



THE RISING TIDE

Is It Nice? Is It True? Cyberwords Are Forever

By Ansley Zdonek

Until recently, the stereotypical bully was big, muscular, and would push little kids up against their lockers and steal their lunch money. Now, bullies come in all shapes and sizes. They hide behind keyboards and screens. Instead of using force to get what they want, they simply type away, sending hurtful messages, lies, and malicious gossip. These are cyberbullies. As social media grows, this new and frightening trend of cyberbullying has increased significantly. The Bureau of Justice reports that fifty-two percent of teens have reported being cyberbullied. Cyberbullying is defined as when a message that is meant to hurt or embarrass a person is sent electronically or posted on a website.

You may think you are safe from cyberbullying, but many people, even inside UHC, have been affected. One UHC student has endured severe cyberbullying from her sports team. From the outside, one would never know that she has had to put up with cruel emails, aggravating text messages, and upsetting Instagram comments. All of this started rather innocently several years ago with a few group emails.

These emails circulated through a small group of girls on the team. At first they were friendly, but they began to gain a biting tone, according to the affected student. Some of the emails criticized helpers and parents who worked with the girls at practice and competitions. Alarmed at the things being said, this student sent out a message telling her friend that she no longer wanted to be a part of their email loop if they were going to criticize people. This action was met with a lot of

resistance from the other girls. According to the student, the others on the team began ignoring her after she asked to be removed from the critical emails. By taking herself out of this loop, she was able to escape from some of the drama, at least until about a year ago when she got her first cellphone.

Almost immediately after she got the phone, her number was added to a group text, and she began to receive messages from her teammates again. Being part of this group text allowed her to watch others' conversations without being a part of them. She was appalled at what they were saying. They were ripping apart other athletes, girls at their school, and anyone who came to mind. Many times she would come back from competitions with as many as 100 messages on her phone. She began to take screenshots of all the messages.

When she got an Instagram account, things got even worse. As this student became more and more successful in her sport, according to her mother, the team began to get jealous of the pictures the student was posting of herself with other talented athletes in her field. Some teammates would take screenshots of the student's posts and send them around and make fun of them.

Trying to prevent this behavior, the student blocked all the girls from accessing her Instagram posts. "It's a shame they act this way. They have so much talent," the student's mom stated. She acknowledged that, while jealousy may have been the original cause, the girls' having access to each other 24/7 seemed to make the problem worse. The student's mother believes that with cell phones constantly enabling people to be in touch with one

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TWIN DAY!

UHC students Morgan Addis, Jacob Alexander and Bethany Barton show off matching shoes. "Twins" Katie Weaver and Natalie Walker as well as Elizabeth Davis and Amanda Boone had fun wearing matching shirts!



What Do UHC Students Do Outside of Class? Manga and Hunting, of Course!



Abigail Keating, 16, was chosen as "Teen Artist of the Month" by the Spartanburg Library's Teen Program. Eight pieces of her artwork, including this one, were displayed in the library during the month of October.



UHC student Brentley Williams, 17, shot this seven-point buck with a 30-06 rifle from her tree stand on Oct. 27 about 8:15 a.m. near Edgewood, South Carolina. The deer weighed 176 pounds.

UHC's Founding Mother: Suzanne Brown



By Sarah Zdanowski

One cannot go very long in this co-op without hearing the name "Suzanne Brown." Being the founder and director, Brown is at the very core of this co-op. In 1997, Upstate Homeschool Co-op was a little cluster of five families meeting weekly at Mrs. Brown's house to help each other in homeschooling. That group eventually grew until the crowd couldn't fit in one house anymore! They started meeting at a church called

Mitchell Road Presbyterian, and after a couple of years, Mrs. Brown established a board and employed an attorney to help with legalizing the co-op as a tax-exempt organization. Currently, the board members are Derek Turner, Chairman Paul Clark, Secretary Matt Williams, and Mark Pitman.

Today, after being at five locations, the co-op is currently settled at Taylors First Baptist Church, and the co-op has grown from 19 children to over 400! "God's vision was much bigger than mine," Mrs. Brown said with a smile. But sharing a church building does not come without its bumps and bruises along the way, including senior pranks and pennies being glued to the floor in 2009 at Greer First Baptist! Mrs. Brown commented that there are some other interesting

things that have happened at school, but those things are best kept inside her memory! She says, "I can tell you we have had knees through walls, an occasional fight (I know...shocking!), and a student who clotheslined himself on a dumpster playing Frisbee in the parking lot--he lived to tell about it!"

What does Mrs. Brown's job entail? On a day-to-day basis, she is involved in lots of scheduling and planning ahead of time, working through parental situations, management and oversight, and maintaining things, even starting to plan the next co-op year in November! Many decisions need to be made for all of the 90+ classes to be in place. Mrs. Brown, the staff, and the board will be making a budget in a few weeks for the next school year as well. But she also loves being in the classroom and helping children. She says, "One of my greatest delights is working with developing young leaders. I like to see them try ideas, make mistakes, or have great successes and learn from them. Leaders come in all types of people—some quiet and some outgoing."

