



The Bagpiper

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Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

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“SWAT” call initiates lockdown for FSD, creates uncertainty

By Emma Dreyer
Staff Writer

Due to a false report of a dangerous threat inside Freeman High School, the entire Freeman district experienced a tense lockdown on October 28, 2024 at around 11:00. Though the danger was a hoax, the fear, for some, was real.

When asked what actually happened to cause the lockdown, Deputy Ryan Felvarg explained that we were SWATed.

“Without going into too much detail, we received a phone call into 911 basically stating that there was a dangerous incident happening inside the school,” Felvarg said. “So a lot of time the callers are in other countries, and they’re going through a bunch of avenues so that they can make prank calls or hoax calls. They make them so they’re really really hard to track. Because of that, it’s really hard to stop that from happening again.”

Students had mixed reactions towards the lockdown. Most said that they remained calm.

“I didn’t even think anything of it,” sophomore Rex McGowan said.

However, other students feared for the safety of their sib-

lings in other buildings or their own safety.

“I got really scared because Ms. Marro didn’t know what was going on,” junior Cicily Millsap said, who was in Josie Marro’s English class during the lockdown. “Everyone started crying and it made me more scared.”

While uncertainty hung heavily over the student body, Felvarg stated that things were under control. He said that as a student body and staff we did all that could have been done in this situation

“There’s obviously little things to improve on here and there,” Felvarg said. “Nothing major. The most important thing is just get out of the hallways, get behind a locked door, stay calm. I think everybody did a good job at that.”

The lockdown was an experience that we all have learned from, not just as a student body or staff, but as a community. We can now rest assured that we are more prepared and can better handle whatever happens here at Freeman.

WHAT TO DO DURING A

LOCKDOWN

AT SCHOOL

SECURE

Enter your classroom and lock the door



PREPARE

Turn off all the lights and silence electronics

HIDE

Sit away from windows or doors so you cannot be seen



HOLD

Remain quiet and calm

WAIT

Wait for the “all clear” signal before resuming daily activities



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Winter Roads: how to stay safe on snow and ice

By Logan Kusler
Staff Writer

Bad weather. Sunset at 4:00 P.M. Slush. These are all things that are inevitable during winter. Yet, during the winter months, one thing causes the most annoyance: car accidents. Driving on icy roads during winter is something people generally don't look forward to.

"Yes, I have experienced driving trouble," Dean of Students Chad Ripke said regarding driving during winter. "Sometimes the roads aren't plowed, sometimes they're icy, sometimes you get stuck behind combines, sometimes you get stuck behind semis."

Over 1/5 of people killed by vehicles during the winter months weren't in a vehicle at all. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), fatal crashes involving pedestrians account for 17% of all crashes and increase by 4.5% during winter nationally.

Many of these incidents can be avoided by putting your phone away while driving. The National Safety Council reports that 1.6 million vehicle accidents are caused by phone use while behind the wheel annually.

"Put the cell phone down," said Adam Snider, Director of Communications at the Governors Highway Safety Association. "No text message or TikTok video is worth hurting or killing someone."

But some accidents are out of people's control. Avoiding poor road conditions can sometimes be unavoidable, especially in rural areas.

Freshman Colin Bailey almost crashed last winter when his dad was navigating up their driveway.

"We were driving back from skiing last year," Bailey said. "We have a gravel road, and we live on an uphill driveway. He was trying to go up it, and his truck slid out, and we were like an inch away from the hill. We could have rolled down into the ditch."

Yet, even in rough conditions, drivers can make decisions that reduce their risk of accidents. Whether that be enabling four-wheel drive, staying focused, or simply putting their phone down, these can all possibly save your, or someone else's life.

"It's important to remember that the speed limit is for ideal weather only," Snider added. "Adverse conditions like rain, snow, and fog can reduce visibility or increase stopping distances and require extra caution behind the wheel. It's also important to stay focused on the road, especially in bad weather."



Photo: L. Kusler



Photo: City of Spokane

Top: A snowy scene near Burke, Idaho.
Bottom: The Main Street in Downtown Spokane during Winter. Congested environments can be especially difficult to navigate during Winter.

ASB food drive meets goal of 1,500 items

By Leighla Bias
Staff writer

The food drive ended successfully, all because of our ASB and those who brought their non-perishable items. Most brought to help the less fortunate, but there was also some class credit motivation from certain teachers.

"It sounds like we met our quota, or the number we were trying to get to," Ag teacher Colton Orrino said. "So eventually, it was successful."

When asked how successful the food drive was, most talked about how we had a bit of a slow start. But in the end, we made it to our ASB's goal of 1,500 all thanks to a bit of an extension in how long we had to collect items.

"I think it's really important because especially during the holidays," junior Greta

Van Germert said. "It's kind of a rough time for families. And if you can help them you might as well."

Some students don't take the food drive as seriously, dismissing it and continuing with their regular routines. But there are a few minor excuses that might have been used as a reason to not bring items.

"I think in our society today, we live in the moment," PE teacher Scott Carolan said of why students may not have contributed to the drive this year. "I don't think that's a bad thing. We don't really think of others."

Many were distracted through the beginning of the food drive. To most, this was because of sports or other extracurricular activities that might have made the food drive more forgettable.

"Probably half of them brought anywhere from five to ten cans," Carolan said of his class participation. "I don't know if I'll

do it again, but for PE makeups I gave the kids an opportunity that if they brought ten cans, or a turkey, it'd give them an opportunity to help with their grade."

This motivation from Carolan impacted most of the students' decisions in bringing food. Motivation like this really pushed the food drive towards the end, once it was more known. Not many other teachers had extra motivation for their students to bring food. Though the ASB's motivation of getting to pie a teacher/admin had motivated many students.

With all of the hard work put into the food drive by our students and staff, we had really shown how well we work together as a community. Overall, we had successfully reached our goal of 1,500 food items to those in need.

Tree of Sharing spreads holiday joy to families

By Colin Bailey
Staff Writer

The Tree of Sharing is a time of year when the Freeman School District focuses on providing gifts to families in our community who need a little extra help. Around Christmas time, these families experience the Christmas joy of finding a present under the Christmas tree.

"I noticed that a lot of families in our Freeman community didn't always have the extra money around the holidays to buy presents for their kids and their family," ES counselor Stacey Rawson said. "They really appreciated it when we could help them." The Tree of Sharing is a way of helping families that can't afford presents to celebrate Christmas.

"Sometimes it's helping with the necessities," HS counselor Kaela Holm said. "Around this time of year, some of those necessities include gifts. It's like society, it's a norm that we do gifts from the Christmas holiday."

The way Holm thinks of it changes the act from just a donation to a way of sharing the way we live to the ones who can't live the same.

Both Rawson and Holm stated it was a

part of the job, but just because it's a part of the job doesn't mean they don't love doing it. Both of them have a very enthusiastic view on the Tree of Sharing. Holm mentioned that her role is a touch smaller than Rawson's,

"My involvement is much less than Miss Rawson," Holm said. "Mrs. Rawson runs the show on that thing. She's really a rockstar with that whole project."

