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Inside this issue:

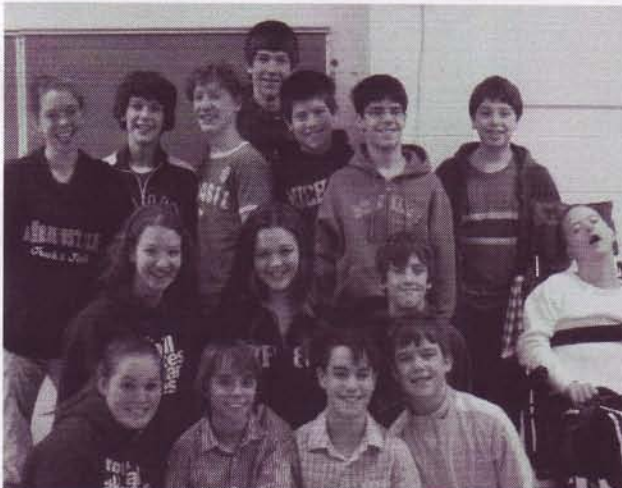
NEWS 2
 OPINION PAGE 4
 ADVICE 6
 SPORTS 8
 TRAVEL 10
 ENTERTAINMENT 12
 BONUS FICTION STORIES 15
 ADVERTISEMENTS 18

NEW SPACE: NECESSARY OR NOT?

By Peter Webb

.When a organization goes from 20 people to 65 in just 2 years you know they've got a good idea. As everyone reading this should know, about a year ago the original founders of HomeLink, Lee and Andria Porch realized the current 4 classrooms couldn't accommodate the 45 kids they were getting every Thursday. When they saw 5700 Leona they knew they had it. With a total of 7 rooms they could tell it would handle the kids. Unlike the old location, we wouldn't have to share the new location with anyone; it was completely ours. They currently use 6 rooms as

Continued on page 19



The Editors, reporters, and columnists of S.H.A.R.E. the News

S.H.A.R.E. with OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

by Kelli Clark

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) was organized by Franklin Graham in 1993 and is still going strong. Across the U.S., kids of every age fill up shoe boxes with various toys and hygiene products for underprivileged kids around the world. Many may have never had a Christmas present before. They ask that every gift be new and that no candy that would melt be included because sometimes the boxes go to remote areas in helicopters and boats. OCC is a great way to show Jesus' love to the kids around the world, but they ask you to not include anti-Buddhist, anti-Muslim, or any other negative message.

Continued on page 19

How It All Got Started by *David Tate & Alan Smith*

Launching a newspaper is hard work! Now that we've issued the first paper, we thought we'd let you know who's behind the copy you're reading right now.

The Team:

- Master Editor (teacher who keeps it all together): Ms. Katrina Darnall
- Sports Editor: Matt Segrist
- News/Feature Editor: Rachel Zink
- Op-Ed Editor: Noah Pendergrass
- Logo Master: Peter Webb
- Art Director: Nicholas George

The Common Workforce and Jesse:

(reporters and columnists)

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Trey Brockman | Lindsey Hoyer |
| Joel Brown | Jesse Mullins |
| Kelli Clark | Tim Segrist |
| Abby Dobrich | Robert Smith |
| Kourtne Cotton | Jayne Williams |

And, of course, your friendly neighborhood reporters: David Tate and Alan Smith.

PERSONALITY PROFILES

S.H.A.R.E. Co-leaders: Mrs. Kerrie Tate and Mrs. Cathy Mullins

MRS. KERRIE TATE**What is your background?**

After I saw the *Miracle Worker* as a young girl, I knew that I wanted to be a special education teacher. I was a Christian from a very early age, and I think the Lord was showing me through that movie what he wanted me to do with my life. I worked in many programs with special needs kids, and then went to University of Missouri at Columbia to get my degree. I was in college for 12 years studying and working at lots of different schools. After MU, I worked for the Helen Keller Institute in many different states. I never dreamed that I could have my own children, and thought I'd always be working with deaf-blind kids. After I got married at age 30, I was shocked that I had a baby right away! I took him to work with me until he began to think that he was deaf and blind! I quit my job and decided to stay home and homeschool.

Tell me about your family

I am married to Pat, a great person and veterinarian. I met him at MU when I took my students on a field trip to the veterinary school hospital. He was a teacher there and the only one that could handle my wild students. As it turned out, he was also my new next-door neighbor and our dogs loved each other. We have two sons – both were a huge surprise since the doctors said I could never have kids. Tyler is 22 years old and David is 12. Lots of other kids have lived with us that are like our own. My 17 year old niece just moved here and is like the daughter I never had.

Describe the activities in which you are currently involved

My husband and I are the co-leaders of SHARE (St. Louis Homeschooling Activities, Resources and Encouragement) along with Cathy Mullins. The three of us are also on the Expo Steering Committee (Greater St. Louis Area Home Educators Expo). We are also leaders of Children's Ministry at our church, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship along with Donna Pyatt (another SHARE mom!) Our church and SHARE are both growing bigger every minute so there's a lot of work that we never seem to be able to finish! I TRY to find the time to homeschool!

Tell me something unusual that has happened to you

When I was in college I had a rare brain tumor that was undiagnosed for many years. Finally they were able to find it and take it out when I was 27 years old. It is a miracle to be alive and healthy.

Name one thing about which you feel strongly

Wow! It would be hard to mention only one thing! Besides my faith, I feel really strongly about homeschooling. I think it's such a great option and am grateful for our good Missouri law. I also feel VERY strongly about the rights of the unborn child...that every baby should have a right to be born no matter what the circumstances.

Why do you feel strongly about that?

Working with special needs kids has helped me see that all life is valuable and God has a plan for everyone and reason for every baby to be born. I was encouraged by my doctors to have an abortion with *both* of my sons and I'm SO glad I didn't listen!

After working in the "institutional" schools for so many years, and seeing all of the problems, I really appreciate the benefits of homeschooling!

If you could say one thing about yourself what would it be?

I would say that I have MANY faults, but at least I try to thank the Lord every single day for the many blessings he has given me...especially that I'm alive and healthy and have a wonderful family and friends!

MRS. CATHY MULLINS**What is your background?**

I assume you mean educational? Well, when I graduated from highschool (Roosevelt-go Rough Riders!) way back in 1968, I did not want to do any more schooling. I worked hard for straight A's and needed a rest!!!! I had secretarial skills and got a job in a typing pool at Laclede Steel. I hated the job-it was like being back in school. So I quit and applied for a job at the Federal Reserve Bank and soon I was the secretary to one of the vice-presidents in the Research Division. I enjoyed the job but so many of the analysts and other co-workers were college grads that I felt very unimportant. So I decided to go to college and since I always enjoyed working with children, I chose to major in Elementary and Special Ed. I received my BA degree in the spring of 1973 from UMSL and began work that following fall for St. Louis County Special School District. I loved teaching and had found my niche in life! I worked for SSD until after Ed and I were married and wanted to have babies. I knew I would stay home with my children (although didn't know about homeschooling back then) and in order to get used to less income, I began teaching first grade at Holy Family School. Two years later, I had Joshua and have been home ever since. Seven years after Josh, God blessed us with Jessie and now I can be a homeschooler forever!!