Mrs. Brown said that the best thing that has happened is being able to add more families and share churches. When asked how the co-op has changed, she replied that it is more organized, which allows more "wiggle room" for creativity and fun to thrive. "There's safety in structure..." she commented. With boundaries in place, people can make decisions within certain parameters and have fun! Brown says that this kind of freedom works well for people who are self-motivated and who understand how their actions affect other people.

Organization would not be possible without our dedicated staff, teachers, and hard-working parents who put in more than 6,000 volunteer hours, helping everything run smoothly. Overall, Mrs. Brown is a very important part of our co-op and God has greatly used her and will continue to use her in the future!

Servant Leaders: UHC's Student Government

By Emily Boone

Perhaps as you walked into co-op on Sept. 9 and 16, you saw several students wearing red t-shirts and nametags. Or perhaps you went to Field Day and saw students in charge of the games. Maybe you participated in UHC's See You at the Pole event. But did you ever stop to think who planned and organized these events? The co-op's Student Government was in charge of these events and is in charge of many others.

Student Government is composed of service event coordinators, student activity coordinators, grade representatives, a secretary, a vice president, and a president, which makes a total of eighteen students, plus an adult advisor. My name is Emily Boone, and I am an eleventh grade representative. Student Government is in charge of activities ranging from Field Day to Homecoming to the Junior/Senior Formal and even Theme Days. We also help with Open House and the Talent Show. Throughout the year, we will assist with whatever Mrs. Brown or Mrs. Hutcheson need us to do. Our purpose is to support and unify the different branches of co-op through servant leadership.

President Makayla Springsteen has been part of Student Government since its beginning in 2011. When asked why she applied for Student Government, she responded, "I felt like leadership was one of the spiritual gifts God has given me and [I] wanted to be able to use it to help others." She went on to say, "The most challenging thing for me is to lead without being overpowering. Leadership is one of my strongest characteristics/gifts, but it can also be my greatest weakness if I can't keep it under control." For Makayla, being on Student Government is like taking an additional class. She spends an hour or more each day working on things for Student Government. In her words, "The more I put into it, the more I see events succeed."

So maybe now you are thinking, "*Student Government sounds like it might be fun.*" Makayla says, "Try it! You never know what you might learn or whom you might become friends with. Plus,

you get to give your opinion on planning events." Brentley Williams, another eleventh grade representative, declares, "It's a lot of fun, and we love lots of ideas!"

The first step is to submit an application. Vice President Ashlee Vanasse says that student government is a place for "every kind of person." She says it is important to know what kind of leader you are—whether it's a "behind-the-scenes" leader or an out-in-front leader. According to Ashlee, the student government needs people with all types of skills and gifts to bring creativity and ideas to the co-op.

Mrs. Hutcheson says, "We are looking for integrity, a desire to serve and lead, a teachable spirit, and a friendly attitude that is interested in reaching out to those who are not already in their circle of friends... Students who apply need to want to work for the good of the co-op and be willing to do jobs that are not always fun or out in



The entire UHC student government is pictured here with their advisor, UHC director Suzanne Brown (on far right). Makayla Springsteen (3rd from left, second row) is the Student Body President. Ashlee Vanasse (2nd from left, front row) is the Student Body Vice President.



Lights... Camera ...Reptiles! Pierce Curren wiggles his way into TV show

by William Barton

In 1958, Clifford H. Pope once said, "Snakes are first cowards, then bluffers, and last of all warriors." Pierce Curren gets to see this docile side of snakes almost every day, and not only does he observe them from afar, but he gets up close and personal, even going as far as handling them.

Pierce Curren is a 12-year-old UHC student who went from expressing his love of reptiles to his family to sharing it with thousands of viewers on his own TV show called *Scaly Adventures*. He started the TV show about one year ago, getting the inspiration from when his dad found a red belly snake and cared for it for a year. Pierce and his dad went to a big conference called Repticon, where Pierce thought "I can do better," and as the saying goes, "The rest is history." The idea of a TV show came from both Pierce and his parents. He started to do birthday parties to earn enough money to care for the animals. Another reason why the family decided to start the TV program is because, according to Tanya Curren (Pierce Curren's mom), "We were sick and tired of what we saw on TV."

Before the Currens even started TV programming, Pierce's dad (Richard) had to read piles of books about how to start your own TV program. Once he finished immersing

himself in the books, he converted an old bedroom into a multipurpose, soundproof studio. After that, it was just a matter of filling the room with lively characters. The Kentucky Reptile Zoo pitched in to contribute animals to the cause.

