The Bagpiper

May 1, 2024 | Reporting Freeman's news since 2009 | Volume 10, Issue 2

Students using slurs fall under harassment policy, Smith says

By Jay Parr
Staff writer

Concerns are being raised about the growing use of derogatory language, such as slurs, at Freeman High School.

Principal Jeff Smith expressed concerns over the increasing use of slurs that have come to his attention this year.

"It just seems to be normalized, and I, for one, am extremely bothered by that," Smith said. "All of that terminology really is used for one purpose, and that's to put someone down."

One student who asked to remain anonymous agreed that it is a problem.

"I feel like it's been way normalized because I've seen it come from students to other students. I feel like it's just a normal thing for everybody. It all just depends on who and what you grow up around."

Courtesy Freemansd.org

Smith takes slurs very seriously.

"It greatly saddens me," Smith said. "It angers me at the same time because I'm a believer in the dignity of other human beings."

Smith has been very concerned with the rise in use of slurs by our students.

"It doesn't matter where or how that person is choosing to use that slur because to me a slur is demeaning, derogatory language in any and all situations," Smith said. "It's extremely bothersome and something that I think lessens people's dignity. I am a firm believer that every single person who walks through the school is a person of value."

The district policy states that the use of slurs is a form of harassment. There are no exceptions to how the administration will respond to any form of bullying or harassment whether it's verbal or physical harassment, damage to property, or creating a dangerous learning environment for another student.

"I don't think it's appropriate in either situation whether you mean to, or whether it's intentional or completely unintentional," Smith said.

Smith shared that he and Dean of Students Chad Ripke would be cracking down on the use of slurs by students in a video announcement on Friday, March 15.

"I get called slurs pretty often," said another student who asked to remain anonymous. "I feel disrespected, and I'm tired of it."

Smith acknowledges that you can hear slurs from different sources and maybe not even know what they mean.

"Maybe I don't even recognize that language is meant to hold that purpose, but I'm repeating either something someone else said to sound cool or repeating something that a media personality said in order to sound cool," Smith explained. "Are you just repeating something like song lyrics? Are you repeating what you believe in? There's just that element of uncertainty. For some reason, people feel that it's okay to use some of that language. It seems to be all across the board."

Slurs being used in high school is a fairly big problem that is up to us to solve.

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Dances cancelled due to lack of student interest

By Madelyn Cordova
Staff writer

Sadies and other school dances are seeing a decline in interest of the student body this year. Only 11 tickets were sold for Sadies. This lack of interest is affecting class and club fundraisers,

"We were trying to set up Sadies to raise money for our [FBLA] state expenses because we have a high amount this year," junior Lane Mathews said.

By not attending school dances, it takes away from the ASB organizations selling the tickets, ultimately taking away from events and trips that students are hoping to fund.

Winter formal was supposed to be support the sophomore class, but with only 13 tickets sold, it was also canceled.

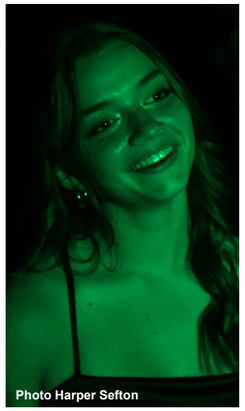
In a survey by the Bagpiper staff, many students said that dances are just not interesting to them. Others suggested that they would be more interested if there was a change in the location of formal dances or if different music was played.

Junior Maggie Leaper said it was "way too much money to go jump in a circle with fancy clothes."

Others have said that they simply just didn't feel like going.

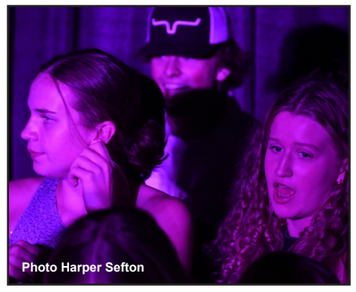
"The quality of the dances and the embarrassment of having to ask people" is why freshman Lila Orndorff thinks people aren't going.

There are plans in the works to revamp Sadies. This time, it will feature a black out volleyball match along with the dance.



