The Warrensburg High School

SPIRIT

Volume 70 Issue 1

What Obamacare Means to Teens By Bobbi Gums

Enrollment for Obamacare began on October 1, changing the lives of many Americans by providing a mandated healthcare system.

With the implementation of Obamacare, Americans will now be forced to have healthcare, despite the fact that when given a choice, some people would choose not to. "I have a friend that does not have insurance that can get a procedure done for \$500 that would cost me \$2500 with my insurance," said an anonymous source.

Our country has been feuding for quite a while on whether or not to enforce Obamacare. To quite a few Warrensburg High School students, Obamacare means an opportunity to be medically insured. Out of the 952 students at Warrensburg High School, 62 do not have insurance or are unsure of their status. With that in mind,

people should be excited about Obamacare being implemented, but that is not always the case.

WHS student **Paul Schleer**, '14, said, "Health insurance should not be involved in a private sector. In 2009, 62% of bankruptcies were from medical bills, even though ³/₄ had insurance."

While some students feel like Obamacare is a constitutional violation, others disagree with the way the bill devalues personal responsibilities. Obamacare is now giving the option to keep children on their parents insurance until they are 26 years old. "It's not letting you grow up and make decisions. It's taking away from the initial vision of the United States," said **Bridget Cavouti**, '15.

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The color guard performed at Central Methodist University on October 5th and brought home the first place trophy. They competed against ten teams in their 4A division and found themselves victorious. *Photo Credit•Taylor Lakey*

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Run By Alex Burson



It's 6:30 on a Monday morning in the middle of July. Most teenagers are still asleep. I roll out of bed, go upstairs, eat a small breakfast, and I'm out of the door by 6:45. I arrive at the track by seven to run with my teammates. Sometimes there are less then five. Others there are more than twenty. It isn't mandatory anyway. I'll run over thirty miles this week. Maybe even thirty five. Some people don't run thirty five miles in a year. This is cross country. And it's the most successful sport in the history of WHS. In five years, the recurring theme from people who don't run is that it takes no talent, is just running to run, or it isn't even a real sport.

If asked what the worst part of their sport practice is, almost every student athlete would say, "Conditioning" or in simpler terms, running. Every sport requires at least some sort of cardiac endurance and the easiest way to obtain this is through running. How an athlete can say that a sport that takes the worst part of their discipline and makes it harder by adding in hills and uneven surfaces isn't a sport is confusing in the least.

Other athletes would say that it is a sport but they think there's no strategy. This statement is also false in that cross country and track do require strategy, especially in the longer races where pacing and patience is key. Take out too fast at the beginning of the race and you risk being caught at the end from slowing down. Take out too slow, however, and you risk not being able to catch up to the leaders.

The beauty of these two sports is that stopwatches and cameras do not lie. There is no arguing over the bad call by the referee or if there had been one more minute in the game that it would have changed the outcome. The only thing that a runner really competes with is the clock. The goal is to get to the finish line as fast as possible while also beating as many people as they can on the way there. There's no arguing who should've won if this or that had happened, only who got there first.

Simply put, to win a cross country meet, a team wants to place their top five runners in front of the other team's top five runners. Whatever place a runner gets, they receive a number of points based on their place. So if they got fifth, they will give their team five points. Whatever team at the end of the meet has the fewest points, wins.

And before you ask, yes. The short shorts are necessary.

Obamacare

Continued from pg.1

While most students did not want Obamacare, some teachers thought the program will benefit teens, Matthew Bax, history teacher, has a different opinion. "Obamacare will provide health insurance to millions of uninsured Americans and also provide coverage for preexisting conditions. While in the past, someone with a heart condition could be denied insurance due to their health, they will now be provided with it," said Bax.

There is still a minority of Americans that believe Obamacare is a step in the right direction. "In theory, if people let it go the way the government is hoping, it should balance out," said Abby Allen, history teacher. "It'll make sure people get the medication they need. Since college is now almost mandatory to get a job, Obamacare will help many students."

Heard In The Halls

"Well it's a good thing I have night vision."

"Finders keepers. If you lost your cat it's mine!"

"Bald men scare me."

