Students to take ‘journey’ with Smithsonian display at library

The special Smithsonian Institution historical display titled “Journey Stories” at MVC Murrell Memorial Library is huge in size and content. The exhibition runs through March 31. It is a Museum on the Street project, organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and Missouri Humanities Council, with federal funding.

Run, jump, throw...

Athletes show skills for track meet

MVC track and field athletes (from left) Aursland Seymour, Rhiannon Kendrick, and John Castillo competed at a home meet in February.

(Photos by Ralitsa Gospodinova)
Celebrating Black History month

Guest Commentary by Raymond L. Banks

(This commentary appeared in the Kansas City Star last week.)

I wish I could change the history,
Of my ancestor misery,
Unknown to a new generation of blacks,
What ever happen to going back?
Back to Africa, our true native land,
A place where Black history began.

One of my white friends asked me why do African Americans celebrate their history for a month and this was my answer to his question.

First, it starts with looking back over the ages, remembering the legacy of our Black history. Some people wonder why we celebrate our history for a month. If we did not celebrate the lives of Harriet Tubman, Thurgood Marshall, and George Washington Carver, no one else would.

The time has not been so long since African Americans were marching in the South for freedom, and equality. Liberating ourselves in the North, for self dependence, and building up our own communities. Neither has it been so long that we cannot hear the voice of a man so desperately imploring to his people that we will get to the Promise Land.

I can still hear the screams of a mother and her children, as they lift up their eyes in anguish of their father hanging from a tree. I can feel the heat causing sweat to fall down my face to remind me of my ancestors, who worked sunrise to sunset picking cotton in the fields of Georgia, and tobacco in the plantations of South Carolina. It’s only been a little while since Abraham Lincoln stretched forth his hand, and with the stroke of a pen, signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Like many other races, African Americans can say we helped built America. We picked the cotton that made the plantation owners rich. A black man created the blue print for the White House, which would become an architectural treasure for the ages. George Washington Carver discovered the many creative ways to use peanuts. It was a black man who helped Lewis and Clark travel across the rivers of America.

This is Black history. This is our heritage. This is our legacy that we share with the individuals who have paved the way for our lives.

African Americans celebrate Black history month to remind us all of the greatness we posses. The creativity that flows through the blood of our veins. The audacity of hope that lives in our hearts. African Americans not only celebrate the lives of our ancestors, but we realize the impact of how much they inspire us to dream in a world that dares us not to. To believe we can become someone, even if we grew up with a single parent in poverty.

February reminds us of our identity. A Black identity. which has been swirling like a leaf in the wind. It revives and inspires us to keep moving forward, by remembering our struggles, our pains, and our achievements.

If we neglect to remember the pillars of the African American race, this is when we lose our identity of who we are. We are Black and proud about it.

Lock-out charges considered unfair, costly

Guest Commentary by Patricia Freeman

My phone buzzes, I think it’s a text message, grab it and, to my surprise, it’s an email from the school. I open it, and the subject line says, “New Lock-Out Policy for On-Campus Students.” I immediately open it, thinking that it’s something important, such as new lock-down guidelines for the campus. Wrong. Lock-down and lock-out seem to be two different things, and getting locked-out now comes at a price.

If you haven’t checked your email, here’s what it said, “The following policy regarding Lock-Outs has been added to an addendum to the 2010-2011 Missouri Valley College Student Handbook.” The information below is from the handbook chart:

Violation-The student is locked out of his/her room and requests the assistance of an RA or HD to unlock the door. First Offense:Warning. Second Offense: $5 charge. Third Offense: $10 charge (with a $5 increase in charges for every offense thereafter).

Don’t know what this means? Well, it means that if you happen to lock your keys in your room more than one time, you’re going to be fined.

Fines are a measure of discipline and to put the action of locking your keys in your room in that category would be considered illogical; as if this deed was done out of malice instead of being purely accidental.

In tuition alone, students pay $16,550 a year. Add room and board for on-campus students and it goes up to $23,500. Now add the technology fee and students are at $23,620. Now, on the Missouri Valley College webpage, under the section titled “Tuition & Expenses,” Missouri Valley College estimates that students will pay $1,200 in books, $950 in transportation, and $2,130 in personal expenses each year. This puts the total cost at $26,800 every year.

And they want to charge us for locking our keys in our room? We do still have resident assistants, right? Within the (Continued on page 4)
MVC continues to ‘care’ with packages to soldiers

Will Claggett
DELTA REPORTER

The MoVal Cares project for soldiers now sends care packages to just nine soldiers. But it hasn’t always been just nine. The project has sent packages to about 80 soldiers in all since it was created nearly four years ago in September 2007.

