

PULSE

Get Ready For... Mr. AP!

by Alex Van Der Kar and Bryanna Swinson

A spring tradition at Averill Park for years has been the entertaining production of Mr. AP. This year, faculty advisor Mrs. Mouzakes-Viola and her team of senior performers plan to put on a show that will be truly unforgettable.



Being in the show is not as easy it may seem. "There's a lot that goes into it; we have to make a promo video to promote Mr. AP, we have to go to a business and try to get them to sponsor us," said contestant Ryan Long. "If they give us money then we'll put up an ad for their business. We also have to prepare

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MAJOR UPGRADES COMING TO BUTLER PARK

by Hannah Ryan

Butler Park has been around for a long time; the students at APHS probably enjoyed it as a younger child and continue to enjoy it even now. Unfortunately, there are some issues with Butler Park at the moment, and many improvements are needed. The Sand Lake Town Board has set a plan

into motion and is now well on their way to making it better for future use. Over the next few years, Butler Park will be

undergoing changes to make it more enjoyable and safe for children, teens, and parents. As it stands, the

old pavilion, a small stage, two

basketball courts, and two baseball fields. The most recent addition to the park was

the playground equipment put in about eight years ago.

The on-street parking lot is considered dangerous and small, while the other parking lot divides the park in half and is too easy for kids to wander into. Additionally, it has been a com-

mon spot for reckless drivers to do donuts. The two baseball fields have overlapping out-

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A Preliminary Draft of the Butler Park Plan

park, which is located across from the high school, has some playground equipment for elementary school kids, an

AVERILL PARK'S GOT TALENT NEW HORIZONS FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

by Ryan Gutheil

On March 25, the New Horizons Club hosted its First Annual Talent Show, featuring many entertaining acts throughout the night. More importantly, this excellent fundraiser made over \$2,000 for our sister school in the Dominican Republic.



The night was kicked off with a piano and ukulele duet by Cam Schwarz

and Claudia Stay and was closed out by the Averill Park High School Faculty Band. In between acts, MCs Dan Wrenn and Krissi Schaefer entertained the audience with countless jokes. Other acts included the Kazoo Ensemble, a dog agility with "canine" Shea Slocum, and a wild performance by guitarist Zach Effman and his two brothers.

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Key Club To Hold Blood Drive

The Key Club will be sponsoring a blood drive, to be held April 13 during the school day at Averill Park High School. Their goal is to have students donate 41 "units" of blood.

Any students 17 or older (16 with written



parental consent), and weighing at least 110 pounds (dependent on height) may donate blood.

"Donating blood in high school is a good way to start giving back to your community," said Key Club co-advisor Mrs. Gaboury, "and it's less scary when you start in high school."

In addition to blood donors, "we often need volunteers to sign people in, and to hand out cookies and juice," said Gaboury. Students may volunteer to work during their study hall blocks.

Sign-ups will be in the café during lunches, and in room 203 (Mrs. Gaboury's room) before school, after school, and in between classes.

BUTLER PARK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

fields and is therefore also dangerous, and the playground equipment also does not serve toddlers, which is a primary age group for the park.

The Sand Lake Town Board has developed both some short term and long term plans to make Butler Park better. "The community has raised concern about the disrepair of the stage and lack of use as a community gathering place," said the coordinator of planning and community development, Monica Ryan. One of the short term additions that is currently on the table is a natural amphitheater. The stage in the park at the moment is used for Summerfest and the Bobbie Arsenault Memorial Event (Make A Wish Fundraiser). The condition of the existing stage is poor and the roof was blown off in a windstorm. "Instead of just constructing a new pavilion and stage, the town decided to look at improving Butler Park as a whole, and identify the best location for the new stage as part of that process," Ryan added.

To fix the problems with the parking lot, the lot in the middle of the park is going to be moved in order to make it safer and less dividing. They will also pave that parking lot. As a future plan, there is an idea for a dog park for people to bring their dogs while they watch their kids. Many teenagers may also just want to hang out with the dogs as well.

To encourage the use of the park beyond younger ages, lights will be installed over the basketball courts in order to allow more games after daylight hours. The basketball courts will also eventually be moved next to each other for convenience. There will also be another athletic field added to the park in a space where there currently is nothing. The board also considered putting in a Wi-Fi signal to make it more appealing to teens, though that has been taken out of the plan at this time.

For a long term idea, the board is going to install a concession stand at the pavilion so that teens can work there and have refreshments

available to sell to the park visitors.

For the younger ages, there are plans to establish more playground equipment that would be appropriate for ages of toddlers through second grade. In the long term, there are suggestions of a small splash pad, similar to what you would find at a waterpark, for the hotter days. Butler Park's location allows it to become very hot over the summer and the splash pad would help kids be able to last longer while playing.

The playground is also eventually going to be moved into the middle of the park in order to make it more centralized. Currently, the parking lot divides the athletic fields and the playground. "A more secure location for a parking lot away from park activities will improve safety and free up a fair amount of land in the middle of the park for recreation," said Ryan.

There are many things to consider when mak-

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TALENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Halfway through their jam session, Effman shocked the audience by playing behind his head.

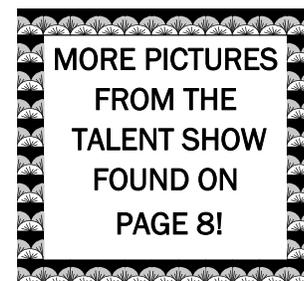
Possibly the most inspiring part of the night was when the entire cast and crew got onto the stage to sing the final number. They all sang "Teach Your Children," a powerful reminder of the reason this show occurred. The money raised will benefit the New Horizons School, where poor children can receive meals and also receive an education so that their futures will improve. Mr. Holden, one of the first people to tell our community about this school, once said, "The best way to escape poverty is through education."

This still holds true, and everyone involved with FUNHO hopes that by continuing to teach these children, they will have vastly improved lives.

The New Horizons Club would like to thank everyone who donated time and effort to make this fundraiser a success. This includes all of the talented acts, the stage crew, everyone at AMS for donating the space, Abbi Chenette for donating her art for a silent auction, and Mr. Goodnow for his leadership throughout this process. This amazing fundraiser could not have been possible without these people.

Lastly, we want to thank everyone in attend-

ance. It truly is our responsibility as a sister school to support the children in the Dominican Republic. Any bit of help the New Horizons Club can get, including something small like buying a ticket or a slice of pizza, goes a long way. We thank you for all of your support.



SOME PERFORMANCE!

OFF BROADWAY PLAYERS PRODUCTION OF *CHARLOTTE'S WEB* A ROUSING SUCCESS

by Lauren Harland

"After all, what's a life, anyway? We're born, we live a little while, we die," is a quote from *Charlotte's Web*, the well known children's novel. Many students, parents and other supporters made the most of their life on March 31 and April 1 by watching Averill Park's Off Broadway Players perform the widely loved story on stage.

Off Broadway Players is an after-school club offered at Averill Park High School that allows students interested in theatre or even just wanting to make some new friends to perform in or work backstage for the school plays. This winter, the members of OBP worked very hard memorizing lines, practicing scenes, and setting the stage for the upcoming show. "We've been working every day after school for at least two hours since January 17," explained freshman Hayden Chenette, the actor who played Wilbur in the play.

The dedication that the actors, crew members

and directors put in to *Charlotte's Web* made for a truly captivating play. "I thought it was funny and well together," added freshman Adam Limoges, who experienced

the play on the Saturday night showing, "You could really tell that they put a lot of hard work into their performance."

The show was primarily student-run with directors Nora Collins and Jeanna

Gaboury, Jeff Brown and Kristine Welliver.

The strong bond



DiPaolo and stage manager Rachel Koch coordinating and directing the actors. "Nora, Jeanna and Rachel are great. They're all seniors and they all work very hard to make sure everyone stays on track and keeps improving," commented Bella LaFreniere, a fresh-

man member of Off Broadway Players was easily seen while watching them perform.

Chenette added, "My favorite part about doing the play was making new friends. I now have friends from senior year, junior year, sophomore year and new friends from freshman year." The

students all support each other and help each other to grow as people and actors on and off stage. This group friendship makes for an impressive presence on stage that helped make the recent show a great one.

With all the effort put in by the students in Off Broadway Players, it's no surprise the show was such a

huge success. Everyone enjoyed themselves, including the actors. "Performing on stage was very nerve-racking but also exhilarating," concluded Chenette after the show, "The audience was very responsive and they laughed along the whole way." The crowd has was large for each showing and always seemed to have a great time.

It's unfortunate some of the wonderful students who participated in this years play won't be returning to Averill Park for the next one. Nine seniors will be leaving the Off Broadway Players family to start their lives after high school, although many will continue on a theatrical path of their own. These outstanding twelfth graders include Christina Burgazoli, Spencer Butterfield, Christian Capone, Nora Collins, Jeanna DiPaolo, Gareth Kaedy, Jordan Kennedy, Rachel Koch and



Tyler Petell, Jeanna DiPaolo. At the end of the final show, OBP continued their tradition in honoring each one of their seniors with a rose and even said a speech for each one this year. Lilly Kronau, a freshman who went to see the show Saturday night, said, "It was an extremely heartfelt

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man member of Off Broadway Players' stage crew. Faculty directors for the player were Kyle Kozlowski, Veronica

Spring Means It's Time For Music

Upcoming Activities Slated For AP Musicians

by Hannah Brisee

A lot is going on with the Averill Park High School music department from now until the end of the school year.

