

Insight

Wyoming Public Schools

Spring 2007

Q&A

Millage on

Non-Homestead Property
Tuesday, May 8

What is the millage question that will be on the ballot?

The proposal asks voters for permission to levy 18 mills on Non-Homestead property for a period of ten years. This millage only affects the property taxes paid on business, industrial or rental property and second homes.

What is Non-Homestead property?

It is property that is not the primary residence of the owner. Examples would include business property, industrial property, rental property and cottages or second homes.

What will the millage cost me?

Nothing, if you own the house you are living in and it is your primary residence. The Non-Homestead property tax is only levied on business, commercial and rental property in the district.

Why doesn't the proposed millage affect the property taxes on my home?

Homestead property is not subject to the 18 mill tax.

Who can vote on the Non-Homestead property tax?

All registered voters in the Wyoming Public School District.

When is the election?

The Non-Homestead property tax millage will be on the ballot in the district's Annual School Election on Tuesday, May 8, 2007. Voters will also be electing two candidates to four-year terms on the Board of Education.

What if I need more information?

Call the Wyoming Public Schools Superintendent's Office at 530-7555.

Voters Approve Bond Proposal

A Message from Superintendent Felske

On Tuesday, February 27, the community of Wyoming Public Schools passed a bond in favor of a proposal for \$15,150,000 for district-wide improvement by an impressive margin of 69 percent.



Superintendent
Jon A. Felske

I am pleased to say that by working together as a powerful team, parents, staff and community members were able to achieve this awesome goal. I thank the community for the trust they have placed with the Board of Education's bond proposal, which will improve student educational opportunities and update district facilities.

Neale Bauman, architect from Design Forum, and Chip Hendrick, construction manager from R.C. Hendrick and Son, are working with the district to provide a project schedule to meet the most urgent needs of the district while not disturbing the educational school day. All bond projects are estimated to be completed by

December 2008. I will continue to use the Insight to keep you informed about projects as they are completed.

We are asking for your help one more time, Please mark your calendar for May 8, 2007.

NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE RENEWAL

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007, Wyoming Public Schools will need to ask voters for permission to renew the Non-Homestead property tax rate.

This millage is not a tax on residential homes! This tax only applies to industrial, rental and commercial property owners only. This millage, last approved by voters in June of 1996, generates \$7,710,000 in needed revenue for district operating expenses.

If voters fail to approve this proposal, Wyoming Public Schools will be forced to reduce expenditures of over \$7,710,000 from our 2007-08 operating budget.

Enroll Now for 2007-08 Preschool

Applications for the 2007-2008 Preschool Programs are now available at Wyoming Community Education and elementary school offices. For more information, call Paula at 530-7500.

Traditional Program (Tuition-Based Program)

Oriole Park Elementary

- 3 & 4 year olds
- Two or three half-day programs
- Tuition is \$600-\$875/full year

Michigan School Readiness Program (Free Program)

MSRP is a State of Michigan funded preschool program available free to qualifying residents in Wyoming Public Schools District.

Children must be four years of age by December 1, 2007, and qualify in any two areas of the state guidelines. Some examples are: low income, single parent, teenage parent, low birth weight, non-high school graduate parent, chronically ill parent or sibling (such as asthma or diabetes), speech impairment or non-English speaking families.

We anticipate programs that will allow the children to attend school four half-days or four full-days a week. Based on enrollment, programs will be offered at Huntington Woods, Parkview, Taft and West Elementary schools. ☺



Early Childhood Program Provides Help for Developmental Disabilities

by Kathleen Miller

Wyoming Schools' Student Services Department provides a special education program for children two through four years of age who may need special help to be better prepared for Early Childhood instruction.

We will evaluate your child if you feel there may be some developmental difficulties in the following areas:

- **Cognitive development:** the ability to think and master tasks at an appropriate level.
- **Language development:** the ability to hear adequately, form correct speech sounds at appropriate age levels and put them together into age-appropriate speech patterns.
- **Perceptual development:** the ability to master concepts such as color, shape, body parts, etc. at an age-appropriate level.
- **Fine motor development:** demonstration of age-appropriate use of small muscles in such tasks as cutting, pasting, coloring, writing, etc.

- **Gross motor development:** demonstration of age-appropriate use of large muscles in such tasks as catching, throwing, running, etc.

- **Social-emotional development:** demonstration of age-appropriate ability to play, interact with peers, separate from parents, control emotions, etc.

The program offers individual testing and goal setting designed just for your child through close cooperation with parents. Instruction includes one-half day sessions five days a week with specially-trained teachers using equipment designed to meet special needs. The services of speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists and social workers are available.

Student's birth certificate and immunization records are required for enrollment. For more information, call Kathy Miller at 530-7598. ☺

Rogers Teacher Receives Japanese Fulbright Award

Martha Kiander, family and consumer science teacher at Rogers High School, visited Japan for three weeks last November as a recipient of a Japan Fulbright Memorial Teacher Fund award.

