

leaps and BOUNDS

*Long jump competitor strives
to achieve new personal best*

Adrenaline rushing through her veins, sophomore Hillary Matthews prepares for her event to start. "I was nervous, because as I was doing my run-throughs some of the girls were jumping farther than I did," Matthews said. "But afterwards, I felt pretty confident." Although her first jump wasn't quite as good as she had hoped, she pushed on and her next few jumps had her feeling proud of herself. Success in track doesn't come easily. Team members worked diligently to prepare for the track meet, including a more restricted diet and

lots of conditioning. "That was my first track meet this year, because I'd been out for job training," Matthews said. "The night before I didn't eat a lot, because when I do it affects my performance." Competitors continuously push themselves to improve from previous meets. All the effort required for track isn't easy, but the girls all have something driving them to persevere. "My grandma is my inspiration to keep going, because she had a rough childhood and never gave up," Matthews said.

hump DAY

*Spanish teachers take
group on trip to Spain
and Morocco*



After a week of traveling across Spain, Spanish teacher Drew Keller and her group of four students huddle up at the airport for one last emotion filled hug before returning home. The trip offered a more interactive learning experience and better understanding of the culture that they studied in class.

"I really enjoyed Madrid, but as far as the actual experience, I liked being able to relax with my students," Keller said.

During their tour of Morocco the group found out that camel riding on the coast was included in the tour package. "We decided it would be a fun little experience," Keller said. "The worst part was trying to get on, the best part was that you're on an exotic animal and they're really sweet."

Camel riding was a first time experience for Keller, and she quickly learned how to become an expert. "Wear pants, bring a camera, and don't expect it to go very fast," Keller said. "I could probably teach a class on it now." Keller enjoyed her trip so much that she went back on her own a few weeks later and is planning another student trip next December. "I fell in love with Spain. It is the most relaxing place I've ever been in my life. I made a lot of friends when I was there too," Keller said. "I would recommend that every student take advantage of opportunities to travel abroad in high school."

STORY BY LEAH HABTAMU

the game of LIFE.

*Fall show explores relationships
through dark comedy*

There may be no use in crying over spilled milk, but for the characters in the theater fall show, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, spilled gravy meant everything. At the end of act one, the characters gather at the title couple's house for Thanksgiving. When the gravy spills, Bette and Boo launch into a fight, indicative of their struggling marriage. However, because the show was a dark comedy, the actors had to portray the problems of their characters' lives with humor. "It handles a lot of real, awful things and makes them funny. It was hard because while I wanted to play Bette sad about all of these things, as all of these awful events happen to her, I had to not react in a normal way," junior Tori Herdman, said. "I wanted to make it real, but Bette

was not real. She was absurd." Another unique aspect of putting on the show was that there were two casts for the main couple: Herdman as Bette with junior Harmon Gamble as Boo and senior Candace Kosted as Bette with junior Eric Abels as Boo. "The dual casting was a helpful process because you can see ideas you like and take them, and then collaborate on things you don't like," Gamble said. "In the end, it gets the most character results." Though the play included many dark elements, like miscarriages and alcoholism, some still took away a more positive meaning. "Karl [Boo's father] says it best: You can't change people," Abels said. "If you love someone, you love them for who they are, and you don't try to change them."

STORY BY NYSSA KRUSE

STANCE to SWING

*Returning player demonstrates
knowledge acquired through golf*

Squinting down at the course, sophomore Lucas Adix breathes deeply before starting his round. "There are definitely some nerves involved," Adix said. "You just have to keep sight of your goals, then you can look past the nerves." Through biweekly practices during tournament season, Adix is able to feel more comfortable and at ease during competitions. Extensive practicing allows lasting friendships to be forged. "It's especially fun to hang out with the team during overnight tournaments and just be able to become close friends with

people that share the same interests," Adix said. Despite the individuality of the sport, the team serves as a support system for one another. This allows Adix to hold himself completely responsible for how he performs. The accountability each member shoulders sets golf apart from other sports. Golf teaches lessons that cannot be learned inside the classroom; these sessions take place out on the green. "It teaches you perseverance," Adix said. "There are certain obstacles that you know if you work hard enough you can get through them."

all *about* that **BASE**

*Senior does all in his power
to take team to victory*

Helping lead his team to another victory, senior Jaylon Brooks goes up first representing his team as lead batter. "Being the first person up to bat used to make me nervous, but now it doesn't," Brooks said. As the Hawks take the lead in the fourth inning with the score being two to zero, the coaches do everything in their power to motivate the team against their opponent to prevent them from bringing any of their players to home base and scoring. Along side being the first batter, Brooks doubles as the outfield catcher as well. As the night con-

tinues and the game goes into the last inning, bases are loaded and the Tigers are up to bat with one out left. The ball goes directly into the outfield in a single swing. "I saw the ball coming straight towards me and I knew if I didn't catch it they would've scored against us and I couldn't let them beat us on our own field," Brooks said. Scoring the only two runs during the game, the team takes up the challenge against the Stony Point Tigers, resulting in a 2-0 win. With the victory of eight games, the team has managed to earn the title as 8th in state, and 50th in the nation.

pick *up* STICKS

*Volunteers give back to the community
in the first annual Big Event*

Trekking through fallen branches and leaf covered grounds, freshman Sarah Flynn takes part in the first annual Big Event. "My group was going along the forest pathway to pick up trash and litter in the trees and around the stream," Flynn said. Cleaning up the community comes with complications. "You wouldn't think picking up trash would be difficult but some things were buried very deep," Flynn said, "There was this bottle that was buried so deep and it took me a few minutes to actually dig it out. Flynn also learned about others and their mind sets. "From The Big Event, I learned that a lot of people don't take care of the environment and they don't really care about it," Flynn said. "It's very important to not only us but other people within the community." Contributing also comes with fun. "During The Big Event, we strayed away from the path and took our own adventure," Flynn said. "ROTC also played capture the flag which was really big, fun, and confusing."

MOVING *up* and *out*

Overcrowding leads to addition of portables behind main building

To accommodate for increasing growth, portable buildings were installed behind the main building. Delayed delivery and wiring issues kept the new buildings from being ready at the start of school. "I feel like I didn't get the best start at the beginning of the year because everything was unprepared and I didn't have a stable learning environment," German teacher Audrey Saathoff said. "Having a bunch of teenagers in roly chairs for the first couple days of school was pretty distracting."

Teaching in the portables allows for more creative control of the teaching environment. "I love having a lot of independence with just having a portable neighbor who can watch over my class or ask quick questions to if I need to," Saathoff said. "It is very convenient to have Ms. Keller right next door." At the end of the year last year, all the foreign language teachers volunteered to be outside in order to create their own league of nations. "All the foreign language teachers were split up in the building, and we all wanted to be together because we are such a unique department," Saathoff said. "We wanted to create our own little language village out in the portables, like mini countries."