The Epic

Volume 44 Issue 2

Janurary 2014

360 West Grant Street East Palestine, Ohio 44413

EP Big Dawgs Payton Patterson Editor & Chief

The 2013-2014 school year is going by rapidly as fall sports have already come to a conclusion here at EPHS. Since the fall sports are done and over with, each team celebrates their well played seasons by having a big meal with all the players, coaches, and family members. At these banquets the coaches reward each player with their participation certificates: first year, second year, third year, or fourth year letter. After the letters are handed out, the coaches give out awards to the individuals on their teams that they believe deserve them.

Each fall sport team, (golf, volleyball, football, cheerleading, cross country, and soccer) handed out their individual awards. Golf ended their season at 17-0 as ITCL champions with a trip to regionals. The golf team is losing two seniors who played a major role in the team's success this year. With many astonishing players contributing to the team's hard work, these individual awards were given to outstanding gentlemen. Junior Phil Gerner was awarded with the MVP while senior Drew Wilson received most improved. Coach's award went to junior Andy Ellis and freshman Marshal Huddleston was named the most promising underclassmen.

Next up we have the volleyball team who was eliminated early in the district playoffs to Rootstown. Volleyball is losing five seniors but has a good group of juniors and sophomores. After the season, the players vote and the coaches discuss who they believe the individual awards should go to. Senior Carley Sansenbaugher was titled MVP; Senior Megan Brown obtained the leadership award. Junior Kellianne Duncan was awarded with the Coach's award, and sophomore Jessica Leake received the bulldog award.

The football team had a disappointing 0-10 season, but they never gave up and always put up a battle every game. Only losing ten seniors, the football team is young and has many promising young athletes. Even with the big number of players, only a select few receive individual awards. Senior Chris Raley takes the MVP; senior Logan Frye is announced most outstanding defensive lineman. Freshman Trevor Kimmel is most outstanding offensive lineman, and sophomore Grant Wagner was titled most outstanding defensive player. Junior Nick Monteleone was titled most outstanding defensive player, and sophomore Ryan Ross was awarded most outstanding scout player.

To pep up the fans at the football games, we have the cheerleaders led by 2nd year coach Amy Creaturo-Moore. With only three seniors, the squad was young. Amy took time with assistant Kristen Johnson to choose who deserves the awards. Payton Ream was the most spirited freshman, and sophomore Michaela Debee was the most spirited JV cheerleader. Senior Bryn McElroy received most improved, junior Serena Muransky was honored with the Coach's award, and senior Haley Smith was announced with the Captain's award.

Cross country takes long hours of hard work and integrity. With a new coach, the girls got second in county while the boys got sixth. Losing three senior (one from the boy's team and two from girl's team), the young cross country team has great potential going into next season. Coach Scott Wolfe had no trouble with announcing senior Charles Butler and sophomore Hannah Hall as MVP for the boy's and girl's teams. Freshman Carter Wisser received the bulldog award along with sophomore Tori Ward, and junior Wayne Guy and senior Korynn Crawford were awarded with most improved.

Lastly we have the soccer team. The soccer team had a good season but was eliminated in the playoffs by Lake Center Christian in the second round. Losing nine seniors, the team looks to build around the strong junior class. Five seniors walked away with individual awards including; Ryan Henderson winning the MVP, Payton Patterson with the most goals, Billy Bibby with the most assists, Mark Ortega won defensive player, and Johnathon Seabrook was honored with the Coach's award. Sophomore Josh Fristik was named most improved player.



Fall sports award winners. Not pictured: Charles Butler, Payton Patterson, Johnathon Seabrook, Ryan Ross, Ryan Henderson, Nick Monteleone, and Mark Ortega.



Courage. Honor. Valor.

Verteran's Day Assembly

The veterans and Mrs.Randolph's honors English 12 class.

Charles Butler Front Page Editor

On November 11, 2013, the country celebrated Veteran's Day, a day to honor all of the men and women who have served in the armed forces. For this year's Veteran's Day, the theme was courage, honor, and valor. This year, we had twenty eight members of five branches of the military participated in Veteran's Dav.