The music department held two concerts in March. The first one consisted of Concert Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble. The second concert consisted of the sixth, seventh and eighth grade Chorus, Treble Choir, and our high school Choir.

One way the Averill Park district prepares incoming eighth graders is by inviting them up to the high school for the day to experience what a high school band or orchestra class is like. They also got to play one song in the concert with the high school students, and it was a pleasure to have them and definitely a learning experience for both groups. Everyone did a fantastic job and their hard work paid off.

The high school also has a new student teacher for the band and orchestra. Mr. Daft is a graduate of Tamarac

Francis, on March 18. She has a substitute teacher subbing for her for the remainder of the year. Christy will return



High School. He currently attends the College of Saint Rose. He will be with Averill Park for the remaining months of school, where he will work with the music students as they prepare for their last concert in May.

In Choir news, Mrs. Christy had a baby boy, David

in September.

In other news, NYSSMA is in the air. The New York State School Music Association takes place April 7 and 8 at Bethlehem High School. Students play a solo or in a duet or trio in front of judges, where they receive both comments to improve, and an

overall score. These scores help with getting into college as well as All-County or other opportunities. Players are practicing in lessons to make sure they are prepared. If they aren't attending NYSSMA, they may do other activities such as play the piece in front of the class, create a part to add to their instrument using the 3D printer, or compose a song.

Another chance to play occurs at the Suburban Council concert at Schenectady High School on April 28-29.

The music department's final big event of the year is the Annual Chicken BBQ on May 16. This event is always a big turnout and helps the department greatly. Students sell tickets or people can buy at the door, right here at APHS. It takes place on the same night as the district budget vote. They even have a chicken costume, so mark this on your calendar!

BUTLER PARK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

ing these adjustments. "You have to look at community use of the park today to see what is important to maintain; what traditional community park activities are not taking place in the park and why some improvements can

physically fit within the park space; and then weight these ideas against the cost of making the improvements and their maintenance going forward," stated Ryan.

The Butler Park plan is estimated to take one to

two years for the short term ideas and within five years for the long term ones. Within the next two years, there will be a new parking lot, lighted courts, more playground equipment and an amphitheater. Within the next five

years, there will be a splash pad, another athletic field, a dog park, and concession stand. Future residents will be able to benefit from the new Butler Park greatly. It will now be more safe, more convenient, and more fun for everyone.

PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

moment and you could truly tell that the whole cast loved their seniors like family, especially when they took their last bow."

A few weeks before the show Chenette explained, "People will leave the show with a better appreciation for what they have, the friends they



have, who they are and who they've become." Through the overpowering feeling of love and friendship left on the stage from both the message of *Charlotte's Web* and the bonds of the Off Broadway Player members, it definitely proved to be true.



EDITORIAL PAGES

IT'S YOUR EARTH - SHOW SOME RESPECT!

by Abby Vandenberg

April 22nd is right around the corner. That means another international holiday is approaching, one that you should think about participating in this year. 2017 marks the 47th Earth Day since the first one dating back to 1970.

Following a 1969 oil spill in Santa Monica, California, the well-being of our planet became more and more hard to ignore. Hence the creation of a day designed purely for the act of embracing our planet.

Before you advo-



cate the insignificance of this day, humble yourself by acknowledging these facts: the Earth travels through space at

67,000 mph; this means that you are 67,000 miles away from where you were one hour ago. Humans have only explored 5% of Earth's oceans. The average human emits 840 pounds of CO2 annually, yet one tree can absorb only 48 pounds of CO2 annually. And finally, only .0003% of the water on Earth can be used by us. These facts show that there is something more to this whole mother nature thing than to feed us,

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Advisor: Mr. Strich

President Trump: So Far, So...

by Adam Limoges and Bella LaFreniere

It has been over 60 days since President Donald J. Trump was sworn into the Oval Office and became Commander in Chief. And as many of us expected, it began with controversy. From misinformation about the size of his inauguration crowd to the travel bans and all the tweets that lie in between, here is a quick recap of Donald Trump's shaky beginning.

It all began with January 20th, inauguration day. Quick controversy came when press secretary Sean Spicer said about the size of Trump's inauguration, "This was the largest audience to

ever witness an inauguration – period – both in person and around the globe." The media was quick to provide photo-



graphic evidence disproving the claim. This further divided Trump's relationship with the media.

But by far, Trump's

38 (and counting) executive orders have sparked the most disagreement among citizens. Executive orders are really an umbrella term, as they also include proclamations and Presidential memoranda. Actual executive orders are similar to laws passed by Congress and given numbers and then published in the federal register, Trump has 17 of these. Proclamations are used for ceremonial observances of holidays and awareness months; Trump has seven. Presidential memorandas are similar to executive orders but do not have to be assigned numbers or published in the federal register; Trump has issued 14 memorandas.

Two executive orders that Trump has signed have been travel bans; both have been unsuccessful. The first travel ban was placed on these Muslim-majority countries: Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen. Syrians were barred from entering the United States indefinitely, while the other six were banned for 90 days. Green card and visa holders were also banned, which was very controversial for the American people. Federal judges from several states claimed it was unconstitutional due to religious bias and overturned the order. During this time hun-

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EDITORIAL PAGES

BILL PAXTON: YOU'LL BE MISSED

by Dylan Weaver

In Hollywood, everyone has their favorite actor. Some of them pass due to age or an accident. Bill Paxton was a great actor who recently died who brought joy and life to each character that he played in each film.

Paxton was known for working on *Aliens*, as Pvt. Hudson (his famous lines included, "It's Game Over Man!!...Game Over"). He also worked with Arnold Schwarzenegger in *True Lies* as a car salesman and in *The Terminator* as a gang member. After that, he worked on *Twister* as a scientist that studies the biggest storm ever. He also worked on a TV series for HBO called *Big Love*, and his last show that's coming out, *Training Day*. The *Training Day* television show is coming out that's being released on Netflix. Playing Frank Roarke in that show was the last character and acting he did for the big screen before his death.

Many people were

shocked about his death, as he passed right before the 89th annual Academy



Awards. Many actors that he met or worked with gave their tribute. Tom Hanks, who worked with Paxton on the film *Apollo 13*, posted on Twitter, "Bill Paxton was simply a wonderful man, and talented at what he does." "Bill can play any role, but he was best at being Bill, a great human being with a great heart," said Arnold Schwarzenegger.

There are many,

many more tweets from many famous people, but one to me really stands out.

Director James Cameron was best friends with Paxton for over 30 years. Cameron first met Paxton after giving him a job to work a simple stage set, and then ended up becoming friends, working on films such as *Aliens*, and *Titanic*. Cameron's only regret is he wishes that he could have done more movies with Paxton. Cameron said, "The world is a lesser place without him.

Paxton worked on many sets, such as *Twister*, *2 Guns*, as well as *True Lies*. What Paxton loved to do was bring his character to life, and to make his characters memorable. He was a generous guy. Many of his co-workers like Helen Hunt said he brought humor and comic relief to the set of *Twister*, and had done that with many of his films.

In my opinion, Bill Paxton was an actor willing to embrace any role, and every time he did he brought strong personalities to the characters he played. The favorite film for me was his role of Pvt. Hudson in the movie *Aliens*.

Some movies he starred in included: *True Lies*, *Aliens*, *Predator 2*, *Titanic*, *Twister*, *2 Guns*, *Apollo 13*, *Tombstone*, *Edge of Tomorrow*, the HBO series *Big Love*, *Terminator*, *Nightcrawler*, *U-571*, *Million Dollar Arm*, *Commando*, *Trespass*, *Spy Kids 2*, *Spy Kids 3*, *The Colony*...and many, many more.

EARTH DAY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

house us, hydrate us, and keep us alive.

Celebrating Earth Day doesn't deem you a tree hugger or liberal. You don't even have to accept or believe in the concept of global warming to participate in Earth Day this year or any other year. It is so easy to do

small acts of appreciation for the planet that gives you everything, and no act is too small. Every time you use the garbage can instead of the highway shoulder, walk to the shop down the street instead of driving, or carpool to your sports practice, you are making more difference than you

think for the betterment of planet Earth in the future.

Stuck on ideas for how to celebrate Earth Day this year? Pack your lunch with reusable containers instead of plastic bags, use the recycling bin in your classroom instead of the heaping trash can, and convince your

teachers and fellow students to take a few minutes from class time to enjoy the fresh air and blooming spring flowers.

April 22nd – save the date. And remember, the Earth is 4.5 billion years older than you, show a little respect.

EDITORIAL PAGES

We Just Need A Little More Time!

by Keating Zelenke

Maybe one of the most striking qualities of teenagers is their incompetence. This though, may not be a matter of character, but rather of circumstance. I mean, most people are awful to be around when they've had chronically low levels of sleep.

