

The McAuley Times



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10/4- Reconciliation at 10am

10/7- Picture retakes

10/12- Jostens' meeting for seniors and sophomore

10/14- Early dismissal

10/17- Jostens' meeting for seniors and sophomores

10/19- Standardized testing

10/21- Senior Servant Day

10/22- Trivia Night in McAuley MPR

Joplin Area Catholic Schools welcome new director

By William Motazedi

Over the summer, a new administrative position was added to the Joplin Area Catholic Schools System. Georgiana McGriff sits in front of a wall collaged with crucifixes, filled with excitement over her new position, the first of its kind in the Joplin Catholic System. As the director of schools, McGriff said, "I'm very excited to be here; I'm very humbled, and I'm very impressed with the quality of our students, our families, and our dedicated staff."

A "cradled Catholic," McGriff is a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Joplin, MO. Starting out as a teacher at McAuley, she went on to be assistant superintendent and principal in the public schools. McGriff said, "I don't have all



Times/ Motazedi

New director of the system, Georgiana McGriff, poses next to the collage of crosses that decorate her office at St. Peter's Middle School.

the answers, but I have some experiences that help me feel confident and excited at the opportunity [to be at JACS]." She added, "It's kinda like I've come back full circle to the place where I started."

McGriff began the position over the summer, and she has already noticed some

characteristics that are specific to the Catholic schools. McGriff said, "One of the best things that I have experienced here for [the first] two months, is the faith aspect, because I never had that in public schools. I could never say 'God bless you' in an email to a teacher. That's the

best right there... that's the best feeling that I have."

As the director of schools, McGriff is responsible for overseeing the administrative, educational, and faith environments of the system. McGriff, drawing

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Saint Mary's Church celebrates Confirmation

By Monica Onstot

St. Mary's Catholic Church's Confirmation was held on September 17 at St. Mary's Church. There were sixty-two people getting confirmed. Candidates began preparing in July with weekly classes on Wednesdays.

Candidates agreed that the classes were very helpful. Sophomore Courtney Bates said, "The most helpful thing to me was having the people teaching us the way they did. They made sure everyone understood and always asked if anyone had questions."

Many classes had a guest speaker. Sophomore Rebecca Freitas commented, "The speakers that came to classes were very helpful to me because they had their own experience so that was nice." Many people

mentioned Cheryl Fogarty's talk, saying how touching it was to hear her stories from her mission work in Haiti. Senior Lawrence Asistido said, "It was just [a] very sad and moving story and she is a very brave woman for what she does."

One decision to make before getting confirmed is picking a saint's name. Many members said that picking their saint name was a hard thing to do, and some even said it was the most difficult decision they had to make in the Confirmation process. Freitas commented, "I had one in mind but then I wasn't so sure but I ended up going with it because their story really touched me and opened my eyes. I chose saint Ignatius of Loyola."

Confirmation

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Seniors and freshmen bond at Newbies Day

By Conalee Churchwell

Newbies Day has been a tradition that has bonded freshmen and seniors while strengthening the overall fellowship of the students for years. Each year the new students have an opportunity to get to know the seniors by playing games and doing activities within a day at a park.

This year, Newbies Day was held at Schifferdecker Park on August 26. It included many activities such as volleyball, leap frog, a water balloon toss, and much more. In a match of tug-of-war, the seniors took a victory. Of all the activities that were done at the park, a few of them were more memorable to some students. Freshman Molly Hunter remarked, "My favorite part of Newbies Day was blowing bubbles with the seniors."

A particular activity

that went on was a water balloon fight with a twist. After a water balloon toss, the seniors told all of the freshmen to line up. The freshmen filed into a line, and then suddenly, the seniors started to take out some water balloons. The freshmen thought that they would have another round of water balloon fight, but the seniors surprised them by attacking all and chasing all of the freshmen around the park. To top it all off, the se-



Times/ Motazedi

Hunter Huthsing and Taylor Schiefelbein competed in the relays at Newbies Day.

senior boys soaked Senior Sean Newbies Day

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October Birthdays

10/2- Shea Schrader

10/3- Caelen Johnson

10/17- Rebecca Freitas

10/19- Miller Stephens

10/24- Elizabeth Motazedi



McAuley welcomes three new teachers

By Conalee Churchwell

As times change, new things come into play. In the recent year, McAuley has experienced change for the best, and is welcoming three new teachers for the new school year. The new educators this year include Barbara Ashmore, Blake Zapletal, and Stephen Spry.

Although these three are new to teaching at McAuley, some of them are already quite familiar with the school. Spry has already spent a year student teaching at McAuley for the Spanish classes. Zapletal, on the other hand, is actually an alumni of McAuley high school, part of the graduating class of 2010.

Ashmore is completely new to the system but is elated to be a part of it. "I feel blessed to be at McAuley. It is an excellent atmosphere for students and teachers, because I have experience with public schools, and at least I can talk about Jesus here without the fear of losing my job." Ashmore explains.

Barbara Ashmore was a former Language Arts teacher for highschoolers. She has lived and moved to lots of places, from Northern Texas

to Las Vegas. She is now settled back here in Joplin, where she raised a family of four kids, along with ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She describes McAuley's atmosphere as peaceful, and wishes to contribute hope and appreciation for Jesus to the students and school system.

Blake Zapletal was not only an alumni of McAuley, but was also a student teacher at the Joplin School districts. He was born and raised in Carthage, Missouri, and is a huge fan of the Broncos.

Zapletal's goals at the moment are to get students in the position to be able to move on to the next stage of their lives and to get his master's degree in math so that he can teach college courses at McAuley someday. He is extremely comfortable with the school, being that he attended it himself. "I like small schools and small classes. I've always really liked McAuley. It's like a second home to me because I've spent more time here than in Carthage, so I feel more of a part of the Joplin community." Zapletal says.

Stephen Spry was born



Times/Churchwell

In his new classroom, Spanish teacher Mr. Stephen Spry writes the weekly assignments on the board for his students.

and raised in Carterville, Missouri. He is an MSSU graduate, currently pursuing his master's through Missouri State. He has spent a lot of time studying abroad, from attending one semester at school in Sweden to attending a full year in Chile. He worked as an English as a second language (ESL) teacher in Chile for about three years.