During the show, Pierce and Co. encourage and empower families to follow God's leading. The Christian aspect is very subtle since most of the reptile experts are trained in evolutionary concepts. The producers decided to let Pierce have the TV show because they saw his passion in wanting to share with people about how much he cares for God's slithering, scaly, speedy creatures. The Currens filmed 14 episodes for \$5000, despite other sources saying that they would need \$20,000 for one episode. A typical program includes snake handling how-to's for venomous and non-venomous varieties. Previous episodes include, but are not limited to, shark fishing, venom lab-milking cobras (the cobra venom is used for breast cancer research, diabetes, etc. as well as anti-venom), and behind the scenes with penguins and Cinder the python.

When asked if he owned any venomous snakes, Pierce declared, "The day I move out is the day I buy a venomous snake." Most of the filming for *Scaly Adventures*

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front of everyone. Often times the jobs these students do are an inconvenience for them, but they do it because of a deep desire to serve others..." Mrs. Brown adds that students have to be able to do the hard things when no one is looking. "We are not looking for people who are perfect, because we all make mistakes, but there are students who are characterized in their day-to-day interactions with others by the qualities I've listed."

Ashlee pointed out that, while a traditional high school student government may be something of a "popularity contest," the co-op's method of selection allows the teachers and administrators who really know and care about the student applicants to place each one in a position where he or she will grow and succeed. The application requires the potential member to state his or vision for the co-op as well as to list personal strengths and weaknesses and to have two letters of recommendation from teachers. Ashlee says that the co-op administrators look at the whole student and his or her commitment to co-op, not just grades.

Ashlee adds that, on the practical side, freshmen and sophomore representatives can expect to spend anywhere from 2-3 hours every few weeks on student government activities, while junior and senior leaders may spend 4-5 hours EVERY week. So, before you consider applying, be sure you have enough time to give to it during the week—even if it means doing some things outside of co-op.

I, Emily, have enjoyed the brief time I have been on Student Government so far. I have made friends with students I normally would not interact with. The Student Government meeting we had all day in August was full of laughter, fun, and fellowship. Running the Three-Legged Race at Field Day with Braden Lancaster was a blast. Helping Ashlee Vanasse and Brentley Williams plan the co-op's See You at the Pole event was eye opening, as I got to see how much planning goes into something I have just taken for granted.

As members of Student Government, we do not do what we do for our own personal recognition. Our main goal is to glorify God through the way we lead in serving others right where God has placed us. We hope this desire shows in all our actions as UHC's Student Government.

UHC Adds New Senior To Class of 2013!

By Jacob Alexander

We have a new student at UHC this year: senior Josiah Miller. He says he's enjoying his year so far. He was home schooled before he came to co-op. Josiah said the atmosphere in the co-op is "all right." He said it was nice to have already known several students here before he came. When asked if there was anything he did not like about the co-op, he said there was too much homework. Another thing Josiah disliked about the co-op is the fact that you cannot drive anywhere during lunchtime. Josiah is taking both SAT Prep and U.S. Government, and his favorite is his Government class.



Lights... Camera ...Reptiles!, cont. from p.3

episodes is in southeastern USA, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Pierce not only handles snakes, but also lizards, iguanas, crabs, hedgehogs, and birds. When he grows older, Pierce said he “wants to go around educating as many people as I can about these animals.” Pierce stated that his favorite “actor” is his pet snake Goliath because he doesn’t say much and “doesn’t steal the show.”

Scaly Adventures isn’t always fun and roses. Pierce said he’s been bitten on every part of his arms and face. He was also bitten by a Nicaraguan python. Balancing school and the TV show has also been a difficulty. Depending on the episode, Pierce is usually on the road and therefore has to do most of his work in a car. He spends an average of one to two days per week doing schoolwork at his house. Pierce owns separate cages for each animal and feeds them about every one to two days because their digestive process lasts a while. On the feeding days, it usually takes him about two to three hours. Pierce also cleans the cages, which is an all-day process. In addition, the snakes do paintings where they slither across a canvas with their bodies covered in paint. The Currens are currently enjoying educating a fifth grade class in Virginia via Skype.

Scaly Adventures is being translated into six major Indian languages, Ukrainian, and Russian, and it will be broadcasted in every country in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the islands of the North Pacific. Russia was the first nation to accept and support the Currens’ broadcast. The show will be broadcast on four satellites and over 400 cable networks through the CNL network. According to the *Scaly Adventures* website, the show has the potential of reaching over two billion viewers worldwide. The show is fan-based and needs merchandising. The Currens also appreciate your prayers as they try to reach the lost through their program. Tanya Curren summarizes the passion and motivation of *Scaly Adventures* in these words: “If God puts something in your heart, we encourage you to go for it.”

Scaly Adventures airs every Saturday at 12:30 pm on the Daystar channel. For complete network listings, visit www.ScalyAdventures.com.



Canes Volleyball Spikes the Competition for the State Championship

By Jacob Deane

The Hurricanes varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams won their home school state championships. The varsity volleyball team played the Augusta Eagles in their championship game. One of the varsity players, Ansley Zdonek, said, “They were the friendliest, sweetest team we have ever played”. This was Lauren Rodriguez’s first year coaching at UHC.

