



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
1000 Fairview Ave. Crawfordsville • 765-362-2342
www.cville.k12.in.us



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Superintendent, Dr. Ryker
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Wrestling team invited to state tournament *CHS wrestling team wins County Champion title*

For the first time in Athenian Wrestling history, the CHS wrestling team received an invitation to compete in the 2A Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Team State Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 11.

At the beginning of each season, the coaches' association asks coaches for nominations to compete at the state level. With the nominations and details from each nominee school's previous season, a computer program then compiles a list of top teams to invite.

This invitation is a significant honor for a hardworking team. Head Coach Aaron Keller, who is in his third season as head coach, told the Journal Review that this is an exciting time for the program. Keller believes the honored invite comes from last year's success combined with several of those same wrestlers returning this year.

Key returners include Taiga Koyanagi (106), Armando Munoz (126), Blayze Robbins (132), Landon Vaught (144), Kollin Moore (157), Jaziel Gil-Herrera (165), Braeden Hites (175) and Keegan Cokel (285).

Keller also hopes this honor sparks continued growth in the youth



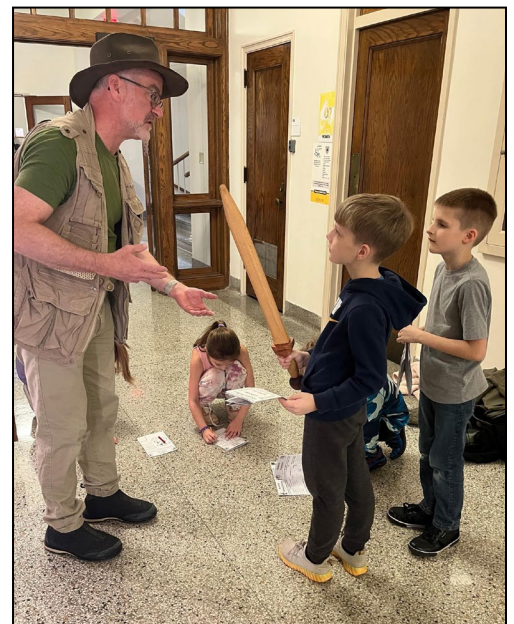
As a school corporation, wear gold and blue on Friday to support the wrestling team's honor of competing at the state tournament.

program as he looks forward to many more years of great wrestling.

On Saturday, the Athenians will compete in a dual format. Other 2A teams competing at state include Belmont, Delta, Heritage Hills, Bishop Chatard, New Prairie, Yorktown, Hanover Central, Mount Vernon (Posey), Owen Valley and Purdue Polytech.

DePauw field trip tops off semester study

Mrs. Lawson's classroom from Nicholson Elementary went on a blast to the past field trip to the Classics Department at DePauw University. This semester, they have been working with DePauw senior Morgan Lawson on her thesis project to bring classical curriculum to the classroom. Their trip was a culmination of the students' work exploring all things archaeology in the Mediterranean, including mythology, architecture, art, culture, food, history, and more! There, they met archaeologists and professors, Dr. Foss and Dr. Schindler, who helped them navigate and explore their questions about the ancient world. And, as it turns out, the students make great Roman soldiers as well!





Band concert prepared crowd for holiday season

The Crawfordsville Middle and High School bands performed their holiday concert the week before Christmas break with various songs and entertainment as usual. In addition to their performances at this concert, there was a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus and also two Marines to collect toy donations.

Through the bands' organization of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and the generosity of the community, the band was able to donate four full boxes to Toys for Tots.