The senior honors English class with Mrs. Randolph's direction organized the Veteran's Day assembly. The Veteran's Day assembly

started with Sarah Adams talking about the importance of Veteran's Day. This was followed by the veterans all coming on stage. Alec Dumbauld talked about the history of Veteran's Day. After Jerick played the video, Bryn McElroy, Zack MayRobb, and Isaac Ree each talked about honor, courage, and valor. This year we had two guest speakers. Mr. Brown and Mr. Ortega both talked about being a veteran and what it meant to them. At the conclusion of the Veteran's Day assembly, the veterans all went to the smart board room where they were able to eat from a different variety of foods donated by Panera and Mrs. Miller. All of the veterans talked about their times in the military with one another, and at the end, everyone got in a group picture. The veterans and attendants were all pleased with the assembly. The Veteran's Day assembly was put together by the help of many people including the English 12 honor students and Mrs. Randolph.

The Epic



School News

Rotary Interact

Braxton Feezle Entertainment Editor

Have you ever wondered how you get the box for recycling in the classrooms or who collects it every Thursday? The Rotary Interact Club is responsible for the recycling. They have been working hard to collect the papers and make sure every class has the opportunity to

Interact is a club here at East Palestine that is in charge of the foreign exchange student and the community.

recycle. Rotary "The winner was Mrs. Deichler's homeroom with over one hundred 22, 2013. The cans."

Rotary is a ~ written by Braxton Feexle held good club to

get into if you are in need of community service hours or if you just like to be involved with the community.

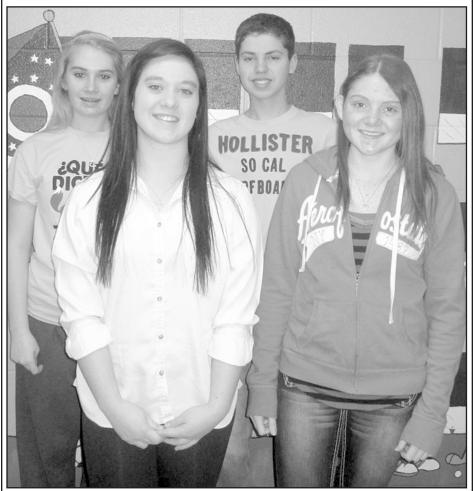
During the second quarter rotary was involved in many activities. The rotary club held their annual food drive the week of December 13, 2013. The winner was Mrs. Deichler's homeroom with over one hundred cans. The food was collected and distributed back to people in East Palestine. Last year, the rotary club held their first Operation

Christmas Child which is where students bring in items for children from ages 2-14, and then the rotary interact students have a packing party to pack as much stuff in the box as possible. The items were sent to countries around the world where children do not get Christmas presents. This year the collection of Operation Christmas Child was held

> on the week of November 18, 2013, and the packing party was held on Friday, November Salem leadership conference was Saturday

November 9. 2013 and was a fun way to meet people from other schools in Rotary. The conference was held at

the Salem community center and went from 9 am to 1 pm. The Rotary students were to bring a bulldog shirt, so they could trade it with students from another school. There is still time to join Rotary. If you are interested or maybe can't make the commitment, see Mrs. Spanos or like the Rotary Interact page on Facebook.



Caring Hands Braxton Feezle

Entertainment Editor

Caring Hands is a local food drive held at the First Church of Christ. The organization has been giving food to

the local families in need since March 2011. Trudy Mackall the coordinator of caring hands grew up in the area and saw all the families in need and knew that something had to be done about it. Caring Hands gives out food and supplies to families who meet the requirements by the

state. Caring Hands is Food line at the food pantry in held on the first Monday of every month. town.

When families arrive, they give food, drinks, and supplies for hygiene and cleaning. Trudy Mackall stated that "they are always looking for more food to buy, so that all the families have enough food to last them until the next month." At the December distribution, Caring Hands gave each family presents for each member of their family. Caring Hands starts distribution at

noon. The volunteers come as early as 10 am to set up the food and get organized for the long day ahead. High school stuvolunteer dents and can get out of school. Crestview and East Palestine take turns to send students to the Caring Hands Food Ministry pantry every other month. If you are interested in vol-

unteering for Caring Hands, you can go to the Guidance office for more information.





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The Epic

Rotary Interact officers. Back row: Taylor Rogers (Vice President), Devin West (President).



