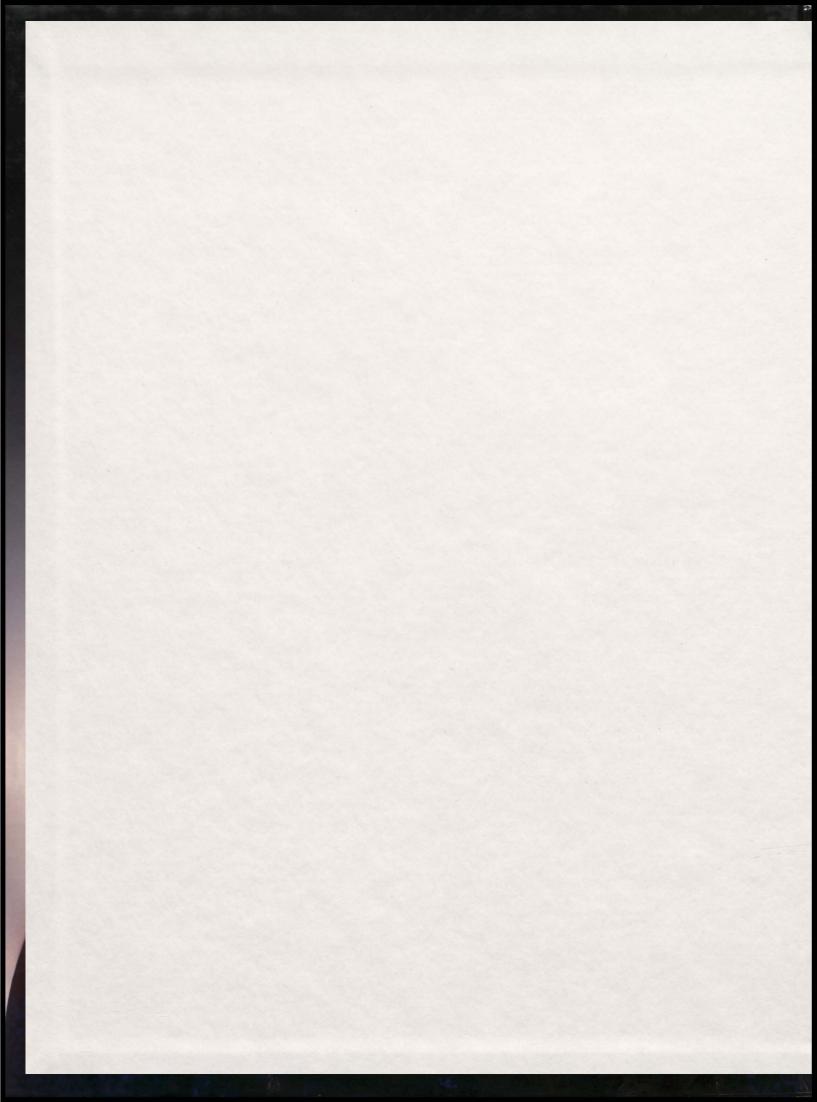
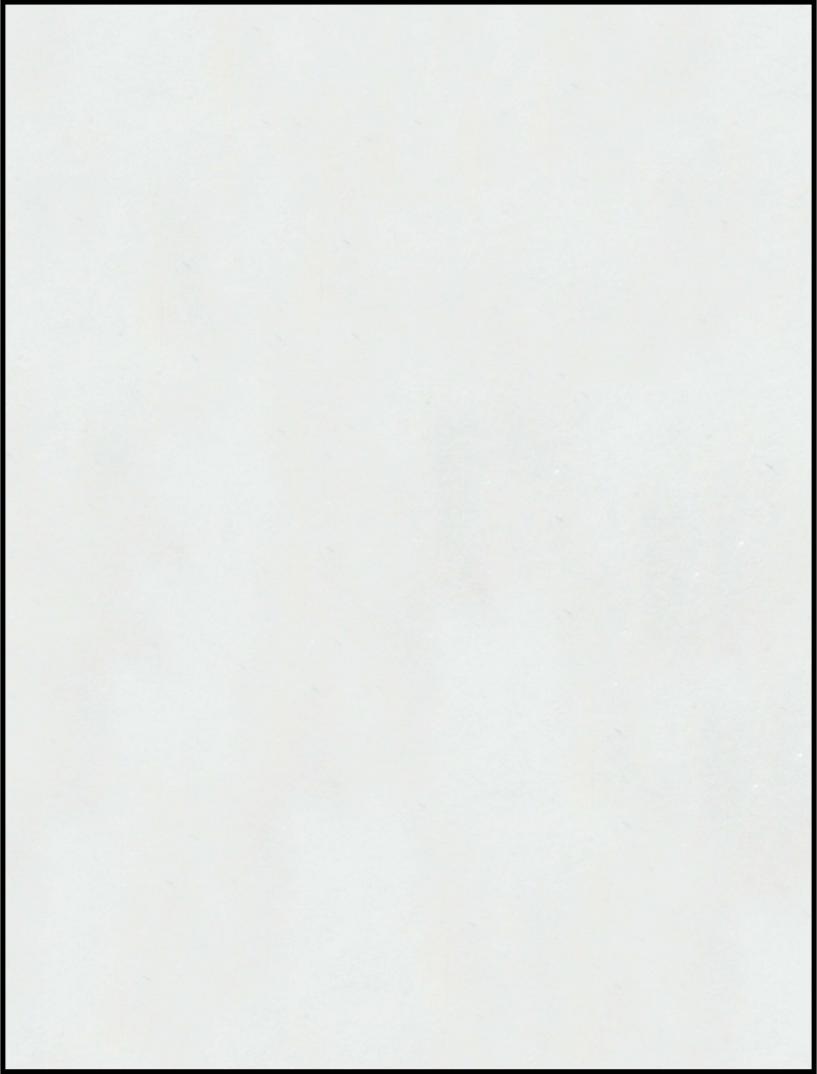
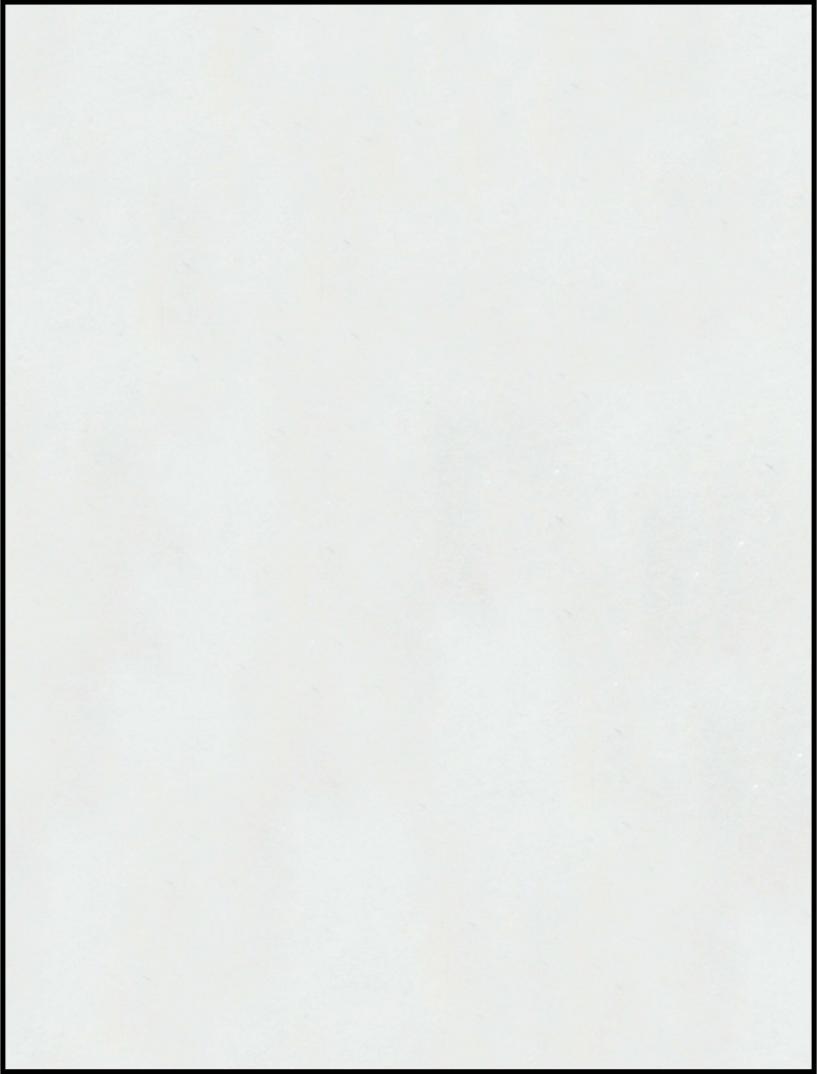


THE EPIC







FPIC

An epic is generally a long poem telling of the heroic deeds of an individual that have an impact on culture.

This "epic" tells of the heroes of West Central, and their contributions to the culture of the high school.

Senior

Class Pictures.....

Clubs and Organizations.....

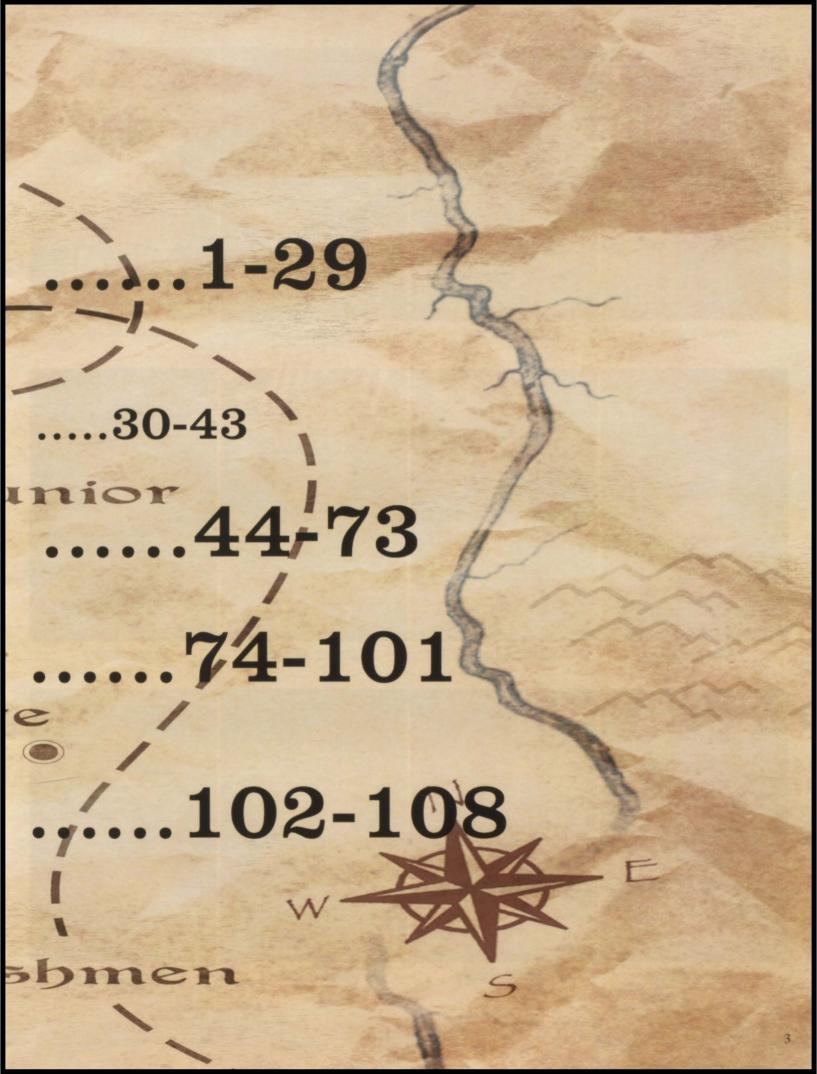
Sports..

