

Annual Cross Project Date is Changed

The Cross Project is an annual event that is sponsored by Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center to bring attention to the number of abortions occurring in the United States. Volunteers put crosses made of PVC pipe into the ground along I-80.

This project takes place during the Human Sanctity of Life week. January 22 is the anniversary of the day that the US Supreme Court made the decision to legalize abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, the famous Roe vs. Wade decision.

Since 1973, over 53 million American babies have been aborted; over 1.5 million babies are aborted every year on average, and those are only the abortions that are reported.

There will be over 3700 crosses put into the ground by volunteers along the freeway off of the Meridian exit in Dixon. Installation begins at 9 in

the morning on Saturday. The crosses, made by volunteers using PVC pipe, will come down on Saturday, February 4.

Why 3700 cross? The 3700 represents the number of abortions performed each day in the United States.

Executive Director of the Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center Mrs. Diedre Eckle said "Anyone would agree that 3700 is too many."

The display affects many people who drive along the freeway towards Dixon. Mrs. Eckle said, "People pull over and sit in silence when they saw the number of crosses." The crosses are placed along the freeway, because the volunteers are "hoping people will think twice about their decision and that every cross represents a life," according to Mrs. Eckle.

by Shyanne Lum

Sanctity of Life Week Cross Project Volunteer Instructions

When: Installation begins at 9 a.m. Saturday. The crosses will be taken down on Saturday, February 4th at 9 a.m.

Where: Off Meridian Road in Dixon
Contact: Diedre Eckle at Alpha Pregnancy Center 707-449-8996

Getting there: From East I-80, 3 miles past Outlet/Nut Tree area to exit 59 (Weber/Meridian) turn right on Weber ¼ mile to Byrnes Road. Turn left through gate (heading back toward I-80 to old hangar buildings and park. From West I-80 exit Meridian Road. Turn left and go over overpass to Meridian Road and turn left. Go ¼ mile to Byrnes Road. Turn left through gate (heading back toward I-80) to old hangar buildings and park.

Dress: Warm dry clothes (rubber or waterproof boots recommended) refreshments and potty will be provided.

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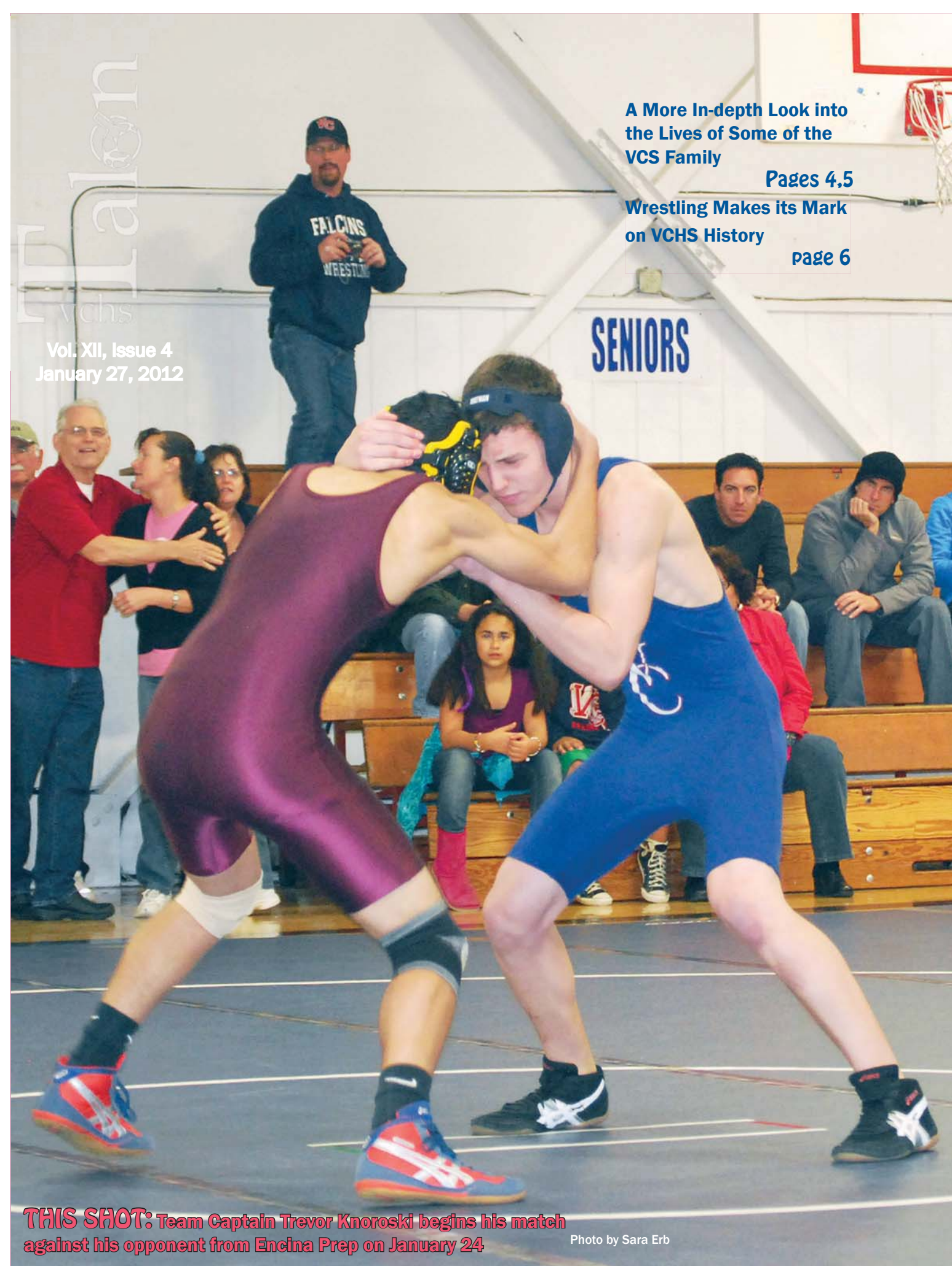
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A More In-depth Look into the Lives of Some of the VCS Family