In some people's words the Giving Tree is a way of sharing the way the more fortunate celebrate and live during the holidays. Most teens need this experience no matter the situation.

"I think The Giving Tree is a really good idea," freshman Logan Kusler said. "It helps, you know, give presents to those in need who might not be as fortunate as us."

Holm also mentioned other places she has donated to like The Giving Tree.

"I previously spent some time working at the Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound over on the west side of the state," Holm said. "We helped to organize holiday joy and cheer. Stuff that included gift giving and meeting the needs of folks in the community."

Sometimes participating in the donations, charities, or helping out with those in

need can just make you feel comforting. Like when you made someone smile and made their day better, you feel better yourself too.

"Honestly, it feels good to just know that we've had a part in helping people experience normalcy and joy," Kaela Holm said.

Rawson finds so much joy in making these families happy on the holidays. Seeing them come and have their faces light up with delight becomes delightful to her.

"My favorite part is when the families come to pick up their presents because they're always really excited," she explained.

Rawson plans on continuing to do events like the Tree of Sharing in the future because they are an important way to give back.

"I participate through my church or different nonprofit organizations in the community," Rawson said. "We've done donations, but this is the biggest one in a school district that I've ever been a part of."

The Tree of Sharing is a great way to give to the individuals who unfortunately don't experience the normalcy of Christmas. There are many programs that are similar to this if you are looking for other ways to give. They are a great way to support those in need of a helping hand.

Students get ready for finals

By Zoie Hueser
Staff writer

With the new earlier start to the school year, the administration decided to try ending semester before students went into Winter Break instead of at the end of January as it has traditionally done.

Students had mixed feelings about the earlier finals schedule and preparing for their end of semester tests. Many were nervous for them this year.

"I'm nervous because, obviously, they're harder than the homework," junior Cicily Millsap said. "Since they're all so close together, it makes it harder to remember everything"

While many were nervous, others felt like they were prepared for the end of semester exams.

"I'm confident with my schoolwork," junior Dawson Burk said. "Everything's going well."

When students were asked how long they study for, there was a wide range of answers.

Sophomore Tyler Bazar said he studied for "maybe like five minutes."

On the other side, some students took studying very seriously so they could be as prepared as possible.

"I study for, like, two hours on tests," sophomore Clara Dawe said.

All in all, everyone has different, unique ways to be prepared for finals.

New calendar brings changes to school year

By Addy Agee
Staff writer

7 period schedule and an earlier semester ending brings big changes for students.

The earlier finals creates an imbalance in the semesters with first semester being shorter now than second semester.

The new imbalanced semester has been a different task for students and staff members this year. Semester one is only 79 days, while semester two now has 101 days, with a January 7 start date.

With this, students' grades are officially finalized the week we get back from break.

The administration team decided to make the calendar changes as part of our move to a balanced calendar model.

"It was a recommendation two years ago," Principal Jeff Smith said. "There was a district committee

made up of teachers and paraeducators and some principals. They started looking at the idea of a different calendar."

There was some resistance to the idea of not having equal days in each semester at first, Smith said.

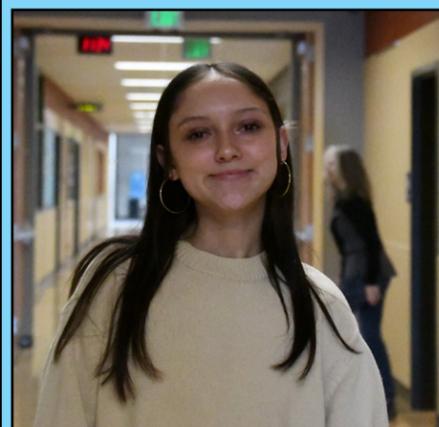
"When those on the committee all came back, other district staff thought it was strange that we didn't finish in December," he explained. "The committee brought it back to the school, and a lot of people were in favor of giving that a try, like parents and students."

Not all the community was in favor of the change.

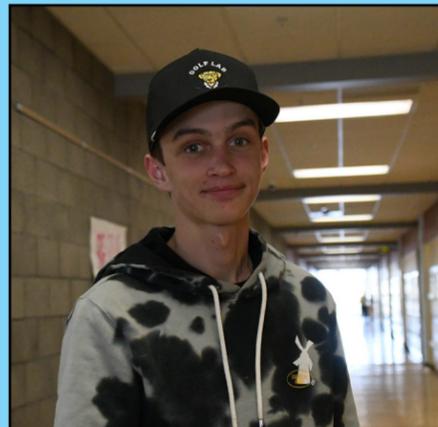
"There was a big variety of opinions with us switching the semester/calendar schedule," Smith said.

It has had both beneficial impacts and negative impacts.

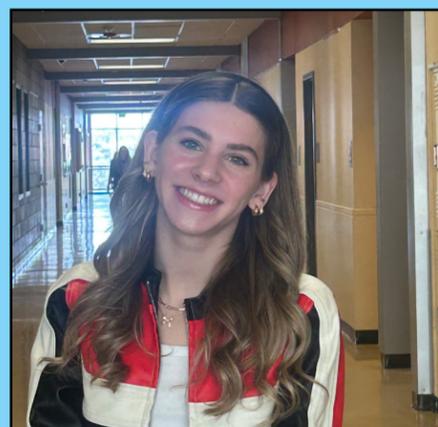
How do you feel about semester ending before break?



"I feel very rushed to complete things on time," Lily Pace (12) said. "I feel more under pressure to learn so much content in a short amount of time."



"I like it because the first semester feels like it goes by way quicker because it's shorter than compared to second semester," Marshall Patzlaff (11) said.



"I think the semesters being imbalanced doesn't really affect me that much other than me having to take finals before break," Cicily Millsap (11) said.

Dawg House serves up caffeine and job training

By Lakiyah Gum
Staff writer

Every morning, when you get to school, you'll see a line waiting for coffee at FBLA's Dawg House.

"The Dawg House exists so that we can provide opportunities for our students," advisor Kyle Monosmith said. "One, they learn about business. Two, they learn about how to make coffees and provide a service for our students to gather

with each other and spend their money at our coffee shop instead of somewhere else." One of the challenges new baristas faces is learning how to make all the drinks the Dawg House offers.

"When I first started learning how to make drinks, I didn't

know how to make anything," freshman Emma Dreyer said. "I asked one of the seniors, or the people who've been working there for a while, how to make it, and then they would teach me." If you've ever contemplated working in the Dawg House but you're unsure on

how to make a drink, the girls in the Dawg House are helpful and understanding.

Although the Dawg House is mostly a fun time, sometimes it does face problems.

"I would say we definitely face a shortage of products because we're so far away from the stores," sophomore Avery Berglund said. "We have the Freeman store, but it's hard to get a lot of sources in there. So, we run out of products quite a bit."

Handling multitasking in a fast paced environment can be hard, I asked how they do it.

"I just say definitely communicate," Berglund said. "If you're working on multiple things at a time, just let other people know, if they're not doing

anything. They can help you out, but mostly communication is key."