The junior varsity also had a championship victory this year, beating the Easley Guardians 15-13 in the final match. They played the Guardians in three games to win the championship. The head coach for the junior varsity team was Kelly Aho. The team accomplished this victory with only 9 players all season.

Cyberwords Are Forever, cont. from p.1

another, there is no time to stop and think about what someone is saying or how those words may affect someone else’s life.

Many students don’t think much about cyberbullying, but in a poll by i-SAFE, Inc., fifty-three percent of teens admitted to having said something bad about a person behind his or her back. Rumors spread the way all information does today: through the internet, texting, chatting online, and posting on social media.

With all these worries about cyberbullying, how can you prevent it? First, say something to a teacher, parent, or other caring adult: they know how to handle bullies. Second, one of the many things you can do to stop cyberbullying is to block the bully and therefore stop receiving all those unwanted messages. Third, if you do receive a hurtful message, save it; it can be used as evidence of being bullied.

Bottom line: the best way to stop people being bullied online is to stop bullying people online. That may sound repetitive, but if you want to stop cyberbullying, the best thing to do is to stop saying bad things about people online. Before you post anything, stop and think about what you’re saying. Is it true? Would it hurt someone? Even if it is true, would the person want everyone to know what you’re about to say? Before you post, text, or email, think of how the things you’re saying would affect the people around you. Help put a stop to cyberbullying, one text at a time.

MUSIC REVIEW

THIRD DAY: GIVING HOPE THROUGH MUSIC

By Jacob Alexander

Arguably the most successful Christian rock band of the 21st century, Third Day began in the early 1990’s in Marietta, Georgia. Influenced by the southern rock sound of Lynyrd Skynyrd and other artists such as U2 and Rich Mullins, Third Day’s music has transcended that of their predecessors. The band has earned 3 Grammys, 27 No. 1 singles and has sold over 7 million albums worldwide.

So what makes Third Day so successful? Why have they succeeded in the Christian music world when some other bands have not? The answer is simple: the raw, in-your-face truth of Third Day’s music.

Lead singer Mac Powell’s gritty, yet powerful vocals deliver inspiring and moving lyrics that will transform your life.

Third Day has clearly overcome the strenuous climb from ambiguity to worldwide fame, but the band is hardly suffering from smugness or complacency. “Our career is like a dream I didn’t even know I had,” drummer David Carr says. “It’s gone beyond anything I could have dreamed of.”

On their eleventh album, *Revelation*, they show that they are in fact a band with an abundance of depth, passion, and hope. The band has said multiple times that they believe their mission in music is to bring hope to those who have none. And they have. Their music has impacted people’s lives all around the country and the world.

Third Day is one of those Christian bands who make good music. Some Christian rock bands today are unfortunately focused on the lyrics of a song, rather than the music. Third Day writes inspiring lyrics accompanied by powerful and moving music. That is one of the many things that make this band unique, and, as *Billboard* magazine noted, the band is, “not only one of the best Christian bands but one of the best rock bands, period.”

Enough said.



UHC Freshmen Speak Up About Transition to High School

By Taylor Stevens

Anyone who has been through high school understands the difficult transition from middle school to high school. Anyone who hasn't is probably nervous and wondering what they need to prepare for the experience. Luckily, no one knows about the change better than freshmen themselves. What is expected from you in high school? How do you prepare? What are the biggest changes? These are a few of the questions that this article can answer for you.

"The biggest change between high school and middle school is mainly the amount of work," says William Barton. "The level of high school work is definitely harder and it requires a different thought process and understanding. The work also requires a whole lot more responsibility, time and maturity."

Catherine Lynch says, "High school is a lot...different from what I expected. There is a lot more homework and more responsibility." The intensity of homework isn't something to be afraid of, however. If you can develop good studying and time management skills, everything will run a lot smoother. As Catherine puts it, "Just...manage your time well, and be prepared to work hard for your grades. ...Just enjoy it [and] don't wish it away, 'cause high school is fun!"

Another big transition from middle school into high school is the number of days you must attend co-op. Instead of going to co-op only on Mondays, as elementary and middle school students do, high school students are required to attend on Wednesdays as well. When asked how he feels about this, Jacob Deane responded, "I think it's good. There [is] a good amount of things to learn in two days." However, William feels differently about the situation. "Having co-op only two days a week is okay, but not great. The Monday to Wednesday schedule is very crammed. Some advice I would give to students is to [not] be lazy with assignments and wait until the last minute to get work done." Again, time management is the key to success when it comes to high school.

All in all, if you are adequately prepared, the transition from middle school to high school isn't a big deal. An extra piece of advice from Braden Lancaster is, "Make sure you do your homework on time!" Another great tip comes from William, who says, "[E]xpect a lot more tests and lab reports. Get used to typing with both of your hands and keep practicing because most of your assignments will require typing. Also, get used to MLA format." Finally, the most important piece of advice comes from Jacob Deane, who plainly puts it, "Don't fail."