Kiander, along with 200 teachers from around the U.S., was given an intensive introduction to Japanese culture, government and education. The trip included visits to schools, universities, homes and cultural sites. The U.S. teachers also had opportunities to talk one-on-one with Japanese administrators, teachers, parents and students.

“It was a great experience. Visiting the schools was especially valuable. We were encouraged to drop in on classes throughout the day and participate wherever we wanted. We interacted with students and ate with them in their classrooms. It was a real eye opener in regard to the differences in our two educational systems. Their system is very good, but they realize that they have some challenges as well,” said Kiander.

Kiander had an opportunity to stay with a family with three school-age children.

“Their lifestyle is really different from ours. The father, a salaryman, comes home from work daily at midnight. The eldest daughter, a



Rogers High School Teacher Martha Kiander meets with a future family and consumer science teacher at Chiba University in Japan.

high school sophomore, is at school until 10:00 p.m. In addition to public school, the daughter attends cram school in the evening, which is helping her to prepare for college entrance exams. Work and school is a huge part of their lives and they seemed very happy with the arrangement,” she observed.

Kiander states that the Japan Fulbright Memorial Teacher Fund experience is a great opportunity for educators.

“The Japanese culture, family and educational system contrasts very strongly with the U.S. system. I look forward to sharing what I have learned with my students and others,” she said. ☺

Non-Homestead Millage Renewal

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007, the Wyoming Public Schools will ask for permission to levy the Non-Homestead property tax rate for ten years. This Non-Homestead millage currently generates approximately \$8 million of the revenue needed to operate our schools each year.

This is what it will cost homeowners...

\$0

if voters approve the Wyoming Public Schools Non-Homestead Millage on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

For persons whose residence is in the Wyoming Public School District, this millage will not affect the taxes on their home.

Why?

- This is only a tax on Non-Homestead property (industrial, rental and commercial).
- This is not a tax on homes owned by occupants and used as their primary residence.

For more information regarding the Non-Homestead property tax, call the Superintendent's Office at 616-530-7555.

Wyoming Public Schools

REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2006-2007

May 14, 2007 7:00 p.m. (At Gladiola Elementary)	June 11, 2007 7:00 p.m.
May 21, 2007 5:00 p.m. (Budget Hearing)	June 25, 2007 7:00 a.m.

The 2nd Monday of the month, meetings are held at 7:00 p.m.
The 4th Monday of the month, meetings are held at 7:00 a.m.

Author, Adventurer Pam Flowers Visits Jackson Park, Newhall to Celebrate Reading Month

by Anne Marie Lilly

On Tuesday, March 20, students from Jackson Park and Newhall Middle Schools continued their reading month celebrations by welcoming author and adventurer Pam Flowers.

Flowers became the first woman to complete a 2,500-mile solo dog sled expedition across the arctic, retracing the 1923 route of Danish explorer Knud Rasmussen. Her 11-month journey began in Barrow, Alaska, and ended in Repulse Bay, a Canadian arctic village.

In her two books, Flowers recounts the highs and lows of her amazing journey. "Alone Across the Arctic" is a nonfiction account of her journey, including details of her preparation and journal entries chronicling her daily trials and achievements. "Big-Enough Anna" is a picture book about her lead sled dog, and how she went from the smallest to the bravest throughout the journey.

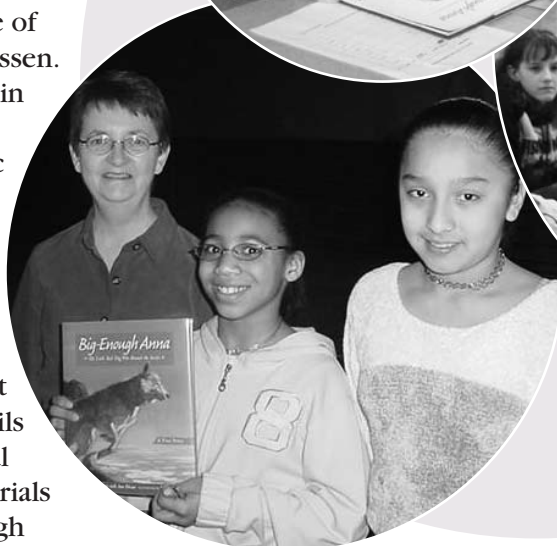
All of our students had the pleasure of reading or listening to "Big-Enough Anna" prior to Flowers'

visit. In addition, they had the opportunity to purchase signed copies of her books.