Events

Sophomo

Advertisements....

Fre



SEMIORS

CLASS OF 2014



Stephanie Adams



Emma Alexander



Madison Alliman



Brad Bavery



Sydeney Bigger



Monica Brooks



Aleesha Brownlee



Jamie Bundy



Ashley Carnes



Erin Cavanaugh



Jeffery Colwell



Kayla Courson



Tyler Cox



Dakotah Ferguson



Mason Fullerton



Taylor Grafton



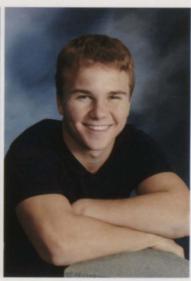
Caitlyn Gyvoai



Sadie Hilten



Marissa Lange



Andrew Lewis



Thomas Lewis



Alexi Licata



Brett MacIntyre



Katherine Marston



Shafer McKune



Tyler Meldrum



Ryan Minkler



Seth Mize



Anjeanette Moore



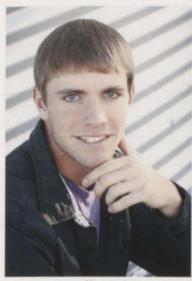
Cody Moss



Madison Muff



Caitlyn Nichols



Bradley Olson



MacKenzie Olson



Caleb Paulus



Cierra Pulse



Savannah Pulse



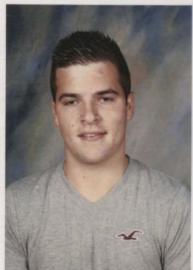
Katie Reid



Katie Robertson



Jenna Schaley



Marcel Schmidt



Austin Schneider



Kurt Scott



Thomas Seitz



Megan Shamblin



Ryan Simpson



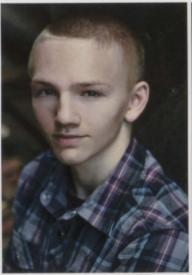
Elias Sjolander



Sierra Smith



Catherine Steck



Joby Steffensmeier



Anna Stevenson



Ashley Stewart



Ian Stokes



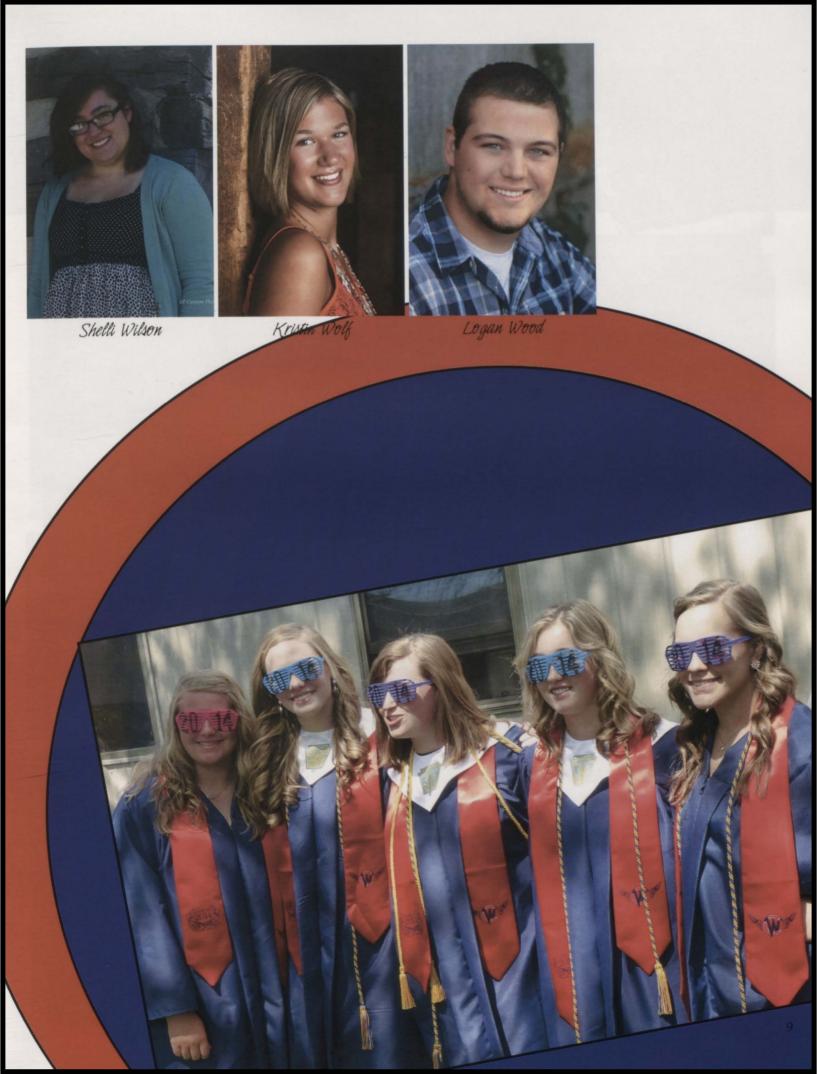
Angelica Strack



Brooke Vancil



Haley Willits























Senow Cass













I, Jeff Colwell, of sound body and mind hereby leave Landon the ability to not miss from two inches away; Caleb Dowell a pair of tennis shoes; Kami a paper towel along with Bertha; I will Earl Dean a gas gauge so he doesnt have to walk 5 miles through corn fields.

I, Angel Strack, of sound body and mind, do hereby leave: Dean and Owen dirty pickup lines, my bowling girls the patience to make it through the loud meets, and all my friends still stuck here, the will to keep pushing for success. I know you can do it. Good luck guys.

I, Bradley Olson, of sound body and mind, do hereby leave: My ducks, "you know quack quack", to Logan Torrance to always have a reason to leave a party for a while, Regan Bowman my exhaust tip to make his diesel even louder, and to Shady Hartman my truck so she can get to school. without having to ask for a ride.

, Mason Fullerton, of sound body and mind, do herby leave Andrea good strength and health for your high school sports career; Caleb Shinberger, another duck hunt at pot hole thunder, my football skills, and a four wheel drive truck; Caleb Dowell, my livestock judging skills, my corduroy blazer and a speeding ticket; Regan a red tractor, and my arc welding skills; Matt Vancil, a rust free truck, a monster buck, and my welding helmet; Logan Torrance, my love for FFA, my leadership and ambition, a water fowl hunt, and another bonfire; Maddy Cooper, an abundance of food; Allie Pirtle, my public speaking skills, another amazing movie night or night out, and my full support for you no matter where life takes you; To all under classmen, you get out of high school what you put into it. Work hard, play harder.

, Marissa Lange of sound, body, and mind, do hereby leave Mia random rides to Burlington, Dad not having to split his time at meets, and my room. Grace Scott the nickname Graceface, Caleb Dowell fun times at the Biggers. Jacob Wetzel a new friend to make him his ice cream bowl. Kamryn a new cooking group that can actually cook. My PE class, somebody as athletic as I am. . Justin Alberts a relationship that lasts over a month. Reagan the nickname RaeRae and the embarrassment it comes with. The golf team, a golf season. Brianna, the love of the certain type of people I try to avoid. Logan Torrance the bottle of perfume Zane willed me. Joni Lafary new Mama bears to yell at all those mean girls who throw you around.

, Jamie Bundy, of sound, body, and mind, do hereby leave Taren Root every bottle cap I had at lunch. My fourth hour athletic conditioning class the ability to take a shower or at least wash their clothes. Chandler Diehl his first name, never forget it again. Braeden Reed a foam dodgeball. Tyren Swank "Hey Guy". Kami Éndress fingernail polish remover, permanent markers, and a mason jar. Amber Russi the dance team. Jenna Shafer my soul and happiness. Shantal Carnes bonfires. Bree Melton pizza and ranch, our entire sophomore summer, and the old explorer. To most of the underclassmen the ability to make it through their last few years. And to the class of 2014 I will you all luck with pursuing your dreams.

I, Shelli Wilson, will Callie Thacker, our many long conversations in your mother office and a new car moving buddy. Carey Thacker, a clean office without all of the after school programs book bags and stuff. Kaylie Harter-Chewning, a new hall buddy just in case you get lost or stolen or something and all the luck with the play. Jamie Hennings, The Three Musk-AY-Teers and Kay Bye.

Logan Wood, of sound, body and mind, do hereby leave: Reagan Bowman the ability to beat me in livestock judging, Shady Hartman a baseball game, my brother Trey my awesome catching abilities, Katlyn Johnson all of our memories, Caleb Shinberger the ability to survive senior year without me, Andrea Fullerton a Heifer, to all the under class man the ability to continue your high school career without the best class in the the history of West Central, the class of 2014.

I, Ashley Stewart, of sound body and mind, do hereby leave: Mr. Blender my wonderful P. E. ability; Emma, Nikki, and Mike our CNA family; Amber the ability to be nice; Kristin, Kayla, and Kathy my 18th birthday party and my gifts from Colin and Joe; Holly our Chinese dates and Chattahoochee; Kristin a construction cone and sign, a snapshaft, tombstone and ole Brett saline!

Savannah Pulse of sound body and mind do hereby leave Grace Brent, a good guy and a knife. Jamilla Calderon, awkward car rides to basketball, saran wrap, and a smart phone. Grace Scott more wood. Kamryn the box office, younger friends, and a fuel saver car so you can come visit me at college every weekend. Andrea Fullerton, another first game and another head of hair to play with. Somer H. someone to come to practice each day to remind you that you're a beast. Maddy Brent, the patience to get through the sports seasons next year without us and pre-game pep talks with my dad since I won't be here. Joni, inspirational quotes and new seniors to pick on. Kayla D. a mother's day present each year and the box office. The basketball girls, a great season next year!

, Emma Alexander, of sound body and mind, do hereby leave my mother, Mrs. Alexander the patience and positivity to survive until retirement. I will Mrs.Singleton my employee discount at J.C. Penney's, and all the fashion sense in the world. Though it will be tough, I will Mr. Boyle a student as cool as me to create an impression of. To Nikki, Mike, and Ashley Stewart, I will C.N.A. car pools and a successful future in health care. I will Alyssa Long and Whitney Finley a friend as wonderful as themselves to call them beautiful every single day of their high school careers! To the rest of you underclassmen, I will you the intelligence to make smart, safe choices as your graduation day fast approaches.

