The Bagpiper

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Farm kids affected by next fall's earlier start dates

By Capri Collett
Editor-in-Chief

With the new balanced calendar in place and an earlier start date next fall, it will impact local farmers and the students who work for them.

Many students work in the summer to earn money for the things they need in their daily lives. We have a lot of student athletes who can't work during the year, and they need to save up some money in the summer.

"Since I'm doing sports during the year, I normally work in the summer," junior McKenna Finley said. "I'm kind of picking up other jobs as I can throughout the year, but that's my income that I rely on for gas and for food and everything else like little hobbies. Cutting that off would be a big problem."

SophomoreTucker Hawk harvest blue grass last fall.

With the balanced calendar changes, school starts a week earlier. Some of the students who work for farmers plan to miss the first week or two depending on when the harvest comes in this year.

"Depending on the weather, the farming season can either start earlier or later," junior Megan McGowan explained. "If it goes later, then it will cut into school. I won't be able to work much and my pay will go down."

Whether students are farming on their own farms or for a family friend, every student who chooses farming as their summer job depends on the money they make to pay for things in their lives. Losing one week of summer employment might not seem like it's a big deal, but for many it might be the last week of work they can do until the following summer.

"I will most likely miss the first week of school to farm," junior Tanner Goldsmith said. "It's not the greatest thing for me, but it's adjustable."

McGowan agreed "I would definitely skip school to work."

Many of our farming families have worked their land for generations. Not only is it how the earn money, but farming is a family tradition.

"Harvest normally ends the week we get back from school, but if we aren't finished I am not going to leave my farmers," sophomore Tucker Hawk said.

Principal Jeff Smith is working on ways to support our students who may be caught between farming and school.

"They're not going to be punished for missing that time in any way, shape or form in terms of grades or attendance or anything along those lines," Smith said. "If someone's missing, those will be excused absences."

Junior Megan McGowan is raking the timothy (hay) at the LaShaw farm.

Smith said the biggest challenge for students missing the first week will be catching up when they return.

"The work that they're missing, that's going to be the real challenge," he said. "Teachers are teaching lessons that are foundational for the rest of the semester. There's going to have to be some communication obviously between student and teacher."

Smith has already consulted with Liberty High School's principal Aaron Fletcher on how they have handled this same situation.

"He said generally it's a case by case and kids and teachers just work it out and they are excused absences," Smith said.

Smith recommends that students who are missing the first week log into classroom at the start of school and reach out to teachers, so they don't start the year too behind in classwork.

The teachers will set aside the work that the students miss and have the same amount of days that were missed to make up the work when they were absent.

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2023-2024 retiring staff members

By Jayna Parr
Staff writer

Retirement is on the horizon for three staff members who will truly be missed: secretary Raelyn Davis, science teacher John Hays and shop teacher Jim Wood.


Photo Jayna Parr

Retirement is an exciting thing for Davis who has been working at FHS for 22 years. She is looking forward to plans following her retirement.

"It's a bag of mixed emotions," Davis said. "I will miss the staff and kids but am looking forward to traveling, spending time with my grandkids, working in my flower beds and most of all taking naps."

Davis said retirement is an opportunity to be able to spend time with more family.

"I think in the beginning, a lot of my time will be spent with my parents and in-laws," Davis said. "They are all getting up there in age and are starting to need a lot of assistance. Once my husband retires at the end of the year, we plan to do some traveling! There is still so much in Washington we have yet to explore. In February, we will be taking our retirement celebration trip to Kauai."

Davis' advice to the staff she's leaving behind is to "love on the kids, and be a listening ear. For the kids, get more involved and be more sensitive to others because they may be different but it's okay. Everybody's going through different things just be a friend to everyone."

Jim Wood is also excited to retire after 23 years of working at FHS as a wood and metal shop teacher, and football coach.


Photo Jayna Parr

Wood said that he plans to continue at least a little work on the side for retirement.

"No huge plans," Wood said,"just work around the place and do my usual things on the side. I always do building and stuff like that."

Wood has a lot of memories to choose from during his time at Freeman.

"There were a lot of good years," Wood said. "All the years coaching football were really good, and the people we work with are good as well."

Wood's advice for students and staff is "just to take advantage of the opportunities that are being put there for you."


Photo Jayna Parr

Chemistry Teacher, John Hays is the third staff member retiring after working 40 years at Freeman!