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School News Academic Challenge

Matt McDade Sports Editor

This year, the Academic Challenge team at East Palestine High School has advanced to the national level of competition for the first time in East Palestine history. Academic Challenge is a quiz bowl tournament with several questions dealing with various aca-



demic topics that require hours of work to master the format. Similar to Jeopardy, several schools from our area have teams of students who dedi-

Dr. Bircher^{cate many hours in} an attempt to take

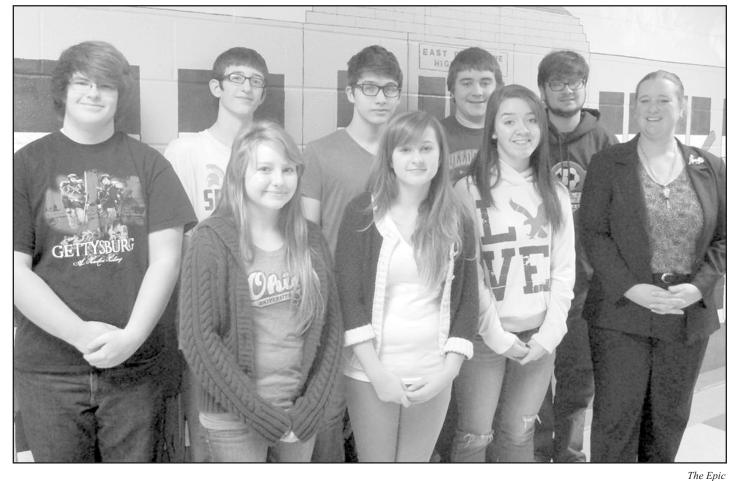
their school's Academic Challenge team as far as possible, such as to the NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournament).

The East Palestine High School Academic Challenge team, advised by Dr. Lisa Bircher, recently did just that. Bircher, in her 4th year of advising Academic Challenge, recently advised a great team which competed and won against several local and regional schools and qualified for competition at the NAQT taking place in Minneapolis this spring.

"I really am excited," says Bircher. "I'm just not sure if we'll have enough money."

The Academic Challenge Team is led by captain and EPHS junior, Curtis Myers, who is well known for his intelligence and academic excellence.

"I got interested in Academic Chal-



The lovely and intelligent Academic Challenge team.

lenge because of my family's tradition of watching Jeopardy every night. I love the feeling of answering a question correctly, and when I learned about the team at school, I was excited that I had found an outlet for all of the information I have buzzing in my head," says Myers.

When asked to comment on the most exciting moment of the Academic Challenge season, Bircher added, "So far, I'd say during the playoffs while competing for nationals. We had to do

a playoff round with LeBrae and Southside High School (located in PA)."

Each year, the EPHS Academic Challenge usually competes at county level, but this is the first year in Bircher's knowledge that the school will have the opportunity to travel to nationals.

"I love traveling and seeing places that you've only seen in photographs. It will be my first time traveling farther west than Ohio," explains Myers.

Other students involved in Academic Challenge include seniors: Ashton Borelli, Kade Marsili, and Alexis Winkle. The team includes juniors: Curtis Myers, Evan Jones, and Wayne Guy. The sophomores are Sarah Tomor and Jamie Molnar; and the freshmen are Shane Browne, Mackenna Elick, Ben Frazier, Kendra Hoover, Hannah Darlington, and Kyle Zimmerman.

Congratulations to the Bulldogs, and we hope to see you compete in Minneapolis this spring!

Camp Kon-o-Kwee

Nick Powell Feature Editor

Juniors and seniors here at East Palestine High School were camp counselors at Camp Kon-o-kwee at the beginning of November 2013. able GPA. thought.." Dumbauld said When asked what their fa-They are there to watch sixth

graders that are in the middle vorite thing about camp was

school that signed up to go to Alec Dumbauld said, "I liked camp. It was a three day, two one kid in my group who is night trip that was free for named Jack. He's a small the juniors and seniors who man." Dumbauld said the signed up and had a reason- food "wasn't as bad as I that watching the little kids at camp was "terrible." Dumbauld said the weather was the thing he liked least about camp. Carley Sansenbaugher's favorite thing was "zip lining and rock climbing." The food, on the other hand, seemed to be unenjoyable at camp; Sansenbaugher said that the food was "cold." When asked what was the most fun they had at camp Sansenbaugher said "going

When asked what was the most fun they had at camp, Sansenbaugher said "going on the trail of courage and seeing kids overcoming their fears."



Alec Dumbauld having fun at camp.

~Carley Sansenbaugher on the trail of courage and seeing kids overcoming their fears." Sansenbaugher said that she would like more organization and that it was "disorganized," and it was the thing she liked least about camp.

If you would like to be a counselor at camp Kon-okwee, you can fill out a form at the end of the year that will be provided for you from the guidance office.

Entertainment

Band Get a Life (Water)! Matt McDade



At EPHS, it is obviously common to see students enjoying their lunch with nice, cold milk on the side.

