



Portage Post

Committed to the success of every student.

P

2nd Quarter 08-09

Volume 2, Issue 3

Blood drives let students give a little, gain a lot

Students step up to help those in need, collect 95 pints with 104 attempts

By Rachel Jensen

Several times each school year, the high school gym fills up with students ready to give blood.

Recently, students walked in and gladly gave their arms to the Divine Savor workers. Though some of the students looked pale they all seemed happy to donate.

"It's very rewarding," says Mary Bono, a senior at Portage High, "I'm just trying to help other people."

The school holds a few blood drives a year and many students go to all of them.

"I've been doing this for many years and I do it as many times

as I'm allowed," said Chris Page, another senior at the high school. "It's fun!"

The school takes precautions when having blood drives. They give the donors donuts in the morning to make sure the students' blood sugar is high to try and prevent fainting. The students also have things to snack on after they have given blood.

These events show the public that these students do care.

"Every 3 seconds there's a person who needs blood," explained Anna Chapman a junior.

"I give blood so that people don't die."

All of the donors have to be 17

or older and of course willing to do it. Once they give blood, they usually do it again.

Advisor Jim Marshall said 104 people attempted to give blood, and 95 pints were collected.



Kevin Turner gives blood while Kent Ellis and Ashley Daino stand by to offer their support.

Key Club bakes to buy books for babies

Books for Babes effort provides newborns with new books

By Luke Malkowski

Hey Portage High School! This is your treasurer of Portage Key Club. I want to talk about some hot topics going on in Key Club.

First, we have a new and awesome officer team this year. Our president is Stefanie Hasse, our vice-president is Erin Quigley, myself as

treasurer, and Kayla Ballard is our secretary.

I just want to help refresh readers on what Key Club is all about. Key Club is a community service organization. Members focus on goals each year and community service events coming up in the community. We also have fun events for the

(Continued on page 3)



Lewiston gathers goods to give

Drive helps food pantry, humane society

Lewiston Elementary School students and staff decided to celebrate the Portage Community School District's 150 years of education by collecting 150 items for the Portage Food Pantry and the Columbia

County Humane Society. The students and staff far exceeded their goals, and were able to collect nearly 300 items for the shelter and over 200 products to benefit the food pantry.

PCSD Job Openings

The Portage Community School District is always taking applications for various career opportunities.

Go to the district website, portage.k12.wi.us, and click on the employment link on the menu to the left. You can see what opportunities are available and apply directly on-line.

●●●●●●●●●●
PORTAGE & PARDEEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW
Now through April 25, 2009

THE PORTAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

●●●●●●●●●●
The 4th grade students of John Muir Elementary will be singing for the April 21st meeting of the John Muir PTO. The meeting starts at 6PM.

They will be singing a range of folk songs and some favorite Wisconsin tunes.

The students are very excited to be singing for the John Muir PTO.

Inside:

FFA News	2
Doyle Visit	2
New Gym Classes	3
Foreign Lang. Week	4
Lewiston Bird Visit	4

FFA members speak volumes

Portage has winners in local, regional contests

The Portage FFA competed in the District 17 FFA Speaking Contest in January. There were 8 schools represented in the 6 speaking events. The top two in each event were able to move on to sectionals at Sauk Prairie High School in March.

Parliamentary Procedure: 1st Place. Team members: Skylar Reeson, Alana Stapleton, Ethan Greene, Matt Rohrbeck, Alex Harvey, Nicole Cummings, Caitlin Roberts, and Katie Chapman

Creed Speaking: Amber Hochmuth-3rd Place Braden Greene-no placing

Discussion Meet: Nicole Cummings- 1st Place -Isaac Considine-2nd Place

Extemporaneous Speaking: Caitlin Roberts-2nd Place Skylar Reeson- 3rd Place

Job Interview: Harrison Cummings- 1st Place Alex Harvey-3rd

Place

Prepared Speaking: Katie Chapman- 1st Place

They had their sectional contest on March 10th in Sauk Prairie. The first place finisher in each area will go on to represent Section 6 in the state contest later in June.

The Parli Pro Team placed 2nd, Nicole Cummings placed second and Isaac Considine placed 5th in Discussion. Caitlin placed second in Extemp, to the same student she lost to in District competition.

Katie Chapman placed second in Prepared Speaking.

Harrison Cumming placed first in the Job Interview and will move on to State. He received his award from Section 6 Officer BJ Chrisler from Sauk Prairie High School (shown top right).