"Oh I'm excited," Hays said, "but I'm always committed to my students and the relationships I've built with them and the underclassmen here."

Hays already has a full list of things to do in retirement.

"Lots of travel," Hays said. Then some house improvement, but mainly a lot of traveling though, Iceland, the Scandinavian countries in Europe, New Zealand, and Australia."

Hays has so many great memories of his time at FHS.

"I have some state track meet where four girls all the way through four years of being on track, they never got to run together, and then their senior year, they were all healthy," Hays said. "They won the state championship and set the state record which is still there today. I also think the AP Bio trip was just he icing on the cake of teaching AP."

Hays advice for staff and students is "to work hard and treat people with respect. I would say this is to both staff and students, there's always days where you're tired and things are just off and you just have to realize that someone's depending on you. You can be there for people."

Failed Freeman levy means further cuts to budget

By Jayna Parr
Staff writer

Tough decisions have to be made since the $5 million capital levy failed on April 23. Budget cuts are being made as the district considers the impact of both the loss of levy money and decreased funding from the state for next school year. The district will not be able to run a capital levy again until 2025.

"This pays for things like roofs, parking lots, taking care of a washer and dryer, or if a heating unit goes out," Dr. Randy Russell explained. "Anything that's structural is paid for out of the capital levy, and that one failed."

With the loss of funding, the district is concerned about paying for things like repairs around the district.

"We'll have to take money out of the general fund which is to be used for other things, and now it has to be used for repairs," Russell said. "For example, the washer and dryer in the kitchen is out. It's 13 years old, and it has run its course. I said 'sorry, you're not able to get a new washer and dryer because the levy failed.'"

Russell brought up another example of repairs needed to be made.

"At the high school, there are two water boilers that provide hot water for the kitchen, the showers and the bathrooms," he said. "There's one out, so now there's only one providing for all those areas."

Just the few projects the district already knows about will cost thousands of dollars to pay for. Thousands of dollars are needed for a number of repairs around the school district.

Can we do anything to help this problem? Such as, fundraisers etc.?

"Well, I guess you could," Russell said. "I don't know how many people are going to get too excited about paying for things like a boiler or a parking lot."

Russell said that there will definitely be budget cuts due to the financial challenges the district faces.

"We have a 52 acre campus, so we've got to have insurance right?" Russel said. "Well that's going up. They're projecting a 40% increase next year. So what does that mean? That's $140,000 more to cover our staff. Our property and liability insurance is also projected to go up to $450,000 of our operating budget."

On top of that, there's also projected increases in medical insurance.

"Medical insurance is very expensive," Russell said. "So let's say your spouse has insurance with a different company, and you decide not to take Freeman's insurance, but you're going to take your spouse's instead. We still have to pay for your insurance even if you don't use Freeman's. We pay over $100,000 a year for employee insurance, even if the employee doesn't take our insurance."

The financial toll of decreased funding and the loss of levy dollars will even affect job security for staff.

"When you combine all of these problems together- increasing costs, things being more expensive, less funding from the state- and then you lose a few students enrollment-wise, it causes a shortfall," Russell said. "Then you have to make reductions in staffing. Unfortunately, some of our staff has lost their jobs. We feel terrible. You don't want to tell someone that they're going to lose their job."

There's many struggles and problems the district is currently facing with budget cuts and a failed levy, but the best we can do as students, parents, as a district in general is just to stay strong and hope for the best.

REPAIRS NEEDED	PRICE
Domestic HS boiler	$8,600
Heat in shop	$5,000
Heat in elem. fire riser room/custodial offics/bathroom	$3,500
Brick- N side back wall Hawk room cover	$8,000
Brick on NW corner of MS	$N/A

The cost of repairs around the district in wich require th emoney we shouldve had from the levy.

Hamilton's 6th grade students tackle reporting challenge

Kim Hamilton's 6th grade students took on the challenge of learning about the job of reporters this spring.

Hamilton's lessons included teaching students about journalistic writing, interviewing techniques, and research parctices.

In groups of three, her students each picked a topic to for their articles.

The Bagpiper is excited to share some of the pieces that were created during their unit. Thank you for sharing your articles!

