

Life At 43 Main Street

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School News

School Uniforms

Divyam Shah

Domenica D'Ottavio, a former student at Black River High School, was transferred to Florida to a private school where they have to wear school uniforms. After staying there for around two months she says, "after about a week in a school that requires all students to dress in uniform, I've learned a lot. Every kid hates it." She continues, "Everybody wants to express their individuality." A student being in a school with no uniforms all her life now goes to a school that requires uniforms and she starts hating it in two weeks. This shows how every student who has experienced schooling with uniforms extremely dislikes it.

The issue of having school uniforms in school has been there for a long time. Different states around the United States have their own rules regarding school uniforms; however, no state so far has legislatively mandated wearing of school uniforms. The laws usually relate to not describing anything offensive or violent.

There are reasons why people argue to have school uniforms in school. It shows the uniqueness of a school. It makes the

school and even the parents proud. It reminds the students of their responsibility as a student. Studies have shown that it helps a student concentrate in his school work; he is also safe and can avoid peer pressure. Although the negative sides out weighs its positive aspects. School uniforms waste money. They are also very hard to clean as they are usually white or another light color and can fade fast. A child usually drops food on his clothes or makes it dirty quickly. This can even make a child unhappy. On a bigger aspect, the student loses his/her right to dress and cannot express his/her individuality sometimes leading to depression. On a practical and a wider aspect we see that if a student cannot express his individuality through his clothing he loses confidence and hence would not do so well socially or educationally.

Black River Inside Scoop

Anna Sanford.

As winter is coming to a slow close Black River High School is preparing for spring and getting ready for summer. With spring right around the corner many Black River students are getting geared up for the upcoming sports, Baseball, Golf, and Softball. The Baseball and Softball teams are in for an exciting year of holding a state title.

In other school news the Drama program is getting a rapid start on the next performance “Admiral Triton” by J.M Barriers that should be performed in early May. As the basketball season is ending the girls varsity team took on the play offs in Concord, Vermont. With the girls win, they took on Chelsea High school in quarter finals; unfortunately Chelsea won them over by seven points.

In the 2008/2009 school year Black River has had 5 snow days causing the school year to extend until Friday, June 19.th “It sucks, because it shortens our summer and lengthens our school year. They should take away the half-days so we don’t have to be here so late in June” says sophomore, Joe Galimi.

In faculty news, there are several cuts happening in the Ludlow Elementary School, as well as reductions in the High School. The Black River High school took a renovation proposal to the budget informational meeting on February 24, 2009. The proposal included three brand new science labs, a new handicap accessible bathroom on the third floor, and a complete renovation of the first and second floor girls and boys restrooms. The budget and renovation proposal was passed. Freshman Jesse Gillette says, “I think that the bathroom renovations are much needed, and its about time that there going through with it”.

Sports

Black River Baseball

Jake Covell

Basketball’s coming to an end and spring’s rolling around once again. As always this means the beginning of the new baseball/softball season. Both the boys and girls finished last year as the state champs.

For the boys, it was the first time in school history that they had won a state championship. After having a great season, losing only one game, they went all the way.

But unfortunately the team lost three of the most influential players on the team: David O’Neil, Ian Rebhan, and Anthony Simms. There are still high expectations for the team this year and they are expected to do well as defending champions. Despite losses there are new additions to the team. One of them is Tim Rumrill. When asked about playing this year he said “It should be a magnificent year with Coach Jim O’Neil. I look forward to a great season and hope to have great results, just as last year”

One thing people are wondering about is if they can repeat just like the past two soccer seasons and do it in baseball too. The season will start in mid march this year for catchers and pitchers and soon everyone will be on the field once the snows gone.

Softball

Alyssa Collins

In June of 2008 Black River got a chance to go to the softball finals.

It was a cold and damp night when the players of the Black River Varsity Softball Team took the field. Persevering the conditions were many fans that were anxious, nervous, but most of all excited. It

was no secret that the Black River Girls were the team to beat, and the thrill brought most of us fans in.

As the game started we cheered our team on and awaited them to take the field. Watching the team play is certainly amazing. They all play so well together and seem unfazed by pressure, which there was a lot of. The Black River Softball team was the defending state champions of Division IV and every team wanted to be able to say they had beaten them. But, we wouldn't allow it.

As the game progressed it was clearly seen who would come out on top. I was excited to know that my trip to watch my school be represented in the Division IV State Champion Finals would turn into a second consecutive title, 2007 and 2008.

