

THE GMS GAZETTE

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F-A-L-L-I-N-G INTO THE FALL FESTIVAL

By: Kennedy Delp

October 6, 2018 Girard, Kansas held their homecoming festival. The day started out bright with people putting up their booths. There were booths anywhere from makeup and house decor to chicken wings and cakes. The parade began with the high school band and flag dancers. Following was the high school football players with the cheerleaders and dance team. Then the homecoming queen, Marci Heatherly, drove by with the homecoming candidates, with the middle school football

players and cheerleaders following right behind them. Just as the middle school band began, it started to pour. Sadly the middle school band could not play. Mrs. Pitts, Science, voiced her thoughts on the fall festival she expressed that, "It's a Girard tradition, homecoming football game on Friday, parade and fall festival festivities on Saturday. Kinda brings the community together and to get out and see people you don't usually see." Sara Goble, a middle school band student, was disappointed that they didn't get to play. She expressed that, "we" the middle school band, "had been practicing a lot before the day of the parade and was very excited to get to go through in front of other students and community members in the crowd and show them what we have been working on during our band class." Fall festival was an eventful success even with the rain. Students and community members look forward to next year's fall festival and hope that the Girard Middle School band with get to play too. Look for them at the Pittsburg State Homecoming Parade Saturday October 20th!



SPIRIT WEEK

By Jalia Humphreys

Two weeks ago was Spirit Week for homecoming. All kids were welcome to participate in the high school sponsored

homecoming week. Monday was PJ day, Tuesday's Salad Day: Cowboys for Ranch, Thousand Island dressing for Hawaiian, and Caesar dressing for Greek. Wednesday's Twin day, Thursday's Career day, and Friday Maroon and Gold day. To say these days were fun is an understatement to all the kids who dressed out for them.

Some of the week's highlights include Emma Kendall-Barrett on

Career Day dressing as Mrs. Drenick, Marin Tersinar fully dressed as a Greek goddess, and Mrs. Pitts, Mrs. Jackman, Mrs. Norris, and Mrs. Peak dressed as "PE Teachers" to match Mr. Wescott. Some students even dressed up with a theme for the whole week!

Mr. Clevenger, Algebra, who also took part in the fun, claims that Spirit Week, "creates a unity, the more your involved it shows pride in our school and community. It also gives kids a chance to show their creativity without being harassed."

"My absolute favorite thing is being able to dress up," said Jonah Sandford. "I was always a fan of grade school Halloween before the rules changed." Sandford's favorite day was Salad Day because he dressed as a Spartan where as Tersinar's was Pajama Day. Tersinar loves this week because, "it gives us a chance to be creative!"

Spirit Week was fun for all the students here at GMS. We ended the week with a Pep Rally to cheer on the Trojans and show our spirit!

GMS GETS SPOOKY

By Brooklyn Mlekus

Girard Middle School has their annual Halloween dance on Thursday, October 18. Pitts, a GMS alumni said "I can't remember a time GMS didn't have school dances." GMS has had dances since the beginning. Every year GMS has 3 dances for every Holiday. Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. A tradition for



Syerra Gilmore and Jonah Sandford go all out for Salad Day.

the GMS Halloween dance is kids dress up in costumes. Each year they have a Halloween costume contest. The kids in each grade, boys and girls, have the teachers decide who has the best costumes. This year Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Adamson, and Mr. Westcott picked the winners.



Lea McGown and Bailey Troike

In the 6th grade Scott Moore and Jeriah Adolph, 7th grade Haley Philips and Matthew Childers, and in 8th grade, Bailey Troike and Lea McGown, Jonah Sandford won. The DJ started the night off with

the Cupid shuffle. All kids joined in and started dancing. The GMS students also had a snowball dance. Each kid got to slow dance with anyone who asked them or whoever they asked. GMS 8th grade winner Lea McGown told the GMS Gazette that, "I don't think about winning. I think it's funny, because we always do stupid costumes." Lea McGown and Bailey Troike won last years costume contest too. It was a fun, carefree night!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By Carlie Vail

Mrs. Arneson, the sixth grade math teacher, will be celebrating her 29 years of teaching at USD 248 this year. Before she began teaching, Arneson wanted to fulfill her passion and went to Oxford University in England. Later, she graduated with a BSED from Pitt State University. During her student teaching, she said nothing ever went as planned. She stated that you have to have the ability of learning to adapt. She has taught two other subjects during her lifetime, including ELA and Reading. The teacher stated she wanted to stay in Girard because we have a great community. Arneson's grandmother inspired her to become a teacher.