Spry's overall goal for this year is to increase Spanish interest for McAuley students and teach them useful Spanish to utilize through travelling abroad or conversing with Spanish-speaking people. Along with Zapletal, Spry also likes the small classes. "I enjoy small class sizes and building relationships with the students. I also enjoy working with the staff

here and the energetic atmosphere at McAuley." Spry states.

Although new, the teachers have already felt pretty comfortable at McAuley, and have been a useful addition to the McAuley family. They hope to inspire and guide the students the future years to come.

The Month-Long Festival

By Monica Onstot

The annual Maple Leaf festival hosted in Carthage, Missouri is held on the third Saturday of October with events going on each day of the month. The Maple Leaf Festival began in the 1960's and was originally a competition for marching bands.

The most popular event, which is the parade, will be held on October 15th this year. The parade begins at nine in the morning at the Historic Downtown Square and ends at Carthage Middle School. It is the largest parade in Southwest Missouri. On the day of the parade, there are other events such as the entertainment of the Marching Cobras, a car show, an arts and crafts festival, quilt show, and food vendors.

One of the other main events that takes place during the festival is a beauty pageant. People with their age ranging from babies to twelfth grade can participate in the beauty pageant. All candidates must be attending Carthage schools. The winners of the beauty pageants receive a cash prize, as well as a spot in the parade.

There are multiple runs, which are sponsored by the Fair Acres Family

YMCA, for people to participate in too. These runs begin at nine in the morning and include a 10K and 5K, along with a Color Run and Walk.

Awards are given out to the winners.

If people do not want to participate in the runs, they also have the chance to participate in the Maple Leaf Bicycle Tour, which is sponsored by the Joplin Trails Coalition. By paying twenty to forty dollars to participate, people can see some of the prettiest sights in Carthage on two wheels. The lengths of the routes are 15, 40, 62, 80, and 100 miles and begin at eight in the morning.

There are also other activities, such as a gospel singing event, a dog show, and a dog skill competition. You can also enter a three minute tune and enter it in a lip sync competition for the chance to win cash prizes.

The Maple Leaf Festival has many other activities. The city of Carthage has more than eighty thousand visitors come to town throughout the duration of the festival.



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experience from her time as a public school administrator, said, "One big goal for this year is to listen to as many people as I can and to gather everyone to express all those comments and all that information. Then get everyone back together, and develop a plan. I'm going to call it a 'Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.'" Her job is also to facilitate unity within the system. She added, "We don't have someone who unifies Joplin [Catholic] schools, so someone to carry out something for the system is what we needed."

McGriff then went on a campaign to listen to what the system had to offer in all aspects. She said, "I got some really good advice from someone I have a lot of respect for, and that was one word-- listen. I did that a lot. I heard a lot of things from a lot of people, and then once you listen, and you hear, you get an idea of what the strengths and opportunities are."

One goal for McGriff is to increase the visibility of the JACS system within the Joplin community. She said, "We need to market ourselves more, we need to do some more advertising." McGriff added, "We need the cooperation and collaboration of our churches, and we need to hire the very best teachers we can find for what we offer."

Confirmation

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Confirmation candidates also had to make the decision of choosing a sponsor to guide them in their faith life. Morgan Hughes, who was Senior Gracie Vogel's sponsor, said, "It was an honor to sponsor Gracie-girl. I was so excited when she asked me. She's been one of my best friends for a while now, and I was excited to help her take a step further in her faith." Senior Hunter Huthsing's sponsor, Alecsa Derganc, said, "Being a sponsor is really exciting because you get to witness the

"Being a sponsor is really exciting because you get to witness the welcoming of someone into the church as an adult."

-Alecsa Derganc

welcoming of someone into the church as an adult. The Bishop welcomed the confirmand into the church by rubbing chrism on the forehead and saying their chosen saint name. It was a really cool thing to experience and watch."

Confirmation participants agreed the experience was amazing. Senior Brendyn Taylor said, "It feels great to be confirmed. It means a lot to know that you have the support of everyone around you and that you are taking your faith further."

Times/Motazedi

The Most Reverend Bishop Edward Rice celebrated with Senior Brian Guthery and his confirmation sponsor Blake Zapletal. Zapletal is a new member of the McAuley Catholic High School Faculty.



Bishop Edward Rice takes the lead of the Diocese

By William Motazedi

For eight months, the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau went through a crucial transition period of waiting, prayer, and anticipation. On April 26, 2016 the wait for the members of the Catholic diocese was over when Bishop Edward M. Rice was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as Bishop for the diocese.

In a statement made upon his appointment to the diocese, Rice stated, "I am humbled by the confidence of the Holy Father, and I am grateful for his support in appointing me the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau."

His duties as a servant towards God didn't start when he became the bishop. Rice said that he knew his life was heading in the direction of priesthood on March 9, 1977 at seven o'clock in the morning. Rice remembered, "My mom woke us up at seven in the morning so we could go to the parish and pray for my dad." The news that his father had just died was unsettling, but going to Mass was their source of comfort at the time.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Rice was one of ten siblings. When he was a ju-



Times/Pinjuv

The Most Reverend Edward Rice was given a McAuley sweatshirt during his first visit to the school. He also competed in Jeopardy with members of STUCO.

nior in high school, his father lost a six year battle with cancer. Rice claimed, "God had been working on me already, but the urge to become a priest never hit me fully until my father's death."

When his brother asked his mom what had happened, his mother replied, "There was a priest at [your father's] bedside, your older sister, and nuns, along with me. It was beautiful." Rice, upon hearing his mother recount the priest's presence at his father's bed-

side, thought to himself, "I wonder if I could do that... be apart of the church and bring that consolation the people like that priest did." To this day, Rice is clearly inspired by that priest, and stated "I think visiting the sick is one of the best things you can do."