Tell me about your family

Ed and I have been married for 32 years. He works for Instantwhip Foods (the company that makes the whip cream that is used by Ted Drewes). We have lived in the south city area our whole lives. Joshua is 26 and still lives at home. He freelances a lot doing videography and being a production assistant in movies that are filming in St. Louis. In his spare time his is working toward a degree. Jesse is 19 and, as most know, has Down Syndrome and multiple handicaps. Homeschooling has been a wonderful lifestyle for our family. Ed and I often joke that in 32 years of marriage we have made a ton on mistakes, but homeschooling was not one of them!

Describe the activities in which you are currently involved

That's easy—too many!!!! Along with the Tates, I am the co-leader of S.H.A.R.E. I used to lead another group for about 10 years and then took some time off. The group kind of disbanded and then God called me back into leadership to start S.H.A.R.E. (He even provided the name!) I am also on the founding board of the Greater St. Louis Area Homeschool Expo, and this year I have taken on the position as the director of HomeLink. I also still homeschool and teach a co-op class with my good friend, Dana Williams. I'm not complaining when I say "too busy". I LOVE MY LIFE!!!!

Tell me something unusual that has happened to you

I guess having Jesse would be the most unusual thing that has ever happened to me, and he's the worst thing and the best thing all rolled up in one! When he was two and had all those dumb strokes, it was the scariest thing that ever happened to me—I really thought that he was going to die. But God was faithful! Jesse is a lot of work to take care of, but he's my best buddy! I tell him all my secrets and he never tells a soul! My goal in life is to keep him healthy and happy and have fun doing it! So far, we have been very successful and I owe a lot of that to being able to homeschool him. (And, of course, God's help!)

Name one thing about which you feel strongly

I feel strongly that Christians are supposed to be a light in a dark world. I have a saying posted above my computer that I read all the time and really, really, try to put it into practice in my life. It says: "Live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know Jesus, will come to know Jesus because they know you."

Why do you feel strongly about that?

Because The Word calls us to it and we are supposed to obey God's Word. Also, life is too short to be negative and gloomy. Every day is a gift from God and I want to enjoy it to the max!

If you could say one thing about yourself, what would it be?

God has placed so many wonderful people in my life—it's unbelievable! I am a very blessed woman!!!!

S.H.A.R.E CHRISTMAS KETTLE DAY EARNS RECORD AMOUNT!

By David Tate

On a cold and rainy December 1st, S.H.A.R.E. families gathered together at the Crestwood Shop 'n Save, to "man the kettle" for the Salvation Army. Homeschoolers did much more than stand and ring the traditional bells. S.H.A.R.E. members also sang carols, juggled, danced, and played music from a variety of instruments. In appreciation, holiday shoppers stuffed the Christmas Kettle with bills and coins. The Crestwood Shop 'n Save kettle earned over \$700 – more money than any location in the entire region! Although this is the first time S.H.A.R.E. has participated in the annual event, it has been going on for over 100 years. In 1895, a Salvation Army captain named Joseph Mcfee wondered how he could earn money for the poor during the holidays. He remembered his days as a sailor and the old pots people would set up for donations; the idea of the Christmas Kettle was born. Soon, the method spread throughout the United States, and then the whole world. Millions of disadvantaged people have been helped by the funds earned from the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles. What an honor that S.H.A.R.E. could be part of this wonderful tradition!



JESSE MULLINS

by Trey Brockman

Jesse Mullins invited some families from S.H.A.R.E to a get-together with his Variety Club at Grant's Farm. After a tram ride, they got to feed goats, chickens, Guinea Pigs, and other animals. The families watched an animal show where a pig went through an obstacle course and a parrot went roller-skating! After the show, while the families were feeding the camels, David Tate got a shower from one of the alpacas! The event started at 9:00 am, and went to 12:00 pm. At the goats' cage, all of the goats would come running over to the people as soon as they saw the milk bottles that they had in their hands. Everybody had a great time with their friends and with the animals. S.H.A.R.E members have gotten to go to several events like this one with the Variety Club as Jesse's guests and had a great time!

AMERICA'S MUSIC
by Noah John Pendergrass

Through my childhood I grew up listening to my dad play music on his trusty guitar. Having lived through and participated in the Hippie Movement, he always has and still does love music from bands such as The Beatles, Cream, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, and Jimi Hendrix. His interests later expanded into Bluegrass, Black Gospel and the Blues. Consequently, I grew up to love all these styles also, as well as guitar itself. As I learn guitar and become more knowledgeable about music generally, it amazes me how music seems to either mirror or heavily affect America. For instance (and this does not apply to all rap, punk rock or metal...just most of it) when rap first came out, everyone thought it was totally ridiculous because it simply did not require any real musical talent. But somehow it exploded on the late 80's scene and it is my personal opinion that the reason it exploded is because it didn't take real talent to become famous anymore. Just write some words, (or hire some one else to) hit a bowl with a stick and yell it into a microphone with some attitude, and you will be rewarded with millions of dollars. I see this as more of a statement of, "I'm lazy and I'm proud," which, scary as it may be, is slowly seeming to become America's motto. However, it is at this point I would like to once again mention that certainly not all rap or metal is that way. I am even a fan of some. It is slowly becoming a fact that it is not how good you are at anything, but the "luck of the draw" that gets you there. For example, Jimi Hendrix was a poor kid with divorced parents, living in a trailer. He got his first guitar at the late age of 15, literally practiced hours a day, and eventually a friend recommended him to a record dealer, because of his labor, ie. earned skills on guitar. He then became about as famous as anyone ever will be and all because he worked super hard and actually became a magician on guitar. On the other hand (all you pre-teen girls are gonna hate me for this) there's Miley Cyrus...just because her father was a great musician, she got the chance to become famous. The fact of the matter is, she is a terrible singer, an appalling dancer, and a dreadful songwriter. Really, think about it, the only reason America likes her is because people don't have to work hard to be as good as she is, which brings us back to, "you can do anything you ever want no matter what" and, "follow your dreams." The fact is, Americans just do not want to work hard for anything-we are lazy. So I'm calling out to some one out there. "Please! Save the next generation of music! Actually work hard and show some real talent and creativity!"

Artwork by Nicholas George



Recently, a friend of mine and I went back and forth debating about whether it is better to go to a public school or to home school. We went back and forth in a mild dispute about the pros and cons of the two. Here are some parts to the conversation I can remember:

My friend, Nikko, said first of all that he sees his friends every day, all day. To which I replied, "You might *see* your friends every day but you only really get to be with them for fun at lunch. I see my friends *almost* every day, but when I do see them I actually hang out more than just sit with them in class."

After he rolled his eyes (of course inside he was feeling the pain of inexorable defeat), he said, "Yeah, but waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay more people go to public schools, so there's a waaaaaaaaay better chance to make friends."

My simple reply was, "Actually, there are several local home school organizations, and each one of them has just as many, if not more, students than a public school."

Now he hit a low blow with this one. He remarked, "Maybe, but we all know homeschoolers are either cool and dumb, or smart and dorky." Ooooooooh, like I said, that was an unnecessary and personal punch to the heart. For my counterattack, I recalled a time I brought some friends to youth group (Nikko is from my youth group), and I asked him if he remembered them. Upon his answer, "yeah..." I proclaimed, "Yeah, Rob and Al, you remember them, they were pretty cool guys, right?"

"Yeah... I guess they were pretty cool."

"Ok then, Robby won the Math Olympics 3 years in a row, Alan could say his 7 times tables so fast you couldn't understand them unless you recorded it and slowed it down...when he was 7. He also broke his arm trying to do a back flip 360 off a swing set. I mean, if you're going to break your arm, that's a pretty sweet way to do it. Robby has been beat up so many times by so many different objects and just walked away fine, I don't know which one to pick for an example. And truth is, most home schoolers are a lot like those two guys, *and* they're just as smart as any public schooler you're going to find."

