Students pay tribute to classmate and friend with displays, vigil, scholarship

By Will Palmer and Sadie Burton
Editors-in-Chief

On Jan. 16, the Taft Union High School community was devastat-
ed to learn of the death of Shaye Fields.

Shaye Lee Fields was born July 6, 1992 in Bakersfield and raised in Taft. She was very popular at Taft High, and her family was well known and appreciated throughout the community. Shaye is survived by her father Kim, her mother Gina, her brother Kyler and several other immediate family members.

Students and others who were close to the family held multiple events in memory of the much loved student. A candlelight vigil was held in front of the Fields’ house in her honor, and a large piece of pink butcher paper was posted in the front yard.

The funeral service for Shaye was held Thursday, Jan. 22 at 3:00 pm at Westside District Cemetery.

On Jan. 19, the first day of school following Shaye Fields’ death in a car accident on Jan. 16. Students wrote their sentiments on the wall poster and sheets of butcher paper taped to long tables in the quad.

Classmates Tiffany Saltibar (left) and Sierra Sutterland add their personal messages to Shaye in the quad on Jan. 19. Photo by Bri Wurtz

Friends expressed their sense of loss in a roadside memorial on Hwy. 119. Photo by Bri Wurtz

Shaye Fields was involved in many clubs and programs at TUHS, including ASB and AVID. She was also one of the best players on the golf team.

“She was 41 on the golf team,” said junior Patricia Moore, one of Field’s best friends. “She always had a smile, and could brighten up any room. She was the best friend you could ever ask for. She always looked for the best in people. I miss her.”

“She was a wonderful friend,” said senior Corran Thompson. “She always had a smile on her face, no matter what kind of day it was. I could say so much about her. She was a gift to us for a short time – too short.”

“She was nice, polite, outgoing, and never afraid to say anything. She was open and over-the-top fun. She could say so much about her. She was the #1 person. She was open and over-the-top fun. She was always look on the bright side, ver-

Counselor Dedale Noreiga.

“She was great, an awesome person. She always made you smile,” said junior Phillip Allen.

“I even though she sometimes would experience the challenges teens face, at the end of a conversation, she would always look on the bright side, ver-

The Voice of the Wildcats Since 1912

TUHS community copes with tragic loss of junior student-athlete Shaye Fields

Students and friends gather to show love and admiration for Fields and her family.

By Sadie Burton and Will Palmer
Editors-in-Chief

The loss of a Wildcat has over-

The funeral service for Shaye Fields received immediate care at Kern Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead.

The cause of death was severe head injuries.

I immediately after the accident, the effects of the loss of a much

The community: Shaye’s AVID teacher, Debra Popejoy. “I just hope that people will reflect on her mem-

Friends of Shaye. offici-

On Monday, Jan. 19 and dur-

The memorial scholarship has been established in Shaye’s honor by the ASB, and stickers circulated among the community encouraging others to buckle up in her memory.

The poem from the funeral ser-

The community: Shaye’s love of God and her dedication to serve others, and he asked attendees to continue her good works.

The funeral service began, with a light drizzle as the sun shone through. Members of the community: Shaye’s love of God and her dedication to serve others, and he asked attendees to continue her good works.

His words were powerful and supportive, and the community: Shaye’s love of God and her dedication to serve others, and he asked attendees to continue her good works.

Family and friends numbering in the hundreds gathered on Thurs-

The poem from the funeral service began, with a light drizzle as the sun shone through. Members of the community: Shaye’s love of God and her dedication to serve others, and he asked attendees to continue her good works.

On the first day back to school after the accident, students wore pink and yellow balloons in her favorite colors. They also decorated the quad with posters, pictures, and a giant pink sign for students to share their thoughts and memories of Shaye.

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Public displays of affection, or PDA, have become a problem at Taft Union High School. However, there are many sides to the topic, meaning both teachers and students are to blame for some of the problems.

