

Top Ten Things to Avoid This Holiday Season

BY TYLER BURROWS

10. Hardcore Shoppers (or hXc shoppers). I have seen fists being thrown when the Nintendo Wii sold out...not something you want to be around.
9. Bears.
8. Secret Santa drawings. You always end up finding out who has you, and who everyone else has after you draw. After that, it is a struggle to not be out-bought by the others in the drawing. And if all of that doesn't happen, you get a lame gift. Nothing good comes out of them. **AVOID!**
7. Weird Santa wannabes. They think that just because they dress like Santa, that it makes them Santa. Listen here buddy, **YOU ARE NOT SANTA!** Don't act like you're interested in what I want for Christmas. I will send a letter with my list to the **REAL** Santa.
6. Driving fast. Seriously here, I don't want to hear about any car accidents that happen over break. I care dearly about every one of you, and I would hate for anyone to end up in a ditch. **Snow = Slow.**
5. Fruitcakes. No one likes fruitcakes. It shows that you are a horrible Christmas shopper or that you strongly dislike the person who you are gifting. If you don't know what to give, you can always give a gift card to Burracho's. It's delicious.
4. Jon Paudler's absence. Everyone should spend a little bit of time with the great JP over break.
3. Blizzards. No, I don't mean the delicious Dairy Queen ice cream snack. I mean uber snow storms that would keep you stuck in your house for weeks. They are no good. If you see Mr. Dan Breeden predict a blizzard, I suggest moving to California...or Mexico.
2. Flying on Christmas Eve. It could cause interference with Santa's route. There would be many sad little girls and boys on Christmas morning if a collision occurred.
1. Thinking about Christmas break. When you think about it, it seems to take forever to come. If you just live day by day, it will be here before you know it.

Quiz Bowlin'

BY ZACH BUTZLER

Over the past few weeks, your Holmen High School Quiz Bowl team has competed in two competitions, one at St. Mary's in Winona and one at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I attended both events, and I think it's safe to say they were a great success for the Holmen Quiz Bowl.

On November 18, some members of the team competed in a competition at St. Mary's University in Winona. Games in this competition were made up of three rounds. In the first round, the moderator asks a question to one team, with the other team having the opportunity to steal if the first team gets it wrong. The second round is a toss-up round where anyone can answer. Finally, the third round is a lighting round where each team gets a group of questions that they have to answer in a set amount of time. Holmen had two teams competing: Holmen White and Holmen Purple. Holmen Purple was made up of Dylan Schank (junior), your's truly Zach Butzler (junior, captain), Sam Connell (junior), Ravi Shah (junior) and Darrin Witt (junior). This team was very experienced and had a lot of confidence going in. They didn't disappoint, as they dominated Caledonia 110-20. They were then matched up with Onalaska. The game was tight throughout, but Holmen pulled ahead in the lightning round to win 160-140. With those two wins, they moved on to the Championship round which

will be held February 10 at St. Mary's. This round will be televised on Fox 25/48. Holmen White was comprised of Megan Brevik (junior), Danielle Schank (sophomore), Sarvesh Periyasamy (freshman, captain), Christine Hardie (freshman), Matt Jameson (sophomore) and Jared Mullenbach (freshman). This was the first competition for everyone on Holmen White, and they did a pretty good job. They lost to a tough Onalaska team in their first game, 150-95. They redeemed themselves later on when they beat Caledonia 125-70 to move on to the Consolation Round, which will be held tomorrow at St. Mary's.

Last weekend, the large majority of the Holmen Quiz Bowl team made the yearly trip to the winter tournament in Madison. This competition is different, and a lot more fun in my opinion. Twenty toss up questions are asked, with anyone from either team being able to buzz in at any point. A correct answer earns your team 10 points and the opportunity to answer bonus questions that can earn your team up to 30 more points. If you get the answer right before a certain point, you get 15 points instead of 10. Sounds a little confusing, but it works pretty well. There are a wide variety of questions, with most coming from things you learn from school. However, a good number of questions are about current events, sports, or entertainment. This levels

Quiz Bowlin'

Continued from front page

the playing field a bit, because obviously the uber-nerds of some schools (such as Conserve, a private school that actually has quiz bowl class) are more than likely not going to get the sports or entertainment questions right. Holmen has a great range of players, however. I can say for sure that my team, Holmen A (made up of Holmen Purple, minus Witt), might have been the best *team* in the whole tournament. We should've beaten our rival, Logan, but we blew a huge lead and lost a tie-breaker. We also gave Conserve their closest game that they have ever had (we lost by 85). We had pretty much any kind of question category covered, besides maybe some literature ones. Holmen B was benefited by an impressive performance by Haro, who finished 2nd overall in individual points. We also had a C and D team, made up of mostly underclassmen. Holmen had by far the most teams at the tournament, with four.

We also were the only school to have two teams in the championship round, with Holmen A placing fifth after they were upset by Holmen B, who placed fourth.