"I can still remember her desk. It had a pull out board on the side and I used to pretend I was the teacher." When asked if she had the opportunity to teach any other subject, she

replied that she thinks she would like to teach Social Studies.

Mrs. Arneson answered a few other selected questions about what she likes to do outside her job. Arneson would also love to learn and visit the places she has on her bucket list. Not only does she enjoy teaching, but she enjoys spending time with her family, playing with her two dogs, and working in her yard. In 5 years she said would like to be able to travel more often. This teacher has a heart of passion and love for her kids.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Ashley Sabine and Hannah Warner

GIRARD KANSAS: In the coming weeks, Jake Holmes, 7th grader at GMS will be going to Las Vegas to compete in the rodeo finals for calf roping.

Jake has been roping since he was 5. Holmes mentioned to us that he started rodeo because of his dad. He began the rodeo when he was 3.

When asked Jake said “ I plan to go to Vegas 7 more times, and I plan to be in the NFR and rodeo professionally.” Holmes also said he went to Hamilton Texas, Midland Texas, Decatur Texas, and Colorado, and several other places. Vegas will be the farthest Holmes has ever gone for rodeo.

Anthony Pike, also a GMS 7th grader, went to the Las Vegas finals last year. He says that the nerves get high, and that you have to keep in your mindset. Pike also hopes to be in the in the PBR, professional bull roping, and NFR, national final rodeo, as well.

We hope Jake does good, and we are wishing him the best of luck!

7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

By Bailey Troike

The 7th graders volleyball team slay the season. **GIRARD:** The 7th grade volleyball team finished their season with a big win against Colgan. The Trojans have only lost two games out of the games that they played, Frontenac and Riverton.

When asked how the season went, Mrs. Peak said, “Our team did pretty good, the girls were very coachable, good attitudes, and were very positive.” Mrs. Peak said she would like to stay with the girls because they know her coaching style, and they could



build on their skills from this year. She was happy how the season ended with only two losses and winning the seventh grade tournament. She thought the seventh graders were a great group of girls. I also interviewed Kinley Tucker. Tucker thought her team is going to have to work harder in order for a better season. Kinley’s favorite part about volleyball is hitting. “I have been playing volleyball for seven years, ever since I was a little girl.”

As you can tell our 7th grade volleyball team had a good season. They finished off strong with only two losses.

THE TROJANS CLOSE OUT THEIR SHUTOUT SEASON

By Ashley Sabine

GIRARD KANSAS: The GMS Trojans have had a shutout season. Staying underfed the Trojans have won their last few games they’ve played against Columbus, Frontenac, St. Mary’s Colgan, and Riverton

The Trojans started their game against Columbus, with the titans scoring on the opening drive going 65 yards. The Trojans, let their wrath come thru only letting the titans score one last time in the 3rd quarter. Rayesean Ellis took and end around for a 6 yard touchdown, on the Trojans first possession. Aiden Damman caught a 40 yard touchdown pass from Alex Coester at the end of the 2nd quarter giving Girard a 12-8 halftime lead. With 2 minutes left in the game Damman caught another touchdown pass from Coester, on a double pass starting with Luke Niggemann to Coester, leading to Damman for a 50 yard touchdown reception. Ellis made a conversion making the Final score 20-16.

The Trojans then took on the Frontenac Raiders. The game started with Alex Coester getting a 12 yard touchdown run up the middle, with Rayesean Ellis making the conversion. Then Ellis made a 30 yard touchdown run, and Ethan Davidson made the 2 point conversion as well as a 5 yard touchdown run at the end of the second quarter. The score at halftime was 22-0. After halftime Ethan Davidson had a 25 yard defensive touchdown after recovering a fumble. The final touchdown of the night was a double pass from Luke Niggemann to Alex Coester to Aiden Damman. The conversion was no good. Final score was 36-0.

The Girard Trojans completes their shutout season at Riverton. Not letting the Rams get close to their end zone the Trojans completed with the score of 36-0 to close out their shutout season.

