

The BACKSTORY

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Goldendale High School

It's about time for *Timberwolf Times*

Story by Timberwolf Times Staff

After nearly a decade, the *Timberwolf Times* has made its appearance on campus once more. The last time Goldendale High School's paper was published was in 2017, long before Covid-19 and our nation's shutdown. Before her retirement, Laurie Wilhite was the last adviser before the arrival of the current one, Mr. Lucas, who decided to combine staff to publish the yearbook (*Simcoe*) and the paper (*Timberwolf Times*) under one roof. Both

newspaper and yearbook students meet in Room 218, and share resources, especially photographs.

Mr. Lucas previously advised Ferndale High School's newspaper, *The Eagle Eye*, and yearbook, *Aquila*. In the fall of 2022 he took an English teaching position at Goldendale. Seeing that GHS didn't have a paper, Lucas agreed to give up a prep period this year to have promising young writers, photographers and designers in his room where he could mentor them. Lucas' professional experience in-

clude more than 30 years of work in print and broadcast news, trade and literary magazines, and commercial book design.

Currently, the crew on both publications is small, but numbers don't determine success or failure. Many newspapers, such as *The Goldendale Sentinel*, have small staffs, and often rely on contributing freelance writers and photographers, and often publish "wire" stories provided by the Associated Press or other news organizations.

Heading up the *Timber-*

wolf Times are GHS juniors Sean Henrikson and Rowan Richelderfer, and sophomore Grace Stanbrough. Lucas recognized their writing talent early on and recruited them for the paper last spring. This year both the newspaper and the yearbook will draw upon the photographic talents of GHS seniors Sara Hillegas, Sheena Hunter and Selene Lemus, and sophomores Rose Hanger and Chelsea Roberts.

Meanwhile, Goldendale senior Addi Bomberger is handily managing the yearbook practically solo.

Goldendale FFA receives awards at FFA National Convention

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School's award. Rydell Myers, Trystin Tobin, and Aubrey Wright accepted the Model of Excellence award.

Grace Stanbrough, Charlotte Maltovich, and Ada Garner went to Nationals after winning 1st place at State in their divisions, as well as being awarded Bronze at Nationals for their Agriculture Fair Projects.

Aside from accepting awards, the Goldendale FFA chapter saw the expansive FFA shopping mall, where everything from Hey Dude

shoes to FFA swag were sold. They also took part in the National FFA Agricultural Career Show which hosted more than 300 booths representing colleges, careers, companies, and the military.

Overall, this chance to travel from Washington to Illinois to Indiana is a special privilege given to the hard-working members of the Goldendale FFA chapter.

The group was welcomed back into town with a small parade by the Goldendale Sheriffs and Firefighters as a thank you to everything the FFA chapter does for the Goldendale community.

GHS honors local veterans



Local veterans Jody Granum, above left, and Don Beierle, right, responded to an open invitation to attend Goldendale High School's annual Veterans Day assembly on Thursday, November 9. During the celebration, veterans stood up as the band played their military branch's theme song. Many of the vets who attended served during the Vietnam era. Beierle formerly served as a bus driver for Goldendale School District.

Photo by Timberwolf Times Adviser

Timberwolf Times

Goldendale High School

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Volume 23, No. 1

GHS FFA goes to Indianapolis



FFA Nationals participants. Back row, left to right: Mr. Krieg, Mrs. Krieg, Bennett Buchanan, Baeden Lee, Logan Telford, Jasper Keith, Frank Lorton, Rydell Myers, Lexi Williams, Jenna Casey, Addi Bomberger, Grace Stanbrough, Sierra Blunt, Mrs. Halm, Braydon Whiteley, Logan Smith, Trystin Tobin. Front row, left to right: Mrs. Wright, Harmony Casteel, Aubrey Wright, Jack Halm, BryLee Mulrony, Charlotte Matulovich, Claire Gilmore, Tessa Larcome, Emma Gorrod, Emmy Kruger. See story on NEWS, Page 6.

New teachers rock GHS

Grace Stanbrough & Rowan Richelderfer
Timberwolf Times

Right before the start of this 2023-2024 school year, Terry Johnson was invited to be the new band director at Goldendale High School. Johnson previously worked as the principal at a school in Ellensburg for nine years, and taught band for 14. When asked why he was attracted to Goldendale, Johnson said, "I love the quiet, slow-paced community and the environment."