Bottom right, the Parli Pro presenters show off their team award.



Grove Street house nearing completion

Building Trades students fine-tune construction skills

By Luke Malkowski

At Portage High School, there is such a massive variety of skills you can learn. Well there is one particular class I was interested in.

Building Trades, led by Mark Parrott, takes students out of the classroom and onto the jobsite for the second half of each class day. Students utilize their skills from Home Servicing, the prerequisite class, and Building Trades classroom work.

Students are responsible for installing walls, windows, interiors and exteriors at the house.

The class has been busy insulating the house on Grove Street. The exterior of

the house is about 80% sided, according to Parrott.

This class also helps and enhance existing and develop new skills. Like in Home Servicing, students learn how to build cabinets and walls. In Building Trades, students actually get to hang the cabinets, drywall, and learn how to install plumbing, electrical work, and flooring.

The Building Trades Committee is still accepting pre-qualified applicants through April 17th.

The class is showcasing its year-long effort in a public open house on May 30th from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Doyle visits junior high



First Lady Jessica Doyle visited the junior high earlier this spring.

She asked to visit an 8th grade social studies class and spent about 40 minutes in Kathy Prudoehl's 3rd hour American history class.

She primarily talked about the governor's proposed 2009-2011 budget. She had 10 true or false statements about the budget for the students to read, answer, and then discuss. Students asked some good questions including several about the Wisconsin Covenant.

Books for babes continued...

(Continued from page 1)
club too.

A key fundraiser we run is the "Books for Babes" program. It's an awesome program, and started back in 1997 involving the Rotary Club. It then branched off to the Kiwanis Club, then to the Key Club.

When a baby is born in the hospital, we buy books for him or her so the family has a new book to read and enjoy.

We sold brownies and cupcakes for Books for Babes at the basketball games. We raised \$90 for the program, but would always like to raise a little more. The treats went fast at just \$0.50 each.

We've also held bake sales to help pay for club members to attend district conventions and other large-scale events. The convention is fun because you

learn more about your position on the officer team and also get to network with other club members. You attend various workshops, learn officer techniques, and other skill-building activities. Stephanie Hasse and Erin Quigley attended this year with two chaperones.

We also partner greatly with the Kiwanis Club, which helps pay for some of our expenses like convention and other trips. We also attend the Kiwanis Club meetings on Wednesdays, where we all talk about upcoming events.

We are always looking for more members. Key Club is fun- you have to work first, but even that is a good time because you're helping others. Join Key Club, because we are the people with the key to success.

Wrestlers, girls curling excel at state

Portage High School athletes did well in recent state competition.

The girls curling team were runners-up at the 2009 State Championship. Team members were Alex Schieber, Kaisey Garrigan, Maggie Pape, Jennifer Behnke and Katie Kuhl. Their head coach is Jim Jordan.

In wrestling, Jake Hohlstein won his second consecutive WIAA State Individual Wrestling championship. Ryan Hayes qualified for the 2009 WIAA State Individual Wrestling Meet. Varsity wrestling coaches are Don Nichols and Jeff Wiessinger.

Have a story to share?

If you have something you'd like to see in this newsletter, please share your ideas with us! We're looking for photos, news tips, and special stories to share throughout the district. Email yencheskys@portage.k12.wi.us or call 742-4879.

New upperclassmen gym options being offered

Wider range in Phy. Ed. courses hoped to promote life-long wellness skills

By Ciera Sugden

The juniors and seniors of the 2009-2010 school year can look forward to a change in the available options for their gym classes.

To graduate from PHS, 1.5 credits of physical education, or Phy. Ed., are required. Students must take a Phy. Ed. class their freshman and sophomore year, and then can choose whether to take their last required credit in either their junior or senior year. Phy. Ed 9 and Phy. Ed. 10 have been the classes for underclassmen, and the upperclassmen have either taken Gym 11/12 or one of a few other choices.

Starting next year, the upperclassmen will have a much wider area to choose from to get their required gym credit. While underclassmen must still take Phy. Ed. 9 and 10, the upperclassmen no longer will have a Phy. Ed.

11/12, but a variety of unique gym classes that fit many different interests. The classes for juniors and seniors next year include Athletic Strength and Conditioning, Aquatics and Life-guarding, Personal Wellness, Fitness Training, Lifetime Activities, and Advanced Lifetime Sports.

Principal Karin Exo said the classes were developed by junior and senior high physical education staff to introduce more current offerings.

