

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Lady Tigers win Area, Argyle ends streak

The 10th ranked Lady Tigers volleyball team defeated Kennedale to nab the title of Area champs Saturday, November 7 in Sachse. But on the following Monday their winning streak ended when they were defeated by Argyle in three games in the regional quarterfinals.

Coach Kelsey Hall and his team racked up a 37–6 season record with a district record of 8–2.

Hall said he was very pleased with the girls this year. “They worked hard from the beginning of the season and were determined to be winners,” he said.

“The seniors have worked for this season for the last four years. They have nothing to be ashamed of. The juniors, sophomores and freshmen now have the motivation to be just as successful next year,” he added.

The freshmen team won district with a 9–1 record.

The Tiger football team counted this year as a rebuilding period having only won one game.

Coach Scott Wells and his new coaching team look forward to continued improvement and competitiveness.



The Lady Tigers Volleyball team defeated Kennedale at Sachse High School to win the 2009 Area Champ title.



**Exemplary
Expectations**



Ice cream the hard way!

Kindergarten students used math and science along with phonics to end their week-long study of “i” by making ice cream. They measured and mixed ingredients and then placed the liquid into a quart-size plastic bag. That bag was then placed in a gallon-size bag filled with ice and rock salt. As students rolled the bag around their circle, they could feel the liquid freezing into a solid. “It was a lot of work, but it was well worth the effort,” according to Heather Kilgore, teacher.

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Poodle skirts were abundant on students and teachers during 50's day at ACW.

Schools celebrate 50th day fifties style

Elementary students were rocking and rolling in their poodle shirts, ponytails, rolled-up jeans and duck tails as they celebrated the 50th day of school November 3.

At ACW, teachers joined the celebration by doing the hand jive. Students guessed which teacher was older than Barbie and which one was the same age as Barbie. The doll celebrates her own 50th birthday this year.

It was hard to pick the winner of the hula-hoop contest because several students could have continued spinning after the final bell and into the night, according to PE teacher Matt Hargrove, who lead the activities in the gym.

Academics were also brought into the celebration with a study of the 50th anniversary of Alaska and Hawaii joining the union.



Happy 50th birthday Alaska and Hawaii



Second graders enjoyed bopping to the 50s beat.



Absences return to normal by Oct. 26

The flu hit school classrooms hard in October with absences peaking at 12 percent on October 16, according to Jennifer Speulda, CISD Director of Health Services. Even though the district was hit hard, school closings would not be considered until the absence rate hit at least 15 percent.

Thanksgiving celebrations begin

Parents have been invited to share a traditional Thanksgiving lunch with their students during National Parent Involvement Day, November 19 at each campus.

Classes will dismiss for the Thanksgiving holiday at the regular time on Tuesday, November 24. The District is closed November 25-27 and classes resume November 30.

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Bus drivers recognized

The wheels on the bus can't go round and round without the skills and commitment of the Commerce ISD bus drivers. Superintendent Blake Cooper recognized their contribution to the success of students during National School Bus Safety Week.

The Transportation Department includes drivers (kneeling left to right) Carl Lamm, Sonny Moore, Benny Chambliss, Shawn Bronson, Elisha Hackler, Jeff Greene, Jerrell Wheat and Director Scott Arledge.

Standing are mechanic Ramon Ybarra, Superintendent Blake Cooper, drivers Bill Melton, William Pemberton, Scott Lawson, Ingrid Jones, Penny Little, Dewey Taylor, Chris Loper, Herb Clark, Rick Flynn, Bobby Saulters, Larry Towne, Bryan Hasley and HVAC technician Jayson Campbell. Joe Reynolds is not pictured.



Preparation for UIL academics competition begins

Just as athletes practice and prepare for competition so do the UIL academics participants. Teams have been selected and teachers have begun coaching students before and after school for the competitions held in December.



▲ One-act play practice takes place every day after school at CMS. The students are performing "Freak the Mighty" by Rodman Philbrick.

◀ ACW students use memory cards to sharpen their skills for the UIL music memory competition.



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Volunteers still needed to mentor students

Every day across all campuses in CISD, volunteers can be spotted. Whether they are helping with homework, reading to a child, helping in the lunch line or just listening to a student talk outside on a sunny day, volunteers make a connection with students, proving that someone does care.

Although 100 volunteers are currently active, Communities In Schools Case Manager Lois Stevens says there's room for more. Persons wanting to donate their time must attend a training session and undergo a criminal background check. Contact Stevens at 903-886-3795 to begin the process.



FFA chapter competes in Leadership Development Events

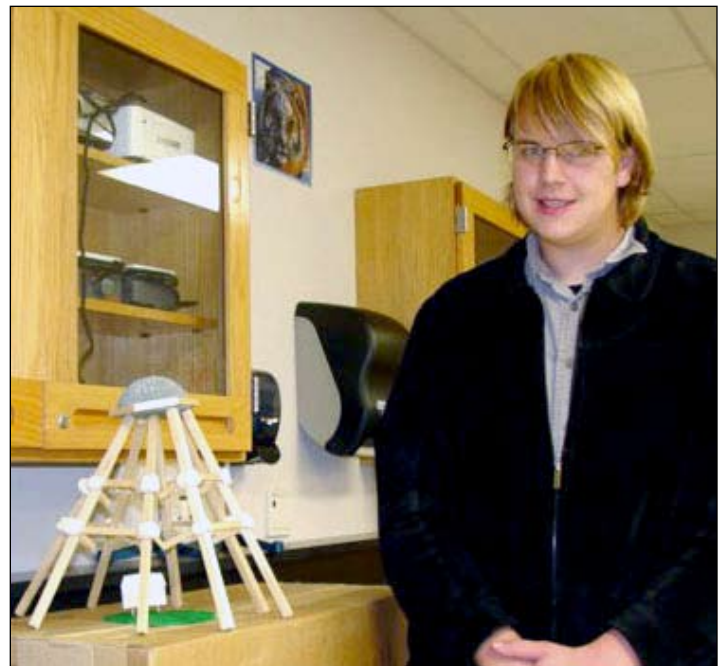
Students in the CHS FFA Chapter recently traveled to A&M-Commerce, Tarleton State University and Quinlan High School competing in Leadership Development Events.

At A&M-Commerce, Senior Elizabeth Tarrant and Junior Ashley Kanaman took third place in the public relations event.

Over 20 FFA chapters competed at the Tarleton State University LDEs. Three Commerce teams placed in the top five of their divisions.

The District IV FFA LDE was held in Quinlan and five Commerce teams participated. Freshman Chelsi Green took second place in Greenhand Creed Speaking and freshmen Macy McQueary, sophomore Ashley Stegall and senior Elizabeth Tarrant took first place in Radio. These teams will advance to the area competition.

Others participating were freshmen Grayson Dykes, Payton Ferguson, Mathew and Angel Lunsford and Patricia Hackler, who were on the Greenhand Quiz Team. Ashley Kanaman and Elizabeth Tarrant placed fourth in Public Relations. Sophomore Caryn McKinley participated in Senior Creed Speaking.



The focus on science continues at CHS. Senior Ben Bement shows his model of the Wardenclyffe Tower, which was designed by inventor Nikola Tesla, who pioneered wireless communications. Students in the Research and Design class made presentations on Tesla's life and his impact on the world.