Customer service is very important as well. "Having a smile on your face whenever you see a customer is key, especially since we're some of the first faces those students

see in the morning," junior Claire Poulsen said. "Making sure that you're happy, you have a smile on your face, and you're willing to help is the biggest part." Many also wonder how they come up with the flavors and names of the drinks. "Low key, TikTok and Pinterest are the way to go," Poulsen said. "I often look at Pinterest. For Red Bull inspo, I ask



Photo Emma Dreyer

Talley said.

While the coffee is convenient, not everyone is a fan of the prices.

"I think it's a little too much, but it's going to our school so I'm fine with paying the price," LaPointe said.

Talley agreed, adding "I think they are a bit expensive, but I kind of get the price because it's a school and they're trying to make a profit."

In my opinion I think that the prices are a bit high, I think this because I can make my own 16 oz red bull Italian soda

at the Freeman Store for the same price as our 8 oz red bulls here at the Dawg House.

FBLA uses the proceeds from the Dawg House to help pay for events such as attending their state competition, Monosmith explained.

I think this concluded the story lead for the Dawg House. The customers enjoy the dawg house and the workers there enjoy their job. I think that sums up the community of Freeman and the hard-working students.



Photo Emma Dreyer



Photo Emma Dreyer



Photo Emma Dreyer

Shortened first semester, good or bad?

By Savannah Bickler
Staff Writer

As a new schedule is put in place students and staff voice their opinions on the situation hoping to be heard.

“The decision to shorten the first semester was made to create a more balanced academic calendar that better aligns with instructional pacing,” Superintendent Dr. Randy Russell said.

Russell believes that the balanced calendar benefits students and staff by promoting better learning retention, reducing stress, and allowing for more strategic breaks throughout the year.

“By ending the semester before break, most students do not need to think about missing work, tests to make up, or material to remember for an exam, all of which is typically due during the first 3 weeks upon returning from break,” Principal Jeff Smith said.

Students and staff at other schools shared that ending the semester before winter break reduced stress for students and staff as it allowed for a true break during the holiday season.

Every spring, the district revisits its calendar and sets it so that families always have a two-year view of the future. That’s when the district is planning to take feedback from stakeholders and others from the community. They plan to assess data, gather feedback from stakeholders and determine if ad-

justments are needed in future years to best support student success. This feedback will play a crucial role in determining whether the calendar change remains or if modifications are necessary.

“Timing material out was a bit of a challenge at first,” math teacher Angela Frye said. “I set my own timeline for my classes, so I had to adjust my frame of mind when approaching my calendar.”

Frye thinks that the new balanced calendar is worth keeping and has many advantages for the students as well as the staff.

The majority of classes at the high school are yearlong classes so some feel it affects the middle school more. Although some students feel differently about that.

“There was less time in summer to get used to coming back to school,” senior Sean Clark said.

Clark feels that it would be a better fit to go back to the old schedule and that it’s harder to get work and tests turned in on time with a harder first semester.

Many students and staff found themselves rushing to get work done before the end of first semester. As well as the teachers not having enough time to teach the materials in order that they wanted to.

“There was less time to fix my grades before the end of the semester,” junior Marshall Patzlaff said. Overall, he likes the new balanced calendar and thinks it’s worth keeping.

Some input I’ve gotten from students is

that they like and appreciate the two weeks off for Thanksgiving break and the extra three days during Christmas.

“Rushing and trying to get things done makes it a lot harder than it used to be,” sophomore Ash Schultz said. Shultz wishes there was more time over Christmas break to finish final projects and any other work that was assigned.

The Balanced School Calendar is designed to enhance student learning, well-being, and retention by reducing the long summer break and incorporating strategically placed breaks throughout the year.

“I would prefer if PE was in the second semester because there’s more time to do activities outside in warmer weather,” freshman Mieka Flores said.

Flores believes it was harder the first semester because there were a lot more assignments cramped in a short amount of time and would prefer to go back to the old schedule.

Many students and staff have voiced their different opinions on the balanced calendar, some saying it’s great and some say they wish they could go back. They are hoping that the school board will take their opinions into consideration when determining if the calendar will change or stay the same. The decision is ultimately up to the school board; they will make that decision and or changes by what is most beneficial to the school.

7 period day change brings mixed reviews

By Addy Agee
Staff Writer

This year, our school has decided to switch up how many class periods we have a day, changing from six to seven. Now each student has another elective added on to his or her schedule.

There were many different opinions on these two changes that have been made. If you were to be in the place of these students and staff, how would you feel about it?

While the 7 period days are somewhat beneficial to most students, there are a few drawbacks. For example, every student now has an extra class, which means you have more work to do depending on the other elective you take.

“It was harder because deadlines came quicker this year so it was more stressful,” senior Layla Roberts said.

However in addition the extra class, it also gives everyone an opportunity to try something new out to see if he or she enjoys it or not.

Principal Jeff Smith explained that the district didn’t have very much choice on whether or not to add a seventh period. The change to the seven class periods a day was mainly based on the number of staff at the high school and the budget’s allowance for new hires.

“It was a matter of what the state had done, taking away a large chunk of funding at many schools, not just ours, and we only passed one of two levies,” Smith said. “We lost some enrollment as well, so the school had to adjust the budgets. So we didn’t have enough money to replace three high school staff members that retired last year.”

With fewer staff members, the schedule had to adjust. Mov-

ing to seven periods allowed everyone to get the classes they needed in a day, but made it so teachers had to teach one more class. The high school and middle school staff all added another class to their schedule to help students get the classes they needed and more credits.

Two of our retired teachers were replaced. Jim Rae moved up from the middle school staff to teach shop classes replacing Jim Wood. The high school was able to hire Kyle Monasmith to fill Scott Moore’s business education schedule. Additionally, six high school staff members are teaching at least 1 middle school class to meet the needs of both buildings.

The change in schedule has added an additional class to student schedules.

“It’s harder because it has increased my workload a lot,” Roberts said. “When you take more AP classes, it adds up a lot of time and makes everything harder and more stressful.”

She explained how the change could be difficult for many students because it adds more work to worry about in your day. As a senior, she is focused on trying to get all the credits she needs for college, while also taking classes to look good on her transcript.

Some students have liked the change in schedule.

“It feels like it makes my day go by quicker,” freshman Kelsey Hollen said. “I feel like I can get one more credit out of the way in one year than I used to be able to.”

Hollen added that it has been a little bit more relieving having seven class periods a day cause she feels like she gets more out of the way quicker.

On the other hand, Hollen said that sometimes it feels like teachers try to cram as much

work into the class periods as they can because they have certain goals of what they want to get done each week. She doesn’t feel that much more stressed though because she focuses and gets her work done.

Students have a mix of opinions about the changes. The freshmen and sophomores interviewed had similar opinions and answers because they are all at a similar point in high school goals and everything.

“I like it more because it feels like the day goes by a lot faster and I’m not wasting so much time during just one class period,” sophomore Loghan Bake said.

She felt like when we had 6 periods a day, there was so much time wasted in each class and not enough learning happening. Bake added that with having 7 periods a day, she’s getting more done in each class and she’s more productive in each class period because there’s less time to get things done.

Juniors and seniors, however, felt differently because they are closer to the end of high school. They have more to worry about with their future, and having big decisions to make, as well as finalizing things such as grades, colleges they are going to, goals they are trying to reach.