This is looking like a great year for Holmen Quiz Bowl. Our Holmen Purple team is one of the favorites to win the St. Mary's tournament in February. Besides that, there are two other competitions left: our own tournament in February and the State Tournament in April at UW-Madison. I think we can expect great things for the rest of this year, and definitely next year, as the founding group of players (Me, Mike Deml (junior), Connell, Haro, Williams, Schank, and Shah) will all be seniors. Latecomers Witt and Tyler Burrows (junior) will be seniors as well, and the always entertaining James Breu (sophomore) will be a junior. Conserve, hold on to your bowling shirts, 'cause we are coming for you.

Rotary Lights!

BY JOE SMERUD

What are you doing this holiday season? Consider taking a trip down to Rotary Lights in Riverside Park, where there are 1.4 million lights lit up in a dazzling holiday display. Every year, the area's Rotary clubs and other non-profit organizations put on Rotary Lights, collecting food and monetary donations. The donations, collected by volunteers, are then given to area food shelters and charities. Volunteers also put up and take down all of the lights in the park, direct traffic through the park when it is open, divide by zero and balance shovels on their noses.

Every year, Rotary Lights has entertained nearly 300,000 visitors at Riverside Park from the day after Thanksgiving through New Years Eve. They've been up and running since 1995, adding roughly 100,000 more lights each year. The park opens every day at 5 p.m. and closes following the last car in line at 10. This is an excellent way to spend time, help local charities and is a great place to take a date. So, in the words of Rod Roddy, "COME ON DOWN!"

<http://www.rotarylights.org/>

TV Show of the Week

BY KARI HEAL

The show "Criminal Minds" on CBS Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. revolves around a team of FBI specialists who work every week to solve some of the most twisted crimes imaginable and prevent more from occurring. Their cases have ranged from a serial killer who rapes a woman and then kills her mother to a married team of supposed serial killers. In the end the wife confesses to tricking her husband into thinking that one of the victims, their son, had died while really putting him up for adoption. This show is definitely one to stretch the imagination and boggle the mind.

The team consists of Special Agent Jason Gideon (Mandy Patinkin), the top Behavioral Analyst in the FBI, Aaron Hotchner (Thomas Gibson), the best of the best at getting people's darkest secrets out of them and Emily Prentiss (Paget Brewster), the most recent to join the team and the one with the most to prove as she is the daughter of diplomats. Also on the team are Derek Morgan (Shemar

Moore), the go-to guy on obsessional crimes, Dr. Spencer Reid (Matthew Gray Gubler), a genius with no social skills to speak of, Jennifer "JJ" Jareau (AJ Cook), the unit liaison for the team and Penelope Garcia (Kirsten Vangsness) who researches cases for the team.

Every episode of this show will leave you wondering what the writers can possibly come up with next. However, I can guarantee you that it will also leave you wanting more, and every episode will shock you in more and different ways than the previous. For instance, in the episode airing December 13, one of the team's very own will be accused of a crime based on a profile put together by Gideon, and the rest of the team will have to clear their teammate and find the real serial killer. Trust me; you don't want to miss this show!

<http://www.tv.com/criminal-minds/show/33484/summary.html>

http://www.cbs.com/primetime/criminal_minds/about.shtml

The Classic Relationship Story

BY KATELYN LARSEN

People say the hardest part of a relationship is the breakup. I've experienced otherwise. When the guy breaks up with the girl, or vice versa, it is heartbreaking and takes a long time to heal. However, the breakup itself is not the worst part since both partners usually stay single for awhile. It gives each person comfort that the other one is still single because it means the fire has not completely died out. No, the worst part is when either the guy or the girl finds a new person to love. The flame extinguishes.

This new person replaces the old one. It means, to some extent, that the guy finds comfort in another girl. (I will use this example because I am more familiar with it. However, a girl could also find a new guy to love). The kiss that belongs to the previous girl finds its place on the lips of someone new. The necklace that should have been a present for the ex-girlfriend finds its way onto an unfamiliar neck. The guy does not stop to consider what he is damaging. Contrary to what he believes, he is placing a knife into his ex-girlfriend's heart and twisting it over and over. The wound grows bigger, and yet the guy does not see it. He is perfectly happy with his new relationship and continues to flaunt the new girl. He slips his arms through her waist--an action that was reserved for the previous girlfriend. He has not a care in the world other than that he is happy. Meanwhile, the ex-girlfriend watches on with terror as her ex-boyfriend, the one that she fell in love with so passionately, parades around with a new girl. In fact, it makes the ex-girlfriend contemplate herself. Maybe she isn't pretty enough.

Maybe her personality isn't good enough. Or maybe, she isn't the type of person people want to be around. Could that be why no other guy has fallen for her since her previous boyfriend broke up with her? Her friends try to tell her that she's crazy and any guy would be lucky to have her. This has been said so many times, it's a wonder if it actually has any meaning left. Perhaps it became a cliché.