First and foremost, I. Cierra Pulse, of sound body and mind, do hereby leave: Maddy Brent the 1. I will Grace Scott a new golf buddy and a ride to practice. I will "Princess Catlyn" the ability to share her crown. I will Joni Lafary a new Ke\$ha quote. I will Marissa Lange the ability to keep someone's car clean. I will Kamryn McCabe the ability to stay in touch with me during college and for us to make more memories than we already have. Love you! Next, I will the class of 2015 to get involved and participate in everything your senior vear. Your last year goes by too fast and it's up to you whether you make it fun or not. Enjoy every moment. Lastly, I will the student body to not take things so seriously. You only get to go through high school once, try to enjoy it.

I, Haley Willits, being of sound body and mind, will Audrey someone new to mooch off of and my tambourine. To Kaylie all the "girl shirts" I own and my loops. I will Shady smuggled poptarts and furry guitars. I leave Jared a new lunch table.

I ,Brooke Vancil, will
Sarah Muff a clean
cheerleading uniform,
Kami Endress heavy
breathing while stunting,
Jacob Wetzel early
morning facing at
Fishers, Caleb Dowell
new shampoo, Sam
Wolf the ability to sit
through long church
sermons and a new
lunch table and the
Class of 2015 the ability
to enjoy thier senior year
because it goes by fast.

Catlyn Nichols, will Mallory polar plunge, and movie dates. Somer cuddles at Mal's house and window painting. Andrea someone to call you beautiful, to get cleared by volleyball season, and youth group square dancing. Ali the ball pit challenge and Pancheros. Bri the #1 senior you won't miss Hannah mission trips, movie dates, and Netflix marathons. All my loves: Trips for Mexican, my awesome driving skills, a new mom, and another van to ride in. Joni Inspirational quotes and Ke\$ha lyrics. Grace B a new knee and a knife. Curtis jamming out on our rides to school and a new best friend.

Senior Wills

SEMEOR POLLS

Most Likely to be Retweeted



Class Clowns



Most Athletic



Biggest Flirt



Most Likely to Cry at Graduation



Most Likely to Sing in Class



Most Likely to Leave Henderson County and Never Come Back



Most Likely to Become a Millionaire



Most Likely to be Late to Class



Most Likely to Become a Cat Lady



Most Likely to Cheat on a Test



Senior Not to Mess With



Best Shoulder to Cry On



Best Body



Best Dressed



Most Likely to Be Successful



Best to Bring Home to Mom and Dad



Biggest Mooch



Senior Class Trip

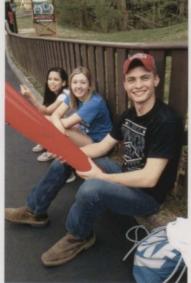
























Junior Class of '15



Justin Alberts





Matthew Barber





Regan Bowman



Madeline Brent



Zachary Brewer



Daniel Bridger



Zack Bundy



Heaven Casey







Jacob Cochran



Holly Colwell





Nicholas Craig







Caleb Dowell











Brayden Freeman





Casey Garber











Brody Haynes







Marissa Husband







Kayla Johnson



Cody Lancaster







Taylor Link

Raychel Mckoon







Kayla Markey





Shelby Maxwell



Blake Mcintyre



Charles McLaughlin



Keenan Miller



Brett Mowder





Adelaide Norzagaray



Eric Peterson



James Peterson



Alexandria Pirtle





Taylor Rice



Tyler Root



Amber Russi



Sean Schmiers



Caleb Shinberger



James Skiles



Adam Smith





Alexander Smothers



Olivia Spears



Joshua Strader



Waymon Strickland



Callie Thacker



Logan Torrance



Matthew Vancil



Rachel Venardi



Jessa Waterman



Robert Wayland



Nicholle Welch



Jacob Wetzel





Rebecca Whittemore Makala Williams-Harn Hannah Woodbury





Kaitlyn Wooters

Junior Class They'll be in charge next year...



Carlee and Jessa love taking part in the PRIDE assemblies.

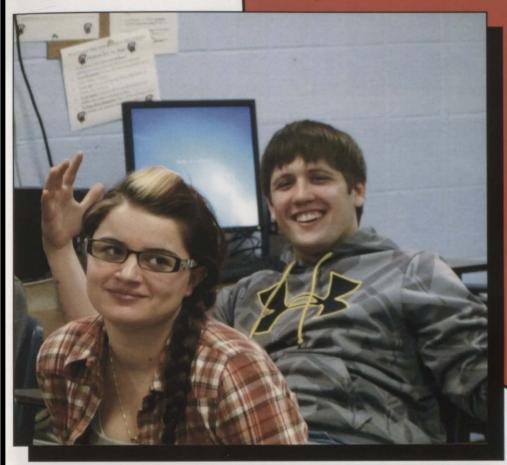
Brett's look of outrage and Ashley's look of derision were common sights in classes they shared together.

Allie P and Zach lead the procession at graduation.

Taylor Link, Maddy Brent, and Raychel construct a bush for Promenade.



The Usual Suspects





Emily and Kaitlyn L work on Prom decorations. Izzy pretends to look busy..



Maddy C and Taylor R pose during PRIDE



Austin L working at Kids Against Hunger



Sophomore Class of '16



Troy Adkisson



Brianna Akers



Carlee Andries



Khrystyna Anspach



Brittany Blackledge



Landon Bowman



Jamilla Calderon



Colin Cavanaugh



Jordyn Christofferson



John Clem



Caitlyn Cooper



Shelby Co



Mikahla Crane



Whitney Finley



Andrea Fullerton



Taylor Gaylord



Sean Gebhardt



Hannah Good



Kilene Haynes



James Hays



Somer Hil



Seth Hilten



Cody Huss



Kendyll Johnson



Jobeth Jones



Emma Joseph



Dustin Kaczinski



Shenandoah Sierra Kendall



Mallory Lafary



Mia Lange



Alyssia Lee



Alison Link



Alvessa I and



Ronald Ludington Jr



Megan Magee





Nelson McChesney



William McKinney



Thomas Mickey



Grayc Miller



Shelby Moss



Sarah Muff



Curtis Nichols



Dakota Parks



Michelle Parnell



Hannah Parsons



Alissa Patterson



Travis Peterson



Noah Pierce



Dalton Pullen



Maricruz Reyes



Vanessa Russi



Payton Seitz



Jenna Shafer



Hannah Shrum



Kendra Spiker



Zachary Spiker



Christian Sterett



Bryanna Strader



Tyren Swank



Felicia Torrance



Audrey Vice



Skyler Walton



Brittany Wamsley



Richelle Weeks



Mackenzie Wilson



Trey Wood



Curtis prefers not to look too eager to have his picture taken.

Andrea and Somer pose at Meet the Heat night.

SARAH, you're not supposed to eat the food BEFORE you give blood!







John takes time out for a picture while in the dugout.

Shelby proudly displays her PRIDE shirt..

Sophomore Class 2016









Freshman Class of '17









Luke Arnold





Madison Benge



Easton Bielser





















Katherine Droste



Kamryn Endress







Tiffany Gerstel



Dalton Grawet



Brenton Gray



Ashley Gyovai



Ethan Hand



Kaylie Harter Chewning Mallorie Hennenfent







Payton Jarvis



Megan Krieger



Joni Lafary









Cassandra Link



Hannah Link



Talya Lovell



Matthew Marsden



Hannah McIntire



David McVey



Curstin Meehan



William Merideth



Charles Miller



Owen Miller



Skyler Moede



Laura Newton



Brent Nichols



Jared Paulus



Jordyn Peterson



Seth Peterson



Abigail Petri



James Porter



Angela Rankin



Braeden Reed



Taren Root



Grace Scot



Miranda Seitz



Jordan Sells



Austin Shamblin



Ava Simmons



Alisha Smothers



Abigail Steck



Layton Tallman



Dylan Tee



Alexis Tomson



Zachary Vancil



Tiffany Vandolah



Hunter West



Ozzy Wiegand



Samuel Wolf



Cameron Wooters

A throng of freshmen girls at PRIDE.



Brayden (Jojen) Reed and Laura.









It almost looks like he is in prison.

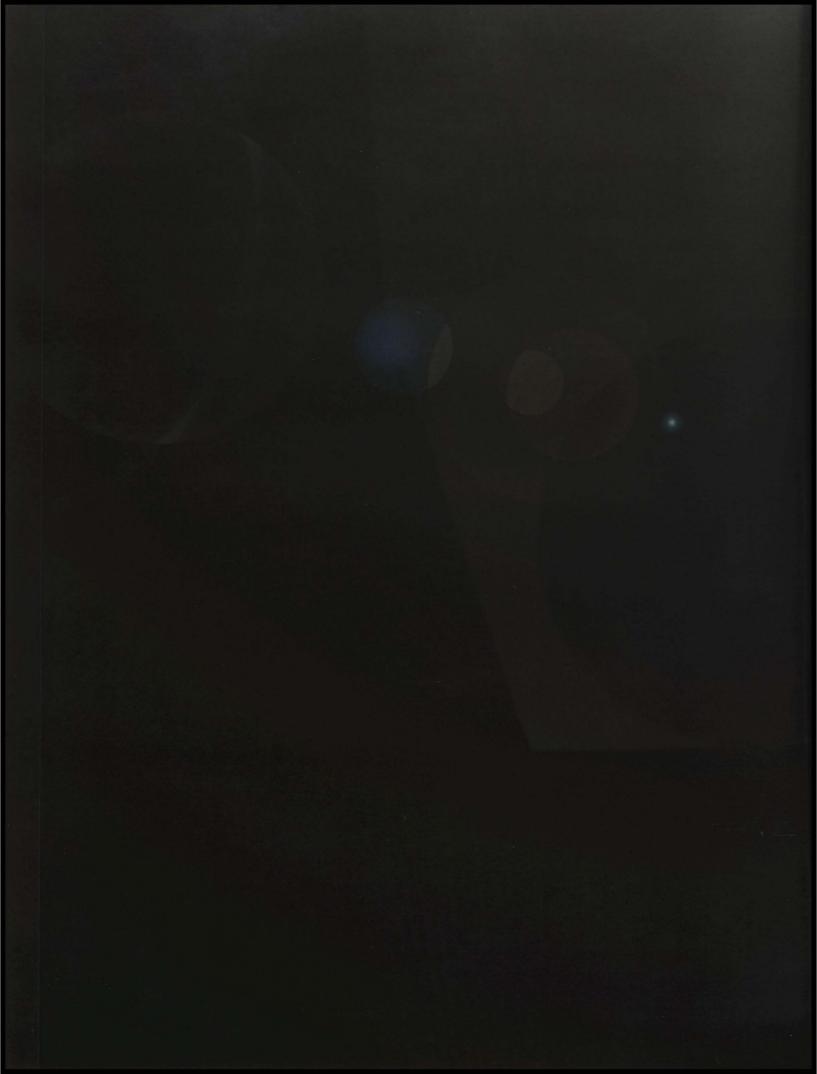
A group of freshmen help pack boxes at Kids Against Hunger

Freshman Class 2017









CLUDS

Future Farmers





Above: Senior FFA members, New Officers, and Current Officers.

FFA is the biggest organization at WCHS. This year they again competed in almost countless competitions, both as individuals and as groups. Members of the FFA also got to tour the Farm Progress Show and attend State and National Conventions.













of America - FFA











ICTM - Math Team WYSE



ICTM and WYSE are both organizations that provide opportunities for students to show off their academic skills. WCHS was more successful this year than ever before with students making it to both regional and state levels of 34 competition as part of the WYSE team.





