

Maycomb meets Thrall

Ketteman immerses freshmen readers in classic “To Kill A Mockingbird”

Confused drivers stared as they passed the large group of students sitting outside the abandoned Chevrolet dealership downtown.

To get a feeling for the small town setting of Harper Lee’s novel, Mrs. Hannah Ketteman’s English classes walked downtown to begin their reading.

“I think it’s really neat that Mrs. K gave us the opportunity to dive into the topic and compare our surroundings to Maycomb’s,” Claire Robinson said.

As part of her hands-on approach,

Ketteman also gave students bars of soap to carve like the character Boo Radley did and transformed her classroom into a courtroom where students acted out Tom Robinson’s trial.

Students were amused watching their classmates play the book’s characters.

“Trevor was a very good Mayella,” Emma Kramer said. “He did a dumb southern accent and wore a red apron.”

Her classes used a website called Post Secret to anonymously post prejudices and help them realize that the problems faced in

the book are still alive today.

“At first I thought that as time goes on prejudices would exist less, but it showed that they’re still here,” Emma said. “It opened up your eyes because if those prejudices are in a group of kids, it scares you to think what would be in a group of adults.”

Ketteman hopes the book helped students understand that things they say and do are important.

“It teaches them that it’s up to them to make a difference in people’s lives,” Ketteman said.



giving back. Seniors donate plasma for NHS blooddrive

1. Watching the nurse intently, Tiffany Grumbles, 12th, endures her first donation experience. “I’m scared of needles so I was nervous,” Tiffany said. After the donation, she admitted it wasn’t as bad as she expected, and she will gladly do it again. 2. As the nurse preps her arm for the donation, Katie Miles, 12th, thinks ahead to the many lives she could save. “I like getting the phone calls that I helped so many people,” Katie said. If student’s blood or plasma donations are given to people in need, they receive a phone call thanking them for their donation. 3. Emily Price, 12th, angrily waits to be released by the nurses after attempting to give blood. “The inexperienced nurse kept questioning the blood drawing process, and he messed up and collapsed my vein,” Emily said. Even though her experience wasn’t the most pleasant, she plans to give blood again.

Photos by Chelsea Seggern





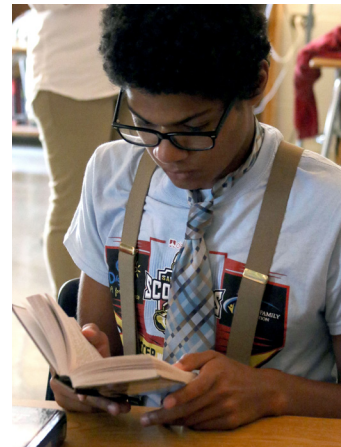
Out on the Town

To get a feel of the small town setting of "To Kill A Mockingbird", Claire Robinson, 9th, and her peers read along with Mrs. Ketteman at the old Krieg Brothers dealership in downtown Thrall. "Thrall is an old town, and so is Maycomb," Claire said. "They're both in the south so they have the same type of atmosphere." Mrs. Hannah Ketteman dressed as the main character, Scout Finch, to begin reading the book. *Photo by Markell Irvin*



Shaping Fiction

Landrie Waid, 9th, carves a heart into the bar of soap. "It helped me visualize the little boy and girl being carved into the soap," Landrie said. The carving helped students understand the difficulty that the character Boo Radley went through. *Photo by Shay Hill*



Outside the Book

Portraying defendant Tom Robinson, in a mock-trial, Dante Reed, 9th, follows along with the court case in the book. "It's more appealing to me when we do these activities and go outside," Dante said. *Photo by Shay Hill*

submerge.

5th Quarter offers post-game fellowship



Before knowing he was safe, Christopher Ontiveros, 6th, takes a dive headfirst into third base while playing water slide kickball at 5th Quarter following the Milano football game on Sept. 11. "It was fun because it was slippery and hard to do," Chris said. "I would rather go to 5th quarter than go home." Thrall First Baptist Church hosted the event after home football games for grades 6-12. *Photo by Lilly Chandler*



Hands-on Faith

As a first time prayer group leader, Markell Irvin, 12th, lets his nerves fade away as he begins to discuss the Lord's Prayer. "We broke it down into four sections, and then I explained what it actually meant," Markell said. See You at the Pole this year had a total of 180 participants.

Pride for Days



Underdog victory concludes week of homecoming celebrations

Before the band had even settled into the stands, state-ranked Iola scored a touchdown on the first play of the game.

"It kind of dropped my spirits, but I knew we could still have it in the bag either way," Cameron Neubauer, 12th, said.

The Tigers came back to prove that rank doesn't matter by defeating the Bulldogs 39-26. After losing to Iola last year by 48 points, the homecoming victory gave the players and fans a confidence boost for the season.

"I like performing in color guard because it gives me a chance to show off what I've been working on."

- Natasha Hoeft, 12th



"Being a candidate helped me focus on the game and pumped me up for my last homecoming."

-Daryn Gamez, 12th



Tyler Harwell

Karl Bielfeldt

Rick Porter

"I absolutely loved homecoming! Being outrageous is always fun to do when I can."