Teenagers and sleep are far from an understudied subject. Every single person reading this knows teenagers need more sleep, and yet nothing is changing. Most studies put recommended sleep hours for teens around 8-10 hours, which at first, sounds like something we're already getting, but in actuality, sleep is a lot more complicated than the number of hours.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, which is where all of this data

is coming from, sleep patterns favor later hours during adolescence. That means it might not be easy or even natural for some teens to fall asleep before 11 pm, so simply saying go to bed earlier isn't a solution. Not to mention, we have homework and sports. If our work isn't done until after we get home from sports, we could be working until 10:30 pm, which doesn't sound like an issue until you take into account the fact that your brain needs about an hour to wind down from working, which pushes us closer to 11:30 pm, or even midnight.

But say an average teenager has a light night of

homework and gets to sleep around 11 pm. School starts at 7:40 am, and in order to make the bus, this kid has to wake up around 6:15 am.



That's going to put them at a little over seven hours of sleep, which is already less than the bare minimum, without factoring in earlier bus times, people who have to get up earlier to shower or take a longer time getting ready, and having more than the usual

amount of homework students have every night. With all of these things represented, it's not hard to see why only around 15% of teenagers report getting at least eight and one-half hours of sleep on school nights.

But how does this affect the students? Their mood, obviously, takes a major hit, and their ability to listen, function, and think in school. A lack of sleep can even contribute to illnesses and impaired driving (which, if we're being honest, teenagers are already bad enough at).

One of the easiest solutions to this problem is, of course, to start school later in the morning. In schools where they've implemented a later start time

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TRUMP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

dreds of people were held at airports waiting to see if they could enter into the United States.

Millions of people nationwide protested this ban, and finally, on February 9, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the executive order. But, on March 6, Trump released an updated version of this travel ban. This new ban stopped people from Iran, Somalia, Syria, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen (Iran was removed from the previous order). It was supposed to ban people from

these countries for 90 days and all refugees for 120 days starting March 16, but this time green card and visa holders would not be included. Several states and refugee groups sued in court, causing the executive order to be put to an emergency halt the day before it took effect, March 15. Trump has vowed to appeal the decision and take it all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Also in recent news, Trump has released the first draft of his budget to the House of Representatives. It

includes a cut of almost one third of funding to the Environmental Protection Agency and to the State Department. It also includes a request for \$30 billion to go to the Department of Defense to help with the fight against ISIS and \$3 billion for the Department of Homeland Security to help protect US borders. This budget was strongly rejected by the Democrats and even several Republican lawmakers showed their disapproval of the budget set forth by Trump.

Donald Trump has

had a rocky start and it's not looking up as his Presidential term progresses. Many people, including Republicans, disagree with many of his ideas for the future of the United States and will not let him walk all over them. This is not good for Trump, who doesn't like to be denied what he wants. These four years will be a huge learning experience for everyone who voted for Trump, for those who didn't, and for Trump himself.

MORE PICTURES FROM THE NEW HORIZON'S TALENT SHOW



SLEEP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

students grades have increased and levels of depression in students have dropped. It's not that simple though. One of the greatest issues with starting school later is sports. If school starts later, it ends later, which means school sports will go on later in the evening, and we're almost as bad as we were before.

Another solution would be to let up on homework, which is a can of worms within itself. Obviously, if you have no homework to do you won't have to stay up later, and sports going later into the

evening wouldn't be an issue. But unfortunately for students, teachers seem to be attached to the homework idea, and don't seem to be letting up. Teachers in other schools have been testing the "no homework" waters, though, like an eighth grade math teacher at Shaker. In the experiment she decided to conduct, her students spent a certain amount of weeks doing homework and taking a test at the end, and then spending the same number of weeks without homework and taking another test. Surprisingly, the students

tested better in the trial without homework, and now they don't need to do homework for the rest of the year. Of course, there are lots of factors that go into this — the curriculum in both trials, the lessons, a bunch of different things — but it is encouraging to see the students do better after her "no homework" policy was implemented.

I encourage other teachers here at Averill Park to try this experiment, to see how it works for your students. If anything, they will at least be in a better mood and more prepared to learn while

they have no homework and can get a better amount of sleep.

Fixing the teens' sleep problem is not something simple, but it's not rocket science either. In the end, educators should always be searching for new and innovative ways to teach students efficiently without making them absolutely miserable. We have the solutions, so why aren't things changing? Because we've done something one way for years? Is that a reason to let students continue being sleep deprived and unable to learn their best?

Enjoying Our Nation's Capital

Averill Park Juniors See the Sights in Washington

by Elizabeth Burrige

There has been a tradition for many years that students look forward to from the time they're freshman. Every year the junior class goes on a trip to Washington D.C. in the spring.

This year, about 50 students from the junior class, including myself, went to D.C. March 31 through April 2. The cost was a total of \$320. To attend this trip you are required to be in the junior class, enrolled in a U.S. History class, passing all classes, and have no detentions or referrals this year. Over the past five years Mr. Cole has coordinated the trip with some help from Mrs. Ford. Not only did Mr. Cole and Mrs. Ford coordinate the trip but also attended as chaperones; the other teachers chaperoning were Ms. Stone, Dr. Perry, and Coach Medici.

The trip was filled with an abundance of exciting things. Preparation began on Thursday March 30 when students brought in their luggage before and after the school day. After a good night's sleep, students and chaperones arrived at APHS at 6:20 am, departing at 7 am.

We first went to Mt. Vernon, George Washington's home, which we toured inside as well as on the grounds. We also went to the museum that was in a newer separate building.

Around 5:15 pm we left Mt. Vernon headed for the hotel. Before we got to the hotel we made a quick stop at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial: the Iwo Jima statue. After the long day of trav-

eling we weren't done yet. We left the hotel at 9 pm and went to see the White House, the Capitol, and the Jefferson Memorial.

The following day, April 1, wake-up call was at 7 am. We all had breakfast before leaving for the Smithsonian Zoo.

After the zoo we headed for the Smithsonian Museums, where students broke into groups with chaperones. We were able to visit multiple museums of choice. My group got to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, National Museum of American History, and the Air and Space Museum. For lunch earlier that day we went to the continuous lines of food trucks.

After returning to



the hotel, we departed for Union Station, where we got to shop and eat dinner. We then met in the Union Station

Lobby, and then moved on to see the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, and lastly the World War II Memorial.

The final day once again began at 7 am. We visited the Arlington Cemetery, where we respectfully watched the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we visited the Arlington House, and we visited JFK's grave site. Then we left Arlington and headed to Baltimore for lunch and walking around.

After a few hours in Baltimore, we once again got on the bus and headed home, arriving back to Averill Park at around 8:30 pm.

Both the teachers and students were extremely excited to go on this trip. Mr. Cole loves this trip and believes it's very educational for the students. He says Washington D.C. is a powerful city and it's important for students to know the history of our country.

All the students loved the trip and did not want to come home. I personally enjoyed the whole trip, but one part that amazed me the most was Mt. Vernon; how we got to walk in George Washington's home where he used to walk around himself and live. The other aspects of the trip left the students with a lot to say. They all loved the trip. One student, Garrett Wagner, said, "I liked the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II Memorial the

most because the architecture was very well done to honor Lincoln and the soldiers and nations who fought in World War II." Another student, Shannon Carney, said "Saturday was the best day. We got to see so much cool stuff and do so many things in just one day."

Lily Ainsley said "I loved the zoo! It was so much fun to see exotic animals we never have before." A lot of the students enjoyed the monuments the most because they

were beautiful, full of detail, and learning.

Even when we were not walking around sightseeing we were having a great time on the bus, singing and dancing together; this was one of Madi Holmes', Rachel Quell's, and Dom Law's favorite parts, because, "they were fun and who doesn't like dance parties with friends?"

Mallory Wood and Michaela Mosley stated that their favorite part was that, "everyone came together, got close, and became friends. There was no drama and no one stayed in their groups. We all bonded as a class and that was the best part." When they said that, everyone immediately agreed.

This annual trip for juniors is very educational and important for our APHS students to gain a joyful experience in and learn about our country's capital.



WHO WANTS...SPAGHETTI TACOS?

FOOD CHOICES AT POTLUCK DINNER SPAN THE GLOBE

by Xander Michaels

Imagine a gathering of people where you can indulge in food from many different countries and cultures. This precisely describes the Averill Park Potluck Dinner held on March 9. The Potluck Dinner has occurred for eleven years, and each year everyone tries new foods and enjoys gathering with friends.

Students and families gathered at Algonquin Middle School to experience the Potluck Dinner, where dishes brought by the students were placed out on tables organized by the country each dish was from. From there, everyone began to collect the food they wished to try as they walked from country to country along the tables.

In order to attend the Potluck Dinner, each student had to bring a signed permission slip to their language teacher, as well as bring a dish to the dinner. This year, students brought a wide variety of dishes. From perogies to cannoli tart, and

cucumber salad to babovka, dishes came from many cultures and countries around

were going to just bring spaghetti. But, my dad decided to put it in taco

“variety of food.” Some students said the best part was “socializing with friends.”



the world. Freshman Andrew Gorman even brought spaghetti tacos. He said, “We

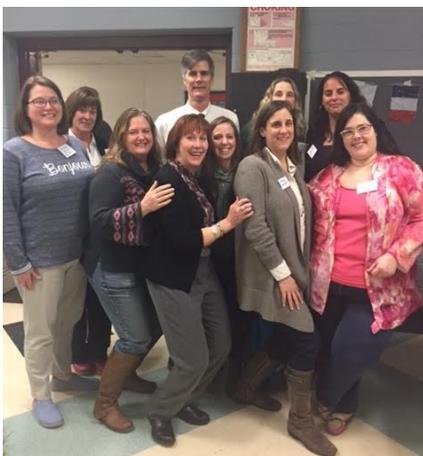
shells.”