TK and Ricky T. However, another popular

drink amongst students at EPHS is SoBe Life Water. Life Water is a zero calorie, zero carb, sugar free and tasty drink that is available in many flavors in our very own EPHS cafeteria. Life Water costs \$2, and it seems nearly everyone has their favorite variety.

Of students surveyed in Mrs. Lazzara's 6th period intervention class as well as Mrs. Wildchild's 5th period Art 1 class, most said that Fuji Apple Pear and Dragonfruit were their favorite flavors. Both Yumberry Pomegranate and Black and Blue Berry were mentioned several times as well. A source that asked to remain anonymous even added,

"Beautiful women at EPHS love to see me drink my drank, SoBe Life Water."

Some faculty members, including Mr. Bingham and Mr. Stephens also enjoy this delicious and healthy drink.

While it is nothing more than a drink sold in our cafeteria, SoBe Life Water is an interesting and healthy drink that you may want to try with a lunch if you haven't yet.

Matt McDade Sports Editor

All year, the EPHS band is busy working on providing entertainment to our school and community as well as improving their own musical skills. As most may know, they recently spent the summer and fall practicing and performing their 2013-2014 show at football games both home and away. Each summer, the band travels to Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania. In the off season, the band can be found performing at solo and ensemble competitions as well as performing for us in the auditorium here at EPHS.

Recently, the EPHS band completed their fruit sale fundraiser in which they sold over 7000 pieces of fruit to our community to raise money for the band. Items sold included oranges and various bread varieties that were sold by students and distributed near



East Palestine High School's marching band. Christmas time.

Sarah Adams, Korynn Crawford, Courtney Weber, Rayann Woods, Kristen Morris, Taylor Rafferty, Elliot

What Does Band Do All Year?

Collins, Alec Dumbauld, Paul Mel-EPHS seniors in the band include nick, Mark Ortega, Zack May-Robb and Jerick Oates.

Music Review: Jacuzzi

Matt McDade Sports Editor

Not to be confused with the Beastie Boys or the Hardy Boys, the Jacuzzi Boys are an interesting indie trio from Miami, Florida. The band consists of Gabriel Alcala (vocals, guitar), Danny Gonzales (bassist), and Diego Monasterios (drums). Despite being self-titled, Jacuzzi Boys is actually their 3rd LP, and their 2nd LP released on Hardly Art Records. Although it was released in September, I still feel that this release is one that will be perfect for this summer and will be relevant for quite some time.

Musically, the Jacuzzi Boys are far from what you may hear on Hot 101 or on Mr. Mahoney's Grooveshark account. In fact, their sound has

been described as a "wormhole of meticulous surf fuzz." In other words, the Jacuzzi Boys are different. But, I listen to a lot of indie and I feel that they are one of the more "accessible" bands out there. In other words, you don't have to worry about "getting it" to like this record; it just sounds good.

The album contains 11 new tracks which in my opinion have a much more polished sound than their previous releases. As with anything, though, practice makes perfect, and it only makes sense that their 3rd LP would be their best yet. The songs from this album can be enjoyed individually or the album can be listened to as a whole if you have the time. Either way, Jacuzzi Boys is a worthwhile listen. My favorite song on the album is definitely track seven, "Guillotine."



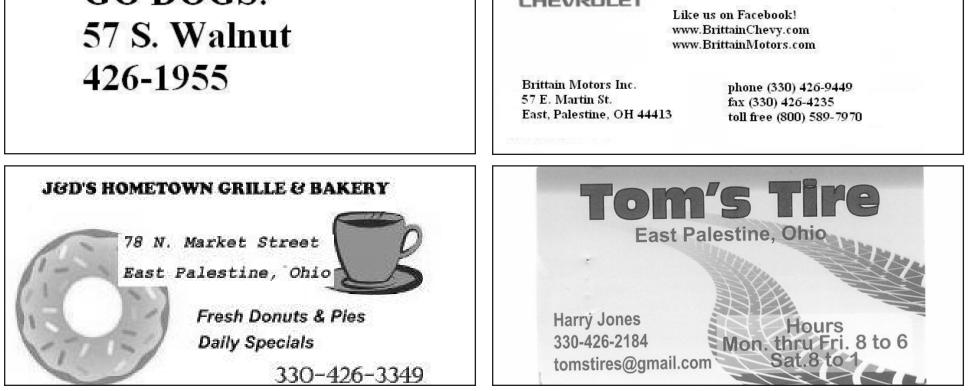
Others that stand out are "Double Vision" and "Heavy Horse," but the whole album is cool.

