



Legendary election, economics, sports, and arts top list of 2008 memories.

pages 8-9

the high LIFE

“America’s culture, once a rich, melting pot of different people, now faces the risk of being lost in the globalized “numbers” world of the Information Age, and NCLB has only exacerbated this problem.”



Nick Hales
Reporter

page 4

News

President-elect Barack Obama hits the ground running as he prepares for his term as U.S. President. page 2

Opinion

Music listeners feel frustration from lack of music on morning radio and music television. page 5

Features

Families can enjoy holiday traditions while they learn about their origin at the same time. page 11

Sports

Readers can test their knowledge of sports trivia by completing a tough crossword puzzle. page 15

Index

News	2-3
Opinion	4-7
Spread	8-9
Features	10-13
Sports	14-16

Celebrating American Education Week

BY MILA SMITH
Reporter

American Education Week (AEW), sponsored by the National Education Association, celebrates its 87th annual event as it spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college. NEA encourages everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

In honor of AEW, media specialist Kate Cummings planned a week filled with motivational speakers to educate the student body on various career choices. Guests addressed issues ranging from what colleges are looking for in potential students to what businesses require regarding professional behavior. In addition, some guests shared inspiring stories about their paths to success.

Learning of the idea for a mini lecture series through a former teacher at Northwest, Cummings determined her goal was “to provide students with some ideas of what opportunities exist after Grimsley.”

“The most popular period that teachers scheduled to attend was first period on Monday, Nov. 17, with music producer Fatin Horton,” said Cummings.

One particular speaker whom Cummings personally



Dr. Mark Hyman speaks to students and teachers about his background and dental career, and he also emphasizes the importance of perseverance. Hyman was one of many guest speakers who participated in celebration of American Education Week. Kanode photo.

enjoyed hearing was Dr. Shay Soker, a researcher/physician at Wake Forest Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Soker spends his time examining and researching ways to “enhance the vascularization and innervation of bio-engineered tissues using growth factors and cells,” according to his website www.wfirm.org.

Soker’s lecture topic proved quite relevant since CNN reported a case involving similar work to his. Soker spoke about creating new bladders out of human tissue, and on Wednesday, Nov. 19, a Colombian woman victimized by tuberculosis received both a new lower trachea and bronchial tube, which were produced from her own stem cells.

“It was very timely that Dr. Soker spoke on this topic since on the same day, news broke on a story about a windpipe transplant,” said Cummings.

Senior Larry Burnett enjoyed listening to speakers from GTCC’s Health Care program.

“What impressed me about the speakers was that they told us information that will help us save money to go to school. I will remember the many options that GTCC has to offer when the time comes,” said Burnett.

Sophomore Tony Thompson also found the program very informative and interesting.

“GTCC accepts anyone who wants to attend. Your grade point average has nothing to do with enrolling. All that matters is that you put forth a suf-

ficient effort in all that you do,” said Thompson.

Yet another guest speaker was Dr. Mark Hyman, a dentist in Greensboro whose son graduated from the school last year and whose daughter will graduate this spring. He spoke about how important it is to treat both your employees and patients well and to show them that you care.

Hyman also talked about his experiences at Grimsley and UNC-Chapel Hill. Most importantly, he emphasized the importance of perseverance in order to meet one’s goals.

“I thought hearing Dr. Hyman speak would be a rewarding and interesting presentation, and it turned out to be just that,” said long-term substitute Ron Valente.

Ringrose sets expectations high for drama department production

BY GRACE EGAN
Photographer/Staff Writer

Students welcomed Matt Ringrose, a Grimsley graduate himself, as the new drama teacher since Richard Zaruba retired last spring after 30 years of service. Upon first returning, Ringrose was surprised by all of the changes that incurred since he received his diploma in 2003.

“The school has changed a lot physically since I attended Grimsley. The enclosed walkways and elevators are all new, as well as all the cement and brick-work in the grove,” said Ringrose. “There have been a number of other changes, but the overall academic atmosphere has not changed too much. It still seems to be a leader among high schools, which was the case when I was here.”

One of his most challenging task will be following in Zaruba’s footsteps.

“It was very intimidating at first, seeing as how I was taking over such a prestigious position. Richard Zaruba is one of the reasons why I became a teacher, so while it is an absolute honor to take up where he left off, it is also a little overwhelming,” said Ringrose.

His most difficult test will be his production of the annual school musical. It remains a popular event each year, so expectations are high.

“We really want to focus on quality performances. I think that if we put on a quality show with devoted and dedicated students, the show cannot fail,” said Ringrose.

He has selected “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” for

this year’s production. Auditions will take place on December 1-2 for singing roles and later that week for acting parts.

While some students were skeptical of his choice, Ringrose assured them it will be entertaining.

“This year we wanted to go with something a little smaller in scale that could be done extremely well. In most high school programs, it is typically custom to put on a huge show with lots of spectacle, such as elaborate costumes and sets to cover up for stereotypical high school acting. At Grimsley, we have the talent and do not need to cover anything up. We really want to focus on the quality of the performance this year to demonstrate just how talented and capable our students are. That

is not to say we will not design the best costumes and sets we can. We simply do not want that to be the focus of the show,” said Ringrose.

He claimed that the musical’s success will be approached a little differently from past years.

“The success of a show can be determined in so many ways: how many people came, how much money was made, etc. The true test of a successful show is whether or not people continue talking about it after it is over. It really says something if more people come to see it after opening night because people are talking about it. That is our goal. If you do something people truly think is good, they are more likely to come and see future shows,” said Ringrose.