UHC Hurricanes Add Baseball to the Lineup

By Jeremiah Deane

Coming soon to a co-op near you: baseball! Robert Yasi, who is currently the JV boys basketball coach for the Hurricanes, is going to be the head coach of the new baseball team. Mr. Yasi will have two assistant coaches working with him. He says he will also have several friends who have coached at the college level come in and help with the team.

Mr. Yasi has been coaching baseball for years and knows the game well. He says his goal for this new baseball team is to create a lineup with experienced and non-experienced players so that the team can play competitively but also learn lessons along the way.

As far as tryouts go, Mr. Yasi says he has no intentions to cut anyone who tries out unless there are way more players than he is anticipating. There are currently no specific dates for tryouts because of how far away the upcoming season is. Mr. Yasi, when asked about his plans as coach, said, "I plan to focus on knowing that everyone who makes the team learns and educates themselves more in the game of baseball, and try and win games along the way."

Overall, the future is bright for the upcoming baseball team.



New UHC Logo!

By Felicity Ropp

Did you notice a new logo on our newspaper's masthead?

This year, UHC acquired a new logo. Co-op director Suzanne Brown says she believes that the new design more accurately represents where UHC is as an organization.

The revised logo was created by Mr. Kevin Keigley of Bottlecap Creative House, who has children in the co-op and is a graphic designer by trade.

It will be used on t-shirts, letterheads, yearbooks, and anywhere the co-op needs its name represented. Expect to see it soon.

BOOK REVIEW

The Hunger Games: A Christian Family Debate

By Aleina Griffin

Since the first *Hunger Games* book by Suzanne Collins in 2008, there has been debate over whether or not these books are appropriate reading material for kids as young as 13.

The Hunger Games trilogy is set in futuristic North America, where a revolution has divided the continent into 12 districts and one Capitol, which make up the country of Panem. To ensure that the districts never rebel against the Capitol, the leaders of Panem have created a threatening "game": the Hunger Games. Two names are drawn from a huge glass bowl, selecting one girl and one boy to be trained by mentors to fight for their district against other "tributes" for the Capitol's entertainment in a kill-or-be-killed battle.

The debate among Christian families tends to fall into one of two camps:

View 1: "I never want to read or see that gruesome, nasty, kids-killing-kids book."

View 2: "It's not that violent! It's not about the violence: it's about the people rebelling against the Capitol and overthrowing the Hunger Games!"

I've heard both sides—and neither is completely true. This award-winning trilogy is not all about the gore, but rather about Katniss's self-sacrifice for her little sister. Katniss volunteers as tribute in her sister's place. As we deepen into the story, there are many sacrifices made.

There is a fairly happy ending to this trilogy, but, in the end, we fear that the totalitarian government of Panem has just been replaced by another, under the guise of democracy. Children are still killed, and a "compromise" by the victorious rebels to prevent more death is to send the Capitol's children to fight to the death once more. A possible reason why so many are drawn and addicted to the nail-biting action and theme of *The Hunger Games* is that perhaps everyone is waiting for a Redeemer. This is something *The Hunger Games* lacks, although it has pointed out that it is morally wrong to kill for any reason. There are actually many great parallels to the Bible and the early church, including the Roman persecution of the early Christians—whether these parallels were intentional or not.

Even though *The Hunger Games* is not the best family series ever produced, reading it as a family can generate great discussion. The greatest message of all is of redemption of our Savior, which is notably absent in the series. All in all, for the families who choose to read this series, there are several deep and important topics worth debating contained in these pages!

UHC Students Get a Jumpstart on College

By Hunter Bohon

Many UHC high school students are getting a head start on their college by enrolling in dual credit classes at colleges such as North Greenville University. According to North Greenville University's website, dual enrollment allows you to receive a college credit for a class you complete at the university during your high school years. You are also allowed to attend events on campus such as athletic events, concerts, the university library, etc. At NGU, in order to participate in the college's dual enrollment program, you must be a junior or senior over the age of 16. You can take any two classes as long as they are from level 1000-2000 and you have met the prerequisites to the class. As of now, the price for taking one of the classes, not including the price of textbooks, is 100 dollars per class. However, that price will soon be changing. In the near future, the cost will go up to 300 dollars per class. If you are planning on going to college at North Greenville University, that will be no problem for you, since students enrolled at the college will receive 200 dollars of the money back through a scholarship, which will be granted for every three-hour course taken.

The opinions of UHC students who are dual enrolled at NGU differ greatly. When asked about the difficulty of the classes at NGU compared to UHC, Lydia Simpson, who is taking Spanish at the college, replied, "It depends on the professor; mine is easy. She doesn't give any homework."