This year there are very high expectations for the Lady Presidents, which I am sure they will answer to.

Tiger Returns to Golf

Tim Rumrill

Golf. It's a game of precision and finesse. A real gentlemen's sport. When talking about golf there are a couple names that are recognized. One of the most common is Tiger Woods.

Woods is one of the youngest to ever succeed in this game. He has won numerous matches. He is second to the most all time winning fourteen major golf championships. He has more career Major and PGA tour championship wins than any other player in the game. He is the youngest and fastest to win fifty tournaments on tour. He is also the youngest to reach the career Grand Slam.

His left knee was set to undergo surgery on June 18, 2008. Woods surgery would be to repair a knee and end the PGA tour season for him.

On Wednesday, February 25, 2009, Woods made his much expected return to

the game that he loves. Tiger started off with a nice birdie-eagle at the Accenture Match Play Championship. He finished the day with a convincing win washed away all of the critics that looked down on his return. When asked about the topic, sophomore Jake Covell remarked, "Tiger Woods returning is absolutely wonderful and I am very excited for what he could do in the future." His return was a long 253 days away from the time he limped off the course after his US Open win.

In a great match on February 25, 2009, Tiger pulled off a 3 and 2 victory over Brendan Jones in a WGC match play event. After Tiger said to the media, "I felt good, I got off to a quick start which helped." Boy did it ever. This game proved that Tiger lost almost nothing on his game. Well done Tiger.

The next day would not fare as well for Tiger as he faced defeat by Tim Clark. Throughout the game Clark was flawless in his play. Clark made six birdies with not one bogey, a stunning performance to take away hopes for Woods. Woods still said that he felt "good" and that Clark made a heck of a game out of it. Although it may not be the result Tiger was looking for, he should be happy about his return to the game of Golf.

NHL

Jesse Gillette

There has been much excitement in the world of sports. Basketball is narrowing down, and baseball is just beginning. But, it seems that we have been ignoring the NHL. Although the season is reaching an end, there are still games to be played, and divisions to be clinched.

The top 6 teams in the NHL as of now are the New Jersey Devils, the Boston Bruins, the Washington Capitals, the Detroit Red Wings, the Calgary Flames, and the San

Jose Sharks. These 6 teams are top in their divisions, and most likely will be fighting each other in the Playoffs.

Last years returning Stanley Cup champions, the Red Wings, are currently the third best team in the NHL. Having the same starting line up as last year, they could be back on their way to the top.

The Boston Bruins are the second best team in the league, only 3 game points behind the San Jose Sharks, who have to of the best players in the NHL. They are Jon Cheechoo and Evgeni Nabokov. They both were signed in 2007, and will be staying for 5 years. Last year the Sharks clinched the division, but did not make it far in the playoffs. It will be interesting to see how far they can get.

The New Jersey Devils are succeeding at a constant rate. They are 6 game points ahead in their division, and will surely be seen in the playoffs, especially with their star goalie back, Martin Brodeur, who came back just in time to shut out the Colorado Avalanche.

“I think the Montreal Canadians will cause an upset, and win the Stanley Cup because they are Canadian and good at hockey.” Said Jake Covell

Kyle Milligan said, “I think the Bruins will win because they are from Boston, and they are good.”

Everyone has their own theory, but only the top 8 teams in each conference will make it into the playoffs. Who will it be? Only time can tell.

Alex Rodriguez Steroid Scandal

Kyle Milligan

Major League Baseball spring training is under way and everyone is looking at Alex Rodriguez of the NY Yankees. The latest story is about A-Rod taking steroids. Steroids help you perform better. He is a third Baseman. A-Rod admitted to taking steroids when playing for the Texas Rangers in 2001. Alex said that he took them because he needed to perform well because he felt like there was so much pressure on him. Alex also said he wanted to be one of the best there ever was. Alex say's he regrets it and is very sorry.

Jesse Gillette said, “I think he only hit a home run because he was on steroids.” Everyone can think what they want about A-Rod.

National News

Bringing in New Revenue for Vermont

Rachel Brzoza

The Vermont Legislature has been going back and forth on ways to create new revenue, which leads them to consider raising taxes on gas and diesel purchases. The bills will be brought to the House Committee on Transportation this week. The bills are hoped to bring in new revenue for Vermont to help restore basic facilities. The legislature's Joint Fiscal Office revealed that as of now, Vermont will be facing a loss of \$109 million yearly for the next 20 years which will be used for replacing bridges and other much needed roadway repairs. According to the Rutland Herald, "Vermonters now pay 20 cents in state taxes for every gallon of fuel they purchase."