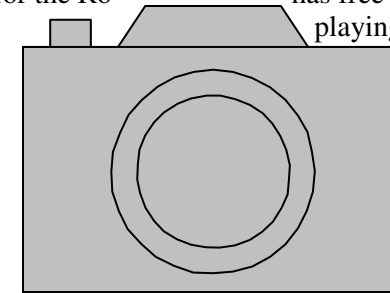
Then, a miraculous thing happens. The girl starts to think that maybe all of the guys in her high school are not meant for her. Perhaps, she will find someone new to love in college. She realizes that she doesn't need a relationship with a guy in order to be happy. Her friends continue to brighten her days, and with that, what more does she need? Obviously, she can't forget the past, but she doesn't know what the future has in store for her, either.

Relationships in high school can be a wonderful thing. However, when it comes down to all of the drama involved and the emotional pain people have to endure, there seems to be no point of maintaining one. It is not necessary to pursue a relationship in high school. Life has so many opportunities to meet new people. The last thing a student should be thinking about is who they're going to date during high school. I fully believe things happen for a reason, so if you fall in love with someone, that's great! However, if you're one of the many students perplexed about who to like or who likes you, relax. You have your entire life in front of you; take it as it comes.

Student of the Week

BY KIM SPANGLER

Josh Treharne (junior) went to a competition on Sunday, December 3 for the Robotics Team. Treharne and Ravi Shah (junior) are team members who make the robots themselves. Mr. Ron Fisher, who helps with the Robotics team, nominated Treharne. The Robotics Team is an extra curricular activity, so Treharne works after school on the robot. He took Robotics class because he likes "building robots and gaining experience."

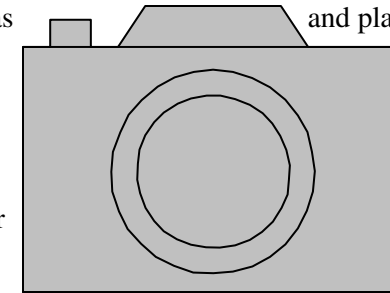


When the son of Greg and Kathleen has free time from robots, he enjoys playing video games and building car models. Treharne would like to go to a technical college after high school. His advice for other students is, "Get to know people and take all opportunities for sports."

Student of the Week

BY KIM SPANGLER

Hannah Galstad (junior) spends much of her time playing sports. She has played volleyball since seventh grade, basketball since fourth grade, and softball since fifth grade. The daughter of Tom and Liz Galstad, has also been a part of DECA since her freshman year and is in One-By-One. In her spare time, she enjoys spending



time with friends, going swimming reading, and playing basketball. Galstad has some advice for other students, "Go all out because it will pay off in the end."

Empty Bowls Soup Night

BY HEATHER WORTMAN

An empty wood or ceramic bowl will feed many at the Holmen Area Food Pantry. Empty Bowls is an important event at the high school. This year, it will be held December 15 in the high school commons. Different varieties of soup will be served and also bread with milk or coffee to drink, and chili.

The bowls will be displayed throughout the commons with a tag, a suggested donation and the name of the artist who made the bowl. The Coulee Region Wood Turners Guild has donated around 80 beautiful wooden bowls. There is one in particular that everyone loves so far. To make it fair, a raffle will be held that night to win this bowl. Tickets will be available during lunch in the Valhalla Gallery, one for one dollar or six for five dollars. No change will be available, so please come prepared. Like I said, the drawing will be held that night between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., and you do not need to be present to win. The raffle ticket



will have your name and phone number on it, so someone will be able to get in touch with you. The bowl is on display in the front window of Valhalla Gallery.

There is also the usual ceramic bowls that will be available. In fact, there are a lot of them. Coming from someone who had to get them all prepared for this night, there are a lot, and they are amazing. Many people came in from the community to throw, some who were just learning and some who were already familiar with it. As a result, there is a large variety, from smaller ones, to some that are rather large. All of the bowls will go quickly, so if you are interested in purchasing one, I suggest that you come early that night.

This event is a lot of fun, and everything is going to a great cause. Please stop in before or during the game to support the Holmen Area Food Pantry.

Presenting...The Franchise!

BY KIM SPANGLER

The school store has been closed all week as twenty-seven Entrepreneurship students have been busy getting The Franchise ready for the grand opening, Saturday, December 9. When it first opens on Friday December 8, there will be Holmen apparel, toys, games, DVD's, CD's, crafts and much more.

The Franchise has four different departments; promotions, operations, human resources, and sales. Human resources has students fill out schedules. Then they decide when people will work. Each student must work a minimum of eight hours at the store, during the time it is open (December 8 through December 16).

The Franchise got products by contacting local businesses, putting up flyers and signing consignment agreements with stores.

A consignment agreement means that The Franchise will take the stores' products and sell them at the price the store would have sold it at. Then, The Franchise will give all of the profits and the products they didn't sell back, making no profit themselves.