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Wrestling Makes its Mark on VCHS History

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Vol. XII, Issue 4
January 27, 2012

THIS SHOT: Team Captain Trevor Knoroski begins his match against his opponent from Encina Prep on January 24

Photo by Sara Erb

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Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21

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The Talon, the student newspaper of Vacaville Christian High School, is a public forum for student expression and is published regularly by the Newspaper Production Class and Journalism Class. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the administration, student body or advertisers. The Talon staff welcomes and encourages submitted letters, stories, cartoons, and/or any other student feedback. See guidelines listed below.



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Business Manager: A J Hearn
Adviser: Mrs. Jeri McFadden
Principal: Mrs. Janet Fogh

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The following policies apply:
1. Unsolicited articles and suggestions for story ideas are welcomed, but no guarantee is made as to whether they will be printed in the *Talon*.
2. Letters to the Editor are to be signed when submitted to the Staff. Names may be withheld from publication only with the approval of the Editorial Board and Adviser. The Board will select the letters to be published.
3. The paper reserves the right to edit submissions for length, repetition, and suitability of content.

Staff Editorials
What the Editorial Board thinks

Teen Pregnancy:
“That Could Never Happen Here!”

On page 8 of this issue, you'll see an article about the Annual “Crosses for Life” display sponsored by Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center. Set to coincide with National Right to Life Week, the project was delayed due to rain last Saturday and is set to go up this weekend.

That got us thinking. Is this an issue that VCHS students are aware of? Could it happen here?

Teen pregnancies and abortions, aren't they distant? I mean, let's be honest here, who from VCHS could get pregnant? Aren't we all great Christians? Strong in our faith, deeply in love with God.

As beautiful as that would be, it is far from the reality of the situation, as we all know. It has happened before. Unexpected pregnancies aren't that uncommon in our culture, and teens are becoming parents daily. That is not the disturbing aspect, however. The disturbing aspect to the problem of teen pregnancy is that many of these pregnant teenagers are choosing abortion to solve their problems. Perhaps you're unaware of what abortion is: it is the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy.

Our current American society is a strong supporter of humanism. That philosophy sees humans as the top of the animal world, the ones who should be doing whatever they want: Have fun now, worry about the consequences later. Sex has become merely a form of pleasure; far from the pure act of intimacy within marriage that God created it to be.

In biblical times people who had sex outside of marriage could be stoned. [No. Not with drugs. With stones.] And they would die. That's Old Testament, you say, and Jesus brought a new way. So we should be forgiving.