See something, hear something, say something

By Ahava Kann, Sophia Mulligan, and Dasha Kopets
Guest Writers

As you drive down the road in the dark of night, you see two figures running down the sidewalk with backpacks slung over their shoulders; they keep looking behind them, but they don't seem to notice you. You follow them until they stop when they pull out a can of spray paint from their backpacks, one in each hand. They then proceed to spray random letters and pictures on the brick wall, and when they realize you are watching, they run off before you report them to the police.

"It always seems to be everywhere, " mentions Tracie Meidl, Police Captain at Spokane Police Department. As you walk through the streets of Spokane, graffiti and litter are noticeable problems. Under bridges and train trestles where it's not as easily seen, it's spreading.

Thousands of dollars are spent painting over graffiti. Litter is harming animals. But if it doesn't get cleaned up it happens more and more. It can be a one-time situation if it gets cleaned up quickly.

"Vandalism is a very large issue in Spokane," Meidl stated, " It mostly happens downtown, when it's dark," she explained. "It's more common at night when people think they aren't being watched." Not being seen encourages vandalism.

Some companies have chosen to shut down or move because they couldn't keep up with cleaning the vandalism. Neighborhoods tend to downgrade when they are not well kept and cleaned or the houses and streets aren't well lit. If it's not cleaned the vandalizers tend to suspect that that area is looked over or not seen and trees are trimmed, you have a higher chance of avoiding vandalism as well as if your property is well lit at night. "If it's not cleaned up it gets worse and worse and worse," Meidl added.

Vandalism can be anywhere. The problem gets worse when

Continued on page 5

Pollution and trash build up on the banks of the Spokane River

By Makenna Swenson, Pikaia Cassanego, and Timothy Cochrane
Guest Writers

Imagine a group of adults and kids walking along the Spokane River picking up trash. These people might be working for the Riverkeepers.

The Riverkeepers are a group of volunteer workers that keep our river clean and safe.

The Spokane River used to carry fish such as salmon, trout, and more, but as careless people drive past and throw cans, plastic bottles, and garbage into the beautiful river, fish can't return.

"The reason that there arent alot of fish in the Spokane River is because of the runoff pollution from the roads," said Jule Shultz, a scientist for Spokane Riverkeepers.

Did you know that back in the 1920s garbage disposal companies dumped the trash they collected into the river? Yes, they used to dump trash they collected into the river to "throw away."

They thought the trash would disappear if they put it into the river. Of course, this was not the case.

The garbage would be washed into the ocean. If not, it would build up on the sides of the bank, stick on the rock bed of the river, or be ingested by the animals.

Different companies used to dispose of their trash and chemicals in the river.

"Industries are allowed to discharge a certain amount into the river," Shultz said.

Even today, companies are still allowed to dump certain pollutants into the river.

"Not until about five years ago did the state decide to 'clean' wastewater," Riverkeeper Liv Lindle said.

Before that we just let it run down our river!

"What we put in the ground seeps into the aquifer which leads into the river," Schultz said.

If you spill oil or toxins on the ground, those toxins seep into the ground and drain into our aquifer. The water in the aquifer feeds our river in the summer.

Did you know you can still find trash from when they used to dump garbage in the river from a trapdoor that is located on the bridge? In addition, industries along the Spokane River dumped chemicals into the river.

Sawmills were a huge deterrent for fish reproduction because sawdust that was being tossed into the river kept them from returning. Eventually, the pollution became too much of a problem that the Clean Water Act was created.

In the 1950s, the city started to discuss cleaning up the river. Once Expo '74 began, they started to pass laws on pollution and cleaning the river so it stopped affecting people and wildlife.

"Once Expo '74 began there was less pollution being thrown into the river, but still a lot of pollution in the river," Kindle said.

Over the years since Expo '74, the river has improved in quality but still needs much work.

Back when pollution was harsh, researchers studied the way people lived around the Spokane River. Multiple cases of cancer, random diseases, and disabilities have been caused by river pollution.

As the river received more and more pollution, the cases of diseases skyrocketed. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, people are exposed to PCBs when they ingest animal fats, through i nhalation, skin contact, or eating the fish.

PCBs are man-made organic chemicals that suppress the immune system, increasing the risk of several human diseases. If a plant or worm that a fish has eaten contains PCBs, then the fish now may have PCBs in its blood stream.

The article further states that extra nutrients in the water cause algae to grow, using oxygen that the fish need.

In an article from the Washington Department of Ecology, the author states that (PCBs) can harm people and marine life.