Aside from his duties in

Kittitas County, he was a member of local bands that helped raise money for charity. "Once, we raised money for a family that lost their mother," he said. "We raised almost \$10K in a single day."

Johnson began college a year late due to him already having a wife and kids. He attended Boise State University before transferring to Central Washington University. Prior to teaching, Johnson worked for a lumber company. He sustained a back injury during this time. "It still affects me to



Terry Johnson, who moved from the Ellensburg area, is Goldendale High School's new band teacher. He hopes to start a rock ensemble if there is interest.

this day," he said. Although he enjoyed the work, his job with the lumber company simply wasn't providing

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GHS parking lot hooligans

It has been our observation here at Goldendale High School that certain groups of people appear to like to be a nuisance in the school parking lot. Over the past week, we have asked people out in the parking lot to watch the type of behavior that students present on the asphalt. The main problem that's been seen is the speed at which some teens drive through the lot while pedestrians are present, and during lunch, especially. Drivers are going well over the limit that they agreed upon, which is 15 mph.

That can be dangerous, as these unruly drivers could hit and injure some-

one. Some drivers don't seem to care about the safety and welfare of pedestrians. The drivers demonstrate their lack of brights by also constantly revving their engines which often, at the ones running diesel, pour out streams of thick, black smoke. These same drivers also speed around the lot, trying to "drift" their vehicles, which most can't do, because they drive obnoxious, underpowered cars or trucks. That is also dangerous, because they aren't trained, and their skills behind the wheel are lacking; some have come very close to hitting parked cars.

The school faculty, admin personnel—and other students—would appreciate if drivers would abide by the parking lot rules. Over-zealous drivers may be even breaking federal and state laws. The rules were put in place for the safety of others, and the rules are meant to be followed. That doesn't mean drivers can't have fun every once and a while, but the school parking lot is not a race track. When it's an everyday occurrence in a lot full of cars, some of them expensive, it gets old really fast.

-- The editors.

XC: more runners are always welcome

Goldendale values student programs, sports being a major part of high school life. However, among sports teams, Cross Country (XC) is not often the hot topic of conversation. Let's face it: XC is not as glamorous as other sports, and perhaps because it is, like wrestling, more of an individual versus a team sport like football or volleyball. That leaves some runners sometimes feeling undervalued. However, much of that is changing due to a three-year winning streak at league and district levels enjoyed by the Cross Country team.

This current upward trend began when coaches Juli Rising and Randal Jones were hired. Both set and broke

records at their own high schools decades ago, and they brought that high standard of competition to Goldendale athletics. During their tenure, the team has had at least one boy and girl attend state; this year two boys and one girl attended.

When the District went to 2B, that meant a great thing for all Goldendale teams, and especially for the XC team: they could dominate the EWAC league. The XC team is the first GHS sports team to win three district titles consecutively, and for the past three years, has gone to state with a full team—every time. (That is only the case for the boys.)

As the boys eventually

graduate, few girls will be left, and will need a team. Currently, the two female runners who will be competing for the next few years are the fastest girls in the Goldendale school district; one is a freshman, and the other is in middle school.

Since a full team requires at least seven members, if coaches could find more girls and train them to be as good as the ones currently competing, then that team would be one of the best to come out of GHS. There are plenty of girls who can run who are not, unfortunately, currently in sports.

And let's face it: some players of other sports spend as much or more time on the bench as they do on the

court or field. If those athletes wanted more opportunities to improve, say, their aerobic health, for example, they could join a team where their hard work will pay obvious dividends in other sports, such as on the basketball court, where stamina is demanded.

The same goes for guys: the Boys Cross Country team may dwindle down due to something as simple as attrition, and there will be a need for runners—of which there are plenty on other sports teams—who could be always be guaranteed opportunities to individually train, compete, and win. Teams are important, but so are individuals. Cross Country promises to offer the best of both worlds.

GHS welcomes Terry Johnson and Ethan Rocklin

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enough to support his family. "A teacher at Central Washington recommended that if I like band, I should become a teacher," Johnson said. "That eventually brought me to where I am today." Johnson started teaching at age 32; he will start his 23rd year in public education at Goldendale.

