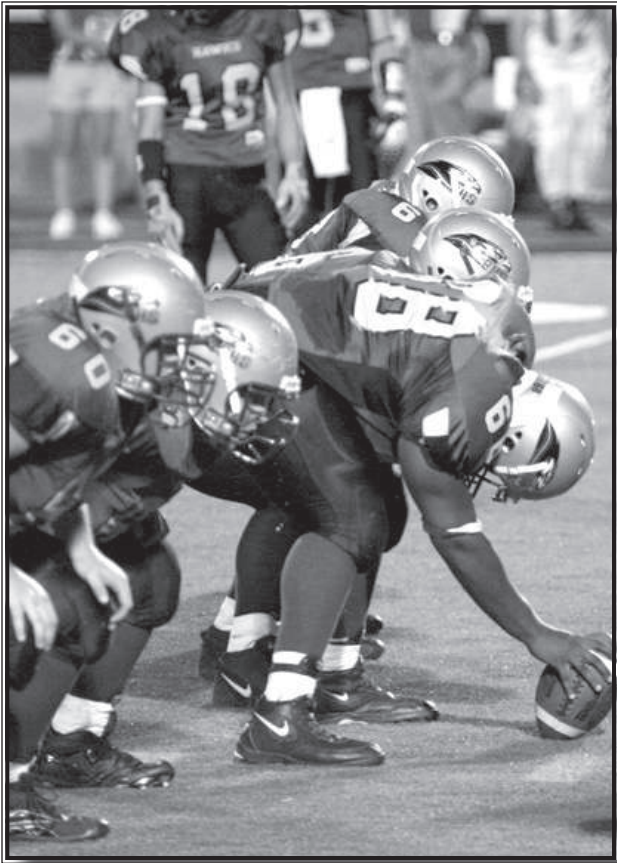


Photo courtesy of Images by Marcell

Birdville's offensive line prepares for the snap at the Homecoming game against Saginaw

the past six games this season, we're doing really good and this is one of the only sources of glory we get from the crowd after what we do," Conkle said.

With all the "fun" that

comes with the "Fat Man Slide" the act is surely something that will be passed down to the next generation of the Varsity football offensive line after graduation.

All of the Varsity offen-

sive line players are hoping to go to college after they graduate.

Jonathon Fayyazi, #61, hopes to go to Colorado State University. Jordan Conkle, #60, wants to attend Abilene Christian University. Jonathon Lester, #66, is crossed between Baylor University and the University of Georgia at Athens. James Hipp, #67, is planning on going to the University of Texas. Chris Burnett, #68 and the only starting sophomore lineman on Varsity, although somewhat undecided, has his mind set on either the University of Texas or the University of Notre Dame. All of these young athletes have helped to continue this tradition after all of the seven games of this season.

"It's been a long upstanding tradition with the offensive line", senior offensive lineman Jonathon Lester said, "and I'm just glad to be passing it down to my underclassmen."

All in all, the Fat Man Slide represents teamwork, determination and the love of the game.

~ Richard Rivera
Staff Writer

SHANES CENTER



Shane Crawford
Sports Editor

Highly paid Yankee staff proves useless

With Major League Baseball entering deep into the playoffs and on to the World Series, I have come to question the necessity of a highly paid player staff.

It is quite obvious that paying over \$200 million dollars on an all-star lineup may attract a large crowd, but in the instance of the New York Yankees, the season outcome just has not cut it.

Organizations such as the Oakland As on the other hand are very successful and with a low team salary. They for instance, draft unknown players and thrive off their success.

Even while the Yankees may be highly paid, many aspects hinder their achievement of a World Series birth.

For one, the Yankees are a large group of individuals, not to be confused with an actual team. Most all the players are highly paid and seem to look out for number one, themselves.

Who can blame them though as Alex Rodriguez is reeling in over 25 million big

ones. Why not play as an individual and perform to your best ability every once in a blue moon, because after all, they are getting paid the same regardless.

Also, through the past years' acquisitions of MVP caliber players that include Alex Rodriguez, Randy Johnson, Johnny Damon and Bobby Abreu, the Yankees thought themselves for sure World Series contenders, but once again have found themselves watching the series rather than playing in it.

I am not here to bash the Yankee organization, but one can not help but laugh at all the turmoil that has caused this all-star Yankee line-up to choke in the playoffs.

Yankee fans expect a World Series title practically every season, and when one is not obtained, the year is categorized as a bad year.

As most teams pray for a playoff birth, the Yankees make it there most every year, but until they learn to play like a team, every year will continue to be viewed as a bad year.

Rodeo saddles up for new season

Every Friday night there are Birdville athletes competing in the nearby town of Saginaw.