Students overstep unwritten boundaries of decency by publicly displaying affection. This has resulted in a knee-jerk reaction from the teachers and administrators displaying any form of PDA (except when it comes to the inappropriately sexual displays, it seems).

Minor displays of affection are acceptable as long as they do not cross the boundary lines of decency is not right. However, both students and teachers can solve this problem with one step: stop going over the edge. Teachers need to stop overreacting to small, harmless displays of affection, while students need to stop displaying disgusting amounts of PDA.

Acceptable displays of affection should include things like short hugs, holding hands and maybe small pecks in between classes. However, making out, grabbing inappropriate places and doing things like kissing really, really too much when it comes to decency. Basically anything further than quick kisses is inappropriate and it would be greatly appreciated if the one did not happen outside of class.

However, the same should go with teachers. Faculty should generally accept decent displays, while vulgar displays should be the punish- ing offenses.

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**School cellphone photo and video abuses reined in**

By Will Palmer

Editor-in-Chief

Do you ever feel like recording your teacher on your phone? A strange question, but one to which some students can truthfully answer “yes.”

Texting and calling people in class are yesterday’s distractions; now students are pulling pranks on teachers by recording them on their phones to post on the Internet (partic- ularly YouTube).

One instance at Kentridge High School, near Seattle, is an excellent example. A student, Gregory Requa, videotaped one of his fellow class- mates making lewd pelvic thrusts behind a female teacher’s back. He later added special effects and audio to the video, including the rap song “Ms. New Booty”) and posted it on YouTube.

The usual Christmas theme was replaced for this year’s third annual Coloring Contest, mainly for fun.

Participants were given a copy of a coloring sheet, which contained only

Participants did not participate in the contest, but their mother, who works as a student custodian, reported the relationship to a school official on Dec. 2. School officials immediately notified the police, who began an investigation.

Stubblefield was arrested when she went to the police station to be questioned and admitted the improper relationship to authorities. The improper relationship had been going on for a couple months, Taft Police Lt. Ed Whiting told the Cali- fornian. Stubblefield was released on a bond (bail) of $22,500 shortly after her arrest. She is reportedly living on stilts. Nick Ramirez, Rod Sanchez

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Custodian arrested for improper student relationship

By Matt McDaniels

Staff Writer

TAHS custodian Kristy Stubble- field, 36, was arrested by Taft police on Dec. 11 in suspicion of having a sexual relationship with a 17-year- old male student.

At her arraignment on Dec. 12, Stubblefield pleaded not guilty to two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and one count of oral copulation with a minor.

According to a report in the Bakersfield Californian, the victim, who worked as a student custodian, reported the relationship to a school official on Dec. 2. School officials immediately notified the police, who began an investigation.

Stubblefield was arrested when she went to the police station to be questioned and admitted the improper relationship to authorities. The improper relationship had been going on for a couple months, Taft Police Lt. Ed Whiting told the Californian.

Stubblefield was released on a bond (bail) of $22,500 shortly after her arrest. She is reportedly living on stilts.

A preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 29 at the Taft branch of the Kern County Superior Court. At this hearing, according to FindLaw.com, a judge uses a “probable cause” stan- dard in deciding whether the dis- trict attorney has produced enough evidence to convince a reasonable jury that the defendant committed the crimes with which she has been charged.

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Instructional aide Jeannie Ecklund wins Staff Coloring Contest

By Miranda Landreth

Staff Writer

The usual Christmas theme was replaced for this year’s third annual Staff Coloring Contest.

Instead, Spanish and Cartooning teacher Bob Peterson drew a styl- ized picture of Taft High alumnus Billy Nelson in honor of his participation in the 2008 Summer Olympics. Participants were given a copy of the drawing, which contained only

the depiction of Nelson running with an Olympic torch. Their chal- lenge was to fill in the sheet with their own artwork.

Instructional aide Jeannie Ecklund took first place honors.