His teaching skill, his love for music, and his upbeat personality all seem to create the perfect match for Goldendale High School's band. "I really enjoy the relationships I build with my students," he said. "It's so much more than teaching."

His feelings are not one-sided; many musicians have expressed a liking of their new director. "He's very positive," said Amity Bushnell, trumpet player. "He expresses a lot of patience whenever we work on new things."

Other than his band in Ellensburg, Johnson also said he has "played with operas before, small-time and big." Having that background has motivated him to start a choir and rock band; he plans to advertise soon.

Johnson's new job as GHS's band teacher has revived his passion for teaching music. "I played in my high school's band," Johnson

said. "Music is the blood in my veins."

Ethan Rocklin

GHS's math department gained a new teacher this school year, Mr. Ethan Rocklin. Rocklin, class of 2018, attended all four years at GHS. When asked about the change at Goldendale High School since being a student, Rocklin said, "When I was here pre-Covid, students seemed to be on roughly the same level and classes went smoother." Being three weeks into his first year teaching here, he also brought up that "less coverage of prerequisite skills was needed."

Everyone has their own thoughts about mathematics; Mr. Rocklin's take on the subject is positive. "Math has always been my favorite subject," he said, "since as far back as first grade." After originally pursuing physics and engineering out of high school, his passion was as simple as looking back at his favorite subject. "When SpaceX and Tesla were really becoming a big thing, it really started to interest me, especially the electrical engineering side of it."

Although Mr. Rocklin spent his high school years



Math teacher Ethan Rocklin explains an algebra concept to a GHS student during Task. According to Rocklin, many students lack the prerequisite skills to succeed in mathematics.

at GHS, his family is originally from Portland, Ore. After attending Central Washington University in Ellensburg and earning degrees in STEM teaching and Secondary Mathematics Education, Rocklin returned to Goldendale, this time to teach.

Rocklin mentioned many ways he's looking to make the GHS mathematics department better, as well as "mending issues that have popped up over the last few years." From finding new teaching methods to solving behavioral issues in class-

rooms, Rocklin had many ideas. With lots of things to look forward to this school year, there are also some problems that he is apprehensive about.

"I've been both the student and the teacher. One of the things that is consistent across the board is that when students disrupt the class even just once, it can carry over the whole class period to multiple days in a row." He also compared behaviors to disease: "It's like a virus in a way. Even a few incidents can spread and become a larger issue."

Goldendale receives awards at National FFA Convention

Grace Stanbrough

Timberwolf Times

On October 29, a select group of 23 Goldendale High School students traveled across the country for the annual FFA National Convention, and returned in early November.

There are two ways for students to be chosen for this honor: Students can compete and qualify to represent themselves or the chapter through a Proficiency Award, Career Development Event, Agriscience Fair Project, etc. The other way to be chosen for Nationals is to be one of the students who helped write up and present the Goldendale FFA's National Chapter Application.

"It is a special honor and a privilege to be selected to attend the National FFA Convention while representing the Goldendale FFA Chapter," said adviser Joshua Krieg during a pre-trip meeting with FFA members.

This trip was seven days long, with students missing a full week of school. There were many different activities, workshops, tours, sessions, and other experi-

ences offered. The first stop was Chicago, Ill. While staying at the La Quinta Inn, the Goldendale FFA Nationalist members got to eat genuine Chicago-style deep-dish pizza, see The Cloud Gate, and be raised 102 stories into the sky at the Willis Tower SkyDeck. During the stay in Ill., the chapter drove to Racine, Wis. At a CASE Tractor factory, the members split into groups and received a guided tour revealing how CASE tractors are built.

On Halloween, the FFA Nationalists piled back into their vans and drove to Indiana. At Fair Oaks, they toured the Fair Oaks Farm, a large dairy and animal breeding operation. There, students learned all about how it runs. From piglets huddling under their mothers, to a cow giving birth to a healthy calf, the students saw many amazing sights. Continuing to Indianapolis, the group prepared for the next three days at the convention, which hosted over 70,000 FFA members and guests.

The National Chapter Award is presented to outstanding FFA chapters who write and submit a presentation of the 15 activities that



GHS freshman Aubrey Wright, right, uses an ultrasound to locate unborn pigs in a simulation.