But is that honestly what happens when we find someone is pregnant a little earlier than we expected? Or do we judge and condemn her? Is there all kinds of gossip about her? A pregnant teenage girl might lose all hope, wondering if her life is ruined. Imagine how hard it would be to tell your parents if you were in that situation! All this stress might drive her to having an abortion, even though she would never have considered it before she got pregnant.

So we should be forgiving. And help to lift up the person with support. That does not mean that there won't be consequences, for everything we do outside of God's will is consequential, but we should love on those who have made mistakes.

For in the eyes of God, we are just as sinful as anyone we might point a finger at.

And we should support organizations like Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center, who help young women avoid abortion and instead let their babies grow and be born. See the article on page 8 to see how you can help with the Crosses project along I-80.

New Driving
Laws Change
How We Drive

To start the new year of 2012 off, the State of California has legislated 5 new laws involving driving in to action.

First, a new Child Passenger Safety Seat law (Senate Bill 929) requires children to ride in either a car seat or booster seat until the age of 8, or until they reach a height of 4 feet 9 inches. Previous requirements were 6 years old or 60 inches tall. In addition, a child may not sit in the front seat with an active passenger airbag if the child is under one year of age.

The second change (Assembly Bill 353) will prohibit officers from impounding a vehicle for 30 days at a DUI checkpoint if the only offense is failing to hold a valid driver license.

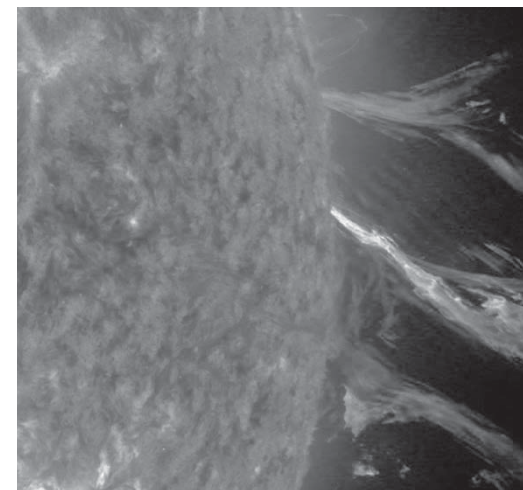
Third, AB 520 allows a person convicted of reckless driving under Section 23103.5 of the Vehicle Code to apply for a restricted driver license prior to the completion of their one-year suspension, provided they meet specific conditions. One of the conditions is the installation of Ignition Interlock Device in their vehicle.

Fourth, vehicles will be prohibited from crossing double parallel solid white lines except where permitted per AB 1105.

And last, section 23579 was added to the Vehicle Code, which authorizes courts to revoke a driver's license for 10 years if a person is convicted of three or more DUIs. Motorists may apply for reinstatement of their license with the DMV after five years, if the person installs an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) in their vehicle. Information was found at the DMV website.

These new rules apply to all drivers at our school and in the state, and were made to keep the drivers, passengers, and citizens of California safe and sound.

by Taylor Figuiera



Will the
Sun Kill us
All?

True or False: This year the earth will be destroyed by the sun.

The sun is reaching the peak of its eleven year cycle of activity and the amount of solar flares emitted by the sun are increasing. Solar flares are brief eruptions of exploding hydrogen gas from the surface of the sun. These solar flares can disrupt radio and GPS signals. The real scare for world destruction comes from the solar flares called CME's or coronal mass ejections. Coronal mass ejections are massive bursts of solar wind sending fireballs and huge magnetic disruptions at the earth.

These eruptions of magnetic energy can cause huge power outages that last for many days at a time. However, according to Science Daily, there simply isn't enough energy in the sun to send a killer fire ball to destroy the earth.

Although the scare for destruction by fire is impossible, there is still a chance that a very powerful CME could knock out satellites, and all elec-

tricity sending the world back to the 18th century.

In the past, several powerful CME's have caused millions of dollars worth of damage. Scientific American states that another big CME event hitting the earth full on could cause \$1-2 trillion in basic infrastructure damage.

The US is very vulnerable to blackouts due to the fragile electrical grid. "Modern power systems have a significantly enhanced vulnerability and exposure to effects of a severe CME," according to NASA.

The blackouts caused by the electrical disruptions could also cut off water supply to cities for days or weeks.