Rice went to Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, and attained a Master of Divinity degree in 1987. When he was at the seminary, it wasn't a sure match yet, but with

time, he was hooked. Rice added, "Within three months, I knew I would never leave unless they threw me out."

Spending his whole life in St. Louis, he was apart of a population that was 35 percent Catholic. For Rice, that brings many different perspectives on the faith. Rice said, "The downside to [being 35 percent of the population], is that it's very easy to take the faith for granted. What I've noticed here, is that the people down here are proud

Brennan the gorilla becomes lawyer at Harvard

By Annelise Pinjuv

Brennan Marshall Adams was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on November 19, 1998. Adams is a senior at McAuley and has been in the JACS system his whole life.

His favorite subject is English and his favorite food is nachos. If he could be any character from the TV show *Friends*, he said "That's hard. I feel like I'm Chandler but my life is more aligned with Ross." He prefers crust on his sandwiches, because he's..

tough. He enjoys comedy over action movies, and if he could meet anyone famous, it would be Robin Williams because he is a comedy icon and he feels like he might have a lot in common with him. He would be a gorilla if

he could be an animal and if he could road trip anywhere it would be to Las Vegas.

Adams wants to even-

tually attend college in Oregon, and after graduate school wants to study law at Harvard University. In response to being asked what his dream career would be, he said, "I don't know what I want to be, but I will be successful." His

favorite memory from junior year is driving to a Lockwood football game, all crammed into a car and just having fun. When asked where he sees himself in 10 years he responded with "I see myself with a job or company that can make money for me with little guidance, a family with a couple of kids, and a big house



Orange Beach meets A-aaron

By Dorothy Ostmeyer

Aaron Matthew Moran was born on January 2, 1999. He has attended the Joplin Area Catholic Schools System for 13 years. He has grown up with the same people and has grown to know them very well.

Moran holds his friends close to his heart. He remarked, "I value them as family, because they are the closest people to me."

Some of his favorite memories with his friends include hanging out with them on Friday nights at the football games. He also will remember his backpacking trip on the Butterfield trail in Arkansas with the Ostmeyers. When asked how the overnight hike went, he responded, "The ground was hard. I was hungry and in the end I had fun."

Moran has gone on multiple vacations with his family. He explained which type of vacation was his favorite, "Beaches are by far the best, when I went to

Orange Beach, in Alabama, [and] it was awesome."

Moran has been involved in many athletics such as, football, baseball and cross country. Out of all these sports, his greatest accomplishment is his breakthrough into the teens on his 5k. He pushed himself at 6:30 in the morning for three months out of the year. After running for over two years, he made his goal.

He plans on attending Missouri Southern State University and majoring in pharmaceutical sales. He plans on focusing on a more attainable goal, instead of athletics, but if he played baseball in college he would want to be called "A-aaron".

The one motto that gets Moran through the day, and will for the rest of his life is, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." He also believes that once he graduates from McAuley, he will be able to face whatever life throws at him.

Joyful Dolphin visits Greek Beach

being able to be extremely involved with everything, showing good

leadership for the underclassmen, and being a part of fun senior activities.

She also loves that her class has become closer throughout the years. Vogel stated, "I feel like when you get to your senior year, your class is the closest it has ever been and I am really enjoying being with all of them."

Vogel has felt she has changed in the past four years of high school through all of the unforgettable memories she has made in what she proclaims as the best years of her life. Vogel commented, "I have realized how grateful I am to have gotten the opportunity to go to such a great school with incredible people that will continue to always be a part of my life. We truly are a huge family!"

When asked who her role model is, Vogel replied, "Audrey Hepburn, because she lived for helping others, she

of being Catholic." The Joplin Metro consists of a population that is only four percent catholic.

In the Archdiocese of St. Louis alone, there are 29 Catholic High Schools, 112 Catholic schools, 184 parishes, and half a million catholics. Compared to St. Louis, Southern Missouri has 66 parishes and a Catholic population of 70,000. That isn't anything that stops people from practicing the faith though. Rice stated, "When you're the minority, it makes you fight for you need." To Rice, the Catholic faith in southern Missouri is a necessity.

One thing that Rice always remembers is that his parents made many sacrifices for him to attend high school. "My father always said, "Get as much education as you can, [because] they can't take it away from you." Whether it be his job as a school administrator, a pastor at a parish, or the auxiliary Bishop for the St. Louis Archdiocese, Rice said in his statement that he is "excited to partner with my brother priests in spreading the beauty of our Catholic Faith in the spirit of the New Evangelization."

somewhere nice."

Adams favorite thing about McAuley is when it's Christmastime when everything is decorated and people wear hoodies and pray that it snows. He states his greatest accomplishment in his life so far was "surviving all these years of school." When asked what he wants to get out of senior year, he replied, "I want to make a lot of memories and not regret anything."

always was humble, she valued the power of hard work, always kept family as number one, preached forgiveness, and only spoke of others in a positive light." Although Hepburn is her role model, her favorite piece of advice came from her father. Vogel remarked on her father's words, "My dad always tells me to do my best in everything I do."

If Vogel could travel anywhere in the world, she answered, "It would be Greece, because it looks gorgeous, and I love being by the beach." She chooses without hesitation food over sleep, and would say that her spirit animal is a dolphin because they live peacefully and are a reminder to approach life with humor and happiness.

As Vogel has reminisced in the past years of her high school career, she is very enthusiastic about this year and the years ahead of herself, and even though she is sad to leave high school, she was very happy to experience what she was able to in the past four years.

Cornerstone Spartans

By Emily Freitas

The suspension of the McAuley football team this year due to a decrease in participation hasn't stopped two McAuley students from playing the sport. Senior Collin Lowry and Freshman Jacob Price joined the local eight-man team, the Cornerstone Spartans. The Spartans are a team for students who are homeschooled, or who attend schools which don't have football teams.

After Lowry discovered that football would not be returning to McAuley his final year of high school, he began doing research with his father on alternative programs that Lowry could play for. Lowry stated, "Once a door closes, another opens. I got very blessed [when] I found this team and couldn't be happier."

