

# Meteor Chronicle

Produced by the students of the Montrose Area Junior/Senior High School

Volume 21, Issue 1

Montrose Area School District

October 2005



Bus driver Cliff Taylor has purchased a new Bus 12 with more seats, head room, and other safety features. For more news, turn to...  
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Third grader Brandon Rogers wanted to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. To read how he raised over \$600 and other elementary news, turn to...  
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Senior Carrie Fischer chases her opponent at a field hockey match against Hanover Area Sept. 13. The Lady Meteors defeated Hanover 2-0. For more sports news, turn to...  
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## Dates to Remember

**Oct. 15**  
Band Aides  
spaghetti dinner  
12-7 p.m.  
MAHS cafeteria

**Oct. 22**  
ACT Assessment  
9 a.m.-12p.m.  
MAHS Room 62

**Oct. 22**  
Homecoming Dance  
6:30-10:30 p.m.  
MAHS gym

**Nov. 5**  
Julia Frystak Tournament  
7 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Both MAHS gyms

**Nov. 19**  
Montrose Train Show  
6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
MAHS cafeteria

## MASD Adopts 'Sister District'

By Shannon Elbrecht  
Staff Reporter

Imagine going about your everyday life until the day you are told you must evacuate your home because Mother Nature has decided to assert herself.

The residents of New Orleans, La., don't have to imagine anymore. In September Hurricane Katrina became their reality. Many have been forced from their homes, which have been damaged or destroyed, into shelters miles away.

West Baton Rouge School District (WBRSD) is one of the many districts in Louisiana that have been dramatically impacted by Katrina. The district normally averages 3,400 students. An additional 550 students registered in the district during the first three weeks after the hurricane hit New Orleans and surrounding areas, according to Superintendent David Corona.

This influx of students has raised the school district's student population by 16 percent and created several challenges for the district.

Enter Montrose Area School District.

In response to an e-mail to several districts in the South, asking if MASD could offer assistance to hurricane-affected schools, WBRSD was the first to reply. MAHS principal Jim Tallarico e-



BRANDI DEVINE/METEOR CHRONICLE

Freshmen Madison Legg (front) and Charlee Abbott count used science books to be sent to West Baton Rouge School District (La.) as part of MASD's project to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina.

mailed Port Allen High School in West Baton Rouge Sept. 8 and offered help.

"The outpouring of support truly makes the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina potentially America's finest hour," wrote Superintendent Corona in an e-mail to Mr. Tallarico. "People willing to help others in need is what it is all about."

Approximately 160 of WBRSD's new registrants are living in one of three shelters in the town, according to Mr. Corona.

"Imagine living in a gym with 50-100 other people and sleeping on mattresses on the floor," said Mr. Corona. "To the

(See 'Sister District,' Page 2)

## New Principal 'Student-Oriented'

By Melinda Zosh  
Editor in Chief

"Friend, mentor, coach," MAHS students call him.

Mr. Jim Tallarico, also known as "principal," has replaced Mr. Doug Wilcox after teaching on and off for 24 years at Dunmore High School in Dunmore, Pa. Students and faculty say Mr. Tallarico is "very friendly" and "school-oriented."

"[Mr. Tallarico] is a great guy.... Family values are very important to him," says English teacher Katie Green. "Every school needs [a role model] like him."

A former eleventh grade American cultures and senior psychology teacher, Mr. Tallarico says he knew one day he would be an administrator.

"My [high school guidance counselor], Mr. Viola, once said to me, 'Jim, you belong with kids. It's what you're going to do,'" says Mr. Tallarico.

Students around MAHS seem to appreciate Mr. Tallarico and his selflessness.

"I like what he's doing to help out the hurricane victims," says senior Rachel Sokoloski. "He's making a little more effort [for the victims] and going the



MELINDA ZOSH/METEOR CHRONICLE

High school Principal Jim Tallarico talks to Lathrop Street Elementary students Sept. 23 about donating items for the Hurricane Katrina victims in West Baton Rouge Parish, La. Mr. Tallarico made a similar appeal to Choconut Valley students.

extra mile."

When he attended Dunmore High, Mr. Tallarico was student body president and lettered in football, baseball, and track.

"I loved being involved [in what I did]," says Mr. Tallarico.

He later went to East Stroudsburg State University, earning his undergraduate degree in secondary education.

At Temple University he earned his master's degree in educational administration.

Returning to his alma mater, Mr. Tallarico coached football at Dunmore for 15 years, often visiting Montrose during that span.

"[Jim] Tallarico was a great football coach...He knows his offensive line play," says MAHS varsity football coach Tom Lucenti. "Over the years we've become really good friends... went to games together and shared tactics."

Mr. Lucenti says that Mr. Tallarico has had a "great association with Montrose."

"I'm new to this building, but I'm not a stranger here," says Mr. Tallarico. "I thought the distance/

travel may have been a concern, but now I come up with ideas on the way to work...That's when I came up with the idea for the Maroon and White Club."

The Maroon and White Club, organized by student council, encourages school spirit and organizes events for the school.

(See **Principal**, Page 3)

## Germany: A 'Great' Exchange

By Clarissa Plank  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Aug. 17, 2004, senior Willow Chance boarded a plane for northern Germany, where she would live as a Rotary exchange student for the next 11 months.

"When I was on the plane, I was really nervous," Willow said with a grin, "but as soon as I got there, I was so excited that it was all okay. My host family was waiting for me at the airport, and they greeted me with hugs."

Willow became interested in going to Germany four years ago when her sister Aubrey toured Europe with Elk Lake's German Club and brought back pictures of Germany. Then Willow learned that she could go to Germany through the Rotary exchange program at Elk Lake High School where she was a sophomore.

"...I thought, 'it's a great opportunity, and I'd better take it,'" said Willow.

Her sister's pictures, however, hadn't prepared Willow for the physical and cultural differences of living in a foreign country. When she arrived in Germany after an eight-hour flight, Willow was surprised to see how flat the land is in the northern region of Ostfriesland where she would be staying.

"When I thought of Germany, I pictured mountains and forests," said Willow, "but where I was, the land is really flat and there are windmills everywhere."

During her stay in the Ostfriesland region, Willow lived with two host families and went to the local school, where she became friends with everyone in her class, she said.

"The kids have a lot more worldly view," said Willow. "They study about the rest of the world on their own, and they choose to be concerned with everything that goes on in the world, rather than just things that happen in Germany."

Willow says she never worried about encountering anti-American feelings during her stay.

"It was never a problem," says Willow. "Everyone I came across was nice. Even though [Germans] dislike [President] Bush, they didn't act as though I was Bush."

