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HOMER MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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A.K. TO D.C.



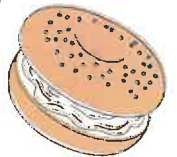
SAVANNAH'S SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Savannah's favorite thing about the AK to DC trip was shopping "because of all the different options other than what is near us." She also learned a lot about "New York City and its origins."



COHEN CONQUERS THE CITIES

"Going up into the Empire State building and seeing all the buildings down below," was eighth-grade Cohen's most cherished memory of the A.K. to D.C. trip. Although Cohen had a great time on the trip, he was disappointed in his "somewhat lack of freedom." Furthermore, Cohen surprisingly "didn't see that many cool cars." If Cohen could go back to Washington D.C., he would pick the Washington Monument to revisit. Ultimately, throughout the entire spring break adventure, Cohen's take-away was that bagels in New York are called "bagels and spread."



TERRIFIC TRAVELS WITH TEMPERANCE

Temperance is an eighth-grade Husky traveler who hopped along on the 2026 A.K. to D.C. trip. "I enjoyed going to the Night Museum because I enjoy paintings, Greek statues and Egyptian artifacts," Temperance notes. On top of that, Temperance adds she was disappointed when she couldn't pick what she ate at specific locations. "I learned about supposed ghost sightings of Alexandra," Temperance states. "That was really cool." Temperance includes that she was very surprised when they got to go shopping a lot.



ROBERT'S MAGIC IN MANHATTAN

"One place I would revisit would be the Harry Potter store that's in New York," shares Robert, who also enjoyed shopping because of all the cool stuff. For Robert, the most unexpected part of the trip was the "statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial."



Band or Choir?

The Debate Continues



Band and choir are much more than just music classes. They can impact teens like you, according to German Town School District, by supporting you academically and serving as a fun getaway from school. Although there is a debate at HMS about which one is better, participating in music in general is helpful for you.



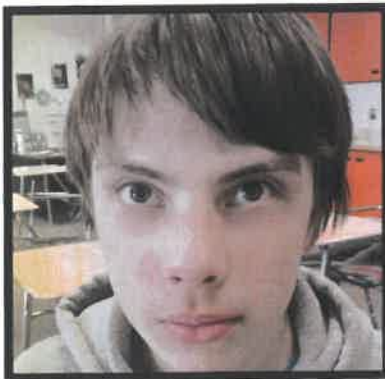
Henry can't sing?

Human Henry said, "I didn't like singing, so I chose band." He specifically enjoys pre-concert practices. "Practicing for concerts is very fun." One "incident" he remembers fondly is "Ryan dropping his trombone." Henry also said that he had no intention of switching to something other than band.



Ryan displays stereotypical opinions

"Because choir kids are stinky" explained band fan Ryan reflecting on his choice of musical elective. As for his instrument of choice, Ryan stated that he chose trombone "because it's funny." Ryan likes playing sheet music and remembers an amusing time "when Aleksey slammed his mallets on the snare drum."



Micheal rejects trombone

Micheal explained that he chose to switch to choir because "it was easier than band." He further stated, "I like singing and I like it better than trombone." Micheal also admitted that he enjoys "distracting the teacher so we don't have to sing."



Oliver moves away from choir

Oliver, who recently moved to Idaho, shared that he joined choir because it's "easier to get good grades". His favorite memory in choir "is doing quartets." Oliver admits that he doesn't really like participating in choir. "I have to, and it's easy," he explained.

Easter Traditions



Cracking open Easter memories!

Seventh-grader Leo Ganas shares that his Easter traditions usually include eating candy in the morning. "That is my favorite thing," he says. Going to the park with his grandma for a huge egg hunt brings up good memories about Easter. "I won," Leo adds cheerfully. But as he gets older, the less activities Leo gets to go to. "That's changed since I was a kid," he explains. Also, like most kids, he remembers believing in the Easter bunny and how it would leave eggs around. "I don't anymore though" he adds.

Hoppy Husky is Eager to Celebrate

Zada greatly enjoys celebrating Easter. This Husky delights in many traditions, but her favorite one is going to church on Sunday. "I like getting to help little kids find Easter eggs," she shares. Zada especially loves how this activity allows her to help out in the community and be around little kids because they're always "fun and joyful." Her favorite memories include savoring pancakes with strawberries and whipped cream. Zada's Easters have always been fun and exciting, but over the years she states, "I've eaten less candy." She's also become more fond of sleeping in and relishing the day.



A Basketful of Cultural Activities

Choir teacher Mr. Schneider is very passionate about Easter. His favorite tradition involves making Polish Easter baskets. "It has to have certain things in it. You have to have cabbage. You have to have sausage. You have to have ham, rye bread, and candles." He also enjoys creating Pysanky, or intricately detailed, eggs. He loves how these activities have been passed down for multiple generations in his family and reminds him of his Polish ancestry. Easter has changed in many ways for Mr. Schneider since he was younger. "Well, I'm in Alaska now, so I don't really have family. When I was a kid, Easter was always a big thing because we would celebrate with my family, and then we would go to the neighbors' house and celebrate with their family." He states that gatherings would usually consist of 70 to 80 people. Mr. Schneider recalls, "Easter egg hunts were in the house, and that lasted until we missed one hard-boiled egg one year. It stunk up the house really bad come summer."



