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Bayside Free Press

F O X P O I N T - B A Y S I D E



Photo to the right taken by Mrs. Francis of the Forensics Team.

A Fresh Start for the Forensics Team

by Gabriella Flores

On Saturday, Feb. 6, the Bayside Middle School grades 6-8 forensics team traveled to Oak Creek Middle School to compete in their first meet of the 2016 season. This meet was different from previous ones. Typically, forensics meets have 3 rounds, but this only had 2. Without round 3, no overall winners could be announced. The school even ran out of food to feed many of the hungry participants. In addition, there wasn't the commonly held

dance, which entertains the contestants while the judges add up all of the scores. That upset some students, such as Annika Billhartz. She says, "The meet went well for most competitors, but it was slightly disappointing because we drove all the way out to Oak Creek for a meet with no third round and no party. Last year's meet at Oak Creek had both." However, student Nick Scott says, "Since it was my first meet, I didn't know what would be going on. But, overall it was a great meet."

Touchdown!

by Aniyah Williams

On Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016 at 5:30 PM, the NFL Super Bowl took place in the Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, CA. The Carolina Panthers played against the Denver Broncos. The final score was 24-10, the Broncos. "The Broncos performed better at the beginning due to their 2 touchdown lead," says Bayside Middle School student Georgia Sisk. "It is miraculous that Peyton Manning is still able to play at the professional level," says Nick Porfilio. Also, "...in terms of all the quarterbacks who have ever played in the Super Bowl, he is the oldest at 39 years old," says Ben Wagner. The Super Bowl aired on CBS. During halftime, Coldplay, Bruno Mars, and Beyonce performed.

Ready, Set, Go!

by Tristin McCreight

Photo below courtesy of
Olympic.org

On Aug. 5, the 2016 Summer Olympics will begin in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There are currently 18 different sports that will be a part of them. Some of the countries participating include Brazil, France, Great Britain, Sweden, United States, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Australia, Italy, and the Czech Republic, as well as many more. Some of the sports that will be taking place are swimming, archery, triathlons, basketball, and equestrian.

However, there are some problems already occurring. First, the amount of sewage in the water is not good for the people doing water sports, according to *The Atlantic*. There is about 78 times the legal limit of sewage in the region, which is 125 times the legal limit for the US, *The Atlantic* reports. James O'Callaghan, the Irish sailing team director said, "...sewage was visible in the Guanabara Bay water during my visit last year, and, as a result we have asked that a doctor come out with us when we travel back later this year ... It is a concern for us. Even if the boats don't capsize you are getting spray because of your speed across the water. If you have a cut we want to know what the chances are of infection." Also, the Zika Virus is a potential threat to the games. According to the World Health Organization, the Zika Virus is spread by *Aedes* mosquitoes and can cause mild fevers, skin rashes, and conjunctivitis. *The American Press* said, "The Olympic committee is warning athletes planning on competing in the games to take precautions, but the virus still is at the forefront of many athletes' minds." Finally, *News Australia* states that the financial stability of Brazil is affecting the games, as most of the work has not yet been completed. The Olympics are coming soon and the Brazilian government doesn't have enough money to get all the work done, according to *News Australia*.



Parents Demand Book Restriction

by Hannah Stettler

Mount Horeb, an elementary school in Wisconsin, said no to reading a book about Jazz, a teenage girl whose sex-change made headlines. A student at the school declares herself a female but was born with male anatomy. The book is called *I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel. The plan was to read the book at the school to show the hardships of life. According to *The Denver Post* and Mount Horeb Elementary School, the book was meant to be read because of a student at the school declares herself a female but was born with male anatomy.

Angered parents planned to sue the school if the book was read. Plans to read the book were immediately canceled when a group of parents contacted "The Florida based-Liberty Counsel", feeling that the book would violate parental rights. Due to the violation of parental rights and parent demand, the reading was soon nixed. "The Southern Poverty Law Center classifies the Liberty Counsel as a hate group that advocates for 'anti-LGBT discrimination, under the guise of religious liberty.'"

"The district said as it seeks to address the needs of the individual student, it will be mindful of the needs of other students and families. It also said families whose children may be affected will be notified of future actions, and the goal is to protect all students from bullying so they can learn together in a safe environment."

On the Friday following the incident, Mount Horeb Elementary closed the school down for a couple days whilst meetings with the parents and school board took place. "We believe all students deserve respect and support regardless of their gender identity and expression, and the best way to foster that respect and support is through educating students about the issue of being transgender," said the principal of Mount Horeb Elementary in a letter to the parents.

