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The Devil Dog Advocate



Morrilton High School
701 East Harding
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Riding with The K.



Some things you only learn through a storm. After the past two years I have certainly learned the importance of storms. I guess storms are like a whipping. We never like whippings but sometimes they are necessary to make us better people. Here are some of the lessons I have learned through the storms:

Never lose your faith! Never lose your joy! Never lose your hope! Never lose your way!
The power of family is most important. When my life was at its worst my true family was there to support me. The other people left me to sink or swim.
True wealth always equals loyal friends. Many times people will tell you they are true friends but after the storm, true friends are still by your side even when you might not be deserving. A true friend will always forgive and forget.

Love is always unconditional. People love you even when you are unlovable. When you get mad at your parents then see you are WRONG, parents always welcome you back with open arms no matter how stupid you have been.

My self-worth is certainly not measured by possessions, like I once thought. At one point I had everything I ever wanted (except more guns! lol) but I found that none of that brought me happiness or fulfillment. Now most of these assets are gone and I have to start over at the ripe old age of 56, but that's ok. I have had to start over several times. As long as I have my education I can always start over because no one can take that away from me.

Now that my life has changed dramatically I have vowed to focus on loving my true family and true friends, as well as, learning from my mistakes.

My priorities are being a better father, son, brother, friend and companion, along with being a better principal. These are lessons I have learned through the storms. You will have storms to live through all of your life. Learn from your storms and never give up!

Thanks for playing!

Puppies to Dogs gives back to the community

**By Madison Knapp
Editor**

The Puppies to Dogs program is one that is based around community involvement, serving, and creating relationships within the community. The program is working on being proactive in the community and making a difference this holiday season.

The senior,

kindergartners, and sponsors planned to attend both local nursing homes in town. Ms. Horn's class and paired senior would go to one nursing home, and Mrs. Patterson's class and paired senior would go to the other. They practiced singing traditional Christmas carols and gathered gifts for the residents.

Each senior was responsible for donating

two dollars to account for a part of the gifts, and the kindergarten students were responsible for bringing things like lotions, fuzzy socks, fleece blankets, and soaps. The group brought an abundance of gifts, and the employees at both nursing homes expressed their elation and gratitude because they would be able to give all of the residents a Christmas gift.

Each group also

performed Christmas carols for the resident's enjoyment. They sang things like "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night," and "We Wish you a Merry Christmas." The students obviously lifted their spirits. The students really bonded with the elderly people.

Senior, Ramsey Yarbrough says, "Seeing the kindergarten students love on the residents at the nursing

home was so heart warming. I think it really showed them how much just a simple gesture and a simple act of kindness can completely lift someone's spirits. This was an incredible, priceless experience."

Puppies to Dogs is now making plans to donate books to the Arkansas Children's Hospital Library. Stay tuned with what this impactful group will do next!

Beta Club prepares for convention

**By Madison Knapp
Editor**

Beta Club is very busy at this time of year; they are preparing for Beta Convention, and they are completing a Christmas service project. The Beta is having a meeting where the whole club meets once a month before school to ensure each student is clear about the events taking place, making plans, and completing certain tasks. Then, there are special committee meetings for the specific convention groups.

The Christmas service project for this year is caring for an Angel Tree family. This is a program that takes the Christmas

wishes of children who come from struggling homes to ensure that they have Christmas gifts and the things that they need.

Anyone can take an Angel Tree name. This year the Beta Club picked a family, and they have been gathering gifts, clothes, and money for the children. Beta hopes to bring joy to the kids on Christmas morning, and they also hope to provide them with things that they need such as clothes.

Senior and Vice President of Beta Club, Hope Rankin, says, "It is such an honor to be able to help a struggling family provide Christmas for

their kids. Beta Club is really getting so involved in serving those in our community."

Also, the Beta Club is beginning to prepare for convention. They are preparing a theme, skit, and speech for their chosen nominee for Beta Vice President. Students who are competing in the academic competition are starting to study and become prepared in order to do well. The scrapbook and banner committees are working tirelessly to produce creative and original work. All of the students in Beta are working hard in order to represent their school well.

Choir hosts Madrigal Feast

**By Grace Windham
Staff Writer**

Morrilton High School choir put on their annual Madrigal Feast this month! It was a dinner theatre.