The store was usually in the Holmen Mall, but they have changed the location to Holmen High School. This change was made because there is more access to the school events, Parent/Teacher Conferences and Empty Bowls night.

"I think we will be able to get more students involved," said Alyssa Ritter (senior), one of the store managers. Tyler Zibrowski (senior), the other store manager, also likes the change. "Awesome. More room, more promotion opportunities."

SADD Movie Review

BY KIM SPANGLER

Nothing to do? Maybe you should come to a SADD movie night, where you get free food and are able to watch movies. At the movie night on November 17, the students chose to watch "John Tucker Must Die" and "When a Stranger Calls."

The students enjoyed the event so much that it has been decided that SADD will have another movie night. The date and time of the next one has not been decided yet, keep your eyes open for signs about it. Changes may be made, however, that will not be decided until the next SADD meeting.

MBTF (Man Bat Task Force) Report

BY TYLER BURROWS

After I wrote my last week's article on the infamous Man Bat, I decided that I wanted to go look for this beast myself. Of course, I didn't go alone. (It is scary in the woods by yourself when you are looking for a killing machine with wings!) I was accompanied by Mikey Deml (junior), Will Haskin (junior), Joey Smerud (junior) and Kendra Blockwitz (yet again, a junior).

We started out our journey at Haskin's house; we obtained a camera, to capture our voyage into Man Bat territory, and a few hob-knob items that we could use to lure Man Bat and possibly catch Man Bat with. We decided that because Man Bat had been spotted on Briggs Road, that maybe we would try a different location. We wanted to see if Man Bat was nomadic, following the food source. So, we decided to try going into the depths of Deerwood Park. We then drove to the high school and carpoled to Man Bat's home.

It was getting dark as we pulled into Deerwood. We assembled our weaponry and started up the camera. We started into the trails of Deerwood. After a while of not seeing anything, we decided to venture off the trails into the forest. We knew that what we were doing was dangerous, but we are courageous young Man Bat hunters.

By this time, it was dark. Just as we were flipping the camera on to night vision, we heard a hideous scream. We knew that this noise could only come from a winged killer. We were frightened, to say the least. Something was different about the scream, though. It didn't sound too threatening. It was almost like Man Bat was in pain.

Just then, we looked up to the top of the

hill we had been climbing. What we saw was indescribable. Actually, it is describable. "I could see him moving up on the top of the hill. He appeared to be rather clumsy, seeing that it sort of looked like he fell from a tree," commented Deml. I just saw the dark figure, stumbling across the horizon, and then it was gone.

Luckily for us, we did get a shot of this marvelous sight. The video shows a dark figure moving on the top of the hill. This video may be controversial, but I know what really happened. Once you experience Man Bat, there is no doubt in your mind on Man Bat's existence.

In account of recent events, a Man Bat Task Force has been established. The main mission of the force is to have more first-hand encounters with Man Bat, and to learn more about it. We would like to befriend Man Bat; we could help each other in many ways, and learn more about each other in the process. There are several people at HHS who are a part of this task force. Some of the head members include Aaron Murray (junior), Eric Kordus (junior) and myself. We will be assembling for a meeting soon.

To close, I will include a quote from my friend and fellow Man Bat witness... Mikey Deml (junior). "It's obvious to me that Man Bat is real. I mean, they found a dead deer at the same spot where the man bat was seen. What are the odds that there would be a dead deer lying around at this time of year? When you see Man Bat for the first time, it's an indescribable feeling; you feel like you have conquered the world."

Stay in School, Win a Truck

BY DANA CHRISTEN

Imagine coming home from school and doing your homework. The phone rings and you answer to find out it's your school calling to let you know that you've won a new truck, thanks to that oh-so-perfect attendance record of yours. Impossible, right? Not for Kaytie Christopherson, 16, of Casper, Wyo. who has almost perfect attendance and won a brand-new \$28,000 Chevrolet Colorado crew cab, along with an MP3 player because of her attendance. This is the first drawing of its kind for Natrona County High, which plans on continuing this incentive. Wondering *why* they would just give away a new truck? It's an attempt to raise attendance and reduce the district's 29 percent drop out rate, which District Attendance Officer Gary Somerville blames partly on Wyoming's thriving gas and oil industry. "These kids can go out and make \$15, \$16, \$17 dollars an hour swinging a hammer," Somerville said. But \$28,000 is a lot of money for a school district to just hand over. Luckily, the vehicles given away in such raffles are provided free by local car dealerships. Another good thing about this kind of idea to raise attendance is that the school also can get money from increased attendance. In Wyoming, as little as one student increase in daily enrollment can get the school \$12,000 more in state funding.

So that's the good side to this story, but does this kind of motivation actually work? After all, only 98 of the sophomores, juniors and seniors – out of 3,200 – in Christopherson's school were qualified for the drawing. That means that out of 3,200 students, only 98 had

perfect attendance.