Not recognized as a UIL sport, no Rawkin' Hawks attend, no cheerleaders root and yell and most of the participants go unnoticed around the campus, but the lack of attention does not stop Blake Wilson and the rodeo team from competing. Wilson is one of the six Birdville students that ride weekly in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association.

"It's exciting and a great way to get your adrenaline going," Wilson said.

Wilson, Samantha Goodwin and Tiffany Sanderson are participating in the program for their third consecutive year. Goodwin and Sanderson's events include steer undecorating and goat tying, and Justin

Pierce rides bulls.

"I'm working' hard to get to the top of the standings in saddle and bare-back bronc bustin'," Wilson said.

The top of the standings will mean beating out students from school rivals such as Azle, Boswell and Saginaw.

"We might not have as many participants as other schools, but all of us feel we can improve in one way or another," Wilson said.

Rodeo is a year long sport that often draws a crowd of only parents and participants despite the constant excitement. Newcomers this year include Cooper Wade and Daniel Greer.

Rodeo starts Friday's at 8, Saturday's at 7 and Sunday's at 2 in Saginaw Rodeo Arena.

~ Layne Hancock
Staff Writer

Cross Country brings dedication, purpose to meets

In the past few years, Cross Country has become a successful athletic program. The Varsity girls team qualified for regionals in 2000, 03, 04 and 05 and became the 2005 7-4A District Champions. The boys quali-

fied for regionals in 2000, 01 and 05.

“There are not many sports out there, that improve your athletic ability throughout all the sports that one can participate in. I believe cross country is

one of the sports that does,” Coach Eddie Brown said.

Cross country has become an organization of successes due to the coaching of Eddie Brown as well as the leadership of Varsity runners such as Christopher

Hutchins, Tyler Thornton, Clint Burke, Blake Wilson, Stephanie Alvarez, Casey Branach, Cameron Massie and many others.

This season, cross-country hopes to continue the tradition of success that has been occurring in the past years.

“This year, the guys team, in my opinion, has shown to be the hardest working guys team in years, and there are obvious expectations for the girls,” Brown said.

In the season so far, the runners have already participated in numerous meets where individuals have improved their personal records from the previous season, and as a team they have succeeded.

Varsity and junior varsity male runners run three miles in a meet, and on the women’s side, Varsity and junior varsity runners run two

miles in a meet.

“Cross-country is fun, but it can be really tough sometimes,” Micah Lumpkin said.

Most team members will attest that cross country is a difficult sport and a challenging one, but fun at the same time.

“I like cross country, because it’s fun and hard to challenge myself,” Janelle Rosenberger said.

Many say that cross-country is a special kind of sport, because it has unity and dedication throughout the team.

“I have enjoyed running, because the people who do it are more dedicated to the sport than in any other sport,” Clint Burke said.

Many enjoy the benefits that come from running.

“I enjoy cross country, because to me it’s the only sport where everyone cheers for each other even if they’re

from different schools, and of course there are always lots of girls to cheer me on,” Christopher Hutchins said.

Other cross country runners feel it is a sport that helps relieve the stresses of everyday life.

“When I run, I am in a little zone of my own where I am able to think about certain things that are on my mind,” Cameron Massie said.

The cross country team has competed in many meets this year. The district meet was scheduled to take place on Friday. Results were not available at press time.

If the cross country team does as well as they performed last year at the district meet, they could be going on once again to Regionals, which is held at Mae Simmons park in Burleson.

~ Ethan Hutchins
Staff Writer



Running in a meet, the cross country team strides toward their goal of a repeat appearance at Regionals.

Photo courtesy of Eddie Brown

BISD Hockey Team attacks new season with wins

Birdville hockey has started off the season with a superb amount of strength. The BISD hockey team takes on rivals with fifteen suiting out.

Facing off South Lake Carroll, Birdville came out with a win and left the ice with a 3-1 score at the last buzzer. Northwest challenged Birdville coming out to a loss of 4-1. This leaving Birdville 2-0 in region.

Last year the team received second in mid division.

They left the year with a 10-4 record. There are a total of 24 games in the season setting standards high for Birdville Hockey to go undefeated.

The team’s strength comes from nothing but practices. They have scheduled practices of one hour a day on Wednesdays and Sundays. Chris Bruc and Chris Cypher are the hockey coaches, teaching them to play as one unit. They support each other, and push everyone as one to gain enough strength to be there

for one another when needed. They have enough potential to over come any obstacle. Birdville hockey stands tied for first place out of six teams.

H.E.B. is their main opponent to take down in order to get to the playoffs. John Steel has four points and one assist. Steel blew away Northwest with a hat trick, putting him above in points.