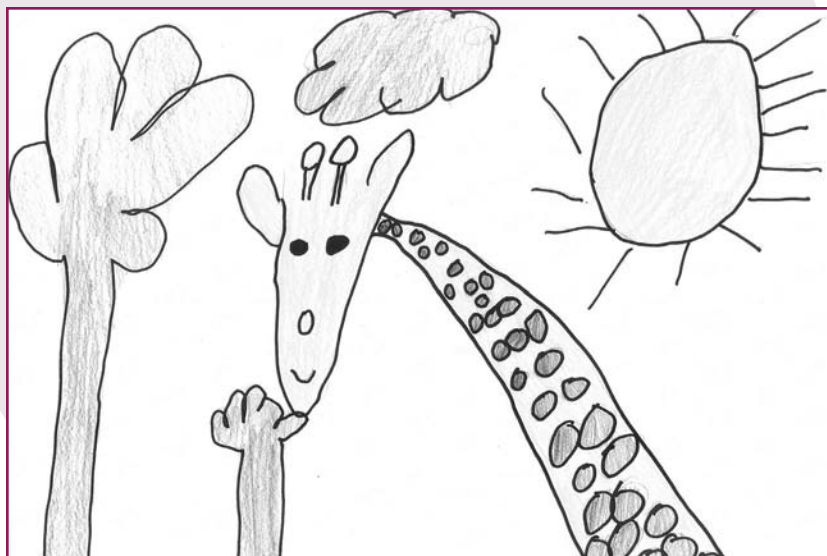
Flowers' slide show and riveting story about overcoming challenges and following dreams had students

mesmerized. Students also enjoyed hearing Flowers answer the many interesting questions they had.

Media Specialists Anne Marie Lilly and Melissa Schneider organized the event. ☺



Jackson Park and Newhall Middle School students were treated to a visit by author and adventurer Pam Flowers during reading month celebrations in March. Student Chandra Boles and Daisy Aguilar (left) enjoyed "Big-Enough Anna".



Artwork Selected for Very Special Art Festival

by Barb Fris

Each year Very Special Arts has a contest to find the Festival Day Logo. This year the theme is "Art Safari," and students from Barb Fris' class submitted their individual artwork. We are proud to announce that Monica Jaquay's artwork was selected, and she is very excited about it!

Her drawing will appear on t-shirts on Festival Day on May 4. Monica will also be honored by her peers on stage and awarded a special certificate. Congratulations, Monica! ☺

Books Come to Life at Taft During Reading Month

by Kellie Self

Taft Elementary celebrated March is Reading Month by dressing up like their favorite character from their favorite books! The students and staff had fun staying in character and reading stories about “themselves”! We had Dalmations, Daisy Head Maisy, Cat in the Hat, Amelia Bedelia, Clifford and Emily Elizabeth, June B. Jones, The Grinch and Ms. Fizzle, to name a few! Taft had many other exciting literacy activities throughout the month, all in hopes of getting the students fired up for reading! 🐾



There were quite a few “characters” on hand at Taft during reading month in March, including those pictured above: Andria Keil, Michelle Van Duinen, Kellie Self, Amanda Oakes, Judy Prusinowski, Barb Armstrong and Brenda Brizzolara.

Author Kevin Kammaraad Kicks Off Reading Month at Rogers Lane

by Kim Strayhorn

What a day! Rogers Lane students were visited by Kevin Kammaraad to kick off March is Reading Month. Kammaraad is the author of “The Tomato Collection”, “A Curious Glimpse of Michigan” and “I Remember,” and he lives right here in Grand Rapids!

Kammaraad brought his words to life with music, motions and his puppet friend, Jacob. He showed us how he goes through the writing process when he writes - just like we do. His book “The Tomato Collection” went through 17 revisions before it was published! He also taught us that ideas for writing can be found all around us - if we take the time to stop, look and think about it. We learned that little ideas can be turned into big dreams and fabulous stories! Most of all, we learned that writing can be fun! 🐾



Rogers Lane staffers Mrs. Steensma, Mr. Debri and Mr. Murphy act out the story “Magoogie and Achoogie” while visiting author Kevin Kammaraad leads students in some spirited motions.

A few Rogers Lane students get up close and personal with Kevin Kammaraad and his puppet friend, Jacob. Pictured are: Andrew Mann, Connor Zuidema, Jennifer Rosorio, Kevin Kammaraad, Rachel Weaver, Abby Buchan and Alyssa Rivera.



Heifer International Gives Huntington Woods Kids Text-to-World Connection at Christmas

by Deborah Creswell

During Guided Reading time, Mrs. Creswell's 2nd/3rd grades class at Huntington Woods read "Beatrice's Goat".

The book, written by Hillary Clinton, tells the true story of a young African girl named Beatrice. Her family is very poor. They live in a small hut with a leaky roof and must work extremely hard to survive. Beatrice watches other children go to school and dreams about going, too.

One day, her family is given a young goat. The goat provides milk for Beatrice's family and some to sell. The goat provides enough extra milk that Beatrice's family begins to save money. Soon, with the milk and the sale of one baby goat, Beatrice's mother is able to put a new roof on their home and send Beatrice to school.

The goat was provided through Heifer International.