So in the end, really, it's all a matter of opinion. Just keep in mind that there are advantages and disadvantages to *both* types of schools.

Noah John Pendergrass

*Special thanks to Robert and Alan Smith for letting me use them as examples.

VOLUNTEERING

by Abby Dobrich

Volunteering is one of the best things that you can do. You don't get paid with money, but it gives you a good feeling knowing that you helped. It can also be fun, too. You meet new people and knowing that you're doing a good thing makes you want to do better at the job, too. I think that if everyone did a little bit of volunteering, the world would be a different place. To me, it is a lot of fun, no matter how hard the work is, especially if you are with your friends. Let your friends know where and when you are volunteering so they can join in, too. Hey, it might even be fun for them! I like volunteering because you are helping other people and it gives you a really good feeling. You have no idea how much it helps, sometimes. You can volunteer to feed the homeless, donate your clothes to the poor, or even help set up a local bookstand.

IF I HAD A BIG STAR SALARY

by Kournie Cotton

If I had a big star salary, I would have so many wonderful ways to spend the money. The first most important thing I would do with my money would first be to give my tithe which would be ten percent. I feel that you always need to give ten percent of what we receive to the Lord before wishing to spend the money. After all, he is the one who helped you get such a big salary. God said when we give ten percent of what we receive he will give us more than we can imagine.

Next, I would donate some of the money to organizations that provide food to the hungry. The Christian Children's Fund is an organization in need of donations of food and money. Many parents in Africa feed their children dangerous roots and leaves that can cause sickness because of the lack of seeds and tools to grow nutritious food. When you send money to the families in Africa, it will help provide seeds, tools and training to grow food.

Then, I would use some of the money to have an enormous house built for my family. It would be a four-story house and include a pool and a hot tub. I would treat us all to a trip to Zimbabwe while our house was being built.

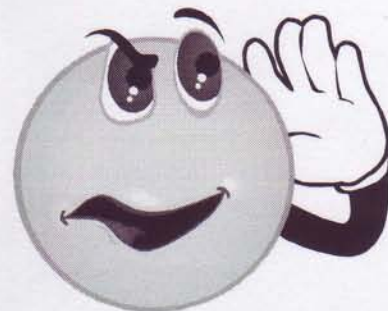
I think stars with big salaries should donate at least enough money to places in the world to help provide tools, seeds and training to help people provide for their families. I would, wouldn't you?

HEROES FOR TODAY

by Jayne Williams

Some say you have to have super powers to be a hero, but you don't. Just reach out and be a friend to those who don't have friends. You don't see a lot of heroes these days because people are scared of what their friends may think, but their friends are probably thinking the same thing. Another reason we don't see that many heroes is because media decided not to cover stories of people being heroes.

Denzel Washington and his family visited troops at Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas [BAMC]. This is where soldiers who have been evacuated from Germany come to be hospitalized in the United States. Especially burn victims. The buildings there are called Fisher Homes which are hotels where soldiers' families can stay for little or no charge while their soldiers are staying in the hospital. The BAMC has quite a few of these houses on base, but as you can imagine they are almost filled most of the time. While Denzel Washington was visiting the BAMC, they gave him a tour of one of the Fisher Houses. He asked how much it would cost to build one of them. He took out his checkbook and wrote a check for the full amount right there on the spot. But media decides to cover Brittany Spears shaving her head or Madonna, who's been in drug rehabs and wears really skimpy clothes. When she goes to Africa or does charity work, she gets on the front page and is all over the news, even though she is only doing it to benefit herself. But Denzel Washington, who is a devoted actor and a loving father, gets no acknowledgement. You don't have to be rich to be a hero. So next time you see someone in need, reach out, lend a hand, and be a hero.



CYBER SASS TALKS TEXTING

by Rachel Zink

Technology is expanding at such a rapid rate it is almost impossible to keep up! It's gone so far that to find out more about technology you have to use technology. Thankfully that we do have it though! Everything is computers! When you call a company half the time you get a robot! I'm sorry but sometimes robots are just not the thing I want to talk to! Help has arrived! Introducing **Cyber Sass**! Cyber Sass is here to help answer your questions and reduce headaches! So let's talk texting! With so many people using texting and instant messenger these days you're gonna have to catch up sooner or later! Symbols have been used forever! I mean the Egyptians used them for writing thousands of years ago! Prepare yourself to enter the world of youth talk and text. **Happy smiles** :) :-) :o) =) So many different ways to simply smile right! :) Thanks, to all the different keys and symbols you can find, pick, and choose your favorite to use. **Some other expressions...**:(-Angry face :(-Sad face :-/ -Straight face :(-Crying face :-O -Shocked :! -So shocked nothing to say You can do different eyes, have a nose or not, and choose expressions according to your personal taste. There are so many different ways to show your expressions!

Now that we have tackled the cute smiles lets move on to more difficult, word texting abbreviations. You might find that these random letters look very familiar... **Gtg or g2g** means "Got to go" **Lol** means "Laugh out loud"

TTYL means "Talk to you later" **H/O** means "Hold on"

TTYL means "Talk to you soon" **Bb** means "Be back"

WBU? means "What about you?" **W/E** means "Whatever"

BRB means "Be right back"

OMG means "Oh, My God (or Gosh)"

Rotfl means "Rolling on the floor laughing"

BBL means "Be Back Later"

These are very common text abbreviations.

Due to the fact I am not selfish, and there are so many symbols and abbreviations, (tempted to use so many, but we only went over basics,) I will not list any more at this time, because of the space that is needed to do so. Besides, I would not want to give people unwanted doctor's appointments from headaches. So I'm going to end by telling you two things I find important. This one you might find a little or a lot disturbing; I certainly do. Ever seen the abbreviation **POMS** or **POM^**? This unfortunately means **Parent(s) Over My Shoulder!** Yes, parents you have your own abbreviation for when you're around! Hopefully this will send you a red flag alert if you've been seeing this and will not be used for the wrong purpose. **I strongly hope and pray that the maturity level of the reader is high enough not to use it in the wrong context!**

Some text abbreviations, unfortunately, have foul language. Cyber Sass has decided to leave these out. There is no need to educate others about them, in hopes that you don't need to know them, because you won't use them. However, if you feel it is necessary to know those symbols and or abbreviations, there are many websites, (technology, once again!) that can help.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DOG: FOR BEGINNERS

by Tim Segrist

The easiest way to train your dog is to take him to a class. If you don't have the money or a good dog class near you, then this is how you do it.

First, you need to obtain the dog's attention and make him know his or her name. So, say its name, give it a treat; say its name, give it a treat; etc. Do this about 20 times. Next, hold the treat out to one side of your body and say its name. If the dog looks at you in any way, even just a glance, give it a treat. Do this about 5 times. If your dog continues to look at you when you say its name, repeat this about 80 times. If the dog doesn't look at you, then go back to just saying his or her name and giving him a treat.

Second, you need to teach him the command, "Leave It". Take the treat and put it in front of him and say "leave it". If he tries to take the treat, pull it away from him and do it again and again until he leaves it for about 2 seconds. Then give the treat to the dog. It will take about 80 times for the dog to learn this.

Third, you need to teach the dog to walk properly. You have to hold a treat by your side. Let your dog sniff the treat so that he walks right by your side. If he is doing well, give him a treat. Remember to encourage the dog. Remember, when the dog walks it is important that he walks right by your side. These other training tips may be helpful to you, too.