Risks due to the effects of solar flares and CME's are numerous and enhanced by the old and unreliable electrical grid. The scare of dangerous consequences of solar flares and CME's is very real and very possible in the near future.

by Nick Russell

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SOPA and PIPA Shot Down by Lawmakers

The Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) is a bill that was introduced in the United States House of Representatives on October 26, 2011. The bill expands the ability of U.S. law enforcement and copyright holders to fight online trafficking in copyrighted intellectual property and counterfeit goods.

"I think it's horrible, the way it will ruin the Internet. I hope it does not go through," Anujay Kapoor said.

SOPA has power to make sites disappear. If a website violates a copyright the SOPA bill gives

police the right to shut the website down and also remove the information. SOPA could also create online monopolies. The bill gives content owners the right to tell networks and services like MasterCard and PayPal to stop providing services to the allegedly offending website. Search engines like Google and Yahoo could also fit under this bill, meaning any violation of privacy laws, even in one post on one page of the site, could remove it from being online.

"I hate it," Drake Leavell said.

"AOL, Twitter, Google, LinkedIn, Zynga and Facebook have all signed a letter to Congress opposing the bill and the Protect IP Act (its sister bill). Those who support SOPA, meanwhile, are getting less business from the boycotts, and websites like Go Daddy lost more than 37,000 domains in the past two days after flip-flopping about their supporting of the bill," according to ibtimes.com, the website of the International Business Times.

"My opinion is to not restrict it," VCHS art teacher Mrs. Jenny Barr said.

by Thomas Wary

VCHS Wrestling Team Makes History

On Wednesday January 4, VCHS, made history by hosting its first wrestling meet, which was against Golden Sierra High School. It was a well-attended event, including many VCHS alumni, and there was much expression of school spirit.

Before the match started, Gary Nguyen and Trevor Knoroski warmed up together, along with other wrestlers to prepare themselves for their matches. The event got a late start due to the referees not showing up. Luckily, someone who was certified as a referee from last year stepped up to the job.

The first Falcon wrestler to face an opponent was Daniel Ewing. He started off his match doing very well. He was aggressive and strategic, and received many cheers from the crowd. Eventually, his Golden Sierra opponent won the match.

The next wrestler was Trevor Knoroski. He did very well during his match by earning 6 points for the team. He later went on to win his match. Knoroski was named "Player of the Week" of the week of January 1 by maxpreps.com.

"I like watching the players pin each other

because it was really exciting and the whole crowd would get all tensed up and when our team would flip the other player, everyone would cheer. It's



exciting," Ali Hartman said.

After Knoroski, the next wrestler was Mat-

thew Ignatieff. During his match he and his opponent were very aggressive and ended up going off the mat. Later his Golden Sierra opponent won the match.

Next up was Cyrus Javan. In the first round of his match he earned 4 points, and took the lead in the first round. He maintained the lead in the second round, but in the third round he was pinned by his opponent. After Javan were wrestlers Tyler Legoullon, Joshua Ryland, and Nguyen.

Unfortunately the VCHS wrestling team lost their first home meet to Golden Sierra with a final score of 36-39.

"It's fun when you beat people," Amber Stewart, a VCHS girl wrestler, said. "It's really physically tough and mentally tough because you have to out-think your opponent but you can't just pause and think in a match but you gotta keep moving. My coach always tells me, 'Don't think - react.' "

Stewart's hopes for the wrestling season are to make it to state championships and to work harder and be more aggressive.

by Tessa Moore

VCHS Cheer is 'Red Hot' in Florida

The VCS cheerleading team went to Florida for the Fellowship of Christian Cheerleaders National Championships the week of January 2 - 7 and competed two different days, January 6 and 7. The team took second out of five teams in their division.

"What I liked most about competing in Florida is the feeling of competing at a national level and overcoming everything to still place really good in the standings," Andrew Blik said.

Originally Andrew wasn't on the squad, but due to Tyler Allen breaking his arm in a football

game, Blik stepped in.

"Some experiences in Florida were super-long plane rides and excitement and being nervous and the amazing feeling I felt after we finished the routine. We went a bunch of places as a team and it was unbelievably fun bonding even more with the cheer team," Tiffany Conama said.

VCHS has gone to Florida for their National competition for many years. This year Cheer Coach Miss Leah Salamone had to get a substitute for her Bible 10, Choir and Drama classes.