The hockey team, as of right now, has one defensive player, John Skinner, who

was recently suspended. The referee physically contacted Skinner causing him to react. The reaction sent him off the ice to the locker room for a twelve game suspension. Now leaving him to suit out for the remainder of the season, twelve games.

“Were doing really good, we have potential as a team,” Tyler Henderson said.

Henderson is the Hockey team’s right wing with strength and creativity out on the ice being expected. Henderson and Jake Rombach are

head to head with assists.

Tournaments for the hockey team are out of reach but still leaving opportunities as they expect to take first in silver division.

Having a save percentage of ninety-five, Colton Reece shows his team strength. He has 30 shots on net letting only two by. One in the Southlake Carroll game and another in the Northwest game. Reece, a sophomore at Birdville High school, was

ranked second in state for goalie his freshman year. He also has his own individual strategies to learn how to come up with more saves. Trying to achieve first in state, he has to work hard and keep his eyes on the puck.

“I think we should do really good, most likely go undefeated if we play as a team,” Reece said.

~ Felipe Alvarez
Staff Writer

• Cross Country •

The Varsity Girls placed first and the Varsity guys placed fourth at the Dallas Coaches Invitational at Norbuck Park in Dallas.

• Football •

The Varsity is currently 4-0 in district and 7-0 in overall season play.
The Junior Varsity team is undefeated in district with an overall record of 8-0.

• Golf •

The girls team has placed second and first in tournaments and is looking for the third win at the tournament to be held at Meadowbrook on Wednesday. The Guys team has placed second at a tournament held at Fossil Ridge and fourth at Diamond Oaks.

Sports Scoop

Scores • Stats Standings

• Hockey •

The hockey team is undefeated with an overall record of 4-0.

• Tennis •

The Varsity team is 6-0 and won district. They are headed for regionals at Wichita Falls. The JV is 5-1 in district.

• Volleyball •

The Varsity team went 14-2 in district with an overall record of 24-13. The junior varsity went 15-1 in district play.

Traffic Tickets Defended

In Fort Worth, Arlington, Euless, Grapevine, Southlake, Hurst, Keller, Forest Hill, White Settlement, Colleyville, Bedford, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Watauga, Haltom City, Crowley, Mansfield, Pantego, Dalworthington Gardens and elsewhere in Tarrant County

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New Metro Cinema offers customers rooms, restaurant, 3-D experience

After a few months of frenzied building Metro Cinema is now open on Colleyville Boulevard, near Market Street and Gloria's Restaurant. Offering a different experience for the moviegoer, Metro Cinema aims to please casual moviegoers and movie buffs alike.

Metro Cinema brings a new approach to the movie going experience. With a modern look it brings a luxurious feel to the theater. Combining the movie going experience with a restaurant. The Indigo Grille, the Metro brings a less crowded and more personable atmosphere to the patrons.

The Metro houses six movie screens, including its state-of-the-art IMAX screen. The Metro Cinema is



IMAX screen stretches forty feet

the only non-museum theater in Tarrant County to provide the IMAX experience and the only one in the area to have 3-D capabilities.

The IMAX theater has a forty-foot screen and boasts

of sparkling clear images and high-tech, crystal clear surround sound to provide the patron with a breathtaking experience.

There are also two private rooms that can house a vari-

ety of private parties, including birthday parties, private screenings and cocktail receptions. The Metro can also host themed parties, including the Academy Awards and Monday Night Football.

Other amenities include the Indigo Bar and Grille, the Metro's stand alone restaurant. They provide a full-service menu of American cuisine for the moviegoer to enjoy in the theaters, including a wide selection of spirits for the over-21s. For a private party, the Indigo Grille can customize their menu to fit the customers' desires.

For more information and showtimes, visit www.metrocinema.com

~ Caleb Wilson
Co-Editor-In-Chief

RESTAURANT FOOD FOOD FOOD REVIEW

Photo by Christina Davidson



Kazakhstan, werewolves, prison inmates, year 2027? Fresh variety of movies arrive on screen

The stream of summer blockbusters has ended and now audiences can look forward to a fresh new variety of movies for late fall and winter. Some are the usual batch of holiday movies, some are comedic relief, and others are visionary movies with intricate storylines that could quite possibly create a buzz just in time for the Oscars.

A foreign film leads the the holiday movie season. On November 3, Spanish film *Volver* opens. Winner of two awards at the Cannes Film Festival (Best Screenplay and Best Actress), the story tells of two separated sisters in Madrid who years ago lost their parents in a village fire. When their aunt Paula, the only woman to speak of their past, dies, a twist pushes the past back to them whether they would like to or not.

Opening on the same day is a more comedic movie, *Borat*, or full title, *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*. Borat is a TV reporter from Kazakhstan who is sent off to the United States where he focuses more on finding Pamela Anderson than reporting on the "greatest country in the world".