- Don't leave out any toys that the dog can tear pieces off of. You can keep hard toys like Nylabones, tires, and rawhides on the ground.
- If your dog is biting, go away for about one minute.
- If your dog jumps on you, walk forward. Once your dog is off, turn your back to him.

Remember: don't let the dog take control of you. These are pretty much the basics to training a dog.



HEALTH AND BEAUTY

by Kelli Clark

God made us unique, but there is something inside of us girls that is not easy to get rid of—the need to enhance our beauty! Hopefully, these suggestions will help you out with your passion for fashion.

Now, the first step is something that everyone should do, no matter who you are, for your health. Showering is one of the most important things you do in your day. It helps you feel refreshed and clean, and even makes you look better! You should always clean your whole body before you do your makeup. Many people take a shower at night, but I prefer showering in the morning because it wakes you up, cleans off any grease that could build up while you sleep, and makes you refreshed for the new day ahead of you!

The second step is keeping your skin clear. If you do not want pimples, wash your face every morning and night with a facial cleanser. Some great recommendations are:

Remember to always wash your face, even after a shower! And always before you apply make-up!

The third step is keeping your fingernails and toenails clean and healthy. A fun way to do this is go and get a manicure or a pedicure. This is a great way to unwind and relax by yourself, with your mom or with some friends! But there are some things you need to watch out for. Do the beauticians cut your cuticles? (Cuticles are the skin at the back of your nails that protect the root of your nails.) Cutting them is harmful to the nails and they could get infected. So if you get a manicure or a pedicure, make sure to ask them not to trim your cuticles! You also need to make sure they use clean tools. Unclean tools can be gross and harmful to your nails. I mean, think about it, do you want someone else's dead skin on your hands? I know, gross, right?

MAKE-UP FOR TEENS: Hey Lovelies, how do you pick the right makeup and how do you apply it?

LIP GLOSS: I know it might be tempting, but, **NO LIPSTICK!** I know you're thinking, "But all the models and superstars wear it!" I am here to tell you that a better way to go is colored lip gloss! I think it is more convenient and more fun to put on. Just don't go overboard with it, because it's not very fun to be drinking out of a straw and look down and say, "Whoops! I hope no one sees that big goo ball!" Just put on enough to give a simple pretty shine.

EYE SHADOW: I know there are many different colors out there, but believe it or not, there are certain colors for your face shape, hair type, eye color, and skin tone. I can help you out with the right shades at my advice e-mail address. But for now we are going to look at **HOW** to apply the shadow. Do not pile on the shadow! When you dig into the cake (that's what we call the shadow in the holder) it uses it up too quickly! My personal preference is that you just lightly stroke the cake with the shadow application brush and then stroke the loaded application brush on the part of your eyelid closest to your lashes for nice even color all around.

SPARKLES! Sparkles are so pretty and flashy, but make sure you don't put on a lot. I usually put on just enough

to say, "I'm a girl and I'm not afraid to show it!"

LINER! I love to wear liner. I almost feel lost without it—sometimes I just put on liner and nothing else! You should wear it on your bottom lid. If you wear mascara, it already lines the top lid. There is a lot of debate on where to put your liner on your bottom lid. If you actually grab your lashes and pull **GENTLY** down, you will see a little flat place on the inside of your lashes that doesn't touch your eye. This is where you would normally put your liner, but if you are not comfortable with this, you can try to put liner as close to the lashes as possible. So both methods are correct!

Now that I have gone through the basics, I hope that if you have specific questions, you could e-mail me at my beauty advice address and I will try to answer them in my column.

Contact me at: kellbell94@charter.net

ASK MR. SMARTY PANTS MAN!

Hello to all my adoring fans. This is Mr. Smarty Pants Man, but you can call me Mr. Man, or Mr. S, in fact call me whatever you desire (within obvious boundaries of course). My purpose in this wonderful section of the newspaper is to answer those irksome questions that no one seems to know the answer to. All I need you to do is to e-mail me those questions at Mr.Smartypantsman@gmail.com and if I think you have a good question, I'll email you back and tell you that I'm going to use it, then I'll put it in the next newspaper issue with the best answer I can possibly think of. And if you give me your name I'll even put that in there to, but only if you want me to.

So. My first ever question is from Peter Webb (St. Louis)

"O Great and wise and handsome Mr. Smarty Pants Man," (Ok, Ok, maybe that's a slight exaggeration), "could a sloth move fast if it wanted to?"

Wow, now I gotta say, this one took me a minute to remember. Great question, but I got it.

The reason a sloth moves so slow is because it has a super slow metabolism, which means it takes a super, super, super long time for the sloth's body to take the nutrients out of its food and turn it into energy. So if it didn't move at all for like a year, it might be able to move at a normal rate for a little while. But technically the answer is no. It's not that the sloth in question is lazy. Its body just can't make enough energy to move fast. You need to bear in mind it takes energy to breathe and for your heart to pump and all kinds of stuff you can't control.

Hello. Mr. Smarty Pants Man here, once again, to answer all of those irksome questions. This answer will be shorter than the last one, for this question was incredibly easy for my mind-boggling intellect.

Our inquiry is from (name withheld) and it reads: "How did you get so smart?"

OK, fine, actually the question was: "Why do we sleep?"

Well, Mr. Name Withheld, I just wanted to say that I sincerely enjoy such easy questions; this one took me about 2 seconds to figure out. Now, some people think that you sleep to save energy and recuperate, which is partially true, although sleep scientists say you get the same amount of energy from a piece of toast. The main reason we do have to sleep is for our brain to get a break! It helps improve our cognitive thinking skills, i.e. speech, thought, reasoning and memory. So, now when you wake in the morning after a good night's sleep, you'll get out of bed, stretch, and think, *WOW! I feel like I just ate a piece of toast!*

Thank you and please, please keep sending those questions!

RIVERS OF LIFE SEASON SUMMARY

by Robert Smith

Rivers of Life started off the season with a bang, defeating Queen of All Saints Piatchek team, 3-0. The next day, Rivers faced off against St. Dominic, a team that was supposed to be better than QAS, yet, Rivers clobbered them 4-0. Rivers was on a roll, but they had to face Assumption, a team who had always been at the top of the division. Assumption defeated Rivers 3-1, ending Rivers' hopes of going undefeated, but unfazed by this loss, Rivers played them again the next day. They lost 4-1. After giving up four goals in the first half, Rivers shut them out in the second half, but couldn't come back. Rivers then tied QAS, team #2, the only non-loss that QAS had. Rivers was again in trouble. Facing the previous division champions, Queen of All Saints, team #1, they lost by a score of 4-0, their first non-scoring game in over three years. Rivers faced them again two weeks later, only to be crushed 7-0, their worst game of the year. Rivers found themselves struggling for the top of the closed division, they faced the only other closed team in the division, SMMA. Rivers barely managed to win, with a last-minute goal by Robert Smith. Rivers was back on track, and the next day they defeated St. Dominic, to clinch the closed division. They headed to the playoffs being the #1 seed, a great advantage. Their first match was against St. Justin, the ending score was 4-3 Rivers, with two goals scored by Matt Segrist. Rivers went up against Our Lady of Festus in the finals, it was a heated match, but Our Lady came away with the win in a 2-0 game. Rivers had lost, after making it so far! The consolation was that this had been a record season. This was the only Rivers of Life team to ever make it to the finals, after they had made it to the semifinals in both of the previous years.