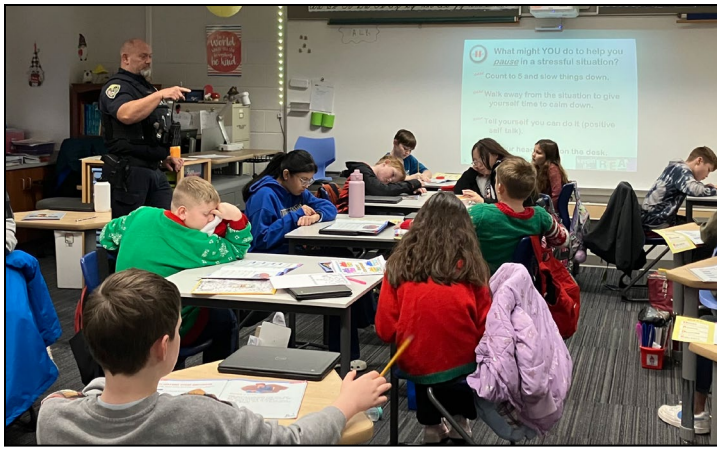
Diamond Elite wins 1st in Hip Hop

Congratulations to the Diamond Elite Dance Team who placed first in Elementary Hip Hop at the Crawfordsville High School Dance Invitational in December.



Golden Grecians sing in Indy

Mrs. Swick and the CMS Golden Grecians performed at the Indianapolis Arts Garden at the Mistletoe Festival during December.



Left photo: Officer Tony Bowen goes through a D.A.R.E. lesson with Hoover Elementary students. Right: SRO Villalpando explains procedures with their K9 officer while demonstrating an attack on Hoover teacher, Mrs. Jones.

Hoover Elementary continues D.A.R.E. program

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (D.A.R.E.) has been in full swing once again at Hoover Elementary, educating and encouraging students to be drug free.

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Resource Officers, Jack Taylor, Alfredo

Villalpando, and Tony Bowen, in partnership with the Crawfordsville Police Department, have been providing D.A.R.E. education for more than 20 years.

School Resource Officers must attend an intensive two-week, 80 hour training to become a certified D.A.R.E.

instructor. The training teaches officers how to educate students about drug abuse prevention, resisting peer pressure, and making healthy choices.

Students get the added benefit of interacting positively with a CPD officer and learning a bit more about law enforce-

ment and some of the resources available in our community to keep them safe. In addition to classroom instruction, students have been treated to seeing police vehicles and equipment up close, learning about special teams, and shown a K9 skills demonstration.

Hoover teacher's aide honored by Journal Review

By Journal Review

Sheila Sowers may be retired, but she still has a busy schedule.

Her dedication to her volunteer work earned her the distinction as a 2024 Journal Review Shining Star.

Sowers is a teacher's aide at Mollie B. Hoover Elementary five days a week. She always wanted to be a teacher and was originally enrolled at Ball State University to become one, but when she married she decided to follow her husband's path of not pursuing a college career.

She added her parents also didn't encourage her to go to college.

"We didn't give our kids a choice, you're going to college," Sowers said.

Sowers worked in factories and as a supply specialist at Valero in Linden for 12 years before retirement.

She has two children and two grandchildren.

A couple years after retirement, she found her gateway to teaching when one of her friends asked her to help out as an aide in Sunday school classes at Rock Point Church.

As her children are older and her grandchildren now adults, Sowers had a lot more time on her hands.

"I just felt like I needed to do something," she said and became a substitute teacher.

The next thing she knew, she was working nearly full-time. She hosts reading groups with students throughout the school day and also visits different classrooms to help with math.

Sowers said it isn't always easy being a teacher's aide, students can be difficult. Some days, a student can be having a rough time and they don't always know how to control their emotions. She said it takes a lot of patience, and that while that student may be combative one day, they'll come in the next



Journal Review Photo by Hayley Jarman

Sheila Sowers, a teacher's aide at Hoover Elementary, received the 2024 Journal Review Shining Star Award.

asking for a hug.

"You kind of, at times you go from, okay, I can't do it anymore, to, okay, that's why I'm here," Sowers said. "Our kids need consistency. Our kids need love. Our kids, at times, need someone to listen."

Sowers believes all of the staff at Mollie B. Hoover Elementary deserves a Shining Star award.

"Everybody in this school, we're all working for the same thing, to better our kids. Every

continued on page 4 . . .

Shining Star . . .

one of us, every teacher, every aide, we're all needed," she said.

Sowers also is a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

She said the court appoints an attorney to help parents in family matters, but not the children. That's where CASA steps in.