This record is somewhat complex but at the same time very simple and innocent. Free from any real "suggestive" material, it's just a good album that I don't recommend reading too deep into but rather just listening to casually while enjoying your good taste in music.

Jacuzzi Boys is available on iTunes, as well as on CD and even vinyl from Hardly Art Records. The tracks are all available on their official Youtube channel as well if you want to check them out there. Overall, I was satisfied with this release and am looking forward to more releases from this band. As a matter of fact, I wouldn't be surprised if they released some new material either before or during the upcoming summertime.

COZZAS PIZZA GO DOGS!

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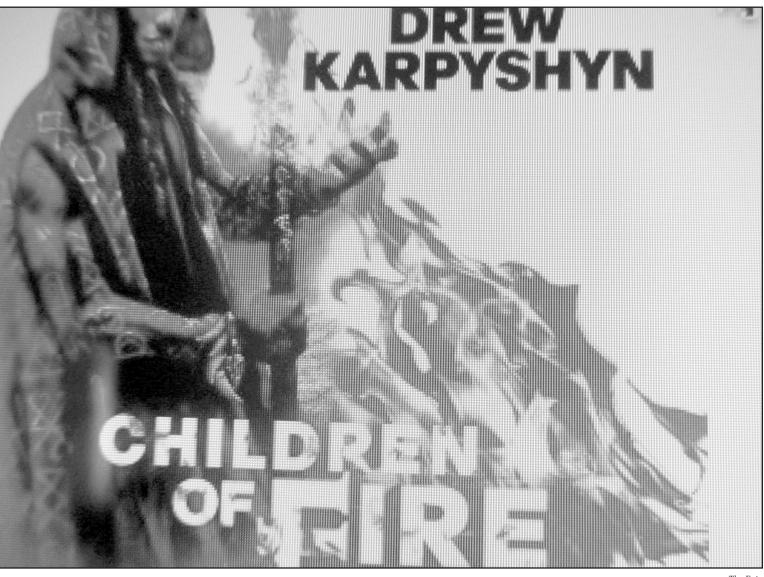
Entertainment January 2014 Children of Fire

Charles Butler Front Page Editor

Children of Fire is written by Drew Karpyshyn and is a fantasy fiction book. He also took part in the video game franchises Mass effect and star wars: knights of the old republic.

Long ago the gods sent a man to stand against the chaos. The gods gifted their champion, Daemron, with three magical items: a ring, a crown, and a sword. All of the power he was given quickly turned him from a savior to a destroyer of the planet. With his new power, he decided to defy the gods and to create a sided with the chaos spawn that he was first set out to destroy.

Daemron tle.



Children of Fire written by Drew Karpyshyn.

In the end of the bat- banished Daemron touched

defeated and all of tered corners of the himself. Bound by a wreak his vengeance war against them. He the power from the entire world, four connection magical items is lost. children are born of than blood, the chil- world once again. I All of the chaos was suffering, a wizard, a dren of fire will either would recommend sealed behind with it. warrior, a prophet, restore the legacy or this book to anyone On the other side, the and a king. Each was bring it crashing who likes adventure is stirs. Across the scat- aspect of Daemron ing

deeper upon by one down with them free- and mystery books. Daemron to

the mortal

Internship Payton Patterson

Editor & Chief

"From the

Of course once they show up to Google headquarters, a girl catches the eye of Nick. Dana (Rose Byrne) is a workaholic who has not been on a date in years. Let's jump to the end; she falls in "love" with Nick, just like in every movie. Right after Nick meets Dana, Billy and him head to the first meeting for the Nooglers, name for Google interns, they make a quick rival in Graham Hawtrey (Max Minghella). Graham is a strongly intelligent, cocky, moron who thinks he is some off breed of God. At the end of the meeting, everyone is to break up into five groups and Graham invites the people he believes are the smartest there to create the super smart team. With



Page 5

Have you ever wondered how fun it would be to work at Google? Billy McMahon (Vince Vaughn) and Nick Campbell (Owen Wilson) are two of best sales men in the game, but while they are pitching a sale to a wealthy man (Bob Williams) they are turned down an offer due to the closing of their company. Now jobless and slightly desperate, Nick takes a job at a mattress company ran by his brother-in-law (Will Ferrell) and Billy stays at home googling jobs and job opportunities.

As Billy is just about ready to give up, he stumbles upon an internship at Google in

words of Nelly 'its getting hot in hur." Graham

which he and Nick could earn a job. Billy races to tell Nick about the internship, so Nick quits his boring mattress job to join Billy on this adventure. Before they get the chance to get the internship they have a web cam interview with Google representatives. After the interview, they head to Google headquarters in San Francisco to have the experience of their lives.