At first it was hard to communicate with people, Willow admits, but it didn't take long for her to become fluent in German.

"I'd taken German I in school," said Willow, "but it didn't help me at all. So at first I just spoke English because ev-

(See **Exchange**, Page 2)

(Exchange continued from Page 1)

everyone could speak that a little. But after a while, I just started speaking German every day."

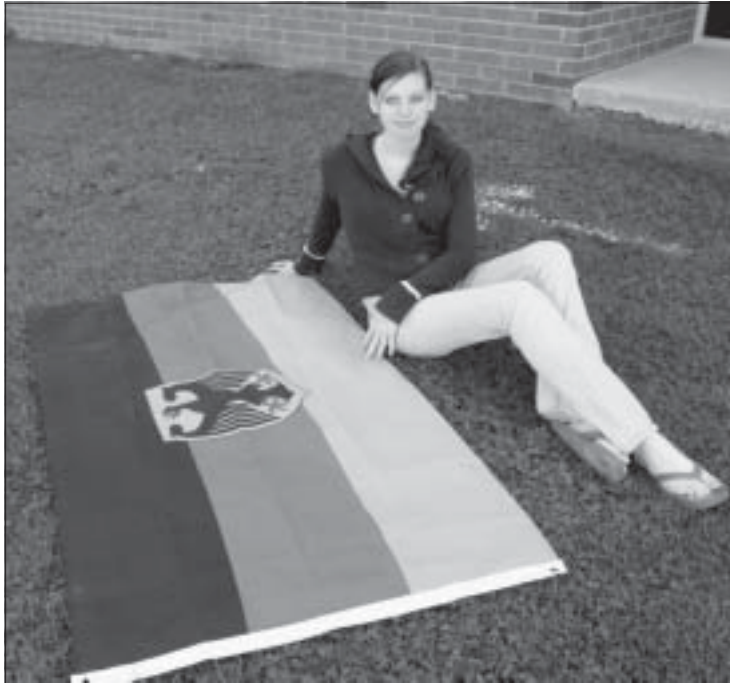
Watching television helped Willow to master the language. The selection of programs was the same as in America, so she could watch such shows as *Lost*, *The Simpsons*, and *Desperate Housewives*.

"They're the same exact shows, only they're in German," said Willow. "It's pretty weird to hear them in a different language."

German students start school at 7:45 a.m. and leave at 1 p.m. The schedule works a lot like block scheduling in the United States, with different classes every day. Each class begins for 45 minutes; then there is a ten-minute break, and the class resumes for another 45 minutes, with half-hour breaks between classes for a total of three to four classes a day.

"Even though the kids go to school, they have a lot more freedom," said Willow. "You don't have to stay in the school; I went to the mall all the time on my breaks."

In addition to her day-to-day activities in the town of Grossefehn, Willow toured almost all of the country, visited Holland on a shopping trip, and learned how to ski in Aus-



ELIZABETH DAVENPORT/METEOR CHRONICLE  
Senior Willow Chance sits alongside a German flag that she brought from Germany after spending last year in the Ostfriesland region as a Rotary exchange student.

tria.

"The best thing about going to Germany was all the activities," said Willow. She was always doing something, whether it was touring the country, going out to the club to dance, shopping, or just watching TV.

"Even if I went to the club by myself," said Willow, "I would find at least five people that I knew to hang out with."

The hardest part of living in Germany was not being able to see her family, Willow said, but she wants to go back some day.

"I had such an awesome time and made so many friends....I don't want to lose my contact with the country," Willow said. "[Going to Germany] made me feel like I'm more ready to be out on my own now, and I'm more prepared for adulthood."

(Sister District continued from Page 1)

credit of our evacuees, they have taken responsibility for the cleanliness of their surroundings into their own hands, for the most part. They are working hard in difficult surroundings."

To assist with the students' difficulties, MASD has planned several activities.

Money has been collected at football games, from students in morning homerooms and from teacher donations on dress-down Fridays.

In place of Maroon and White Day, which is celebrated every Friday, the high school's Maroon and White Club promoted a Blue and White Day Sept. 23 to encourage support for WBRSD. Blue/white are the Louisiana school's colors.

Also, one dollar each from the Maroon and White Club's sale of "Meteor Pride" T-shirts will be donated to WBRSD, according to Mr. Tallarico.

Most of the money sent to his district, according to Mr. Corona, will be used to buy school uniforms for the new registrants.

The students of WBRSD who are living in the shelters also need personal hygiene supplies. Items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, brushes, soap, and deodorant were collected during the week of Sept. 26-30.

Technology coordinator Craig Owens has communicated with WBRSD's technology

supervisor, Ms. Tammy Seneca. "[Ms. Seneca] indicated a great need of computers at the public shelters," said Mr. Owens, because the students living in the shelters don't have easy access to computers to complete homework or research.

Since every year MASD replaces one-fifth of its running computers, the district is sending approximately 140 used computers to West Baton Rouge. Usually the used computers are sold or given to people in the local community.

If not all of the computers are needed in and around West Baton Rouge, Mr. Corona says the extras will be sent closer to New Orleans where damages are much worse.

Mr. Owens is also accepting donations of computers that are a Pentium III edition or higher.

The bond between West Baton Rouge and Montrose will not end with the donations of money and goods, according to Mr. Tallarico.

"We made a commitment that this relationship would keep going even after this is over for them," he said.

Mr. Corona agrees.

"The relationships that will be fostered between [West Baton Rouge] and Montrose will be relationships that may last a long time," wrote Mr. Corona. "In the final analogy of life, our most important resources are our God and each other."

## Life As We Know It...

"Life As We Know It" is a year-long series devoted to informing teens and the community about some of the issues teens face.

## Extracurriculars Teach Life Skills

By Matt Douglas  
Editor in Chief

*You get up, dress for school, go through the motions of classes, return home, do your homework, repeat.* This could turn into a pretty boring routine.

School isn't just classes, homework, and bells, however. It's also friends, clubs, sports and rooting for the home team. It's about figuring out who you are, the person you want to be, and what you want to do with your life.

MAHS offers to students more than a dozen sports and at least 20 clubs and organizations.

The motives for students to become involved vary. Senior class president Erica Smith said, "I wanted to get involved in [the senior] class so we could have a good prom and enjoy [senior] year."

"I like to be involved not only because I enjoy being active but also because it gives me an opportunity to meet other people, experience new things, and travel," said senior Amber Lattner, who is involved in student council, soccer, and the IONS Club, to name just a few of her activities.

According to senior Sam Zimmer, getting involved in school helps break up the routine: "There's more variety instead of just classes."