Governor James Douglas' proposal of bringing in new in-state revenue by increasing car and truck registration costs will also be discussed. Douglas argues that putting a tax on gasoline and diesel may be a burden to many of Vermont's middle and lower class families. He believes his proposal is more sufficient because the higher registration costs will be offset by a two year car inspection cycle.

These are only a few of the bills which will be proposed this week. The situation of finding an adequate way to bring in new revenue is being looked at differently by many people, but hopefully a common trend is found between these proposals and legislature finds a way to please everyone.

The Automobile Massacre Letty Mauriello

These past few months have been agonizing for everyone when it comes to the economy, however, it's not just the consumers of the world being hit hard. American car companies like General Motors, Ford, Chevrolet and Chrysler have lost a great amount of their once-abundant money and success due to the economic crisis. The leading American car businesses are taking action against losing more money.

GM is getting rid of the gas-guzzling monstrosities we know of as Hummers. In last year alone, purchases of the notorious vehicle dropped by half, about 28,000 sold nationwide. It is obvious that the high-gas prices we suffered through last summer was the cause of it's downfall and GM has certainly taken notice. RIP, Hummers.

I asked a student from Green Mountain High School, Sonja Skalecki, about her thoughts on the end of Hummer production, "Good riddance!" She instantly answers, "They shouldn't have gone into production in the first place."

Chrysler, on the other hand, is by far dropping the production of the most cars. Say good-bye to the production of the PT cruiser, Chrysler Pacifica and Dodge Magnum. The production of Dodge Durangos will also cease, however, Chrysler toys with the idea of bringing it back in a few years.

Other cars you won't be seeing too much of anymore are Sweden-based Saabs and the success-resistant Saturns, but with hope, many American car companies will increase the production of electric cars. Chrysler and GM both state that by late next year, there will be more electrically-powered vehicles on the road.

When I asked Gregory Mauriello of Ludlow of his thoughts on the production of electric cars, he responded, "I'm very much in favor of green technology for cars and in

other ways, and I hope that this time our country truly invests its energy and resources into developing viable electric cars.”

Salmonella Poisonings Hit Hard Letty Mauriello

In the past few years, an onslaught of dangerous Salmonella poisonings have hit the United States, which depends on much of its consumer products to be produced in other areas of the country, and other countries. From spinach to tomatoes and now peanut butter, over 400 people have been sickened in 43 states. This includes our home-state of Vermont.

Late last year, a 7-year old Vermont boy ate Keebler Cheese and Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers only to be infected with the salmonella poisoning. His angry parents filed a lawsuit against Peanut Corps of America in late January, but a verdict has yet to be made.

This leads to the topic of localization of merchandise production. For many years, we have depended on other areas of the country, and other parts of the world, for our own food, clothes, furniture, toys, etc. If production of consumer items was to be localized, we could better monitor how the products we consume are made and make sure nothing goes wrong. On the other hand, if our nation was to put this into practice, it would be costly, and ‘costly’ is the last thing we need in the economy we have right now.

“I think salmonella poisoning can happen anywhere.” States Janet Johnson, a Ludlow citizen and paralegal, “It’s just a matter of cleanliness and keeping extreme hygiene in processing plants.”

Bill Knockenhauer, a student from Green Mountain, believes differently, “I do believe that products should be produced more locally, because it would probably reduce the likelihood of poisonings and

would be healthier for us and better for the economy, and even the environment!”

Ellis Block Fire Hannah Brzoza

In July of 2008, a fire was set at the Ellis Block in Springfield, Vermont. This fire burned down the only movie theater in the town. This fire brought over 100 firefighters to the scene from 19 fire departments. Not only did it burn down the movie theater, but also the apartments in the building, leaving around forty people homeless.

As of the next day, the arsonist was found according to the Rutland herald at “The Red Cross Shelter for fire victims.” The young teenage boy had started the fire because of a dispute between him and his landlord over not being able to have an air conditioner in his apartment. The boy was sentenced February 24th, 2009 for up to two to ten years in prison. He had pleaded no contest to the charges against him. According to the Rutland Herald the teenage boy was “sentenced to 6 to 12 months of reckless endangerment to be served concurrently.”

Although nobody was seriously injured this was a very serious situation. Before you do anything you need to think of how many people your decision affects. There are consequences to everyone’s actions. As you see this was a very bad decision with a bad outcome.