We had a royal court that was made up of the Morrilton Melodies. We also had some of the student in regular high school choir put on a skit for everyone that came both nights.

Also the servers which are also kids in choir that volunteered their own time to serve at the Madrigal Feast did a great job and very thankful that they

volunteered because it would not have been possible without them.

They had a four course meal along with watching their entertainment. If you have never been it i highly recommend because it is a great experience and the kids have fun while doing it and it helps the choirs raise money for whatever they are trying to achieve for that year.

Morrilton Choirs enjoy doing this for our community but it wouldn't be possible without with out the students helpers. It's is an amazing experience.

Gilmore Girls promotes education

**By Abby Wooten
Staff Writer**

The show Gilmore Girls is an old t.v show that aired in 2000. The show is about a woman named Lorelai Gilmore who was pregnant when she was 16 years old, and she named her daughter after her. She thought if men could name their children after them, then so can women. Lorelai calls her daughter Rory for short. I have really enjoyed this show because It shows that a mom and her daughter can be not only mother, and daughter but can be best friends. Their relationship makes me want to have that relationship with my mother. Rory is an extremely smart girl who got accepted into Chilton, which is a school for kids who are very smart and have a high chance of going to Yale, or Harvard, etc. The show will also

make you realize that your education is the most important thing in your life. They live in a small town, and everyone in the town makes sure that Rory is always okay, and in my opinion I think every town should be like there's. We would have a better community and less conflict with people if Morrilton was to be like theirs. It isn't good to have a baby out of wedlock, but in the show it shows that it is hard to raise a baby when she was 16 without any help. She never finished school, she just worked at a hotel as a maid and worked her way up to actually being in charge of the place. It isn't easy raising a baby when you're young, and I do think that this show will encourage others to make the right decisions in life.

Dress Code could be edited

**By Alexis Clay
Staff Writer**

The dress code at Morrilton High School is understandable to a point, but certain things should be changed for girls. Personally, I do not see a problem with shirts that have small cutouts in the back or certain tanktops. I do understand the merit of the shorts, skirts, and dress length policy. Some shorts, skirts, and dress lengths are

okay, but they should not be shorter than eight inches above the knee. The rules with holes in your jeans could be edited to holes only on certain parts id the jeans are not allowed. I think that six inches from your waist down would be about the right area not to have holes but other then that they should be allowed.

Some staff members take dress code very seriously, and others do not seem

to care, so it can be difficult to know what one can wear.

Most clothing trends do not follow dress code, which means students cannot wear these trendy clothes. Sometimes we can get away with it, and if not then they will send you to the office to get a new shirt or duck tape for your ripped jeans. So the dress code is some what questionable because not all staff memebers deal with it the same way.

Cell phones should stay in schools

**By Grace Windham
Staff Writer**

It has come to my attention that our State Legislature is trying to pass a bill to take our cell phones and electronics away. Personally, I don't like this at all. Some older people my say that it is a good idea they need to do that so maybe we will pay attention in class.

A lot of us kids that's how we communicate with our families or that's how we find out things are wrong when we are at school! If they take

them away how would we know anything that was to happen outside of school. Another thing is some kids need music to concentrate or to keep them calm during class, and taking that way could cause more distractions than them having their music on.

I can think of a few right now that are that way! All though we may not need them all the time there is certain people with certain situations that do need electronics to function. So therefore I do not agree with this Bill that's they are

trying to pass and I think I speak for a lot of other student to!

We have our own right and I don't think it's right that they are trying to take them away!

We need them to be able to communicate with our parents if something were to happen, and we didn't have our phones we would never know what happened.

We need our phones just like adults need their phones at work.

Opinion

Express Yourself: What was the best part about your Christmas break?

Freshman: Lydia Crain- My favorite part was spending time with family that I do not always get the chance to see.

Sophomore: Megan Chapman- Seeing my family on Christmas Day and watching everyone excitedly open their presents.

Junior: DeMarcus Burks- Of course I loved getting presents, but the time with family and friends was the best.