"Did you get your ring of power?" "NOOOO AHHHH!"

"I could devour a tenderloin right now."

"She doesn't have a butt. It's Miley Cyrus butt flab."

"Doctor what? Doctor WHO!"

"Why would you think we have duct tape?"

"ZuZu Pets...those things are like, wizards. Like voodoo magic or somthing."

"The French Revolution: it's fun!"

"I mean I love Jesus as much as the next guy..."

"I hate matching with a fiery passion of a thousand suns."

"Backpacks are beautiful!"

"Multiple choice is easy. It's either this or peanuts."

"These are not tater tots. Tater tots are happy-these are sad."

"I found the dinosaur in the closet."

Claps & Slaps

Claps to Kate Middleton. One classy mama.

Slaps to man-capris. Dem cankles.

Claps to Pumpkin Spice lattes. It's coffee in a Halloween costume.

Slaps to goosebumps. I don't even know what's happening right now.

Claps to fist bumps. Spread the bro-love minus the germs.

Slaps to PDA. Thanks for reminding me I'm single.

Claps to the new crosswalk in front of the school. I now feel safe in the WHS parking lot.

Slaps to YOLO. I want to live more than once.

Claps to weaves. Man, my hair looks goooood.

Slaps to humidity. My frizz and I are glad to meet you.

Claps to redheads, the prettiest kind of mutants.

Slaps to the lacking school spirit. Pick it up a notch, WHS!

Claps to the new Collab time. Two more hours to sleep!

Slaps to student parking. I would like to get in my car, please.

Claps to kittens. You rock, kitties. You rock.

Slaps to cats. But not really, that'd be abuse.

Movies You May Have Missed By Conor Tenbus



Mud: A+

Director Jeff Nichols (*Shotgun Stories* and *Take Shelter*) spins gold with *Mud*. Set along the Mississippi in small town Arkansas, *Mud* is a powerful story about lies and love. Two young boys, Ellis (Tye Sheridan) and Neckbone (Jacob Lofland), discover and claim a boat stranded in a tree on a remote island in the Mississippi River. Soon, they realize that someone else claimed the boat first. Enter Mud (Matthew McConaughey), a homeless outlaw. Mud plans to fix the treed boat and use it to run away with his long-time crush, Juniper (Reese Witherspoon). Ellis and Neckbone, while also locating spare boat parts, play messenger for Mud, informing Juniper of his plans and explaining his lingering feelings for her. Soon enough, Juniper's indecisiveness and Mud's criminal past culminate in a nail-biting, angering, and tear-jerking finish.

Set on the Mississippi River, and with two energetic protagonists, *Mud's* Ellis and Neckbone are like modern day Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. Mud, however, is all Peter Pan, living in a dream and refusing to grow up. The growing maturity of all three boys is the heart of the film.

All in all, *Mud* delivers. Incredible performances by Sheridan and McConaughey bring this film to life. *Mud* manages to excite, sadden, anger, and warm the heart, without being sappy. Despite being unnecessarily lengthy, *Mud* is a must-see for film buffs and casual moviegoers alike.

Mixed Show Super Heroes By Bene Clear

The WHS Mixed Show choir is taking risks and hoping to fly high with a new theme for this year's routine: superheroes.

"Last year, our marionette show was very well received," says Director **Matthew Haltom**. "This year we hope to maintain the standards of a great performance, entertain the masses, and leave everyone singing 'I Can Be a Superhero!"

While this is only his second year at WHS, Haltom is dedicated to changing the culture of the school's show choir. Not only was the superhero-themed show inspired by the DC and Marvel craze, but also to stand out from competing shows and convey to their audiences and judges a deeper message through their performance.

"One thing that sets the superhero show, and all other Warrensburg shows apart, is the conclusive story line within the show," says Haltom. "We start with a city population describing their daily turmoils, and we hear their cries for a hero to rise above and fight. As the show progresses on, the singers come to the realization that each one of them, individually, has to answer the call and do their part in protecting the city."

With the competition season still a while away, the performers are practicing to put on a "super" show. "We're trying to put on the best show we've ever done," says **Mathew Martinez**, '15.