According to an article in High Country News, an independent magazine covering issues in the West, Kaiser Aluminum added a high amount of pollution including PCBs to the river in the past, which are still found in their groundwater today.

Fish, like salmon, left the river due to the amount of pollution. Not just the fish were affected but the tribes around the river that ate the fish as a main source of food.

The tribes like the Coeur d'Alene tribe and Spokane tribe were greatly affected by the fish loss.

"After this problem was noticed and brought to attention, the Coeur d'Alene tribe started to plan ways to help the fish jump over the dams," Kindle said. "These dams prevent them from locating where they need to be. So they decided to load them up in trucks and transport them around the dams."

According to Schultz, they would tag the fish to examine how many returned to the river. The plan worked when 704 fish returned. They plan to keep doing this to restore the fish to the Spokane River over the next five years until they can find a permanent solution.

But there is still so much to do on the river, like cleaning it up. The Riverkeepers are trying to clean the

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Gas prices are on the rise all over Washington state

By Owen King, Wyatt Wineinger and Jaxon Fatherree
Guest Writers

One morning at the Chester store customers stare in disbelief as they fill up their tanks.
As you may have noticed, gas prices have been higher than they have ever been.

The average price for gas in Washington has risen significantly in the past week to $4.54 for regular gas and $4.77 for diesel.

Gas prices are a huge problem for people because of how high they are on top of taxes and interest. Many people are upset with how high they have been. But the truth behind it may be surprising.

"Gas prices have always fluctuated, but it's never stayed as high as it is now," John Bauer, an employee of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC), an oil refinery, said.

The Covid pandemic had a huge effect on gas prices. According to Title Max, a US title lending company, in 2020, the price of gas was $2.25 which is not that horrible compared to what it is now. But in 2021, it grew worse. Gas prices rose to
$3.26. In 2022, they skyrocketed to $4.90, and have been fluctuating ever since, staying higher than pre-Covid numbers.

"Profit for companies went up a lot in that time while wages stayed the same," Bauer said.

Another reason why the gas prices have risen is because during the pandemic they were running low on crude oil making it more valuable, so it was more expensive.

Politics also have a huge effect on gas prices. In past years, presidents have all had their time of high gas prices, but none like this. The crazy gas prices are a partial result of the Russian-Ukraine war which affected supply and demand.

Supply refers to the amount of goods, products or services available and demand refers to the amount needed by consumers.

"When Biden chose sides with Ukraine, we lost about 6% of oil shipments from Russia," Bauer said.

This means less supply but the same demand, so prices rise.

With the 6% loss of supply from Russia, and a continued rise in demand, American gas prices are climbing.

Not for a long while but inevitably, eventually we will run out of gas, due to it not being renewable.

"There is only so much and once it's gone it's gone," Bauer said.

There are many other reasons gas prices are high, but a huge one is the seasons. During the summer, you may have noticed that the gas prices will be higher. Also, when it is winter, have you noticed that they are lower? The reason behind this is traveling.

In the summer, people travel more so gas companies take advantage and raise gas prices. They slowly lower the prices in the winter. According to the *Washington Examiner*, a U.S conservative news outlet, "March and April bring higher gas prices as demand rises due to milder temperatures."

The future for gas prices is not looking very bright. But you can do something to help the high gas prices. According to NRDC, a non-profit environmental advocacy group, "Electrical vehicle owners can save up to $14,480 in Washington state over the life of their vehicle."

Driving an electric car is one way to avoid high gas prices, though there may be other issues to deal with. Bauer, for one, is not a fan of electric cars. It may be, however, with less demand the gas companies will have to lower the gas prices.

If you would like to talk to your congresswoman about high gas prices in Spokane, contact Cathy McMorris Rodgers at info@cathyforcongress.com to express your opinion.

See something continued from page 4

For example, if the bushes people don't report it. It's usually not reported because they don't think that it's important. Therefore it's becoming more and more common and taking over the towns, parks, and companies. In other words it happens more where it's worse.

"It's unsafe," said Volar Soccer CEO, Dean Aldridge, from an interview on FOX 13. "If you look on the corner down there, it's becoming a legal dump zone because officers can't do anything." Vandalism has always been a problem but lately it has increased.

Marlene Feist, public works director for the City of Spokane, says it's time to take action, but it's not as easy of a fix as people think.