In my opinion, I don't really think that this sort of allurements would be successful. Students were allowed one excused absence and no unexcused absences, so someone who had a lot of appointments scheduled during the school day wouldn't even be entered in the drawing. Here's another possibility: someone who skips school a lot decides to go to school everyday so they can have a chance at winning, misses one day that's unexcused and figures, "Hey, I already missed one day, so I'm out of the drawing- who cares if I skip more days?" and just goes back to coming to school every third day. That wouldn't really be successful if the goal is to keep kids in school. Other kids simply might look at the fact that they have a one in 98 chance of winning and think the odds are too high for them to even bother.

A second perspective is, who's to say that the 98 kids who had perfect attendance wouldn't have had perfect attendance had there not been this drawing? Christopherson herself admitted that the truck isn't what motivated her to get perfect attendance; she just didn't want to fall behind. Maybe the school needs to look into a better solution to keep kids in school and one that will reach a broader number of students.

SOURCE:
<http://www.cnn.com/2006/EDUCATION/11/30/cars.for.attendance.ap/index.html>

Cooking with Stefi: Fried Chicken

BY STEFI JESSEN

Ingredients:

- ½ cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp paprika
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 2½-to 3-pound broiler-fryer chicken, cut up
- Vegetable oil

Directions:

Mix flour, salt, paprika and pepper. Coat chicken with flour mixture. Fill a 12-inch skillet about 1/4 inch full and heat oil in over medium to high heat until hot. Cook chicken in oil until light brown on all sides, about ten minutes. Reduce heat. Cover tightly and simmer, turning once or twice, until thickest pieces are done, about thirty-five minutes longer. If skillet cannot be covered tightly, add one to two tablespoons of water. Remove cover during last five minutes of cooking to crisp chicken. Makes six servings.

Home-made chicken is the best. Especially if the chicken is home grown. It doesn't have that chemical taste. Fried chicken is a big hit in our family. We have tried many different recipes, but so far this is the best. We like the crunchier chicken; so often times, we add in crushed up chips or corn flakes. They give it a nice, crispy taste. Just throw a cup full, of chips or corn flakes in with the flour and crunch them all up. When coating the chicken, put the flour

mixture in a gallon zip-lock bag and shake it all up to mix everything. Then place a piece of chicken in and shake it. If there is any remaining flour mixture, sprinkle evenly onto the chicken and fry. Chicken is great with a fresh garden salad and some home-made drop biscuits. If you have a favorite recipe, I would love to try it; so write it down and give it to Mrs. Sprain in room 140! Enjoy!

Source: Betty Crocker Cook Book

New Dollar Coin: Truth or Hoax?

BY JOE SMERUD

Who here remembers Sacajawea dollar coins? I sure do; I thought they were the cat's pajamas... as did everyone else, which is why the new coins phailed. It seemed everyone was fascinated by the new coins and refused to spend them. I was guilty of that as well; I was sure mad at my sister when she spent my Sacajawea coin on two bags of Skittles. The U.S. mint is now taking another stab at a dollar coin, in hopes that it will do better than the Sacajawea and Susan B. Anthony dollars. Also, in either an attempt to make them snazzier or just to get others recognized, they will be released in series much like the state quar-

ters, except featuring different presidents instead of different states. Sounds like a so-so idea to me. Sure, you feel like you're playing Zelda with a pocketful of gold coins, but dollar bills are so much easier and take up less space. The phact that you can go swimming with these dollar coins is probably the only plus I can see in them, aside from how pretty they look. Dollar bills are still very popular, and easy to use, hold and fold. We can make them into swans! Can you do that with a coin?

http://money.cnn.com/2006/11/20/news/dollar_coin.reut/index.htm?eref=rss_topstories

Eye Witness

This person was found roaming the hallway, and snap!, we took his/her picture. Do you know who these eyes belong to? If you think you know the answer, please visit Mrs. Sprain in room 140 to claim your prize.

No one correctly guessed the eyes last week, not even the person himself. They belong to none other than senior, Colin Noel. Good Luck!



Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

Continued from page 10

made no sense at all. The other guy's rap did rhyme a little, but it wasn't much better. "Yo, I just got pulled over 'cause I threw my trash out the window when they rolled over. They got behind me and pulled me over." C'mon guys...I could do better than that. This whole incident was being recorded for a Phoenix area television show. The men laughed it off and had a good conversation with the officer about the NFL. The officer says that the Oakland Raiders will make the Super Bowl this year, and one of the men agrees (even though the Raiders are one of the NFL's worst teams).