The extra period a day could create more stress because there is an extra class added on. However, it could be beneficial because they get another elective class to have more of a variety of things you do throughout the day.

Junior Parker Teague has been a part of the New Tech this year. With 7 period days, it has created some unintentional challenges for her and other New Tech students.

“I think it has affected

scheduling by having to leave New Tech really everyday because we have to make it back in time for fourth period but it doesn’t affect much other than that,” Teague said.

The start of 4th period doesn’t match up correctly with the end of New Tech’s schedule plus travel time from the Valley. They have to leave New Tech earlier than they would normally need too. Since they have other classes they are taking to earn their high school credits, students have to make it back in time everyday to go to those classes.

“In the beginning of the school year, it was difficult to find a balance between the two but once I did it was way easier to manage,” Teague said.

It seems like with Teague’s school situation, she hasn’t found a huge effect on her with having 7 period days because she has found the balance and figured out how to manage both.

In conclusion, the seven period days give everyone more opportunities that could be harder to get while also giving everyone a chance to experience new things and have one more fun class to enjoy having throughout their school day.

How do you feel about the new school calendar?



“I think having a shorter first semester kind of throws it off because you have more stress about grades because you have more stuff in the grade book and makes it harder to get your grade up,” Layke Amaral (9) said.



“I think its good because its good for students to get used to the schedule especially freshman who are new and once they get through the first semester they understand how everything works,” Adasyn Ladwig (9) said.



“Getting off for Christmas break right before Christmas was a lot better instead of having to come back right after Christmas and having to do finals and it was a lot less stressful and rejuvenating,” Dawson Bickler (12) said.



“I like the first semester shorter because you get off for winter break faster but I dont like how long second semester is because it feels like schools just going on forever,” Mieka Flores (9) said.

High school adds Friday advisory back to schedule

By Lakiyah Gum
Staff writer

Last year, the schedule featured a daily 30-minute advisory period where students switched between college and career lessons, SEL lessons, and time to meet with teachers. The Scottie time allowed students to go to other classes and work on missing classwork.

This year, the administration decided that they were going to get rid of that advisory class when we moved to the new schedule in order to fit in a seventh class. During the first semester, students had one advisory class on the first Friday of every month.

Second semester, the administration decided that they wanted to give us a study hall/advisory back on every Friday. Having an advisory on Friday is beneficial to students. It gives them extra time to work on unfinished assignments and an opportunity to finish work so it's not homework over the weekend.

Now that we have seven class periods, all the work can get stressful, so it's helpful to have an extra thirty minutes to complete all the work. Overall, getting the advisory time back seems to be popular with students.

"It helps me get work done and finish work that I haven't already finished," freshman Will DuMars said of the addition. "It helps me do my homework, so I don't have to do the work at home or get caught up with lots of work while I'm involved in sports I like the shorter class periods so I actually prefer the am schedule."

Sophomore Bryan Bergman has found the change helpful as well

"I like how I have the extra time on Friday because it helps me redo quizzes and makeup assignments since I tend to miss a good amount of school," he explained. "I like the shorter class periods because it makes school go by faster and it gets closer to the weekend."

Junior Anna Jensen said "It helps me get extra school work done and it helps me learn about my social emotional learning. I think we should have it everyday honestly, because it helps me get school work done

from other classes when my teachers don't let me do other work in their class."

Senior Layla Roberts agreed that the advisory period has been nice to have back.

"It's really helpful for me because I can get a lot of work done and ask teachers questions. And I don't have to go in before or after school and it just saves me time. I wish we would go back to how it was last year because it feels more crammed now that we have seven periods. There just not enough time to get everything done. I'm just glad that it's back, but I just wish that it was more frequent."

Teachers were instrumental in changing back to an advisory schedule after staff discussion on whether or not the schedule should include a weekly advisory.

"I think advisory is great because it gives kids extra opportunities to finish their work from their classes because I've been seeing a lot of absences especially during the flu season," History teacher John Bruno said.

Principal Jeff Smith discussed why the administration made this decision.

"First of all, this is not a decision made by me," Smith said. "Very seldom, very seldom, is there a decision at this school that is made by me. It's always in coordination. If folks bring stuff to me and they have concerns, I always say, well, let me look into them. Let me do some research on that, and then we'll come back and see whether or not it's something everybody agrees this is a direction we want to go in."

Smith and the staff spent time in staff meetings discussing what was the best way to support student learning in the new schedule.

Smith said at the start of the year, students spoke with school counselor Kaela Holm saying they really missed Scottie Time.

"If you're an athlete or if you have a doctors, dentist appointment, or you're ill, and you miss some time here at school, they really missed that opportunity to get in and work with a teacher and make things up," Smith said of the student concerns. "I heard from Mrs. Holm that there were several students who had those types of concerns. I heard from several other staff members at

the high school just in passing saying, 'Boy, you know, I'm really missing Scottie Time,' or the kids are missing Scottie Time."

Smith acknowledged that these are the students' best opportunities to catch up on missed class time.

"We heard from parents as well," Smith said. "The middle school staff was also very much missing that opportunity to meet with students outside of regular class time. So staff down there got together and agreed that they wanted to bring it back."

With both buildings in agreement, Smith and the staff looked at how best to meet the desire for Scottie Time to return.

"My next step was to go to our staff and say is this something we want to pursue?" Smith said. "We asked our staff for feedback. There were a couple of staff members that had some concerns about having it come back and doing that on Friday, but most were willing to give it a try, at least up until Spring break."

The staff decided to do a trial run with the new Friday advisories to see the impact on learning to both staff and students.

"Us and the middle school are looking to see if it's something we want to continue with for the rest of the year or whether we don't," Smith said.

Friday advisories seem to have overall been a benefit to most students and staff. Students have the opportunity to finish work, make up tests and meet with teachers most weeks.

Last week, Smith announced to the staff that Scottie Time will continue for the rest of the school year. Hopefully, this will allow students to finish strong as the balance school and activities.

Kitchen brings balanced, delicious meals to students

By Emma Dreyer
Staff writer

Freeman's lunch program offers a variety of meals, and our student body would like to recognize the effort the lunch staff puts into keeping us fed every day.

Students have a wide range of favorite meals, from the popular chicken burgers, the crispy chicken nuggets, the nachos or the sweet french toast sticks.

"There's a wide variety of stuff," senior Brayden Ennis said. "It's cooked by Mrs. Lisa Frazier, who I love."

The lunch staff tries all of the meals made each day, ensuring the quality for the students.

"You know if I don't like it and I won't eat it, I won't serve it," Frazier said.

Students do have a few suggestions to add to our menu to it make it even better: chicken noodle soup, chicken and waffles,

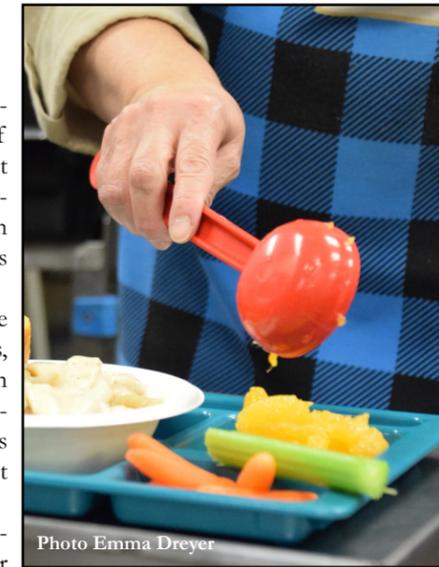


Photo Emma Dreyer

and anything with rice!

