

# the courier

the appleton east student newspaper



# PENTAMETER PATRIOTS!

## *Much Ado About Nothing at East*

East is putting on a play about gossip and rumors being spread around, but it's *much ado about nothing*. With relationships, parties, and unethical behavior, it's just like high school, yet in Italy, there's a much greater problem that resides in Leonato's mansion. *Much Ado About Nothing* is a Shakespearean rom-com about courtships and scandals.

Part of the director's job is to adapt *Much Ado About Nothing* and envision how it will be performed on stage. "When directing Shakespeare, I think it helps to acknowledge two facts: one, people find Shakespeare complicated, difficult, and hard to understand, BUT two, Shakespeare has universal and relatable themes and takeaways that have led to his continuing popularity for hundreds of years," says Ms. Amanda Petersen, director of *Much Ado*. Acknowledging those truths helps us recognize - this will be a challenge, but it's worth it!"

*Much Ado About Nothing* is set in Messina, Italy where Claudio is set to wed Hero, yet Claudio is soon deceived by a malicious plot, which causes him to call off the wedding. However, this is only the beginning of an even bigger transgression. Though, behind the love and the wrongdoing, there are funny moments among the characters.

"This year, we really wanted to challenge the Drama Club with more difficult material - Sondheim in the fall, and Shakespeare this spring," Ms. Petersen explains. "Although we considered *Romeo & Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as

options, we ultimately decided on *Much Ado About Nothing* because we felt the themes would really be something we could dig into." Ms. Petersen says the play is perfect for high school. "*Much Ado About Nothing* deals with gossip, misinformation, spreading rumors, young love, fighting with your ex, and social expectations - all topics that felt really relatable! On top of that, it's full of great humorous moments we know will be fun to portray."

Shakespeare isn't easy to understand, even for the cast. "My weakness will for sure be memorizing lines and knowing them," says Liam Spoehr, a senior at Appleton East, who plays Leonato. "As a senior, I feel ready for a position of such stature and intellect. I am so sad I didn't find theatre sooner because it has changed my life for the better."

Ransom Webster plays Don Pedro. "I'm really excited to be in my first play here at Appleton East." Webster is a part-time Patriot who's also homeschooled. "I have been in musicals in the past, but a play is a different and sometimes more interesting format. Especially with this play being a Shakespeare, the change is pretty big!" Webster also finds the dialogue difficult. "The directors of this play have been extremely helpful in understanding Shakespeare and I've really fallen in love with the poetry and meaning behind his words."

Every story needs an antagonist. Don John is played by Wyatt Thao, a freshman at Appleton East. He loves being in this production. "One of the



experiences I am most excited about is performing for the first time at Appleton East. I am also super happy that my first production with Appleton East is a Shakespeare play because this production has taught me a lot about the English language, and it motivates me to get into depth about my character!" The challenge of learning complicated lines drives Thao to succeed. "I believe that I will be capable of performing excellently as a lead which will help me thrive through the future productions here at East!"

Emily Philipp, an international student from Germany, plays Ursula in this production. "Drama Clubs aren't as big and popular as they are here in the US. Last year when I got in contact with my host family, one of the first things I told them was that I wanted to join the Drama club. During the first semester, I was part of the crew and I helped build the background for the musical." Philipp learned a lot quickly. "In the beginning, there were a lot of words that I had never heard of before. We didn't need the name of tools in our English lessons back in Germany." Emily continues her learning through *Much Ado*. "This time I'm playing a role. I'm I am very proud and it feels amazing to contribute something to the play. Going to rehearsals is a lot of work and when I come home afterwards I'm always really happy. It's great to be part of something so special, especially as an exchange student. I love being part of *Much Ado About Nothing*."

Appleton East's Drama Club provides a safe and welcoming environment. Drama Club teaches teamwork and builds strong relationships among others. They provide an outlet that gives comfort while also having fun. Teaching time management, communication, and organization, to help adapt to the real world. "On the first day of school, I went to the Drama Club meeting and I'm so glad I did because every single person was amiable and they directly included me," Philipp points out. "Wherever I asked a question, I got help and nobody ever seemed to be annoyed by my questions. I love the cast, the crew, and the directors because everybody is always so respectful and very loving."