The officer responds with "You know why you say I'm right? Because I got a gun and badge. I'm always right. That's the way it works, right?" Everyone laughed, and the men got back in their car and drove away. So, to recap: *Thumbs Down* to the cop making a clearly not mean-spirited yet somewhat racist decision, *Thumbs Down* to the men's sub-par raps, and *Thumbs Down* to the cop's Super Bowl prediction.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20061128/od_uk_nm/oukoe_uk_games_asia_n_chess_doping

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061127/od_afp/colombiadrugsoffbeat_061127174510

Show Choir Lasagna Dinner

BY KARI HEAL

Chances are that at some time over the last few weeks you've noticed the posters and announcements for the Show Choir Lasagna Dinner held last Saturday at the Holmen American Legion. If you bought a ticket or just showed up, I would guess that you had a pretty fun time. For \$7, you received lasagna, a breadstick, green beans and one dessert (which was unfair, considering they were offering three different delicious looking desserts there). You could also shop the white elephant section, featuring all sorts of items for extremely low prices, or you could bid on items at the Silent Auction. There was also a raffle for door prizes being drawn every 30 minutes and some delicious Seroogy chocolate bars being sold. Later

in the evening, the show choir members led a sing-along of Christmas carols.

Of course, the other benefit to this event was that you helped support the HHS Show Choir, and in that sense, this fundraiser was hugely successful. Last year this dinner raised roughly \$2,400 total, which seems like quite a lot of money, but this year the silent auction alone raised \$2,400 and another \$2,400 was made in ticket sales. The white elephant sales earned \$205, which is impressive when you consider that most items were being sold for under a dollar. All in all, this was a fantastic fundraiser for the show choir, and hopefully if you didn't go this year, you will consider going next year.

Vocal Concert

BY KIM SPANGLER

Classical, jazz and pop. Many styles of music will be performed at the vocal concert on Monday, December 11. are those that they will be performing during their competition season.

The concert will start off with Jazz 5 performing the "Star Spangled Banner" and end with the Concert Choir singing "Michael Row Your Boat Ashore." Treble Choir, Midwest Magic and Midwest Express will be performing in between Jazz 5 and Concert Choir. Midwest Express and Midwest Magic's songs

"I am working with a lot of talented musicians this year. Right now a lot of the pieces we are performing are not perfected yet, but by the time competition season comes around the groups will be very competitive," said Mrs. Ruth Leithold the director of Jazz Expressions, Jazz 5, Concert Choir, Midwest Express and Midwest Magic.

Book Review

BY SAM FULLWOOD

Picture this, your day starts in the present, but by the time you hit night you have traveled back in time many years.

This is what Nicole Burns experiences in "Anne Frank and Me" by Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld. Nicole Burns goes on a class trip to an Anne Frank exhibit for her English class. They travel there because they are learning about the Holocaust. The day that they go the museum, starts out normally with friends hanging out together looking for the guys that they like. Once they get there, they

tour the exhibit. They review Hitler's part in the Holocaust, when a classmate, grabs a gun and starts shooting. People run towards the door and get trampled. That's the last thing that Nicole remembers. In all the commotion she is thrown against the door and knocked out. Nicole wakes up in Nazi-occupied Paris. She has everything that she could ever dream to have. She has the perfect friends and the perfect boyfriend. The only difference is... she is Jewish.

New Bike Trail Joins the Area

BY KATELYN LARSEN

Halfway Creek Trail, a trail 3.4 miles in length, runs from the Holland Bluff's Trail to the Great River Trail at Midway. Like most bike trails, activities range from biking to nature watching to photography. Everyone in the community can enjoy the spectacular view along Halfway Creek on the newly constructed trail. Now, Holmen can say that it—like Onalaska and La Crosse—offers community members a safe opportunity to move within the town and to neighboring areas.

The history of the trail is extensive. In fact, the Civic and Commerce Association mentioned the idea around the early 1990s. However, nothing official was done to start funding the trail until 2001. A member of the Holmen Area Foundation (HAF) met with Representative Mike Huebsch and former state Senator Brian Rude in order to discuss possible grants for the trail project. A grant was eventually found through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The DOT agreed to fund 80 percent of the project, which ended up being around \$888,000. That left the HAF to raise the remaining \$225,000 within the community. Several fundraisers were held, and numerous donors contributed. The money was raised by December of 2003.

One of the biggest difficulties during the long trail project was establishing permission from private landowners to construct part of the trail through their land. The project re-

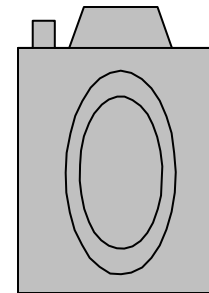
quired easements (rights that landowners hold to choose whether their land can be used for other purposes) from three landowners. Two of them agreed. One, however, declined. This left the Foundation to come up with alternative ways the trail could go or decide to undergo condemnation with the said landowner. Since any other route complicated the situation, condemnation became the only method. The Foundation managed to finally get the easement of the last landowner, and construction plunged ahead.