"They (lunch staff) could ask the students what they would like to eat and go from there," sophomore Ellie Wincinger said.

However, it's not that simple. School lunches have to follow specific guidelines and restrictions mandated by the state in order for it to be served.

"We have to be compliant with the USDA, which is the government," Frazier said. "There are guidelines for kids. Basically, it's two ounces of protein for the high school, and two ounces of grain."

Some students do have some criticism of our school lunches and some ideas on how to improve it. For example, the amount of food each student is given.



Photo Emma Dreyer

"I think that the portion sizes are just a bit small for some of us," sophomore Josiah Kann said. "But, I acknowledge that they are trying to minimize waste by not giving some kids more food than they can eat."

Another concern is the nutritional value of our lunches.

"A lot of the time I don't feel like it has enough nutrients to keep me energized, but I think it tastes good," Kann said.

But we know that we can rest assured in the knowledge that we are receiving the correct amounts of nutrition in each of the hot meals we receive.

Frazier's last words for Freeman's student body is to not throw away the metal forks and spoons and to give hot lunch a try!

"We need more kids to eat," Frazier said. "We do have good meals. They (students) just need to try it a little more often."

Overall, the hard work that goes into feeding all of the students does not go unnoticed. Take a moment today at lunch to thank Freeman's incredible lunch staff!



Photo Emma Dreyer

Senior Claire Berryman chooses some of the options from the daily salad bar offerings.



Photo Emma Dreyer

Florence flies off to Air Force Academy

By Emma Dreyer
Staff writer

Our ASB Vice President, Jack Florence, was accepted into the United States Air Force Academy, and his journey is an inspiration for any student with ambitious goals.

“The Air Force’s always been my number one (pick),” Florence said “I’ve wanted to be a part of the Air Force since I can remember.”

The journey hasn’t been easy though. Florence has faced lots of struggles along the way, one of which was training for the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA).

“So for your CFA,” Florence explained, “you have a basketball throw. They have you do pull ups, pushups, situps, a shuttle run, and the mile run. I was waking up at 5 o’clock in the morning every single day, training for my CFA.”

Florence also worked hard mentally, like writing his essays. He wrote many essays to the academies and our state senators in hopes of getting their nomination to the Academy.

“Writing the essays was hard,” Florence said. “I think I wrote a total of 20 essays.”

Along with the essays, Florence also spent many hours preparing himself for the SAT so he could get the best possible score.

“The hardest part was the SAT, I took it nine times,” Florence said. “My sophomore year, I didn’t get a summer. Every single day, I studied for hours.”

The interviewing process was just as strenuous as the training.

“I had eight total interviews,” Florence said. “The last interview was the one that was make or break. It was with Kathy McMorris Rogers, our Congresswoman, and her entire board of people, who were either in the military or who went through the academies. That interview lasted 15 minutes, and it was really just them grilling me.”

In the end, Florence’s hard work paid off, as he ended up getting the number one nomination after that final interview allowing him to pick which military academy he wanted to attend. Florence was ecstatic to hear of his acceptance.

“I was super excited,” Florence said. “I was in a movie theater, and I started jumping up and down. I even hugged my mom!”

Florence’s whole family was thrilled to hear the news too, as they had been supporting him throughout his years of preparation. Florence said that his greatest motivator throughout the entire process was his mom.

“She’s been my essay grader,” he explained. “She was constantly pushing me to study for the SAT even when I didn’t want to, and she’s just been there when I needed help.”

Florence hopes to major in either chemical or mechanical engineering while learning to fly planes for the Airforce. After putting his time in the military, his goal is to fly planes commercially either for Delta or FedEx.

When asked what he’s most excited for, Florence said, “Everything, I can’t wait.”

Florence’s incredible strength and determination will take him places. His final words of advice for anyone with similar goals is to volunteer for your community, get involved, and work hard!

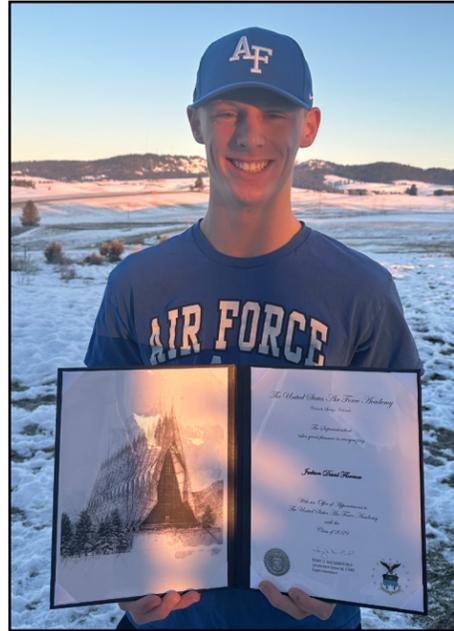


Photo Jack Florence
Florence had his choice of any of the military academies after a long interview process.



Florence and his mom visited the Air Force Academy before he made his final decision.

The Robotics team kicks off inaugural season

By Savannah Bickler
Staff writer

The robotics team has come to the high school! Our team, although small, had a great first season and hopes that it continues for many years to come.

“Teamwork is my favorite part of robotics and it’s definitely team focused,” captain Kelson Weigel (12) said.

Weigel participated in robotics in elementary and middle school. He has tried to start a high school team since his freshman year. His main goal for this season was to get a base down for future seasons.

The competitions are said to be friendly with other schools helping out if you’re a newcomer. They will go out of their way, whatever they are doing, to help.



Photo J. Wigen
The robotics team wins the first ever trophy: the Judges’ Choice Award.

“Getting the first award for the team” was the biggest accomplishment of the season for senior Henry DuMars. Like Weigel, DuMars joined robotics in elementary school and helped advocate for a program here.

With the help of coach James Reynolds and admin support, the school board approved our robotics team. STEM programs like robotics help expose the students to career paths they may not be aware of.

“This first season was delayed till we got the grants approved,” Reynolds said. “I was very pleased that we got a robot built and were able to compete.”

Reynolds coached First Lego League (FLL) and wanted students to be able to continue building on the skills they learned

through that program. Robotics is a great place to try different things like programming with the ability to see instant change is a fun way to learn.

The robotics team had a great first season and are looking forward to many more successful seasons in the future.