Tamara King, associate professor of History, created the project after interviewing soldiers who went through deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. While talking to the soldiers, she noticed many of them were mentioning things they didn’t have. Items that Americans take for granted on a daily basis.

The soldiers who are currently receiving care packages are Clayton Arnold, Larry Simmons, Michael Heatherly (brother of Britney Heatherly, MVC student), Josette Hartfield, Jacob Giangrosso (brother of coach, Pat Giangrosso), Britney Sevy (former MVC student), Thomas French, Zachary Stark, and Roman Mario.

According to King, for the first few years of the project, there were between 15 to 22 soldiers on the list to send packages to every month. Each of the soldiers has been on the list for periods ranging from 4-6 months to 15 months. “We’ve sent about 2 tons of stuff over the years!” King stated. The packages are sent to those on the list, but they are shared by many within platoons and companies.

What makes the project so special? Each of the soldiers, who have received and continue to receive a Cares package, has a connection to Missouri Valley College in one way or another. “The soldiers are friends and family of MVC students, faculty, and staff,” King said.

Many soldiers are deployed for that same 4-6 months or even that 15 months but, for Zachary Stark, it’s a little different, facing a couple of deployments.

“This is my second deployment. I was previously deployed for 15 months in Iraq from 2008-2009,” said Stark in an email. Stark is in a platoon with 32 others (which he shares everything he receives with), and they have been stationed in a remote area in northwestern Afghanistan since July of last year. But there is good news for Stark and his platoon, as they will be heading home in about 5 months.

“I’m just trying to do my job to get home to my family. To know that people out there do care, helps boost my morale tremendously,” said Stark. He added, “It means a lot to receive care packages from home, especially my home town.”

Talking to many of the soldiers, who receive the packages, either by email or on the phone, it is clear to tell that they very much appreciate the items they get in the packages. In a Facebook email, Heatherly said, “It always makes me feel good to receive a package unexpectedly. We work so hard and sacrifice so much. People have absolutely no idea how horrible it can be over here.”

While the MVC project would love to send packages to every soldier who has a connection to Valley, they have kept the list narrowed down to those who are in war zones.

The general perception would likely be that the soldiers receive cards, candy, letters, and even cookies from nearly everyone, but that actually isn’t the case, according to Heatherly.

“I think some people have this big misunderstanding that we get packages from a lot of people, but this is not true. The fact is we rarely get packages. What MoVal is doing for the soldiers is an amazing program. I wish more people would step up and do the same;” he said in the same email.

The project that King established almost four years ago gets a lot of good reviews, with many agreeing with Heatherly that it is an amazing program. But being an amazing program also has its price tag. Each of the packages includes a wide variety of items. Those items include but aren’t necessarily limited to: Cookies, magazines and books (among other reading material), candy, baby wipes, and letters from students and loved ones.

The cost of those items varies each month, but the one guarantee is that it costs $12.50 each for the postage of the packages.

King has a special checking account devoted just to project. The checking account pays for the postage and the cost of those items that go in the packages. The account is supported solely by donations.

King said that the project is still running strong “because about 20 people on campus --- staff and faculty mostly--- donate money and many of the items that are included in the packages.”

King said, “Senior Rachel Pike has been in charge of buying the items which we send, packing up the boxes, and collecting the cookies and donations from the project supporters.”

Pike took over the responsibility of buying the items and being the one in charge of the project this past fall.

Rachel Pike, a senior Athletic Training major, has only been part of the Cares project since fall of 2010, and she also shares a common bond with the soldiers, as her father was in the military.

“We just want to make sure that soldiers are get-
Money becomes college football’s national champion

Commentary by Micah Petersen

Day after day, they waited for the phone to ring. They thought the call was inevitable. The tension increased with each day passing. Bowl game after bowl game offered their bids. They waited for what would be only their fourth bowl game in school history. They waited to showcase their talents for America to see. They waited for nothing. The call never came.

The Temple Owls football team finished the 2010 season with a record of 8-4. Along the way, they convincingly defeated a Connecticut team that went on to play for a BCS bowl, which they lost lopsidedly to Oklahoma 48-20.

“I’m disappointed for our student-athletes… This is a team truly worthy of a bowl,” said Temple head coach Al Golden in a statement regarding the snub.

So why couldn’t Temple receive an invite to one of the 35 bowl games? They’re left without reason, but you can be assured it was based on someone’s checkbook.