"We're a bunch of rag-tag
homeschoolers. We're also the
best closed team in the South
County. Who knew?"
~Noah Pendergrass

Rivers of Life Player Biographies

Alan Smith and Noah Pendergrass

Rivers of Life, who are ending the season as top closed team in the first division, is a soccer team filled with players who are all extremely talented and who make a difference on the soccer field. But one thing this team has always been known for is their solid-steel defense. This article is a list and small biography of this great team's defensive line-up. Facts about them are listed below, so you can know exactly whom you are rooting for when you cheer, "Go Rivers!"

Alan Smith Age: 13

Position: Goalkeeper, sometimes Center Forward

Goals Scored: 1

WHEW!! Not much can be said other than that. Al is about as good as any goalie you're going to see (MLS goalies disregarded). Using lightning fast reflexes, he has made his fair share of mind-blowing-picture-perfect-why-didn't-we-bring-our-video-camera saves. That's for sure.

Matt Segrist Age: 14

Position: Left Wing Forward, Backup Goalie

Goals Scored: 5

When this 6'1" 145 pounder isn't blasting goals into the opposing net, he is saving them from ours. Using his height and extreme punts to his advantage, Matt Segrist is always a nice guy to have behind you in a game.

Dustin Sneed Age: 13

Position: Stopper (placed in the center a little in front of normal defense)

Interceptions.... a lot... like... a lot

Dustin Sneed.... wow, playing directly in front of me and Al (or Matt), we're always nervous if we hear Dustin can't make it. He uses his speed to regularly thwart the opposing teams pass plays. Dustin is always ready (and has many times) "taken one for the team."

Josiah Van Der Maas Age: 12

Position: Right Wing Fullback,

Goals Scored: 2

Assists: 1

Commonly known as "the new kid on the block" (joined this year) "Siah" started the season off as a star forward, but in the middle of the season was put in the defensive line-up and stayed there. Using strong, quick kicks and an occasional forward-like juke, he is a great asset

David Tate Age: 12

Position: Left Wing Fullback

Stopped crosses: Enough that if he left I (Noah) would be very, very uncomfortable.

Folks, if Davvy (pronounced *Daah-vee*) missed a game, our defense would crumble. He uses strong right and left footed kicks to keep the ball away from the goal and is never afraid to scoot up and help the offense.

Noah Pendergrass Age: 14

Position: Sweeper (Placed in the center, slightly behind all defense)

Head balls: WAAY more than he wishes he had taken.

Let's face it Opposing teams just can't play long balls when Noah's playing sweeper. Using speed and decent judgment, Noah is always there. He's blocked his share of shots and crosses with his feet and head.

Mix all this together and you have the R.O.L. defense, the kind of defense forwards have nightmares about, and goalies wish they had.

It's also an "interesting" fact that we are the one team that is virtually all home-schooled, never cusses, aren't too aggressive and don't push, yet we have dominated the league 3 years in a row.

SPORTS: ARE YOU MAINSTREAM OR ON THE FRINGE?



Artwork by
Nicholas George

PLAYING SOCCER: TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

by Alan Smith

Have you ever wanted to play soccer, but didn't have the least idea how to do it? Here are some tips to help you:

1. If you ever get a chance to watch soccer of T.V., PAY ATTENTION! You can learn from the pros or even from college soccer. However, do NOT attempt to follow what the goalies do. This may get you hurt because it is the most dangerous position.
2. If you can get your hands (and feet) on a soccer ball, make sure you use it. Practicing is what made everyone good, and it will do the same for you if you practice enough. If you do not know how to practice, just begin by juggling; passing the ball from your feet to your thigh or your head, keeping it in the air. Juggling is an invaluable skill!

Continued on page 19

The Unusual Sport Of Cupstacking

By Trey Brockman and Joel Brown

A new interest has hit the shores of America and has created enthusiasm and excitement to kids everywhere across the country. It is the unusual sport of Cupstacking. In this sport twelve specially designed plastic colored cups are stacked in various formations at fast speeds. Sport Stacking is an anaerobic sport with lots of benefits. It increases hand-eye coordination, it develops ambidexterity, and it promotes bilateral proficiency, among other benefits. There are multitudes of games to play in Sport Stacking, including the following: Relays, individual stacking, shuffling, doubles, stacking to music, mini stacking, stacking upside down, and you can even stack on the floor if you want. This sport has reached the continents of Europe, Asia, Australia, and, of course, North America. America's biggest rivals are the Germans who hold all the records for this sport. The World Sport Stacking Association holds a world championship once a year in Denver, Colorado. In 2007, Germany came out on top, with America very close behind.

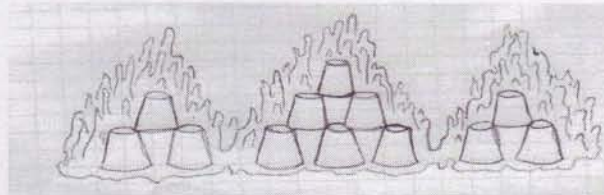
We interviewed Joel Brown, a homeschooler from Maplewood, Missouri, who placed 3rd in the 2007 world championships. "I heard about this sport about 4 years ago, but I got very deeply into it about 2 years ago. My first times for stacking ranged from 20 to 40 seconds, but my best time now is 6.84. I think that most people think that it is a sport, and I myself think that it is a sport, considering all the millions of people that are involved in it."

Joel Brown placed in the top 3 out of all ages, in the individual all around, which means the judges combined his top 3 times, one for each event. The events are the 3-6-3, the 3-3-3, and the Cycle. The 3-3-3 is the most basic and the easiest stack. It consists of stacking all of the 3 stacks of cups in order and then going back to the beginning and downstacking them. The 3-6-3 is the same thing as the 3-3-3, except there are 6 cups in the middle of the 3 piles instead of 3 cups. The Cycle is where you stack a 3-6-3, then you stack a 6-6, and then you stack a 1-10-1, and downstack it back into the 3-6-3 starting position. Sport Stacking is one of the most unusual, growing sports in North America. Stack Fast!!

"My first times ranged from 20 to 40 seconds. Now I'm down to under 7 seconds." ~Joel Brown



Champion Joel Brown with his trophy



Artwork by
Nicholas
George

SMALL AS A THUMBNAIL, DEADLY AS A SNAKE by Rachel Zink

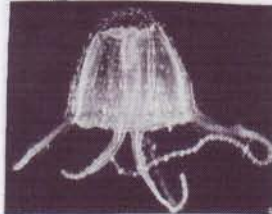
Have you heard of the Irukandji Jellyfish, also know as the Box Jellyfish or Sea Wasp? Well, if you haven't you need to! This jellyfish will give you more chills than a snake!

We already know that jellyfish aren't the friendliest animals. The popular kid's TV show *Spongebob Squarepants*' main character was meant to be played by a jellyfish, but was changed because the kids who previewed the show said they were scared of jellyfish.

The Box Jellyfish, however, is a lot more than just unfriendly! He's DEADLY!

Now, now, don't go cancel your beach trip to Florida! These jellies have only been located in Australia and north Queensland. So, moms, your kiddies are safe! But, if you *are* headed to Australia, north Queensland, or any place near to them, there is a way to protect yourself and your family if you were to meet one of these little guys.

Pantyhose to the rescue! If you go to Australia you might find several fashionable, cool Aussie lifeguards wearing



women's pantyhose on their arms and legs! No, they're not trying to set a new fashion, they're trying to be safe! Yes,

people might stare and point at you, but wearing pantyhose can help save you from excruciating pain and may even save your life!