Every year, classes at Huntington Woods have a school mall sale to raise class funds for field trips and books. Mrs. Creswell's class decided to donate \$100 of their class funds to buy a goat. Through two additional parent donations and Mrs. Creswell's matching funds, the class was able to donate \$245 to Heifer International. So, they decided to purchase two goats!

Mrs. Szejda's first grade class decided to give all of the \$40 they earned to buy two flocks of chicks for \$20 each.

The children were very excited about the project and glad to share their funds to support Heifer International. 🐾



Mrs. Creswell's class raised \$245 for Heifer International (above). Top row: Alexandra Atkins, Aaron Franz, Mercy O'Brien, Austin Pennock, Mrs. Creswell, Edwin Meridy, Julian Reddick, Brianna Bracey and Brianna Dreyer. Middle row: Maryssa O'Brien, Vicky Nguyen, Kyla Washington, Wyatt Middleton, Boyd Cain, Kennady Calloway and Brandon Little. Bottom row: Mya Knowing, Uriel Barrera-Juarez, Katie Courtney and Jordian Harding. Not pictured: Ivan Loza.



Maryssa O'Brien, Brianna Bracey and Austin Pennock sell candles during the mall sale (right) to help raise funds for Heifer International.



Gladiola's Paper Gator Serves as Visual Reminder to Read More

Gladiola Gators made a pledge during the January Reading is Fundamental Book distribution. By signing this paper gator, they agreed to help meet our Gator Goal by reading more books! 🐊

Gladiola students Khadiga Osman, Alejandra Medina, Dametreon Strong and Anthony Salas show off their paper gator.

Science Takes Center Stage at Parkview

by Suzanne Gianino

Parkview's three 2nd grade classes had a fun science day where we learned about the states of matter.

Each classroom became a science lab by setting up hands-on activities for each of the three states. Students got to observe, explore and interact. They rotated among the three classrooms where parents and teachers facilitated the events.

Our fun day ended by using plastic ice cream balls to make ice cream. We added to the learning experience by incorporating math measurements from the recipe and getting plenty of exercise by shaking the ice cream balls. And, the best part, was eating the experiment that turned a liquid into a very tasty solid! 🍦



Hands-on activities encouraged students to observe, explore and interact during Parkview's Science Day.

Nicole Good tries her hand at making a giant bubble.



Animal habitat games, crafts and activities made learning fun for the whole family, including Alysha Wierenga (above) and Cody Cunningham with his mom Marcia Crandall (left), at Oriole Park's annual Family Learning Fair.

Animal Habitats Featured at Oriole Park Family Learning Fair

by Ingrid Wierenga

Oriole Park's annual Family Learning Fair was held on February 15.

A wonderful chicken dinner was catered by Adeline Leighs, which is owned by one of our parents. Teachers set up interesting and challenging events in their classrooms for students.

This year's fair featured animal habitats with one room challenging students to match animal paw prints and find their tracks. Another classroom featured crafts where they could make animals out of clothespins.

It was a fun night and a great learning experience for students and parents! 🍦

West Elementary Student Council Collects Items, Sends Care Packages to Troops Overseas



West Elementary parents and students package a little bit of home for soldiers serving overseas. Doreen and Ryan Huizinga (left) and Louise, Candice and Kim McKenzie (below) package and address some of the 35 care packages.

Our hardworking families of packers above included Jill, Jesse and Jimmy Hecksel; Jill and Bryce Berzley; Terrance, Hiroko, Shawna and Crystal Mullennix; Patti and Samantha Engelking; Madison Lapp; Kristina and Isabella Tuttle; Paul, Doreen, Gabby and Ryan Huizinga; Jennifer Lilley; Charles, AnnaMaria, Alexis and Haley Cahil; Dawn, Beth and Kate VanDeusen; Kim, Marvin, Louise and Candice McKenzie; and Caryn and Jayson Bauman.

by Jennifer Lilley

The Student Council at West Elementary collected items to send care packages for soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. Some of the items collected were Ramen noodles, gum, hard candy, popcorn, Easy Mac, oatmeal, soap and much more! Student council members and their parents came together one evening to package and address all of the boxes.

We were able to send out 35 care packages to our service men and women. Some of the packages went to family members within Wyoming Public Schools, including Rogers Lane staffer Sue Potter's daughter, who is stationed overseas.

Students learned about being generous and giving to others through this project. Thank you to everyone who donated items for our troops! ☺



Jackson Park Music Teacher Works on WOTV Children's Show

Last fall, "Come On Over," a new television show for children, debuted on WOTV channel 4.

The show, which airs on Saturday mornings at 7:30 a.m., was developed in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Children's Museum and Enthusiastic Productions, a Holland-based production company. Emmy award winning and former Sesame Street Director, Steven Feldman directs the show, which features Holland artist, Joel Tanis, and a colorful cast of characters that explore the joy of creativity and the artistic process in a variety of ways.