The Spartans are led by head coach Jerry Collier

and Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator Chris Roberts. Lowry, quarterback for the team, described some of the game plan that Roberts generally comes up with for games. "Coach Chris and I usually have a good idea about how we are going to open the game when we are on offense. We have a lot of skilled guys, and in eight-man football, that's what you need."

"We also know and say [that] none of this would be possible without one person, God."

-Collin Lowry

Freshman receiver and safety Jacob Price said that although he played eight-man football last year at St. Peter's Middle School, there are some differences to playing for the Spartans. He explained, "The hardest part has been the change in team colors, and there is a lot more running. It's [also] a little weird playing with kids from other schools that I'm not used to playing with." Lowry commented on how the game plan has contributed to the team's 3-0 record. "We take it game by game, and never take anything for granted. We also know and say [that] none of this would be possible without one person, God. He is the whole reason this season has been a success so far." Price added, "A lot of the time our Coach will ask us who we play for and we all say God."

Although players come from different daily environments, it doesn't stop them from playing as a

team on the field. Lowry said, "We are a melting pot. There are kids who come from all over Joplin, and we're a brotherhood." Price commented, "Whenever a new kid comes to practice, they always introduce everyone and say what school they go to so we are a brotherhood, and so everybody knows everybody."

Lowry's favorite part about playing for the Spartans is their sense of teamwork. He said, "My favorite part about playing with this team is the way everyone has each other's back. No matter

what I will remember all [of] those guys for the rest of my life."

Price added, "My favorite part is that they pray after every practice and every game."



Senior Shea Schrader poses with Collin Lowry after his football game on September 9, 2016. In a landslide win, Lowry helped the Cornerstone Spartans achieve victory.



Volleyball Games

10/4- @ Exeter

10/11- @ College Heights- Blue Out

10/13- @ Wheaton Districts- Pink Out

Breakfast and a show

By Jake Freitas

There are many aspects of tradition at McAuley High School. One of these is an annual pancake breakfast. The event entailed a presentation of the fall athletes, a fall sport scrimmage, and the selling of booster club merchandise.

This year on August 27 there was a volleyball scrimmage instead of a football scrimmage. Booster Club President Arron Ramsey said, "With the suspension of the football program, we felt like it was

the perfect opportunity to place some focus on the volleyball teams."

The planning process of the annual scrimmage was fairly easy for the booster club. Ramsey added, "Lucky for us, when you have a great group of kids, and those kids have great parents, events like the pancake feed just happen." The booster club wasn't the only group preparing for the scrimmage. Freshman volleyball player Taylor Schiefelbein said, "To prepare for the scrimmage we really just

did normal practices and drills to keep us warmed up and excited to play [in the scrimmage]."

The stands were full of students and parents alike on Saturday. Ramsey said, "The turnout exceeded my expectations! So much so, that we are considering another pancake feed to showcase the winter sports."

Not only did the scrimmage promote the booster club and the fall sports, but it also helped the volleyball girls prepare for upcoming games.

Volleyball Senior Gracie Vogel said, "I think it really helps us prepare for our games because during a game there is an even bigger crowd and a lot of distractions. It helps us stay focused in on playing our game one pass, one set at a time and one hit at a time." The event concluded with the pancake breakfast and the presentation of volleyball, cross-country, soccer, powerlifting, and cheerleading teams. Vogel added, "I especially liked eating pancakes afterwards and seeing my friends.

"Getting to know all of the seniors just made everything a little better. You wouldn't get to have that in a public school."

-Cali Calaguas

are stigmas about seniors tormenting them, so it's good to show them that we're not intimidating." The freshmen fortunately also agreed that the outing helped them become closer to the seniors. Freshman Hannah Hillsbeck stated, "Hanging out with the seniors all day was fun. It made me feel better about going to school because I know them better now."

Not only is Newbies Day a learning experience for the newbies, but the seniors also have a lesson from the experience, especially compared to when they were newbies themselves. Senior Max Ostmeyer noted, "I feel more

confident in myself and about each other and even about themselves, but most importantly, had a fun time while doing it. Freshman Cali Calaguas explained, "It was a very fun time in all honesty. Getting to know all of the seniors just made everything a little better. You wouldn't get to have that in a public school."

A team that brings new chances

By Dorothy Ostmeyer

Going into another year of volleyball, the McAuley girls had lost four dominant players, leaving the team in a position to change old ways.

The team has won two games and taken multiple games into a third set. It wasn't just the game that had changed, but their spirit.

Senior Jake Freitas said, "The girls seem to be a lot closer this year. Having watched some of their

practices and games I have noticed an increased cohesion amongst the players."

There are four main categories of players in volleyball-- setters, liberoes, hitters, and passers. Claire Colson, a junior, had to completely change her role from libero to a setter in less than a year.

When asked about the major transition, she responded, "Liberoes are supposed to only arm pass, while as a setter I am encouraged to master hand

passing. The transition was rewarding though, because now I am included in every play."

Another major transition for a player was that of Senior Monica



During the recent volleyball game, Claire Colson back sets the ball to Gracie Vogel. The team went on to win the game.

Onstot. She sat out all of last year due to a sickness, this year she is starting varsity. Onstot said, "To me, it is more fun being on the court. On the court you get a new perspective of the game. At first it was a challenge to get back into the swing of things."

This year there is a variety of girls from every grade playing varsity.

Freshman Taylor Schiefelbein said, "It is a big jump from middle school sports to high school [sports]. I feel privileged to be on varsity as a freshman and love the girls I play with."

Seeing the variety of grades on the court has led the entire school to be more involved. Junior Jake Doyle agreed, "Since there are freshmen on varsity and sophomores starting, kids from every grade come out to support them."

The increase of support in volleyball has created an encouraging student section. Jake Freitas said, "When the student section is enthusiastic, the team plays with more intensity."

Another senior, Lawrence Astistido, pointed out, "I think we have a lot more energy in the student section, because our classmates are playing so we

have more of a reason to cheer for them."

Having strong support from their crowds has led the volleyball team to play hard and have more chances for success.