"We believe the new courses will better meet the needs of our students and will also allow our students the opportunity to develop positive life-long habits that can be established now," Exo said. "The new classes have a greater focus on personal wellness and we hope our students will find the new courses beneficial and enjoyable."

These classes focus on everything from intense activity, to games like

bowling and curling, to making a healthy eating and exercise plan. Most of these classes will be quarter-long intensive classes, the exceptions being Personal Wellness and Fitness Training, which both meet for a semester every other day. Also, some of these classes like Advanced Lifetime and Sports, Aquatics and Life-guarding, and Lifetime Activities will have a user fee.

Juniors and seniors will be allowed to take two phys ed courses a year, and the physical education staff encourages students to take some of the new classes. With these new options added to the PHS course guide, students signing up for their physical education classes will hopefully have an easier time finding one that interests them.

For more information on next year's classes, look at the course guide or visit your guidance counselor.

PHS tech ed teacher wins state award

Jones to represent state at international conference in 2010

The Wisconsin Technology Education Association (WTEA) will be represented by Dan Jones at the International Technology Education Conference (ITEA).

Dan Jones was selected as the 2009 Technology and Engineering Educator of the Year in Wisconsin by the WTEA at their 40th annual spring conference.

Jones was chosen based on his passion for teaching high school Technology and Engineering students for 32 years and advising the Portage High School Technology and Engineering student chapter of SkillsUSA for 22 years.

Jones has been involved in numerous education-related activities during his career such as serving on the Columbia County

Labor Forum, being a member of the South Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board's Youth Council, coordinating the SkillsUSA regional and state welding competitions, teaching summer courses through UW-Stout, and coordinating technical professional development workshops for Technology and Engineering teachers.

It is customary for the WTEA to submit the Teacher of the Year recipient to the ITEA for recognition the following year. Jones, will attend the 2010 International Technology Education Association Conference to be held in Charlotte, NC. At this national conference Jones, will receive the ITEA's Technology Teacher Excellence Award.



Dan Jones receives the WTEA award from Mike Roth, WTEA Past President and retired Tech Ed teacher from Monona Grove High School.

Lewiston goes to big birds

Dianne Moller of Hoo's Woods Raptor Center in Milton showed Lewiston students a golden eagle, falcon, and owl up close during a recent visit.

Lead Teacher Julie Zimmerman said the innovative assembly is a great way to connect stu-



dents to nature that they may see in the wild. They also learned about protecting and respecting endangered species, and even the laws meant to keep the animals safe.

Foreign Language Week brings contests, cooking, fun

John Muir Gym hosted the first-ever German Club vs. Spanish Club soccer (Fussball vs. Futbol) game with over 40 students participating. After a close finish, the German Club came away with the 6-4 win for this year's game, and more soccer games are in the works.

This game was just one of many activities PHS students had the opportunity to participate in during Foreign Language Week this year. Other activities included cooking and eating authentic foods like Späetzle and tamales, Club T-shirt Day, Friday Phrase Day, and a "Guess



the Number of Gummibears in a Jar" Count, plus daily announcements in German, Spanish, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Norwegian, and Albanian. It was a great week to realize that knowing other languages brings many fun opportunities.

DTV changes underway—Upgrades cause local channels to move

By: Chrisdy Apo

The way you watch TV is changing. Television sets across the United States have started to receive signals digitally instead of the analog version that has been going on since the start of television.

If people receive their TV through an antenna or "bunny ears," then they would have to get a new TV with a digital tuner built inside, subscribe to a paying cable or satellite service or apply for a government coupon to get a digital converter box.

"Unfortunately the coupons have all been given out and they are not currently available," said Director of Information Technology Sue Conner.

What about local channels? How about the Portage School District Channel? Would the channel be lost? No, it would not be. Instead, it would be moved to another channel instead of its usual channel 10 spot.

Portage's public access channels are grouped together with many other smaller communities like the Wisconsin Dells on the channel line-up. The school district's channels are 93 and 997. With everything being digital, all favorite channels will be clearer and have better sound quality, according to Federal Communications Commission.

Like many other public access channels across Wisconsin, they have also moved for the digital conversion. Even though change is coming, favorite channels will not be missed, they may just be rearranged and new channels may be added.

If people get their TV through cable or satellite; they are not affected by the switch. Their signal is already digital.

"Digital TV is a way to move us all forward," Conner said. "There will be advantages for better viewing, reception, and interactive opportunities with the digital channels."

For more information, log on to www.dtv2009.gov.