Although the official opening of the trail isn't until next spring, community members are encouraged to experience the trail in its current state. Benefits include an alternative transportation route for children and adults, enjoyment of nature, community togetherness and an increase in recreation. The trail is wheelchair accessible and people do not have to pay to use it. Motorized vehicles are not allowed because the grant money received could only go towards a motorized-vehicle-free trail. Barry Bertelsen, the trail committee's chairperson, said about the trail, "There is great potential here. The collaboration demonstrated in the trail development process shows us that together great things can be accomplished. We can accomplish other community projects if each 'pitch in.'"

Giving Thanks

BY HANNAH STETTER

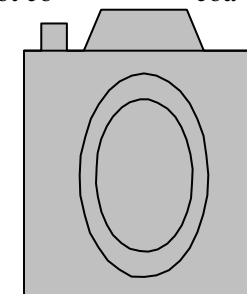
What are you thankful for? This is a question asked to many people. Some true answers are given and some sarcastic. But these students are thankful beyond words. When I asked our Holmen High School students what they're most thankful for, their answers were very deep and heartfelt.



"My family and friends. Although sometimes I take them for granted, in times of needs they're always there for me," said Jessica Wakefield (sophomore).

"My family and music," said Zachary Mally (sophomore).

"My friends and family. Also, waking up Christmas morning with big gigantic presents underneath the Christmas tree and opening them while sipping hot cocoa by the warm fire," says Hannah Galstad (junior).

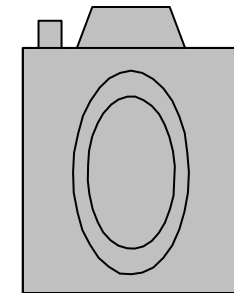
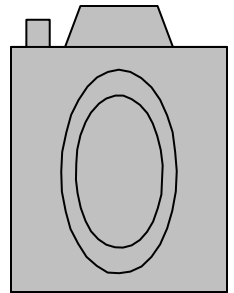


"Hannah Galstad she's my best friend!! And my family of course," Brittany Sacia (junior) replied.

"My family and that I'm alive," said Tyler Ciokiewicz (senior).

"Everything about my dang life! Everything!" said Macy Malin (sophomore).

"I'm thankful for freedom," said Nick Maier (senior).



ASVAB

BY DANA CHRISTEN

The ASVAB is the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery which consists of eight individual tests covering general science, arithmetic reasoning, world knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, electronics information and auto and shop information. Juniors and seniors can use the ASVAB for enlisting in the military for up to two years after they take the test.

Even if you don't plan on going into the military, taking the ASVAB can be beneficial when deciding which college to attend and what you want to study. By providing Math, Verbal, and Science and Technical career exploration scores, the ASVAB can determine readiness for college, academic strengths and

weaknesses and career interests.

After taking the ASVAB, scores are provided on a report called ASVAB Summary Results that provide information that will tell what the results mean. The ASVAB takes about three hours, with a chance of missing school, which will be approved by the school. There isn't really any preparation available for the ASVAB, but it's recommended to get a good night's sleep and arrive on time.

The ASVAB will be taken at Holmen High School on Wednesday, December 13 at 7:45 a.m. If interested, please stop by the guidance office to sign up.

SOURCE: ASVAB Student & Parent Guide

When They Were Young

You know all about those elementary school pictures that you thought were locked away in a vault in Canada. The ones with crazy hairdos or old school outfits. Well, we've got mountains of year books waiting to be opened and no one is safe. Everyone is chosen at random, not even the victims, I mean students, know. Can you guess who these little high

schoolers are? If you know who all of these kids are, come down to Mrs. Sprain's room and claim your prize. Leah White and Taber Holmes correctly identified last week's mystery students who were senior Kyle Warner, freshman Amanda Bucholtz, and junior Taber Holmes. Hint: Each is from a different grade.



Upcoming Movies

BY SAM SCHROEDER

This week, I decided to—along with the Movie of the Week—add an extra “schedule” of upcoming movies coming out within the next year or two. The following movies I found listed on MSN Movies, so if you'd like to check to see when a movie is coming out or if there's a sequel to a favorite movie coming out, just go there and type it in.

“**Bond 22**” is another 007 movie to add to your collection. I unfortunately cannot give you details on the movie, because they've only released the title. Daniel Craig is going to return as James Bond for this upcoming movie, and the producers of Casino Royale (Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson) will also be producing this movie. As of now, the movie is scheduled to open in theaters on November 7, 2008.

“**The Hills Have Eyes 2**” will be the sequel to the movie about mutants that lived on the government's atomic bomb testing ground hunted a family that had car trouble and became stranded in the middle of nowhere. This movie is scheduled to open in theaters on March 2, 2007

“**Evan Almighty**,” starring Steve

Carell (from “40-year Old Virgin” and the hit TV show “The Office”) as Evan Baxter and is the sequel to “Bruce Almighty”... Yes, that was, in fact, the character in the first movie that Jim Carrey made babble uncontrollably. For the sequel, Morgan Freeman will return to portray God, along with some new (but well-known) faces, including John Goodman, Lauren Graham, and Wanda Sykes. This movie is scheduled to hit theaters June 22, 2007.