Besides bringing dishes, there needs to be drinks and decorations set in the cafeteria; the LOTE teachers graciously do this each year. Mrs. Caballero said “If you set the table, they (the students) will come.”

There were many great things about the Potluck Dinner, but for most students the best part was the food. Freshman Carley Salerno said her favorite part was the

Gorman said he enjoyed “Zach Effman playing the guitar.” The language teachers had many reasons for enjoying the potluck. Mrs. Graziano said she liked “all the different nationalities represented.” Another part teachers enjoyed was people coming together, and “seeing former students,” said Caballero.

There were many reasons to enjoy the Potluck Dinner, from music to food to socializing; there was something for everyone to enjoy. So be sure to come to the Potluck Dinner next year and eat a meal you won't forget.



MR. AP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

a skit which takes awhile to complete, but in the end it all pays off because it's a fun time,” he added.

This year's contestants are Billy Bornt, Spencer Butterfield, John Davis, Jack Ferlito, Jordan Kennedy, Zach Larkin, Ryan Long, Tyler Pettell, Leno Sorriento, and Dan Wrenn.

Despite the name, the fun is not limited to the “Mr.'s” of AP, the “Mrs.” can be involved as well. The entire show is led by student

director Kiley Pendergast. And aside from walking the boys on stage, female escorts have other jobs such as being financial advisors and dance coordinators. As dance coordinators, the girls have to spend lot of time practicing the dance number in order to make it perfect, which requires quite a bit of time.

In addition to Pendergast, student help is being

provided by Gabriella Alberino, Maddie Benevento, Maggie Bulmer, Sydney Burton, Taylor Clement, Nora Collins, McKensi Duncan, Tracy Ferlito, Sarah Garziona, Alexis Gomes, Skyler Leveroni, Alexandra Moak, Lena Piche, Emily Pitts, Summer Ward and Abbi Zalucky.

Although the process can be quite time consuming, that doesn't distract

from the larger intent of the show — to have fun and even embarrass yourself a little. It also serves as a fundraiser for the senior class.

This tradition is one dearly loved by the Averill Park community and we are very grateful to our seniors and teaching staff for making it possible. Good luck to our seniors on Thursday, April 27, and as for the students, make sure to be there to support and cheer on your favorite seniors!



HAVING FUN IN THE SUN!

SCHOOL TRIP TO COSTA RICA

by Gabrielle Skiba

A nine day vacation in Costa Rica sounds like a pretty fantastic way to spend February break. Thirty-four of our very own Averill Park High School students and six chaperones were lucky enough to spend the past February vacation enjoying the beautiful weather and adventures in Costa Rica. LOTE teacher Mrs. Caruso, one of the chaperones that went on the trip, and Sophia Jaworski, a freshman here at Averill Park, give us some insight into their wonderful time in Costa Rica.

Talk about starting right in on the fun; on the first day of their trip the students went horseback riding and ziplining. The next day, a Monday, they went on a hike to see the view of the Arenal Volcano. On Tuesday they went kayaking on a lake that was formed from a Volcanic Eruption that had occurred in 1968, and also visited a hot springs spa. On Wednesday they hiked two different rainforests and planted trees.

On Thursday they went on a boating tour on a lake in Palo Verde National Park. On Friday they went to visit a small group of second graders at the Escuelas Playas Del Coco; they participated in the kids' gym class while they were at the school. After that they returned to their hotel on the waterfront, spending the

rest of their day on the gorgeous beach. On their last day they went to another hot spring and then went white-water rafting.

When asked what

us who went on the trip became a family. I never would have imagined 34 students and six chaperones coming together as close as we did and that was such an amaz-



their favorite parts of their trip were, it was hard for them to pick. Caruso's favorite part of the trip was ziplining, white-water rafting, and the black volcanic beach. "For the whitewater rafting, it's not like you're in a boat with 40 people," she said, "We each had

ing experience".

They both had said that they had had beautiful weather the entire time they were there. The weather was mostly in the high 80s and low 90s and very sunny. They didn't have any rain either, which must have made their trip so much better. They also said that the food was outstanding while they were there. Caruso said she loved the food and "there were a lot of beans, rice, chicken, and tropical fruits." Jaworski said, "the food in Costa Rica is full of nutrition and nourishment. Every day there was a new fruit to try, from plantains all the way to juicy pineapple." They both expressed how wonderful the food was while they were there.



our own inflatable whitewater raft". She also said she had a wonderful guide behind her steering her all around, which was nice. Jaworski's answer was rather different; she said, "My favorite part of the trip is nothing that we had done...my favorite part was how all 40 of

who may be attending a school trip, Caruso and Jaworski highly recommend this vacation. Jaworski said, "Not only do you get to see a different part of the world but you meet a lot of new people and witness a lot of beautiful things." Caruso said, "It is a great way to service a capstone experience for upper-level Spanish students who really want to learn the language and to use it in a real

live situation."

Between Caruso's and Jaworski's experiences, it seems as if it was a very successful trip. I'm sure the other thirty-eight people attending the trip had just as great of a time as they did.

GET INVOLVED

Join the Averill Park Journalism Club!

The Averill Park Pulse is looking for writers, editors and photographers. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 2:20 pm in room 209.

For future students

IF YOU'RE LOOKING

Don't Look A Gift Horse In The Mouth

by Samantha Schroeder

A good reason to have a horse is that they are fun to hang out with. And it is also good to have a horse that kids can ride. Horses can be fun to be with on weekends and in the summer. And the horse can also be fun to see everyday when you are having a good day. And they can also be nice to hang out with. The bad problem when having a horse is that they can cost too much money. Veterinarians give large bills when you own a horse. They can also be hard to take care of.

(continued on page 16)



One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

by Kyle Snyder

The best pet that you can have is a fish! Fish are easy to take care of because they don't ask for much, like other animals. They are quiet and just swim around. Some reasons that a fish might not be the pet for you is they may not last long and when you go to feed them they may be floating at the top of the tank. You can't play fetch with them or you might break the tank. Cleaning the tank could take a lot of time; you

(continued on page 16)



The Best Laid Plans of Mice...

by Olesya Webb

Looking to own a gerbil, hamster, mouse, or rat? There are several pet rodent types that exist, and they all have bad and good attributes. The Hamster is one rodent that can be a fun pet to watch and great entertainment for kids. The best thing about gerbils is they play tricks and

(continued on page 19)



Here Comes Peter Cottontail

by Anna Fiske

Rabbits can make wonderful pets. One good thing about rabbits is that they are very social animals. If you like to touch something furry, they are nice animals to pet. Also, they eat healthy foods, such as carrots and lettuce, and this a good example for us to follow. One negative thing about rabbits is that they might chew your household things. They also might get stressed out when traveling. If you own a rabbit you would need to clean the cage out once a week. Make sure you have

(continued on page 19)



FOR A PERFECT PET

Cats Are "Purrfect"

by Katelynn Flick

I love cats, and I bet you love cats, so you should get one! Cats are so cute and soft. They are like a space heater you can carry with you wherever you go. Do you know those big expensive cat carriers? You don't have to buy those because a box is good enough for them. Some problems are you have to clean their litter box and it is stinky and gross. They shed a lot (especially in the summer time), and you have to cut their nails.



Cats need love, food, nail cutters, a brush, a litter box and litter, a pooper-scooper, water, a bowl, treats once in a while, boxes, toys to play with like baubles or balls,

Though they are a bit demanding, nothing is better than having your own cat.

Who Wouldn't Like Man's Best Friend for a Pet?

by Brendan Garrow

A good reason to have a dog is that they love to be around humans and they follow you around wherever you go. Another good reason to have a dog is they're very loyal and protective. A bad reason to have a dog is they could be unpredictable. They could leave hair all over your house or they might eat your homework.



Some responsibilities of taking care of a dog are providing food and water and keeping him company. Another responsibility would be to give him a bath or grooming. Taking him to the vet is important too. Having a dog is a lot of responsibility but they make good pets.

Leapin' Lizards

by Dominick Carnevale

The best pets to have are reptiles. Reptiles make good pets because when cared for properly all live as long or longer than pets of a similar size. They come in many

(continued on page 20)



A Bird In The Hand...

by Zephryn Noble

Would you like an attractive and colorful pet? A bird is an extremely intelligent animal that comes in many sizes. A great reason to have a bird is they don't require too much grooming, plus birds are inexpensive to feed. Some bad reasons for having a birds are that owners of large exotic birds spend up to \$100 a month for food, toys, and other supplies for them. Another problem is if you don't give them enough attention their behavior changes

(continued on page 20)





MORE PICTURES FROM
CHARLOTTE'S WEB



STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS MANY AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AP ARTISTS

by Lauren Harland and Hannah Ryan

The teachers and the artists of the APHS art program work hard all year long in preparation for the multitude of art shows available to the art students. From drawing and painting to photography, artwork of all mediums gets sent to the shows every year to be displayed.