"I mean... It's going to take many efforts, not just graffiti cleanup, not just trash cleanup. There's a variety of efforts that need to happen downtown to make people feel comfortable in the space," said Feist.

Tristan Conrad, a former seasonal maintenance worker for the city says he believes the reason for the graffiti is due to Spokane's lack of activities for people to express themselves creatively.

Keeping your neighborhood and yards clean decreases the amount of vandalism that happens. Keep your houses lit up, trim your bushes low and trees high. This makes it easier to see if anything is going on.The Metropolitan Police say to, "create a boundary and generally keep your yard tidy.

"Consider having a Neighborhood Watch and keep your neighbors informed. " Anytime neighbors can get involved is better," Meidl reminded. Keeping your neighbors involved can really help your community. Even just talking and hanging out can help build trust and relationships.

Just remember to be alert and tidy your property. Work with your neighbors and stay safe. If you see graffiti, help clean it up. Vandalism is increasing and the homeless population is also increasing," Meidl stated. If you see vandalism or see someone vandalizing something , report it with 311 Crime Check. If you see something, hear something, say something!

Pollution continued from page 4

river and provide for the animals that live there. The Spokane River Keepers have lawyers to help them with this job.

The scientists monitor sediment levels to see if the pollution is rising. They allow you to bring in dirt, and they will analyze it. This is called the Citizen's Science Project.

Strict laws are put in place to maintain the amount of fish in the river. The Riverkeepers walk around the banks of the river to clean up the collected trash.

But sometimes other cleaning crews drive out in boats and clean up the middle of the river.

Scuba teams also clean the bottom of the river such as trash stuck on rocks and fallen tree branches.

"Now we clean the river frequently; we once took out 16 bags of trash with just cans," Kindle said.

We are trying to bring back the fish population. To do that, we drive them around dams, raise them in fish nurseries, and take them to keep track of them. Now 704 salmon have returned to the Spokane river.

There are a few ways you could help with keeping our rivers clean. You could support an organization like the Riverkeepers by donating to thier cause. Or you could attend a public cleanup event hosted by the Riverkeepers or a similar organization.

Another option is to host your own DIY cleanup with your friends and family.

At home, you could recycle, reuse, and reduce your waste so none of the plastics or pollution end up in the river.

But mostly, you need to respect your river, love it, play in it, and keep it clean.

The annual art showcases the best of the year

By Madelyn Cordova
Staff writer

The annual Freeman Art Show featured a selection of student-chosen artwork on Tuesday, May 28. Artists could enter more than one piece of artwork if they chose

"The Freeman Art Show is an opportunity for student artists to exhibit their work.," art teacher Brooke Forkner said.

Freshman Ellie Wineiger entered an acrylic canvas painting of peonies in a vase.

"I want my grandfather's art to be shown through my hand," shae said.

Junior Maggie McLuskie entered an abstract watercolor piece that took her 1 week to make.

"I like using watercolor, so this was really fun for me to make," McLuskie said.

Freshman Jaycee Primmer entered a shape acrylic painting that took her a week to make.

"I love painting, it makes me positive," Primmer said. "I'm excited for people to see my artwork."

Sophomore Sienna Tatsey entered a colored pencil piece of the Joker. The piece took her 2 weeks to complete.

"I got to express myself through my art and I'm excited to share that," Tatsey said.

Freshman Briley Snyder entered an acrylic painting of a car for an assignment earlier this year.

"It was a lot of work but it paid off in the end," Snyder said.

Freshman Anna Cochrane entered a positive, and negative flower printmaking piece.

"It took me some time but it was really fun," Cochrane said.

The art show was truly an event to remember bringing people of all ages together to admire the creativity of our art students.