"We are the voice for the kids," Sowers said.

This is an even harder challenge for Sowers, seeing children it difficult and troublesome situations at home. She gets emotional talking about the children she advocates for.

On hard days, when she is overwhelmed and feeling helpless, she looks to her faith.

"I pray a lot," Sowers said. She keeps a small statue of Jesus in her office to remind her of her faith and to keep her grounded.

Sowers doesn't only help children, she also dedicates ev-

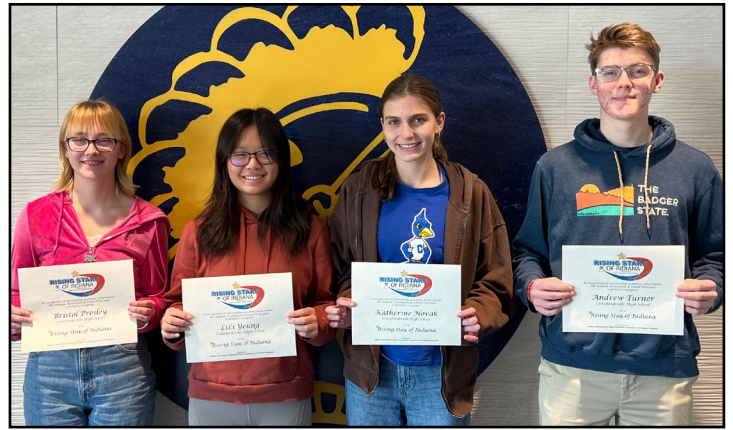
ery other Thursday afternoon to the Women's Resource Center and is part of Through the Gate.

Through the Gate is an organization that helps women battling addiction and in recovery. She says that she can help women in the organization in many different ways.

"I go stay with the girls. We might watch movies. We might just talk," Sowers said. She can also get them their medicine if they need help with that.

While she may have a lot on her plate, she still finds time to socialize with her friends and even watch her favorite true crime shows. She meets up with friends at Arni's to play Bid Euchre for hours when she gets the chance.

Sowers doesn't see herself as busy though. With being divorced and her children and grandchildren getting older, she sees herself just living her life to the fullest and with meaning.



Rising Stars named at CHS

Crawfordsville High School has named four Rising Stars of Indiana for their academic achievements which include, Bristol Presley, left, LiLi Yeung, Katherine Novak, and Andrew Turner.

The Rising Stars of Indiana, a program of the Indiana Association of School Principals, is a non-competitive recognition program, designed to honor high school juniors for their academic achievements.

Each Indiana high school is allowed to recognize up to four students with the purpose to increase visibility and scholarship opportunities.



Advisory council meets at CHS

Members of the Crawfordsville High School school counseling advisory council met in early December as part of the IDOE certification Gold Star process.

This council is a representative group of stakeholders to review and revise the counseling program at the high school. Members include teachers, city officials, parents, community members, students, mental health agencies, school counselors, administrators and school board members. The group meets twice a year and provides vital feedback on school counseling goals, reviews program data and makes recommendations about the school counseling program at Crawfordsville High School. The next meeting will be held in the spring.



Swim teams are Back to Back County Champions

Both the boys and girls swim teams are Back-to-Back County Champions after defeating both North and South.

For the girls, CHS had a total of 295 points, North had 266, and Southmont had 69.

The CHS boys total was 239, and both North and South each had 199.



Free-Throw fundraiser benefits local families

The CHS girls basketball team completed a Free-Throw-A-Thon Fundraiser to help support families during the Christmas season. Players rallied their friends and family to donate a designated amount per shot made. Each of the players and coaches completed

100 free throws and then reported back to their donors of their total amount. The team was able to raise enough money to support nine families! The team traveled together to Wal-Mart to shop for each of the families.



Boys basketball team spreads Christmas cheer

Before Christmas break, the boys basketball team traveled to Whitlock Place and Ben Hur Nursing Home to sing carols to spread some Christmas cheer and visit with residents. Following their carolings, the group enjoyed a team dinner at Francis and Mount.