"[By getting involved in sports], you get to meet a lot of

different people and get involved in school and make new friends," said senior Khayla Shearer, who has participated in cross country, basketball, softball, track, and field hockey.

"[Clubs and sports] made me enjoy going to school every morning," said senior Nate Sives, student council president.

Besides getting out there, extracurricular activities allow one to meet people and make friends.

"As a team you have to trust everyone; through trust you build friendship," said senior Amanda Lass, who has played basketball, track, soccer, and tennis since ninth grade.

"I think being active in more clubs makes you form closer bonds with people who you're already close to, and it also forces you to work with individuals whom you may not on a daily basis otherwise," said Amber.

Student activities teach students about themselves and improve important life skills.

Sam said that her involvement in yearbook has helped to build her communication and writing skills.

"I've learned through all the clubs I've been in how to balance my activities and homework," said Amanda, who said her self-confidence and leadership skills have grown.

Erica said she has learned

to organize and get projects off the ground.

"[Sports] teach you good work ethics; you stick with it even if it's hard," said senior LeeAnne Hawley, who has been involved in swimming, cheerleading, track, and cross country.

According to guidance counselor Mary Beth Ohmnight, a well rounded, balanced student is what many colleges look for. Colleges feel that students who display responsibility, dedication, and leadership will carry those qualities with them into college.

"I got involved [in school] for myself," said Amanda. "In hindsight, I've realized I have a stacked résumé."

Through her work in student council and Maroon and White Club, Amber has realized that she may want to become involved in business.

"It gave me a different perspective on the business world and how multifaceted the business world is," said Amber.

Nate wants to get into business or finance, and he said his involvement in student council and the school has helped him develop the leadership skills he will need to succeed in these fields.

"[Some] kids think [student involvement] is stupid, but it helps you develop your life skills," said Amber.

### Opportunities for student involvement:

#### Senior High Clubs

AP Club  
Art Club  
Band  
Chorus  
Club 121  
Drama Club  
Film Club  
Geocaching Club  
IONS Club  
J.A.K.E.S. Club  
Key Club  
Lacrosse Club  
Language Clubs (French, Spanish)  
Paintball Club  
Peer Mediation  
SADD  
Scholastic Team  
Ski Club  
Student Council  
Varsity Club  
Winter Running Club

#### Junior High Clubs

Art Club  
Chorus  
Concert Band  
Cross Stitch Club  
Film Club  
Robotics Club  
SADD  
Sign Language Club  
Winter Running Club

#### Sports Teams

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cheerleading  
Cross country  
Field hockey  
Football  
Golf  
Soccer  
Softball  
Tennis  
Track and field  
Wrestling



STEFF JAHNKE/METEOR CHRONICLE

## Driver Buys Top of the Line Bus

By Steff Jahnke  
Sports Editor

Bus driver Cliff Taylor picks up students at Lathrop Street Elementary in his brand new Thomas Built Bus, called the Saf-T-Liner C2. The old Number 12 bus became Number 9, which has since been retired. Mr. Taylor bought the bus because he needed more room, he says. There are three more seats than the usual 24 and more head room with 78 inches in interior height. The driver has more visibility, and the C2 includes other safety features, such as curved windshield glass to shed water and snow quickly and wider emergency exits.

## New Faces at MAHS

E. DAVENPORT, SHANNON ELBRECHT/METEOR CHRONICLE



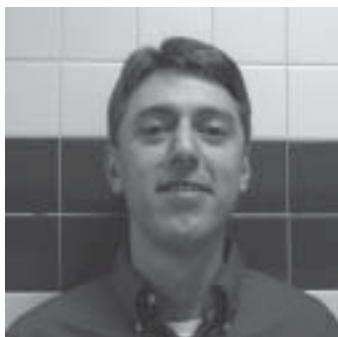
**Kimberly Davenport**  
Day-to-Day Substitute



**Katherine Green**  
English



**Kevin Kloss**  
Social Studies



**Matthew Oleniacz**  
Science



**Elizabeth O'Malley**  
Food Service Supervisor



**Bridgid Petorak**  
Computer Science



**Patricia Petula**  
English



**Eric Stallings**  
PE/Health/Driver's Ed.



**Britton Schneider**  
Athletic Trainer

## MAHS Welcomes Exchange Students

SHANNON ELBRECHT/METEOR CHRONICLE



**Gabriela Herrera**  
Grade: 12  
Age: 17  
Home: Quito, Ecuador  
Exchange Program: AYA  
(Academic Year in America)



**Siwa "Lang" Oosuwan**  
Grade: 12  
Age: 17  
Home: Korat, Thailand  
Exchange Program: Rotary



**Juliana Piedra**  
Grade: 12  
Age: 18  
Home: Cuenca, Ecuador  
Exchange Program: PEACE

(Principal continued from Page 1)

"Everything I do is what I want my Montrose kids to have, a safe and educational environment," says Mr. Tallarico. "I'm getting the kids ready to succeed in life."

Even though he left Dunmore, his former students still call Mr. Tallarico to see how he's doing. One girl even gave him a Penn State Blue Band shirt. The PSU tradition is for Blue Band members to give band shirts to people who have impacted their lives. The shirt is now displayed in Mr. Tallarico's office.

"[Mr. Tallarico] has energy, personality, and is charismatic," says Mr. Lucenti. "He [has] all the characteristics it takes to be successful."

Outside school Mr. Tallarico's two hobbies are golfing and taking care of his dad, known as "Papa" by his children.

"My parents had a tremendous impact on my life," says Mr. Tallarico. "I am a reflection of my background...[I learned a] work ethic and a complete understanding of respect...by watching my dad. He was a role model, [and I] learned from him."

Mr. Tallarico sees these same values in the MASD community.

"Kids here have pure respect for authority...towards teachers and other kids," Mr. Tallarico says. "There seems to be very little confrontation. We have a strong community here...which ties back to the home life."

Encouraging school spirit, school unity, and Meteor pride is important to Mr. Tallarico.

"It's all about my kids," he says.

## Canevari Named Assistant Principal

By Melinda Zosh  
Editor in Chief



DAVENPORT/METEOR CHRONICLE

Former MAHS history teacher Russ Canevari has replaced former Assistant Principal Mike Beamish, who has taken a new position at Abington High School in Clarks Summit.

Mr. Canevari is a graduate of Valley View High School (1993) and graduate of Bloomsburg, Marywood and Wilkes universities.

He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Bloomsburg, his teaching certificate from Marywood and his master's degree in educational leadership from Wilkes.

"[Teaching] is always what I wanted to do," says Mr. Canevari. "Knowing the [MAHS] faculty and kids made the decision [to accept the administrative position] easier for me."



