

# THE HORSESHOE

CLARENDON HIGH SCHOOL/ DECEMBER 2013

CHS JOURNALISM CLASS

## Students participate in work program

By Ryann Starnes

Hidden behind the popularity of the sports and academic world at Clarendon High School are a few rare gems that can be found in the Family Life Center (FLC).

These gems are some of teacher Laura Hommel's special needs students who participate in a work program at Pizza Hut, Dairy Queen, and Lowe's on Monday-Thursday every week. The students include Porshe Henderson, Shelby O'Keefe and Laura Howard.

"When I first started, they didn't do that, but I would really like these kids to have the skills they need to hold down a job," Mrs. Hommel said. "I want to use businesses to be a job training for the kids in my classroom."

Mrs. Hommel hopes that by doing this activity her students will learn valuable life lessons.

"I want my kids in my classroom to be marketable in society," Hommel said. "I want them to be productive."

Henderson values this work time.

"It teaches me how to grow up and what I want to do in real life," she said.

The students have a number of responsibilities at the



businesses.

"At Pizza Hut, they take out trash and break down boxes," Hommel said. "They sack groceries at Lowe's. They know not to put bleach on top of bread. They know to double sack the meat. Things like that."

Though the students enjoy working at the other businesses, Pizza Hut was the favorite for Henderson and O'Keefe.

"I like Pizza Hut the best because I learn how to make pizza," O'Keefe said. "And it's really good pizza."

Henderson enjoys it for a different reason.

"I like working at Pizza Hut the best because we get paid there," she said.

Hommel also teaches her students how to manage their money.

"They paid for their own yearbooks," she said. "They paid the \$40 for their MacBooks. I don't let them spend their money foolishly."

One of the students is already thinking of how her savings can help her in the future.

"I like getting money so I can go to college," O'Keefe said. "I want to go to Clarendon College to play basketball. That's something I'm good at."

Hommel is preparing her students to be independent following graduation.

"They know their social security number and their date of birth," she said. "Before I let them go out, we complete a job application. We don't go through a formal job interview, but they know the steps. We've done mock interviews. No special treatment just because they're special needs."

## Student works with 3D printer

By Jacy Hill

Most students are actively involved in their academic studies as well as their sports life. Others develop projects that may better prepare them for their future.

Senior Haley Ferguson has decided to experiment with something that may affect her decision about her future career.

Three-dimensional printing, a process of turning a digital model into a 3D solid object, latched onto Haley's interest last year as a junior.

"I saw an article in biomedical engineering about how they can make live cells from a 3D printer," Haley said. "They help people with something they need. I thought it would be really cool to figure out how that works and to be able to do it."

Computer technician Michael Keough was also drawn to 3D printers after discovering a microchip controller called an

Arduino that is used in many electronic devices.

"I started looking into other things that you can do with Arduino and I found the 3D printers," Mr. Keough said. "There are really expensive 3D printers that are about \$5,000, or you can build your own for about \$500 with one of these controllers."

The two intended to work together to construct a printer, but unfortunately they received it already assembled, so they changed their plans.

"I'm going to help her with the process of learning how to do the code, how to write her own stuff and then we're going to install a program called 3D Blender," Mr. Keough said. "From there, she will make her own 3D object and she will eventually print that."

Haley looks forward to beginning the designing of an interior model of her dream house.



"I'm wanting to do a kitchen connecting to a living room," Haley said. "I love the layout of open houses, like the ones that they show to the public in big cities. I like that this project will deal with interior design and architecture."

Although the project is not completed yet, Mr. Keough believes this experience has been educational.

"I'm not a teacher, so it's challenged me in some ways," Mr. Keough said. "I talk pretty fast and sometimes I assume people know things that they may not know, so I just kind of jump past some things, but she picks up pretty well. So it's been a really good process."

## Students bring pep back to school

By Austin Lowry

With the help of theater teacher Mason Cargile, some students formed a pep squad to cheer on athletes and other organizations for the remainder of the school year and in years to come.

"The purpose of the pep squad is to support our students in any activity that takes place," Mr. Cargile said. "It's to support students that go above and beyond their school activities."

Mr. Cargile became a sponsor because he is "one of the most energetic teachers at sporting events," he said. While he is a sponsor, he is not the official head of the group.