Music plays an important part of each "Come On Over" episode by illustrating or reinforcing a scene or idea within the context of a given episode. Overseeing the musical direction of the show is Wyoming Public Schools Music Teacher, Chad Dykema. Dykema, who teaches at Jackson Park Middle School, has written nearly 20 songs for use in the show's first season, including the theme song. He works with two other people as part of Pint Size Music (the creative team for the show's music and scoring). In addition to his work as Music Director, Dykema appears briefly on camera in most episodes as part of the "pop up" band. He says that it has been an honor to work with such a marvelous group of artists and musicians and to be a part of a television production.

For more information on "Come on Over," visit the Grand Rapids Children's Museum or go online at www.comeonover.com or www.grcm.org.

Wyoming Schools Assist 2007 Michigan Music Conference

by Jon Nichols

Wyoming Public Schools provided a generous assist again this year to the second annual Michigan Music Conference, held on January 25-27 at DeVos Place and the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

Wyoming provided 125 music stands, two complete sets of percussion equipment, three sections of choral risers and four concert podiums for use at the Conference, which drew some 12,000 music teachers and students from around Michigan and the Midwest.

The use and transportation of Wyoming equipment was provided to the Conference at no cost. WPS faculty member Jon Nichols, who serves as a member of the Conference Planning Committee, expressed his appreciation. "By assisting with the equipment needs of the MMC, Wyoming provided terrific support for music in our schools and our state. Working

with WPS maintenance personnel was terrific. Thanks to all central office administration, to Don Hebler and his staff, to building principals Stewart Schofield, Gary Karasinski, and Kirk Bloomquist, and to Wyoming Park Band Director William Bier for their cooperation and flexibility during a very busy time of the school year."

The Michigan Music Conference will be held at DeVos Place for at least the next four years. Future dates are being determined at this time.

The Conference is sponsored by four well known Michigan music teacher organizations: Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, Michigan School Vocal Music Association, Michigan Music Educators Association and the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers Association. 

Rogers Girls Bowling Team Enjoys Undefeated Season

by Craig Blasko

The Rogers High School Girl's Bowling Team wrapped up an undefeated season at the State Tournament held March 2 and 3 in Battle Creek.

The Golden Hawks were the fifth ranked team in division two for most of the year. The team advanced out of qualifying rounds to match play where they lost to eventual state champion Coldwater in the first round.

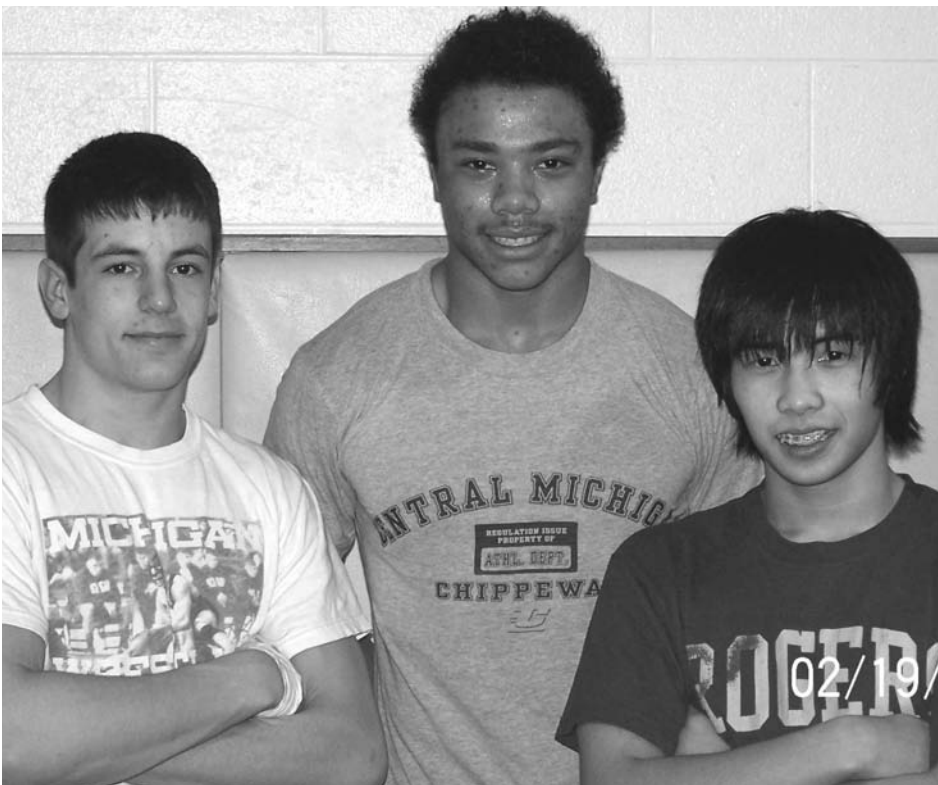
Sarah Dent, Kelsey Bandstra and Samantha Johnson made it to the State Finals field of 60. Johnson, who won the regional tournament



Stephanie Miller, Kelsey Bandstra, Sarah Crysler, Sarah Dent, Samantha Johnson and Cassie Cisler (above) celebrate their perfect season. Not pictured: Teara Fischer.

and led the girls with a 185 average, advanced out of the qualifying round to match play.