Of the 120 Football Bowl Subdivision teams, 70 of them competed in a bowl game during the 2010-2011 bowl season. It is widely agreed on that the primary factor behind the ever-increasing number of games is money. Look no farther than bowl sponsors like uDrove, R + L Carriers, and San Diego County Credit Union. Playing an extra game may have once been prestigious, but it’s an honor now held by almost two-thirds of the nation’s teams.

This past bowl season featured 12 teams that entered with a record of 6-6. Were those 12 teams better than Temple, or did they provide a better chance to spin the turnstiles? More often than not when the decision is close, the selection goes to the team whose fans travel better. Schools with large fan bases like Notre Dame, Florida, or Michigan may have struggled this past season, but it wasn’t going to stop them from receiving a big payday come bowl season. Notre Dame reached the Sun Bowl, Florida the Outback Bowl, and Michigan the Gator Bowl. All three are high-end bowls for teams that entered them with barely more wins than losses.

Football has always been a game of pride and passion, but it seems those feelings don’t extend to the suits that run the show. The popularity of college football continues to increase, but the controversy surrounding the way they get to play for the national championship. This essentially makes the remaining 34 bowls exhibition games.

According to John Feinstein of the Washington Post, “Greed is the word that powers college football.” A playoff would solve much of the disagreement about an undisputed national champion, but don’t look for it to change any time soon. What many don’t realize is that the money for bowl appearances isn’t just for the teams participating, but a large chunk goes to their respective conferences. With the commissioners of those conferences running the show, don’t expect much change.

More about Concern expressed over new lock-out policy

(Continued from page 2)

resident assistant application, under the responsibilities section, it was stated that “being available to residents for emergency help” was one of the job duties that resident assistants hold.

Getting locked-out of one’s bedroom at two or three in the morning is an “urgent situation requiring immediate action,” which is the definition of emergency.

With resident assistants getting paid $3,320 each year, and housing fees costing $6,940 each year, it seems logical to ask, why are we paying them so highly? If the action of getting locked-out of your room during the late hours of a night is an emergency, wouldn’t that be considered one of the resident assistant’s job duties?

According to Alli Lindemann, coordinator of Housing and Residential Life, the new lock-out policy has been added due to Viking Village residents continuously getting locked-out of their rooms at late hours of the night.

Is this because of the irresponsible students, or the faulty locks on the doors? “Emergencies are when you can’t unlock your bedroom door but the other night I left, and when I came back it was somehow locked,” said a student who resides at the Viking Village.

It seems that when residents at Viking Village unlock their bedroom doors from the outside, the doors don’t unlock on the inside. Aren’t Viking Village residents paying $500 extra dollars a semester just to live in the new on-campus apartments?

Yes they are.

Even though this policy may have started with the Viking Village apartments, it is now campus wide.

Does that mean that every time a faculty member locks their keys in their office or classroom, they will be fined as well?

I suppose only time will tell. I just hope that it’s not too much time because time is money, and the price it takes to unlock a door is starting to rise.
Wrestling champs

MVC Viking wrestler Charlie Gibbs was awarded the 2011 Outstanding Wrestler Award at the recent Central Region Qualifier Tournament at Burns gym on Feb. 19. Gibbs, Paulie Hansen, Gian Traverso, and Travis Ewart all took champion honors in their weight divisions at the tournament.

MVC will send 12 student-athletes to the NAIA National Wrestling Tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in March, following the Central Region Qualifier on Feb. 19. They are (front, from left) Shay Shive, Jesse Alter, Jesse Knott, Paulie Hansen, Gian Traverso, and Brandon Perkins; (back, from left) Charlie Gibbs, James Alter, Alex McKinney, Damon Jackson, Carl Lawrence, and Travis Ewart. (Photo courtesy of MVC Sports Information)

Diamond update

Lady Viking softball home opener is March 8 against Missouri Baptist University starting at 1 p.m. at Indian Foothills Park in Marshall.

Viking Men’s baseball home opener is March 8 at 1 p.m. against Graceland University at Indian Foothills Park. The Viking Men’s baseball team turns around and plays March 10 at home against Dakota State College at noon. Saturday, March 12, the Viking Men’s baseball team plays against Benedictine College at 1 p.m. at Indian Foothills Park.

This week in Ohio

Four athletes to compete at national meet

Four Vikings qualified for the 2011 NAIA National Indoor Track and Field Meet at the Heart of America Athletic Conference Championship this week.