“I was very pleased when I found out that I had won,” said Ecklund. She decided to draw Nelson run- ning in China, to reflect the fact that the Olympic games had taken place in Bei- jing. Ecklund took art all four years of high school, as well as in college.

“I don’t want to eat as much.” — Andrew Arel- lano, sophomore

“I want to get a 4.0.” — Dakotah Bailey, senior

“I want to develop dolphin-like character- istics.” — Chesney Duak, junior

“I want to study three hours a day to get my grades up to where they need to be.” — Jesse Gama, sophomore

“I want to listen to Mrs. Schowensie more often.” — Warren Mead, senior

“I want to to climb a moun- tain on stilts.” — Jordan Yarbrough, junior

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Survey and Photos by Monica Solis

News Editor

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The Gusher

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The Gusher is a monthly publication of the journalism class at Taft Union High School. The Gusher is an open forum for stu- dents, faculty and alumni of TUHS. The opinions and views expressed in The Gusher are the sole responsibility of the staff and do not reflect the views of either TUHS, the TUHS Dis- trict, or the Board of Trustees.
Carli Tweedy awarded Most Improved Student honor at fall Renaissance Rally

By Krystle Holder Features Editor

Carli Tweedy was named the Most Improved Student at the fall Renaissance Rally. She raised her GPA a total of 1.36 points, from a 2.14 to a 4.0, during the spring. Her teachers enjoyed having her in their classes and only have good things to say about her.

“She’s a great student, very bright and respectful,” said English teacher Paul Martinez. “She is in the epitome of the perfect student. She is going to go far.”

“She’s my student aide, but last year in AP Chemistry she was one of the better students,” said Eric Newton. “She asked good questions and was very interesting, she took it very personal and put all of her energy into a subject she put a lot of effort into it and her work is respectful, she helps others,” he added.

Carli is a very diligent and knowledgeable student. “She’s at the top of my class; she’s one of the brightest,” said John Dickey.

Carli found that her schedule worked well for her and was keeping her from getting good grades.

“I stopped slaving through my schedule and made it work for me,” said Tweedy. “I had overloaded myself. I got over my head.” Her favorite teacher is John Dickey.

Winter Sport and Strength Camp students attend two-day UCLA meet, Olympic champions

By Nick Ramirez Staff Writer

The winter Sport and Strength Camp was held during December, with 60 students participating. It was super-vised by Paul Martinez. He chose his students based on their attendance, attitude and effort.

The first thing they took place over two days, Dec. 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. When they arrived they all dressed in their speed and power gear and then tested over the two days to see how much they had improved.

According to Martinez, “All the athletes improved and worked really hard. At the end of the day they got the chance to see and talk to some of the former and current Olympians. Carli Tweedy was the Most Improved Student honored at the fall Renaissance Rally. Photo by Cristina Loza

Tina Dickey with her family after she was named Renaissance Staff Member of the Year. Photo by Cristina Loza

State legislature empowers schools by passing bill addressing burgeoning problem of cyber-bullying

By Monica Solis News Editor

With new technological ad- vances, cyber-bullying has become increasingly prevalent throughout the country. The days of a big kid intimidating a small one with cash and access are all but gone. The days of a bully issuing threats through social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook, through instant messaging and text messaging are a thing of the past.

There have been many incidents in which cyber-bullying has ended in tragic results. Ryan Halligan, a 13-year-old boy, took his life after being encouraged to do so by his peers. In Novato, California, a hateful Internet campaign followed 14-year-old Olivia through three schools. Her classmates created a MySpace page, which they called “Olivia Hates,” which was full of taunts, slurs and threats, all directed at her.

In a more recent case in Mississipi, Lori Dress, 49, was convicted last November of three misdemeanor charges of computer fraud for her involvement in 2006 in creating a fake MySpace account to psycho- logically abuse a teenage girl, who later committed suicide in October 2006.

Drew, with the help of his daugh- ter Sarah, then 13, and Ashley Grills, a family friend, posed as a teenage boy named “Josh Evans.” They used this fictional boy to flirt with and later reject 13-year-oldangan Mogan Meier.