"The idea came from a bunch of the band kids," he said, "but the forerunner was Zhanae."

Senior Zhanae Bassett is a member of the CHS band and is also considered the main leader of the pep squad.

"After being a member of band

and a fan of the sports here at CHS, I've observed how our school spirit was slowly declining," she said. "After talking with Mrs. Taylor and a group of friends, we came up with the great idea of having a pep squad."

Just like every organization there are always obstacles, but there are always ways to overcome them.

"It's really hard being in charge of the pep squad because I have to lead others," she said. "And it adds to all the other extracurricular things I'm involved in. Being in charge is new to me. I am really glad to have the support of Audra and Minnie."

A major group that is affected by the pep squad is the cheerleaders. Sophomore cheerleader Sterling King has a positive opinion about the new club.

"Not everyone in the whole gym



can hear 8 girls cheer," King said. "And it really helps the team out because they have a lot of people cheering for them."

In the few short games that have been played, Zhanae Bassett has noticed a big change in the atmosphere of the gym.

"After participating in the games so far, I've notice how not only do the members of the pep squad cheer on the athletes but other students join in and cheer as well," Bassett said. "I think the idea of cheering alone is scary to most students, so having a group to shout loud with you makes things a lot easier."

## Carol retells history

By Minnie Buckhaults



Wind blows around red nosed faces. A tune flows through the cold night air. As the insiders hear the joyful melody, the smell of peppermint and pine trees fill the outside air as their door opens to reveal a warm set of carolers.

The word “carol” originally meant to dance to something. Sung for many years, carols first originated in Europe thousands of years ago as pagan songs sung at the Winter Solstice, a party celebrating the beginning of winter.

Much of the history of carols is unknown. Science teacher Bruce Howard recalls his favorite tune has a rather unique history.

“‘Silent Night’ is a really neat story,” Mr. Howard said. “They were going to have a church service and a guy was

supposed to write a new song for this particular service. Yet when he went to play, he realized the organ had been broken. The chords and strings used to produce sound had been chewed through by mice. So he picked up the guitar, and “Silent Night” was born.”

Much of what he says is true. In Austria, a priest wrote the words for “Silent Night” in 1816. Later in 1818, Franz Gruber, who had wanted a children’s choir to sing the piece for their parents at the Christmas Eve service, arranged the music for the piece. Yet during the middle of practicing, the organ broke, so the piece played with the accompaniment of a guitar.

Mr. Howard says his favorite carol is “Silent Night” mainly for the guitar arrangement.

“‘Silent Night’ is really easy to play on the guitar and it was written for the guitar,” he said. “It’s a pretty song.”

“Silent Night” has been changed from the original version written by Gruber.

One of the most famous stories is from the first World War. While the

Christmas Truce was being signed, both German and American soldiers came together to sing carols. It so happened that “Silent Night” was one of the only carols both sides knew, so they sang it together.

“Silent Night’s” many stories provide an excellent history of the carol, which people continue to sing.

“People sing for a lot of reasons,” Mr. Howard said. “Music is emotional. People need a way to vent emotions like joy or anger. Everyone wants to express their emotions. Music can reach people when sermons can’t.”

As the Christmas season approaches, many carolers will be headed to bring the cheer of “Silent Night” and other carols to the ears and hearts of people all around town.

“I will go caroling this year,” Mr. Howard said. “I think it’s a blessing to elderly people and people that are shut in. They like to think that somebody cares. I also do it because I think it’s good for young people. And I like to sing.”

## Players return community support

By Deborah Howard

In addition to the usual exchange of presents and tidings around this time of year, the Lady Bronco basketball team has started a new Christmas tradition.

Both JV and varsity basketball girls come together to express their appreciation for teachers, parents and friends by making and delivering Christmas cookies to supporters.

“The girls are actually in charge of making the cookies, decorating them and wrapping them,” Coach Weatherred said. “Every plate comes with a Christmas card, which is made and signed by our girls.”

The team rides through town on hay bales singing Christmas carols as they make their deliveries.

“We laugh and play games while riding around,” said sophomore JV

player Kendra Davis. “I think it helps the community and makes us a better team overall.”

Throughout the year members of the community show their love and support for players - a dedication that often goes unthanked.

“We have a bunch of people who support us all year,” Davis said. “This gives us a chance to say thank you.”