Google website.

Billy and Nick not being selected to any team, they are to make a group, led by Googler Lyle (Josh Brener), with the other three Nooglers who were also not selected. The team of misfits include: Billy, Nick, Stuart (Dylan O'Brien), Neha (Tiya Sircar), and Yo-Yo Santos (Tobit Raphael).

Throughout the movie Billy and Nick keep the team in the race against Graham. The ending was not my favorite due to the fact that Vince Vaughn quits on the team just like he did in his role as Peter in Dodge ball, and he comes back to help the team in the end. Over all I really enjoyed this film and what it had to offer to its audience. I recommend this film to anyone that wants to have a great laugh and good quality family fun.

Entertainment

Braxton Feezle Entertainment Editor

Reign is a new tv series on the CW. It is on Thursday nights at 9 pm.

Keign

"There are

throughout

the court."

Mary is the queen of Scotland and has been engaged to the king of France's son, Francis. After an attempt to kill Mary, Mary and her four closes friends are sent to France to await for the kings deci-

sion to set the date for Mary and Francis to be wed. There are complications complications throughout the court. First, Francis has a secret love. Then, Mary kisses Bash, Francis's older

brother. The last

complication is a secret plan by the queen to kill Mary.

Mary and Francis ignite a spark; however, a lady from Francis's past comes back into the court and complicates things. Once Mary becomes aware of Olivia, she urges Francis to send her away to a home in London. Francis agrees but not before talking to Olivia. When Francis goes to talk to Olivia, she changes his mind. Olivia was sent back to the castle on the Queen's (of France) demands. When Francis meets up with Mary, he tells her that the family that was going to host

Olivia could not take her in anymore, and she would have to stay at the castle. Furious, Mary demanded that Olivia leave the castle instantly. Francis refuses and tells Mary that they will discuss the situation later. Mary leaves and finds Bash sitting by the pond. Mary goes over and starts to talk to him. Bash has a secret crush on Mary and kisses Mary. She kisses him back and right as they kiss, Francis comes by and

sees the kiss.

Mary has forces that are trying to kill her. The Queen of France seer informs her that the marriage of Mary and Francis will bring the death of Francis. The half ~ written by Braxton Feezle Queen first brings

back a love inters-

est in Francis's past, Olivia. The Queen ordered that Olivia become involved with Francis and conceive a child with him, so he will marry her instead of Mary. The plans fail due to the true love between Mary and Francis. In the mid-season finale, Mary and Francis are to become wed until she becomes aware of the future she holds for Francis. Scared and having no idea what to do, Mary runs away with Bash leaving Francis to contemplate what he has done wrong.

The season returns on January 23, 2014 at 9 pm. Hopefully Francis will reunite with Mary.



Catching Fire

Nick Powell Feature Editor

Catching Fire is the second installment of the Hunger Games series. The movie starts off where the first book left off. Kat-

niss and Peeta are back in District 12 living on Victor's Road. Their relationship is still confusing to Katniss who still can't seem to decide if she loves Peeta or Gale. Throughout the movie, there is tension between the Capitol and the new resistance that is forming because of Katniss and her rebellious acts at the last Hunger

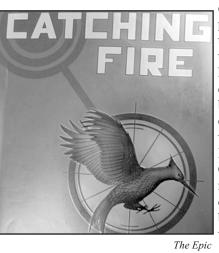
Games. On the arrival of the 75th Hunger Hunger Games: Catching Fire book Games movie by a

Games, President Snow cover. announces that this will

be a special quarter quell and that all participants will be previous victors of past hunger games. Katniss is the only girl in District 12 that won the Hunger Games

and is still alive, so she must fight one more time.

As the movie progressed, I was getting really into it, and I knew almost immediately that Catching Fire was going to be a great movie. The movie takes its own lib-



erties in some aspects, but it still has the same actions and themes the book had. Although it is different than the book, I enjoyed the changes that the writers made. Hunger Games: Catching Fire was my least favorite out of the book series, but I have to say this was far better than The Epic the first Hunger mile. The movie is two and a half hours

long, but it honestly didn't feel like it. I would recommend going to see Catching Fire if you have the chance.