Abby Schiefelbein, a junior said, "This year we have a better chance of being involved as a team, instead of individually."

"This year we have a better chance of being involved as a team, instead of individually."

-Abby Schiefelbein

When asked about goals for the season, Schiefelbein responded, "To take the team past districts. I don't really have personal goals, because volleyball is more of a team [sport] instead of individual sport."

Cross country competes with a full team

By William Motazedi

As Senior Aaron Moran looks back on his three year career of running cross country, he remembers some of his achievements, but he also looks to the future towards some of his goals for his final season.

At 6:30 a.m. on the Frisco Trail in Joplin, Missouri, Moran has the chance to work towards some of those goals he has set for himself.

Moran has already accomplished many of the goals he has been determined to attain so far. He said, "I've already gotten the best first race time that I've ever had. I'm hoping that I'll keep progressing like that and get better times."

Moran isn't the only member of the team with goals, however. Freshman Connor Ramsey also has set high standards for himself this season.

Along with Moran, Ramsey wants to make it to State. He commented, "My goal is to get as close as I can to breaking 19 minutes and to make it to State."

Moran added, "[Another

goal is] getting my 5k time beneath 18 minutes, and to make it to State this year."

After his close finish behind the state cutoff last year, Moran is ready to qualify for the State meet in Jefferson City. He said, "Last year I was two away [from the cut off], but I slipped and fell."

The team aspect has added a lot of value to the team spirit and bonding with the members. Ramsey stated, "It's fun running with upperclassmen, they all have great personalities. They motivate me almost everyday whether I'm at practice or running in a meet."

Moran commented, "Their speed makes me want to push myself more."

For Ramsey, running with the team was a great way for him to coalesce with the high school environment. He said, "The sport has helped me ease into high school very well. The upperclassmen have been very welcoming to me and have helped me get into it."

Moran, along with other members of the team took no-

tice of Ramsey's talent in the sport. Moran said, "Connor Ramsey has a lot of potential on the team, because his 5k time is already in the low 21's, and he's never done the sport before."

With that time, Ramsey has an approximate pace of seven minutes per mile. According to Pace-Calculator.com, the average mile pace for a freshman in high school is eleven minutes.

Overall, the team is an advantage this year due to their size. Moran said, "Since we have a full team, our goal is to actually compete as a team for the first time."

Ramsey said that since the men's team is able to score team points in the meets, he can contribute to the group in that way. He also enjoys the meets and the people involved.

He stated, "My favorite part of cross country is going to the meets, meeting new people and seeing people that you've ran with before in other races."



Volleyball players move in to cover as Maddy Szell prepares to hit the ball.



At the Mercy Day, Jake Doyle prepares to hit the ball in hopes of scoring a point for the juniors during the student led volleyball tournament.

Newbies Day

Continued from page 1

Fogarty with an ice cooler full of water.

The focal point of the outing is to make the freshmen and new students feel

comfortable at McAuley, so that the new students' overall high school experience can be positive for the next four years. It has always been a priority for students to feel a sense of belonging while trav-

eling towards their adulthood, and high school can be a big change. Senior Shea Schrader said, "It's important to have a bond with the freshmen because coming to a new school can be intimidating and there

are stigmas about seniors tormenting them, so it's good to show them that we're not intimidating." The freshmen fortunately also agreed that the outing helped them become closer to the seniors. Freshman Hannah Hillsbeck stated, "Hanging out with the seniors all day was fun. It made me feel better about going to school because I know them better now."

Not only is Newbies Day a learning experience for the newbies, but the seniors also have a lesson from the experience, especially compared to when they were newbies themselves. Senior Max Ostmeyer noted, "I feel more



While participating in a three-legged race, seniors Tommy Doyle and Dylan Londo fall to the ground in my class from when I as Aaron Teeter looks on.

Mercy Day continues Sisters of Mercy legacy

By Emily Freitas
McAuley High School's annual Mercy Day was held on Thursday, September 21. Mercy Day is a special day of recognition for the Sisters of Mercy that live in the Joplin area.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in Dublin, Ireland in December 1831 by Mother Catherine McAuley. Their mission is rooted in the four core values of Mother McAuley: spirituality, community, service, social justice and critical concerns. They also value themselves on living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Bishop Edward Rice, bishop of the Archdiocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, spoke with student council members about his view on Mercy Day along with his response to his personal calling to priesthood. He commented, "Mercy is love in action. It's a beautiful blend of service and prayer. It's easy to talk about the poor, but not many like to

work with the poor."

The Sisters of Mercy first moved to Joplin in 1885. They came by train from Louisville, Kentucky to help Reverend William McCormack, who was at the time the new priest at St. Peter's Catholic Church. Their job was to help Rev. McCormack establish and run a Catholic school in the town, which was inhabited mainly by miners. The Sisters opened the original St. John's Hospital in 1896 after Mother Mary Sullivan convinced a mine owner to donate the building for Joplin's first hospital.

Since the original arrival of the thirteen sisters, there has been a decrease in vocations in the area, something that Principal Gene Koester

ter, who has celebrated Mercy Day for about a decade, hoped the day would change. Koester commented, "I hope [that Mercy Day will increase vocations] because that's one of our goals-- to have young



Times/E. Freitas
The McAuley Student Council presented the Sisters of Mercy, Sr. Angelene, Sr. Julie, Sr. Cabrini, and Sr. Joan, with flowers after the mass on mercy day.

people consider a life as the servant of Jesus."

However, even with this decrease in vocations, Koester is looking forward to the future. He said, "I'm definitely optimistic about that [an increase in vocations] because I think that young people today are viewing the secular world in a much more skeptical manner. They're realizing that happiness doesn't come from materialistic

things." Bishop Rice commented, "Don't be afraid to open your heart because you never know what God is going to do. You never know when the Lord will open your heart." Koester added, "I am very optimistic that things like Mercy Day may make people think about God's calling for them."

The day was celebrated with a presentation from both

the McAuley and St. Peter's student council members to the sisters in honor of their work in the Joplin area for 131 years. The executive student council members then competed against the senior class officers and Bishop Rice in a jeopardy-style question-and-answer game. Bishop Rice spoke with the McAuley faculty and ended the day with a tour of the school.