"When I was gone I missed being back the

first week of the new semester and I missed all of my students, but at the same time the trip to Florida with the cheer team was incredibly amazing," Miss Salamone said.

"Without Miss Salamone it was interesting because we got two different subs and we got to learn from someone new," Amanda Schiff said.

With the cheerleaders gone the week right after Christmas break many people missed their friends they didn't get a chance to see over the break.

by Antoinette Owens

Varsity Girls Basketball on Winning Streak

The girl's varsity basketball team finished off last week with a solid, well played win over Rio Vista on Wednesday evening, as they head through the middle of the season on a five-game winning streak.

"We're doing great in season so far, keeping up our wins," Vivi Diaz said. "But more importantly, the league has really helped us come together as a team."

Among the team's seniors, Lauren Grabowski was awarded Player of the Week by Maxpreps.com for the first week of the season. She scored 32 points at the Forest Lake game on December 2, establishing a new career high for herself. One of the things that made this possible was great game-play by guard Lindsey Ward. Grabowski averages



about 14 points per game, the highest average on the team.

"We're a team of five seniors and four freshmen. Only three of us are returning players so we had, and still have, some edges to smooth over," Diaz said.

The team has worked very hard this year, practicing and conditioning their new players, and their efforts have been worth it, they are currently in seventh place in the Sac-Juaquin Section Division.

The season doesn't end until the middle of February, with many home games to come. The team will have home games the week of January 18 as they take on Rio Vista and rival Bradshaw Christian on Friday, January 20.

by Kyle Oxford

with additional reporting by Talon Staff

A Day in the Life of a Caucus in Iowa

For those of you who don't know, Iowa is the state north of Missouri and south of Minnesota, over in that magical place called The Midwest. Ever heard of a caucus? Neither have I. That is why I went and Googled it.

The definition of a caucus is a meeting of party leaders to select candidates, elect convention delegates, etc... although most people don't really care about all of the "legalese" stuff until they are ready to vote in a civilized and utilitarian society.

According to every single website and article used to research this subject, the purpose of the Iowa Republican Caucus is to select a candidate worthy enough to have a potential chance of running for the presidential nominee and to campaign against the current President Barack Obama.

Iowa is an important caucus because it is the first and therefore, eliminates candidates who have no potential and acts as an indicator for the rest of the nation.

Ten hopefuls that participated in the most recent Iowa Caucus are

Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich, Rick Perry, Michele Bachman, Jon Huntsman, Herman Cain, and Buddy Roemer.

After Iowa, the hopefuls proceeded to New Hampshire. After seeing the results of the Iowa Caucus, the New Hampshire Primary proceeded according to the "norm" of whoever is leading in the first primary, will ultimately also be leading in the future polls. Unlike in the Iowa Caucus, where Romney and Santorum were neck-and-neck, Romney pulled out a large lead in New Hampshire, beating second finisher Ron Paul by over 40,000 votes.

The front runner, Mitt Romney, may still have the best chance of pulling out a victory. The rest of the pack might as well "throw in the towel," (Bachman already has) unless they can work miracles. The South Carolina primary last week surprised the nation when Newt Gingrich won. The Florida primary is next, with dozens more states following until June 26, when Utah's primary is the last one scheduled.

by Ed Donofrio

Drive on DVD -- a Definite Winner

Last year *Drive* was released in theaters to overwhelming praise from critics and audiences alike. On January 31, the film will release on blu-ray, DVD, and On Demand Services.

I am among those who immensely enjoyed the film when it was released in theaters back in September and am ecstatic about its release in just a few days time. The novel by James Sallis is brought to life through the wonderful acting of Ryan Gosling and the impressive directorial style of Nicholas Winding Refn.

The style of Danish director of Nicholas Winding Refn has been no small part of why *Drive* has gathered so much acclaim in the past months. Each shot is meticulously filmed to the high standards he sets to his films. Many of his movies, unlike others

today, include lingering shots of the characters and their surroundings which adds to the atmosphere of the film. In fact, his work on the film may win him an Oscar nomination at the end of the month.



Drive is gets a well-earned five out of five in the directing department.

In the film the Driver is played by Oscar nominee Ryan Gosling. Although he does not talk very much, he is still one of the deepest characters

of the year and Ryan Gosling embodies that role. The supporting cast is made up of Carrie Mulligan, Oscar Isaac, and Albert Brooks who got a Golden Globe nomination for the role as well (this information taken from IMDb). Five out of five for the fantastic performances.