Huskies' Favorite Activity

"Egg cracking challenge"
-Willow



"Going to church"
-Kari



"Creating Ukrainian Easter eggs"
-Ms. Jason





SAIL THE SEAS WITH THESE SEVENTH GRADE TRACK STARS



Coach Andy

AHOY ANDY

Coach Andy Rothenberger is a familiar face around our school, as he coaches both track and cross country skiing. His favorite event to coach is the 800 meter because he loved to run it throughout his years running track. During his middle and high school seasons, Andy primarily ran the 400, 800, and 1600 meter, along with competing in long and high jump. Andy's favorite coach in high school track and XC was Dave LaWarne. "We used to do burgers in the evenings after a run," he recalls.



BUBBLING BRAYLON

Up and coming track athlete Braylon Clarke states that he is ready to dominate in sprinting events at the meets. He says he best fits the 4x100. "I'm fast and am good at working in a team." Braylon shares that a highlight from this track season was "watching Leo fall while running in the gym." Although he's loved the season so far, he admits that he did not like running the 3200 in the first few days of practice. Braylon encourages anyone who's thinking about joining track next year to 100% do it. In his opinion, it's a very fun sport and gets you in great shape.



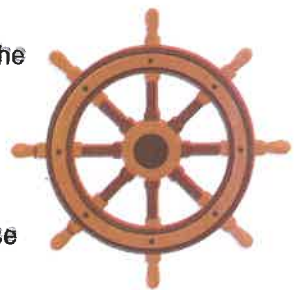
Braylon

Aye Aye Uma



Uma

Rising track star Uma Sethi says she "looks forward to sprinting and the meets." Uma believes the 4x400 relay best suits her skills as a "team player" and talks about how she loves hanging out with her friends during track practice. She hopes to qualify for the meets this season and has been training hard every practice after school to improve her times. To anyone not doing track, Uma says, "you should do it because the whole school is doing it." She thinks it's a great way to build discipline and meet new people.



WHAT IS THE HARDEST TRACK AND FIELD EVENT?

High Jump



Arwyn



100M Dash



Camden



Dive Into Track With the 8th-grade Huskies



Coach Amanda

Back For Another Sea son!

Former track athlete, Coach Amanda Miotke, brings a wealth of experience to our team. Although she remembers the 300 hurdles as her strongest event in high school, she also competed in high jump, 100 hurdles, and various relays. Coach Amanda has worked with many track athletes over the years, and recalls talking to a former athlete about “visualizing and how fast they wanted to go.” This student had never raced the 100-meter dash before. “Then I watched them beat their time, which was very exciting,” she states enthusiastically. We are excited to have Coach Amanda back as our coach.

This Jumper’s Got BIG Plans!

Track star Josey Palm “likes going places because there aren’t many events in Homer.” At the meets, Josey plans to sprint her way into first during the 100-meter dash. Fans are hyped to see Josey bound over the long jumps and flip over the high jumps at the meets. Josey loves the laps at practice because “you can talk to your friends.” We are excited to see Josey on the Homer track this season.



Josey Palm



Dawson Rainwater

Splashing Sprinter at it Again!

Returning eighth-grader Dawson Rainwater plans to smash the competition in the 100m, 200m, and long jump, because, he explains, it’s just “easy.” He also expresses his excitement for this season. The most fun part of track is running to the high school during practice. “It’s super fun!” In addition, this cool guy enjoys going outside during practice when “it’s nice out.” What can I say? A boy likes to soak up the sun!

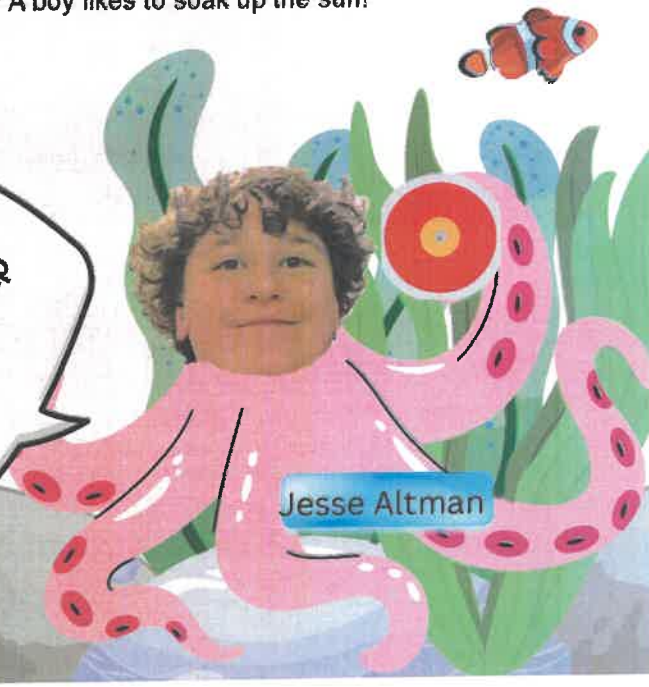
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE HARDEST EVENT IN TRACK?