# Elementary News



## Presents Not the Center of This Birthday

By Eleni S.P. Konstas  
Staff Reporter

Brandon Rogers wanted two things for his ninth birthday: a robo-raptor and toys to give the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

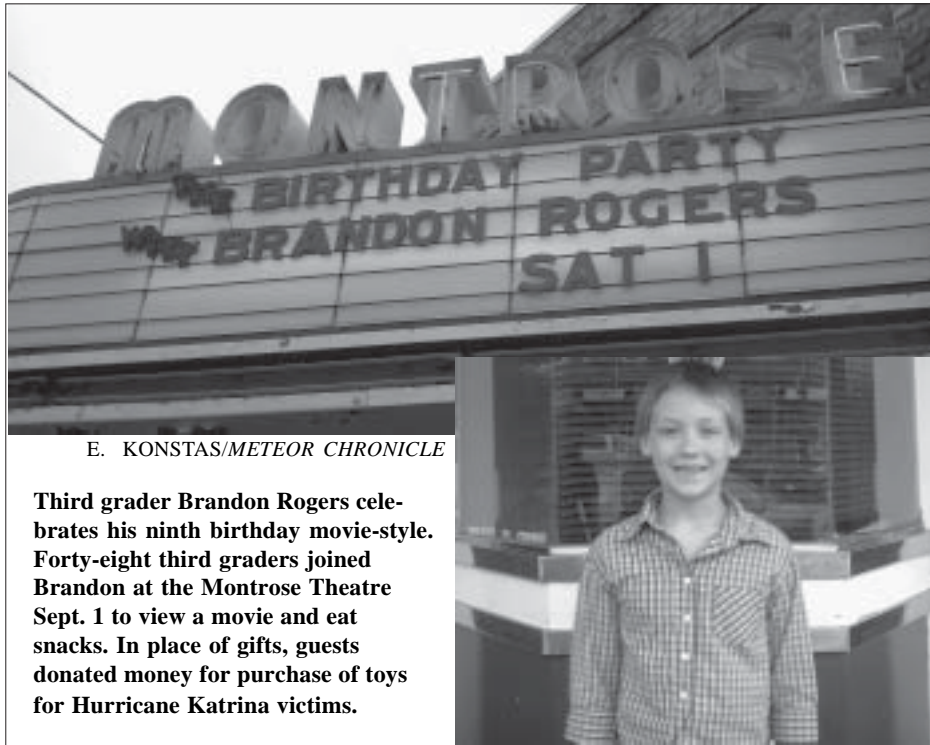
Brandon's mother, Annette Rogers, was watching the "Oprah Special on Katrina" a few days after the horror struck when Brandon walked in the Rogers' living room and began to watch the program with her.

"He was really saddened by [the children's loss]," said Mrs. Rogers.

"He knows he has a lot of toys," said Mrs. Rogers. "He said, 'My birthday's coming up; I don't want toys. Let me send money so they can have toys.'"

So Mrs. Rogers planned a birthday party for Brandon. She called the owners of the Montrose Theatre, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Luecke, knowing they'd be interested in helping. They donated the use of their theatre and popcorn for all of the children attending the birthday party on Sept. 1.

Invitations were sent to the entire third grade at Lathrop Street with a note about giving money, not toys, to the birthday boy. Partygoers viewed *Lilo and Stitch 2: Stitch Has a Glitch*, ate popcorn, cookies, juice and all money was donated to Oprah's Angel Network.



E. KONSTAS/METEOR CHRONICLE

**Third grader Brandon Rogers celebrates his ninth birthday movie-style. Forty-eight third graders joined Brandon at the Montrose Theatre Sept. 1 to view a movie and eat snacks. In place of gifts, guests donated money for purchase of toys for Hurricane Katrina victims.**

At 1 p.m., 48 third graders arrived at the theatre; they signed a guest book and placed their envelopes in a can. Then they rushed to the front of the stage where a game of limbo had begun. Cartoons preceded the main feature, and to the surprise of the five mothers present, all 48 children were silent for the duration of the movie, a phenomenon never viewed by any of them before.

The children ran out of the theatre, eating popcorn

after watching the bonus features at the end of the movie. First grader Ethan Luecke said his favorite part of the party was the popular gag, "You're touching me."

"I liked the end [of the movie] because everyone was dancing the hula," said third grader Julie Singer.

The goal of Brandon's party, however, was never far from the minds of the attendees.

"He's taking [the money] to victims of Katrina," said third grader Morgan

Puterbaugh. Donations totaled \$602.

The Lueckes returned Mrs. Rogers' donation for the use of the theatre and also gave each of the children a free movie pass.

"[The Lueckes] are so great," said Mrs. Rogers. "They're very good for the community."

At the end of the party, Brandon said that he'd do it all again next year.

"I felt bad about the children that didn't have [any] toys," said Brandon.

## New Faces

Mrs. Catherine Walsh, former fourth grade teacher at Lathrop Street Elementary, has replaced Mrs. Mary Spring, teaching kindergarten at Choconut Valley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID WOOD

**Clarification:** Choconut Valley third grader Gracie Lutz won second place in the 11<sup>th</sup> Write and Illustrate Your Own Picture Book Contest hosted by the Susquehanna County Historical Society & Free Library Association last June. Gracie's book *The Rainbow*, was presented in a slide show at the Montrose Theater June 4. Gracie's name was inadvertently omitted from a story about Lathrop Street third grader Troy Ely's first place award for his book, *The Great White Shark*, in the May issue of *The Meteor Chronicle*.

## Fourth Grade Goes Self-Contained

By Caroline Jones  
Choconut Valley Editor

Lathrop Street principal Greg Adams remembers what it was like when he was a student at Choconut Valley Elementary.

"I remember always having the sense that teachers cared about me; always feeling like I mattered," says Mr. Adams. "I remember what it felt like to love to learn and want to be at school."

Mr. Adams wanted fourth graders in his school to feel that way too. This is one reason why fourth grade at both Lathrop Street and Choconut Valley have rearranged their classes so that students stay with one teacher throughout the day.

"It's a matter of philosophy," says Choconut Valley Principal Chris McComb. "The average fourth grade student would benefit from being in one classroom with one teacher. This allows the teacher to get to know the child as a whole rather than their ability according to a particular subject."

Lathrop Street fourth grade teacher Anne Lathrop agrees.

"When you have the same kids all day you really begin to get a picture of them as a whole child and learner," says Mrs. Lathrop.

"As a teacher, I am now very much more aware of the amount of information these fourth graders have to take in," says Mrs. Lathrop. "They're learning about rounding, latitude and longitude, vascular and non-vascular plants, in addition to reading and writing."