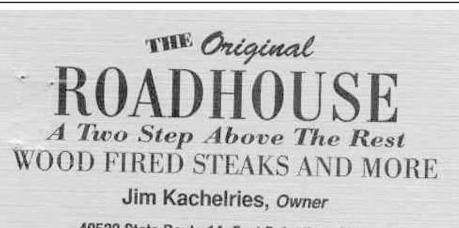




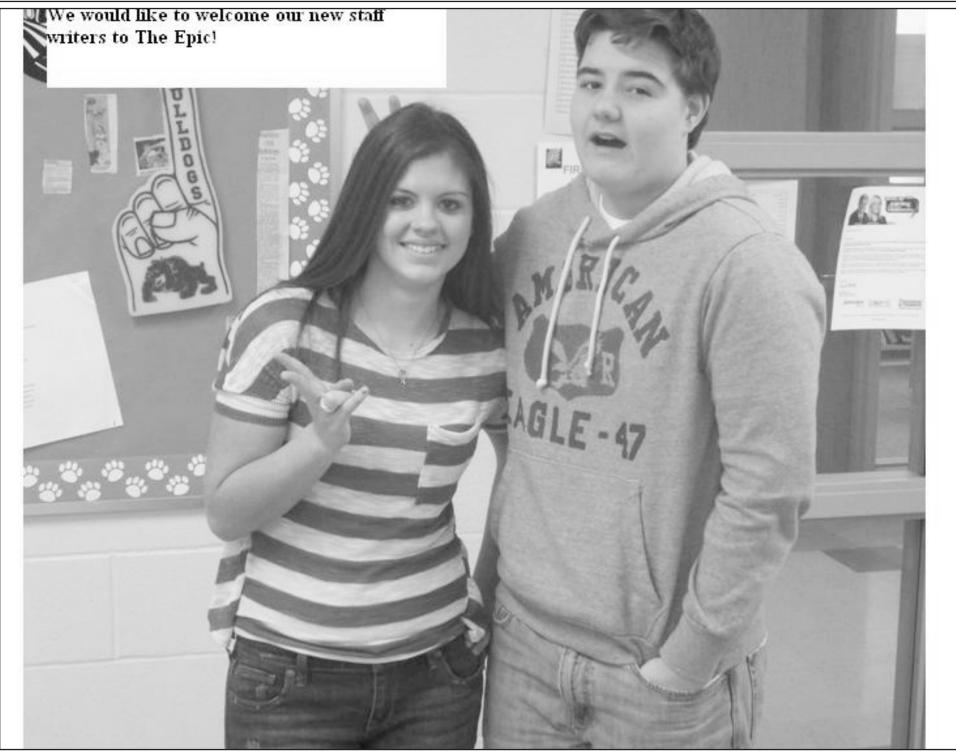
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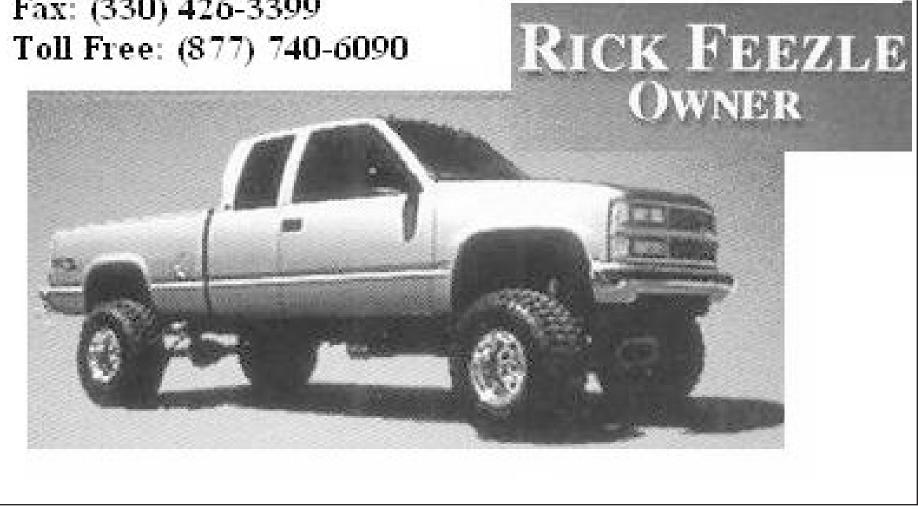


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Say What's

January 2014

What's Your New Year's Resolution?



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Ashley Stanonik

Q: Have you made any new years resolutions?

A: "Yes to make 2014 the best year ever!"

Q: Why did you choose to make these resolutions?

A: "Because 2013 sucked and was not fun."



Mr. Carson

Q: Have you made any New Year's resolutions?