Tommy, Sydney, and Regan were all recognized at Knox College for their success in the competition.

Future Business Leaders of America



FBLA members competed in many different areas at district and state competitions. The purpose of the group is to prepare young people for the challenges of the business world by providing them with opportunities to practice and exercise the skills necessary to be success.





Art at WCHS has been extremely active and successful year in and year out, so it is no surprise that this year was no different. Students competed in LTC Art Show, the **Buchannon Center** Art Show, and even toured the Monmouth College Campus to get a look at the art and facilities they have to offer



Art at WCHS

Ashley Carnes poses with her award winning picture.



Mrs. Simmons and some of her art students pose in the bleachers at Monmouth College.



Yearbook members pose out font of the school.

Students of Espanol had lots of fun at their fiestas as well as a trip into Monmouth to look eat and visit a market specializing in Hispanic products.

Yearbook Spanish Club









YOCO Members

NHS Officers





National Honor Society





Student Council 2013-2014

Class Officers 2013-2014

Senior Class Officers



Junior Class Officers

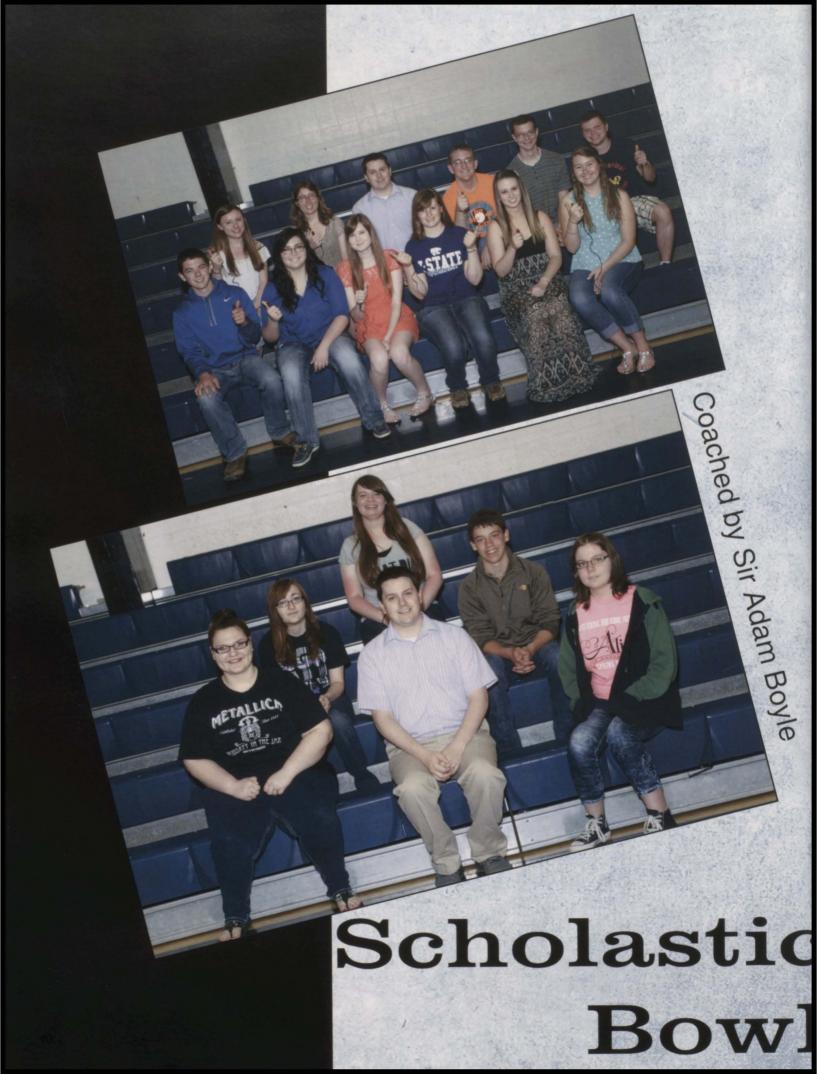


Sophomore Class Officers



Freshman Class Officers





The Junior Class award winners. Teachers pick out students who exemplify PRIDE. Freshman Class PRIDE winners. PSAE/ ACT Gold Award Winners

PRIDE



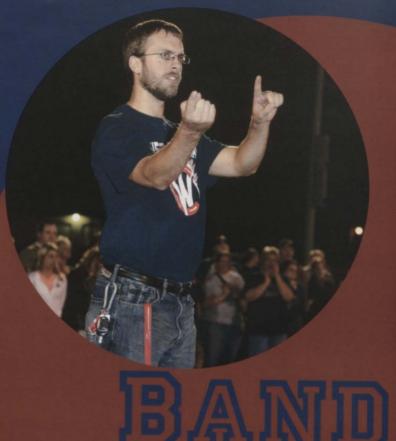






lan Stokes strikes his traditional pose.

The Marching Band's uniforms look sharp!



Mr. Henning strikes up the band at the football games.

Ms. Corey has choir stands in a mixed formation at their fall concert. This formation will magnify the volume of sound from a small group of people!

Shelly W leads the band onto the field.





I have successfully convinced the band to pose for a nice picture.

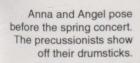
CHOIR

Mr. Henning takes the podium for the last time at WCHS.



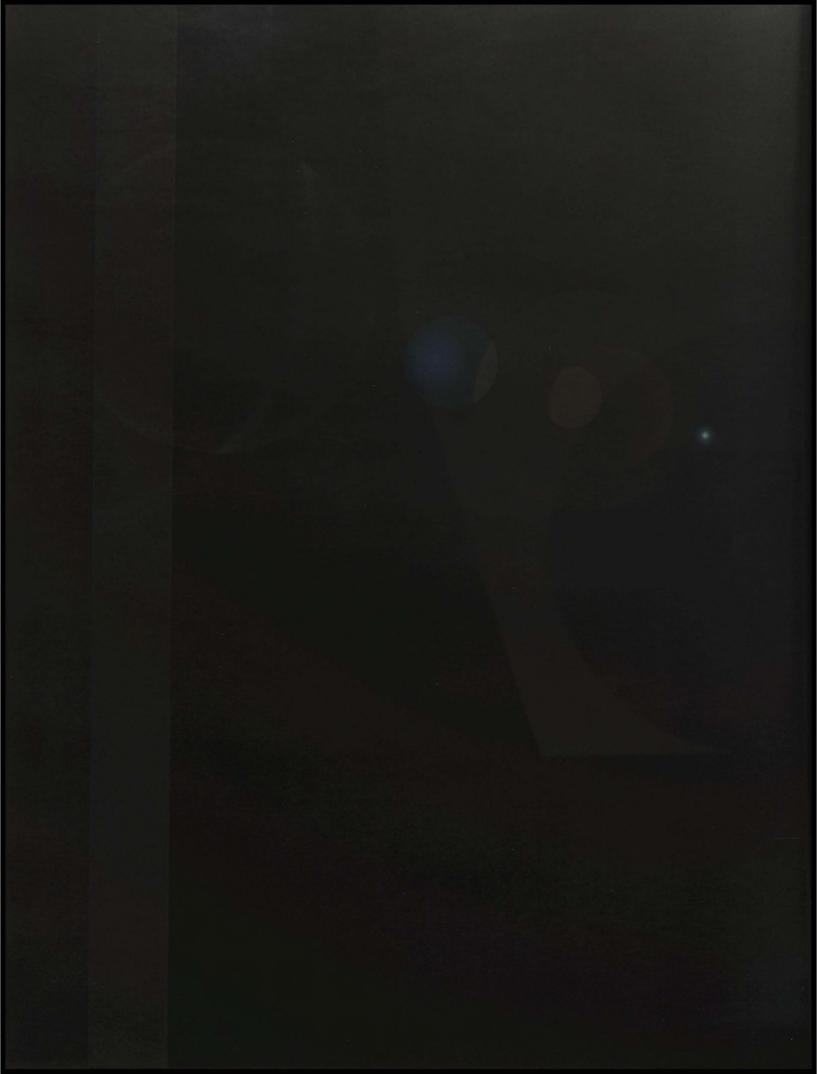












SDONTS

JV FOOTBALL



Coaching Them Up!



The Heat huddle up.

31 breaks into the backfield.



The Heat line up against their opponent.



HEAT Football





Interception!





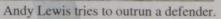
The Heat line up in their traditional formation.

WCHS scores a touchdown off a midline run.



















F00%BALL 2013







Andrea leads the team in an "encouraging" pose.

Setting up a score.







The girls huddle up before the game.











WOLLEYBALL



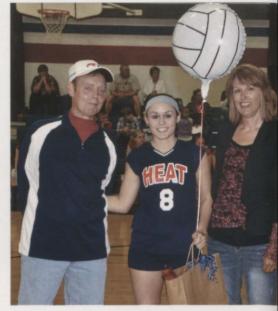
Serving up the ball.

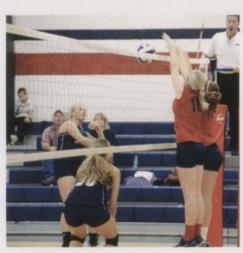


Kylee greets Stephanie on Senior Night

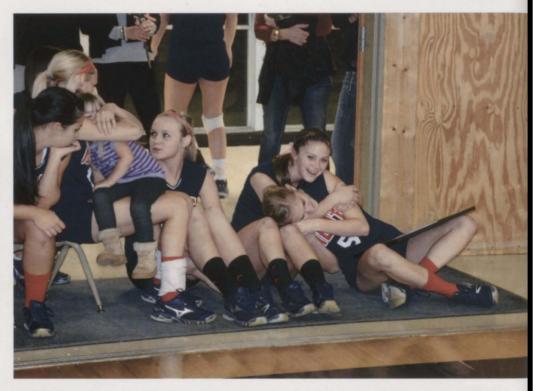
Savannah P. and her parents.







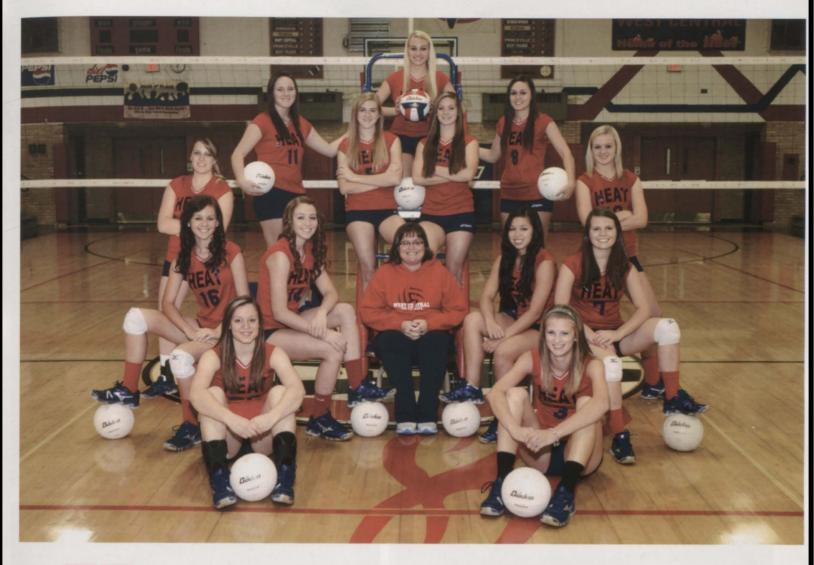
The girls wait patiently for the game to start.