GMS CHEERLEADERS GET LOUD

By Laney Miller

The GMS football cheerleaders are, Laklyn Arthur, Paloma Garcia, Kendra Johnson, Gracie Kammar, Emma Kendall-Barrett, Ebony Love, and Haley Schoeling and they are the fall squad. Love is cheering for football and boys basketball. The girls cheered at every football game. The season started on August 16, and it ends on October 16. One of the girls, Gracie Kammar, was unable to cheer for most of the season because she became ill but is still apart of the team and she still supports them.

The GMS cheer coach, Alex Childers, was asked a few questions about coaching. When asked is coaching frustrating she replied with this answer, “oh yeah, it’s very frustrating, especially when we have an hour and 45 minute practice and we only get about 30 minutes because the girls can’t quit bickering.” Do you like coaching? “I do, I like it a lot.” she stated. Also interviewed was Love and Schoeling. They were asked the same 5 questions. Ms. Love, a 8th grader, was interviewed first. Her favorite part about cheer is being loud. The girls had two completely different answers. Schoeling answered, “I love spending time with all of the girls and making new friends.” They were asked

if cheer was their favorite sport. “no, track is,” replied Ebony. “Definitely!” stated Schoeling. The girls really love cheerleading and we all know that Mrs. Childers loves coaching it. Cheerleading is a good way to let the girls express themselves. It takes a lot of hard work to memorize chants and moves along with being loud and full of spirit. Mrs. Childers will also be in charge of two new separate squads for Girls and Boy Basketball seasons.



REVIEW: THE DARKEST MINDS

By: Caitlin Cranston

The Darkest Mind book series from 1# New York Times Best-Selling Author, Alexandra Bracken has caught the attention of many science fiction lovers, captivating them with the prospect of a deadly disease breakout among the youth of modern-day America. This disease claimed many lives, but if you were lucky enough to survive chances are you didn’t escape unscathed. When death tolls skyrocket after a disease breakout targeting young children and teens infests America, the remaining children start to develop abilities. Many adults fear the surviving children and others hate them, the current president decides that the only way to keep everyone safe is to lock all the kids up in high security “camps”.

Ruby Daly was only nine when the disease spread to her town in Virginia. After Ruby’s tenth birthday she is sent to a containment camp called Thurmond, where the kids are categorized by their “color” or abilities so that they are contained with others like themselves. There are five different “colors”; Greens are considered the least dangerous of all the colors with their abilities being enhanced Intelligence, and hyperawareness. Blues have a knack for combat and their abilities include telekinesis, and environmental manipulation. Yellows have electrokinetic powers, and manipulate energy.

Reds are very dangerous with their abilities in pyrokinesis, and fire-starting, they are a very destructive group of kids. Oranges are considered to be the most dangerous of all the infected children, their abilities are mind control, and telepathy.

Six grueling years later Ruby catches a break, after getting sick, she ends up in a makeshift doctors office that Thurmond built. Later that night she escapes and is taken by an agent from the Children's League- an organization dedicated to protecting and recruiting children affected by the disease -to a rest stop where she makes a run for it. As she runs through the gas station she spots a little girl who, as soon as she sees Ruby, runs out of the building and through the woods that surrounded the area. Chasing after the girl, Ruby finds herself at the back of a van, for some reason the girl decides to let Ruby in. But Ruby wasn't safe yet, she still had to out smart others who would want to bring her in.

Alexandra Bracken's book, *The Darkest Minds*, was recently made into a major motion picture as of this fall. They did have to make some changes in the movie regarding censoring certain scenes, overall the movie is great for teens and adults. This movie is highly recommended and can be found on the Amazon Prime app and will be out for purchase on DVD around October the 30th.

With Ruby on the run from Thurmond, and the League, will she be able to gain control over her powers or will they consume everyone she loves?

IT'S THE WITCHING SEASON

By Gracie Peterson

Many people enjoy a movie with a happy ending. And that's just what the witches delivered, in an unexpected way. The movie, based off of the Roald Dahl book of the same name, was released in 1990. The story is based in Norway, where Luke (Jasen Fisher), is visiting his grandma (Mai Zetterling) with his parents. Grandma tells stories of witches that she believes in. She tells Luke of the ways witches look, behave, and their likes and dislikes.