Senior: Sam York- All the time I got to spend with friends and be off of school



Entertainment

WWE had successful year

**By DeMichael Harris
Sports Editor**

2016 has been crazy in every aspect of life. From Donald Trump becoming president, to the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series after over 100 years, to the Cleveland Cavaliers winning the NBA Finals. It has been the wildest ride. Historic, to say the least. But in WWE, 2016 may go down as one of the greatest years of all time.

For the WWE, 2015 was a bad year. It was so bad that literally the only thing that could have made it worse would have been for the WWE to shut down completely. The top wrestlers in the company kept getting injured, and the guys who write the script are some of the dumbest people in the world. 2015 didn't have to be a terrible year. It was a perfect opportunity to give new wrestlers their big break.

But that didn't happen. Instead, WWE panicked, and fans were left with dumb storylines, bad matches, and an entire year of their life that they will never get back. So honestly, 2016 could have been mediocre at best and it still would have been better than 2015.

The bar was set tremendously low for 2016, and fans really

did not expect WWE to do much better than the previous year. But man, the WWE really took some notes. The top guys were still injured at the beginning of the year, but Mr. McMahon went to the independent wrestling promotions (where the good wrestlers are) and signed some of the best wrestlers around the world. Among those signees was arguably the best wrestler in the world, AJ Styles.

Styles has been a top priority for the WWE since 2010, and with the WWE finally picking him up, all of the endless dream match possibilities could come to fruition. The biggest dream match that everyone had been dying to see, was AJ Styles vs John Cena. It was the battle of the franchise players in their respected companies. Styles had been the top guy in TNA since 2002, and Cena has been WWE's franchise player since 2005.

Fans dreamed of this match for years, and they finally got it at this year's Summerslam Pay-Per-View. It was absolutely incredible. AJ Styles proved why he was the best wrestler in the world, and John Cena proved that he is much better in the ring than anyone gives him credit for. Styles ended up winning, but the match was 5 stars, hands down.

That wasn't the only amazing match that

happened this year. Much earlier this year, WWE signed Japan's most charismatic wrestler, Shinsuke Nakamura. As a special treat before

WrestleMania, and in his first WWE match, Nakamura took on Sami Zayn, one of the best wrestlers in WWE. There was no buildup, no storyline, just two great wrestlers doing what they loved. It was a thing of beauty. The match was 20 minutes of high impact moves, crazy reversals, and a standing ovation in the middle of the match. Nakamura came away with the win, and there was not a single fan unhappy after that match.

It's hard satisfying wrestling fans nowadays, but WWE has figured out the secret formula. Almost. There is still a ton of room for improvement but WWE is on the right track. If they can make storylines make more sense and give younger superstars a chance, then 2017 will be even better. Those two matches defined 2016; matches where 2 wrestlers leave it all in the ring for the fans. If you don't watch wrestling, then now is a good time to start.

"Million Eyes" wows listeners

**By Camryn Davis
Staff Writer**

The new song "Million Eyes" by Loic (fix the 1) Nottet was released on October 27th 2016. The new artist was discovered after a video of him singing 'Chandelier' by Sia went viral.

The song Million Eyes is such a beautiful piece of art. This song captures the pain in the way

society holds an idea of perfection that every person must conform to fit.

The song is so raw and gritty the mere lyrics will send chills down your spin. The singer portrays the pain with every lyric that rolls off his tongue.

Million eyes is a symbol for all of the people in the world watching you, waiting for you to mess up so they can then judge

you. The songs holds a meaning much deeper than the words themself.

The music video for 'Million Eyes' conveys the battle a person feels on the inside as they endeavor a fight much bigger than them, trying to discover one's self while trying to uphold the expectations of the world.

Freeform holds Christmas movie marathon

**By Will Cody
Entertainment Editor**

Guess what time of year it is? That's right, time for Christmas movies! We all know that Christmas movies get us in the spirit of the holidays. Movies such as A Christmas Story, The Polar Express, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Frosty the Snowman are pretty much the most watched movies during the holidays. Of these many movies, Freeform showcases almost every Christmas movie there is to know of.

ABC Family, now known as Freeform, is notorious for showing countless Christmas movies during the holidays. From the ever-so classic Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1967) to Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

(2000), Freeform always keeps families interested with their huge variety of Christmas movies. Freeform's 25 Days of Christmas is the marathon that sets off the countdown to Christmas from December 1st every single year.