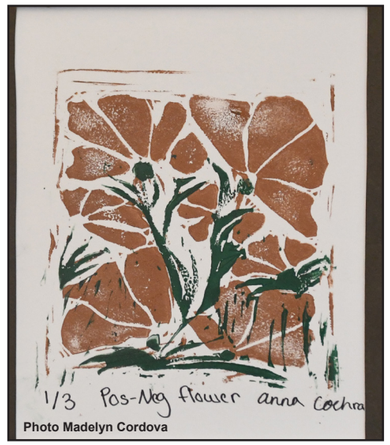

Photo Madelyn Cordova

Anna Cochrane

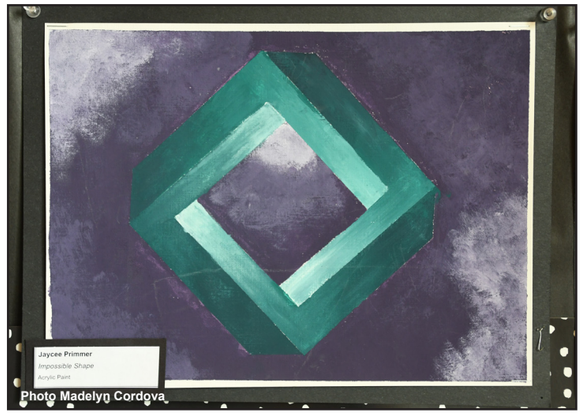

Photo Madelyn Cordova

Jaycee Primmer

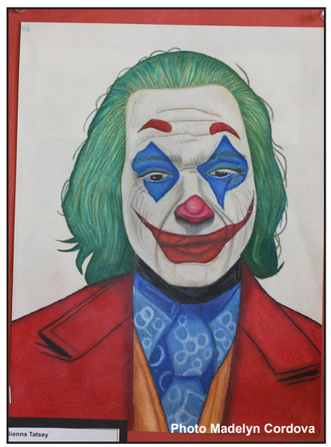

Photo Madelyn Cordova

Sienna Tatsey

Photo Madelyn Cordova

Ellie Wineinger


Photo Madelyn Cordova

Briley Snyder


Photo Madelyn Cordova

Cassie Broers


Photo Madelyn Cordova

Jay Parr

Photo Madelyn Cordova

Photo Brooke Forkner

Photo Madelyn Cordova

Artists, family members and friends joined in the celebration at the FHS art show.

The class of 2024 heads off to new adventures

By Madelyn Cordova
Staff writer


Courtesy Kristal Hayek

The seniors take a class photo before heading into their graduation ceremony.

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to an end, we get ready to say our goodbyes to our amazing senior class.

The class of 2024 has put so much into our school for which we are so grateful, but what is this class going to be up to after they graduate?

Raven Wright is going to be a tattoo artist.

"I love art, and I like tattoos myself," Wright said.

Senior Sophia Jensen is going to Whitworth to study psychology to become a counselor.

"I love helping people so it will be a good path for me," Jensen said.

Senior Makenzie Goode is going to Eastern Washington University for elementary education.

"Eastern is close to home," Goode said."I want to go into education because my mom was a teacher."

Senior Luca Risse is going to go to WSU to continue with Cheer.

"WSU has been my dream school," Risse said. "I want to continue my cheer career there."

Karee Folsom will be getting her real estate license.

"My dad has a construction business and he got me interested in it," Folsom said.

Senior Ethan Bowen will be going into the US Air Force.

"My dad served for 15 years and 8 months, and my brother is serving too," Bowen said.

Like the students above, the seniors' plans will take them to the next step of chasing their dreams, whether that means going to college, other training, or serving in the armed forces. We are so excited to see the class of 2024 become adults and continue their journey beyond high school.


Courtesy Kristal Hayek

The seniors celebrate their graduation by tossing their caps into the air.

Knight meets goal of finishing top ten in state

By Capri Collett
Editor-In-Chief

Ever since Lily Knight was 5, she has been playing golf.

"It's one of my favorite things to do ever," Knight said.

Knight grew up with a family who plays golf all the time, so she just started doing it with them.

"I started playing golf because my family was really into golfing and started me at a young age. I kind of just grew up at the golf course."

Golf is a sport you can play at any age and she hopes she will be able to play when she's older because she loves playing.

"I really enjoy golf because you are able to play wherever and whenever you want," she said. "I also think that golf is a sport where there is always something to work on or get better at and if you put in the work you are going to see that you are getting better by what you are shooting every round."

Knight loves that it is outdoors and also getting to golf with her friends.

Knight's goal is to one day make it to college playing golf, though she doesn't know where she wants to play yet. To achieve her goal, Knight plays in as many tournaments as she can and works with coaches and trainers to keep improving her game.

"The biggest improvement this year has been Lily's short game. Her chipping and putting helped her cut right around 15 strokes from the last year. She has been extremely consistent all year and has been throwing out low numbers."

Knight finished the season as the district champion, leading the girls team in winning both league and districts.