The choir's costumes include full-body spandex of each famous superhero—one boy and one girl as each character. At the beginning of the routine, the choir appears on stage wearing formal suits. During the fourth song, a white curtain appears in front of them, and the choir promptly removes their suits to reveal their superhero costumes underneath—all while still performing.

"We end the show by sharing the news that everyone has the ability to stand up for what is right and join the ranks of our superheroes," Haltom adds.

The Mixed Show Super Heroes hope to save the day at their competitions starting in early 2014. "Mr. Haltom and our choreographer **Diallo Simms** have the best resources to make our show incredible," says **Trent Classen**, '15. "It's going to be a good show."

Nerd Culture By Zoe Yandell

The meaning of the word "nerdy" has evolved over the past couple of decades. It used to be "boring and socially awkward" but now it is on its way to an admirable trait.

About fifteen years ago, the ownership of the title Nerd could get someone into sticky situations filled with bullying and ridicule. Now people are beginning to take pride and develop confidence in the things that were once deemed by society as "nerdy." Anime, comic books, academics, gaming and technology are all breaking out of the box that society has placed them in. But what brought about this change? The media, for one.

The same source that once brought about the nerd stereotype with movies like Revenge of the Nerds has now single handily changed our views, this time using popular television shows like The Big Bang Theory, Game of Thrones and The Walking Dead. Now, being nerdy means you enjoy smart writing, witty humor and action packed drama. Since everybody likes a good laugh or a good action sequence, many people without the help of movies or TV would not have given these topics and ideas a second glance. With the audience growing with every release of a new movie or TV series inspired by books and comics, people are scrambling to get their hands on the paperback that started it all. Often these books are in the hands of the nerd they made fun of in the first place.

Some could say the rise of the technological era may have caused the shift to favor the nerds. Technology is now regarded as a sign of social status. "Having the best and newest technology is now considered cool," Max Burson,'14, said. Also, famous nerds like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates have paved the way by showing nerds as multi-millionaires who became rich off their products and designs.

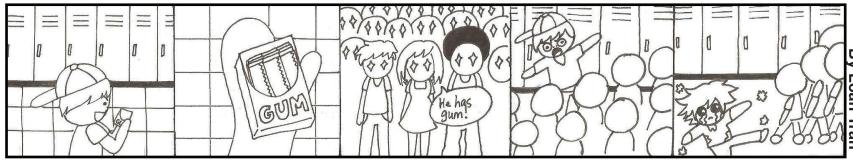
This peaked interest in popular culture by showing intelligence could also make you rich. People started to see that scrawny kid in their class getting all the correct answers as someone who could rake in wads of cash. Money is desirable; it only makes sense that the ones to make it would be desirable as well.

There is controversy over whom the title defines. What exactly qualifies you to be a nerd? What traits make some nerdy, and can it ever really be defined? Well, some Warrensburg High School students tried. **Donovan Wiss**, '14, said, "It's just a culture where you're not afraid to be yourself. You're weird in your own respect, but in a good way."

John West, '15, on the other hand, gave a much more general explanation by saying, "it just means you're smart." Kelsea Mi**nor** '14, said, "It means you're overly enthusiastic over something. Anything really."

Words like weird, smart and enthusiastic can all be used to describe nerds; it certainly would be hard to name an individual who did not possess at least one of those three characteristics. It is very possible that everyone, by the given definitions, is nerdy.

Nerds have been around for ages but now in the twenty-first century they are finally having their hay-day. What was once a title meaning "wimpy" or "loser" now means something like "interesting" and "exciting." They are being accepted more than ever, and it is about time.



Students Remember Diane VanDeWiele

Longtime Warrensburg Elementary teacher Diane VanDeWiele lost her battle with cancer on Saturday September 28. She left behind her husband of 43 years, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and many grateful students.

"She was a great teacher," said **Olivia Callaway**, '15. "She really cared about us and cared about our education."

"She was the nicest teacher in the world," said **Taylor Lakey**, '16. "She thought it was really important to have friends."

"It's hard," said Olivia Calloway, '15, "because she was such a big part of our lives." "It was sad," said **Paige Purvis**, '16, "but she had been battling cancer for a long time. She is at peace."