“**The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford**” is not like the past three movies; it's not a sequel or part of a series. This movie, starring Brad Pitt as Jesse James, is about the notorious bank-robbing rebel and his life of crime. Because I couldn't find much information on what the movie is going to be about, I can't tell you a whole lot; however, it seems that they will go into great detail on the assassination of James and the reasons for it. This movie will hit theaters January 1, 2007.

These are just four of many upcoming movies to look out for. Make sure to check the *Viking Voice* next week for more upcoming movies.

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

BY ZACH BUTZLER

Thumbs Up to drug-testing chess players. Last week, chess officials began drug testing chess athletes at the Asian Games. Well, thank God/Buddha/Tom Cruise for that, because chess players have been getting around drug-testing for far too long. If 250-pound machines of muscle and athleticism in sports such as football and baseball need to be tested, clearly, the 150 pound computers of brains and intelligence that are chess players do as well. We don't want chess to become tainted. I mean, I don't know what I would do if I found out that my hero Gary Kasparov's record of being ranked number 1 in the world 23 times was all just a fraud. Well, I would probably ceremonially set fire to all of my chess boards as a symbol of my pain, but that's besides the point. Head official Yousuf Ahmad Ali doesn't think that chess players would gain any advantage from using the 'roids, however. "I would not know which drug could possibly help a chess player to improve his game." He states that this is simply necessary in order for chess to become an Olympic sport. Well either way, *Thumbs Up* to you Mr. Ali. You never can be too sure.

Thumbs Down to people taking the classic Bing Crosby song "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" a little too seriously. Last week, Columbian police arrested two men for trying to smuggle cocaine to the United States in a very interesting way. They cooked up a

jelly-like cocaine concoction and molded it into figurines of Santa Claus. Police found an entire lab where they made cocaine into mugs and other Christmas decorations. The mix looked like plastic when it was dried, but police tested it and found it to be cocaine. C'mon guys...this is NOT what Mr. Crosby was talking about in his song. I know you may not be very familiar with snow in Columbia, but that doesn't give you an excuse to do this. *Thumbs Down* to these yuletide cocaine smugglers.

A big *Thumbs Down* to everyone involved in this story of a seemingly routine traffic stop in Arizona. Last week, Arizona police pulled over two black men after seeing them throw garbage out of the window of their car. But instead of letting them off with a warning or just giving them a ticket, the officer told the men that they could get out of the ticket "if the two of you just do a little rap about---what do you want to do a rap about? Littering? About the dangers of littering." Well, obviously the officer was being racist in asking these men to rap; there's no way he would've asked white people to do the same. The police department has since apologized. However, I was also very appalled when I read the men's raps. One said "The dangers of littering, you will get a ticket. If you ain't wit' it, you better be experienced." Wow. That was just bad. I mean not only did it not rhyme, it

Continued on page 14

The La Crosse Center Champions

BY HANNAH STETTER

The season is progressing. The girls' basketball team has now had their third game with the record of 2-1. The team beat the Viroqua Blackhawks 59-38 at the La Crosse Center last Saturday December 2. "It was really fun playing at the La Crosse Center! Our team is

playing really well together and we're all getting along great," said Emily Vike (junior) "They're really fun to watch and I think everyone should come to at least one game this season," said Megan Smith (sophomore).

Boys Open Season 2-0

BY ROBBY BURGE

Holmen boys' basketball team was looking to continue a tradition of winning this year, and they are off to a great start. Holmen opened with wins over Menominee on Saturday and Westby, a team coming off a state tournament birth, Monday.

The Vikings knew that Menominee would be a tough, physical game and it was. The game started out poorly for both teams on the offensive side of the ball with a score of 6-3 after the first quarter of action. The game opened up for the Vikings, however, as Michael Mackey (senior) made a lay-up that put Holmen in the lead 13-11 going into half. This game was determined in the fourth quarter as Holmen scored sixteen points and made the final score 41-27. Mackey scored twenty points in the game while Tyler Zibrowski (senior) added ten.

The Westby game would prove much

more exciting as the game went into double overtime. Holmen had pushed their lead to nine twice in the game, but Westby would not go away so easily. Jessie Tiedt (junior) opened the first overtime by nailing a three pointer, and Holmen kept that lead for most of the period. Westby came back in the final minute scoring with just over forty seconds left. In the second overtime, Westby got shut-out while Zibrowski hit a baby hook shot over Tim Larson. This put Holmen up for good with a final score of 46-40.

Holmen's last game was against Logan Thursday (past *Voice* deadline). Their next game is against Aquinas next Friday. This could be the game of the year for the Vikings. Hopefully, Holmen can continue their winning tradition for the rest of the season and get back to the level they were a year ago.