The music in the film is just as great as everything else in the movie. Cliff Martinez matches the ambiance of the film perfectly with a very memorable retro soundtrack. Refn also chose to include pop songs to heighten the tension in each scene. The soundtrack for the film also scores a five out of five.

Overall, *Drive* is in my opinion the best movie of the year, and it's one that is both deep and accessible. It's an action movie with depth that you don't usually get from action movies. Five out of five.

by Zack Sharp

New Years Resolutions Spark Ideas

At the end of the year, when the holidays are over, comes a new year. It's a fresh start for those who participate in something called "New Year's Resolutions"

Many of you may have your own idea of a resolution, or you may need some ideas. Freshman, Ashley Dingman has her own idea of things she wants to change.

"My new year's resolutions would be, to become closer to God and have a better relationship with Him. Also, to become more dedicated to golfing and developing the skills I need to go big. I need to be more open with my family, and spend more time with them. Also, at least keeping a 3.8

GPA average. I think these things are key to having a successful Christian lifestyle. Also, sports are a big part of my life and I hope to become better and better with the talent God has blessed me with," Dingman said.

A New Year's resolution is a commitment people make in the New Year. A commitment may be to better themselves, try new things, or forget the past. It's not an easy thing to stick to, but like any commitment, it takes work and dedication.

"My New Year's resolution is to do well in school, and spend more time going to church. It isn't going to be easy but I know I can do it," Cassandra Powell said.

You can be any age to make a New Year's Resolution, young or old. Even some of the seniors have their own idea for a New Year's Resolution.

"When people first meet me that they won't get a negative vibe from me. Like thinking I'm a bad kid," Vivi Diaz said.

"Um, to forgive people more, to forgive them easily," James Aarhus said.

A New Year's Resolution is a great opportunity to try something you never have, or to retry something you messed up. Even though the New Year has already started, it's not too late to change yourself for the better.

by Taylor Schubert

Pushing Himself to Victory



photo by Nate Black

“My biggest motivation is to give all to my team,” Brandon Sylvester said.

Brandon Sylvester is a VCHS freshmen. His passion, is football, and this passion shines through. Sylvester earned the Title of MVP Offensive Player for junior football.

Sylvester has been playing football since the summer prior to the beginning of 4th grade. It is a very demanding and time consuming sport. Practices take place three nights a week, from 6 to 8 in the evening. “Football demands that athletes be mentally and physically tough,” Sylvester said.

His motivation to pursue football came from both his parents, and from his coach.

Football has been an educating experience for Brandon. “What I learned in football is that you have to motivate and push yourself to the best you can be,” he said.

He has some words of advice for the student body: “You have three choices in all situations,” Sylvester said. “You can choose to give up, give in, or give it your all. If you choose to give it your all, you will always be able to persevere, through all situations.”

by Emre Basaran

Cole Harris and Julian Casablancas



photo by Emre Basaran

Music can be a channel for emotions. Cole Harris uses his guitar and

his creative mind to relax himself when he is stressed. If Cole is happy, he'll play faster and more upbeat music, and vice versa.

Cole is now 17 years old, and has been playing his guitar for 6 years. Cole's dad also plays the guitar, and has been one of Cole's inspirations for music. His Dad taught him all of the chords, and all of the basics, for about the first six months of him playing.

Cole says that he wouldn't want music to be his career, but he would like to do it as a side job; for a little extra money, to keep himself entertained, and just because he loves

music. Music is one of the biggest part of Cole's life, he says.

He also gets some of his inspiration from the lead singer of his favorite band, Julian Casablancas from The Strokes. If he had the chance to spend a day with anyone in the world, he'd choose Casablancas, and he'd sit around and play music with him. He would want to talk about music and life in general.

“He's inspirational because he plays off-keys in his music, and it sounds kind of off, but he sings the notes and makes them flow together,” Cole doesn't quite understand how Casablancas does this, but it really inspires him to find out.

by Daniel Ewing

Each of Us is

UNIQUE

Gotta LIKE the Differences!

Admitted to West Point

Darius Javan has college planned out and more.