Jayden McKee (11)

Freshmen Hailey Melin, Chloe Admire, Graycen Key and Madisen Hansen



The last school dance held was Homecoming last October. Unlike the last two dance attempts, it was well attended across the grades. Left: Brooke Berglund (11), Avery Boswell (10)

Mathews wins Chase Youth Award

Junior Lane Mathews won the Personal Achievement Award at last Tuesday's`Chase Youth Awards ceremony. He was nominated by his yearbook adviser Pia Longinotti for the incredible breadth of work he does in the field of jounalism not only at Freeman but in the community.

"It was an honor to win the Chase Youth Award for Personal Achievement," Mathews said. "I've worked hard, and it was awesome to be recognized."

Mathews wins the 2024 Personal Achievement award in the teen catagory.

LIGO fieldtrip brings science learning to life

By Madelyn Cordova
Staff writer

Science teacher Mary Lee McJimsey led a group of 8 high school students to Handford, Wash. to visit the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory's (LIGO) Hanford campus and learn more about what they do.

There are only two LIGO locations in the US, the one in Hanford and the other in Livingston, La.

What do they do at LIGO?

"They use a tool called an interferometer to measure gravitational waves which came from the collisions of neutron stars and black holes," McJimsey explained.

McJimsey first visited the LIGO campus in 2014, and she has been trying to take the students on a field trip there for a decade. McJimsey wanted to take students to LIGO "because it is cutting edge science related to what we learn in physical science in our backyard!"

Freshman Fiona Anderson went to the LIGO campus and learned a lot.

"I enjoyed it quite a bit," Anderson said. "I got to know quite a bit about how gravitational waves work."

Along with Anderson, freshman Ellie Wineinger toured the campus.

"Just being there felt like you were actually a part of LIGO," Wineinger said.

Both of the girls said they wish more people could have gone to see this extraordinary campus.

Many things have changed in the last 10 years since McJimsey's last visit.

"When I went, they had not recorded their first gravitational wave yet," McJimsey said. "Since 2015, they have gotten 90 more."

Many things were learned from this trip, and McJimsey has plans to lead a trip again next year which will be open to all high school students.

Fiona Anderson (9) and Graycen Key (9) experiment with different lengths of pendulums.

Back Row: Ash Schultz (9), Graycen Key (9), Hailey Melin (9), Addy Bowen (11), Madisen Hansen (9), Evan Smith (9), William Frye (8). Front Row: Fiona Anderson (9), Ellie Wineinger (9)

Ellie Wineinger (9), Addy Bowen (11) and Fiona Anderson (9) use colored filters for white light to see how light reflects and refracts.

Is Running Start a good fit for you?

By Capri Collett
Editor-In-Chief

Are you considering taking Running Start classes? Running Start is an option for juniors and seniors where they take classes at a local college earning dual credits- both college and high school credits at the same time.

Running Start students can choose to attend either EWU, SCC, or SFCC. They all have great programs. The programs also offer the choice between attending classes in-person or online, allowing students to figure out what fits best for them. So if you are thinking that you're headed to a four-year college, Running Start could be a great fit for a student looking for a head start on his or her classes.

Students who decide to do Running Start can knock off prerequisites for a degree program or general requirements while still in high school. Another benefit is that the credits are paid for by the state of Washington, as long as you stay within a specific credit load. However, it is important to remember that the classes will be harder, and students have to manage their time and schedules.

"Communication, communication, communication," counselor Kaela Holm said about the key to doing well in either program. "You have to be willing to communicate with your instructors off site as well as your instructors on site, and make sure that if I am your point of contact that you're communicating with me as much as possible about any questions you have. If you have any kind of roadblock or something that you're worried about, please reach out early and often."

Another option to earn college credit is to take College in the High School courses. These classes are taught here at FHS by our teachers, using college curriculum from EWU and Central Washington University. Students also earn dual credits when they take these courses. The grade earned in high school is the same grade earned for the college class. These classes are also free.

two-four year colleges

Two Year	Four year
-less money -shorter -hands on education of the core class -attend real life opportunities to apply to your knowledge -get your AA(if you complete all the 90 credits in two years) -that degree can never get taken away from you -allows more housing flexibility. -may offer more trades-based programs	-more degree options including 4-year and post-graduate programs -more money opportunities for jobs (work study) -can have more student-life opportunities -can provide greater variety of exploratory courses -often have a wider alumni network for post-college networking opportunities

Or is NEWTech a better fit?