The sting from the jelly *can* result in death. Not all victims have died, although many wished they could. The sting is said to be unbearable, excruciating pain. If stung, nausea, vomiting, breathing problems and death can occur from this little harmful jellyfish.

The Box Jelly can be as small as a thumbnail, but as big as a basketball! Imagine a deadly basketball that can

have up to 60, 15-foot-long tentacles! Don't pass it to me!

Most box jellies go unnoticed because they're pretty much transparent. Fish swim into their almost transparent tentacles and bam, become dinner.

Recently, marine biologists have found them off of Queensland's Fraser Island-400 miles south from where they were first discovered and before this thought to be confined to Australia's northern tropical waters. Some scientists believe that because of increased temperatures, caused by global warming, the jellies will spread to new regions of the south. Tropical fish are being pushed further and further south. Tasmania, which is south of Queensland, has discovered 34 new species in the last 10 years! The Box Jellies are expected to invade Tasmania's waters next!

In Australia, you might find several fashionable, cool Aussie lifeguards wearing women's pantyhose....

VACATION SURVEY BY ABBY DOBRICH



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VACATION SPOT?

FLORIDA 20%
BRANSON, MO 20%
HAWAII 16%
CALIFORNIA 12%
NEW YORK 8%

ARKANSAS 4%
MEXICO 4%
KANSAS 4%
MONTANA 4%
VIRGINIA 4%
OZARKS 4%

A BEAUTIFUL SPOT IN MICHIGAN

by Lindsey Hoyer

Mackinac Island is a beautiful place. It is a very small island in Michigan. It has a historical fort, a hiking trail going around the island and little stores with interesting things to buy.

In the fort you can see how soldiers drilled and what kind of music was played. You can go inside the houses, sick houses, and schools and hear their cannons every hour. You can play the games children did, and wear the

clothes, too!

The bike trail goes all the way around the island and you can see crashing waves, unique plants, and arched rocks. You can rent a bike, or bring your own. There are lots of bikes on this island because the only cars are ambulances, police cars and fire trucks.

The stores have things handmade out of wood and shells, old things, and books about people

who have lived or stayed there.

I hope you get to visit this beautiful place one day, no matter how cold it is in the summer.



"...the only cars (on the island) are ambulances, police cars and

BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO GO

By Kourtnie Cotton

River Road is a very beautiful place to go! It has the ferry ride which is where you and your car go onto a boat, and the boat moves you to the other side of the river. While you and your car are on the moving boat you get to get out of your car and stand on

the boat. Six or seven cars are able to get on the boat. It has a beautiful Windsor Hotel where you can stay and enjoy the really nice food. It always has your choice because it is buffet style. The River Road is a very beautiful place to go. I loved it, and I hope you will

someday, too!

From St. Louis to the Great River Road

Take Interstate 270 east across the river into Illinois, and then take the Illinois Route 3 south exit. This is where an exploration route

begins. You can also take Interstate 270 to the Illinois Route 111 south exit. This is where the main route picks up again. Take Interstate 64 east across the river into Illinois, and then take the Illinois Route 3 south exit. This is the main route of the Great River Road.



IF I WERE AN ASTRONAUT

If I were an astronaut I'd travel the Milky Way.
Follow the constellations and do it all in one day.
I'd visit every planet and swing from all the stars.
Travel through the universe and end up right on Mars.
As I go from here to there, a question comes to mind.
How can such a great big bang make a moon so fine.
The solar system so big and vast makes me feel alone.
So for now I think I'll bide my time here safe at home.

by Jayne Williams



BY THE OCEAN

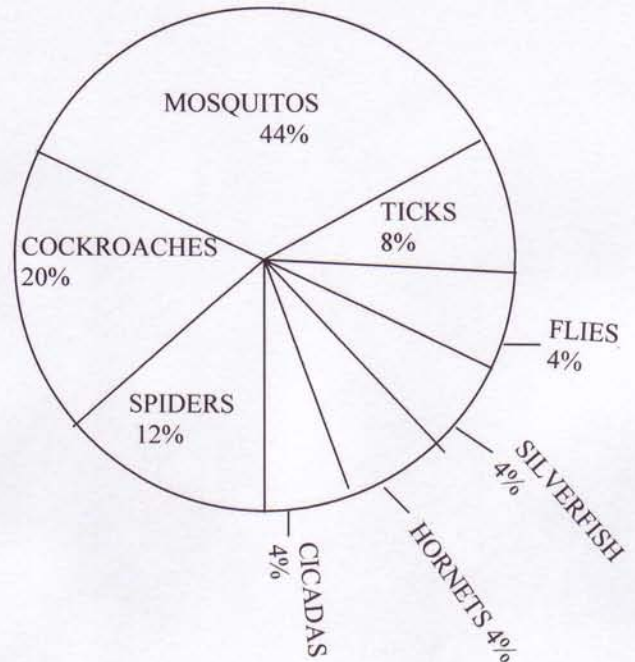
By an ocean, by crashing waves
By seagulls, and salty caves.
See what God has made,
A beautiful place, with umbrellas for shade.
Were sunny shores are free to raid,
of creamy shells that fill the area,
Then there are the mothers who have hysteria,
Because of children out in the water,
And husbands complaining that it could not get much hotter.
There by the ocean, a beautiful place,
Where you can stare out at the ocean's wide space.

by Lindsey Hoyer

WHICH INSECT IS YOUR *LEAST* FAVORITE? Send your vote to Joel Brown at joelgbrown@myway.com.



This graph was based on a survey of 25 people.



MOVIE REVIEW

by Jayne Williams

THE GAME PLAN

Starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson
&
Madison Pettis

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson did a good job at being a super-star trying to become a good Dad. Madison Pettis is great at being a little girl who knows how to get her way.

Joe Kingman (Johnson), an all-star football player finds out he has an 8 year-old daughter named Peyton (Pettis). Now he needs a whole new game plan as he has to juggle being a football player and a good dad.

This movie is funny and a really great father-daughter movie.
Rated: PG

I give this movie:



RESTAURANT REVIEW

by Trey Brockman

ZAPATA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Zapata's Mexican restaurant is the perfect place to get Mexican food. Whether you want a bowl of salad and culpeppers, or just a plain old taco, this is the place to get it. The only problem is that they are a little high priced. If you want a soda, it is \$1.90! If you want a side of rice and you get a drink, it is about \$4.00. But, no matter what the price, they are delicious! It is almost as good as real Mexican food. I have been to Mexico, and have eaten their food, and this restaurant tastes a lot like it. So, all you Mexican food lovers, get on over to Zapata's!

Zapata's Mexican Restaurant is located at
14007 Manchester Rd.
636-527-9559

RESTAURANT REVIEW

By Tim Segrist

AMIS

Amis had excellent food for a place that has an odd atmosphere. Amis' specialty is pizza, but there is a lot more you can get, like pasta, sandwiches, toasted ravioli and salad. It's pretty small, so you have to wait a long time, but it's worth it! Amis is in a small shopping center on Manchester. The shopping center has a whole bunch of other cool little shops. This is an excellent place to get carry out or delivery pizza while you watch TV. You can order a whole bunch of different kinds of pizza like deep dish and Manhattan pizzas. The prices are reasonable, also. I highly recommend this place.