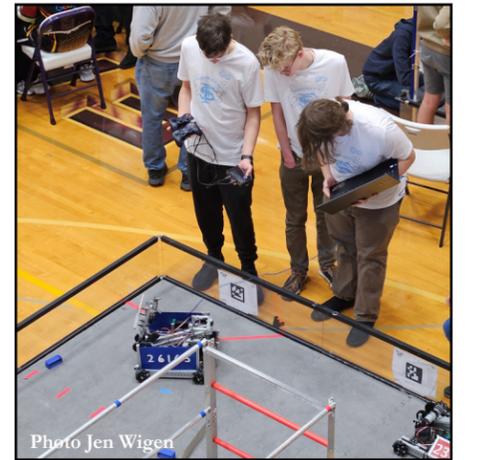


Photo Jen Wigen
Seniors Matthew Wigen, Kelson Weigel and Henry DuMars move their robot around the course.

Hansen follows family footsteps with trumpet

By Bailee Amaral
Staff Writer

Senior Ryan Hansen is a trumpet player for our band. He has been playing for about seven years of his life as he chose to follow the footsteps of his dad, grandpa, and the other men in his life.

There are plenty of challenges that come with instruments, from not being able to understand the scale of notes, fast tempos, and hitting higher notes.

“The most challenging part of my instrument would be probably hitting the super high notes,” Hansen said, “while my lovely teacher J hits them really easily and bullies me for it.”

Hansen also mentioned pep band nights. Most pep games are on Friday nights for basketball or football. Whether indoors for basketball or outside for football, Hansen shows up with his trumpet in one hand and his music in the other.

“Friday night pep band games are easily the highlight of my high school career be-

cause they are the most fun nights you can possibly imagine,” Hansen said. “I bring the energy. You play a lot of music that’s fun, and you hang out with your friends.”

Friday pep band nights are not the only memories you make being in a band. You can also travel to other schools and sometimes stay overnight at places for big events. A few previous events the band got to travel for were Yakima for state basketball and Silver Mountain.

“It’s got to be when you go to state basketball, or when we went to Silver Mountain” Hansen said of his favorite memory. “Traveling with the band and going to play at other places and staying at hotels and stuff. Super, super fun.”

Hansen is not only an amazing trumpet player, but also a good classmate to the others in the band, always ready to help others when needed. His bandmates view Hansen as the trumpet player who takes his music

seriously, and never puts others down no matter their skill in music.

“He is the best one, the leader of them all,” senior Henry DuMars said. “While, maybe, some are better technically skilled than him, he is the trumpet you think of, when you hear trumpet at Freeman—you think of Ryan.”

Hansen, after seven years, will be stepping down from the band as he heads off to college and find out more about music.



Photo Rowan McGarity
Hansen plays at a home basketball game.

Jonathan Dexter making waves on spotify

By Logan Kusler
Staff Writer

A stream train departs from its station. A mild hum rises before a beautiful melody takes its place.

This can only describe “Notes Alone,” one of the many pieces of solemn, striking music of freshman Jonathan Dexter.

Dexter only started publishing his music about a year ago, but he’s been a musician for most of his life.

“I’ve always been into music ever since I was a kid,” Dexter said. “I just looked into making music, making beats, and putting them together.”

Music isn’t just a hobby outside of school for Dexter. He plays trumpet in our pep band and performs at almost every single



Photo Jonathan Dexter
Jonathan Dexter during a photoshoot.

home sports event, whether that be during football or basketball season. He also marches with band every year at the Rockford and Torchlight parades.

Dexter’s first song he published was “Notes Alone.” It’s a beautiful tune with a striking motif that repeats through-

out the duration of the song.

Dexter has been releasing new music frequently. An acoustic collection of his songs was released on January 31.

His most recent song, “Whale,” came out February 7 and is currently his most popular.



Scan to view Dexter’s Spotify profile.

It is another powerful piano-driven track accompanied by multiple string instruments.

Dexter plans to grow his audience in three main ways, “by making more songs, being consistent with putting out songs, and getting better at recording.”

Dexter plans on continuing to make music when he gets older, but not as his main profession.

“[It will be] a side hustle when I get older,” Dexter said. “I would [make it my profession], but you either go huge, or you don’t make anything.”

Dexter has over 10 monthly listeners on Spotify and is only growing. With our support as a school, we can make sure that Dexter continues to pursue his passion as long as he wants.

Dexter has a gift when it comes to music, whether it be in our pep band or on Spotify. We only wish Dexter the best in his future aspirations.

“Dog Man” a heartwarming and fun story

By Leighla Bias
Staff writer

Dog Man is a heartwarming, creative and often emotional movie. Each detail brought laughter and maybe even a tear to the crowd.

Officer Knight and his partner, Greg

the dog, undergo a surgery after an accident, which combines them into Dog Man (Peter Hastings). The story follows Dog Man as he battles his nemesis Petey the evil cat (Pete Davidson). Dog Man is discouraged by bias and shrewdness from those superior to him, but he stays strong and works hard to stop Petey. Petey, known for his greed and

unsympathetic behavior, really just needs someone to bring him a sense of positivity.

The musical score and sound effects by Tom Howe and Foley artists were done perfectly. Every chosen song added intensity and emotion to each scene. The sound effects were consistently spot on. Even in the smallest details like the background noise behind the main scenes added a large sense of realism.

I honestly believe everyone could enjoy this movie. From young kids to teens to parents, this movie is a definite rewatch. *Dog Man* can teach many lessons and realistic values. Overall, a phenomenal movie for everyone. Rating out of stars: 4/4



Photo IMDB



Photo IMDB

Greg and Officer Knight undergo emergency creating Dog Man.

The Shaggs create the worst album in the world

By Logan Kusler
Staff Writer

In 1965, Austin Wiggin Jr. had his daughters Dorothy (Dot), Betty, and Helen form a band called “The Shaggs.” They’d perform at local halls and events for four years, despite not knowing how to fully play, until Austin thought they were ready to record an album. That album was called *Philosophy of the World*.

It opens with the titular track, which tells how “the rich people want what the poor people’s got, and the poor people want what the rich people’s got” and that “You can never please anybody in this world”. While repeating this mantra with multiple groups of people, Dot and Betty strum away on their out-of-tune guitars as Helen plays surprisingly in time on her drums.

The second track, “That Little Sports Car,” is especially hard to listen to. It describes being on the road and seeing a “fellow that drove that little sports car” and trying to catch up to him. The guitars seem to wail at random as Dot and Betty “sing” like robots and end each of their words abruptly.

The following song, “Who Are Parents?,” isn’t very remarkable; it’s a simple song written by Dot about children who disobey their parents and that “Parents are the ones who really care.” It isn’t until the next song that you see The Shaggs at their finest.

“My Pal Foot Foot” is arguably the most popular Shaggs song. It begins with a rudimentary drum solo performed by Helen before launching into arguably one of the roughest songs you have ever heard.

Helen sounds like she’s dropping her sticks every two seconds, and there is no time signature or rhythm in the girls’ playing. The lyrical content is equally poor, with phrases such as, “Foot Foot don’t live here no more,” and “Foot Foot, please answer me, I know where you are, You’re behind that tree.”

Some of the girls’ lyrical content says that they learned their lesson to “never roam,” such as in “That Little Sports Car” and “My Pal Foot Foot.” This is most likely about the girls never being allowed to leave home without permission from their father. The girls were taken out of school and forced to practice every day.