WOLLEYBALL



Maddy is ready to defend.



JV BOYS BASKETBALL





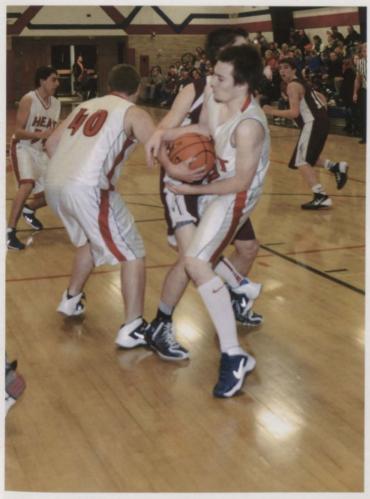
Contesting a shot.



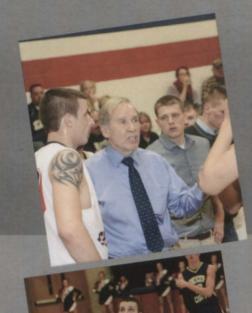
Peyton S jostles for a rebound, Colin C drives towards the hoop,



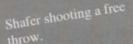








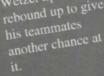
Coach Clifton lends his team sage advice.

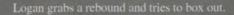






Wetzel tips a rebound up to give his teammates another chance at













The team prepares to enter before a home game.



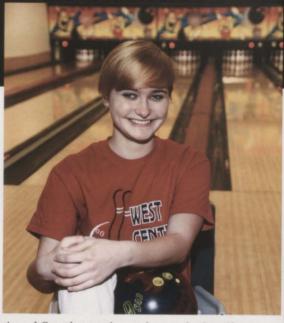




BOWLING



The golf team poses for a nice photo. Bombs Away!



Angel Strack was the senior on the bowling team this year.







图创业





The 2013 WCHS Golf Team



Mr. Dewee poses with the girls golf team.



Marissa Lange tees off.

An interesting hat? Taylor is wearing.







WCHS does well batting.















SOFTBALL

Here you see Jenna both pitching and batting.

Jenna and Monica are the two seniors on the team this year.



Boys Track Team 2013



Mr. Henning looks nice in a track uniform.

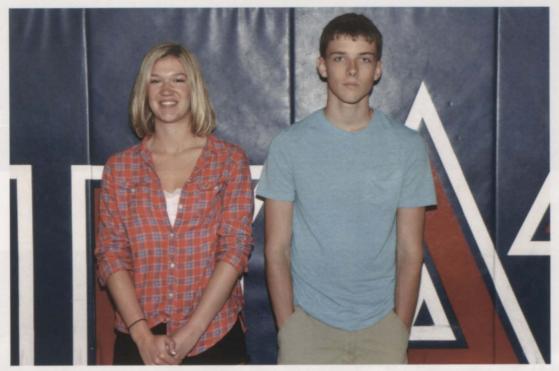


TRACK



Girls Track 2013





Kristen and Owen both participated as part of the swim team this year.

SWIM



BATON



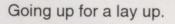
Addie Gibbs twirls at both basketball and football games.



JV GIRLS BASKETBALL









Above: The girls basketball team poses with Coach Linden.

Teamwork

Mallory steals the ball from a Spartan player.







Ali and Jamilla don't look like they are enjoying defending this particular player.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

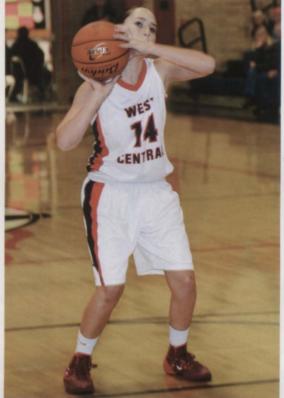














Fielding a deep hit.

The JV Baseball Team.





















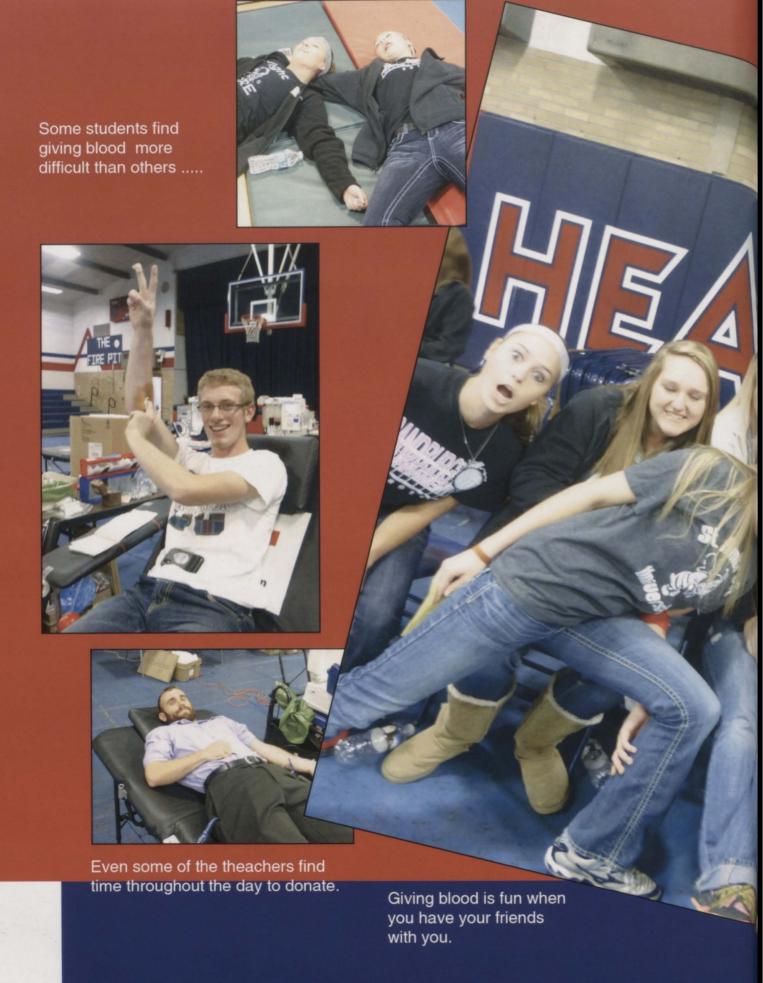
BASEBALL

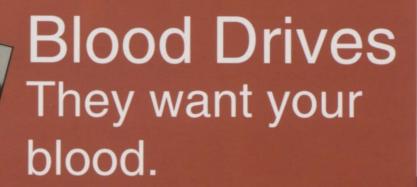
Bringing the Heat.



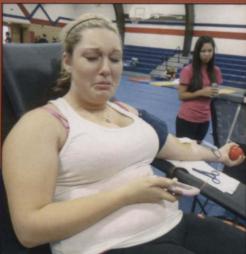
Seth with his bat,





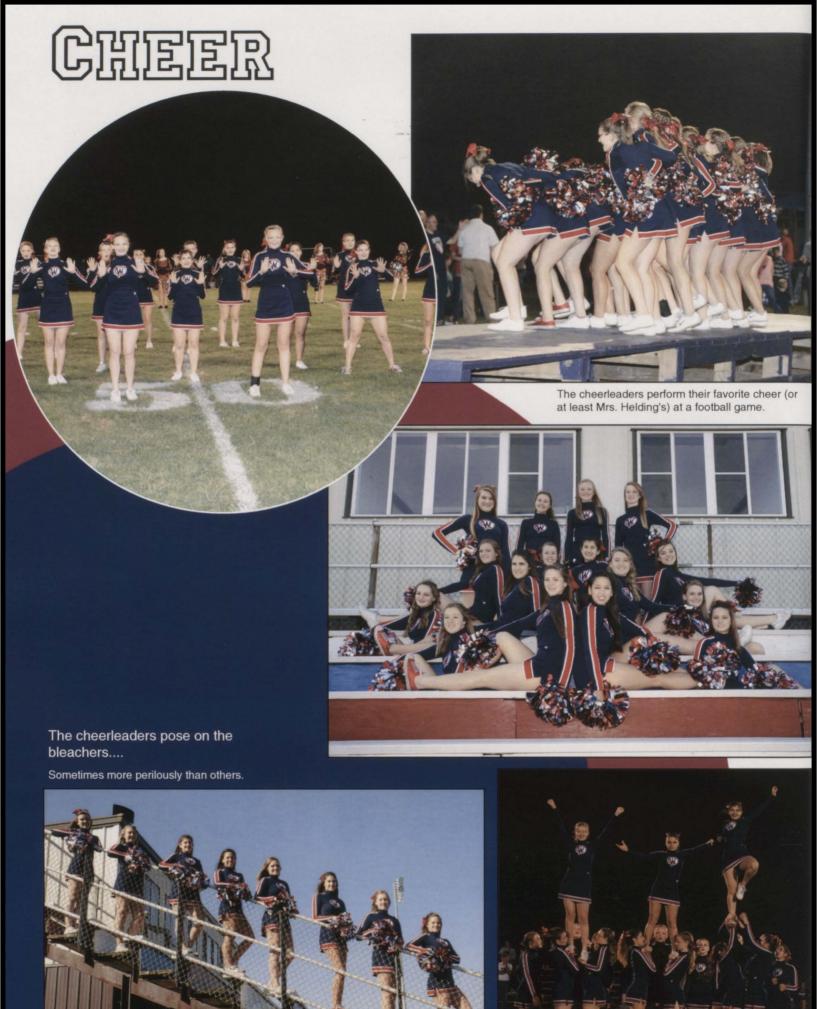






Preston gives a thumbs up.

Tailor doesn't like needles much. Shoot Dang!