Art of the Ages By Loan Tran

Even with modern society's advancement in technology, art still finds its way to dominate the public's opinions and emotions. Looking at an art piece gives us feelings that we do not experience in everyday life. However, some say art in the digital format is beginning to make us discard the old styles of art. More reliance on technology makes us forget traditional art forms.

Today, electronic devices are everywhere and impossible to avoid. As the art world transitions from paper to screen, artwork is easier to produce and to erase with a single button. Although the process is quicker, we are becoming blinded by the digital age and ignoring the fundamentals.

"I notice the rolling of the eyes and the grumbles when the art history comes out," says Jason Meyer, an Art I and II teacher. "Art history might not be the most exciting thing, but there is a lot to be learned and gained and also many lessons that will help us become better artists."

Many do not realize that digital art would not be where it is now without the fundamentals of traditional art. We continue to try and find ways to produce art in a quicker manner that requires less work. With easier methods, people are starting to rely more on technology, which causes the traditional arts to be forgotten. "Traditional art, to some degree, is becoming less popular nowadays," said Meyer.

People should be reminded about the importance of traditional art and how rewarding the experience is to make a piece of artwork by hand. "I like some of the digital things you can do in Photoshop or Illustrator because you are allowed to make combinations to make things happen," says Guy Albert, the Ceramics, Sculpture and Photography teacher, "but I enjoy ceramics because of the hands-on aspect of it."

Digital art has its advantages, but does not give the same satisfying feeling as doing art by hand. "There is more of a sense of accomplishment when you do something hands-on," said Meyer. "The ability to create something from nothing is a great experience, one that is vitally important in growing as a person."

Digital technology is beneficial, but it makes humans too reliant on it. To become appreciative of the arts, one must appreciate the origins. Engaging in a fine arts activity will teach art foundations and how to acknowledge the talent and effort put into a piece. "Art gives you the chance to try different things, be more expressive, and be more open with what you can do," said Meyer.

"Art is a form of communication and expression and allows you to synthesize all that you know into a visual communication device," said Guy Albert. It is the one thing that we could agree on that defines not only our culture, but who we are.

0 Kayci Jo Wright, '15

From Runway to Hallway

By Paige Purvis

Money is tighter than skinny jeans these days, and everyone wants to get more for less. So here are a couple of tips to find some great bargains and make your money go farther.

Certain stores like Target have markdown schedules. This means that certain items will go on sale on different days. Therefore you can get some great deals before the selection gets too picked over. Tuesdays are terrific for the ladies and Wednesdays are wonderful for all the fellas as that's when their clothes get marked down.

Target's clothes are reasonably priced to begin with and they typically have a good clothing selection, but it is always best to shop the sale racks. This goes for every store, clothing or not. Sale items are normally in the same condition, although use caution because sometimes the items may be damaged. Many items go on sale because they are from last season or the store has received new inventory, so look out for major sale events. These are very common on holiday weekends and it can often be worth fighting crowds to get some good deals or to buy an item you've had your eye on. Buying clothes from a past season can be a great way to save money. Stocking up on sweaters and coats come springtime will save you money for next winter.

You can also find many great deals

at outlet malls. The clothing at the stores is usually overstocked, discontinued or imperfect items. Other times there are items specifically made for outlet stores. The closest major outlet mall to Warrensburg would be the Legends outlets, which is about 90 minutes away in Kansas City. Branson Missouri also has many outlet stores. When these stores have clearance events, the clothes can be so cheap they practically pay you to take it out of the store.

Thrift stores, Yes, thrift stores, Although some people despise the idea of a thrift store and they cannot stand wearing someone else's clothes you can find some amazing deals. Resale stores, like the Change Jar in Warrensburg, will typically have higher end items. This is because they only accept clothing in good condition or of certain brands, but they will also be more expensive. Be careful, you can find brand new items for the same price or only a couple dollars more than what you would pay at a resale store. Thrift stores like the Salvation Army have many treasures hidden in their racks of clothing. If you go to a nicer area in a city you will often find better quality clothing for dirt cheap.