100 Meter Hurdles

High Jump



Rileah Sims



Jesse Altman



MARCH MADNESS



Layups with Langner

Langner is ready for some hoops! He looks forward to being able to do the bracket again as he notes "it's just fun and it's fun to talk about with kids who fill it out." Langner's favorite team is the Minnesota Golden Gophers. Unfortunately, the Gophers are not in the bracket so Langner's banking on Arizona beating Duke in the championship



William's Big Turnover

Eighth-grader William Wenner has come back to the top ten on Mr. Langner's March Madness basketball bracket. The higher he gets on the bracket the higher chance it is that his pick, Arizona, will win the NCAA title. His plan for celebrating if he wins is going to Alice's or Alibi for food.



Nothing But Net Newsted

Ms Newsted is a known fan of Michigan State, as that was the college she went to. She likes college basketball because when she was in college, she would get tickets and see the games. Ms. Newsted has the NCAA bracket up in her room because "I really like college basketball and it's exciting to watch." She also makes bets about the brackets that she never wins. Sadly, students of Ms. Newsted don't make their own bracket in her class.



Opal on Offense

Opal Hartman has risen the ranks of Langner's NCAA bracket challenge. With her pick for winning the bracket being Duke, she was upset to learn that the University of Connecticut (UConn) beat Duke by one point. "Duke lost, and that upset me," she states. Picking out the teams for your bracket is the most important part of participation. Opal said her strategy was "using the stats of teams to pick." Her favorite team is "Ohio State because my dad went there."



Top 5 teams most likely to win according to ESPN



1- Michigan Wolverines



2- Arizona Wildcats



3- Duke Blue Devils



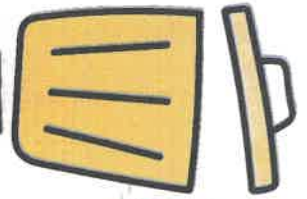
4- Houston Cougars



5- Purdue Boilermakers



7TH GRADE HUSKIES CLEAN UP TRASH



During their spring trash cleanup, the seventh graders found some unique trash and returned with cool stories to share.



ALDER

Super Trash

Alder liked walking during the latest trash clean up because "picking up trash is boring." Alder was amazed by how much trash there was on Main Street. "There are a lot of people on Main Street," Alder explained. Alder's advisory walked from the school down to Main Street and on the way he found a SUPER big styrofoam board by the school. He also said the strangest piece of trash that he found was "a vape."

AWESOME ELLA

Seventh-grader Ella Caldwell's favorite part of the trash clean-up was that they "got to do another service project" because, she explained, "it's good for the environment." She sadly found the most trash "at the school because kids don't care." Her advisory mostly picked up trash "at West Homer Elementary," and the biggest piece of trash they discovered "was a sale sign."



ELLA

TRASH COLLECTING SAYLOR

During the latest trash clean up, seventh-grade husky Saylor enjoyed "walking because we get to go outside." Saylor was surprised by the amount of trash at the park. "There is a lot of people at the park and a lot of kids don't care," Saylor explained. Saylor's group walked from the Middle School to the park, and when they were walking along Bartlet Street, she found "an old property stick on the ground." That was likely the biggest piece of trash she found; however, the strangest thing she found was a "house for sale sign."

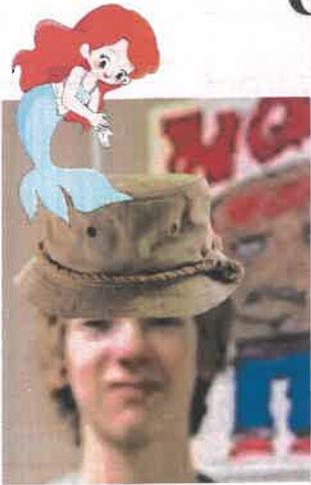


TRASH SLAYER OTTO

Otto Spencer considered picking up trash to be uninteresting but enjoyed walking. He found a lot of cigarettes which he believes is because "Homer has a smoking problem." The coolest piece of trash he found was "a property stick" which Otto recognized "we weren't supposed to pick up," but they picked it up anyway. His advisory picked up trash mostly by the park.



CELEBRITY LOOK-ALIKES



Dylan



Lewis



Barrett



Tadashi



Violet



Violet



Gunnar



Blu



Teagan



Jojo McDod



Dottie



Padme Amidala

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