As you probably know, 25 Days of Christmas consists of both animated and live action movies. Of these two types of movies, the two most popular Christmas movies ever are It's a Wonderful Life (live action), and Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer (animated). Even though it is pretty easy to distinguish which Christmas movies are clearly the all time favorites, Freeform doesn't leave out all of the other holiday classics, such as the Santa Claus film series, Home Alone series, and Elf. These comedic

movies help bring out the joy in Christmas because they simply enjoyable and comedic holiday movies.

Freeform's 25 Days of Christmas is the countdown to Christmas Day via movies. This marathon keeps people and their families entertained every single day and get them more and more excited for Christmas. Of all these movies that are shown, they all end up revealing a valuable lesson at the end of the movie, whether it is about Christmas or life in general. With that being said, if you are interested in watching some Christmas movies, check out Freeform's 25 Days of Christmas! This marathon will definitely get you into the Christmas spirit if you aren't already.

Devil Dogs host basketball tournament

By DeMichael Harris
Sports Editor

The Morrilton Devil Dogs hosted a basketball tournament from December 5-11. Teams from all over Arkansas competed in this tournament, including Morrilton.

The Devil Dogs played very well, first defeating Central Arkansas Christian 69-53, then eliminating a

homeschool team, the Little Rock Flames, 73-59, putting them in the championship game against football rivals, the Alma Airedales. It was an intense game but Alma ultimately pulled away and took down the Devil Dogs 57-49.

It was a good start to the season. The boys' next game will be against the Maumelle Hornets on

December 19th, here at home. Morrilton can learn from this tournament. With the right gameplan, fixing all the mistakes, and practicing hard, hopefully they can dominate more teams for the rest of the season.

The Lady Devil Dogs also participated in a Morrilton-hosted tournament. The Lady Dogs have been very impressive this season,

and they did more of the same in the tournament. Though they didn't make the championship game, they didn't go down without a fight.

They defeated Alma 48-45, then took on the Russellville Cyclones in the Semifinals, but sadly lost the game by 3 points. They took on Clarksville for the 3rd place spot, but were unfortunately defeated

40-33.

Their next game will be against Greenwood on December 15. Similar to the boys, however, the Lady Devil Dogs can take this experience in the tournament and apply it to their future games, especially when conference games begin. Go Dogs!

Chambers receives five football offers

By Madison Knapp
Editor

Alex Chambers is a senior football player whose dedication on the field, hard work in the classroom, and positive influence on his peers had led to five offers from colleges across the state.

He has been offered scholarships to play football at the University of Monticello, Henderson State, Southern Arkansas University, Arkansas Tech University, and Northeastern State University.

The offers were partial scholarships, but Alex will have the opportunity to get

his school completely paid for with academic scholarships.

Alex had a tough season his junior year. He endured a hip injury and was required to sit out for the majority of the season. He was not even able to play any conference games. But, Alex made up for this loss of a season with his incredible success in his senior season. Alex had sixty-five tackles, two interceptions, two forced fumbles, eight pass break-ups, and two blocked extra points. A Devil Dog fan could not go to game this season without hearing Alex's name announced.

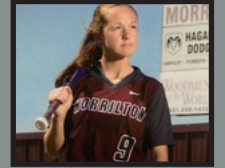
Alex has also displayed excellence

in the classroom by maintaining a 3.5 GPA. He has proven to be an all around student and athlete.

Alex says, "It has been an honor to play football for this school. There is no better school and community, and I cannot imagine having played for another team. Wherever I decide to go and play in the future, I will always remember the valuable lessons that Coach McNabb has taught me and the values he and the coaching staff have instilled in me."

No matter where Alex decides to go, MHS is very proud of him and all that he has accomplished.

Sports Spotlight: Libby Shipp



1.) How long have you been playing softball?
- For almost thirteen years. I have been playing since I was four years old.

2.) What is your favorite part of softball?

- The defensive side because you are able to see what you need to work on.

3.) What are your goals for the upcoming season?

- I hope to make the team better.

4.) What are some of your hobbies other than softball?

- Kayaking and camping

5.) What are your future goals?

- I would love to play college softball.

7.) What is your favorite part of being a Devil Dog?

- Always having people to support you and the close knit community.