Senior dance members Ashley Stewardrt, Jamie Bundy, and JoEllen Keenan





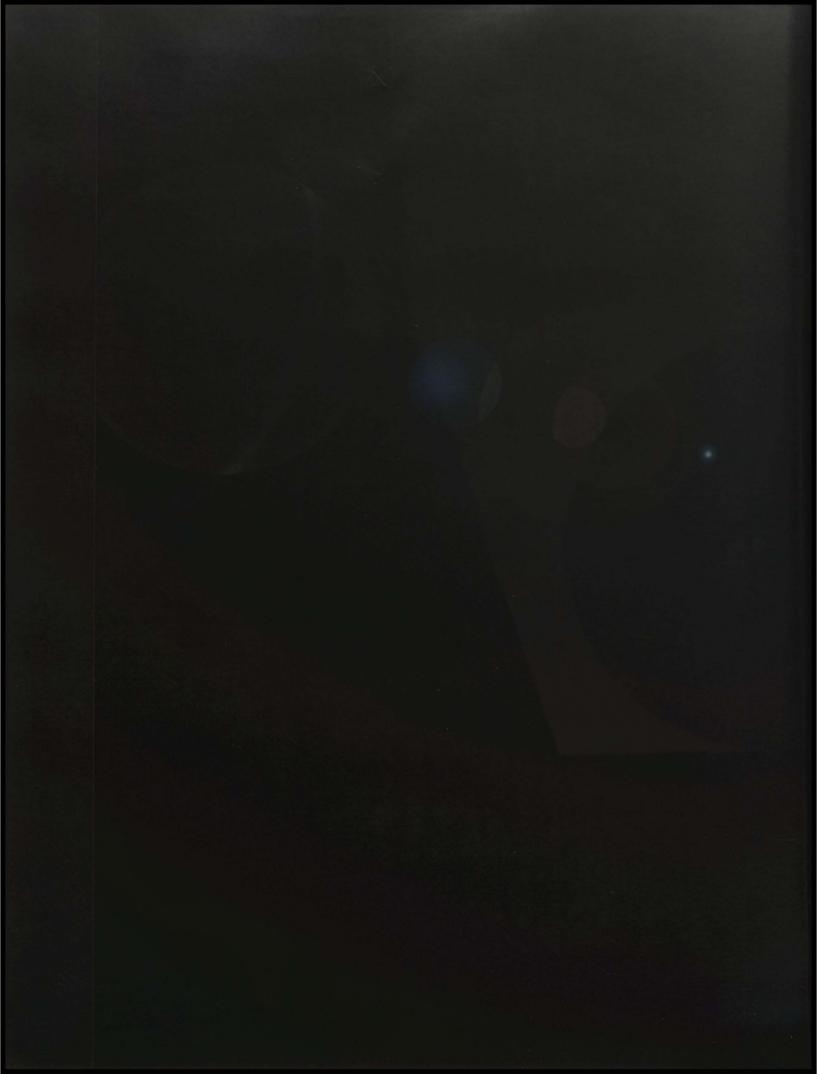


DANCE









CUCIOS

MEET THE HEAT WIGHT























Homecoming Week



Maddy and Logan



Amanda, Logan and Carlee



Maddy Cooper and Ally Pirtle



Awesomeness.



Camo Day



That's actually what Ashely wears most days.

Dress Up Days-



Very old people.



Pretty tough dudes?



Emma and Anj show off their Pajamas

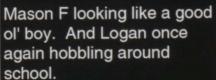
More Dress Up Days

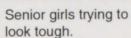


Shafer and Logan...



Sydney is shocked.





























Homecoming Week













Homecoming Assembly



Sophomore PowderPuff.



Erin was either trying to eat that cookie or having a seizure. No one ever found out for sure.



For the first time in his life, Mr. Davis regretted wearing his customary Tuesday outfit.

Powder Puff



Dakotah and Sierra pose for a picture in between classes.



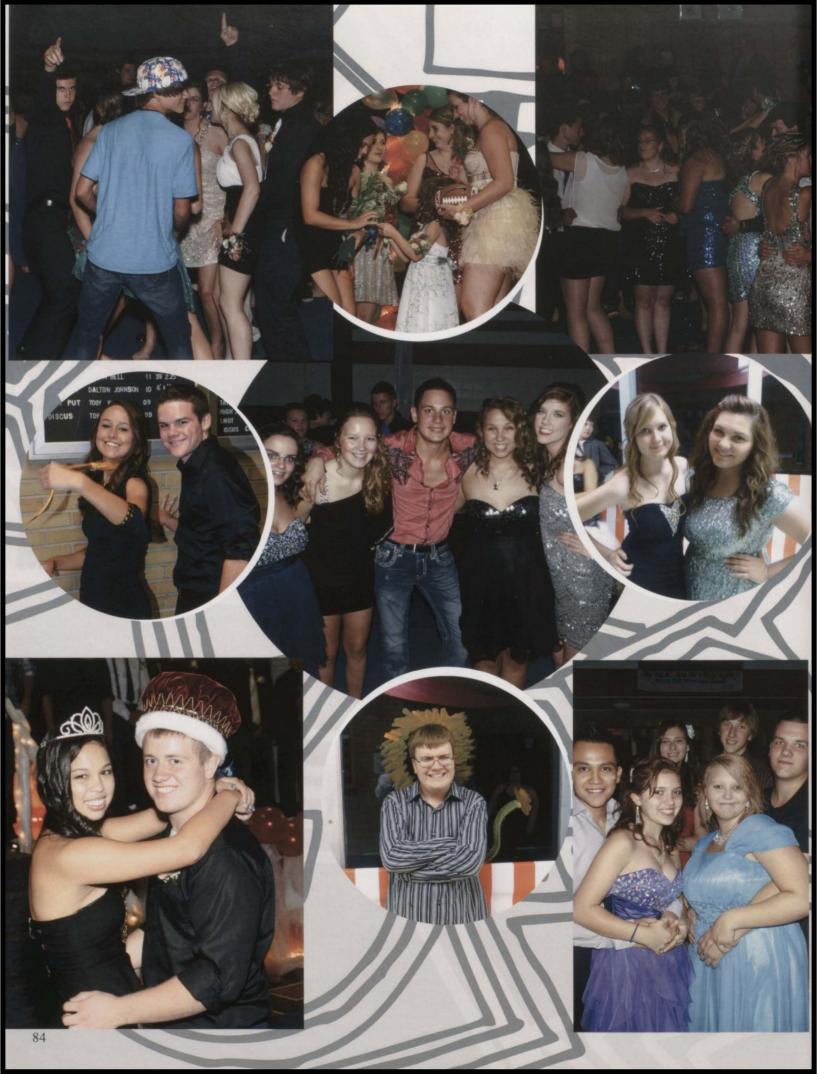
Andrea really went for it when bobbing for apples,



The sophomores cheer during the class cheer at the homecoming assembly.

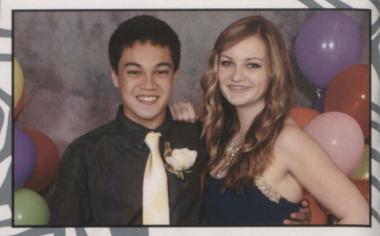




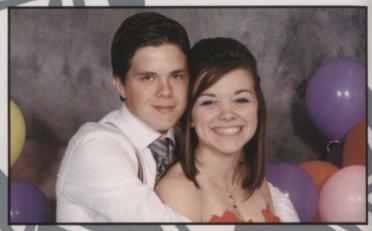




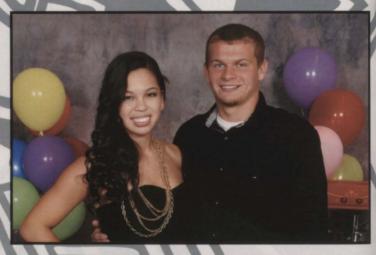














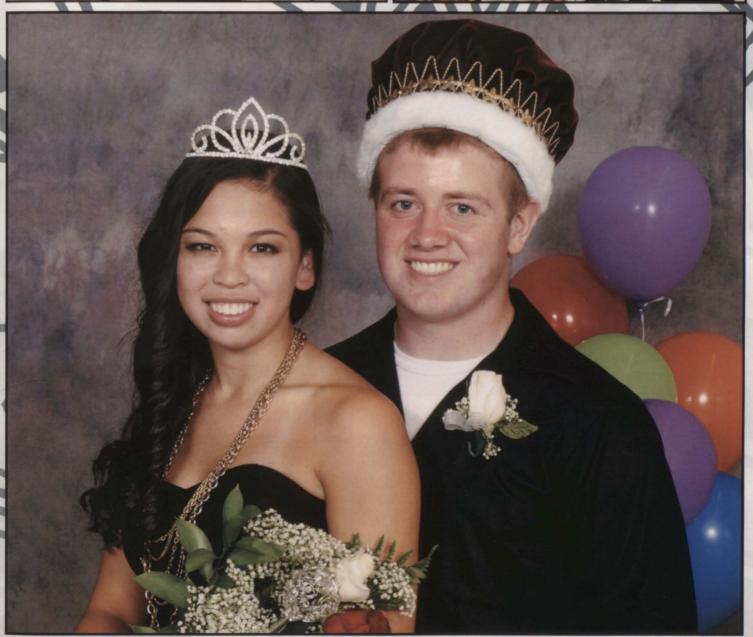
Candidates and Escorts

Freshmen......Sam Wolf, Laura Newton
Sophomores. Colin Cavanaugh, Sarah Muff
Juniors....Logan Torrance, Maddy Brent
Seniors.. Elias Sjolander, Emma Alexander
.....Tyler Meldrum, Alexi LIcata
.....Erin Cavanaugh, Seth Mize
.....Shafer McKune, Anna Stevenson

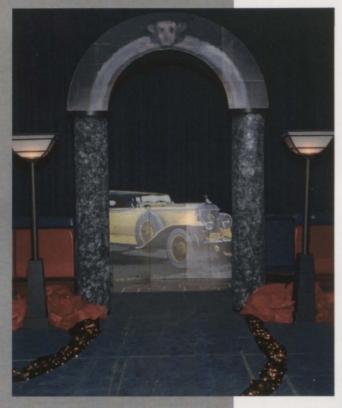
2013 West Central Homecoming King and Queen Erin Cavanaugh and Tyler Meldrum







Promenade 2014



This year's theme was "A Night with Gatsby"

On the left, an arch and the infamous yellow car.























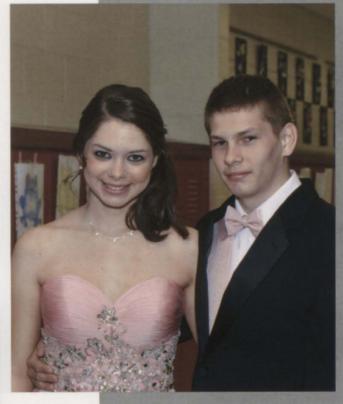








Everyone was excited to see all of the couples in their matching attire.

























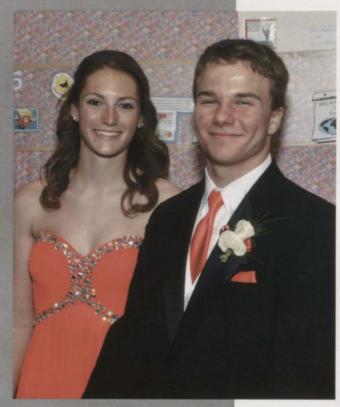








Promenade 2014



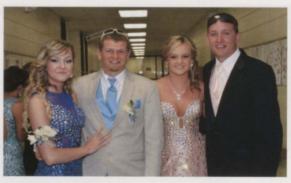
Andy Lewis and his date.





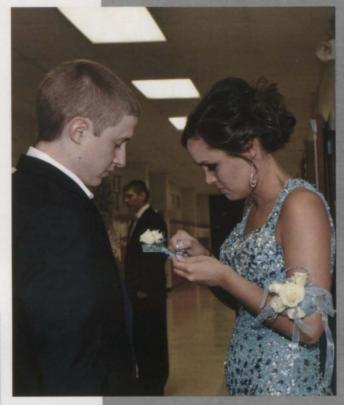








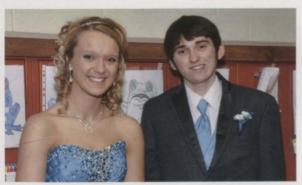
Trying to figure out how to attach those pesky flowers is an age old problem.









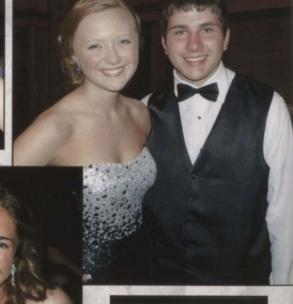














Senior friends pose together for a nice group shot.