Amis' is located at 9824 Manchester
314-963-1822

BOOK REVIEWS by Robert Smith

PARSIFAL'S PAGE

This book is about Piers, a young boy who goes on to become a page to a knight who is on "the quest." Unfortunately, a young peasant named Parsifal soon kills this knight. Piers becomes Parsifal's page. Soon Parsifal is defeating knight after knight after being trained by Jean le Forestier, a poor woodcutter who used to be a knight. While Parsifal is being trained, Piers meets a young faerie named Ariel, who lives in the Other World. Parsifal gets married, and leaves on his quest for glory. Gawain, one of King Arthur's knights, allows Piers to be his page, and Piers is off on more adventure. Gawain soon returns after his search for Parsifal, only to see him just across a field near Arthur's campsite. Parsifal must find his uncle's castle before it is too late. Will he make it? You have to read the book to find out.

I definitely recommend this book:



ERAGON

Eragon is a book authored by Christopher Paolini, a homeschooled, 18-year-old. This book can be violent and is not recommended for younger readers. Eragon, a young hunter in the small town of Carvahall, finds a mysterious blue stone in a dangerous mountain known as the Spine. Suddenly, Eragon discovers that the stone is a dragon egg, and he is now a dragon rider. Eragon and the dragon soon meet Brom, a storyteller, and he joins them. Eragon soon sees the wrath of Galbatorix, King of Alagaesia, and his minion Durza, a shade who can poison you with his fingernails, when he comes to the town of Yazuac, where the urgals roam about. He meets Murtagh, a young man who is also heading to the Varden. Eragon soon comes to the Varden, a rebellion against Galbatorix lead by King Ahijad. A gigantic battle breaks out when the urgals invade the Varden, and Eragon will have a chance to save all of Varden. Eragon and Saphira, the dragon, go on a dangerous adventure that will decide the fate of the whole nation.

I recommend that you join Eragon, Saphira, Brom, and many other characters in this incredible novel.

OODLES

by Rachel Zink

There once was cheerful man who only ate strudels.
 Patiently waiting on the napkins he made doodles.
 He had ordered strudels but instead he received noodles, which came by the oodles!
 So he said, "Perhaps, I will eat in, tootles!"

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS FOR S.H.A.R.E.

DECEMBER 2007:

December 14, 2007: Christmas Party/Youth Christmas Party

December 18, 2007: Nutcracker Performance

December 21, 2007: Youth Movies

JANUARY 2008:

January 8, 2008: S.H.A.R.E. Homeschool meeting

January 11, 2008: City Museum Field Trip

January 14, 2008: Homeschool morning at the Magic House

January 19, 2008: Local Spelling Bee

January 22, 2008: Young People's Concert

ANTIQUUE BOTTLE COLLECTING

by Joel Brown

Looking for an unusual hobby? What about collecting antique bottles? Collecting skull and cross-bone bottles is rewarding and because of the color and shape of the bottles, they are worth more than plain antique bottles.

“Since the 1850’s, the skull and cross-bone bottles have been the accepted symbol warning users of poisonous substances.”

Factories started to make poison bottles bright colors, like cobalt blue and emerald green, or with raised dots, bumps, ridges, lattice work, or skull and cross-bones. The raised surfaces were used to keep a person from grabbing the wrong bottle in a dimly lit room and drinking the poison by mistake.

In the 1920’s companies decided to stop using bright colored bottles because they were too appealing to children which created concern for their safety. The new emphasis was on hard-to-open bottles. As new and safer bottles were used for poisons, the skull and cross-bone bottles became more appealing to collectors and more valuable as well.

When hunting for skull and cross-bone bottles, the best place to look is a site when a privy was dug up or an old home site. Skull and cross-bone bottles are easier to find than other antique bottles because of their bright colors. When searching for old bottles it is important to not give up; many times you will find broken ones or even no sign of bottles, but when an old bottle is found and is fully intact the reward of finding such a treasure is worth time and effort.

Antique bottle collecting, especially skull and cross-bone bottles, is an exciting hobby.

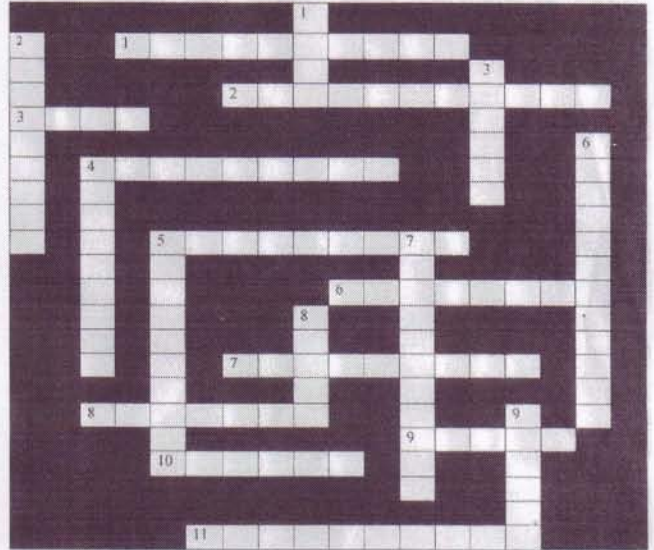
ACROSS

- 1. 2006 MVP
- 2. OLDEST BASEBALL PLAYER STILL IN MAJOR LEAGUES
- 3. RUN THESE AROUND TRACK
- 4. MARTIAL ART
- 5. BIGGEST FOOTBALL GAME
- 6. BIGGEST SOCCER TOURNAMENT
- 7. FOUR POINTS IN BASEBALL
- 8. TENNIS TOOLS
- 9. 2006 WORLD CUP WINNER
- 10. GOLF TOOL
- 11. NEW HOME RUN KING

DOWN

- 1. BALL IN THE NET
- 2. 3 POINTS IN FOOTBALL
- 3. 2 POINTS IN FOOTBALL
- 4. 6 POINTS IN FOOTBALL
- 5. BIG-TIME IN HOCKEY
- 6. STL CARDINAL SLUGGER
- 7. BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
- 8. WHAT FANS BUY
- 9. SPORTS FOOTWEAR

PUZZLED BY SPORTS?



Answers will be provided in the January edition

WARNING! WARNING!

by Matt Segrist

Well I think we’ve all seen them, warning labels with obvious warnings, but then there are some that cross that line. These are just stupid.

On a pepper spray bottle the warning label says, “May irritate eyes” Well dip, I mean what’s the point of pepper spray?

On a package of wheat bread the labels says, “Contains wheat”.

Hmmmmmmmm,

Apple’s new iPod shuffle gets in on the fun too. On the Apple website the warning for the shuffle is “Choking hazard, do not eat.” I wonder who the first guy to try that was?

Most folding baby strollers have the warning “Remove child before folding stroller” I feel bad for the first kid that *that* happened to!

On a fire extinguisher the labels says, “Non-flammable”. I sure hope so!

And on a butane lighter the warning reads, “Flame may cause fire”. Stupid alert!!!! Stupid alert!!!!

COOL BONUS FICTION

Super-Den BIG, BIG, BIG!

By Matt Segrist

Mutant vacuums don't make very good housekeepers. Out for his morning walk, with his owner Raffi, Denny (a.k.a. Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness) did not think that he would have to save the world for the second time this week. (That's a different story.) At the same time, a long way away Dr. Frankenstein was about to bring his monster to life and he was very proud. He walked over to the button that would make lightning strike the monster. He tripped over his cat, hitting the lightning machine and redirecting it. As he was getting up, he accidentally pressed the button. The lightning strike smashed into a vacuum cleaner, and the vacuum came alive!