Island of Refugees

by Annika Billhartz

Egyptian billionaire Naguib Sawiris has some big plans cooking. According to *Good News Network*, he plans to buy an island on which the Syrian refugees can live. The billionaire is currently trying to select the perfect island for his project. Sawiris has reportedly narrowed it down to 17 uninhabited islands off of the coasts of Greece and Italy. He began his search with only about 2 islands, but has since increased his list of possible islands to consider. He plans for his island to be able to house a population of around 200,000 Syrians. Sawiris wants to name his island Aylan Island, for a 3-year-old Syrian boy named Aylan who floated ashore after dying at sea when his family was trying to flee from the war. Bayside Middle School student Gabby Flores says, "I think it's really great what he's doing for the refugees and I think others should follow suit. I also think that the name that he chose is very fitting." But some people think otherwise, such as Bayside student Georgia Sisk. She believes that the island isn't the best plan because terrorists might try to either take control of the island or even bomb the island as a statement.

Step Into Reality

by Jack Tobin

One step that many companies have taken this year is virtual and augmented reality. There are many uses for these 2 products. Some examples include gaming, education, work, gaining information, and much more. Two virtual reality headsets that are being advertised for mainly gaming are the Oculus Rift and the HTC Vive. These 2 headsets have many similarities, such as handheld controllers, adjustable headsets, and are similar in price. The price for the Oculus Rift is around \$600 and the HTC Vive is \$800, according to their respective websites. Bayside Middle School student Ben Wagner says, "I wouldn't really need to buy a virtual reality headset because the video games we already have are real enough."

Microsoft has been working on a project called the Hololens, which adds things into the real world. This is different than virtual reality, which puts you into another world. The Hololens is basically a pair of large glasses that puts little holograms into your line of sight and lets you use your hands to interact with them. The past attempts at virtual and augmented reality have left many people worried whether these 2 devices will ever take off. Between the price, the uses, and the design of these products they are very similar.

Many more products like these are being produced and the non-stop flow of devices will continue to come in the future.

Tragic Shooting Astounds Citizens of California

by Jazmyn Springfield

On Dec. 2, 2015, there was a shootout that occurred in San Bernardino, CA. Police reported that 14 people were killed and 22 were injured. The police say that Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, a married couple, were behind the shootout in California. However, "...both attackers were killed in a gun battle with police. Farooq, who was born in the U.S. and worked for the county, and a Pakistan national had an arsenal of ammunition and pipe bombs in their Redlands home,"

says the *Los Angeles Times*. This shooting was reportedly not planned. The shooters were at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing together and a person stated something that they didn't like, according to *CNN*. As a result, they reportedly stormed out of the room, went to the car, came back with guns and opened fire. "It is sad and unfortunate that people would feel the need to shoot innocent citizens," says Bayside Middle School student Nick Porfilio.

The Bald Eagle Building

by Nick Porfilio

In downtown Milwaukee, a well-known building located at 611 W. National Avenue is being remodeled by Keystone Development LLC. The building was previously owned by Esperanza Unida Inc. The building is likely best recognized due to the large painting of an eagle on the side, which will reportedly be removed after the remodel is complete. The city took hold of the property through foreclosure. This process started in the fall of 2014. Esperanza Unida had \$2 million worth of unpaid bills, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. They also had \$256,598 in back property taxes. “Things are moving forward,” said an operator of Keystone Development LLC. They are planning on turning the top floors into 36 apartments.



Photo to the right courtesy of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

The Packers Take a Tumble

by Taylor Robinson

On Saturday, Jan. 16, the Green Bay Packers played the Arizona Cardinals in their second play-off game. This game ended with a score of 26-20, the Cardinals. The game went into overtime after Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw a 60 yard pass to Jeff Janis, according to *ESPN*. “I think it was an incredible play,” says Bayside Middle School student Jazmyn Springfield. “Jeff Janis catching the ball at such a distance

is amazing. Rodgers throwing that far is quite remarkable as well.” This play led to a tied game of 20-20 and overtime. Five seconds into overtime, the Cardinals scored the winning touchdown. The Packers lost 26-20. When asked how he felt about the loss, student Ben Wagner said, “Since they’ve been losing the last couple of weeks, I felt like they were going to lose. However, I felt saddened by the loss like everyone else.”



Scott Kelly Returning to Earth

by Ben Wagner

On March 3, astronaut Scott Kelly returned to Earth after living in space for a year. Greeting him back at home were his family, including his twin brother Mark Kelly, and the wife of the vice president, Jill Biden. When Kelly arrived back, he soon realized that he was 2 inches taller than his twin brother. NASA's Jeff Williams stated, "Astronauts get taller in space as the spine elongates. But they return to preflight height after a short time back on Earth." Kelly was in space as part of an experiment to see how the body reacts and adapts to being in outer space for long amounts of time. Some wonder if the purpose of the mission was to prepare for the future, if humans ever decide to branch off and create colonies on different planets.

Photo above courtesy
of *Time Magazine*.