Austin and Madison dance together.

Jeff C and his date Camie pose for a picture.

Nice shades for Austin and Maria.



Sierra Smith and her date.



P18m 2014







Carly and Nikki W pose.

Meldrum, true to his fashion, ruins a perfectly nice picture. But that's why we love him.

Prom Court

The Prom Court 2014-Caleb Dowell, Kaitlyn Johnsonm Caleb Shinberger, Alexandria Pirtle, Regan Bowman, Taylor Link, Logan Torrance, and Emily Ferguson.





2013 Prom King and Queen Emma Alexander and Shafer McKune with this years Prom King and Queen.

The assembled Prom Court for 2014.





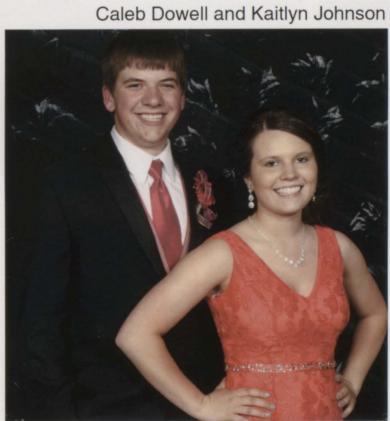
Regan Bowman and Taylor Link Prom King and Queen for 2014



Logan Torrance and Emily Ferguson



Alexandria Pirtle and Caleb Shinberger

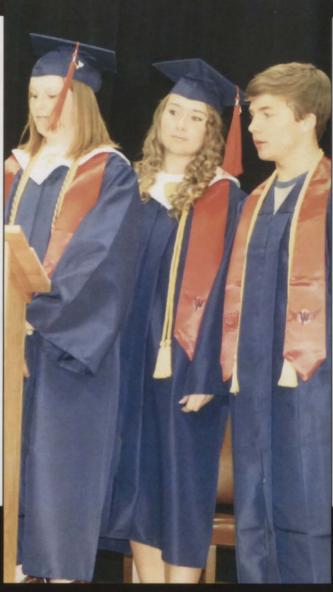


95

CLass of 2014

graduation







Marissa even cried at graduation practice.



Seth and Ali after graduation.



Ryan M holding his diploma.



Boots and graduation robes.









Graduates show a wide range of emotions as they file into the gym as students for the last time.









A gaggle of senior girls shows off their cool glasses.

Mr. Boyle poses with Tommy and Andy.







Joby and Cody give WCHS three thumbs up.











































GRADUATION CEREMONY

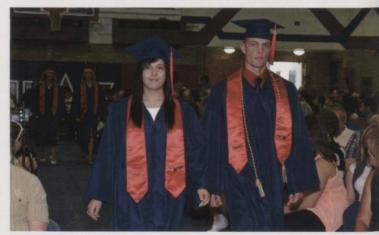




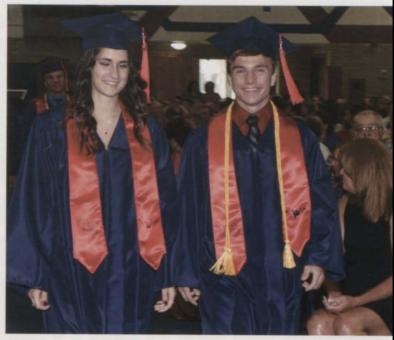




















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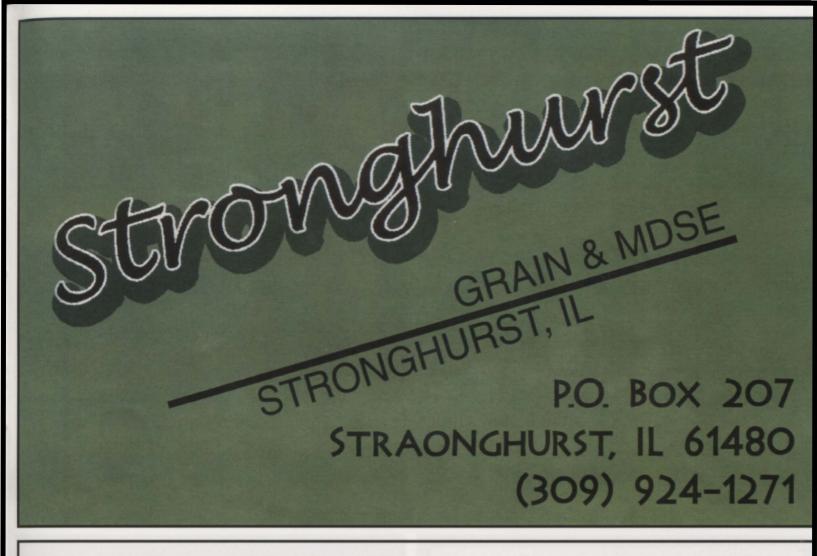
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CongratuLations and warm wishes to the CLass of 2014.

best of Luck to you all in your future.



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Congratulations Class of 2014



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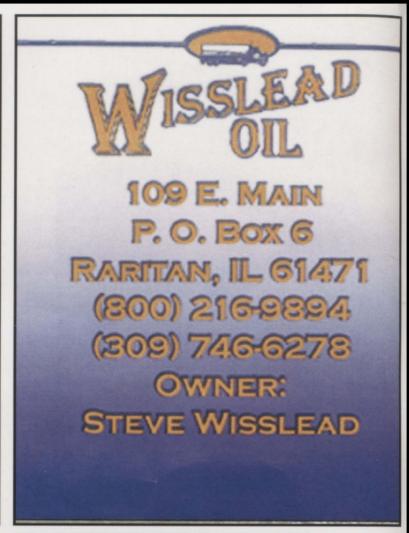
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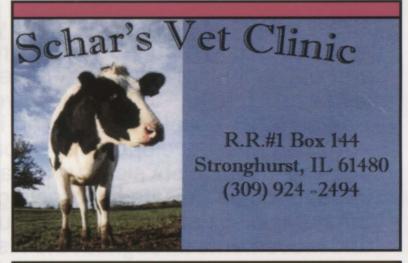
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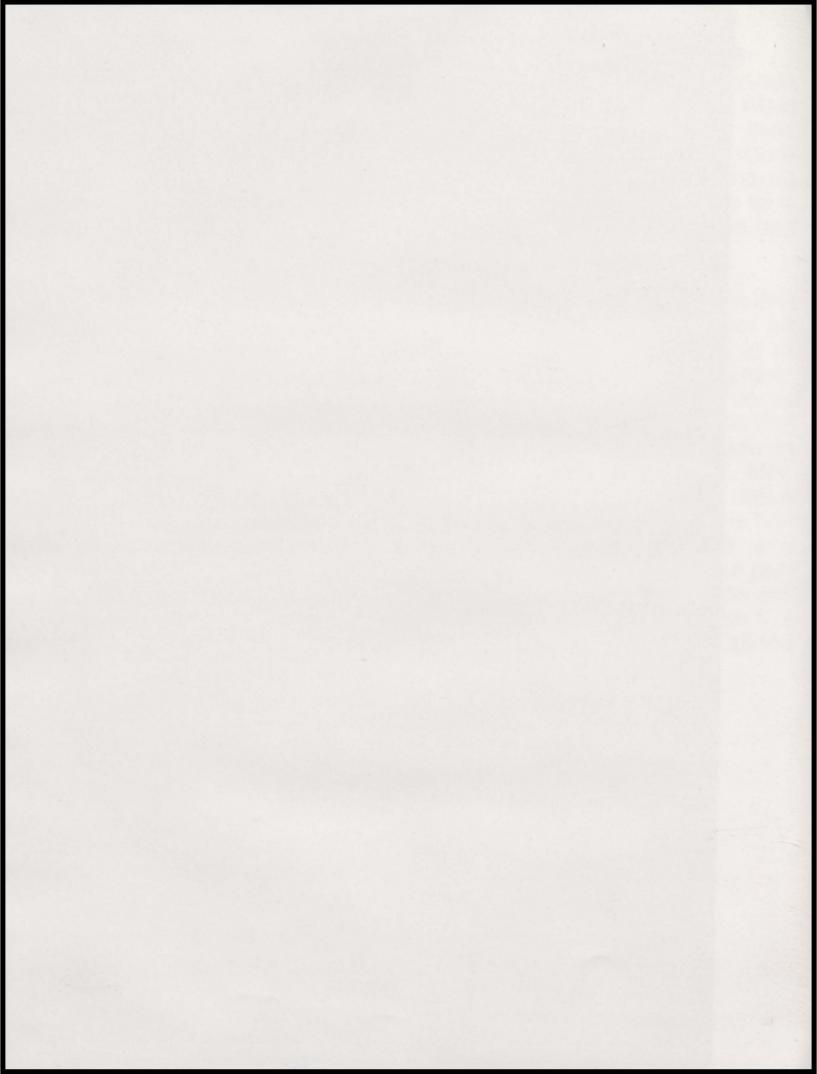
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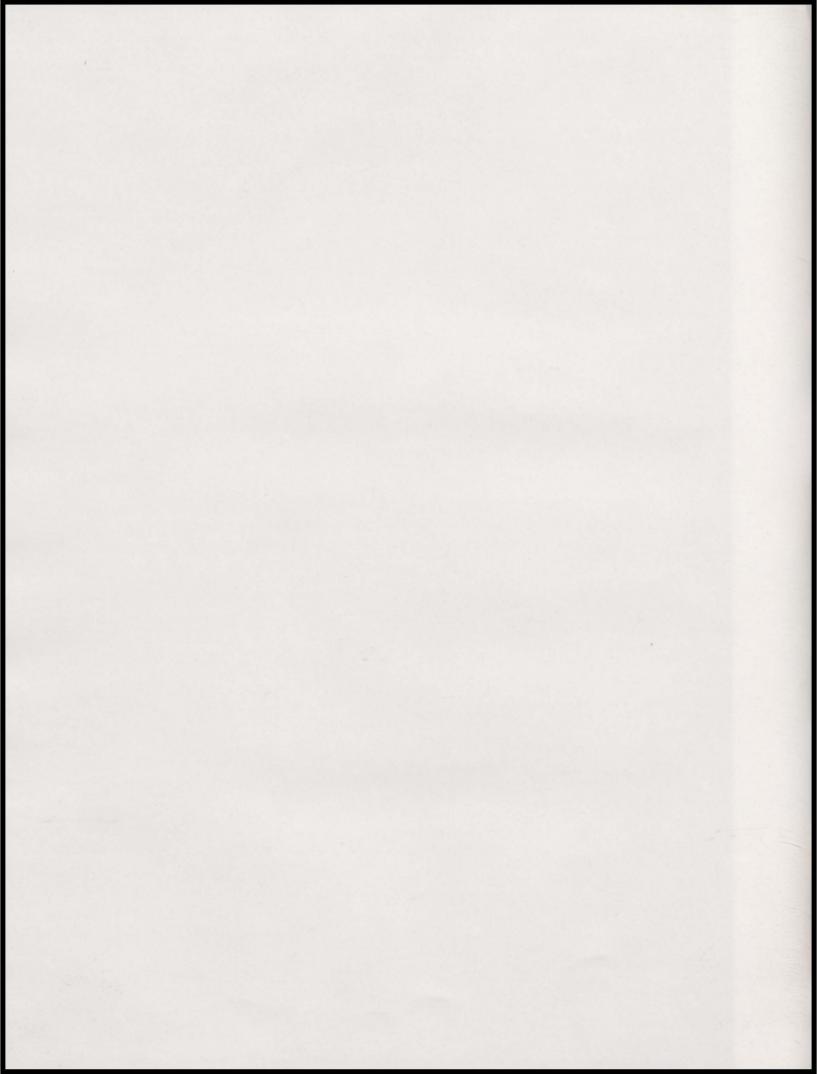
101 S Division St Stronghurst, IL

Congratulations Class of 2014 A Very Speical Thank You to Our Retirees

Mrs. Brokaw has been a part of WCHS for time in memorium. She has taught at Gladstone Grade School, Tri-Valley, Union, and finally at West Central High School. Mrs, Brokaw has touched countless lives throughout her career while teaching, sponsoring NHS, and more recently heading the student assistant program. Mrs. Brokaw shared with the faculty that she has truly enjoyed every minute of her time teaching. This page is dedicated to her and all of the work she has done for our school and community.