Even when your budget is tighter than your jeans you can still look great and save some serious cash. With these helpful tips you'll be headed from the hallway to the runway in no time.

I Don't Like School Supplies By Rachel Scott

I do not like school supplies. Who could like anything that alludes to weekday mornings, late afternoon classes and eternal homework? The commercials in early August with bright images of Crayola and Fiskars make me sick. What is to like about rows of majestic colors, all lined up in a pencil pouch? What is to like about markers that smell like strawberries and the cookies your mom used to make? How could anyone love pencils that flow across perfectly lined college ruled paper or scissors that sound like the laughter of angels?

I dislike everything about school supplies. I am enraged by the rivalry between Canon and Nikon cameras. And then you have those posers at Roseart, trying to recreate the magic that is Crayola. I hate them in their entirety.

I detest the people who wake up in the morning and go to work to make school supplies. I hate them in their attempt to appeal to students. I'm not a violent person, but I do wish that they would step on Legos. I do not want a pencil sharpener shaped like Superman (I saw one of those once—it was awful). I do not desire a folder with an adorable puppy embossed on the cover. Why would I ever need a pencil case with my favorite TV show

characters embroidered in visually pleasing colors?

I do not have an addiction. I don't. My friends at Duct Tape Anonymous don't think I have an addiction either. I told my mama back when I bought my first pack that I would not get caught up in it all. I would beat the odds. I would change my family tree.

If you really think about it, it did start as a child. My mother, a first grade teacher, would come home with a box of vivid markers, purple pens and yellow folders. Walking into Office Depot became nostalgic for me, bringing back memories of afternoons sitting at the kitchen table, drawing perfectly within the lines, as a four-year old should. Joe from Best Buy has only put a restraining order on my three times since January, which is a step up from last year's seven.

I am seventeen. I am strong. I shall overcome! I shall not be moved! I will prosper and one day my children will ask me for a pack of markers and I will proudly hand over those scented drawing sticks without being afraid they will neglect to return them to their alphabetical order!

So, no. I do not have an addiction to school supplies. Thank you.

Tech Talk By Camoran Romesburg

It is that time of the month again; Apple is releasing a new product. They have developed two new upgrades for the Apple iPhone 5. The iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c were made available to the public on Friday, September 20.

Many features of the iPhone have been changed in order to make it either a faster or more personalized phone. These changes promise to keep Apple Heads happy until the next upgrade, which should be coming out next week.

One main difference between the two phones is appearance: The exterior looks of the two new devices greatly differ. The 5s keeps the traditional iPhone 5 in black, white or gold. The 5c, however, is completely different from its predecessor, sporting smooth, rounded corners with a plastic exterior, which can be white, pink, yellow, blue, or green. A steel reinforced frame lies beneath the plastic case of the iPhone 5c.

The iPhone 5c has an A6 chip, a small computer designed for maximized speed and battery life. Apple took another step up

with the iPhone 5s, developing the A7 chip and then coupling it with a new coprocessor, the M7. These two, the A7 and M7, work together so well that the speeds are lightning fast. It's like having a PC in your pocket.

A new change for both phones is the iOS 7 software update. It is the simplest, most interactive interface yet. It's like a girlfriend who gets more beautiful and friendlier at the same time. The most noticeable difference in it is the change in the icons; Apple also added layers, translucency and animation for a more engaging experience.

The new iPhones sold over nine million in the opening weekend, breaking the previous record from last year. All those with a recent iOS device can update their iPhones, iPods, or iPads to the new iOS 7 and have access to the new iTunes Radio, a program similar to Pandora.

Once again, Apple has outdone themselves, presenting increasingly innovative products for millions of loyal costumers.

Stereotypes By Taylor Lakey

High school stereotypes on television and in film are influencing younger generations, giving them the wrong idea about high school. Shows and movies such as *Glee*, *Austin and Ally*, and *Mean Girls* include cliché stereotypes like "dumb blonde", "sassy black girl", and "feminine gays" and "Anyone can get famous".