By Parker Teague
Staff writer

NEWTech Skillsz Center stands as a beacon of innovative education, empowering students with practical skills and cutting-edge knowledge. Located in North Spokane, NEWTech serves as a hub for hands-on learning and career preparation. With a focus on technology, engineering, and digital media, the center offers a dynamic curriculum that prepares students for the demands of the modern workforce.

Through state-of-the-art facilities and expert instruction, students at NEWTech Skills Center engage in immersive learning experiences, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Beyond core academics, the center offers many courses that fall under these three categories Health Sciences, Professional Services, and Skilled Trades.

As a driving force in the educational landscape of Spokane, NEWTech Skills Center continues to inspire and equip the next generation of innovators and leaders. Some of NEWTech's programs are known to be more competitive than others, for example the cosmetology program is quite competitive. Students that attend NEWTech are responsible for getting to and from NEWTech on their own.

"As a school district, we don't offer transportation for students that are taking either running start or NEWTech," counselor Kaela Holm said.

NEWTech offers a morning shift that is 8:10-10:40 and an afternoon shift that is 11:25-1:55.

"Currently, as our schedule stands right now, their schedule and our schedule only fits students going in the morning," Holm said.

"It has been the best decision I've ever made," senior Hailey Pierson said of her Nursing Assistant program. "It has been amazing. We learn how to perform basic nursing skills and patient care."

Pierson loves the program and is very happy with her decision to enroll into the program and recommends it to anyone that may have an interest in participating.

Offered Courses
Advanced Biomedical Applications

Advanced Engineering applications

AP Computer Science and App Development

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Fire Science (Years 1 & 2)
Valleytech

Offered Courses
Heath Sciences:
Dental Assisting
Medical Assisting
Nursing Assisting
Surgical Processing Tech
Pharmacy Tech
Veterinary Assistant

Professional Services:
Animation & Special Effects
Cosmetology
Criminal Justice
Culinary Arts & Hospitality
Graphic Design & Digital Media

Skilled Trades:
Automotive service management
Auto Technology
Aviation & Drone Technology
Collision Repair
Construction Trades
Energy & Power
Welding Technology

NEWtech

What is one helpful tip that you would recommend to students who are looking into other pathways?

"Look into the background of the teachers that you are going to be taking classes from," Raven Wright (12) said.

"Just don't procrastinate," Rowan McGarity (11) said. "I'm really bad about procrastinating and I've had a really hard time with that. So I would just say get ahead of the work."

"Talk to the teachers beforehand and try and get a feel of what class is going to entail," Kate Schneider (12) said. "Also just be really good with time management."

"Take a couple of AP classes, don't overload yourself like I did," Brenen Ladwig (11) said. "I took a lot, and it's a lot of work."

"If NEWTech offers something you're interested in or you think would be cool to learn go for it," Riley Davis (11) said.

"Wear your uniform!" Emily Thieren (12) said. "If you aren't enjoying your program, don't waste your time and find something else to do!"

Bowen takes learning from Freeman to NASA

By Capri Collett
Editor-in-Chief

Three years ago, Addy Bowen followed the Perseverance Mars Rover as it launched and later landed on TV.

"For a while, I wanted to go into medicine until I saw the Perseverance Mars Rovers land on TV," she said. "It showed pictures of all the interesting things going on inside the rover. I was so interested and thought that was the coolest thing ever."

Bowen fell in love with space on that day.

"Space is so fast and wide," Bowen said. "We, as humans, don't have the technology to send something for billions and billions of light years, so we don't even know how big the universe is. I'm just so excited."

Bowen wants to end up working for NASA. While undecided in her field currently, she's considering everything from astronomy to astrophysics (the study of deep space and how it functions, including theoretical physics). Bowen doesn't really know for sure what she wants to do but she knows she wants it to be space focused.

Last November, Bowen was accepted to a program called Washington Aerospace Scholars as part of her goal of working for NASA.

According to the Museum of Flight's website, the program is a "two-part program for Washington state high school juniors focused on topics related to the history and future exploration of space by NASA and topics in Earth and Space Science." Students accepted into the program complete a 5 month online NASA course through UW.

Bowen was thrilled to be chosen for the program because she has worked so hard and loves space so much. She has completed eight different modules during her phase 1 courses. She has put in a lot of extra work outside of school completing reading, math, and science assignments, as well as making 3d models.