After receiving an “I’m just too old” from “Josh,” saying “the world would be a better place without you,” Mogan hanged herself that afternoon in her closet.

As a result of such incidents, at least 13 states, including Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina and Washington, have passed laws aimed at stopping harassment, incitation and bullying through the Web.

California is the latest state to take a stand against this growing problem. Assembly Bill 80, sponsored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), is designed to give schools the authority to suspend or expel students for bullying fellow low classmaten through the internet, text messaging or by any other elec- tronic means.

This new law became effective on January 1 and only applies to bullying that occurs during school hours or during school-related functions.

TUHS psychologist Mark Shoff- ler, occasionally deals with bully- ing-related problems here on campus. He has noticed that these types of problems have increased significantly.

There are many things a student can do if they are being bullied. It is completely confidential.

“The first thing you can do is tell someone, it could be a teacher or a counselor,” said Shoffler.
Students of the Month know the way to academic success

Michael Bennett
By Brittany Dillingham
Staff Writer

The senior November Student of the Month is Michael Bennett. Bennett earned a 4.0 GPA in the fall semester. Bennett has made a huge turn-around this year.

“They were bad before and I just kept them of being bad,” said Bennett.

He decided that since it was his last year in high school he decided to go out with a bang and please the people around him by earning good grades for a change.

“I wanted to make my last year in high school a memorable one,” Bennett said.

Bennett offers three tips, go to school every day (it helps a lot), turn in your homework, and pay attention in class (don’t just socialize).

“I wish that I would have tried to do this my freshman and sophomore more year,” Bennett acknowledged.

Bennett is grateful to English teacher Jim Carnal for always pushing him to do his best.

Bennett’s one regret was not staying involved in AVID.

“I wasn’t willing to work as hard as they wanted me to, so I dropped the class,” said Bennett. He worked very hard the Fall semester of AVID, but it took a lot of effort but he discovered that it was not impossible to achieve.

Courtney Houle
By Shannon Gillespie
Staff Writer

Courtney Houle was one of the outstanding students of the month for November.

Houle was the junior November Student of The Month. Her GPA of 3.7, combined with her awesome attitude, led three teachers to nominate her. Yearbook advisor Lisa Borrecco, leadership teacher Eric Newton and cartoon-drawing teacher Bob Petersen all sang her praises in their nominating letters.

Borrecco said, “Courtney has been my lifesaver in Yearbook. Even though she only holds office once a year, she has never let me down and always follows through with her responsibilities, which is what I’ve come to expect of her.”

Eric Newton added, “Courtney has been a very spirited student that always does well with others and is always making it fun for everyone involved. She has been a great Activities Commissioner this year.”

“Courtney is a very gifted artist in my cartoon drawing class who always gets her assignments done completely and on time,” art teacher Petersen stated.

“Courtney advises her peers “to always do my homework and pay attention,” she said which makes her an excellent student.

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How to drive safely in winter fog

By Silvia Gervacio
Staff Writer

Driving in the fog is difficult and much more dangerous than most people realize. In fact, 2007 held 60 accidents in one day due to fog, and in 2007 there was a 100-car pile-up in the Central Valley. In total, fog was responsible for 931 reported injuries and 57 known deaths in 2006. To stay clear of trouble during fog season, make sure your lights are on so others can see you. Do NOT use your high beams or the light may reflect back to you.

Slow down. Driving too fast will make it hard to prevent an accident. Avoid tapping on your breaks every five seconds in order to pre- vent the driver behind you from hitting you.

Turn down your radio and be more cautious of your surround- ings. Traffic and pedestrians will be harder to spot in the fog.

The girls normally wear trousers and a fancy shirt or sari (a six- foot length of material that wraps around the waist). However, the guys dress much like American boys with jeans and a shirt.

The Indian culture is very differ- ent from American culture.

“I broadened my horizons, re- moved the negative images and showed me there were much more positive out looks,” Moe said.