Both principals also believe that by being with only one teacher the entire day, the pupil and instructor get to know each other on a more personal level, which benefits the student in his/her ability to learn.

Self-contained class rooms also provide cross-curricular opportunities to teachers.

"Research has shown that students learn best when receiving instruction as an integrated approach," says Mr. McComb. "In other words, when one teacher has the ability to tie subjects together throughout the day, students benefit."

And self-contained classrooms allow for more flexibility in teachers' daily schedules.

"...if students are having a particular problem with a concept, that teacher has the ability to make that lesson a little longer without having to worry about a bell," says Mr. Adams.

"One of the great things is being able to see a student connect something we're talking about in one subject, let's say math, with something we're talking about in another, such as science," says Mrs. Lathrop.

On the flip side, self-containment does have its disadvantages.

"...I do miss meeting all the students and being able to just focus on one area, such as math," Mrs. Lathrop says.

Self-containment is about the total child.

"At the elementary school, our teachers deal with a lot more than just curriculum," says Mr. Adams. "They are a friendly face and someone who will listen when the children need it most."

Opinion

Editorial

Meteor Pride Heads South

On Aug. 29 a natural disaster struck America like most could never have imagined.

Thousands will never see their beloved New Orleans, homes, or loved ones again.

Some call the catastrophe "America's tsunami;" others call it Hurricane Katrina.

Despite the vivid images on TV and in print of people clinging to pieces of shattered roofs, bodies mixed with debris, and children crying for food, it is difficult to imagine being in the victims' shoes.

But the fact is, those people could be us. Disaster can strike anyone, anywhere, at any time. Both Sept. 11 and the hurricane have proven that point.

Montrose Area School District, along with other organizations such as Price Chopper and Subway, have really stepped up to offer assistance and support amid the staggering devastation.

As a school district, we have donated some 140 computers and sent packages of items such as MAHS pride T-shirts, a picture of our school and students, school supplies and necessities such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. Our actions show we do care.

When Principal Jim Tallarico announced that our district was aiding the West Baton Rouge School District (WBRSD) in West Baton Rouge, La., the reaction by many students was: What can we do to help the victims down South? Is sending money, used textbooks, and supplies enough? We are doing more.

Some 550 students and 24 teachers have been displaced from their schools in

New Orleans and surrounding areas and evacuated to West Baton Rouge where they in the last three weeks have joined the 3,400 students already attending West Baton Rouge School District.

In the spring, student council members will even meet some of the people we are aiding, showing a personal one-on-one connection to these kids. We are more than willing to do whatever it takes for our sister district, whether it be tomorrow when they call for our help or a year from now.

Thanks to the unity and cooperation in this small town, we will have a sister district for life, says MAHS principal Jim Tallarico.

Hundreds of individuals have been willing to sacrifice a portion of their paychecks for the hurricane victims, but some are unwilling.

We thank those people who gave money for WBRSD at the Meteor football game Sept. 17. Over \$400 was raised. District-wide over \$4,000 has been raised.

Others unwilling to sacrifice a dollar, who blame our government and the disaster for higher prices, should realize the truth: Right now compassion needs to replace criticism, sensitivity needs to stifle sarcasm, and understanding needs to rise above ignorance. Plenty of time for blame will follow.

New Orleans and other regions of the South may never be the same, nor will the people who called those areas home. But residents will know that our generation reached out with kindness and with open hearts, doing whatever it takes to help our brothers and sisters.

And for that all of us can be proud.

EDITORIAL

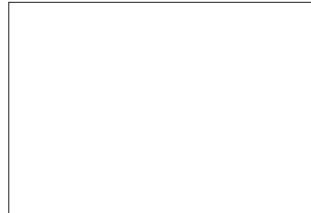


CARTOON

The late bus is jam packed with school spirit.

Another Voice

Trial of St. Pat's Four Raises Serious Questions



Beginning the week of Sept. 19, four protestors, collectively known as the St. Patrick's Four, were tried by the U.S. federal government in Binghamton, N.Y., on charges of conspiracy and destruction of property for having entered a military recruiting center on March 17, 2003, and pouring some of their own blood around the room as a protest against the impending Iraq war.

The group had been tried in Ithaca in 2003, resulting in a hung jury with nine jury members voting to acquit. After the trial prosecutors turned the case over to federal authorities.

In the weeks leading up to the current trial, many issues were raised by people both supporting the St. Patrick's Four and opposing them. Several of these questions are critically important: Does protesting the war mean "working against" U.S. troops or the country?

At times in U.S. history, the decision to enter a war has been supported by most citizens because the reasons for entering were clear, and the use of force seemed justified. WWII is an example.

However, there is also a long history of protests against wars in which reasons were unclear. Many who speak out against the Iraq war as an injustice are criticized for hurting our troops, but the motive is often to prevent the evils and loss of life caused by any war.

The St. Patrick's Four hoped to send a symbolic message to those considering joining the military about the reality of war, and the innocent blood that would be shed. In this way, by pouring their blood, they were showing their true concern for recruits and civilians whose lives were at risk.

How far should people go when protesting the government?

Did the Saint Patrick's Four go "too far" in their protest? Consider acts of protest from the past such as the Boston Tea Party in 1773. British citizens in America boarded a ship in Boston Harbor and threw tea overboard to protest against what they felt were unjust actions by their British government. They destroyed property. Did they go too far in their protest? Does a rug that needs cleaning at the recruiting center in any way compare to the destruction of lives and families in Iraq? After over two years, they have been proven right. Nearly 100,000 Iraqis and close to 2,000 Americans have died.

Why are the St. Patrick's Four being charged with conspiracy?

Conspiracy involves intending to impede an officer of the United States, and the law requires that threats, intimidation or force must be proven. During the Binghamton trial, Staff Sgt. Rachon Montgomery, the recruiting

officer present at the time of the protest, testified that, although the protest was a nuisance, and he was worried when some of the blood got on his hand, the protesters seemed friendly. This would suggest that no harm was intended, and no threats or intimidation were used; therefore no conspiracy.

Is the federal government trying to make an example of the St. Patrick's Four, in hopes of preventing future protests against the war?

Many have speculated that the federal government is hoping to prevent further opposition to the war by trying the St. Patrick's Four. If this is what is happening, then our government is trying to undermine the freedoms this country was built on. Protests are an essential part of any free government, giving people a means to express their feelings and work for change. When the right to protest is suppressed, other freedoms are soon taken away. Examples of this are everywhere in history from Communist governments to dictatorships like that of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

Hopefully the outcome of the St. Patrick's Four trial will result in the freedoms and liberties given in the Constitution being upheld.



Meteor Chronicle



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Letters to the Editors Are Welcomed!