Mrs. Cherry Simmons retired this year after teaching art at Union and then WCHS. Throughout her career Mrs. Simmons' passion for art and philosophy of education have driver her to teach students at all levels art. She has touched the lives of many students over the years. She said her belief that art is an integral part of the students' social and academic development. Through art Mrs. Simmons believes that students develop physically, mentally, and socially. Art allows students to better communicate their feelings and make critical analyses. Mrs. Simmons also helped students to understand the various forms, styles and movements throughout the history of art. Over the years she has helped countless students develop a better appreciation and awareness of the world around them and an opportunity to take part in the active process of creating visual images. Mrs. Simmons will surely be missed. The community of WCHS would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude towards Mrs. Simmons for all the work she has done over the years.

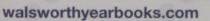






 $2013 \rightarrow 2014$











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- · Watch the video pop off the page!



POP STAR BEYONCÉ shocked the world by releasing a surprise self-titled album at midnight on Dec. 13. Despite no prior promotion, "Beyoncé" sold more than a million copies in the first week.







FILIPINOS SEARCHED FOR FOOD, WATER, SHELTER and missing family members following the massive destruction to The Philippines by Typhoon Hiayan in November. Relief organizations acted quickly after one of the strongest storms ever recorded. Estimates put the death toll at almost 6,000.



NASA ANNOUNCED that after 36 years in space, its Voyager 1 probe had officially left our solar system, making it the first man-made object to do so. Voyager 1 was expected to continue operating and sending back data outside our solar system for 15 more years before it runs out of power.



THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN in October while Congress argued about how to pay for running it.



Length of government shutdown



Number of federal workers sent home without pay (they did get back pay)



Estimated economic loss to the U.S. (Standard and Poor's)



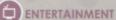
Estimated economic loss from closed national parks (National Park Service)



Dozens of organized protests occurred at closed federal parks





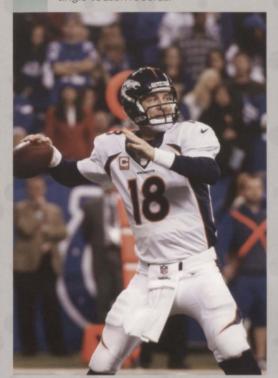








DENVER QUARTERBACK PEYTON MANNING put together one of the greatest seasons in NFL history. Manning finished with 5,477 yards passing and 55 touchdowns, both NFL single-season records.







RESEARCH SHOWED teen usage of Facebook was decreasing, as kids continued to migrate toward other social networks like Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.





IN EARLY JANUARY, much of the country from the central and upper Midwest to the Northeast and into the South was struck by a polar vortex - a blast of dense, frigid polar air. The polar vortex lasted nearly a week and caused record low temps that created the coldest blast of air in 20 years.





NELSON MANDELA, who worked to end racial segregation called apartheid in South Africa, died at age 95. Mandela spent 27 years in prison for conspiracy, and when freed, helped to lead his country to equality and served as South Africa's president from 1994-1999.



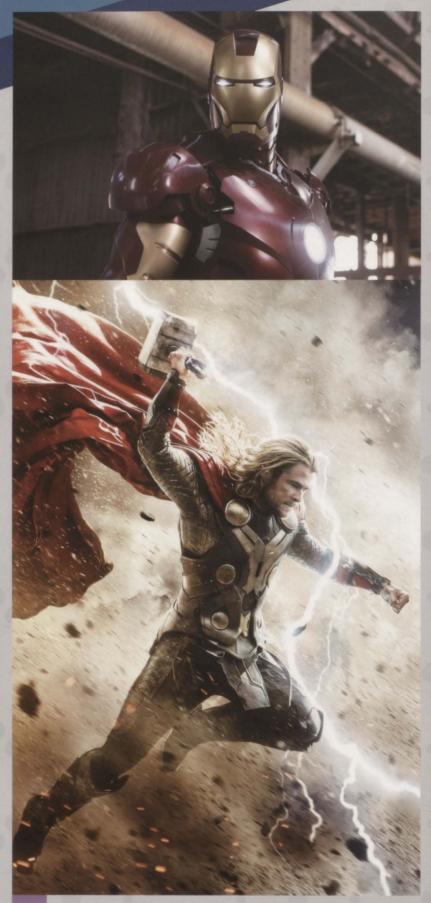
© CELEBRITY DEATHS

FANS WERE SHOCKED and saddened by celebrity deaths during the year. Paul Walker (pictured), star of the "Fast & Furious" movies, was killed in a car crash. Other celebs who died included Cory Monteith, who played Finn on the TV show "Glee," actor Philip Seymour Hoffman and rock star Lou Reed.



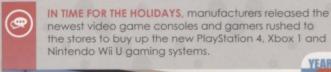


SAN FRANCISCO WAS SAVED from the Penguin and Riddler on Nov. 15 when Miles Scott, 5, was granted his wish by the Make A Wish Foundation. With his leukemia in remission, Miles became Batkid and joined a life-size Batman to battle the villains across the city. Hundreds of volunteers made the event happen.





THE MARVEL SUPER HERO UNIVERSE continued to be as popular as ever. "Iron Man 3" was the highest grossing movie of 2013, and "Thor: The Dark World" was a huge hit in the fall. "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." was one of the highest-rated new shows on TV.







FLORIDA STATE'S KELVIN BENJAMIN caught a touchdown pass from Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Jameis Winston with 13 seconds left, which allowed the Seminoles to defeat Auburn, 34-31, in college football's BCS National Championship Game. Florida State fell behind 21-3 in the first half before rallying to win.







THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, known to many as Obamacare, launched in October, only to be stalled by a poorly functioning website. Officials scrambled to fix the problems, since Americans had until March 31 to sign up for a health care plan if they didn't have one, or they would be fined.



POPULAR JERSEYS

These were the best-selling jerseys of the year in the major sports.





- MARIANO RIVER





NFL - COLIN KAEPERNIC

Sources: Yahoo, MLB.com, CBSsports.com



THE SEATTLE SEAHAWKS DOMINATED Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, defeating the Denver Broncos 43-8. The game featured Seattle's league-best defense against Denver's top-rated offense led by quarterback Peyton Manning, but the game turned into a mismatch as the Seahawks raced to a 22-0 halftime lead. The victory was the first Super Bowl win in franchise history for Seattle.



1 MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS

Thrift Shop

2 ROBIN THICKE

Blurred Lines

3 IMAGINE DRAGONS

t Give Me a Reason

5 MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS Can't Hold Us

Source: iTunes



GOOGLE REVEALED its latest technology innovation with Google Glass, a thin, headmounted computer that users can wear like a pair of glasses. Glass users can connect to the internet with voice commands and take pictures and videos of the world around them, wherever they are.







THE BOSTON RED SOX defeated the St. Louis Cardinals to win the 2013 World Series in six games. Boston clinched the title at home in Fenway Park, the first time the team had done so since 1918.





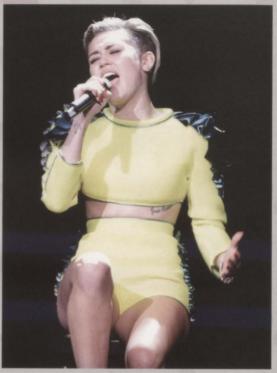
WORD OF SELFIE



SELFIE IS THE OXFORD DICTIONARIES WORD OF THE YEAR. The noun describes a "photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website," something many people did this year.



MILEY CYRUS WAS EVERYWHERE. The song "Wrecking Ball" off her latest hit album debuted at number one, and the song's video got nearly 400 million views on YouTube. Cyrus also turned in a wild performance at MTV's Video Music Awards and hosted "Saturday Night Live."



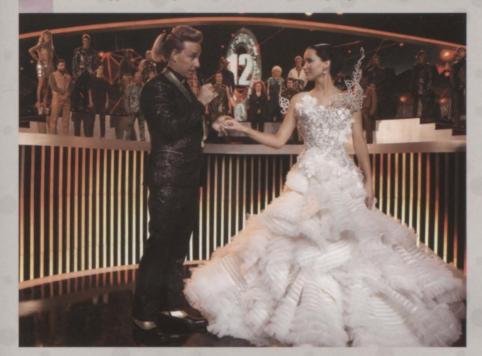


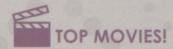


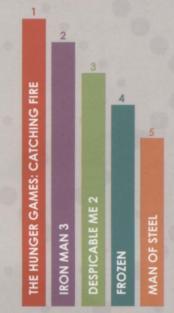
TARGET CUSTOMERS WERE ALERTED that their credit card information, plus some pin numbers, were stolen between Nov. 27, Black Friday, and Dec. 15. Target estimated that the massive theft possibly affected up to 110 million. credit card accounts.



"THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE," the second movie in the popular sci-fi adventure series, hit theaters and became a box office smash. The film set records for the biggest opening in November and over Thanksgiving weekend.







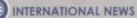
Source: boxofficemojo.com



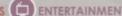


POP STAR JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE released not one, but two, hit albums. Both "The 20/20 Experience" and "The 20/20 Experience – 2 of 2" debuted at the top of sales charts and kicked off a new nationwide tour.















THE 22ND WINTER OLYMPICS were held in Sochi, Russia. While the games received criticism for what many considered to be Sochi's subpar accommodations and Russia's stance on some political issues, the events continued on with a record number of countries competing. Medalists for the U.S. included snowboarder Jamie Anderson, and figure skating pair Meryl Davis and Charlie White.









DRONES HAVE BEEN USED by the military for a while, but other industries began thinking about how drones could help them. Amazon announced its Amazon Prime Air will use drones to deliver packages, maybe as early as 2015.



AMERICAN LONG-DISTANCE **SWIMMER** Diana Nyad finally successfully swam from Cuba to Florida on her fifth attempt. Nyad's trek covered 110 miles and took her about 53 hours.



THE BEST PICTURE NOMINEES at the Academy Awards included mafia crime drama "American Hustle," outer space thriller "Gravity," and "Captain Phillips," the story of a sea rescue based on a true story.