"I would say the biggest thing I have done was staying consistent," Knight said of her season. "I was really focused on my goal, so I was willing to do whatever my coaches said even if it meant I was getting worse before I got better."

STATS FROM THIS YEAR:

Medical Lake	44
Deer Park	80
Stoneridge	88
Dominion Meadows	80
Medical Lake	88
Latah Creek	81
Riverside GC (Chehalis)	88


Photo Lane Mathews


Photo Lane Mathews

Softball co-league champions, Colville ends post-season run

By Parker Teague
Staff writer

Even though the season fell short of expectations, our softball team truly had an amazing season. The team finished the season with a record of 16-6 overall and 10-2 in league.

"This team came into the season with a ton of high expectations because of the success from last year," coach Tom Sefton said. "This team has handled it well. They have a target on their back and get each opponents best that day."

The Scotties finished co-league champs with Riverside. Four players made 2nd team all-league juniors Mckenna Finley, Maggie Leeper, Isabel Silva, and sophomore Paige Lochmiller. Sophomore Kaylee Ripke was named all-league pitcher of the year.

"They continue to want to get better both individually and as a team," Sefton siad."We always have players wanting to get extra work in after practice that is a good feeling as a coach. Very proud of their commitment and great attitude. As far as next year. We have everyone back again- we have two goals each year- win a district championship and a state championship. But the #1 goal is to become better players on the field and better students/people off the field."

Track sends 11 to state, Sandborn wins high jump

This track season, both the boys and girls teams found great success.

"Fiona Anderson (9) has broken the girls pole vault record twice now," coach Isaac Swillie said. "She first broke it right before spring break at 10'3, and she just improved that record to 10'9 on May 1!

The team took 11 qualifiers to state, seniors Megan Flaig, Sage Gilbert, Barrett Poulsen, Kanoa Rogan, Luke Whitaker, juniors Dakota Daines, sophomores Nicole Dupont, Tyce Gilbert, Rylee Russell, Trenton Sandborn, and freshman Fiona Anderson (9).

"Our boys and girls 4x1s should do well, and our girls 4x2 is currently a Top 10 team in the state!" Swillie said going into state. "I hope some kids see how much fun and success we are having and we improve our overall team numbers next year. I hope to see kids do well in the postseason and continue to improve throughout their high school career. We have some kids that could carry on into the next level of Track and Field if they continue to work hard, which is very exciting!"

Sophomore Trenton Sandborn dominated the league in both the 100 Hurdles and 300 Hurdles. He won the state championship high jump with a PR jump of 6 '7!.

Top left: Trenton Sandborn clears 6'4 in the high jump at The Mooberry Relays.

Bottom left: Fiona Anderson sets the school record in pole vault with a jump of 10'9 against Riverside.

Knight finishes 7th, Peil 30th in state

This golf season, our golfers found great success.

Coach John Bruno shared a few season highlights. Lily Knight (10) won Districts and took 7th at state, and Charlie Schafer (12) won League.

The team also had 6 first team all-league athletes: seniors Schafer, Tanner Goldsmith, junior Ashlynn Meenach, sophomores Knight, Anna Marie McNally, and freshman Kolton Peil.

"It will be great to get new competition and play different courses at the B level," Bruno said. "Our goal is to continue our success and help the athletes reach their potential."

Baseball lost in 1st round of state to La Center

The Freeman baseball team had a record of 8-4 in league and 16-8 overall. "This is a good group with a core of kids that have been on varsity together for 3-years now. From the players that I have talked to this is the closest group yet. My hope for them is that the brotherhood that they have created can last a lifetime, well beyond their years here at Freeman." Coach Bryce Williamson stats. A few player highlights are, Bodie Ramsey: 1st Team Pitcher, Jack Florence: 1st Team Catcher, Nash McLean: 1st Team Shortstop, Kamyn Claunch: 2nd Team Pitcher, Vance Coyner: 2nd Team 2nd Baseman, and Gavin Zehm 2nd Team 3rd Baseman."Our goals are the same every season. To win the league, to advance to the state tournament, and to win it all. With the program returning 10+ juniors that will be seniors next year these goals are definitely attainable if everyone works hard this offseason in preparation for next year."

Tennis qualifies three for post season

By Harper Sefton
Yearbook

Although the team was small in number, they made up for it through hard work and determenation.the boys ended regular season 1-9 and the girls went 7-4.

