

Change Keeps Marching on

by Harrison McClure

This year's marching band gained a new addition to guide the next generation of musicians: Toni Birch. In the previous years the high school marching band was led by Monica Peters, but last year Mrs. Peters retired. The role of band director is now being held by Ms. Birch. As the new band director, she is now in charge of preparing the high school students for upcoming marching seasons. Although, as some students can attest, the change in band directors created some challenges for the new marching band to overcome.

"I think that the biggest struggle our band faced while preparing to march was the shift in leadership. Change is never easy, especially in a program us kids have been in for year," Sheridan Puncochar (12) commented.

Switching band directors presented unique challenges, which were compounded by the obstacles of preparing new students for marching. This year as part of a new system, section leaders were implemented to teach new students about marching band. The section leaders taught the new band members to march in step and memorize new music. Luckily, under the direction of Ms. Birch and experienced band members the band as a whole was able to overcome these challenges.

"One of the issues that the band faced was learning a new marching song. We had many new, young people join band, so we had to teach them how to memorize music. We overcame this obstacle thanks to the great mentors and leaders within our



The Crusader Marching Band coming performing at the Harvest of Harmony. Photo courtesy of Valerie Chmelka

band," Sam Mueller (12) commented.

In addition to new section leaders, came new drum majors to assist in directing the band. This year's marching band will be led by Sheridan Puncochar as well as Mueller, who has extensive experience as a drum major. Last year's drum majors, under the direction of Ms. Peters, were Mueller and Kylie Gangwish. Puncochar discovered that being the conductor was a completely different experience from being conducted.

"After watching people conduct you for many years, you know how to do it and how it works, but getting up in front of everyone and leading them was a new experience," Puncochar stated.

In some cases, the more experienced band members had to step up as leaders. In other cases, inexperienced band members had to work hard to study and memorize new music. Regardless of their experience, every band member successfully

overcame their individual challenges. Despite a few setbacks, there were still some memorable moments to be had.

"My favorite most memorable moment from this year's marching season was receiving the superior trophy at Minden Bandfest. Sam and I were down on the track waiting for our school to be called and hearing the announcer say superior was a relief," Puncochar revealed.

"One of the highlights from this marching season is when it rained on us at Minden Band Fest. Another [highlight] is when we were stuck in the Eddy St. underpass for 10 mins during Harvest of Harmony!" Mueller mentioned.

"A highlight for me this season was the Harvest of Harmony parade. This parade was a full circle experience for me because I marched in it back in high school as a student and now I got to march in it again as a director," Ms. Birch concluded.

Socktober In October

by Bambi Yax

During the month of October there are a lot of events that occur, examples can include Homecoming, District Volleyball, Trunk or Treat, and many more. Socktober is an event that also occurs in the month of October, Socktober lasts the entire month of October and was started two years ago by the Student Council. The GICC Student Council helps with this event and the members of the council encourage students and families to participate in giving to those who are in need. Reese Reilly (12) and Jameson Rein(11) are members of the Student Council and help with Socktober.

“Socktober is a sock drive that the GICC student council puts on in October. We collect these socks to give to charities at the end of October,” Reilly explained.

Socktober allows students and their families to bring socks that will be donated to charities. At the end of October, the Student Council members donate the socks to the Salvation Army and other charities that are in need of socks. GICC also has similar events to Socktober.

“Other things similar to Socktober that help others in need are food drives, Thanksgiving baskets done by the school, and book drives,” Reilly shared.

Socktober isn't the only charity event that takes place throughout the school year. The baskets that are made for the Thanksgiving food drive include foods you would usually eat at Thanksgiving such as



Reese Reilly (12)



Jameson Rein (11)

green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and turkey. The book drives let students bring books to give away for kids to take home and enjoy. Throughout the years, Socktober has been successful and the Student Council plans on continuing this event as it has received positive feedback from the charities they've donated to.