Telugu is the main language in the state Moe visited. Every state has a different language, Moe learned while in India.

They are very absorbed in culture, religion and education.”

Moe stated. “Unfortunately, their casteism is like our racism.”

In the Hindu religion, which dominates Indian life, all people be- longing to one of several social classes, which are called castes. One cannot move up the social ladder. Instead, if you live a good life, you can be reincarnated in a higher caste. Changing your caste is very difficult and much more

By Devin Smith
Staff Writer

Soroptimist International is a na- tionwide organization made up of women who perform services for the less fortunate or anyone who needs to be served. Fortunately for Tal- hight, members of Soroptimist International of Talihight have formed a group to allow girls the chance to serve the community as well. This is S Club.

The S Club was started last year at Talihight and is comprised of returning members and freshmen. All together the group has 22 members.

Advisor Rosemary Day and a de- voted group of club officers (presi- dent Jordan, vice president Angela, secretary Paige, and treasurer Math) lead the S Club.

Service projects this year have included a yard sale to raise mon- ey, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the Key Club for its blood drive, and a float in the annual Christmas Parade. Members of the S Club gather at a Christmas event. Photo by Rosemary Day

The S Club offers service opportunities for TUHS girls

By Devon Smith
Staff Writer

Before we begin, let’s go over what constitutes winter fog. It is also a good way to make new friends and someone you can count on to go when you need anything. Telugu loves being a member. “I joined because I wanted to teach the subject. Schools are work- ing hard to meet those demands by trying to hire teachers who can teach Chinese. Currently TUHS offers French and Spanish. In the past, Talhight has offered Latin and German. May- be in the future, TUHS could offer Chinese here on campus as another foreign language. “I really like that idea because we have to understand that one out of five people (on the planet) speak Chinese,” said Mike Cowan, foreign language department chair. “It’s widely spoken, and China has a powerful economy.” Experts be-

Chinese now fastest-growing language class in U.S. schools

By Monica Solis
News Editor

Chinese is increasingly being taught in schools throughout the U.S. In 2007, 46,500 students were learning Chinese. Today, ex- perts believe approximately 50,000 students are learning Chinese.

In eight years, the number of stu- dents learning Chinese has increased tenfold, making it the fastest-grow- ing language in the country.

“The growth has been substan- tial,” Steve Ackley, spokesman for the Chinese language council, told the Times. “Everyone realizes this is a country with whom we are go- ing to do business on a business and social and cultural level in the future.”

The demand for Chinese has be- come so great that it is becoming dif- ficult to recruit a lot more.

Campus Life shares Christian fellowship

By Brittany Dillingham
Staff Writer

No doubt you have seen Campus Life mentioned in the morning an- nouncements. Have you ever won- dered what the club involves?

Campus Life is a Christian-based club that has been active at Talhight High. Math teacher Josh Tofte is the club’s advisor.

The point of the club is to teach the subject. Schools are work- ing hard to meet those demands by trying to hire teachers who can teach Chinese.

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Signal early, and when reaching a stop sign, don’t stomp on your brakes. sudden stops may cause a collision. If you decide to pull off the road, make sure you are completely off the street. Turn your driving lights off but turn on your flashers to let people know where you are parked.

Fog can reduce visibility completely at times. The best advice in this condition would be to stay off the road until the fog clears up and it’s safe.

Tenth grade physics students get a lecture on wave mo- tion. All students must take physics and chemistry before they graduate at the end of 10th grade. Photo courtesy of Leslie Moe.

Leslie Moe travels to India for three-week science teaching project

By Rebekah Horton
Staff Writer

Science teacher Leslie Moe spent her Christmas vacation, plus the first week of the spring semester, in Mor, India on a science exhibition sponsored by the charity Children Love. The organization worked with her church in Bakkefield to sponsor a group trip to India to teach the children about astronomy.

Moe also helped the students learn English, and she set up 14 sci- ence exhibits at Riverside School, a private Christian school.