They may be e-mailed to the newspaper or dropped off in Room 17.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Featured Artist

### Lass Shoots Picture Perfect

By Sarah Leonard  
News and Features Editor

Click. The snap of a shutter is a familiar sound to senior Amanda Lass's ears.

Amanda, who won 11 blue ribbons and four Judge's Delights for her photos submitted to the Harford Fair in August, is an amateur photographer who has made an impression.

Starting out with a Kodak 110 camera, Amanda has taken pictures "for a long time," she says. Through the years, she has helped her mother, writing lab aide and ACTA adviser Lori Lass, with the yearbook.

"In elementary school on Wednesdays, I went up to the high school to help," says Amanda, who is a co-editor and photo editor of the yearbook this year.

Last year Amanda landed an internship with VanZandbergen Photography in Brackney. At first she worked there on weekends but soon began doing computer tasks, printing jobs, and proofing after school too, she says. This past summer she worked almost every day for three weeks on studio jobs during which she managed computer files, helped with lighting and reflectors, took a few pictures, and observed the taking of senior pictures and learned such things as the Photo Shop program for processing photos.

"I've learned a lot of composition and how to make a picture great," says Amanda. "I learned to make custom settings on the cameras."

"[Amanda] is a quick-



E. DAVENPORT/METEOR CHRONICLE  
Senior Amanda Lass won 11 awards, including four Judge's Delight awards, for color and black and white photographs she entered into competition at the Harford Fair in August.

learner," says Kirk VanZandbergen, owner of VanZandbergen Photography. "I think she has learned a lot about photographic technique and how to manipulate lighting to achieve the desired effect."

Amanda also learned how to develop black and white pictures. One photo of three roses, which she took, developed, and printed, won a Judge's Delight award in the Harford Fair. Two of the other

Judge's Delights won in that fair were also black and white.

"It was an awesome experience," says Amanda of the internship. "It was practically priceless."

Amanda displayed four of her photos in the art show held at MAHS Sept. 23-24, a senior project of Clarissa Plank.

"I knew that [Amanda] did photography and that she is really committed to it," says Clarissa. "I think I saw [some of her photos] in the literary magazine, and I thought they were really good, so I invited her to enter some of her work in my show."

Amanda plans to go to college for photography. This summer she visited the campus of Rochester Institute of Technology and took a few one-hour courses there. One of those, biomedical photography, allowed her to take a picture of pollen through a microscope.

"The joy of [taking] a good picture gives you a feeling of self-satisfaction," says Amanda.

### MMU Plays Disney

By Caroline Jones  
Choconut Valley Editor

Sophomore Morgan Charles and other members of the MAHS Marching Unit (MMU) are still reminiscing about June 18 when students, some parents and siblings, former principal and Mrs. Doug Wilcox, and band director Suzanne Bennici's family boarded two charter buses for a two-day drive to Walt Disney World in Florida.

Mrs. Bennici had sent a video of the MMU to the music program at Disney, indicating an interest in the MMU's performing at Disney World. The better the bands are the bigger and more popular parades they play in, according to Mrs. Bennici. MMU played in the "Spectromagic" parade in Magic Kingdom.

"[Spectromagic] draws the most crowds and is well known," said Mrs. Bennici.

The Band Aides, an organization of parents that supports the band, raised half the money to pay for expenses like transportation and the hotel. Band members paid the other half of the money for the trip, \$650.

"The time [we] put into working things like the Blue-berry Festival [in Montrose] and the [funnel cake and milkshake booth at the] Harford Fair [were] some huge fund-raisers that have helped to allow us to make this trip happen," said sophomore JoAnn Mollo, who plays tenor saxophone in the MMU.

Other fundraisers included pie, hoagie, candy and nut roll sales.

The band left the school at 6 a.m., and it was evening before they stopped at the Econo Lodge in Dillon, S.C. However, Mrs. Bennici didn't let them rest.

"She made us practice in the parking lot before we could see our rooms!" complained Morgan.

Arriving in Orlando before dinner on the second day, the band and their extras checked into the All-Star Music Resort at Disney.

Day three was spent in Epcot and the Magic Kingdom, and that evening the MMU played in

the "Spectromagic" parade.

"We ran from Pecos Bill's (restaurant) to *Pirates of the Caribbean* where we went backstage," said Morgan. "Backstage" is a part of Magic Kingdom where floats are prepared, and the Disney characters assemble.

Bands are not permitted to play any music connected to the Disney Corporation, Universal or that is themed. The MMU played their usual parade songs, including "Spitfire" and "Brass Explosion."

But it wasn't all business at Disney.

Students received "Performance Passes" that allowed them free access to all the Disney parks, including one water park, Blizzard Beach.

"[The Summit Plummit water slide] was awesome," said JoAnn.

"My favorite parks were MGM and Magic Kingdom because they had the best rides," said sophomore Brittany DeLousia, another MMU member.

Mrs. Sherry Frederici of Montrose and other chaper-ones were assigned responsibilities on the trip, such as "meeting with groups from MMU at a specified time and place," according to Mrs. Frederici. She says it was fun to get to know the kids in the MMU and the rest of the chaperones.

"My favorite part was looking up from outside the hotel and seeing Mr. Wilcox wearing a fuzzy pink princess tiara that [another band member had brought]," laughs Morgan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTEN HOHN

Graduate Chris Holinej ('05) pushes then sophomore Johanna Reed around Walt Disney World during the Montrose Marching Unit's visit to Disney to perform in the "Spectromagic" parade in Magic Kingdom in June. Johanna, a melophone player, was injured at the end of school; at band director Suzanne Bennici's insistence, Johanna was wheeled through the parks after she marched in the parade.

## Sounds, Sets & Stars

By Clarissa Plank  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

### Upcoming Movies

Oct. 14

*Domino*

Keira Knightley stars as Domino Harvey, who gives up her career as a Ford model to become a bounty hunter.

Oct. 21

*Shopgirl*

This romantic comedy is about a salesgirl and inspiring artist, Mirabelle (Claire Danes) who has to choose between the two men in her life, a wealthy divorcee (Steve Martin) and a struggling musician (Jason Schwartzman).

*Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story*

Ben Crane (Kurt Russell), a once-great horseman, tries to rehabilitate an injured horse in hopes of winning the Breeder's Cup Classic and bringing his family back together.

Oct. 28

*Saw II*

While investigating a murder, detective Eric Mason (Donnie Wahlberg) begins to believe that it is the work of a notorious killer called Jigsaw. And he's right, of course...

### Prime

This comedy stars Uma Thurman as a recently divorced career woman and Dave (Bryan Greenberg), a talented 23-year old painter who falls in love with her.