This spring's production, as challenging as it can be, has been a great experience for the cast and crew of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The curtains will rise for the performances on April 18, 19, and 20 at 7:00 p.m. There's also a matinee performance on April 20 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for *Much Ado About Nothing* go on sale to the public on March 4. We hope to see you there.



- Jo Buck and Cynthia Vang

# HEAD DOWN TO TITLETOWN

Although the drag from February to March can seem never-ending, Titledown in Green Bay thankfully has some great offerings to get you through the slump. Located about thirty minutes away, the small community near Lambeau Field offers many activities year-round – and you don't have to be a football enthusiast to enjoy them!

To start, ice skating is offered at Hy-Vee Plaza and only costs eight dollars per person Sunday through Thursday, and ten dollars per person Friday through Saturday. Opening at 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 11:00 a.m. on weekends, ice skating at Titledown can be fun for the whole family. Titledown also offers tubing on Ariens Hill, admission for which can be purchased in conjunction with an ice skating ticket. There is an online waiver for both of these activities, and closing times vary based upon day and activity, so it's best to head over to the website if you're interested in checking either of them out.

If you begin to feel hungry after all of that fun in the snow, there are plenty of dining options to choose from in Titledown. The bistro *46 Below* serves

quick bites and drinks if you're looking for something simple and easy. If you're into something a little more classy, *Taverne in the Sky* is situated on the fifth floor of Lodge Kohler, and it serves lunch and dinner featuring an exciting rotisserie cuisine. Last but not least, *The Turn* boasts great food paired with an exciting interactive experience via its Topgolf virtual gaming technology; you can choose from game modes such as Topgolf Target, Zombie Dodgeball, and Carnival Classic.

No matter if you're searching for a local day-trip destination or just a pleasant evening out, Titledown is sure to offer something you will enjoy. It's a great place to bring friends and family, so consider taking advantage of everything they have in store.



- Lila Bornemann



# TOTALLY TUBULAR!

## BEST FOX VALLEY HILLS

Everyone loves a good sledding hill, and the Fox Valley features plenty.

- [Calumet Country Park Tubing Hill](#) tows you up with a rope, but no personal tubes are allowed on this hill.
- [At Titledown-Ariens Hill\\*](#), you walk up stairs to the top, but the tube returns on an automated system. Riders must be 42 inches or taller. Plus there's always snow because they make their own.
- [Triangle Sports Area](#) features an 80-foot hill with four tube lanes. Located in Baird Creek Parkway, the hill is tubes only, which makes it a perfect spot for a first-time tuber. No personal tubes may be used. There is a hands-free tow rope you ride your tube back up.
- Only an hour west of Appleton, [Winter Park in Kewaunee](#) is a 70-foot hill that's surely a blast for your family. This hill offers six different tube runs that measure over 450 long, with a tow rope that pulls you back to the top. You can also cross-country ski, sled, and ice skate here.



### Tips

- Go Early: Popular tubing places tend to be busy on perfect winter days.
- Bundle Up: Consider Hand and Feet Warmers
- Use the Bathroom Beforehand
- Bring a Thermos of Hot Chocolate and Plenty of Water
- Tube Safely: Face forward and follow fill rules regarding riders per tube and height regulations.
- Be Prepared: Ensure that your personal inflatable tube is a winter snow tube and not a summer water tube.

- Lorelei Graf

# DRIVING IN THE WINTER

Winter is here, and there is no doubt about that. Keep in mind these driving rules when sliding and what to keep in your car during this winter.

When you start to slide, it can be scary, but try to remember to turn the wheel in the direction the back of your car is going. For example, if your car is sliding out to the right you want to steer to the right. When doing this, you don't want to slam on your brakes; apply light pressure on the brakes if you have to.

When you have to brake, and you don't have ABS, you are required to pump your brakes to make sure your brakes don't lock.



Some things to keep in your car this winter: your cell phone, first-aid kit, warning lights, water and food, tire jack and lug wrench, flashlight, tubes of sand, jumper cables, extra layers of clothing, and blanket.