After being asked the same question, Hannah Phillips, also taking Spanish, replied, "Well, so far it hasn't been incredibly easy, but

it hasn't been really hard. At NGU, they use a ten-point grading scale which is easier than our seven-point one."

Luke Holliday, who takes English and Spanish in the program said, "They are very challenging, but they give me a chance to make some college-level friends."

Graham Pitman, who also takes Spanish and English at NGU said, "It's different because the teachers don't really keep up with the work they tell you to do; they just expect you to have it done. There is more responsibility to take (on), because when classes are only two days a week, you control your own schedule. But in that way, dual credit classes are similar to co-op classes. Right now, the classes are pretty hard. There is a lot of work to keep up with and we move quickly, but if you do your homework and pay attention, a good grade is not too hard to get."

Hannah Phillips remarked that the biggest difference between the class she is taking at NGU and a high school class was that, "because the classes are only one semester, the material is gone through quicker than a normal high school class. For NGU, Spanish 1 and 2 uses the same book but only do half the book a semester unlike a high school class where you use the same book through the whole year."

If you would like more information about dual enrollment at North Greenville University then you can visit <http://www.ngu.edu/applying-for-dual-enrollment.php>.

The Griffith Family: Serving God in Nairobi, Kenya

By Maria Jutton

Short term mission trips can change lives. This happened to the Griffiths, a family who formerly attended UHC. Mrs. Rebecca Griffith was the elementary music teacher before the family left our co-op to go on the mission field. With their four children (Will, 15, Katie, 14, Ashley, 11, and Emily, 9), Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have been faithfully serving God in Nairobi, Kenya, with World Harvest Missions (WHM) for the last 5 months. It all started when Mr. Griffith and Will went on two short term mission trips in 2008 and 2011 to work with their friends George and Martha Mixon in Kenya. (The Mixons also attended UHC when home on furlough.) While there, they learned more about what WHM is doing in Kenya, which eventually led them to answer God's call to serve on the mission field.

Now in Kenya for at least five years, Mr. Griffith helps to disciple and equip church pastors and leaders in Chronological Bible Storying. Because 70% of the world is illiterate (unable to read their language), many people are oral learners, which means everything they learn comes through word of mouth. As Mrs. Griffith puts it, "Chronological Bible Storying is a tool by which we can tell the stories of the Bible in order, providing a foundation for faith, an avenue for these leaders to evangelize...and give them a format through which they can study other stories in the Bible".

If you have read any sort of news lately, you'll know that recently, terrorists attacked Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya. The Griffith family was not physically affected by this attack, although family friends were. "Katie...had a friend, Jaunita, who was caught up in the violence," Mrs. Griffith explains. "[She] was shot and wounded by the bullets, and her father was tragically killed. We know several other families who narrowly escaped." The Griffiths themselves were going to be at the mall that day, but God spared them by changing their plans. "Now that some time has gone by," says Mrs. Griffith, "we are more selective in where we go; we are more vigilant about what activities we attend. But most importantly we had to really take another hard look at our calling and be reminded of God's sovereignty; that He really IS in control."

In Kenya, the Griffiths miss their family, friends, and home church (Mitchell Road Presbyterian) in the USA. However, their church family in Kenya has been very welcoming, easing the transition into a different country with strange culture, customs, and food. "The strangest thing some of us have eaten so far is goat...some tribes will throw a whole, skinned goat into a giant pot, boil it, and serve it. All parts included!"

Keep the Griffiths and their team in your prayers as they serve in Nairobi, Kenya. They are certainly impacting their community,

despite the recent terrorist attack. A favorite Scripture passage of the Griffiths is 2 Corinthians 4: 8-9, and 16-18. Part of those verses reads, "We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we are not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken...So we're not giving up. How could we?"

One UHC Student's Football Season: Thanks to the Tebow Bill!

By Nick Shirdon

Many homeschooled kids like me have always wanted to play sports for public school teams. Now we can! Homeschoolers are now allowed to play for their zoned schools due to the "Tebow Bill".

The "Tebow Bill" was passed on August 19, 2012, and was signed by Governor Nikki Haley. The real name of this bill is the Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act. This bill allows homeschoolers to play sports for the public school they are zoned to attend.

I am one of those homeschoolers who has been able to play public school football because of this Act. I just finished the football season at Riverside High School. Playing football for Riverside was a lot of work, but a lot of fun. Playing for a large public high school has its perks: our team had its own trainers, weight rooms, top quality fields, a bus to ride to games, and really nice jerseys.

I began practice in January, which was five months before the start of the season. And I was pushed till I puked, literally. Then, I would run continuously for an hour, then go lift weights, and then run again. In public school leagues, there is a lot of competition to make the team and if you make it, it is very hard to play a lot in the games. In my season, I probably played the equivalent of one whole game out of our eight games.

I asked fellow UHC student, Samuel Hall, 17, how his experience playing for the Hurricanes' homeschool football team compared to my experience. He said, "The experience was very much like an public school experience. . . . [During practice, we] would run a lot and scrimmage a lot."