The vacuum started to suck up every thing around it, including a growth potion. Dr. Frankenstein watched horrified as the monster grew, and grew, and grew until it was 25 feet tall. Helplessly, Dr. Frankenstein observed as the monster broke through the wall and left. He had no idea what he had just created, and the chaos that would ensue.

The Vacuum rampaged all over, destroying houses and seeking other vacuums. When it touched its power cord to other vacuums, they came alive too. The minions were not as big and powerful as the first one, but they were still strong. They had the ability to empower other vacuums. One vacuum could easily overpower five humans. Soon the vacuum force was over 300,000 strong and growing quickly.

The Army came at the vacuums but there were just too many. Civilizations started to fall. Panic spread everywhere. Huge hurricanes were caused by the vacuums. Earthquakes were frequent. This world as we know it was about to end. There was only one hope for mankind and that was Super-Den.

Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness, was on his way to training class, (he was smarter than most humans he still needed to look like a normal dog) when he saw a huge skyscraper fall in the distance. He had no idea what was happening. He slipped the leash, and ran behind the closest building and took off into the air. As he got closer he heard people screaming and running. He saw what looked like vacuums below him but he figured he had just misperceived them. Then he saw it. A huge Vacuum, 25 feet tall, (heard this before?) destroying left and right. Super-Den knew what he had to do.

The Vacuum didn't realize Super-Den's power and therefore underestimated him. That was a big mistake. The Vacuum lashed at Super-Den with its cord. Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness, dodged skillfully. The cord smashed into the building behind him and the building fell to pieces. Super-Den knew that he couldn't attack him head on. "There must be a weakness," he thought. Then he watched as one of the minion's cords was hit by a falling chunk of concrete. The vacuum

Continued on page 16

shorted out and was powerless. A light bulb went on in Super-Den's head. He flew at the Vacuum. The Vacuum was surprised by this sudden move and did not know what to do. It lashed out with its cord and again Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness, dodged but this time grabbed on once the cord went by. Super-Den hung on for his life. Slowly, Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness, dodged but this time grabbed on once the cord went by. Super-Den hung on for his life. Slowly, Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness, gnawed on the cord. The Vacuum was constantly trying to shake him off. Finally the Vacuum realized what Super-Den was doing, but it was too late. Super-Den, the crime fighting dog of awesomeness, finally got through the rubber coating of the huge cord. (Super-Den was not stupid enough bite the live wire). Instead he provoked the Vacuum to swing with his cord again. The cord hit the building and a 20-ton piece of concrete fell on the cord. The Vacuum shorted out and, with a huge groan, shuddered to a stop. At that instant, all of the minions stopped also. The Vacuum was defeated.

As silence fell over the city, people started to come out of hiding. They realized that they owned most of the vacuums. Super-Den, the victorious crime fighting dog awesomeness, flew slowly back though the city to his owner. People along the way thanked Super-Den warmly. Super-Den landed and found his owner, Raffi. You better not have gotten yourself in trouble," said Raffi, relieved that Denny was found. (He didn't know anything about Super-Den.) Denny settled back into his normal routine, waiting for his time to come once again.

MICHAEL'S VICTORY

By Robert Smith

Michael was watching soccer on television when a commercial suddenly appeared regarding tryouts for the U.S. National Soccer Team. Michael thought to himself that the U.S. coaches would tell him he was too young, since he was only 13 years old, but Michael was wrong. The U.S. soccer coaches allowed Michael to tryout, despite his age. The day after the tryouts, Michael looked anxiously for the results. Amazingly, Michael had made the U.S. team! After rescanning the list, Michael was able to verify that he made the U.S. soccer team, something he had always dreamed of doing. Michael knew he would be the youngest player ever to go to the World Cup.

Michael went to the U.S. soccer team's first practice, he was so excited. Sadly, his teammates saw him, judged him by his age, not his talent, and deserted him. Michael couldn't believe it. Why would others behave toward him this way just because of his age? Michael was going to the World Cup, but he wouldn't have any teammates.

Michael played his first match and prevailed! Michael was so excited; he acquired a win even though he was unaided. Winning all of his matches gave him confidence, and he was going to the World Cup final, though he would be exhausted from all his matches. Michael was told he would face Brazil, one of the greatest teams ever. Now, Michael was anxious. He knew he would have to play hard to beat Brazil. The game was tomorrow; it would be a challenging match and Michael needed a good night's sleep.

The next day, Michael found himself in the tunnel along with team Brazil, ready to dash out onto the soccer field before a sold-out crowd. Michael was very excited about the big game, but also very nervous. The World Cup final began and Michael was having fun, and found himself occupied with the thrill of the game, not fear and worry. The game remained scoreless throughout the first half, and most of the second. In the 89th minute, the star Brazilian player, Ronaldinho, had possession of the ball, when all of a sudden Michael robbed him of the ball. Michael dribbled down the left side, used fancy footwork to get past the sweeper and then, took a shot. GOAL! Michael had scored. The crowd went crazy, giving Michael the stamina he needed to continue. Now, Michael had to fend off Brazil for one more minute.

After his goal, Michael had a difficult time keeping possession. Ronaldinho made a great play, shooting from the right side, and almost scored, but Michael fended off any chances at scoring. Now, with only 20 seconds remaining, Michael just had to shut Brazil down. Brazil tried and tried, with Ronaldinho shooting like crazy, but they couldn't score and Michael was victorious. He was a World Cup Champion, and he had won single-handedly. Michael knew this was the greatest day of his life and tonight, it would be difficult to get any rest.

Michael awoke the next day, and then recalled what had happened the night before. He could hardly believe it, and it seemed like a dream. Michael's parents arrived in the early morning to help him celebrate this amazing accomplishment. Michael was cheerful, but realized that it would be much better to celebrate with teammates. Michael's parents wanted to celebrate with Michael, so they took him to a French restaurant that he loved. While Michael and his family were enjoying a wonderful meal and spending time together, Michael received an urgent phone call on his cell phone.

The call was from Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's head coach and manager. Coach Parreira was inviting Michael to join Brazil's highly ranked soccer team. Michael couldn't believe it; his wish had come true. Michael eagerly accepted, being overjoyed at the thought of being on a team that wouldn't desert him because of his age. Michael played with them in many more World Cups, and Brazil's team won them all. Michael is now known as one of the greatest soccer players ever, and still plays on Brazil's team. Michael may not be a kid anymore, but his first World Cup appearance has led to many more kids playing in the World Cup. Some of these kids are even playing on their own, without teammates. This is all because of Michael's first World Cup triumph.



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New Space...

Continued from page 1

classrooms, 1 large room as a hangout area and a hallway that stretches the entire length of the building. What they didn't count on, was the additional 30 kids that would join when they had the new space. It went from a little organization into a school in just a year. But as the current director Cathy Mullins puts it " God continually provides for His home schoolers...praise His Holy Name!!!!!"

Operation Christmas....

Continued from page 1

This is a great way to bond with a child you have never met and let them know that no matter what they are going through, you still care about them, and more importantly, Jesus does too.

S.H.A.R.E. participates in Operation Christmas Child every year and this year collected 66 boxes for children around the world.

On behalf of all the kids around the world who will have their first Christmas this year, thank you. You can learn more about OCC at: www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC

Playing soccer....

Continued from page 9

3. Play the game! If you don't know how to play, just ask almost anyone. Soccer can be played with teams of 1 up to teams of twelve, so it's not a big problem to get going. All you need is a ball and some kind of goal. If you start playing this wonderful sport, I guarantee it will be one of your favorites!

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