You never know what type of situation you could find yourself in. It's better to be over prepared than under.

- Lorelei Graf

# DIGGING OUT OF WINTER DOLDRUMS

The school-year stretch from February to March can often seem the most daunting: Winter Break is over and Spring Break seems so far away. Many students find themselves losing motivation during this time. As a result, it is especially important that we learn how to take care of ourselves so we don't burn out.

Over the years, I have discovered a few tricks that work for me when I am feeling unmotivated. Of course, not everything that works for me will work for you, so feel free to take what does and leave what doesn't.

First, I find that taking an intentional break – such as reading or cooking – rather than scrolling mindlessly on my phone, can help alleviate some of the stress that comes along with this time of the year.

Additionally, if you, like me, find yourself feeling overwhelmed with homework, extracurriculars, work, or other home obligations, setting small goals for yourself can make completing these tasks more manageable. Having an organized to-do list can help you visualize what you need to accomplish, and crossing off each task can provide a sense of achievement.

Next, setting up an intentional study space can help to revive some of the motivation you may find yourself lacking – or at least make doing homework less of a chore. The creation of a productive environment through the use of music, candles, or whatever else you find beneficial, will make studying feel more inviting. Noise-canceling headphones, can also assist in blocking out distractions at home or school when you are trying to focus.

Finally, getting into the habit of a daily routine can make getting through the day less difficult. Establishing a series of tasks that you complete in the morning and/or before bed can create feelings of comfort and familiarity, which are especially important when feeling unmotivated. Taking care of yourself during these routines can go a long way to boosting your mood, so doing things as simple as brushing your teeth, taking a shower, or doing a face mask are all incredibly powerful tools. When you feel good about yourself, you're more likely to feel good about the day ahead, too.

Hopefully, these tips will help you overcome some of the stress you may be experiencing, but if they don't, that's okay too. Sometimes, it just helps to realize that everyone is in this together, taking it day by day. If you are struggling with your mental health, I encourage you to reach out for support, whether that be a professional or a family member or a friend who is willing to listen.

- Lila Bornemann

# Puzzles & Games

- Mats Riddlehoover

## Wordle: [Play here!](#)

Try to guess the hidden word in six guesses or less!



= the letter does not appear in the word



= the letter does appear in the word, but in a different spot



= the letter appears in the word in that spot

## Connections: [Play here!](#)

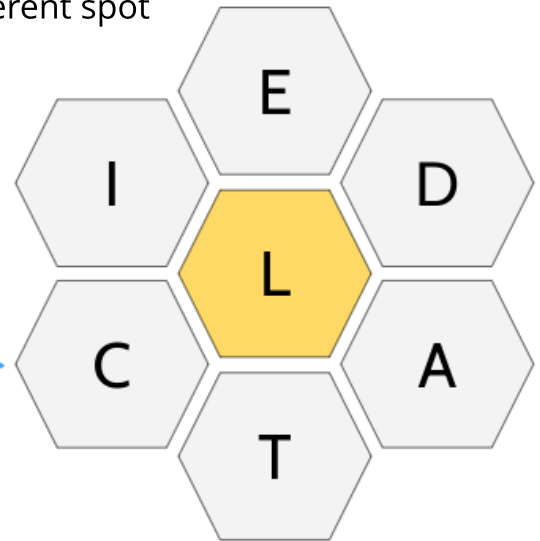
Make four groups of four connected words!



= easiest



= hardest



## Spelling Bee: Make as many words as possible with the letters above!

- All words must contain the center letter
- Words must be at least four letters long
- Letters may be used multiple times within one word
- Four-letter words are worth one point, any words longer than four letters are worth the number of points equal to the number of letters in the word
- There is at least one word that can be made using all seven letters, called a pangram. A pangram is worth seven bonus points plus the word's length, so a seven-letter pangram would be worth 14 points. (See last page for answers.)