They have square feet, always wear gloves, hate the smell of clean children, they are completely bald, wear wigs, and sometimes you can catch a purple gleam to their eye. One night when Grandma was telling Luke stories, his parents got into a car accident. The event pulled on the heartstrings of viewers as Luke was comforted by his grandma. Soon came the young boy's birthday. Grandma got him some rats, and took him on holiday to a hotel. Luke wanted to find a safe place to play with his pet rats, without getting caught, so he found a spot in a conference room. He soon realized that he was in for a treat when ladies started to file in the room. The leader of the conference stood on the stage. Luke was shocked when she snatched the wig right off of her own head. The entire room of ladies started to remove their wigs, gloves, and shoes. It was revealed to Luke that they were witches. When the witches started to smell the boy a commotion arose. The movie will have you on the edge of your seat as Luke faces the obstacles that the witches provide. I truly enjoy this spooktacular movie, and I recommend that you watch it. The heartwarming ending will provide you with all of the happiness that you need.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

By: Sam Brutchin

Daylight Saving Time have been established in the United States since March 31, 1918. The main purpose of Daylight Saving Time is to make better use of daylight. On November 4th, when the clocks hit 2 A.M. they will be set back to 1 A.M.

The only state in the U.S. to not participate in Daylight Saving Time is Arizona. With the exception of the Navajo Nation, Arizona does not set the clocks forward in one hour in spring. Because of Arizona's hot climate, Daylight Saving Time is unnecessary. This long lasting tradition stirs up some controversy between children and adults alike. According to prnewswire.com, 74% of Americans want to end Daylight Saving Time. I agree with that 74%. In my opinion, Daylight Saving Time should end. It is difficult to readjust every few months when the time changes.

Ashley Sabine, an 8th grader at GMS, stated that, "I like falling back because I get another hour of sleep, but springing forward is the worst." Daylight Saving Time causes sleep schedules to change. Any amount of sleep loss can affect the hormone levels in the body. This can lead to changes in your appetite, causing weight gain or weight loss. Daylight Saving Time should end.

THE SPOOKTACULAR WRITING CONTEST

By Anna Drenick

While brainstorming for our latest issue, Gazette staff members posed the idea of hosting a contest for all things spooky. The writing contest was open to the entire middle school with only a few rules: The stories must be original and age appropriate (without any explicit violence or gore), it must be less than 300 words, and, of course, it must be spooky.

The Gazette Staff judged each one on the basis of creativity, grammar, and theme. We had many strong haunting tales, but it was an 8th grader who won first place. However, Kim Pitts does receive an honorable mention for not only being the sole teacher entry, but also the shortest. Without further ado, the winning story.

THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

By Hailey Schettler

It was October 31st on Halloween night and Sienna was hoping to get a great fright. "Mom I don't feel like trick or treating tonight, how about a spook house?"

"Well only if you want to," exclaimed her mother with excitement.

Shortly they arrive at a house that seemed as if there were no people in sight. Darkness towered over the house and made you feel as if 1,000 spiders were crawling up your back.

"Honey, I don't think this is a real thing, there's nobody here." "It's fine mom," Sienna states as she gets out of the car. Soon approaching the door of the house, the door opens, but no one is in the dark hallway that appears at the beginning, only but a thousand mirrors.

Not a even second after she opens the door, a man appears in every mirror. Startled Sienna screams, laughing it off thinking it's just for the fright, no harm done. Little did Sienna know that this a wasn't a real spook house, it was a real haunted house.

She walked, stunned, then the man appears again, then 3 more times after. She thought she heard someone

saying her name, looking the long narrow hallway was empty and quiet. She opens the upcoming door and hears the sound of breaking

glass. Turning, Sienna sees all the mirrors shattering into a million

pieces. Then, the same man that she saw in the mirrors approaches her with a mirror in his hand. He gives it to her, and Sienna takes it scared of what might happen. When she grasps it tightly she appears in a dark room that appears to be a mirror. Screaming she realizes that it was a dream. "Mom, I think we should go trick or treating."



Art by Emma Kendall-Barrett

SUPER, SPOOKY SUPER-DE-DICIOUS SCARY STORY

By Kim Pitts

I teach middle school. The end.

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

The Shreksperiment by Tanner Ulbrich

The Rockingchair, Window by Kellie Dowling

Ghosts: A Tale of Two Hauntings by Sarah Rose

The Phone Call by Samantha Brutchin and Sydney Hessong