Babel, also a Cannes contender, opens on November 10. *Babel*, featuring stars such as Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett, spins a web of three interconnected stories that take place in Morocco, Tunisia, Japan and Mexico. One storyline follows an American tourist couple who face tragedy while vacation, another follows a Mexican nanny attempting to cross the border, and the other follows a rebellious and deaf Japanese teenage girl.

Also on November 10 is

Upcoming Movies

November

Babel
Borat
Deck the Halls
Déjà Vu
The Fountain
Let's Go to Prison
Stranger than Fiction
Tenacious D in: The Pick of Destiny
Volver

December

Apocalypto
The Brazilian Job
Charlotte's Web
Children of Men
Dreamgirls
Eragon
The Holiday
Skinwalkers

the quirky comedy, *Stranger than Fiction*, which tells of an IRS auditor (Will Ferrell), who unexpectedly finds his life being narrated by a voice only he can hear. The narrator of his life begins influencing his normal life routines in work, love and following him even to his death. Cast members also include Maggie Gyllenhaal, Dustin Hoffman and Queen Latifah.

Jack Black explodes on screen with partner Kyle Gass on November 17 in *Tenacious D in: The Pick of Destiny*, an in-your-face comedy about a megaband setting out on an adventure to steal a legendary guitar pick. Plenty of comedic actors make an appearance with anywhere from Ben Stiller to Amy Poehler, Tim Robbins to Will Ferrell.

The R rated comedy *Let's Go to Prison* premieres November 22. When two polar opposite men share a prison cell, hilarious antics and situations

ensue.

In theatres November 24 is *Deck the Halls*, a light-hearted, holiday popcorn flick about two neighbors feuding against each other with over-the-top Christmas decorations.. Well-known actors Matthew Broderick and Danny DeVito play the quarrelling neighbors.

On December 1, one of the less cheerful December movies opens—*Skinwalkers*. *Skinwalkers* follows a young boy sought after by packs of werewolves as he nears his thirteenth birthday. Unbeknownst to him, he too will transform as he comes of age.

The Mel Gibson directed *Apocalypto* arrives December 8. This action-adventure thriller tells the story of a Jaguar Paw, a young Mayan man chosen as a human sacrifice by his ruler in appease the Gods. By doing so, the dying civilization will flourish once more. Jaguar Paw, who does wish for

his early death, escapes.

Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz play two love-troubled women in *The Holiday*. They decide to switch homes—one to America and one to England--where they each end up falling in love with a local in their new home. *The Holiday* is in theatres December 8.

Premiering December 25 is Alfonso Cuarón's science-fiction thriller *Children of Men*, based on the novel by P.D. James. Set in a future where humans can no longer procreate, humankind is in the hands of one woman who is miraculously pregnant as a former activist fights to give her sanctuary.

Come December 29 is *Pan's Labyrinth*, set in fascist 1944 Spain. A lonely child, Ofelia, dreams up a fantasy world of chimeras and adventure to escape the real world.

~ Priscilla Totiyapungprasert
Entertainment Editor

When entering a small restaurant to eat the quality of the service and food may come into more question than at a larger restaurant.

Some small restaurants, on the other hand, are an exception and they do provide what a larger restaurant can dish out. iVyZ is not one of these restaurants.

iVyZ is located at Hwy 26 and Precinct (former location of Chuck's). They are open from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm every day of the week.

Entering the restaurant, patrons might notice the décor, seeing how there are many vases filled with ivy, and the wallpaper is covered with ivy as well.

iVyZ has its own unique look, but it gives one the feeling of claustrophobia.

The apparent unwillingness of the host to go the extra mile to get a booth instead of a regular table for a family of five was evident.

The prices range from something cheap such as the Saucy-Cinnamuffin for \$2.75, to a little more expensive such as the Salsalito Seared Sirloin for \$8.50.

There are many food choices throughout the menu, ranging from oat-meals and pancakes under Daybreaks and the Bacon

Cheeseburger under The Burgs. The prices vary according to the time of day or the menu list, breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food tastes similar to the food that other restaurants serve, so the production is satisfactory.

The food was unexpectedly good; of course one would think so when they have been waiting for twenty plus minutes.

The cleanliness of this restaurant's surroundings is lacking attention. The bathrooms had used paper towels lying on the floor, and the toilets were in the process of being cleaned.

Uncleaned tables were left with the plates from the previous customers and the spills of unknown drinks were practically running off the table. The flies' surrounding the food was another cleanliness issue that needed to be addressed.

iVyZ is not recommended as the local quiet neighborhood gathering place. On the other hand, if a customer is on the hunt for a jungle like environment with flies scavenging for food, then iVyZ is the right place.

~ Ethan Hutchins
Staff Writer

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