Overall, my first season with a public school team was fantastic. We went 6-2. If you want to play at a public school level, work as hard as you can. If you puke, the coaches will say, "STOP TAKING A BREAK! GET RUNNING! LET'S GO!" If you want to be a great football player on any team, never give up, and show them what homeschoolers are made of!

A Day in the Life of a UHC Student

By Jacob Alexander



It's Tuesday. You wake up and see that it's 8:45 am. You freak out. But then you remember that there's no co-op. So what do you do? Well, here's what Emma Blackwell does.

On a typical Tuesday, she wakes up and her day begins by eating Cinnamon Toast Crunch. After finishing breakfast and getting dressed, she does what the rest of us normally do (hopefully): homework. She starts with algebra, then moves on to physical science, Spanish, and grammar.

The next thing on her agenda is lunch, which is probably the most crucial task for anyone. It is the one thing that will carry you through each day. Emma's lunch is typically chicken and a banana, a very healthy choice.

After that, she practices piano and worship songs for her church. Emma has been playing piano for almost six years. One of her friends, Kristen Murrell, taught her.

Emma also sings at her church; she's a talented singer. Her favorite worship song is "How He Loves" by the David Crowder Band.

Next is computer time. This is set aside for YouTube, Facebook, and many other social media networks that you will slowly waste your life away on. (But try to use moderation, people.) After this, she listens to music, and then she goes outside for a

while. Sometimes she reads. Either way, once she finishes, she'll go back to practicing for worship. Once she's done with that, she eats dinner, and then spends quality time watching the best thing ever invented: Netflix.

SC State Treasurer Curtis Loftis Visits UHC!

By Maria Jutton

Curtis M. Loftis, South Carolina State Treasurer, visited UHC on Monday, November 11. The point of his visit was to speak to middle and high school students on financial literacy (money management). It was part of a three-week tour of schools in the Upstate. Mr. Loftis also donated 5 iPads with financial games on them to the co-op, to be used as it sees fit.

In his speech to UHC students, Mr. Loftis stated that most people have some amount of money that they have earned and a plan on how they will use it. Perhaps they are saving for a car, a child's college fund, or for a vacation. Mr. Loftis said that when people decide to start saving up some money, they need to find out how long it will take them to reach their goals. Rather than being daunted by the time it will take to save up money, Mr. Loftis suggests that a person should make a game out of the task, which will make the process more enjoyable and productive.

Curtis Loftis said that 67% of people in the United States do not know how to save money. If that fact is shocking, consider this: if a person spends just 10 hours learning about money management, he or she will know twice as much as an average college freshman. Speaking of college freshmen, Mr. Loftis also stated that 37% of them get in debt from credit cards. The reason for this is that many credit card companies send out credit card offers to freshmen.

Mr. Loftis educated the UHC students on the state's financial status. People may or may not know that South Carolina is a state with a balanced budget amendment. This means that it cannot spend more money than it makes, which is a useful system. South Carolina also has 456 checking accounts, 60 investment accounts, and a yearly budget of \$24 billion.

A unique thing about Mr. Loftis is that he puts his personal schedule online for anyone to see. Why? As Mr. Loftis said, "I work for [you]. Why shouldn't I tell you where I am?" He has also limited himself to two terms as State Treasurer, saying that, "Politicians stay in office too long." According to Mr. Loftis, the best part about his job is giving out unclaimed property. Unclaimed property is money that a person might have inherited unknowingly. Mr. Loftis helps to track down these people and give them their unclaimed property.

Mr. Loftis gave the UHC students some fun facts about money. 1- You can fold a dollar bill 4000 times before it tears. 2- \$1,000,000 in \$1 bills weighs 20lbs. 3- The largest bill in circulation is the \$100 bill. 4- The largest bill ever printed is the \$100,000 bill, but it is now out of circulation.

UHC students are very grateful to Mr. Loftis for helping to educate them on financial literacy.

MOVIE REVIEW

Aristocats: A Grown-up Look at a Children's Classic

By Felicity Ropp

Have you ever gone back and watched movies you obsessed over when you were a little kid? You know, the ones with the hand-drawn animation, funny voices, and an abundance of singing? Recently, I sat down and watched Disney's *The Aristocats* with my 3-year-old brother. When I was four, this was my absolute favorite movie ever. I watched it over and over and over, fascinated by those singing cats.

Fast-forward almost a decade lacking any *Aristocats*, and I am amazed at how much had slipped past my 4-year-old mind. For example, the fact that Roquefort the mouse dons a Sherlock Holmes costume when trying to figure out where the cats had gone. How about the realization that the dogs Napoleon and Lafayette are named after French generals? Going back and watching movies from my preschool years, I find all sorts of things I never noticed before. Before, I giggled hysterically at a cat falling on its face. Now, I laugh at the supposed "love" between Madame and her lawyer Georges Hautecourt. The nostalgia of them reminds me of childhood memories I had forgotten.