Qualifying were Rhiannon Kendrick in women’s high jump, Sara Stafford in women’s shot put, Andrew Longboy in the men’s high jump, and Keith O’Neil in the men’s 55-meter dash.

Longboy cleared a national qualifying height of six feet 6 ¼ inches and finished second at the conference championship. O’Neil posted a time of 6.47 seconds, qualifying him for national competition.

The 2011 NAIA National Indoor Track and Field Meet was scheduled for March 3-5 in Geneva, Ohio.

Viking track and field athletes

Viking Ignacio Franco runs in the recent home meet. (Photo by Phillip Hamer)
The real world with a baby...

Role of parenting makes student wise about diapers

Jessica Marrs
Delta Reporter

Fold it, pin it, make sure it doesn’t slide off and let anything escape. Diapers have come a long way over the years.

Before the high tech diapers that we have today came into existence, people had to make do with cloth diapers. One had to make sure they were folded right and pinned to the point where they were snug and wouldn’t let any liquids escape. People today are fortunate enough to have the diapers that you basically just stick on and go. If only putting diapers on were that easy.

Putting on a diaper is like tying a shoe; it takes a lot of practice to get it right, and even then it’s not always perfect. Many factors must be exactly right in order to put a diaper on smoothly. If you aren’t careful, the baby may escape and pee on the carpet like a dog, which my son Jackson has done, and if you don’t get the diaper on right away, they could possibly pee on you.

Sounds a bit scary, doesn’t it? “The first time I changed a diaper I had no idea what I was doing,” said Jay Walkup. “It was a poopy diaper and I was pretty sure I threw up in my mouth a little bit, but I made it through it.”

In order to change a diaper, make sure you have your supplies ready. When the diaper and wipes are ready, make sure the baby is completely done emptying their bladder or bowels before opening the diaper. I’ve been peed on a few times when changing Jackson, and it’s not fun. It just happens, and you have no way of knowing when it will happen, so always be on your guard.

The second day we brought Jackson home from the hospital, he peed everywhere while I changed him. He peed on the changing table, on his clothes, all over the blinds and the wall by the changing table. You wouldn’t think that a tiny five day old baby would be able to pee so much, and so far, but they are capable of anything.

After you have pulled open the diaper, make sure to wipe everywhere possible. Diaper rash is nothing to mess with. If it’s a dirty diaper, more than one wipe is necessary. The trick is to wipe with the front of the diaper first, then use the wipes.

Sometimes the diapers are so bad that you have to strip off the clothes and hose the baby off in the sink or tub.

“I remember one of my kids having a dirty diaper. It was so bad you could see it through the yellow sleeper she was wearing,” Linda Marrs said. “I had to peel off the sleeper and hold her under the faucet in the tub and rinse her off because wipes would have done me no good.”

Sometimes poop finds ways out of the diapers. In those cases, good luck. There is no great way to try to clean that up. One time Jackson was sitting in his bouncer and he pooped out the side of his diaper. I didn’t know it, so when I picked him up and put him on my lap, I got poop all over me. I took him to his changing table and tried to clean him, and myself, up. I ended up with poop all over my leg, shorts, and shirt. There was poop on the changing table and all over him. I finally had to carry him to the sink and spray him off because there was just too much to try to clean up the right way.

When putting a fresh diaper on, you have to make sure that it’s covering the back and front evenly. Also, make sure the webbing around the legs is pulled out so it can catch the liquids that try to escape. Then you pull the Velcro-like straps out and stick them on the front of the diaper and you’re done.

Sounds pretty simple, but if you’ve ever changed a diaper, you know differently. When babies get older, they don’t like to stay still for long. Sometimes they wrap their legs around your arm, making it impossible to change a diaper.

You may wonder why I am bothering to write a paper on how to change a diaper. The fact of the matter is, you will all change a diaper at some point. Even if it isn’t your baby’s diaper, it may be a niece or nephew’s diaper that you are changing. I’d like to say to all you inexperienced diaper changers out there—don’t get discouraged when you don’t do it right the first few times. Just remember, practice makes perfect!

Above: Jackson and his friend Taylyn play.
Below: Jackson poses for the camera.
(Photos by Jessica Marrs)
Paulene-Wendy Ntsame Assoumou
Delta reporter

With 28 days of celebrating the African-American glory, Black History month, which was February, is typically American as it refers to American history.

Other countries, like France, may have an Abolition of Slavery day that they vaguely celebrate or even mention in the news. But that pride and joy that African Americans have is a trend that can easily be noticed in the United States of America.