Opinions

Save the Confluence

By Emily Freitas

Around late-August, I was lazily scrolling through my Twitter feed when something caught my eye. I follow an account for outdoor-related things. They had recently tweeted about the Grand Canyon, and how a group of people are trying to get a bill passed that would ultimately ruin the natural, preserved beauty of one of America's most stunning national parks. I immediately googled and read about the issue.

The bill, known as the Grand Canyon Escalade bill, is being sponsored by a Fort Defiance councilman, Benjamin Bennett. The bill, if approved by the Navajo Nation Council, could allow for various tourist attractions to be built on the Grand Canyon's remote and untouched Eastern Rim. These attractions include hotels, restaurants, and an RV center, all above the rim. There would also be a walkway, an amphitheater, and resort like facilities would be built below the rim as well as a gondola that would shuttle 10,000 visitors a day to the confluence of the Little Colorado and the Colorado rivers, both located at the bottom of the canyon.

One of the major issues with this development is that although the Eastern Rim is remote to most people, it holds religious significance to many Navajo people, who believe that it is a spiritual site. It plays a role in many Navajo creation stories as well as religious practices, and some also view it as their final spiritual



resting place. Building on the rim would mean infringing on, to many Navajo, this sacred space. The National Park Service also keeps restrictions and regulations to protect the ecosystem of the canyon. For example, swimming and wading in the Colorado River is prohibited from March 1 to November 30 in order to protect the endangered fish species, the hunchback chub. If a gondola as well as resort facilities are added and people are in close proximity to the Little Colorado River, they might not wade into it, but the risk of unwanted objects, things such as articles of clothing, chewing gum, trash, and so forth, falling into the river increases. This means that animals living in the river ecosystems would end up being harmed by the influx of pollution in the rivers. Another problem that would

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The Bruncheonette

By Jake Freitas

Four years ago a little brunch joint opened under the name The Bruncheonette. It is located at 424 North Main street in Joplin, Missouri. The owners of the Bruncheonette are Sean Flanagan and his wife, Chasity. The Flanagans, who had been in the food industry their whole lives, had dreamed about opening up The Bruncheonette for six years. For those six years, Flanagan spent most of them in restau-

rants. "I tried to get as much experience as I could working in some of what I thought was Joplin's best restaurants" said S. Flanagan. S. Flanagan found himself as the Sous chef and then Chef at Crabby's, and then went on an eight month stint as line cook for The Red Oak Steakhouse at Downstream, finally becoming a Chef at Wilder's Steakhouse. At Wilder's he had complete control over all the food and had some General Manager

responsibilities. In 2013 on October 23, the Flanagans became first time business owners. Flanagan said, "The Bruncheonette's story is simply a combination of our experience, passion, and drive." The atmosphere of The Bruncheonette is a very noticeable reason to their success amongst McAuley Students. Senior Hunter Huthsing said, "It was homey, it's not like real big and I feel like it's like one of the old

mom and pop restaurants." Flanagan added, "[When] describing it to someone I always start with the word different. It is a bustling atmosphere when busy." The Bruncheonette also displays and sells artwork from local artists. The atmosphere is not the only reason students go there. Junior Evan Metoyer said, "I got french toast with bananas on top and it was heavenly!" The local restaurant adds their own twist

to common brunch foods. Huthsing had pancakes with pulled pork on top with biscuits and gravy, he added, "They serve fancier food, it's not just your everyday breakfast." The Bruncheonette also utilizes many other local businesses including: Redings Mill Bread, Gibsons Farm, and Fredrickson Farms. By supporting other businesses in the area The Bruncheonette is

The Bruncheonette
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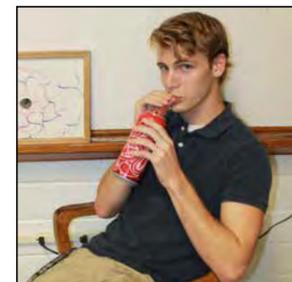
Why the pages are better than the picture

By Jake Freitas

Why turn on the television when there is a perfectly good book waiting to be opened? Starting a new chapter of an unknown story that will unfold through the medium of words is far superior to merely flipping channels or pressing play. I have rarely seen a book-adapted movie and been fully satisfied. There is always something that leaves me liking the paperback sitting on my bookshelf more.

One of the many reasons I love books so much is that they use the reader's imagination. The way I see a character in a story will be different from the way my friends see them. The book allows my imagination to take what the author described and just go wild. When I watch a book-adapted movie, everything I imagined is gone. The movie isn't portraying a certain scene the way I pictured it, or the actor doesn't look like the character in my head. Some people might welcome this assumption of how their favorite character should look, but I do not.

A book's pace doesn't have to be as tight as a movie's. The standard movie length is two hours. It would be nearly impossible to include the amount of detail a book has in a two hour period. Books also have a higher cost to enjoyment ratio. I'd rather take twenty hours to read a book I love, than spend two hours watching a movie I love.



Books have to have a strong, fast hook. If I go to see a movie and it isn't very good I'll still stay and watch the whole thing. If I start reading a book and I'm not drawn in I'll put it down and get another one. For a book to be successful it has to have an interesting start, while movies can take twenty minutes before the viewer is invested. Watching a movie doesn't have the same educational benefits as reading. Out-of-school reading habits of students has shown that even fifteen minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than a million words of text in a year. Reading improves concentration, focus, and analytical thinking. Reading can also improve emotional health. A 2009 study found that reading for just six minutes can reduce stress levels up to 68%. The University of Buffalo conducted

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McAuley starts the year with a new tradition

By Brian Guthery

On September 7, the McAuley Senior class painted the parking lot in each of their parking places. The seniors were given the second half of the day to bring the parking lot to life. The seniors painted in a wide variety of designs and colors, but always keeping one thing mostly the same. They made sure to put class of 2017 on most of the

painted parking spots.