Bowen has qualified for the in-person phase 2 course this summer. She will spend 6 days in residency at the Museum of Flight. There, she will have "the opportunity to connect with like-minded peers from across the state and participate in engineering challenges, museum tours and team building activities." (museumofflight.org)

"I get to talk to industry professionals and make some connections there and get my foot in the door," Bowen said of her upcoming trip.

The experience has given Bowen a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore her passion for space, earn college credit, and find out if this career is for her.

"I like just going outside when it's dark and the stars are up in the sky, getting to look out and recognize the universe is so vast," Bowen said. "I am just one person on this tiny rock floating through space. It just gives me some perspective to help me stay grounded and focused."

Bowen and her family visit the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

New *Twilight* reboot reported to be animated

By Jay Parr
Staff writer

There have been numerous rumors about the *Twilight* reboot show not only happening, but being an animated TV show.

According to Hollywoodreporter.com's April 19 story, news broke that Lionsgate Television is developing a *Twilight* series with author Stephanie Meyer involved. The entertainment company confirmed that the series is moving forward as an animated project

The *Twilight Saga* is a four book, five movie series about an ordinary teen girl, Bella Swan, who moves to Forks, Wash. and falls deeply in love with vampire Edward Cullen. The pair fight a variety of enemies throughout the series.

Although the movies were a big hit, they left out plenty of fan-favorite scenes from the books. The reboot might be an opportunity to include some of the scenes they missed such as Edward actually eating a bite of pizza in front of Bella at lunch, or James explaining Alice's past as he hunted her.

This could also be an opportunity for Lionsgate to include Meyer's *Twilight* novels such as *The Short Life of Bree Tanner* as it's own story, or add in Edward's perspective more by include scenes from *Midnight Sun*.

Bella and Edward dance at prom in the first *Twilight* movie.

Even though the animation could allow for a return of the original cast members to voice their characters without the worry of the stars having aged, the new series will feature a new cast. Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson will not return to voice Bella and Edward.

There have been many rumors about who will be the voice actors, but no one knows if they are actually true. Jacob Elordi and Jenna Ortega are currently at the top of the list being speculated for the title characters.

Director of the *Twilight* reboot, Catherine Hardwicke states in a podcast that Jacob Elordi and Jenna Ortega would be "perfect" for the roles of Edward and Bella.

According to Lionsgate vice chairman Michael Burns, apparently the *Twilight* reboot was set to be animated from the very beginning before it was even announced.

There has not been any release date announced, other than they plan to release it by late 2025. There is also no official casting list that has been shared by Lionsgate.

This show still has a long way to go before fans of the series will get to view it, but there seems to be a lot to look forward to.

It remains to be seen whether or not it will be a triumph or a disappointment.

Bella and Edward scope out the terrain during Bella's first hunt as a vampire in *Breaking Dawn, Part 1.*

March Madness 2024 full of upsets and excitement

By Parker Teague
Staff writer

March Madness is an electrifying annual college basketball tournament that captivates sports fans every March. Running March 17-April 8, it's a little over 3 weeks full of competitiveness.

This thrilling event features 68 of the top men's and women's college basketball teams competing in a single-elimination tournament to determine the national champion.

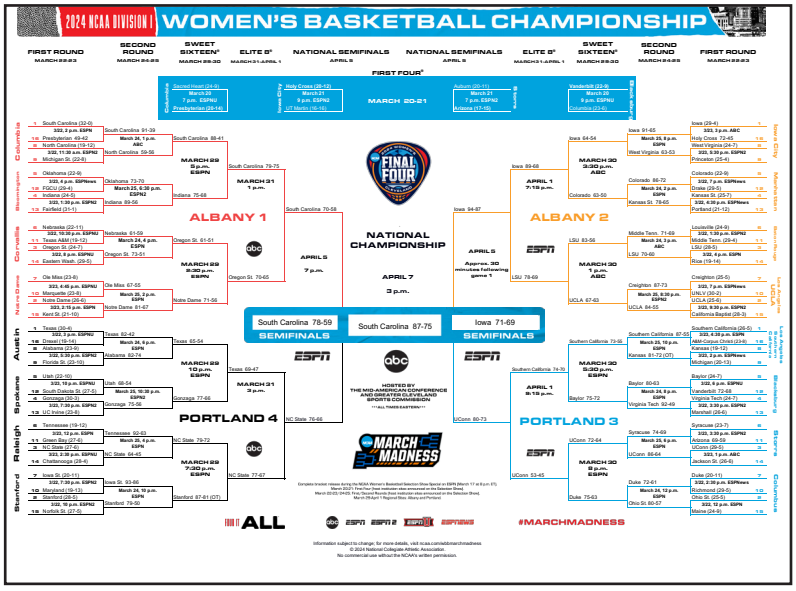
From buzzer-beaters to Cinderella stories, March Madness is known for its unpredictability and intense matchups. Fans eagerly fill out brackets, predicting the outcomes of each game, adding an extra layer of excitement to the tournament.