The team will miss seniors Cassie Cisler and Sarah Dent, but look forward to the return of Kelsey Bandstra, Samantha Johnson, Sarah Crysler, Stephanie Miller and Teara Fischer - great season, Hawks! 🏹



Kiel Fewless, Freddie Engstrom and Du Bui qualified for the MHSAA Regional Tournament.

Rogers Golden Hawks Wrestlers Finish Third in OK Blue Conference

by Mark Miedzielec

The Rogers wrestling team finished the season with a 20-12 record. The Golden Hawks had a strong showing at the OK Blue Conference Meet, finishing third with ten wrestlers earning medals. Of those medalists, Du Bui won a title and earned All-conference status. 🏹



Andy Dean and Christian Suero (above in the foreground) focus on a game during Open Play. Travel Team players Isiah Flora, Andrew Wolthuis, Jermaine Hill and Kris Molter pose with their trophy from the Michigan Club Championships (right). Team member Jacob Simons is not pictured.



Rogers Chess Club Growing, Winning

by **Richard Budden**

At the beginning of last year a few students were lobbying for a Chess Club and their efforts were recognized when Rogers High School provided some chess sets and an Advisor.

From those humble beginnings, we have seen 40+ students participate at some level in the Club and now have developed a “Travel Team” that plays in tournaments. Our Travel Team competed in two major tournaments: The “Michigan Club Championships” in Ann Arbor and the “High School Team Championships” at

Kettering University. The “Team Championships” was a great learning experience and we had a successful run at the “Michigan Club Championships” by winning a trophy for sixth place.

The Chess Club meets every Thursday after school (2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) for open play and welcomes anybody that wants to learn this classic challenge of the mind. We have been meeting in the Media Center, but because of our growth in numbers we are starting to meet in the cafeteria. ☺

Help Available for Area’s Homeless Families, Children

Homelessness is no longer an uncommon situation – even in our community.

Federal law mandates that homeless children and youth must have access to a public education. A homeless student is eligible to remain in the school they are attending when they became homeless, or they may choose to attend the district where they are currently housed. Services available may include transportation to ensure access to the school of origin, free and reduced lunch and additional special services. This is intended to be temporary support until permanent residence is found.

A homeless individual is someone who, because of unforeseen reasons or situations, lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes anyone who, due to lack of housing, lives:

- In emergency or transitional shelters
- In motels, hotels, trailer parks, campgrounds, abandoned in hospitals, awaiting foster care
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings
- Doubled up with relatives or friends
- Migratory children living in these conditions

If you or someone you know is in one of the above situations, please contact your school building office or Paula Skoog at 530-7555. ☺

Eleven Inducted in Wyoming Park Athletic Hall of Fame

Eleven individuals were recently inducted into the Wyoming Park Athletic Hall of Fame.

The inductees included:

Mike Ball, who earned six all-conference and three all-state nods. He also won the 1976 state championship in the 100-meter dash. His time of 10.4 seconds still stands today.

Anne (Bentley) Dykstra, a 1996 graduate who now teaches math at Hudsonville High School. Among her many achievements are 13 all-conference and six all-state honors. She played tennis and basketball in the fall, volleyball in the winter and softball in the spring. She earned all-conference honors in all four sports.

Marion (Bentley) Fuller, a 1993 graduate who is now an OB/GYN in Midland. Fuller earned 10 all-conference and three all-state selections in tennis and softball. She hit a Michigan High School Athletic Association record - 17 triples during the 1992 softball season.

Ron Engels, the school's baseball coach since 1976 and a former assistant football coach. His Vikings baseball teams won 17 conference championships, 13 district and six regional titles and reached the state finals in four different decades. The school won a Class B title in 1976 and followed up with runner-up finishes in 1984, 1992 and 2001.

Frank Grimm, a 1954 graduate who went on to coach boys track at Wyoming Park. Grimm served as head coach from 1969-1982 and again in 1989. He also coached boys cross country from 1960-1989 and led the girls

team from 1981-1989. His track teams went 95-7 overall on the way to 11 conference titles, including a string of eight consecutive championships from 1973-1980. The boys cross country team won a state title in 1961 and finished in the top 10 five other times.


Dick and Jessica Locke, the longtime athletic director and secretary at Wyoming Park were instrumental in starting the girls track program. Locke was an assistant football coach from 1966 to 1988 and served as Grimm's assistant track coach from 1968 to 1976. In 1978, he and Jessica began the girls track program and stayed with it until 1991. The program won 10 conference titles and seven regional championships. Dick took over as the school's athletic director in 1989, with Jessica as his assistant.