Senior varsity player Camra Smith said she remembers visiting custodian Ron Burleson and his family last Christmas.

“I think he really enjoyed it,” she said. “The next day Ron left us a note on the board in our locker room. It meant so much to know they appreciated something so little.”

Every part of a team’s success is important. Weatherred said this activity brings all the pieces together.

“Being such a small community, it’s very important to have each others’ support,” she said. “We go out and Christmas carol to let people know we’re thinking of them, especially during the holidays, which is returned by people coming to the games and supporting us. It helps knowing you have a town that backs you up.”



# Freshmen adjust to high school

By Zach Cornell

Each year most of the focus is on the transition of seniors from high school to college. However, there is another transition that isn't stressed as much.

A good deal of work is put into helping seniors transition into college, but the transition for eighth graders into high school is often overlooked.

"The freshmen that are more concerned with their grades seem to adjust faster," science teacher Tammi Lewis said.

Mrs. Lewis teaches most of the students in the high school at one point or another. She believes that high school takes some adjustment for many freshmen "because they have more freedom."

"They're allowed to leave for lunch and they have to learn how to be responsible for grades and extracurricular assignment sheets," Mrs. Lewis said. "They have to manage all their activities and keep up with grades along with that freedom they have."

Freshman Riley Shadle agrees that there is more freedom in high school, but he admits that it isn't all fun and games.

"You have more freedom and more homework," Shadle said. "The teachers don't hold your hand through everything you do."

Riley thinks high school is different in more aspects than just academics. He has enjoyed



playing football and basketball with upper-classmen.

"It's funner because you learn more playing with older people," Shadle said.

All around, the freshmen seem to be adjusting well, and Riley believes it will get easier for them as the year goes by.

"You're expected to be more mature," Shadle said. "You should be able to know some basic stuff for classes and sports. Junior high taught us the basics to our classes now."

Mrs. Lewis agrees that once the freshmen adjust, they generally end up appreciating high school.

"That's a maturity thing," Lewis said. "But it's always nice to have freshman come back as seniors

1. "I broke both my arms while teaching an elementary PE class."

## Name That Teacher!

2. "One night my friends and I broke into the school through a science lab window that I left cracked open after a lab. We played basketball in the gym until early hours of the morning."

3. "In high school I was a square dancer. When I graduated, I was awarded a \$2,000 dollar scholarship from the Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers."

4. "I pretended I was a parent of a classmate and wrote his absent note for the office."

5. "While I was playing baseball as a freshman in college, I would take the roll of quarters my mom gave me to do laundry with and go bet on the chicken fights on a river in Oklahoma."

6. "I accidentally started the local ball field on fire when my children and I were setting off rockets."

7. "I am a world champion jump roper."

8. "I had the opportunity to put into practice everything I learned about emergency child birth."

9. "I took a girls' basketball team to the regional tournament the first year girls changed to full court basketball."

10. "I have been in several television commercials."

(Answers bottom of next page)

# Fun Stuff



Deborah Howard



MINNIE BUCKHAULTS

## FUN FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Rudolph and the other 8 reindeer could possibly be girls. In winter, male reindeer lose their antlers to save energy to grow new ones in the spring. This would make female reindeer the only ones to maintain their racks.

The name mistletoe comes from two Anglo Saxon words 'mistel' (which means dung) and 'tan' (which means twig or stick). You could translate Mistletoe as 'poo on a stick.' Not exactly romantic.

Santa originally comes from Saint Nicholas who lived in Turkey. St. Nicholas was known to give anonymous gifts by putting them down the chimney of homes.

The idea of a stocking came from St. Nicholas as well. As one gift he decided to give a poor man a dowry so one of his daughters could get married. A stocking was hanging by the fireplace to dry and the dowry landed in the stocking.

According to data analyzed from Facebook posts, two weeks before Christmas is one of the two most popular times for couples to break up.

Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870.

Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system.

[facts.randomhistory.com/christmas/facts.htm](http://facts.randomhistory.com/christmas/facts.htm)

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|-----------|----------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Sears  | 3. Cason | 5. Jack    | 7. Weatherred  | 9. Jeffers  |
| 2. Hommel | 4. Lacey | 6. Skelton | 8. Mrs. Howard | 10. Cargile |