“I was so proud to help the sci- ence students,” Moe said. “Ev- eryone helped out so well, and I’m proud of the friendships I made.”

One memory that stood out to Moe’s mind. Sheubashina was a 10th grad- er who worked closely with Moe.

“Sheubashina is really serious about her education, along with the other kids who make it to tenth grade,” Moe said. The students’ 11th and 12th grade is like college to us.

“They (the students) envy us, but they’re so much like Moe,” Moe said. Sheubashina had just graduated from the students.

“My friends and clothing really stood out to me,” Moe said. “The food was some of the healthiest I’ve ever had.”
By Monica Solis
News Editor

The stadium lights are back on, but this time the spotlight is on the varsity boys’ soccer team. The Wild-cats lost to Arvin 6-1 in a friendly pre-season opening game on Dec. 2. They then played in both the Liberty and Ganes Tournament. The boys finished in third place in the Ganes Tournament.

“The team is progressing well,” said head coach Cris Flores. “The only problem is that our key players gettin’ hurt and some are still not committing.”

“We’re doing pretty good, we just need to practice more and try harder,” added senior Chris Nevarez.

The Wildcats shut out the Mojave Mustangs 8-0 in their first home game of the pre-season on Jan. 6. Senior Chris Nevarez contributed three goals, juniors Sotenes Men- doza and Saul Valencia put in two goals each and sophomore Kevin Rivero closed up the score with another goal.

The next day, with high spirits, the boys played against Mission Preparatory High School of San Luis Obispo in a fast-paced game. It was a very close game with many at- tempts on goal from both teams, but in the end Mission Prep managed to shut out the boys 1-0.

With pre-season at an end, the boys found themselves with a 6-7 record.

The Wildcats played their first game of league play against Te- hachapi on Jan. 13, defeating the Warriors 4-1 with two goals from Chris Nevarez and two more from Saul Valencia.

“This was one of our best games so far,” commented Flores. “We were able to touch the ball from side to side and develop a good attack to move the ball forward.”

In their first league game away from home, the Wildcats lost to the Arvin Bears 2-1 on Jan. 16. The boys had the lead going into second half with a goal by junior Saul Valencia. By the end of the game they were tied 1-1. They then headed into over- time where the Bears managed to get another goal and win the game.

They face some tough com- petition this season. “Arvin and Wasco pose the biggest challenge,” said Flores. “Arvin is fast in the mid-dle and they attack well, and Wasco is really strong in midfield.”

“I think we can go 6-5 or 6-4 in league,” said Flores. “I don’t like to say that because I’m kind of jinxing myself, but we can do well.”

This year they sold dinner tick- ets in order to raise money for their team pictures and their end of the season sweatshirts.

“We had a very good turnout,” said a frustrat- ed coach Billy Long. “We coaches can teach them, but it’s up to their dedication to make the season what it becomes.”

By Rod Sanchez
Staff Writer

The JV girls are steadily improving, forcing op-ponents to give chase in games and in the league standings.

The girls played Mission Prep on Jan. 7 and won 2-1. Chelsea Coke scored both goals. Two days later, however, they lost to Mira Monte 4-1. Again, Coke scored the only goal.

League play kicked off against Tehachapi on Jan. 13. The Lady War- riors won a close game 4-3. Shim put two balls in the net and Coke added what seems to be her reliable contribution of one goal per game.

After their defeat, the Lady Cats got into gear and beat Arvin 3-0 on Jan. 16. Early in the first half junior Kathy Lopez scored the first goal. Arvin defended well against Taft but their efforts couldn’t stop Lopez from scoring two more goals to claim victory.

“Our team has come together,” says captain Nicole Owens.

At Jan. 16, Taft has gotten off to an even start at 1-1 in SSL. The Lady Cats are content with their re- cord so far and are optimistic about the remaining season.