## 4th Seat in the 4th Row

- Liliانا Monson



# VISIT BUBOLZ NATURE PRESERVE AND ESCAPE THE WINTER BLUES

Bubolz Nature Preserve provides one of the best outdoor experiences in the Fox Valley. The preserve is an excellent option for spending much-needed time in nature. The Bubolz Nature Preserve is a year-round facility with activities in both winter and summer.

In the winter, when many struggle mentally with the lack of vitamin C, the preserve offers many winter-related outdoor activities to boost many's spirits. Some including snowshoeing and skiing. The reserve not only features trails for snowshoeing and skiing but also paths to observe nature with annual bird walks, etc. The reserve also houses a lodge where guests can get hot chocolate and snacks.

The Preserve actively tries to be more sustainable with one of Wisconsin's first microgrid. To put into perspective, a microgrid allows for a reduction of carbon emissions by using renewable energy and storage. Overall, the Bubolz Nature Preserve actively tries to provide an escape into nature in all seasons year around, while actively reducing their carbon footprint daily. For anyone who is struggling with the winter blues or just needs to be outside, the Bubolz Nature Preserve is the place for you.

- Delaney Lehman



# LOCAL CAFES: GET AWAY FROM THE GRIND

Whether it is a cold winter and you want to enjoy a mocha latte somewhere cozy with your friends or a hot summer and a frappuccino is all you need to get you through the day, coffee is a welcome treat no matter the season. Although

Starbucks is the easiest pick most of the time, there are many other local coffee shops that can provide you with a great experience. If you wish to support small businesses in Appleton while getting your energy boost, these are some places you should definitely check out.

## Cafe Aguila

With great service and even better coffee, this place is located right next to the river, harnessing a beautiful view for customers to enjoy. The menu is quite simple, but has a lot of variety, and their baked goods are a must try if you decide to go there. It is a quiet atmosphere perfect for reading or studying, relaxing, or having brunch with friends.



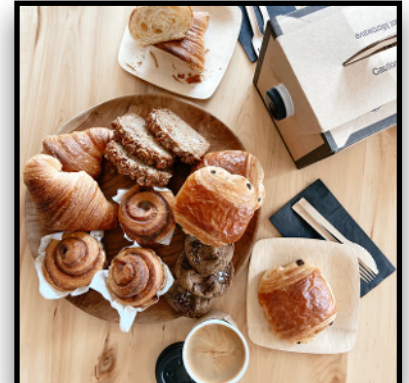
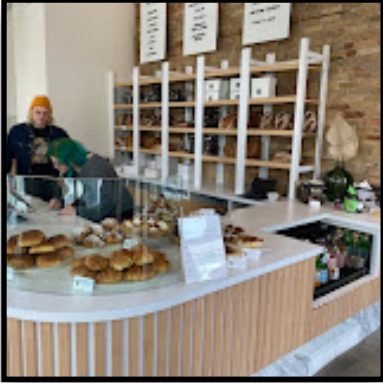
## Coffee Wizardz

This coffee shop is located in a beautiful historic building next to the river that has been recently remodeled. It is an artistic venue, and the building has multiple levels with other local businesses you can explore. If you are looking for a place with tasty coffee and multiple entertainments, Coffee Wizardz at The Draw in Appleton is perfect for you.



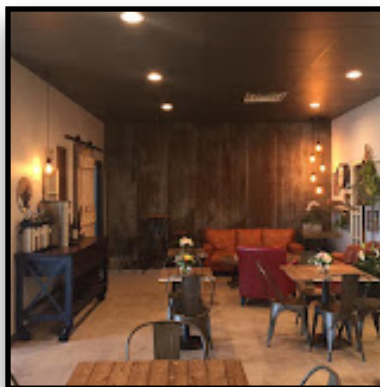
## Voyageurs Bakehouse

Here, you can find both excellent baked goods and coffee. If you enjoy the little treats accompanying your drinks, the cakes, croissants, and cookies at Voyageurs Bakehouse will not let you down. For some of their pastries, there even is a take & bake option, where you can enjoy their delicious products from the comfort of your home.



## All Tied up Floral Cafe (recently closed)

This is a custom florist and bakery cafe located in downtown Appleton. Here you can try their wide selection of drinks, while also customizing a bouquet at their flower bar. It is a peaceful and aesthetic ambiance, definitely recommended for those seeking for a new and unique experience.