The idea began at the end of the 2015-2016-school year, when, at that time, Junior William Motazadi brought up the idea in a student council meeting with principal, Gene Koester. At the beginning, the idea was just a random thought, but after some discussion, it began to take shape. With the planning finished, all that

was to happen next was wait until the beginning of the next school year.

As the new school year began, the sale of the senior parking spots was announced. Starting August 29, the parking spot auction was opened and began receiving bids. The executive student council led the typical style auction. Senior Sean Fogarty said, "It was fun to

bid for the parking spots. It was good to see some people get bid up for the spots they really wanted."

After the auction finished, the seniors had to wait until September 7, to express their ideas through art, onto an asphalt canvas. When the time came to paint, all the seniors who had bought parking spots were ready. They then filled the

next three hours with a paint roller and creativity. Fogarty said, "It was a blast because you got to see what everyone else painted."

The executive student council created a surprise for Koester as well. They arranged a plan to paint a design that would represent Koester. They decided to paint a large hand, with handprints from all of the seniors, to represent all of the high-fives, Koester gives to his students. Executive student council president Jake Freitas said, "I was really excited to paint Koester's spot. He [Koester] told the executive officers only a few days beforehand that they could surprise him if they had the time. I came up with the idea and we painted it after we all finished."

The entire plan went exactly as it was written. The seniors painted, and the underclassmen got the privilege to see the parking spots take shape. Freitas said, "We had a large amount of participation and all the parking spots look fantastic. It really shows our school pride and spirit." The whole senior class hopes that they started a tradition for all the seniors in years to come. Freitas said, "I really hope it becomes a tradition."



Times/Pinjuv
Senior Lawrence Asistido painted his parking spot based on the Monopoly board game's "Free Parking" space. Asistido, along with other members of the senior class, spent their afternoon personalizing their parking spots. They will have the spots reserved for the entirety of the year after purchasing them in an auction.

McAuley's first club fair

By Annelise Pinjuv

On September 1, 2016 McAuley hosted its first ever club fair. Members of sports teams, science and math clubs, and even Future Business Leaders of America came together to show off awards and achievements in hopes of gaining new people.

Chloe Kenkel is very involved in extracurricular activities at McAuley. She is a cheerleader, a softball player, and a powerlifter. She is a co-leader of campus ministry and a member of FBLA. Kenkel said she enjoyed being part of the club fair "because it was a great way to get the word

out about all the organizations that we have. For example, last year we had five members in campus ministry. This year, 25 people signed up. So I would say it was pretty successful."

Jake Freitas is the executive student council president, captain of the powerlift-

ing team, and a member of FBLA. Freitas stated that "My favorite booth was the Spanish Honors Society booth because Mr. Spry brought a lot of interesting artifacts. The most successful booth was the FBLA booth with a total of 80 membership signups."

Although this was the first time McAuley held a fair, Freitas is confident it will not be the last: "I can see McAuley doing another club fair, and I would love if this became tradition because it allows all the students to get a visual of the massive amounts of opportunities at

A suspenseful summer movie

By Brian Guthery

Over the course of this past summer, there have been many blockbuster films that have been released. Movies such as Marvel's *Suicide Squad*, Marvel's *X-Men Apocalypse*, and Disney's *The Legend of Tarzan*. It was a wonderful time for the movie industry during the summer. That's why a lower budget film starring Dave Franco and Emma Roberts was quite successful.

At the beginning of summer, I went and saw Disney's *Jungle Book*, and was riveted by one of the trailers that came on before the movie started. The trailer had high intensity and ended with a question "Player or Watcher?" It deeply intrigued me and so I waited for it to be released. Although I didn't see opening it night I heard through the social media world, how good *Nerve* was. Then I knew I had to see it.

When I got the opportunity to see it, I was flabbergasted. The film planted me deep into the movie theater seat and glued my eyes to the silver screen. *Nerve* was a semi-slow starting, high energy, and suspense filled movie. I felt like I was one of the "Watchers" just along for the ride as Vee (Roberts) and Ian (Franco)



tested their nerves and jangled mine. At the start of the film, a sense of urgency was lacking and the movie more felt like a video log styled movie, instead of a normal suspense orientated film. The opening scene left me guessing about the movie and if it would even be bearable to watch. As the movie gained depth and became more involved, its pace quickened. The movie seemed to have a heartbeat, as stress built up in certain scenes, or raced with anxiety. I often wondered how were they able to reach sixty miles per hour on a motorcycle, in the middle of New York City, while the driver was blind folded.

Summer movie
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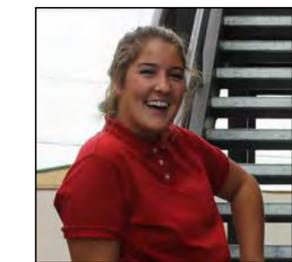
Frank Ocean's Blonde

By Annelise Pinjuv

We all loved Frank Ocean's debut album, *Channel Orange*, hearing bits and pieces of "Thinkin Bout You" every day in the hallway. However, for four years no one had anything new and catchy to sing by the infamous and mysterious Ocean. Finally, after four years of silence, our prayers were answered with the release of *Blonde*.

Due to this album being several years delayed, many assumptions, (or should I say expectations), were made before the release. With these expectations, many were upset with *Blonde*'s content, saying it was unsatisfying. Ocean's 2016 album has a completely different feel from his 2012 album, which is to be expected because four years is a long gap of time in someone's life. It is evident that it gave Ocean plenty of time to evolve his music style.

Blonde can be taken and interpreted in many different ways to many different people, but for most it is an album lacking your ordinary drum, bass, and guitar, and some songs even lack all three. The anatomy of his songs on this album include soft keyboard and swaying electronic



instrumentals. Some even see the music as boring, but placing Ocean's messages of everyday life and struggles over soft, empowering, simple harmonies makes his words all the more meaningful. His songs range in meaning, from political struggles, to dating, to working to get where he is, to a voicemail from his mother telling him to be himself. "Be Yourself" is the fourth song on the album. Technically, it is not even a song, but a voicemail from his mother. This track is significant in many ways, one being Frank had enough courage and trust in his fanbase to make an entire track just

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Summer Movie

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 During that particular scene the main characters get their first taste of near death. As they reached the end of the scene, Vee and Ian were jubilated with what they had accomplished. It showed more human elements when they kissed and the movie slowed down for a bit. This is when I began to realize this movie isn't just an intense, suspense, and energy filled spectacle. It feels as well, just like a heart. It opens up and starts filling with love.