Most recently, the High School Regional Art Show took place at the Opalka Gallery in Albany. Originally, 484 pieces were submitted to the show to be reviewed further by judges. The judges then narrowed it down to 130 pieces to be shown at the regional held on March 24. Schools from all over the Capital Region participated, including Ballston Spa, Bethlehem and Shenendehowa. Averill Park had one of the highest number of pieces in the show, a total of 12. The Averill Park students included Zachery Canaperi, Sarah Coonrad, Katelyn Cooper, Jessica Malenfant, Morgan Moscinski, Leah Paulson, Hannah Ryan, Heidi Schuman, Anthony Signorelli, Claudia Stay, Kristen Thomas and Kelsey VanFleet.

Additionally, Averill Park won two of the six awards given out to students. Leah Paulson won an award for her photo titled "Risen" and Morgan Moscinski won an award for her painting titled

"Keystone". Overall, it was a successful night for our art students. The gallery is still exhibiting the pieces in the show until April 23.



Another art show that recently occurred was the Sand Lake Center for the Arts show. This event displayed art by students of grades K-12, all from Averill Park schools. At this event, patrons could view the artwork covering all the walls at the arts center while grabbing a treat and talking with the other people. "We have a very supportive community and had about 300 people in attendance," explained Ms. Doyle, one of the art teachers at the high school. It was well-attended this year and included many different types



of art, including high school sculptures and elementary school paintings. Students could come in and show their work to their parents or view

their friend's work. It is a great opportunity for kids to be able to see their artwork in a gallery at a young age.

3D Show was held at Mo-nonasen High School this year and is specifically for exhibiting 3D art, often from the sculpture and ceramics classes. Six of Averill Park's very talented art students, Abby Chenette, Jamie Holzman, Helen Pond, Dan Ryan, Bryanna Swinson and Bella With were accepted into this art show.

The Questar show is upcoming, Doyle said, "It's going to open the beginning of April and end at the end of April." Three pieces of Averill Park art are submitted into this show every year, and this year Averill Park art faculty submitted work by Hannah Katz, Dani Martuscello and Trinity Wohlfred. This show, comprised of schools from Rensselaer, Colombia and Greene counties in a wide range of media, has 15 districts participating this year. The reception will be held in the Marvin Library Learning Commons at Hudson Valley Community College on April 6 from 5-7 pm., with the awards ceremony at 6 pm.

"The exposure to the

(continued on page 18)



Other art shows that Averill Park has already participated in this year, or are planning on being a part of later, are the High School 3D Show and the Questar Show. The High School

**Look for
issues of *The
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webpage on the
APHS District web-
site at averillpark.k12.ny.us/aphs
and click on
"Student Parent
Resources." Then
click on
"Newsletters."**

-In Color-

TEACHERS WHO TRAVEL: HOW TO MANAGE WHEN YOU TEACH IN TWO BUILDINGS

by Bryanna Swinson and
Alex Vanderkar

There are many dedicated teachers here at Averill Park High School who devote their time and effort into creating a better learning environment for our students. However, there are a handful of teachers who go above and beyond to help our students. Some of those dedicated teachers include Mrs. Caballero and Ms. Everleth. Not only do they teach classes at the high school, but also travel back and forth to the middle school to teach as well.

There are strategies these teachers use to stay organized with their work and different materials they need to bring to their different classes each day. Caballero, who has been teaching at Algonquin for twelve years, but now travels back and forth between the middle school and the high school, has A days and B days marked on her phone calendar. On one day, she is at the middle school all day, and on the other day, she is teach-



ing here at APHS. She also has a cart that she carries her materials in from room to room so she has everything in one place. Although this may seem like a lot to deal with, for Caballero, it's part of her everyday routine. She says it helps that she is an organized

person. "It's just how I am," she said.

While all of this traveling and organization may seem inconvenient, there is not much of one for Caballero. The biggest differences are the age groups and language levels that she teaches. She is still getting used to teaching the high school level and prefers to teach at the middle school because she has been there for so long. At the middle school she has her own classroom, which is easier than having to switch between classrooms here at the high school.

It's not always easy having to travel back and forth, here and there and everywhere though, and Caballero described a time when she almost went to the wrong school but quickly corrected herself. "One day I drove toward the middle school out of habit but luckily the high school is really close," she

explained.

Everleth is one of the art teachers here at the high school, and she also teaches art classes at the middle school. This is her first year traveling between schools and she said "I feel like I have a lot of freedom because I'm not stuck in one place." She says she enjoys teaching all different age levels. She loves the energy of the middle schoolers but believes the high school students are more independent and original with their projects.

To stay organized and on task, Everleth only focuses on her high school work at the high school and her middle school work at Algonquin. The only inconveniences for her are the different school schedules and sometimes, when there is an interference, she has to get a substitute for one of the classes.

We should take a second to recognize and thank these dedicated teachers who go out of their way to educate our students. They are examples of teachers who go above and beyond to ensure the academic well-being of our school.

HORSE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

The other bad thing is that they can also be mean to you. They can kick you very hard.

If you own a horse, you need to have food, hay, a big yard or space surrounded

by a fence, a stall to sleep in, and you have to clean up after them and groom them.

Though it takes a lot of work, horses are fun to hang out with.

FISH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

have to drain the water, clean the tank and put fresh water in it.

To have a fish, you

will need a tank (the size will depend on the size and amount of fish that you want), some rocks or little trees,

water and fish food. You can get fish food at a pet store.

Fish are good pets because they are easier to

take care of than other animals.

FORMING A FAMILY: THREE AP STAFF HAVE ADOPTED THEIR CHILDREN FROM OUTSIDE THE US

by Carley Salerno and Lilly Kro-nau

Averill Park High School consists of many teachers and other staff members who have children that are not their own biologically. No matter the initial reason, many teachers and staff in our school decided that adoption was the best route for them.

One such staff member, Ms. Boulay, who teaches honors biology, chose to adopt due to the conditions which she saw many children living under when she visited Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the country with the second highest rate of indigence in Latin America, which is why Boulay took such an interest in it. Boulay spent a year teaching in Nicaragua, at the end of which she realized that she wanted to adopt. Boulay says "It just seemed like the right thing to do for me."

In 2002, Boulay adopted her only child, Juan Simone. At the time he was only three months old. Juan Simone is now 15, a skateboarder, and according to Boulay, "wicked cute". Juan Simone continues to be interested in his country by traveling there with his father. Through these trips, he's maintained a close connection with his culture and with his birth family. People may think that when a child is adopted, the parents don't have the same connection with their child, but Boulay disagrees. She said, "I feel like his real mum."

Mrs. Hale is another kind-hearted employee who decided to adopt a child. Because Hale, who is a secretary in the main office, and her husband were not able to have children, they adopted a young boy from Kazakhstan in 2008 named Yuri, who they later renamed Jonathan Yuri. Jonathan was adopted at only six months old, because

Hale wanted a baby as young as possible. Now he is seven years old, and is very curious about his hometown. Jona-

life. Now we have a son who is the center of our lives." By being able to support him, provide for him, and love him

Mermance, Russia. In 1999, Reese adopted her son Dimitri, who was two at the time. Going into the process, Rees did not know what she wanted, but as she said, "They showed us the picture of my Dimitri and I just knew."

Dimitri's now 20 years old, and like most 20 year-olds he is busy trying to find himself and discover what he is meant to do in life. He is a fun, creative, loving, and impulsive boy who has opened the Rees's eyes to a new way of living. Dimitri loves America and is very curious about his hometown of Mermance. Mermance is a very poverty-stricken region in which one third of children given to orphanages die due to extremely bad conditions. Rees said, "If you want an honest answer, I don't know if he would be alive if we had not adopted him."

The process of adoption affects everyone involved greatly. When asked, all three women responded with certainty that they made the right decision in choosing adoption. In regards to recommending adoption to those who cannot have children, all three women responded positively. "Absolutely. Absolutely," said Reese. "Without a doubt - if you want to open up your home and your heart to it, go for it." "Absolutely," said Hale, "No questions asked." "Absolutely Without a doubt, I do," said Boulay, "I think it's a wonderful, wonderful thing."



Jonathan Hale at JFK airport, the exact moment he came through customs and was put in Mrs. Hale's arms. The picture was taken by Averill Park teaching assistant Mrs. Rohl.

than loves to play Minecraft, swim, fish, and try new things.

The process of adoption has greatly affected both Hale's and her child's lives. Hale said, "Any child, whether they're adopted or not, completely alters your

with all of their hearts, Hale and her husband were able to change his life.

Another teacher who chose adoption is Mrs. Rees, a physics teacher at Averill Park. Reese has two biological children along with one adopted child from

EN GUARD!

FRESHMAN COMPETES IN THE FINE ART OF FENCING

by Hannah Ryan

The act of sword fighting has been around for a very long time. Around the 15th century, it became a sport known as fencing, beginning as military training in Germany and Italy and growing over the centuries to become a recreational sport. While fencing is still not a super popular sport, it is performed by one of our students at



APHS. Xander Michaels, a ninth grader, has been participating in organized fencing since last year.