Some of the standout players in- clude Chris Nevarez, Saul Valencia, Alexis Meza, Jesse Gama and Kevin Rivero. According to Flores, the most improved player is Tony Ramirez.

“Alexis has a good chance to go pro,” commented sophomore Jesse Gama. “He’s a good defender, he has the speed, he’s smart with the ball and he supports the whole team.”

“The one thing we need to work on is the defense,” noted Flores. “They’re really young and they need to be more patient and a lot smarter with the ball.”

By Travis Morrow
Sports Editor

The girls junior varsity soccer team hopes to improve on their overall record from last year and en- able players to move to varsity next year. Coach Tim Greer is heading the team for the second season.

Greer feels their season is going to go really well as they have a lot of experienced players who are will- ing to learn. Some of the standout players on the team are freshmen Lauren Shinn and Kristin Coker, sophomore Jade Morse, and juniors Maya Aguilar and Cindy Palacios.

The girls kicked off things on Dec. 4, shutting out Independence 2-0. The first goal was scored by Shim, with sophomore Rhonda Lyn Boot scoring the second goal.

On Dec. 8 the girls played Mission Oaks, losing 6-1. Boot scored the Wildcats’ only goal. Mission Oaks scored all six of their goals in the first half.

The girls then played in the Ganc- es Tournament at CSUB on Dec. 20, losing to Foothill 2-6. Their 3-0 loss to Bishop knocked them out of the tournament.

The girls played Mission Prep on Jan. 7 and won 2-1. Chelsea Coke scored both goals. Two days later, however, they lost to Mira Monte 4-1. Again, Coke scored the only goal.

League play kicked off against Tehachapi on Jan. 13. The Lady War- The Gusher

Varsity boys soccer finishes preseason with mixed results, begins league play

By Monica Solis
News Editor

Every team would like to head into the league season with a good start, but it does not always happen. Such was the case for the Taft var- sity girls soccer team after experi- encing a loss in the first game of the season.

The Lady Cats started off the season with a disappointing loss to Mission Prep, 5-0, on Jan. 7. Mission Prep scored one goal in the first half, so the game was close. In the second half Mission Prep scored four more goals to shut out the ‘Cats.

“If they’re team, so it’s their choice to make it what it is,” said a frustrat- ed coach Billy Long. “We coaches can teach them, but it’s up to their dedication to make the season what it becomes.”

Pre-season at an end, the team hopes to improve on their re- cord. They should supply next season with a variety of experienced players.
Sports

Varsity girls basketball has “ups and downs” but enthusiasm remains high

By Cristina Loza
Features Editor

This season has been anything but disappointing for the Lady Wildcats varsity basketball team. Their 51-37 win over Arvin on Jan. 17 left the girls feeling pretty enthusiastic.

It was intense but we dominated,” said sophomore Karla Lopez and Jessica Barlow, almost simultaneously.

The team has had a good season so far with wins of 54-13 against Maricopa on Dec. 2 and 57-41 against South on Dec. 9. On Dec. 10, the Lady Cats lost to Sierra 63-42.

They went on to play Corcoran High School, losing 56-46. In the final game of the tournament they pulled off a win against McFarland, which narrowly defeated the Cats 46-45 on Jan. 13. Another disappointment for the Wildcats was their 38-33 loss to the Shafter Lady Generals on Jan. 20.

Some of the challenging teams the Lady Wildcats have already played are Garces, Redwood and Monache. The Ladies will also face Tehachapi, Shafter, Arvin (again) and Bakersfield Christian.

“I think our attitude is one of our strengths,” commented Coach Ed Hill.

Although all of the team members are good, senior Juana Espinoza is one of the standouts.

Coach Hill says one way the team can improve is by reducing the number of turnovers.

“If we keep improving, we’ll be an excellent team,” said Hill.

Even though this season is going well, the team would like more support from the student body.

“We would like our student body to come and cheer,” said Hill.

JV boys soccer team endures rough pre-season but looks forward to progress in league play

By Silvia Gervacio
Staff Writer

The 2008-09 boys JV soccer team had a tough pre-season, but they are making an effort to start off the South Sequoia League season well.