Darius has already been accepted to West Point Military Academy. “60% of the application is academic, 30% is community service, and 10% is the CFA physical test,” Javan said. “It took a while with all the online tests, recommendations, and physical tests, but in the end it'll all be worth it.”

Javan has always been interested in the military. Being accepted to WestPoint even though the application process is tough was, in his opinion, his greatest accomplishment.

“It is my dream to serve my country. The privileges would be nice too,” Javan said.

Javan was born on Travis Air Force Base. He has aspired to be in the military. He first became interested in West Point when he attended a conference and spoke with a Major at the college. Looking deeper into the school and the benefits of a military academy, Javan was hooked.

Javan describes the schooling “The first 6 weeks will be tough military training, waking up at 6 a.m. and having sergeants breathing down your neck constantly. Once that's over with, it'll be school work, with a bit of military conditioning here and there.”

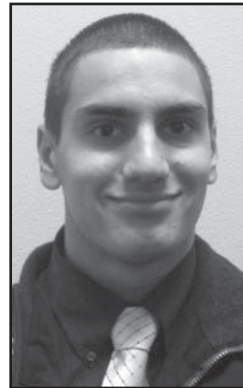


photo by Emre Basaran

by Andrew Cottman



Photo by Kendra Rowland

Mrs. Jennifer Zarbo prepares for another week of “Extreme Couponing.”

EXTREME Couponing

Mrs. Jennifer Zarbo, Spanish teacher, has found a way to save money: she is a couponer.

“I go shopping four times a week; I go the commissary on base, Target, CVS pharmacy, and Walgreens.” She explained how they all offer coupons and she gets different items at different stores.

Mrs. Zarbo has a family (her husband Scott and son Connor) and as she is shopping for them she tries to save money. Mrs. Zarbo got her idea for using coupons when she watched *Extreme Couponing* on TLC. The people on the show save tons of money, so she thought she would give it a shot.

“I watch the show on TLC weekly, but right now the season ended and I'm anticipating the next season,” Mrs. Zarbo said. She said she would love to meet the ladies on *Extreme Couponing* and ask them how they do it. She would like to get help from them.

Mrs. Zarbo explained how she saves 80-90%

each week when she shops. She spends about three hours every Sunday night preparing for the week. Many stores let you know in advance when the coupons will activate. Then she gets her coupons from the Sunday Paper and also online. A major website that she uses is *krazycouponlady.com*. She explained how this site helps you organize your coupons and gives advice about when and how to use them.

Couponing takes a lot of time, but for the amount a person can end up saving the time is well worth it. Mrs. Zarbo has a binder full of coupons. She also would love to take classes on couponing so she gets better.

Couponing is very hard and takes a lot of smart thinking, yet just about anyone can do it. Just start small, get the coupons out of the newspaper and try to use them or take the coupons out of the store's magazines. There are many ways to save money

by Kendra Rowland

Just Five More Minutes

A mee Aarhus wishes lunch went longer.

Students always discuss how they wish lunch would be made longer.

“Lunch is too short, therefore we don't have enough time to eat, socialize and relax from a hard day of work. On off-campus days, things become even more difficult,” Aarhus said. “With the extra time we could eat our lunch, work on homework, hangout with our friends, but take our time doing so.”

If lunch were even just a little longer it would create a big change. Aarhus believes that 10 minutes would create a heavy impact on lunch, which is currently “not long enough because it's hard to get out of class, drive to the restaurant, get back to school and sometime in between actually eat your food.”

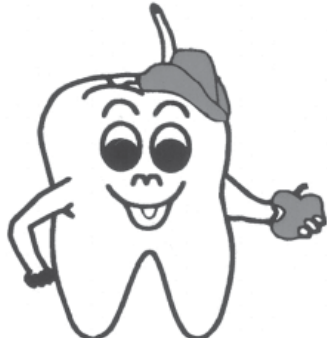
Principal Mrs. Janet Fogh brought up another consideration to the complex lunch schedule at VCS. “In order to accommodate lunch schedules for teachers and students traveling from the middle school and high school all day, the lunch schedule must be made very similar. The lunch period for middle school is a class period for high school, and the lunch period for high school is a class period for middle school,” said Mrs. Fogh.

“Absolutely we'll look at it for Tuesday, to make lunch 10 minutes longer. Regular days are too difficult to change for now,” Mrs. Fogh said.

by Hannah Stadnick




photo by Emre Basaran



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