Submitted photo.

their chapter participates in each year. Each of the activities and events fall under three categories: Growing Leaders, Strengthening Agriculture, and Building Communities. The Goldendale Middle School FFA earned three gold stars, the highest honor, and Goldendale High School FFA earned two gold stars. The Goldendale Middle School was selected as a finalist and placed top five

in the nation for the Middle Schools Model of Excellence Award. Both schools, however, were recognized as one of the top 3.3% FFA chapters out of almost 9,000 in the United States.

Addi Bomberger and Jenna Casey went on stage to accept the Goldendale High School's award, while Logan Smith and Frank Lorton accepted Goldendale Middle

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SPORTS

Wolves win or place at EWAC league, district and state meets

For all sports are almost over, but there is still time for playoffs and a possible chance for a State football championship.

Meanwhile, the Cross Country team did go to State and brought back some decent showings, with GHS junior Sean Henrikson taking 18th among 133 runners, followed by Emma Meagher taking 23rd, and Raymond Holycross setting a personal record (PR) in 48th place.

The team previously garnered 1st at both League and District competitions. Moreover, the team placed 1st at District

three years in a row, a feat unmatched by GHS's other athletic teams.

The Timberwolves football team were 10-1 overall, 5-0 for the League. By beating the Brewster Bears 67-23, the team made it through the first round of playoffs. They face Okanogan Nov. 18 at Wenatchee's Apple Bowl. If they win, they will face Toledo or NW Christian in the semi-finals. If they win there, they will face 1st-ranked Napavine, Onalaska (4th), Kalama (5th), or less likely, Riverview (8th). If they lose to Okanogan, that will wrap up the fall season.

As for individual records, GHS junior Matthew Gray was selected Offensive Player of the Year, and senior Sam Wilder was selected as the

Defensive Player of the Year. Eleven players were chosen for 1st teams, and three for 2nd teams.

Coach Blake Lesko was selected as Coach of the Year, a coveted honor.

The volleyball team placed 1st in League and District, showing a stellar overall record (22-2) and went undefeated 12-0 in the League. Taryn Rising was selected as League Most Valuable Player (MVP). Seven players made All League 1st and 2nd teams.

The soccer team, which was 11-8 overall and 9-5 in League, had two members chosen for 1st Team, two for 2nd team, and one honorable mention.



Matthew Gray was selected for EWAC Offensive Player of the Year. Gray rushed for 332 yds for 22 attempts, making four touchdowns (rushing), and had one 86-yard run. He also rushed for a two-point conversion.



Sam Wilder was selected for EWAC Defensive Player of the Year.



Timberwolves head football coach Blake Lesko was selected as EWAC Coach of the Year. Coach Lesko teaches various CTE courses at GHS.

EWAC STATS

Boys Cross Country League Champions District Champions State (11th Pl)

Sean Henrikson - 18th pl
Raymond Holycross - 48th pl (PR)
Emma Meagher (GIRLS) - 23rd pl

Football

Offensive Player of the Year

Matthew Gray

Defensive Player of the Year

Sam Wilder

1st Team Offense

Matthew Gray

Cameron Groves

Calvin Hill

Malakai Maiava

Braxton Seaver

Sam Wilder

1st Team Defense

Layne Bruhn

Cameron Groves

Malakai Maiava

Sam Wilder

Seth Wilder

Matthew Gray

2nd Team Offense

Seth Wilder

2nd Team Defense

Evan Riley

Joshua Boe

Soccer

All-League 1st Team

Claire Tuning

Iliana Vegas

2nd Team

Addison Bomberger

Madison Campbell

Honorable Mention

Averie Mell

Volleyball

League Champions

District Champions

League MVP

Taryn Rising

All-League 1st Team

Brook Blain

Taryn Rising

Emily Tindall

2nd Team

Ada Garner

Maggie Gutierrez

Lydia Hanning

Honorable Mention

Lexi Molnar

Athletes in action



Clockwise from top left:

GHS junior **Sean Henrikson** on his last stretch of a meet at the Goldendale Golf Club. Henrikson placed 18th out of 163 cross country runners at State. The Timberwolves placed 1st in League, and in Districts for the third consecutive year.

Sophomore **Seth Wilder** and senior **Victor Canche** celebrate another Timberwolf touchdown.

Sophomore **Kelly Smith** puts the soccer ball back into action.

Junior **Emily Tindall** sets up the for a spike.