Michaels trains at Beaches Sabre Club, located in Troy. He got the inspiration for fencing from his dad, who fenced in college. "When we saw a Groupon for Beaches Sabre Club for a trial, my brother and I decided we'd try

it out. After the trial ended, we decided we really enjoyed fencing and continued to fence," said Michaels.

Fencing is a sport that involves many different skills. Michaels claims the most important ones are having good footwork and being able to anticipate what your opponent will do next. "Knowing when they will attack, how they will attack, and how they will defend is very important." An opponent can be unpredictable in fencing.

If they are out of control, they can also be dangerous.

"I have fenced people who just swing their sabre around and hit with a lot of force," said Michaels. "It might hurt, yet they take so long to attack, that one might be able to avoid these blows".

Fencing requires a lot of equipment, including a helmet, glove, jacket, and knickers or fencing pants. There are also three different types of swords. One, called a foil, can only score with the tip of the blade, whereas another called a sabre can only score with the side of the blade. "I use sabre, and most people only focus on one type of sword. My club only does sabre, but at the beginning, they show you the other two types of blades."

Michaels arrives at competitions with other members of his club but competes alone. "At the tournaments, you fence everyone. Then you get a point total and are seeded based on your wins and losses." For only being a second-year fencer, Michaels does quite well in his competitions. He's placed second place in tournaments multiple times.



ART (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)



art community is excellent for students," continued Doyle. "The art shows help build their portfolios and their motivation to do more and get more involved with the arts." APHS has a wonderful art

program filled with talented and hardworking students. They've even added art apparel as a new addition to the program. Art-themed clothing is currently being



sold for anybody interested in supporting the arts.

Congratulations to all the art students who were accepted into any of the many art shows that Averill Park participates in!

I'M IN THE BAND!

AP STUDENT PERFORMS IN PUBLIC AT LOCAL VENUE

by Lauren Harland

Who knew we had a talented musical performer among us, walking in the halls here at Averill Park High School? Ninth grader Hannah Ryan, along with her seventh grade brother Zach Ryan, have played multiple gigs at a local restaurant, the Brunswick BBQ. Zach plays guitar and sings with Hannah playing piano, bass, saxophone and singing as well. Despite their young age, the duo is very impressive and have found much local success.

Hannah began playing piano at age nine. She takes lessons at the Troy Music Academy with Laurie Friday, who also teaches her to play the electric bass. With Zach taking lessons there as well, it was only natural for the siblings to begin to perform together. "Playing with Zach definitely helps us to bond together more," explained Hannah, "The only thing we really fight about is chord progressions."

After many years of



experience playing for the music academy and performing at open mic nights at various spots around town, the Brunswick BBQ offered them a gig.

So far, the duo has played two gigs at the Brunswick BBQ. "Playing gigs is a

very exciting and thrilling experience, especially when my family and friends come out to listen," Hannah commented. The restaurant has been packed full of people for both shows. From family members, friends of both the siblings and anyone else eating the BBQ that day or interested in seeing Zach and Hannah for the first time, there is often not enough seats to even fit everybody. Freshman

Lauren Meyers, a friend of Hannah who has been to both gigs, confided, "Zach and Hannah are so good I've cried four times listening to them."

Even at their most recent gig when the power went out in the restaurant and throughout the surround-

ing area due to high winds, the siblings didn't fail to impress. While some performers may have stopped due to no longer being plugged in, "Hannah and Zach kept on playing music and managed to make a great night," continued ninth grader Adam Limoges, another friend of Hannah's.

Zach and Hannah show no signs of stopping now. They'll continue to play gigs and impress anyone who goes to see them. They've already begun to be recognized in public. Hannah recalls, "Once a lady came up to us in a restaurant and told us that we were two of her favorite musicians."

These exceptional students of the Averill Park School District are on a path to do great things with their music!

MICE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

play well together with the same sex. They are considered good pets. Unfortunately, it is suggested that gerbils be alone when it comes to another pet rodent in the cage. They also should be handled by adults since they can bite due to lack of

good eyesight and may assume a threat has been made.

Keep in mind that these animals will need a semi-large area for their cage as well a proper cage size. You must provide water and a food source for outfit-

ting a home for the pet. These small pets are good at eating foods from pet stores. It's also suggested that an environment with the same-sex is best.

Gerbils, hamsters, mice and rats need a lot of care, but in result they are fun to play with.

RABBIT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

bedding, let it out once in a while so you can bond with it, make sure you feed it each day, and provide drinking water. Maybe you can even

buy it a chewing toy! If you let it out, give it the chew toy so it doesn't chew on your slippers!

It seems like rabbits

can be a good pet, but you want to train it so it stays out of trouble.

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AP AT AP: COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES CHALLENGE STUDENTS

by Lilly Kronau

Averill Park High School is always trying to offer students the highest possible way to achieve greatness. One of the many ways it does this is by offering an abundance of Advanced Placement classes. Advanced Placement classes are those which raise the students' ability to learn at a college level of thinking.

All students have the ability to get into these classes, but they should know going in it won't be easy. As one senior, Abby Kronau, said, "These classes are a lot of fun because they give me the ability to work with students of higher level thinking, but the workload is very high in quantity." Carley Salerno added, "I want to succeed and bring my intelligence to a new level. AP classes will definitely help me to do so."

Averill Park offers many AP classes, like AP English Literature, AP English

Language and Composition, AP Calculus, AP U.S. History, AP Government and Politics, AP Biology, AP Environmental

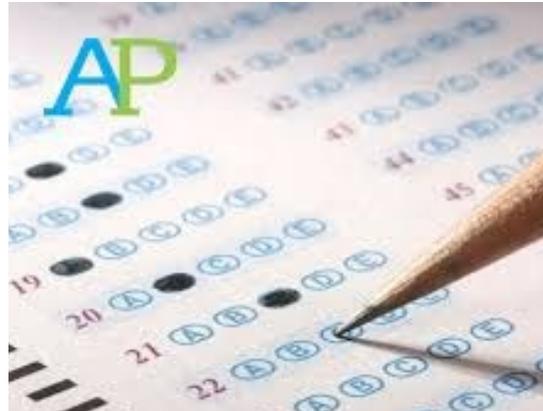
harder.

AP classes prepare students for college in

school by taking AP classes in high school. Plus, it is much cheaper to pay \$50 for an exam in high school than \$5,000 for course credit in college.

Another advantage of taking AP classes is that they prepare you for the workload and large tests you will take in college. One graduate of Averill Park High School, Sydney Julien, said, "It has been a lot easier to adjust to all the intense amounts of work and the extremely hard tests." Julien is now attending the University of Geneseo in New York and is doing very well.

It is clear that AP classes offer students many opportunities to achieve academic greatness in the future, and even now, although it may not seem like it for some students. These classes push students to do their best and I, a freshman, will be very excited to endure many of these classes in the near future.



Sciences, and AP Studio Art. All of these classes have different expectations. Some AP classes, like AP U.S. History or AP Calc, are known for their extreme amounts of work, while others demand less, but it depends on the class and the teacher. It also depends on what each individual student excels at, because that makes the class easier or

many ways. For one, each class has the potential to give you a college credit, but it depends on the college and your exam grade. Most colleges will accept an exam grade of 4 or 5 (and sometimes 3) which will then give you the credit. This is helpful because you could shorten your time in undergraduate

LIZARDS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

shapes and sizes. Reptiles don't have any fur, if people are allergic to fur. Reptiles are also intelligent, as they can recognize their owners. Reptiles have adapted to many

environments. Some of the bad things are some people are afraid of reptiles. Another thing is that some reptiles are really expensive.

Some responsibilities

include making sure they have warm temperatures, because they are warm-blooded and they need heat. You have to give them food - some eat fruits, vegetables

and insects.

So having a reptile isn't a bad thing at all but you really need to take care of them.

BIRDS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

and they may develop emotional problems. Also, birds are the messiest member in the family and tend to fling

things around.

The responsibilities for having a bird include food, water, toys, a cage, bathing,

cleaning and trimming, and entertainment.

Having a bird has many pros and cons plus

responsibilities, though they're fun and great to have.

THE TALE OF THE GREAT BEE RESCUE

BOULAY'S BEES SURVIVE TO BUZZ ANOTHER DAY

by Jessica Beskid

Biology teacher Ms. Boulay cares for bees in her classroom, and her hive has become quite the attraction here at APHS. However, last summer the well-being of the hive was threatened, leading to an unexpected problem and a trip up into the air.

There were many modifications made to Averill Park High School last year, such as resurfacing the track and tennis courts, and adding new signs. Construction workers were engaged in repairs to the exterior of the building when they became aware of Boulay's bees, which had begun to swarm. The workers wished to avoid being stung and wanted to use spray to get rid of them. They told their boss about their concerns, and he told them an exterminator would be brought in to solve the problem. Fortunately, Aaron Heffner, APCSD Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and Dennis Weatherwax, the Head of Maintenance, overheard and explained that the bees belonged to a teacher at the school.

Weatherwax called Boulay to tell her that her bees were swarming. Bou-

lay then called senior Leno Sorriento, who had been thinking of getting a beehive of his own. They met at the high school the next morning where they saw the swarm of bees around an upper branch of a tree. The workers assisted Boulay and Sorriento by allowing them to reach the swarm



hive) in my garage where the opening was next to a window where the bees could go in and out," and she looked after the bees for the remainder of the summer.