### CD Releases

Oct. 18

*Doin' Somethin' Right* by Billy Currington

Oct. 25

*Sunday Love* by Fefe Dobson

*Glory Train* by Randy Travis

### Books

Oct. 18

*A Series of Unfortunate Events Book 12: Art Too Awful to Show* by Lemony Snicket

Another "unfortunate" book in the series filled with mishap and woe—chronicling the lives of the Baudelaire twins. Imagine Jim Carrey as the villain...

*At First Sight* by Nicholas Sparks: from the author of *A Walk to Remember* and *The*

*Notebook* comes the sequel to *True Believer*.

Jeremy Marsh's married life takes an unexpected turn...

### DVD Releases

Oct. 18

*Batman Begins*

The Batman story continues, this time revealing the story of what happened before he was a superhero...

Oct. 25

*Bewitched*

A reformed witch who is determined to lead a normal life, Isabel (Nicole Kidman) finds herself cast into the role of Samantha in the movie remake of the 1960s television series.

### Plays

Oct. 17-18

*Miss Saigon*  
The Forum, Binghamton

Oct. 21-23

*Dangerous Liaisons*  
Endicott Performing Arts Center

Oct. 27-29, 8 p.m.

Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*  
McDade Center  
University of Scranton

## Homecoming 2005

Monday, Oct. 17  
Hat Day

Tuesday, Oct. 18  
Patriotic Day

Wednesday, Oct. 19  
Decade Day

Thursday, Oct. 20  
Jersey Day

Friday, Oct. 20  
Maroon and White Day

Pep rally - Grades 9-12  
Pers. 8-9

Saturday, Oct. 22  
Homecoming Dance  
MAHS gym



## Chiarella on Her Way to Top

By Carly Hull  
Staff Reporter

"I like the competition," says cross country runner Tara Chiarella. "I like doing my best and pushing myself to the limits."

Since seventh grade, Chiarella, a junior, has had many accomplishments. Last year she finished thirty-second out of approximately 300 people at states in Hershey.

Prior to states, she placed second in districts in Scranton and first in the McQuaid Invitational in Rochester, N.Y.

"I'm doing really well," says Chiarella. "Every year [I am] getting better."

Though Chiarella has come far already, she still has set goals for herself this year and next.

"I want to get a medal in states this year and then a bigger medal next year," says Chiarella.

And Chiarella and her coach, Jim Fluck, share another goal for this year.

"Our goal is for her to complete the season undefeated," says Coach Fluck. At press time Chiarella was well on her way.

Inspiration to do well, Chiarella says, comes mostly from her family and her teammates.

"My mom always has a positive outlook on everything, so I got a positive outlook from her, and my team and coaches are encouraging too," Chiarella says.

"[My teammates] are supportive, [but] my competition is with the Montrose guys," says Chiarella.

The guys like being a little bit more competitive with her, she says.

"She's a wonderful teammate; she encourages everyone to do their best," says senior Erica Smith. "[She's] a really great friend to have on the team."



E. DAVENPORT/METEOR CHRONICLE

The girls' cross country team poses with its trophies after a third-place finish at the Meteor Invitational Sept. 24. Junior Tara Chiarella (front, third from left) placed first in the girls' varsity race.

## Evans Medals Twice

By Steffany Janke  
Sports Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF EVANS

Senior Jeff Evans putts during a home match against Wallenpaupack Sept. 27, 2004. Evans started his senior season strong with a match against Western Wayne and Susquehanna, medaling twice, the first from Montrose to do so this season. At press time Evans is now 6-1.

## Field Hockey Coach Boosts Team's Ambition

By Burgundy Shelp  
Sports Editor

With a new coach this season, the varsity field hockey team had to make a few adjustments, but then so did the coach.

Last summer MAHS athletic director Joe Gilhool asked Coach Jen Clark, a sixth grade teacher at Lathrop Street, to coach varsity field hockey this fall. She was a little hesitant at first, she says, because she loved coaching junior high field hockey.

"I had three years of coaching experience at the junior high level, though, and as I thought more about it, I decided that moving up to the varsity level would be a good challenge for me, and it would be an opportunity to work with athletes at a higher skill level," says Coach Clark.

Dedication, honesty, and commitment are what Coach Clark expects from her team of 37 players.

She also hopes to see the "team rise to the level of field hockey play she knows they have inside of them."

"I think that it is a privi-

lege to be a part of a team, and I expect that each one of [the] athletes treats the privilege with respect," says Coach Clark.

The biggest challenge this season is getting the confidence to be a team that stands out as a real competitor in our league, says Coach Clark.

"[The] field hockey team hasn't experienced a whole lot of victory these past few years, and I'm hoping they find it within themselves and each other to step it up a notch and become a force again," says Coach Clark. "I am extremely confident that they have it in them; the challenge is helping them find and realize it."

Believing the team is hardworking and respectful to each other on and off the field, Coach Clark says, helps the team to be stronger.

Knowing it will take time for techniques and strategies to be adjusted to, Coach Clark has faith that "in the end, win or lose, we will walk away

from this season with great memories and greater respect for the game of field hockey and the people we shared it with."

The team is enjoying themselves more this season because of Coach Clark, says sophomore Elly Rounds.

"It seems like more heart, more game," says Rounds. "[Coach Clark] has more heart, so we have more game."

Practice techniques have been adjusted by Coach Clark, requiring more running that produces more energy during practices and games, according to Rounds.

The team also does more drills than in previous years, including "blues," which require the team to run to the opposite sideline, then to the other sideline and back to where they were, according to junior Christine Brown.

"Running a blue might seem like a punishment, but we realize that it is for our own good, and it benefits us in the end," says Brown.

### Featured Athletes

## Seniors Dedicated to Football

By Burgundy Shelp  
Sports Editor



**ZEKE LEE**

- Defensive tackle
- Played six years
- Fondest memory of the past six years occurred "during the Scranton Prep game when [now college freshman] Tommy Burgh intercepted the ball, and I leveled a wide receiver, trying to make a tackle."



**BOB O'MALLEY**

- Offensive and defensive line
- Played nine years
- O'Malley remembers fondly "[the] homecoming win over Bishop O'Hara in my junior year."



**DENNIS MOORE**

- Half-back and defensive end
- Played seven years
- "My interception in tenth grade at Old Forge" is what Moore says is his favorite recollection.



**DOM LUCENTI**

- Quarterback
- Played nine years
- Lucenti says "all of it" is a fond memory.



**JACK MOYER**

- Linebacker
- Played four years
- "Dom clearing the bench at last year's Old Forge game" is what Moyer remembers most.