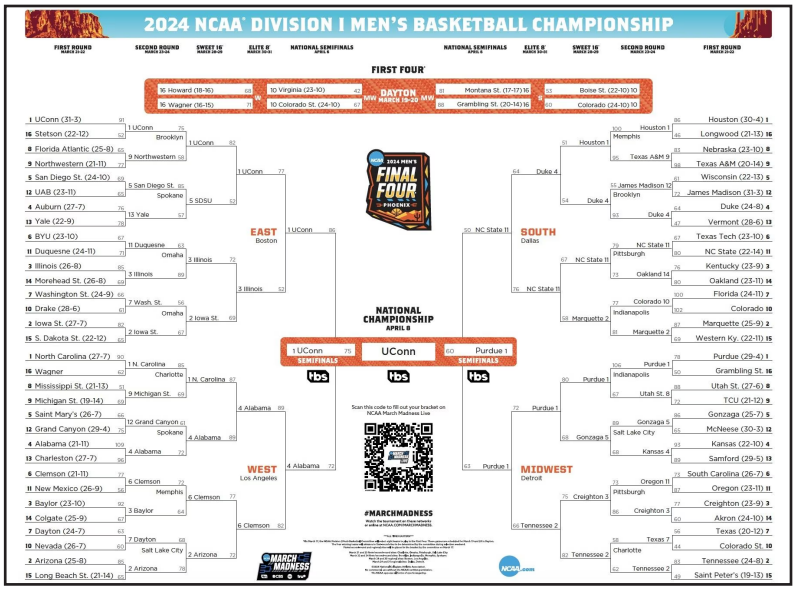
For the women's tournament, 35.6% of fans picked South Carolina to win, 28.8% chose Iowa, and 4.8% picked U-Conn. For the men's tournament, 24.7% chose U-Conn, 13.6% selected Houston, and 10.1% chose Purdue to win it all.

The men's final featured the Purdue Boilermakers and the U-Conn Huskies. With U-Conn winning 75-60, they have now won back-to-back championships and have won six championship titles overall. Now the big question is can they make it a threepeat next year?

Iowa and South Carolina squared off in the women's championship game. Both teams played hard with the offensive powerhouse Iowa looking for an answer to South Carolina's tough defense. South Carolina came away with the win 87-75. It was a memorable moment in the tournament since South Carolina completed an undefeated season with the victory. The game also brought in the highest ratings ever with 24 million fans tuning in, outdrawing the men's game for the first time.

Whether it's cheering for their team or rooting for an underdog, March Madness brings communities together in the spirit of competition, making it one of the most beloved events in sports.





Schneider, and team Hirayama and Cotton FBLA state champions

24 members of FBLA competed at state April 24-27.

By Scott Moore
FBLA advisor

24 FBLA members attended the State FBLA Leadership Conference in Spokane April 24-27. In addition to competing, the students also attended workshops, networked, and listened to motivational speakers.

The Freeman Chapter received the "Gold Seal Chapter Award", awarded to the top chapters in the state.

At the time of printing, 6 members qualified for Nationals which will be held in Orlando this summer. Kate Schneider (12) is our state champion in Job Interview. The team of Dallin Cotton (12) and Mari Hirayama (12) took 1st in Business Ethics. Cotton also qualified in Mobile Application Development (3rd) and Business Calculations (alternate- 6th). The team of Avery Boswell (10), Brooke Berglund (11) and Emma Hollen (11) took 4th in American Enterprise Project.

10 students also qualifed as alternates to Nationals: Avery Berglund (9), Addy Bowen (11), Eli Cotton (10), Tansey Coyner (9), Lane Mathews (11), Logan Pecht (9), Claire Poulsen (10), Addy Putz (10), Kalyn Swanson (10) and Maris Vernon (10).