“Socktober is a good idea and it works well the way it is. I like how we are able to help people even if it is in a small way,” Rein states.

Socktober, throughout its two years, has been a huge success to our school and charities. Although, there can be other ways that a few Student Council members would change certain factors of Socktober for the better.

“I would make Socktober different by promoting it more in the hope of collecting more socks to donate. I think it is a great project and an incredible way to give back to the community,” Reilly exclaims.

She believes that promoting the event in a different manner could help collect more socks. These events help charities or people, in the Grand Island area, provide for their necessities. GICC is grateful to have students who will take the opportunity to help others and do the most to promote it and make it the best it can be.

“My favorite part about Socktober is helping the less fortunate and the fun name,” Reilly concludes.

Celebrating the Cops of Grand Island

by Madalyn Renz

Halloween is a holiday that has been passed down for generations and yet there are still new ways being created to celebrate with the people we care about. It only takes one conversation and things can turn into tradition with just a little initiative. One of these such traditions is an event known as Coptober fest. Coptober fest is an event that is run by and for police officers, administrators, office staff, and their families. The main goal was to feed as many people from the department as possible and have an event that the entire department could enjoy. The original creators of this event are Chirs Marcello, Arron Marquez, Jose Rodrigues, and Bret Renz.

Officer Marcello was a 20 year military officer. He retired 1st Sgt in the army national guard. He had 4 children before he passed on July 27, 2022. He served the police department for 10 years. Officer Marquez was a paratrooper in the US army for 6 years before he was honorably discharged. He has 2 children, and



Jose Rodrigues, an officer of 8 years, at this year's Coptober fest.
photo by Madalyn Renz

Has been a police officer for 8 years. Officer Rodrigues has been a part of the police force for 8 years and has 2 children. Officer Renz Has 2 kids and has been an officer for 10 years. Coptober fest is almost like a family gathering, except for the relatives you don't want to talk to. Every year without fail there is always smiles and laughs wherever you look. You can

expect different yard games like corn hole, and other such games. Stories to be told, some that are welcomed and some that people didn't think would be brought back up again. The constant smell of food and the happy yelling of children running around are always a guarantee as well.

"Coptober fest will hopefully never go away..." Officer Renz explains. This year Coptober has fed more than 83 people from officers, to administration, and office staff. This is not counting their families and friends that were invited. Even with the loss of friends, this tradition has yet to be broken. It is not a time to be sad that they are no longer with us to celebrate, but to be happy about what they brought to the table.



Barbie on the Big Screen



by Lexi Puncochar

July 21, 2023 was a very exciting day for a number of people at Central Catholic. This was the day the Barbie movie was released into theaters. Many people from our school became intrigued and decided to watch, including Emely Gutierrez, Clara Vargas, and Haley Roeser.

"I always loved watching Barbie movies when I was younger. I got excited when I saw multiple ads for this

movie, especially when I saw some of my favorite actors like Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, Michael Cera, and America Ferrera," Gutierrez expressed.

Some students decided to dress up in pink outfits, or went as Barbie and Ken. This was a popular thing throughout the whole country and the whole world. Taking pictures and posting them all over different social media platforms.

"I went with my mom my brother and his girlfriend. We all were dressed up except my brother who didn't really want to," Roeser expressed.

Others chose more comfortable options. Sweatpants, pajamas and sweatshirts were very commonly worn when watching the movie at home or other places that were not the movie theater.

"My experience was fun, I watched it at home with my parents and I wore my pajamas and ate popcorn," Vargas exclaims.

The movie was a dream come true for old and new Barbie lovers.

The movie gave a heartfelt message that Gutierrez had a big view on.

"One message I got while watching the movie was that both men and women should treat each other equally. Throughout the movie, it was shown that in the real world Barbie realized that boys and girls were raised in a society to believe differently and were treated differently. She realized that the world isn't perfect, and towards the end of the movie both Barbie and Ken apologized to each other for not treating each other equally, and they both can have equal power." Gutierrez explains.

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