"[I am] proud of the seniors on the team. They stuck with [football] all these years. [I am] glad to have coached them. They should be proud of themselves."  
Coach Tom Lucenti



**Steff Jahnke**  
Sports Editor

## SPORTLIGHT

### Commentary

## Talent and Leadership: Keys to Success

Some say the key to a good team is talent. Some, on the other hand, argue that a strong leader is capable of creating a good team and molding players into talented athletes. I say that in order to construct a GREAT team, both talent and leadership are essential.

I am a Packers fanatic. It's not because they have been successful in the past, nor am I loyal solely because of their talent, though their skills are considerable. No, it's their spirit that completes the Packers' package for me.

Talent gets a team only so far. Often it's one player, an individual particularly gifted in a sport, that runs the entire show. In other cases it's a successful team's ability to mold and shape lesser players to be better. This leads to some glory, a few words in the newspaper, maybe even districts and states, but in order to be great, to go further, there has to be something more.

"Leadership is based on

a spiritual quality; the power to inspire, the power to inspire others to follow," said the late Packers' coach, Vince Lombardi.

Leadership is the capacity to lead, but I believe it's more. I think it's the power to inspire, to make teammates *want* to get better for the team. Sports are all about passion—otherwise no one would want to work so hard. Yes, it's also about glory, but that is a byproduct of success, which in turn, takes work to gain.

The Packers were so successful under Coach Lombardi because they had the talent and the man to mold them, to lead them and help them strive to be the best they could be not only for themselves but for each other.

I see many good teams in our own school. I see successful teams that score goals and make baskets and fight to the end for glory. And then I see teams that are one with each other, despite the statistics, because the players

love the game. They enjoy playing it, and they are united by the passion to be all they can be.

In the past some have said our school lacks school spirit. However, I see our collective spirit picking up more and more with each game I attend. Kudos to you, Meteor fans! You see these passionate athletes for who they are, despite the scoreboard. Our athletes are leaders; they are teammates, and loyal ones at that. We SHOULD be proud of them, no matter what. These students dare to walk onto a field, court, course or whatever, in front of us to entertain. If that's not brave, I don't know what is.

Webster says "greatness" is "the property possessed by something or someone superior in quality or character." I think this is undeniably true. Our teams are great in quality by their success and in character of their spirit and enthusiasm for sports they love.

## Two MAHS Sisters Participate In Nationals

By Burgundy Shelp  
Sports Editor

Sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Broome County, the Gaviatas, a group of six girls including senior Karli Wimmer and sophomore Alicia Wimmer headed off to Buffalo in June to compete in the synchronized swimming nationals.

Having practiced together about four times a week for the past four years, the Gaviatas found out they were going to participate in nationals this past May.

"I was shocked that we made it," says Alicia. "I was really excited and nervous."

Using the same routine they had swum in November, they headed to nationals, hoping to earn 72 points. They also wanted to get their names known.

Their goal was 72 points because a team is considered good and worth worrying about if it finishes with 72

points or more, according to Karli.

"[Our expectations were to] do well and get our name out there to prove we were better than what people thought," says Karli. The team earned 73.5 points and finished 24th out of 32 teams.

Nervous but collected, the team managed to keep their feelings under control, according to Karli.

"I was really happy it was over," says Alicia. "I was happy about the score we got."

"[It was the] best swim for us," says Karli, who was anxious about competing with the "best of the best."

Karli says the competition was an awesome experience that she will always remember.

"[It was] cool," she says. "I know we'll go back next year."



Photo courtesy of Karli Wimmer

Senior Karli Wimmer (front row, middle) and sophomore Alicia Wimmer (back row, fifth from left) pose with their swim team, the Gaviatas, after competing in the National Synchronized Swimming Competition at the Flickinger Aquatic Center in Buffalo, N.Y., on July 1.

## Rule Changes for Girls Tennis

By Patrick Bayer  
Opinion Editor

Rule changes have been made for the 2005 girls' tennis season in hopes of giving more team members varsity time, and shortening match length. The changes include cutting the number of matches from seven to five and not allowing singles players to compete in doubles.

"It's changed the whole line up," says senior Sarah Golis, who plays first singles for the team.

"In a way, I think it's a negative," says Coach Brian Wilder, "[It] cuts back on [the number of] matches by two."

A tennis match used to consist of seven individual matches with four singles and three doubles matches. Players could play both singles and doubles. The new rules call for three singles and two doubles matches, and the three singles players cannot play doubles.

"They said it would cut down on time, but [we are] still waiting for the (fifth)



E. DAVENPORT/METEOR CHRONICLE  
Junior Ashleigh Hinds serves during warm-ups before a tennis match against West Scranton High School Sept. 27 at MAHS. Montrose beat West Scranton 5-0.

match to be finished," says Golis, because most schools only have four tennis courts.

Although Golis feels the rule changes haven't cut down on time, she feels they do help the team win against better schools.

"It will work out better in our favor for the matches verses big schools," says Golis, because opposing schools will not have their

top players playing both singles and doubles.

In contrast, Coach Wilder feels that at times it would help the team to have the other two matches.

"If we had two extra matches against Abington Heights," says Coach Wilder, "we might have [won]."

According to Coach Wilder, the matches have cut down on the number of

girls able to play. "I'd rather see the girls out there," he says.

Although, because of the new rules, Junior Brianna Gieski is able to play varsity this year, in the number two doubles position.

"[I get] to start now, [if it weren't for the rule changes,] I would've been bumped off [varsity]," says Gieski.

## Boys' Soccer Rebuilds Girls' Soccer Excels

By Burgundy Shelp  
Sports Editor

This year's varsity boys' soccer team is one of the youngest teams Coach Dennis Newhard says he has ever coached.

"We graduated eight seniors last year and only have three seniors this year," says Coach Newhard. "We only have three ninth graders and eight tenth graders"

With only three returning starters from last year, seniors Collin Musa and Ryan Welch and junior John McNamara, Coach Newhard says this season is a learning season for the majority of the players.

"We're in really good shape, though, because we jog a lot," says junior Dean Moore.

Despite the team's inexperience, Coach Newhard still says he thinks the team is on track to have a good season.

"This group of players are picking things up at a good rate," says Coach Newhard.

Having seven returning starters, five of which were last year's all-stars, the girls' soccer team is well on its way to a successful season, according to junior Keesha Lunger.

"We have high expectation for districts and states," says Lunger.

Having quite a few freshmen on the team, four of which have older varsity-playing sisters, the freshmen are expected to do their part to help the season.

"The freshmen have big shoes to fill because we lost a lot of seniors last year," says Lunger, "but they are doing a good job at stepping up."

At press time, the girls' soccer team was undefeated and the Lackawanna Soccer League Northern Division leaders.