Bob Przybysz, a 1978 graduate who made his biggest mark in football and baseball. He was the Nameth Male Sportsmanship Award winner from the West Michigan Officials Association, the O-K White Conference athlete of the year, and the national male athlete of the year as voted on by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Rich Pullen, who graduated from Wyoming Park in 1964 and just concluded a 25-year career as the school's girls basketball coach. Pullen made his mark as an athlete on the school's 1961 boys cross country state championship team. His coaching career included girls golf, boys basketball and track, but it was girls basketball where his greatest accomplishments were made. The Vikings won nine conference and five district titles.



Pete Rusticus, the school's longtime public address announcer who is famous for beginning each game with his "Welcome to the Park" introduction. Rusticus began his announcing career 29 years ago for Wyoming Park boys basketball games, adding the girls program 20 years ago. He is director of corporate sponsorship at Cornerstone University.

Jack VerDuin, who took over the football program in 1962 and stayed until 1987. His 1984 team won the Class B state championship and the Vikings made a repeat appearance in the 1985 finals. VerDuin retired to Florida and coached a team there in the late 1980's. He returned to Wyoming Park in 1990 as the head coach and stayed until 2001. His teams won 19 conference championships, including two strings of four consecutive titles a piece in the O-K White. The last title came in 2001 as a member of the O-K Gold. 

Inaugural Group Inducted into Rogers Athletic Hall of Fame

by **Dave Price, CMAA**
Director of Athletics
Rogers High School

On Thursday, December 14, the Rogers High School Athletic Department inducted its initial class into the athletic hall of fame. Over 100 family and friends attended the induction banquet at Brann's Catering to both honor and celebrate our inaugural class of inductees.

Our Class of 2006 was highlighted by a former athlete, a former athlete and present coach and a former coach and present board of education member.

Inductee **Ross Blackport** participated in football and basketball for four years and track for two years. He was the captain his senior year of both the football

and basketball teams, made all-conference his junior and senior years in football and was a member of the 1990 Goldenhawk football team that finished as the MHSAA state semi-finalist. He posted a 3.7 GPA and ranked 7th in the class of 1992.

Coach Tom Hudson is a 1981 graduate of Rogers High School. He has coached a number of sports here at RHS, but he has made a name for himself and for Rogers as the softball champion of west Michigan. He was a three-sport athlete at Rogers, making all conference in football, basketball and baseball, and being selected to the Class B baseball all-state team in



Tom Hudson, Ross Blackport and Harry Hudson became the first individuals to be inducted into Rogers Athletic Hall of Fame last December.

1981. As our head softball coach he has won three state titles in 1999, 2001 and 2005, along with being state runners-up in 1995 and 2000. He has led the Lady Goldenhawks to 12 conference titles; nine district titles and seven regional titles. He was selected as the regional coach of the year seven times and was the Michigan High School softball coach of the year in 2001. His most outstanding accomplishment is in coaching 31 all-conference softball players and 16 all-state players.

Harry Hudson has been a teacher, coach, administrator and board member for the Wyoming Public Schools for over 33 years. He has coached softball, baseball and football at Rogers, but he is best remembered for his coaching of our boy's basketball teams from 1970 to 1984. His varsity record in that span was 244 wins and 84 losses. His teams at one time had a 56-0 record in the OK White. He led the Golden Hawks to seven conference titles, seven district titles, four regional titles and three semi-final finishes. He was selected the Michigan High School Class B coach of the year twice in 1982 and 1983. ☺

Insight is Online

This newsletter, the Insight, will be primarily available to district residents on our website: www.wyoming.k12.mi.us. Just click on "Insight Online" to view and print our latest issue full of useful and interesting information about our schools. If you would like to continue to receive the Insight by mail, please fill out this form and mail to:

Wyoming Community Education
c/o Sharon Wolfe
2950 Clyde Park, SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

Yes, I would like to continue to receive the Insight by mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

West Michigan Shootout Returns to Wyoming Park

by Tom VanderKlay

The Second Annual West Michigan Shootout will be held at Wyoming Park High School June 11-June 28, sponsored by Wyoming Park Basketball.

Some of the best teams in West Michigan will be playing, and admission is free.

Last year, East Grand Rapids, South Christian, Rogers, Wyoming Park, Zeeland, TriUnity Christian and others were all represented in the Shootout. The Park won both the JV and the Varsity Shootouts last year.

June 11-14 is the Junior Varsity Shootout. June 18-21 and 25-28 are the Varsity Shootouts. Games begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be played until about 9:00 p.m. every night.

Come on out to Wyoming Park High School and watch some of the best high school teams compete. This year, Hudsonville Unity Christian and Fremont will also be competing. ☺

Rogers Gears Up for Annual Summer Basketball Clinic

by Trevor Chalmers



The Rogers Boys Basketball Program will hold its annual summer basketball clinic starting in June. The clinic will run Monday, June 11, to Thursday, June 14. The cost of the clinic is \$40 and students in grades 3-10 for the 2007-08 school year are invited to attend. The clinic will run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Rogers High School.