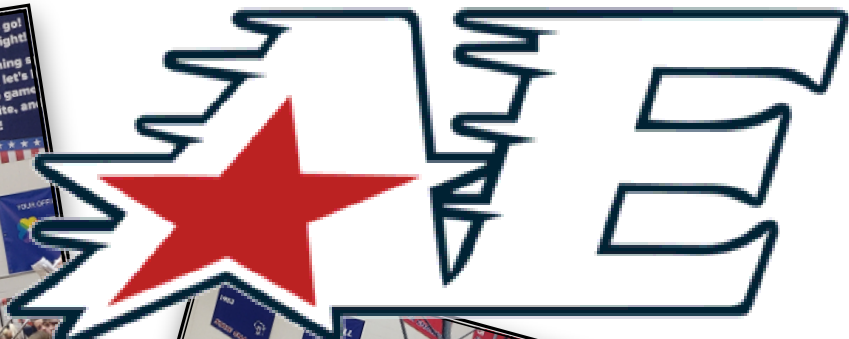
## Acoca

With a spacious setting and many art pieces on the walls, this eatery located in downtown Appleton is a great choice for any season. Their menu offers both drinks and meal options, making it best for the undecided. If you like iced coffee, no matter the temperature, definitely give this place a try.



- Amira Abugararah





# 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees

## John Mielke

John Mielke grew up in Appleton and attended Appleton West High School where he was a multi-sport athlete. After graduating from West High School, Mielke attended the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse where he played basketball from 1976 to 1981. He was named the WSUC Conference Player of the Year in 1980-81. Mielke lettered the final three seasons at La Crosse from 1977-81. He graduated with a teaching degree in biology.

Coach Mielke was the dean of students and head basketball coach at Appleton East for 18 seasons (2000-2018) compiling a 207-197 record. and has an overall high school coaching mark of 353-273. Coach Mielke's teams won one Fox Valley Association Conference Title and competed in two WIAA State Tournaments, most memorably, the 2010-11 season when Mielke coached Appleton East to an undefeated season in the FVA, eventually reaching the Division 1 state semifinals. Coach Mielke started the youth basketball program (AEYBA) at Appleton East.

Coach Mielke was a trusted voice for anyone who came into his office, as well as someone who would listen and ask the right questions. Those who coached against him boast about his ability to teach the fundamentals and proper techniques to his players who always played the right way. Coach Mielke was also known for leading teams that squeezed every drop of talent out of themselves.



Coach John Mielke, Activities Director Tim Zachow, Cathy Schwanke, and Coach Pat Schwanke

## Pat Schwanke

A native of Menasha, Pat Schwanke graduated from Lawrence in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in psychology/secondary education. A standout tight end on the Lawrence football team, first-team all-Midwest Conference selection as a junior and senior, Schwanke earned All-America honors in 1981 and 1982. Schwanke was inducted into the Lawrence Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

Pat Schwanke taught and coached at Appleton East for 33 years. He was the head football coach for 27 seasons (1991-2018), leading the Patriots to 118 wins, 2 FVA titles (1994 and 1998), and 10 playoff appearances. He retired from teaching and coaching in 2018. Coach Schwanke was known as a players' coach, someone who cared as much about his athletes off the field as on. Coach Schwanke was not just a football coach, but a life coach. He instilled in his players a sense of responsibility and a drive to improve themselves, their teammates, and their city. For that, Appleton East will be forever indebted.

Schwanke has been active in the Fox Valley chapter of Voices of Men, an organization that works to end sexual assault and domestic violence. From 2012-16, he coordinated the Appleton East Tackles Cancer initiative. Schwanke received the Helen and Ade Dillon Award in 2015, which honors an AASD staff member "who encourages a balanced life for students through excellence in education and involvement in student activities outside of the classroom." In 2017, Schwanke received Lawrence University's Outstanding Teaching in Wisconsin Award.

# She's Got the Egg Salad in Her Car

- Liliana Monson



# Despite All My Juice Bag Rage

- Liliana Monson



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