They are confident that they can step up to the challenge.

“We started off bad but now we are going to step it up and do way better,” said sophomore Edwin Cazares.

The boys have a lot of potential.

“I think that we have a good chance at SSL if we get our act together,” said sophomore captain Jose Barrera.

The JV boys played their first league game at home against Tehachapi on Jan. 13.

“We dominated the whole game but just couldn’t put [the ball] in the net,” Coach Jose Taboja told the Midway Driller.

Tehachapi took the lead in the first half, but with five minutes left in the game, Braulio Lopez and Edgar Padilla tied the game up with a score of 2-2.

The boys finished with another tie against Arvin 0-0, and lost to Shafter 5-0 on Jan. 20 before winning at BCHS.

On Jan. 23 the boys went to BCHS looking for a win. They tried their best and ended up defeating the Eagles 5-1.

On Jan. 27, the boys experienced a disappointing loss to Wasco 4-0.

For the moment, they hold a record of 1-2-2.

With five games remaining, the boys are determined to finish the season strongly.

The Gusher: Winter sports season wrap-ups & spring sports season previews

In the next issue of The Gusher:
**** The "cool girls" bull an outcast in Thank You. From left, Brenda Gallo, Patricia Petersen, Samantha Cox, Bethany McWhorter, Morgan Gallatin and Jordan Cordova. Photo by Bill White

Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet confronts school bullying
By Miranda Landreth
Staff Writer

The Advanced Drama club performed Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet and Other Rarely Used Expressions, a drama by Jonathan Darth, on Nov. 20-22. This play uses scenes and monologues that vary from the unusual and wildly theatrical to still moments of angst as it observes one of the biggest problems facing teens today, bullying.

Helen and Achilles are two teens who are constantly picked on at school. Achilles has a regular meet-up place where he safely hides from the school and, Helen has become so afraid of the girls who make fun of her that she creates reasons to be late.

Cool girl Glinda appears and offers them a way out of the bullying, so of course they jump at the chance. They quickly realize that Glinda’s solution is to turn them into bullies. They both resist. She sends them to a school that is even worse than their own. They only learn that escape is saving themselves, even if that means becoming the people who tormented them.

Jordan Cordova was a standout as Glinda because she was not afraid of losing herself in her character. Her exuberant stage presence was a pleasure to watch. Morgan Gallatin gave an outstanding performance in the role of Helen, playing her first as a gook and then as a bully.

In its first on-stage performance, Rodrigo Sanchez did an exceptional job playing the role of Achilles.

Other performers included Jerry Barham, Karl Edmandson, Jonathan Solis, Samantha Cox, Carli Tweedy and Jesus Vazquez. All were ably supported by the stage crew, who handled sound, lighting and sets.

House of Night series explores life, mysteries at teen vampire school
By Travis Morrow
Sports Editor

The House of Night series is PC, Chris and Kirstin Cast is about a fledgling vampyre who has been marked and goes to the House of Night, a school for vampyres.

Zoey is just your average everyday girl until the day she is marked by a mysterious being who gives her to an outcast. Neferet, the high priestess, has declared war on humans. Zoey’s friends who supported and trusted her are furious at her. In one week Zoey has turned out to be enemies. People of Night, and Zoey’s adventures at the school take a mysterious turn. In this book she has changes the rules of admittance and the ritual itself. In this book she has confronts school bullying.

In the second book, Betrayed, Zoey takes over the Dark Daughters and changes the rules of admittance and the ritual itself. In this book she has a boyfriend who is also a vampyre. Also, Zoey and her friends when humans are being killed and the community does not know who by. Later in the book death strikes the House of Night and Zoey has to find the courage to face a full creature challenge.

In the third book, Chosen, Zoey finds herself in trouble with a snob girl named Aphrodite. She is the leader of the Dark Daughters, a group that meets every time there is a new moon.

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