Looking back at the experience, Boulay said, "it was great fun having them there; they did very well at my house." The hive's past queen had laid a lot of new

queen eggs, and the hive soon had a new queen to run the colony. Boulay brought the bees back to APHS for the start of this school year, where they would fascinate a new group of students. So far they have done just that.

using their cherry picker. They sawed down the branch and knocked the bees into Sorriento's newly purchased Warre hive.

Sorriento took the bees home, and Boulay ended up bringing what remained of her hive home so that the bees wouldn't be agitated by the workers, and the workers wouldn't be disturbed by the bees. Boulay said "I put it (the



DID YOU HEAR THE LATEST ABOUT...?

STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ALGONQUIN TO COMBAT RUMORS

by Kyle Hunter and Kaitlyn Bates

Several A World of Difference high school members recently dedicated two days to teaching and spreading knowledge to sixth and seventh grade students attending Algonquin Middle School. Held on February 16 and 17, Algonquin students learned about the effects that rumors have on students and how rumors are changed as they are passed around. The students also learned ways to prevent the spreading of rumors, such as not repeating stories they've heard about other people



and asking the person directly if what they were told was true before they believed it.

During the two days, the middle school students came up with ways to stop the spread of rumors and raise awareness in their school and community. They also learned about what can happen when you assume details that you are uncertain of.

The A World of Difference high school students will be returning to the middle school in April for the final time, and are very excited for the opportunity to be able to spread their knowledge and raise awareness in their own school and community.

TIME FOR A BREAK

MUCH TO DO OVER THE SPRING RECESS

by Adam Limoges

Everyone is looking forward to spring break. This year it takes place from Monday, April 17 through Friday, April 21. Students will also get April 14 off for Good Friday. Over the course of this break many students will use their time to catch up on sleep, relax, travel, and go on college visits. Many will also have sports practice, too.

Students have been hard at work with their academics and finally will have time to get some much needed sleep. Lots of them will take the time to relax, read a good book, or watch movies and TV.

Many people use the spring break to get away.

Mackenzie Julien, a freshman, is going on a family trip to Cape Cod. She said, "I am



staying in Eastham where our family house is. We like to go visit the beaches there on the cape." Another freshman, Lydia Ware, is traveling to Washington, DC., where her

mother is attending a medical conference. While she is there, Ware is visiting the Internation-

al Spy Museum, Newseum, and other tourist sites.

College visits are also a common thing for upperclassmen to do over the break. Many colleges hold open houses and

tours at this time. A junior, Emma Limoges, is visiting three universities. She is visiting Harvard University, Tufts University, and the University of Rochester. "I like visiting colleges because it gives me a unique insight into campus life," she said.

Averill Park sports teams are also holding practices over the break. Students participating in spring sports will have practices during the day to continue preparations for upcoming games, matches, or meets.

Easter is on Sunday April 16 this year, and there are also many community events that you might take part in and enjoy over your break. If not, relaxing, going on vacation, visiting colleges, and playing sports are all great ways to spend your spring break.

The Baseball Season Is Finally Starting...

A Look At Next Year's Potential World Series Champions

By Eric Schuman

With Spring Training coming to a close, the Major League Baseball season is upon us. The playoffs may still be seven months away, but starting on April 2, all the action leading up to the playoffs will begin. It is always difficult to predict playoff contenders based on Spring Training results. This is normally due to the fact that the starters generally will not play the full nine innings of the game. This year, another factor affected the results of Spring Training. The World Baseball Classic took place, which took many of the league's stars away from Spring Training for several games. Even so, some teams stand out this year as possible playoff squads or World Series champions.

The Boston Red Sox:

It is very likely that the Red Sox will be having a fantastic year. During the offseason, they acquired Chris Sale to join 2017 Cy Young award pitcher Rick Porcello and David Price as an elite group of starting pitchers. Their squad is also filled with young talent, including outfielder Mookie Betts (.353 Spring Training batting average) and shortstop Xander Bogaerts. Veterans Hanley Ramirez and Dustin Pedroia are also key players for the Red Sox. The Red Sox have had a decent spring, going 15-13 as well. With this strong group of players, there is no reason why the Red Sox will not make the playoffs.

The Cleveland Indians:

Last year's American League champions will be contenders again. Cleveland's pitching is

stellar with starters Corey Kluber, Carlos Carrasco and Danny Salazar, as well as reliever Andrew Miller. The Indians also have a lot of young talent. Francisco Lindor is one of the best up and coming players in the game (.339 batting average and 15 RBI's in 62 Spring Training



AB's). Center fielder Tyler Naquin (.397 Spring Training batting average) and third basemen Jose Ramirez are also young future stars. The Indians also have key players in second baseman Jason Kipnis and outfielder Michael Brantley. They only are 13-14 in Spring Training, but they were also missing important players due to the World Baseball Classic. Overall, the Indians are looking very good this year.

The Houston Astros

The Astros have had a good couple of years and should be one of the top teams this year. They have made some quality moves in the offseason, acquiring outfielders Norichika Aoki and Josh Reddick as well as catcher Brian McCann. The Astros also received a star player in Carlos Beltran. This talent will blend well with their young stars including Carlos Correa and Jose Altuve. Infielder and 2015 first round draft pick Alex Bregman could also be a star in the making. The Astros pitching is pretty decent with

Dallas Keuchel, Collin McHugh, Mike Fiers and reliever Luke Gregerson. They are 13-13 in Spring Training even with many key players not playing and should be very good this year.

The Washington Nationals

The Nationals may be going 12-14 in Spring Training, but they still look pretty good to win the NL East. The Nationals have one of the best pitching staffs in baseball: Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg, Tanner Roark, Gio Gonzalez and Joe Ross. As for the hitters, Bryce Harper may have had an off year last year (.243 batting average and 24 home runs), but he is hitting



.317 this spring and is one of the league's best players when in good form. Trea Turner has had a rough spring (.244 batting average), but he was one of the best hitters last year and is a young player with a lot of potential. The Nationals also have solid hitters in Daniel Murphy and Ryan Zimmerman. Led by their strong pitching staff, the Nationals should have no problem making the playoffs.

The Chicago Cubs:

The 2016 World Series champion Cubs may very well go back to the series again. 2016 NL MVP winner Kris Bryant has 18 hits this spring already and is looking good. The Cubs also have great talent in left fielder Kyle Schwarber, who missed most of last year due to injury, and first basemen Anthony Rizzo (4 HR's and 13 RBI's in 49 spring training AB's). Infielder Addison Russell has a brilliant glove and Javier Baez provides a powerful bat. The Cubs pitching should be powerful as well. Aces Jake Arrieta and Jon Lester are both spectacular. Kyle Hendricks and John Lackey as well as closer Wade Davis will be key as well. The Cubs have only gone 10-14 in the spring, but like I said before, Spring Training is not a good indicator for how well a team will do. The Cubs are a prime example as they should be top of the league again.

The Los Angeles Dodgers:

The Dodgers have a competitive team this year. They have a young star in shortstop Corey Seager. Justin Turner and Adrian Gonzalez are key players that do a lot of damage at the plate. In addition, center fielder Joc Pederson, who has struggled at the plate in his first years with the club, already has 17 hits this spring. The pitching for Los Angeles is pretty good. Clayton Kershaw has been one of the most dominant starters in the game and is a future

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MARCH MADNESS COMES TO AN END: UNC CAPTURES THE NCAA BASKETBALL CROWN

by Kyle Reasor

March is highlighted by the NCAA Basketball Tournament and, for many, it is the best part of the month. The tournament has been coined "March Madness." This year, many teams had high hopes and expectations as rosters were filled with experienced seniors and talented underclassmen who helped their teams dominate. The top-seeded teams were the defending champions the Villanova Wildcats, Gonzaga Bulldogs, Kansas Jayhawks, and the North Carolina Tar Heels. The early favorites in the eyes of many fans were the Wildcats, due to the fact that most of their team was returning from the prior year, and the Gonzaga Bulldogs, who only lost one game the whole season. As it turned out, chaos broke out and the final outcome wasn't a surprise to many. Ultimately the Tar Heels prevailed after a historic six-game run.

The first round of the NCAA tournament didn't go as many expected. Instead of upsets and devastating losses like in year's past, most of the higher seeds won their first games. Only six of the 32 games played in the first round resulted with the lower seed being victorious. Within these minor upsets, the highest-seeded team knocked off was Minnesota, who lost to Middle Tennessee State.

In the Round of 32 the nickname March Madness truly lived up to its name, with wild finishes and unexpected victories. Many who were favorites to cut down the nets were eliminated. Most surprisingly, Villanova suffered a devastating loss to 8-seeded Wisconsin, and both Duke and Louisville were

that they may be a force to be dealt with. Teams such as Oregon, UNC, and Kentucky narrowly squeezed by their opponents and showed the people who made tournament brackets some remorse.

The Sweet 16 brought forth some of the best teams in the nation square off. UCLA and Ken-



tucky were two very talented teams, with players like UCLA's Lonzo Ball as well as De'Aaron Fox and Malik Monk of Kentucky. Kentucky was able to come out on top, beating a team that could very well have gone further if they played an easier opponent. For the most part, the better seeds prevailed and the talent on the higher ranked teams overpowered the heart and good work ethic of the lower seeds. However, there were two major exceptions. Once again, Xavier won to beat the second-seeded Arizona Wildcats and keep their Cinderella story going. The Gamecocks also won again and got their third win in NCAA tournament history, following their first two wins in the two games prior.