- Coach Karl Bielfeldt



Pajamas

Twins

Nerds vs. Jocks

Tacky Christmas

Spirit



spirit week.

THS

TMS

TES



"I don't mind acting ridiculous to support the kids. I plan on taking it up a notch next year."

– Mr. Casey Georg



Belle of the Ballgame

After Scooter Dubec announced the homecoming king and queen, Haley Couch, 12th, laughs as Jacob Seggern, 12th, takes the credit for the win. "Having Jacob by my side made me calm," Haley said. Haley said she felt like Belle from "Beauty in the Beast" in her yellow dress.

Photo by Karlie Knapek



Hallie Hudson
Daryn Gamez

Chelsea Seggern
Cody Barchenger

Tiffany Grumbles
Markkell Irvin

Headline #4

bigger. better.

Mums increase in size, popularity

The exact origin of homecoming mums is not well documented, but the tradition can be traced back to Texas high school football as early as the 1930s when boys first started giving girls small chrysanthemums to wear. In the 1970s and 1980s, mums evolved from fresh, small flowers with a few ribbons to large silk flowers with numerous ribbons, bells, charms. Today, stuffed animals and even LED lights adorn the large corsages. This tradition is predominantly Texan, but has spread to other states in recent years.



Mum's the Word

Casey Carter, 10th, puts together a mum in Ms. Taylor Eurich's Floral Design class. "I actually learned how to make one so I can make one in the future. It was pretty cool," Casey said. The students got to keep the mums they made.

Photo by Alyssa Kramer

Jasmine Gonzalez 11th, Shay Hill, 11th, Amber Sells, 11th, Kami Renfro, 11th, Claire Robinson, 9th, Ashley Walleck, 9th, Nahum Patcheske, 9th

Ricky Porter 6th, Skyler Sutton, 6th, Emma Burkhart, 7th, Hannah Grady, 7th, Lindsey Olsen, 7th, Kaitlyn Thelen, 7th, Addison Leschber, 6th, Hailey Miksch, 6th, Tyreke Irvin, 6th

Brenna Tucek, 1st, Ethan Boecker, 3rd, Hayden Heselmeyer, 3rd, Bentley Marek, K, Kallie Breder, 3rd, Jayden Rodriguez, 3rd, Taylor Willims, PK, Easton Miner, PK



One and Indivisible

Addison Leschber, Ryan Grisham, 8th, Hannah Grady, and Lindsey Olsen, 7th, lead the Texas pledge. "I hope that we'll have a lot more kids there," Lindsey said. "I want to see Thrall grow." The new high school is scheduled to be open for the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Faith in the Future

Leading the prayer, Ashley Porter, 10th, bows her head to begin the groundbreaking ceremony. "It means that we finally get to move on and create new memories in a new building," Ashley said.

Headline #5

“Thrall is the best kept secret in Texas!”
– Tommy Hooker, superintendent

Breaking News

Community gathers to celebrate construction

A row of new silver shovels glimmered in the early Saturday morning light. A crowd of community members, parents and students gathered to witness history being made. Representatives from each grade level lined up, shovels in hand, to break ground on the new high school.

“I was hoping I wouldn’t be struggling to get the dirt out of the ground,” Markell Irvin, 12th, said. “I was kind of proud and jealous at the same time because our class had been waiting on a new school for years.”

Among those representing middle school was NJHS member Addison Leschber, 8th. “It was like ‘wow this is the beginning of what’s going to happen,’ ” Addison said. “It’s fun to know that there’s going to be a new high school when I’m in high school.”

Kerrigan Hooker, one of the three 5th grade class presidents, helped represent elementary.

“I was wondering what the new school would be like,” Kerrigan said. “It would probably be bigger and more like one place instead of kind of scattered.”

On Superintendent Tommy Hooker’s count of three, students, board members,

staff members and contractors plunged their shovels into the ground and turned the soil in sync.

The new high school was part of a \$14,187,863 bond that also included renovations to the elementary campus. Principal Travis Dube said this investment will change Thrall for the better.

“We are building something that is going to be nice and stay with our budget,” Dube said. “It shows the students that the community is willing to invest in them and their future success.”

The high school will include nine classrooms, three science lab rooms, a band hall, ag shop, cafeteria, library, a gym, and two additional tennis courts.

Hooker said the ceremony demonstrates a commitment to the school and to the community.

“These will be fundamental projects that will make lasting improvements throughout the district,” Hooker said. “Our students and faculty deserve a world class school and the community will get to have pride in using it in the future!”

Story by Bailey Thelen

Ground Breaking

69
spring



In-Sync

Representatives from high school to elementary turn the dirt. Pictured are: Markell Irvin, 12th, Kenneth Kruse, 11th, Sarah Gautreaux, 10th, Leroy Aleman, Amity Holubec, 9th, Madison Pokorny, Kerrigan Hooker, Faith Patschke, 5th, Lindsey Olsen, Hannah Grady, 7th, and Ryan Grisham, 8th.

First Class

As the school song plays, FCCLA representative Dylan Ging and FFA representative Wesley Strnad, 10th, show their pride. “It has an impact on me knowing that I’ll be the first class to graduate from the new school,” Dylan said.