Registration information is available in the athletic office at Rogers High School, or contact Trevor Chalmers at 530-7580, ext. 2024, if you have any questions. ☺

Past Wyoming Park Yearbooks for Sale

**Are You a Wyoming Park Grad?
Did you miss out on buying YOUR yearbook?**

Think way back to your years at Wyoming Park.
Think about all those memories.

*Do you still have your yearbook?
Can't find it? Did you forget to buy one?*
Well, you are in luck!

**We have yearbooks dating back to the 1940's and
you can buy as many as you like for just \$20.**

Contact Mrs. DeHaan at 530-7560 ext. 2334

Summer School Offered for High School Students

Summer School will be held at Wyoming Community Education/Omega located at 2950 Clyde Park SW. Dates are June 18-27 and July 9-18 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 530-7500.

2007 Wyoming Park Vikings 22nd Annual Basketball Camp

**LEARN ATTITUDES OF A CHAMPION, MENTAL TOUGHNESS,
FUNDAMENTALS AND SKILLS OF A CHAMPION**

BOYS: Grades 3-12
June 11-14
at Wyoming Park High School
8:00-11:00 a.m.
\$60.00

GIRLS: Grades 3-12
July 9-12
at Wyoming Park High School
8:00-11:00 a.m.
\$60.00

Deserve Victory!

The Wyoming Park Basketball Camp is well known for its teaching of the game. The High School and Middle School coaches will be coaching all players in the basics of championship play and attitude. The younger players will also get help from the current high school players. Each player will get a Park Basketball T Shirt, Basketball and Pennant. Begin preparing for another championship! The Park coaching staff includes: Jake Underhill, Abbey Czarnecki, Tom Mott, Dave Sharkey, Jake Strotheide, Craig VanVliet, Troy Mast, John Schuitema, Kirk Kambestad and Thom Vander Klay.

What Do I Need To Do?

Fill out and send information below and a \$60.00 check to:

**Thom Vander Klay, Head Boys Coach, or Kirk Kambestad, Head Girls Coach,
Wyoming Park High School, 2125 Wrenwood, Wyoming MI 49519**

All players that get information in by June 1 are guaranteed shirts.

You can also sign up the first day of camp.

Make check out to: **Wyoming Park Basketball.**

Come dressed and ready to work and learn!

TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL WYOMING PARK BASKETBALL CAMP 2007

Name: _____ Grade **Next** Fall: _____ School: _____

Boys June 11-14 or Girls July 9-12
(circle one)

Address: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

We do not hold WPHS Basketball Camp or Staff Responsible for accidental injuries.

Parent Signature: _____

Make Checks Out To: **Wyoming Park Basketball**

Wyoming Public Schools
3575 Gladiola Avenue, S.W.
Wyoming, Michigan 49509
(616) 530-7550

Please visit us at www.wyoming.k12.mi.us

Board of Education 2006-2007

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Board of Education meetings are open to the public and held at the Administration Building each second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and each fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 a.m.

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Insight is published by the Wyoming Board of Education as the official newsletter for residents of the Wyoming School District.

Sharon G. Wolfe, Editor

Items for publication in the *Insight* should be sent to the following address:

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Wyoming, Michigan 49509
(616) 530-7500 (616) 531-8350 (fax)
sgwolfe@sbcglobal.net (e-mail)

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, it is the policy of Wyoming Public School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program, activity, or in employment. The lack of English skills will not be barrier to admission or participation in educational programs. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, origin, age, height, weight, sex, or marital status should be directed to Thomas Reeder, Assistant Superintendent, 3575 Gladiola SW, Wyoming, MI 49509, (616) 530-7556. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability or religion should be directed to Harry Knol, Director of Student Services, 3575 Gladiola, SW, Wyoming, MI, 49509, (616) 530-7525.

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Wyoming Public Schools Calendar 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

August 27	New Teacher Work Day
August 28, 29, 30	First Work Days for All Staff
September 4	1st Day of School – Full Day for all Students
November 1 & 2	All Students in AM only; Records in PM for Teachers: End of Q1
November 9	No Students. Building SI in AM; P/T Conferences in PM – all levels
November 21 – November 23	Thanksgiving Break
December 24 – January 4	Winter Break
January 23 & 24	All Students in AM only (Secondary Exams); Records in PM for Teachers
January 25	End of First Semester(Q2). No Students; BSI in AM and DSI in PM
January 28	2nd Semester Begins
February 18 & 19	Mid-winter Break
March 27 & 28	All Students in AM only (Secondary Exams); Records in PM for Teachers: End of Q3
April 4-11	Spring Break
May 23	Memorial Day Break
May 26	Memorial Day Break
May 28 & 29	All Students in AM only; Records in PM for Teachers: End of Semester (Q4)
May 30	Teacher Work Day in AM only



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