Novak Djokovic Wins Yet Another Grand Slam Title

by Sadie Cross

Novak Djokovic comes out on top again at the 2016 Australian Open. This is the sixth singles title that he has earned at the Australian Open. Djokovic played and defeated Andy Murray on Sunday, Jan. 31 (UTC/GMT Time Zone). Djokovic beat Murray in straight sets. The scores were 6-1, 7-5, and 7-6. With this victory, he has won 11 Grand Slam titles. This ties him for fifth place with Bjorn Borg for the most Grand Slam Titles won in history. According to *CNN*, Djokovic's career has skyrocketed recently. They report that he has been playing better than ever before. They even say that he is passing the standards Roger Federer has created. Federer has been setting new records for a decade, but Djokovic seems to be shooting past him. He has beat Federer in 6 of their last 8 matches. Djokovic stated, "No doubt that I'm playing the best tennis of my life in the last 15 months." *CNN* states, "...onlookers are justifiably calling Djokovic invincible."

Sports Authority Closing Stores

by Ari Borkin

Sports Authority is starting to liquidate about 140 stores, according to *USA Today*. The store is about \$1.1 billion in debt and is closing stores in Texas, California, Florida, and Illinois. The citing was filed on Wednesday, March 2, when the store reportedly was unable to keep up with the trends. A judge is scheduled to confirm or deny the bankruptcy on Thursday, March 3. Bayside Middle School student Taylor Robinson says, "I feel like they should have managed their money better." Large sales are supposed to begin in the store as early as Friday, March 4. They will reportedly last for several weeks, according to Sports Authority spokesperson Steven Goldberg. However, there are no stores closing in Wisconsin.

Serena Williams is Big on the Court... and In the News

by Georgia Sisk

Serena Williams was recently named the "2015 Sportswoman of the Year" by *Sports Illustrated*. Throughout the year, Williams won 53 out of 56 matches. As well as attending tennis events, Williams has been invited to many red carpet shows. According to *Huffington Post*, this has increased her popularity, making her a shoo-in for "2015 Sportswoman of the Year". According to *Sports Illustrated*, while starring on the cover page, Williams had a goal of speaking out about body shame and sexism. This side of Williams is very unfamiliar to some, and according to the *Huffington Post* caused mixed emotions. *Huffington Post* also states that multiple tweets have referred to Williams as "looking like a gorilla" or that she is "built like a man". However, according to *Business Insider*, J.K Rowling states, "I love her. What an athlete, what a role model, what a woman!"

Elitist of Nights

by Nick Scott

On Saturday, March 12 from 6:30-9:00 PM, the seventh and eighth graders from the Nicolet feeder schools are invited to attend the Elite Night at Elite Sports-Club in Mequon. Admission will cost \$10. All students who attend will be provided with pizza, snacks, and drinks. Some activities the students will participate in include swimming, dancing with a

professional DJ, and water polo. While doing these activities, the students will be able to meet new classmates before attending Nicolet. "It's going to be a good way, especially for eighth graders, to have a chance to mingle and branch out before going to school with new students next year at Nicolet," says Bayside Middle School student Chris Hayes.

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Another Trip to Camp MacLean is Underway

by Laura Carlton

On Jan. 27-29, the seventh grade students are heading to Camp MacLean in Burlington, WI. They will leave on the morning of Jan. 27 and come back in the afternoon of Jan. 29. Bayside Middle School seventh grade student, Sydney Geboy says, "I'm very excited and thrilled to have the opportunity to go to Camp MacLean." At Camp MacLean, the students will work together while doing activities like tobogganing, ice fishing, playing broomball, geocaching and making bracelets. They will also have a comedy sports class, learn how to use a compass, how to make ice cream, play games and do many other things. There are many activities that happen at night, including Carnival Night and the Poker Run.

The seventh graders will sleep in cabins, which are located on the YMCA's camp ground. There are 8-10 people that sleep in each cabin, with about 6-8 students and 1-2 teachers. There are 14 teachers in all who chaperone the trip. Many are assigned to a class that they teach. Camp MacLean connects to school because the activities relate to the different subject areas. Bayside Middle School seventh grade math teacher, Mr. Conforti, leads the planning of the trip. He says, "I love the camping

experience with the kids. It truly is an awesome way to teach kids with hands-on experiences that you can't do in the normal classroom setting."

Each meal is held in the main cabin on the campground. At every mealtime, one person from each table gets all the food from the kitchen and brings it to the table. The food is then served family style. When everyone is done eating, one person then takes all the table's dishes and puts them in their designated area near the kitchen.

This trip has occurred for 23 years and Mr. Conforti has been the main leader since the beginning. It is Mr. Conforti's last year, as he is retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Lesch, who has gone on this trip with him for 15 years, says, "I am, on one hand, so happy for him and the new adventures he has ahead. For us here at Bayside, however, I am sad and know that we will feel his absence in so many ways." As Mr. Conforti wraps up his final year, the legacy he has built through Camp MacLean will continue in the years to come.

He says, "the work is totally worth providing the students with an experience that they will remember for a lifetime!"



Photo to the right
courtesy of
Fox 6 News.