A: "Last year, I resolved to never make another resolution!" Q: Why did you choose to

make these resolutions? A: "Because whenever I made a resolution in the past I

would break it." Q: How do you plan on achieving these resolutions?

A: "By never making another resolution."

Q: What is something that you are looking forward to? A: "Not making a resolution for 2014, because if I did, I

would be breaking my 2013 resolution about never making another resolution." Q: What is something you

are not looking forward to in 2014? A: "I am not looking for-

ward to people asking me what my 2014 resolution was!"



Cody **McGath**

Q: Have you made any New Year's resolutions? A: "Being the most based person in the school."

Q: Why did you choose to make these resolutions?

A: "Cause I'm not based

enough to my standards." Q: How do you plan on

achieving these resolutions? A: "Listening to Lil B

every day."

Q: What is something that you are looking forward to? A: "Lil B dropping some new based music."

Q: What is something you are not looking forward to in 2014?

A: "Waiting on new Lil B music."



Carina Eno

Q: Have you made any New Year's resolutions? A: "No."

Q: Why did you choose to make these resolutions?

A: "I didn't."

Q: How do you plan on achieving these resolutions?

A: "I already said no, stop harassing me!"

Q: What is something that you are looking forward to?

A: "Finishing this."

Q: What is something you are not looking forward to in 2014?

A: "Getting asked to do this again."



Matt McDade

Q: Have you made any New Year's resolutions?

A: "Yes, I would like to purchase a speedboat and exotic hairpiece."

Q: Why did you choose to make these resolutions?

A: "I feel that they would greatly improve my quality of life and self confidence."

Q: How do you plan on achieving these resolutions? A: "Investing money in vari-

ous companies such as Little Debbies and Top Ramen."

Q: What is something that you are looking forward to?

A: "Finishing this questionnaire."

Q: What is something you are not looking forward to in 2014?

A: "Having to deal with beautiful women constantly asking me for rides on my speedboat."

Homecoming

Kendra Hoover Guest Writer

"...sometimes he

aliens and the humans who also aliens, for every other thing he noticed the time and saw it was love them," he joked, or at least I talked about had something to do eight. I ran after him.

Just as I caught up with him when we were outside in the street, I saw his skin begin to go from olive to emerald green, and his black olive eyes grew five times larger. I screamed for him and when he saw me he completely disappeared. My legs felt numb until I realized my legs were vaporizing and soon the rest of me did too. Then, everything went dark until I awoke on an operating table with men in black suits standing over me.

Johnny was his name. He was a handsome son of a gun with dark black hair, which he slicked back with a lot of hair gel. His eyes were like two dark olives that sparkled. At the beginning of freshman year, he moved to my school, but I didn't even know he went to our school because he always missed so many days. I first met him in math class about two weeks after school started. "I'm Johnny. Do you think I could borrow a pencil from you?" he asked me.

"No, I don't mind but shouldn't you have a pencil. It's only the second week of school; there's no possible way you've lost all of your pencils," I replied handing him one of my mechanical penwould get up from our table at exactly eight o'clock, and then wouldn't come back for hours."

cils with an alien on it.

"Wow, you like aliens?" he exclaimed when he examined the pencil.

"What?" A girl can't have pencils with aliens on them?" I answered. Even though the real reason was that they were on sale, and my mom being the penny pincher she is had to buy those ones.

"I never said that, but I do love

thought.

My face turned red as he spoke to me like this. For this was flirting, I thought. No one had ever flirted with me before.

"Hey, do you wanna hang out sometime to study or something?" he asked.

Was this a date, I wondered. Was he asking me out on a date? Once again, no one had ever asked me out on a date before.

"Sure," I said nervously.

"Cool," he said as the bell rang ending the first conversation I ever had with Johnny. As the first half of the nine weeks went on, Johnny and I kept going to the diner downtown. We studied together and became closer. I soon realized how much he loved

with aliens or Area Fifty-one. However, sometimes he would get up from our table at exactly eight o'clock, and then wouldn't come back for hours. I just continued to think some family emergency kept coming up.

Pretty soon, however, Homecoming came up, and Johnny and I decided we would go together. I picked out an emerald dress with a sweetheart neckline that came to my knees. He wore an emerald tie with a white shirt and black dress pants. The dance went well; we danced, talked to people, and got our photos taken until-

"Hey. I'm going to go get some punch. I'll be back," he said.

"Okay," I replied. Only then, I

"Welcome to Area Fifty-one test subject 202," they said.