The further you go into *Philosophy of the World*, the less you seem to understand

about The Shaggs. The next two songs, “My Companion” and “I’m So Happy When You’re Near,” have lyrical and musical content on par with what you would hear at an elementary school talent show.

“My Companion” talks about a companion who follows the singers around no matter what. That companion? A portable radio. Most songs on *Philosophy of the World*, despite having the lyrical depth of an above-ground pool that hasn’t been filled yet, still manage to get a laugh out of me whenever I listen to them.

“I’m So Happy When You’re Near” continues this theme of surface-level lyrics. The title describes the content of the song perfectly; the singer tells this person that they have so many feelings to share, and only when they’re near will they share them.

The next song, “Things I Wonder,” takes a step away from the previous songs. What sounds like childlike ramblings are lyrics with some meaning, only with childlike instrumentation. These lyrics talk about what Dot wonders and that “...the things I wonder most are the things I never find out.”

“Sweet Thing” follows “Things I Wonder.” It is a dissonant love song that repeats the line “You’re such a sweet thing” more times than I can count, with some lackluster arpeggios sprinkled throughout. The tune that comes after is “It’s Halloween,” a care-free celebration filled with novelty.

“Why Do I Feel?” has a solid first verse, with the words “Sometimes I feel funny, and bottled up inside, then for some reason, I just start to cry.” I’m sure most people can relate to this song once you give it a listen.

“What Should I Do?” holds a bitter-sweet feeling that I see in most songs on *Philosophy of the World*. Their vocals make a slight improvement on this song compared to other songs like “That Little Sports Car”, with some vocal shifts that don’t resemble their normal monotonous singing voices.

Philosophy of the World closes with the song “We Have A Savior,” giving advice to people who “go on killing” and who “feel sad and blue” that “we have a savior, just watching over me and you.” It’s a sweet track that closes off an unforgettable album.

There is no rhythm to these songs; Dot and Betty feel like playing when they want to play, and the only thing that is trying to hold them together is Helen’s drumming,

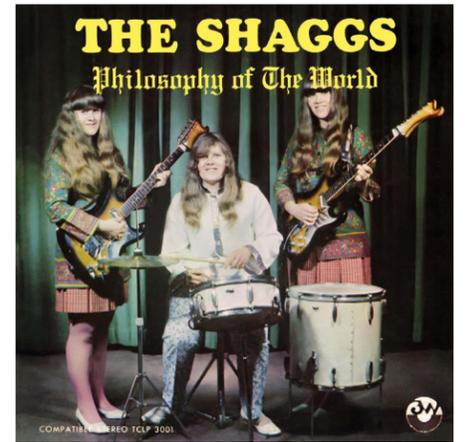


Photo Coronet Photography
The *Philosophy of the World* album cover. At the time this photo was taken, Betty (L) was 18, Dot (R) was 21, and Helen was 22. (L-R): Betty, Helen, and Dot.

Every time you expect something to happen in their music, it takes a sharp turn towards something you wouldn’t even imagine.

I’d compare *Philosophy of the World* to other albums in the “outsider” genre, such as *Hi, How Are You* by Daniel Johnston and *Trout Mask Replica* by Captain Beefheart and his Magic Band. *Hi, How Are You* is filled with sentimental, childlike songs reminiscent of The Shaggs lyrics, and *Trout Mask Replica* is known for its absurd instrumentation and odd vocals that remind me of “My Companion” and “Things I Wonder.”

From an average music listener’s standpoint, *Philosophy of the World* is nothing short of terrible. It’s considered by some to be the worst album of all time. But there’s something about it that intrigues me to no end. Despite being fairly surface-level, a fair amount of the songs on this album talk about the true emotions of these sisters who most likely just wanted to feel like normal teenagers, not members of a band they didn’t want to be in.

Their simple lyrics and poor instrumentation have made it a cult classic to those in the outsider genre. Some people confide in their music, while others find it humorous. I’d say I fall right into the middle. You can never take yourself too seriously when listening to a Shaggs song.

So when you’re bored, or just need a good laugh, feel free to turn on *Philosophy of the World*. It’s an album you’ll surely never forget.

Freshman Hollen takes on starting goalie roll

By Lakiyah Gum
Staff writer

Making any varsity sport as a freshman is impressive, and freshman Kelsey Hollen accomplished that when she was named starting goalie for the soccer team.

"It was a shock," Hollen said of making varsity. "I really didn't think I would make it. I felt some pressure, because I didn't want to be the one to let the team down."

Hollen's role as goalie was also important for the team's state championship this year.

"Being goalkeeper was nerve raking at times, but really fun," Hollen said. "I was always nervous because I never wanted

to be the one to get scored on at the end of the game especially in state because if you lose, you're out. Overall, it was really fun. I really enjoyed diving and being able to use my hands. It's also fun because you can talk to the other team when you get a stop or beat them to a ball and not get in trouble."

The bonds Hollen created with the upperclassmen on the team were instrumental to her success.

"The upperclassmen inspired me by helping me truly learn how the game worked and getting back into the flow of soccer after not playing for 3 years, and starting a new position," Hollen said. "One of the most helpful things my teammates have taught me is

the importance of having fun. I think so much of our success came from us loving what we were doing. You have to be able to have fun at games and practice. Even if we would have lost every game, I still believe I would have been having fun, but that was also the culture we built."

Hollen's coaches had a big impact on her.

"My coaches helped me improve my skill level in several ways," Hollen said. "One way was connecting me with my goalkeeping coach Mo. She taught me almost everything I know about goalkeeping. My coaches taught me how to work with my defenders and communicate with my teammates on the field."

Playing is very important, but more important is the memories and how fun the overall experience was Hollen said,

"What I enjoyed most about my first season was my team," Hollen said. "I never thought I would be able to build the relationship with my teammates that I did. I never imagined that I would become so close with my teammates, especially the upperclassmen. I know if I ever need something, I can ask them, and they will help me. They are some of my favorite people."

Hollen's favorite memory came at State B.

"One thing I will never forget and will cherish forever is winning the state championship," she said. "After a very



Photo Lakiyah Gum

slow first half of not scoring, we really flipped the switch for the second half. I remember after the first goal being like wow, we could really do this. Then we scored the second goal, and it was kind of like wow we could really do this. Then on the third goal Kenna, Rowan, and I all hugged each other, and I remember Rowan saying we just won the state championship. That moment is when it really sunk in for me that yes, we won, but I would never play with the eight seniors again. After the final whistle of the season blew and we all ran up to each other hugging each other, it really felt like all of our hard work had paid off. That moment is one I will never forget. I never thought that I would be a state champion."

Hollen not only had the support of her teammates, but that of her family this season.

"I look up to my parents the most because of their unconditional love for my siblings and I and their dedication to our family," she said. "They help me become a better version of myself because they always help me when I don't know what to do and always encourage me to do my best and have fun. No matter if I had a good game or a bad game, I know they are always proud of me."

Coach Dave Ellis found a lot to like in his freshman

goalie.

"Kelsey stands out for her confidence and a little bit of swagger, which is a little uncommon for a freshman without a lot of club soccer goalie experience," Ellis said. "She has great hands, and is very confident - both are great qualities! Kelsey is a quiet leader, but is also intense and you can tell she cares. As she gets a little bit older, you can tell she will continue to grow and take more of a leadership role."