With the first three rounds over, teams needed to play their own games of basketball and push through the

Elite 8 to make it to the coveted Final Four in Arizona. Only two one-seeds remained, as well as one two seed. First, Gonzaga was able to advance to the Final Four in a breeze as they defeated Baylor by 20. Oregon was the next to punch their ticket to the Final Four and was able to

As the month of March ended, it was time for the Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona. The first game of the round was between Gonzaga and South Carolina. At the beginning of the game, Gonzaga seemed to be pulling away with a seven point lead at the half. Their roster simply was outplaying the Gamecocks and the players looked far more talented. Coming out of the half, South Carolina was rejuvenated and brought forth the qualities that brought them to the Final Four. They played with heart and a tenacious defense that brought them back into the game. However, they couldn't complete the comeback and the Gonzaga Bulldogs pushed their way to a championship appearance.

Next, Oregon and UNC both put forth their best efforts. The two teams went back and forth throughout most of the game exchanging baskets and defensive plays. Ultimately, UNC had the ball with the lead and free throws, looking to close out the game. North Carolina missed multiple free throws, but they stopped Oregon from getting the rebound and Oregon didn't even get the opportunity to extend the game, and the time on the clock expired in a heart-breaking loss for the Oregon Ducks.

Finally, the championship game arrived. Both the Tar Heels and Bulldogs had long and eventful seasons and looked to cap them off by cutting down the net. The game was about as close as you can get. The two teams exchanged points and whenever a team went on a run, the opposition would

shock Kansas by taking an early lead and held off any comeback attempts. The magic also continued for the 7-seeded Gamecocks as they beat Florida in a nail-biter.

The final game of the Elite 8 was by far one of the most exciting games of the tournament. UNC and Kentucky went back and forth the whole game. After Kentucky's star Malik Monk tied the game with a heavily contested three, Luke Maye hit a shot as time expired to win the game for the Tar Heels. This exciting play goes to show the madness that can occur at any point in March (a side note on Maye: he was originally supposed to be a walk-on player and receive no scholarship to play for the team; he really proved his worth with this shot).

(continued on page 25)

BATTER UP: SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL FIELDS GET NEW SCOREBOARDS



Pictures of the installment and finished scoreboard for the Averill Park softball team. This scoreboard and one for the baseball field were paid for by the Averill Park Athletic Booster Club.

NCAA BASKETBALL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24)

score again. Eventually, UNC possessed a 3-point lead and Gonzaga had the ball. North Carolina played great

defense, stole the ball, and extended the lead to five with under thirty seconds to play. UNC held on, and be-

came the National Champions of 2017.

This ended March Madness with most fans

agonizing over their brackets or the loss of their favorite team, but still looking forward to next year.

SOFTBALL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

come support all the different spring sports teams as

they try to be as successful as the previous sports this

year. The softball program is ready to provide specta-

tors with good games and something to be proud about.

BASEBALL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

Hall of Famer. Their closer Kenley Jansen is one of the best in baseball as well and he leads the Dodgers in career saves. The Dodgers have had a solid spring, go-

ing 16-13 and are looking good for this season.

This baseball year should be a good one. These six teams have great shots at going far, but you never know

for sure at the beginning of a season. Injuries or poor performance may thwart the teams favored to win. Even so, I think the Red Sox will win the World Series in close

matchup with the Chicago Cubs this year. The Red Sox pitching and hitting is filled with stars that have a lot of potential to perform well and bring home the World Series trophy.

AP Softball Team Stepping Up For The New Season

by Kylie Gavitt

March 6 marked the start of the spring sports season, meaning it's time for softball. The girl's softball team expects to have a successful turnout this year and is excited to be spending the next few months with their three seniors, Kristin Morin, Laura Wendell and Kat Stackrow.

"Most of the team and I have played with them for pretty much our whole lives," said junior Jess Farley, speaking out on behalf of all the other players regarding the seniors. "It's going to be hard to say goodbye but losing them will motivate everyone to make their senior year one to remember."

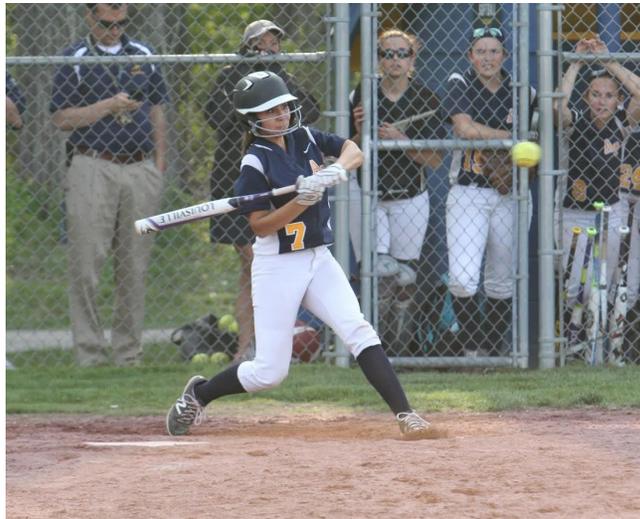
The softball team

will be starting the season off facing Shaker this year, following with

to bring their 'A' game, facing two of the most competitive teams in Class AA right off

coach of the varsity team, will be returning for his second year. The girls on the varsity team last year were very fond of Coach Pugs and will warmly welcome him back.

When asked what her favorite part about the softball season was, junior Leah Debboli said, "The girls I get to be with everyday are amazing and we all have the chance to get closer and learn new things about each other." She continued to say, "This year will lead to some new players due to our loss of five seniors last year. I can't wait to see who the lucky players are that get to spend the spring with our crazy team!"



Shenendehowa. Head coach Ken Bailey's team will need

the bat (no pun intended). David Pugliese, the assistant

Don't forget to

(continued on page 25)

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW

CROSSWORD

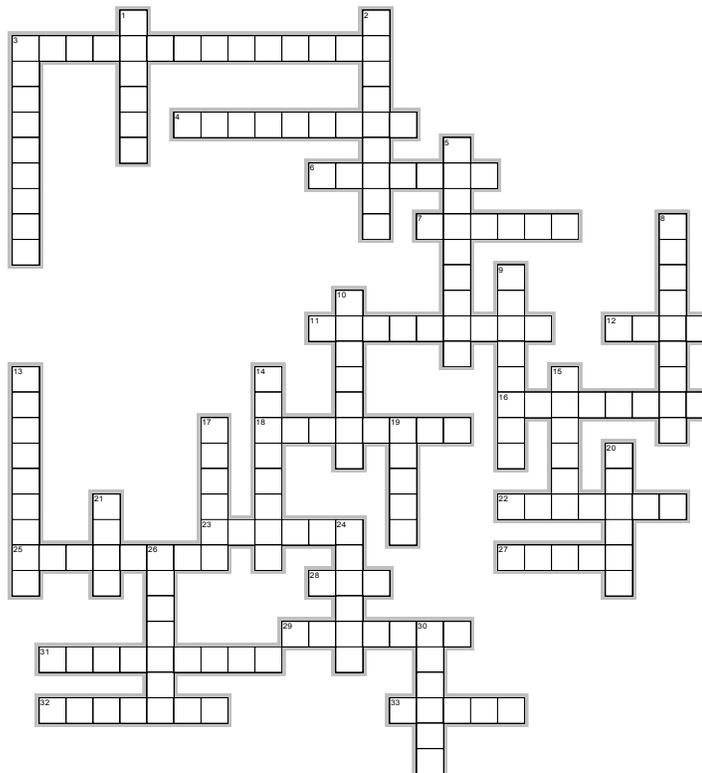
Match the STAFF MEMBERS

with their

ALL-TIME FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW

Ashline	Bailey	Bishop B
Brown J	Caruso	Caballero
Daviero	Digrigoli	Doyle
Dutcher M	Engel B	Engel S
Ferlito	Fox	Galcik
Klepsch	Lambright	Malenfant
McPartiin	Miller	Minkler
Mouzakes-Viola	Pannhorst	
Panzanaro	Perry	Ryan
Schaefer	Scheidel	Sheridan
Sorriento	Stone	Strich
Teal	Vosburgh	

* Note—Leave Out All Spaces In Puzzle



Down

1. Big Bang Theory
2. Trapper John, MD
3. Cheers
5. West Wing
8. Star Trek
9. Little House On The Prairie
10. Gilmore Girls
13. Alias
14. Mash
15. Kolchak The Night Stalker
17. Dukes of Hazzard
19. Game of Thrones
20. Hogan's Heroes
21. All In The Family
24. Jeopardy
26. Friends
30. The Wonder Years

Across

3. Breaking Bad
4. Gilmore Girls
6. The Mary Tyler Moore Show
7. Friends
11. Buffy The Vampire Slayer
12. Big Bang Theory
16. Friends
18. Lost
22. Downton Abbey
23. Storage Wars
25. My So Called Life
27. Dukes of Hazzard
28. 24
29. Happy Days
31. The Muppet Show
32. Battle of the Planets
33. Rescue Me