In the television show *Glee*, every single main character is a common stereotype. There is a popular cheerleader who rules the school, a sensitive jock, a sassy black girl, an Asian who receives an "Asian F"(A-), and a fashionable gav. Each of these stereotypes is influencing younger kids, like my sister, who thinks that if she looks and acts like the popular girl on Glee, then she will gain the "popular" status in her own school. This also tells young viewers that if they see someone similar to a character, then that is exactly how that person is.

Another show, Disney's Austin and Ally, can influence a child's choices and mind set. The main character only seems to be focused on his career, although he is still in high school. The show only seems to show him promoting his music and working on new songs. There is even an episode where he sneaks out to perform instead of doing what his parents asked him to. In a kid's eyes, this could tell them that if you only do what you want

instead of what your parents and school tell you, then you'll get famous. My sister's friend, Whitley, believes this. She is one of many young students who makes You-Tube videos and Vines in hopes of getting thousands, millions, or even billions of views.

In the movie *Mean Girls*, high school is made out to be a crazy jungle full of teenagers and someone stabbing you in the back around every corner. The school in the movie is divided into several cliques that include preps, nerds, band geeks, smart Asians, cool Asians, girls who eat their feelings, girls who don't eat, etc. The main clique in the film is another example of popular girls that my sister and friends try to act as, The Plastics. The Plastics is a group of girls with one main leader and a couple of followers. The followers do not think for themselves and do whatever the leader says. This group of girls rules the entire school and bully many people to keep their status throughout the movie. When a few future high school students see this, they may think that they need to act this way so that they can be on top, or the "ruler" of the school. Movies and T.V. are entertainment, not a guide to life. We don't need to become the stereotypes we see. We just need to be 100% ourselves.



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"

We played hard and did not give up. There are some things we can improve on. I think we have the talent and just need to put things into motion and we'll be

alright"



Tiah Thurston, '14,: Homecoming Queen, **Kye Denker, '14,:** King, **Sheldon Blose, '16,:** Prince, and **Brooke Moran, '15,** Princess



Cheer and fight with all your might, cheer and fight! Warrensburg football fans finally received their football fix Friday night when the Tigers fought the St. Pius Warriors for Homecoming. The WHS football team scored two touchdowns, a personal best for this season. The band, spirit squads, and crowd went absolutely ballistic, instilling a spark back into the tiger Spirit.

•Bobbi Gums





LGBT Acceptance By Maggie Kohl

I have heard of a town that is considering separating the gay, bisexual, transgender, and lesbian students from the heterosexual students. Creating this school would take us back in time and we need to go ahead.

Being the niece of a gay legal rights activist in the rural city of Warrensburg, Missouri is not easy. Many residents of Warrensburg are conservative and never hold back when expressing their opinions about those who are lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual.

In other schools and towns the concept of an openly gay classmate or resident is not unexpected. In fact, Cassidy Lynn Campbell of Huntington Beach, California recently ran for and won homecoming queen at her high school, proving that acceptance for homosexuals in other places is normal. Here in Warrensburg, that is not the case. There are students at our

own high school that are gay but because of the fear of rejection and hatred feel unable to express themselves. Openly gay students in Warrensburg are accepted by some, but excluded or overlooked by others.

In Warrensburg, it's different than the real world. In the real world, lifestyle differences are common. In Warrensburg it appears that everyone portrays the same lifestyle. When I reach the real world after living in Warrensburg, I am prepared to encounter others with noticeably different lifestyles. I could possibly end up working in a law firm and get placed in a cubical next to a lesbian. If I am homophobic, the only person who will feel uncomfortable in that situation will be me.

Things have changed; no longer is the bisexual the one who feels uncomfortable. It is expected of me that I am accepting of my co-worker's lifestyle, and can work

with her without our differences getting in the way.

In Warrensburg, we are not expected to accept others; they are expected to have the same lifestyle choices as us, or hide them.

Placing the problem on the gay person is in the past. America is moving forward and we need to embrace this. During the late 1800's and early 1900's we separated the African-Americans from white Americans. It took the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to realize Jim Crow was wrong. How long will it take people to realize that separating people with different lifestyles is the exact same and not an option? We do not need to make a new school; we need to make the schools we already have more accepting and socially up to date with society.

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