"Our boys doubles consists of all new or 2nd year palers and are challened to compete," coach Mike Shanks said. "This season has been about effort, desire to improve and overcoming diversity."

#1 singles Collin McPhillips placed 5th at districts, but was knocked out in regionals. #1 doubles Emma Hollen and Ava Mounts took second at districts, but were knocked out in their NEA/CTL crossover match.

Ripke continues to improve game

By Parker Teague
Staff writer

During this softball season our team has done amazing things, but one player in particular has stuck out by going above and beyond- sophomore Kaylee Ripke.

While Ripke is only a sophomore, she has already stood out in the crowd. Ripke was named the All-League pitcher of the year for the 2nd year in a row.

"It has been a great season!" Ripke said. "We are 10-2 in league and 16-6 overall. We were also co-league champs this year with Riverside. We have shown a lot of growth and hope to continue that into the postseason."

Ripke's love for the sport was sparked at a young age.

"I found my love for the game by watching my dad coach baseball and his passion for both the game of baseball and softball," she explained. "Playing catch with my dad and eventually taking lessons."

One of Ripke's favorite memories this season was "hitting the game tying home run against Colville in the top of the 7th to send it to extra innings."

The Scotties secured the road win after 9 innings, which helped them earn the 1 seed.

Being a pitcher has both high and lows.

"It isn't always easy, but I've pushed myself to stay focused, do my job, and control what I can control," Ripke said.

Something that sets Ripke apart from other pitchers is her hard work, dedication, and being able to work through situations that are mentally and physically challenging.

"Being able to attack the zone while also changing speeds to keep hitters off balance" is something that Ripke has focused on this season.

In the future, Ripke "hopes to play college softball and to continue competing, pushing myself to be better, and having fun."

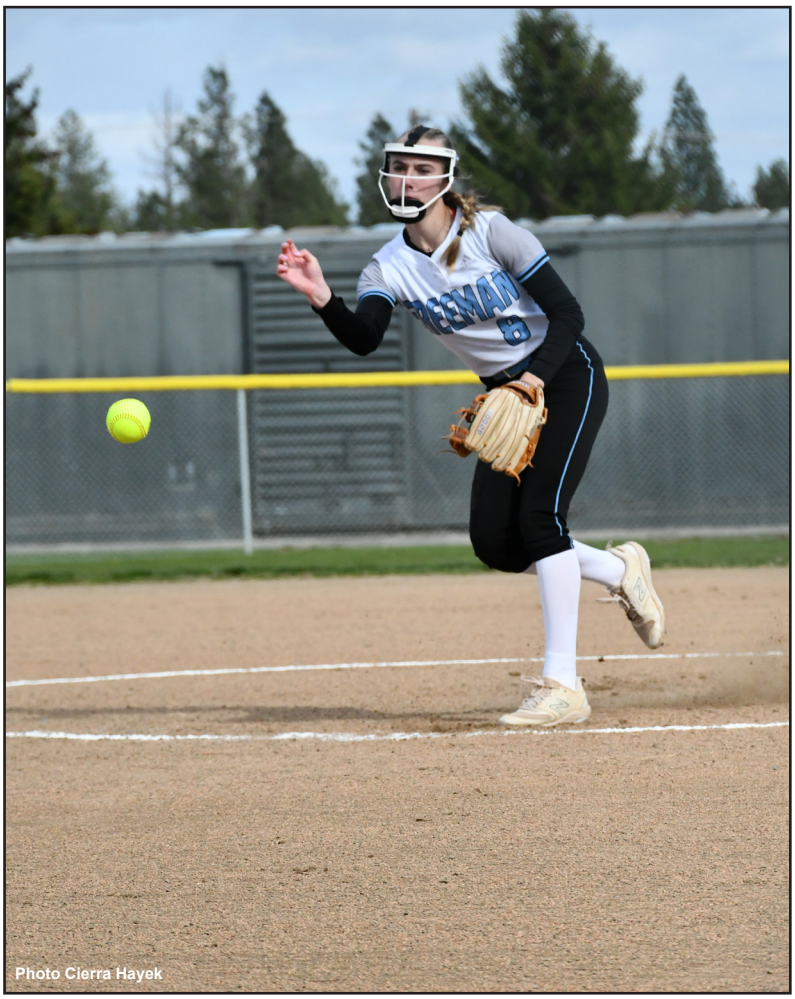
Photo Cierra Hayek


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