Just as any other good movie, *Nerve* holds a plot twist inside it. Just as I began to feel that Vee and Ian were starting to bond really well. Ian's past comes back in a big way to bite him. As soon

as Vee finds out she goes to the police for help, but unfortunately that makes everything worse. This throws the whole movie into slight chaos and when the movie reaches its chaotic end, we are left with another plot twist.

Although I am unwilling to spoil the movie, I will admit that the movie ends well and does not leave on a cliffhanger. *Nerve* is one of the best movies I have seen this summer and I do believe it should be classified as a summer blockbuster even though it was not promoted or endorsed as much as one of the aforementioned. *Nerve* was brilliant and I am pleased to say that it won me over, as I am sure it will win over any other moviegoer.

Blonde

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 a voicemail: no music, no singing. Secondly, the words in this voicemail are inexplicably wise and straightforward. "Listen, stop trying to be someone else. Don't try to be somebody else. Be yourself and know that's good enough... Rely and trust upon your own decisions." Whether she is actually Ocean's mother, no one really knows; but to make an entire one minute and six second portion of his album a woman speaking about being yourself and fighting addiction is nonetheless extremely noteworthy. Ocean has other songs on his album explaining his love life, like many other artists. But a differentiating factor from other people's songs about love and Frank's is he leaves many of his messages up to imagination. This song is seen as a sequel to the song "White" on his first album. "Just the same way you showed me... It's the same way you showed me. Nod my head don't close my eyes." Even though his songs seem to have a broad message, it still shines through, it just

shines differently to different people. For me, he is describing how he needs to accept things he cannot change in this world. His love for this person taught him that things happen, and sometimes when you reach a peak of happiness, you realize that at some point it will come to an inevitable end.

Ocean's new album, despite all criticism, is one that will be remembered. His buildup of anticipation and suspense felt by his fans is what made *Blonde* successful. It is the third largest debut album of 2016 and will be at number one on the Billboard's Top Music Chart on September 10th.

As a listener of many different genres of music, Ocean has many different styles to offer on this album. His real life struggles shine through his music making it relatable.

Ocean's new album, despite all criticism, is one that will be remembered. For me, this album is a major breakthrough in not only Frank's music, but music in general. It's a thought provoking album that is easily enjoyed.

What's happening in Joplin

10/1- Roswitha's Schnitzelbank Oktoberfest

10/6- First Thursday Artwalk

10/8- 2016 Maple Leaf Bicycle Tours

10/20- Third Thursday

Brunchonette

Continued from page 7
 keeping the money they are spending local which helps in the building of a stronger local economy. Studies show that local independent merchants create a

multiplier effect in the local economy of three to three and half times that of a chain outlet. Also by creating a local business the Flanagans are creating a diverse community in Joplin.

The Flanagans have no desire to leave Joplin. S. Flanagan commented, "Our long term goal at this point is simply to continue to make a living, keep food in our kids mouths, and keep having fun."

Club Fair

Continued from page 6
 our school."

Mrs. Walker, the business teacher at McAuley, ran the FBLA booth at McAuley's first annual club fair. "I think it was, I think it was a good way to let students see what we have to offer." Because this was the first year, the students and faculty are still

working on the best way to present each club. Walker felt that the event was pretty well executed. "I don't know that I would do anything differently. If anything, maybe give a spokesperson from each club the opportunity to address the student body as a whole, give a brief description of the club to all students, and then the students could go to each

individual table to sign up."

Overall, students felt that it was a great success because of all the effort put forth by members of clubs, teachers, and sponsors of clubs. Most everyone had agreed that it is a great way to get the message of the different types of organizations McAuley has to offer.

Pages vs. pictures

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 ed a study and found that through reading you're able to conceive the idea of other possibilities, and a life beyond your own which helps you to empathize with other people and connect with dif-

ferent cultures. Sadly, the amount of recreational reading declines as we get older. 53% of nine year olds read for fun every day, but only 19% of seventeen year olds do. For one to not read a book means they are closing a door on an

opportunity to expand their education. Movies should not take precedence over books just because they are more detailed or interesting, but because reading a good book is one of the easiest ways to learn and extend our education beyond the classroom.

Confluence

Continued from page 7
 arise if the bill was passed would deal with water. The increase in water that would have to be used in the hotel and restaurants would mean less of it could be used for the actual animals and plants in the ecosystem that rely on it to survive. The constant stream of tourists in the canyon could also result in the quick wearing down and ruin of the natural canyon rock.

I visited the Grand Canyon in the summer of 2014, and the beauty of the vast expanse of the canyon left

me speechless and in awe. The canyon is incredible all on its own, and tourists can still enjoy its beauty from the Northern and Southern rims, or by hiking or riding a pack mule to the canyon floor.

When Theodore Roosevelt officially made the Grand Canyon a national park he stated, "Do nothing to mar its grandeur...Keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see." This is what it all comes down to. Our national parks

were created to be cared for, cherished, and protected, not only for current generations, but for future generations too. As citizens who have the opportunity to travel to national parks and admire our beautiful country, it is our job to keep preserved land as preserved as possible. The reality is that once the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon is gone, it's gone forever, and future generations deserve to visit it and be left as speechless as I was when I first saw the magnificence that is the Grand Canyon National Park.



Pictures from front page (left to right):
 At Newbies Day, David Green catches a water balloon. After a exhilarating battle, Emily Freitas triumphs over cousin Jake Freitas. Isabella Bertincino sets a volleyball over the net during the Mercy Day tournament.

(Top) From left to right: Miles Shelfer, Olivia Powel, and William Motazed enact "Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil."
 (Right) Freshmen and Seniors pose for a group picture at Newbies Day.