Released first in 1970, *The Aristocats* is a rollicking musical set in the streets and nearby villages of Paris, France. It's about Duchess the cat and her three kittens: Toulouse, Marie, and Berlioz. They live a life of luxury with former opera singer Adelaide Bonfamille, commonly known as Madame. As she is writing her will, Edgar the sinister butler overhears her plans to leave everything to her cats, and not to him. He becomes furious, kidnaps the cats after they're asleep, and ends up leaving them in a ditch beside a dirt road outside of Paris. When the cats wake up, they find themselves hopelessly lost. Just as they're thinking about trying to get home, a tomcat named Thomas O'Malley (full name being Abraham de Lacy Giuseppe Casey Thomas O'Malley) comes wandering along, and offers to show them the way home. After many adventures, the cats find their way back home, only to have Edgar "greet" them. The cats, including Thomas, have to escape from him, and eventually they do, sending Edgar to Timbuktu in a trunk.

I dare you to sit down and watch a childhood favorite with a younger sibling, cousin, or a little kid from your church and see what you missed the last time around!

Friends Forever: A Beyblade Adventure

Part 2

"Okay!" Britt says cheerfully. "Next up...The second match! Wicked! Nio Rivers of Team All Star will battle Tora Ryu of Team Dominator in a beyblade match, uuuusss-siiiiinnng...that stadium right there!"

She points at the beyblade stadium next to the Beywheelz stadium Kiari and Flash battled in like she is some celebrity DJ. Everyone laughs, even the Dominators. Leave it to Britt to keep things light.

Kiari's POV

"Nio Rivers! The wild king of the jungle and his Warlord Leone," Britt announces. She must be watching all the old battles on YouTube, because she is spot on in her impersonation of Blader DJ. She even uses her lollipop like a microphone.

"AAnnndd, Tora Ryu! The blazing phoenix of legend and his Shadow Fireblaze!"

Tora frowns as he steps up on the edge of the arena. With a deft flick of his wrist, he switches his Shadow Thunder Fireblaze into Shadow Fireblaze C145 ERS. I believe that Nio will win, as his defense type Warlord Leone W130 WD has better stamina, and, besides, Tora can be a bit ... reckless when blading. It must be that his beyblade is an attack type.

"Hey, buddy," Nio calls. "I'm gonna smash your birdie into the ground with one hit! You sure you wanna do this?" He grins nastily like a predator hunting its prey.

"Your arrogance will be your downfall," Tora says coldly, lifting his chin and staring Nio down with his blazing yellow eyes.

"Whoa! There is trash talking from both sides before the battle even starts!" Britt announces. "Let's get this party started, shall we?"

"Last chance to surrender!" Nio warns, preparing to launch Leone.

"Hmph, feel free," Tora quips, raising his launcher and locking in Fireblaze.

Now I seriously fear for his sanity. Tora never gets this intense, ever.

"Three!" Britt shouts. "Two! One! Let it rip!"

"Go now Fireblaze," Tora shouts.

"Warlord Leone!" Nio snarls. Their beys crash into each other at the center of the stadium. I catch my breath as Nio's Leone wobbles away.

"Again, Fireblaze, get him!" Tora orders. "KIAH!" Tora does a front punch, sending his bey rocketing around the arena.

"Hang in there, Nio!" Ryuuto calls.

"Come on, buddy, you've got this!" Shawn yells. Nio roars as their beys clash again, and then separate, racing around the edge of the stadium.

"Give it up! You cannot stand before me!" Tora grates out.

"Think again, buddy," Nio snarls. Their beys clash, sending up a huge explosion. The shockwave is so powerful it knocks me off my feet.

"Be careful!" Stella screams from the other side of the arena.

snaps. "Leone, special move, King Lion Hurricane Claw!" His signature tornado spirals upward. I gape at it; the awesome beauty of its raw power is just...magnetic.

"That all you got?" Tora growls.

"I will crush you!" Nio screams.

"Not today," Tora yells. "Fireblaze, attack!" Streamers of gold and orange light trail from his bey as it circles faster around the arena, building up for a special move.

"Roar, Leone!" Nio calls, and the tornado expands, swirling even faster. "No bird can fly through this hurricane!"

"I am the immortal phoenix of legend! Storms do not scare me! Special move, Inferno Fury Claw!" Tora yells. Amazingly, the tornado blows away, shattered by the power of Tora's attack. Nio turns to watch his bey fly away out of the stadium and into the wall.

"I can't believe it!" Britt shouts. "The winner of the second round is Tora Ryu of Team Dominator!" She jumps up onto the stadium edge and continues, "The score is now tied, one to one!" I turn and glance at Angel.

"You're up, Angel," I say. She grins at me, holding up her Hammer Molten Eagle.

"Leave it to me," Angel says confidently.

To be continued. . .

Comic Relief

By William Barton