According to Ellis, "Kelsey grew into becoming more comfortable in directing her defenders. As a goalie, she has the best view of the field and can best give directions. As the season went on, she became more vocal and used that vantage point to make our defense even stronger."

Hollen's soccer journey this season is inspiring. She is passionate about the game and works so hard everytime she steps foot on the soccer pitch Hollen brings good vibes to her teammates.

Her time in the goal helped shape the team's unforgettable season. The beginning of Hollen's soccer journey has been incredible, and it is just the start for her and there's much more to come for her and her team in the upcoming years.

Lincoln Wright puts it all together for state

By Leighla Bias
Staff writer

Senior Lincoln Wright ran through his wrestling competition this season, finishing 8th at state.

When asked about his motivation, Wright said it was, "My thoughts on winning state, but definitely coaches and teammates."

A large part of wrestling seems to be confidence, getting through that mental block, and pushing through the discomfort.

"The difficulty, I mean, even the practices, they're tough," Wright said.

Wright has taken the discomfort and turned it into victory, finishing 32 - 18 on the season.

"Being a senior and a leader, I know they look over and I have to step up," Wright said. "Then they know they gotta step up too."

Wright's experiences helped him qualify for state, including pinning NWC's Hudome

Somes at districts, a wrestler who he had lost to earlier in the season.

"I'm able to do certain things that other kids can't," Wright said about his abilities on the mat. "But at the same time, I can't do a lot of the things that they do."

No matter what, there will always be

more to learn. Even from those with less experience.

Lincoln Wright is not only a good wrestler, but known for it. And recognized for his efforts by his coaches and peers. Congratulations on a great season and your podium finish.

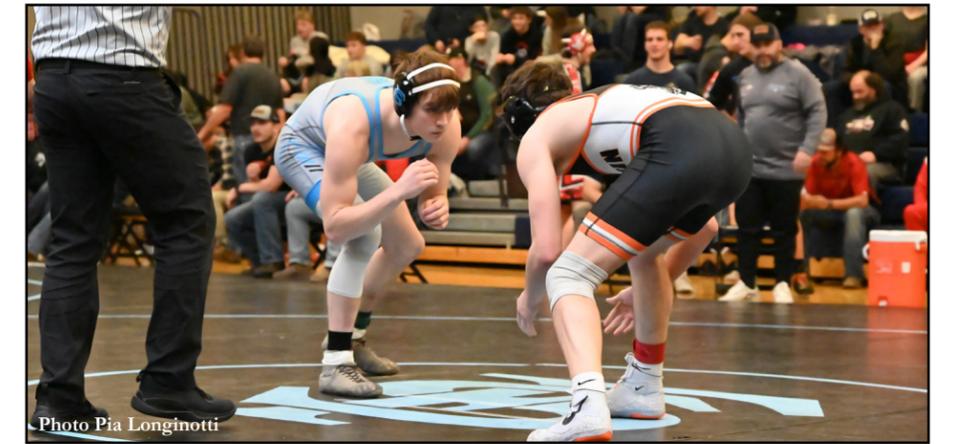


Photo Pia Longinotti

Phelps sets career points record, hits 1000

By Addy Agee
Staff writer

Taylee Phelps's basketball career has been full of many big accomplishments. Over the last 12 years, she has accomplished many of her goals through club and school ball. Phelps energy and leadership has been beneficial to the team in so many ways.

Phelps brings her passion to the court while also being a very fierce competitor. The love she has for the sport and the effort that has been given by her to be the best teammate and player she can be has been influential.

"She has brought a lot of great traits to our team," coach Garret Sawyer said. "She has a lot of experience playing the game, she brings great leadership to the team, and she brings a lot of passion and positive energy to the team as well."

As everyone can see while Phelps is on the court, she is a great leader. She brings the energy to both games and practices,



Photo Pia Longinotti
Phelps slides past Colfax's Ava Swan to score 2.

motivating the whole team. Her efforts to make the team successful each year have shown the kind of leadership Phelps has.

Besides having a good team effort, Phelps also had a goal of reaching 1000 career points, which she reached this season.

"It felt great," Phelps said. "It's something I've been working hard to do these last 3 years."

When Phelps joined Freeman's team her freshman year, she knew that she was going to have a big impact on the team.

"I felt confident in the work that I put in," Phelps said. "I felt like I had something to offer the team."

Phelps' commitment and leadership has been instrumental in the team's success. It has benefited everyone as a whole in so many ways.

"She loves to compete

and wants to be the best player and teammate she can be in order for the team to find success," Sawyer said.

Not only has Phelps been working on her own self-awareness and improvement, but she also tries to go off of others to help her teammates out.

"I've been working on how to lead better and how to work off of everybody's different skill sets," she said.

One of the Scotties' biggest team goals this year was to create a team environment that promotes a positive and competitive culture. I think that everyone can see how much her contributions have led the team to

the positive impact she made this season.

"Taylee has bought into this goal and actively strives to help the team continue to improve and accomplish this goal day in and day out," Sawyer said.

Phelps' contributions to the team have led the team for many successes throughout the years.



Photo Pia Longinotti



Goldsmith dunks on NWC's Ben Slade at the State B quarterfinal game. Freeman won 54-46.

Goldsmith helps lead state runner-up team

By Colin Bailey
Staff Writer

Senior Tanner Goldsmith was a key player for this year's Scottie basketball team as they made their second place state run.

Goldsmith has been playing basketball since he was in preschool. He has actually played with most of his senior teammates since kindergarten, creating a stronger connection on the court than most teams have.

"Our team has been together since we've been in kindergarten, so that's kind of nice," Goldsmith said. "We've really grown close to each other."

To Goldsmith, being a team captain means being a leader, a good inspiration and role model. The team has had a lot of freshman kids come in, and they had to give them a good look at how the team interacts.

"Just leading the team, being a good role model for the younger kids," Goldsmith said. "We had a lot of incoming freshmen this year to show them what our culture is about."

Goldsmith started playing basketball

because all of his family members played. Even though he joined very young, he has grown to love it.

"It's something that has always run in my family," Goldsmith said. "I started young and just kept with it."

Goldsmith considers the end of the season the worst part of basketball because he has to wait all year to play with his team again. The end of this season will also be the last time he wears a Scottie jersey, stepping onto the court with his friends.

"The ending of the season, that's probably the worst part, especially being my senior year," Goldsmith said. "It's my last time."

He may play basketball in the future in college.

"I do not know yet, but it's still undecided," Goldsmith said. "We'll see what happens."

At the time of interview, Goldsmith's favorite moment of basketball was going to state last year.

"Probably going to state is probably one of my favorite memories so far," Goldsmith said. "Getting to play in the state championship is not something a lot of people get to do, and especially with the people I got to do it with."

Goldsmith's drive to play basketball seems very determining but also excited to play basketball. As Goldsmith says goodbye to basketball this year, he will always carry the memories for the rest of his life.



Photo Rowan McGarity

Goldsmith beats Reardan's Rysen Soliday for a layin.