It is everywhere in the magazines. “Essence” and “Ebony” glorify the resilience and beauty of the African American woman. Also in “Black Enterprise” that tries to sweep away the image of a sagging-pants black youth. It is everywhere on television, especially BET (Black Entertainment television), Shelton Jackson “Spike” Lee and the tele-conference of President Obama.

Missouri Valley College Murrell Library had its Black History Month talent show. Poem of the SGA President Raymond Banks to display some talent to the audience. A documentary film followed by a quiz to educate and play. And for the bouquet final: An African fashion show to entertain.

The Ghanaians Kess Akesseh and Nadia Quainoo, and the Zambian Abigail “Abbey” Nyirenda answer positively to the idea. There is a little rise of adrenaline while getting ready for the walk and it made us wonder “why were doing this again?”

Kukuu Noamesi, the Ghanaian disc-jockey for the night, plays the first African rhythm.

Simultaneously Tashinga Hundah, master of ceremonies from Zimbabwe, calls the first name (mine) and describe my attire while I nervously smile to the audience, wiggle my hips and swing my dress around, twirling to show the back of the design.

Fortunately, the other jaw-dropping models are way more gracious than I and it is with delight that I applaud and cheer with the audience as they come and go up the stairs.

The show was full of color and variety. A bright red top that Kenyan male students wear at high school ceremonies or at college graduation, a casual and common African purple dress that most African countries have. Yellow, pink, gold, brown traditional Ghanaian attire and a purple, blue and white Kaba (really fitted dress that is mostly worn to go to church) from Zambia.

There are a couple of laughs and pictures later and we wanted to do it again! We remember why we were doing it. The Black History month celebration is about “color” as long as it is plural, it is about culture as long as it is intercontinental, it is about being part of something great.

Black history month celebrates with fashion show

Paulene-Wendy Ntsame Assoumou, Nadia Quainoo, Kess Akesseh, Abigail Nyirenda and library work study male model Vonniah Rogers display African attire as part of the fashion show. (Photo by Brian Hampton)

‘I do’ travel destinations become big trend

Madison Petersen
Delta reporter

In a time when wedding vows are no longer traditional, neither are wedding ceremonies. Saying, “I do” no longer requires a church, priest, and a white dress.

A trend is rising in America, destination weddings. From Viva Las Vegas to Walt Disney World, couples are jetting off to their romantic fairy tale weddings.

What inspires these couples and how far will they go to have a happily ever after?

According to My Wedding Workbook, there has been some strange weddings over the years. This is the top ten list as of November 24, 2010: (Continued on page 9)
New restaurant and bar to open in Marshall

Marshall has a new restaurant and bar coming to town. The town has Chinese food, Italian food, and fast food. We can now add some Irish food to the list.

Madigan’s Grill and Tavern, owned by Scotland and New York native, Pat Madigan, will open its doors to the public sometime in April.

Daniel O’Brien, a public relations senior at Missouri Valley College, has been spending most of his time helping to open the new restaurant.

O’Brien has taken on the role of general manager, but also will be found manning the bar.

“We'll have some great Irish beer on tap, such as Guinness, Belhaven, and Stella,” O’Brien said.

Madigan’s also will have a restaurant, which will serve not only basic bar food like burgers, but will have some Irish dishes such as corn beef and cabbage or Irish stew.

Jami Mayberry, an Athletic Training and Exercise Science major at MVC, also will be found at Madigan’s.

Mayberry will be in charge of training and supervising servers and will also be in charge of scheduling big parties and events.

“We are still looking for staff and will be a smoke-free establishment,” said Mayberry.

Since all of Marshall’s restaurants and bars permit smoking, this may be a refreshing addition.

“I’m looking forward to Marshall having a smoke-free restaurant and bar so I don’t come home smelling like an ashtray if I go to the bar,” said junior Austin Marrs.

If you haven’t heard of Marshall’s newest addition, look it up on Facebook, or just ask around. The restaurant/bar is located on Arrow Street, just west of the square.

Stop by sometime this spring to taste the great food, try out some of the beer, and see some of MVC’s students.

More about Cares project continues to provide packages to soldiers

(Continued from page 3)

“Ting what they need or things that they can’t get or find hard to get in the war zones,” Pike said.

Pike holds kind of a common bond with many of the soldiers she corresponds with, in getting packages to them.

“My dad was in the military. He just retired after 35 years, so I was always kind of a part of it, but I’ve never really got to experience him in active duty, like in a war zone,” Pike said.

Her dad was deployed at least once during his military career, only Pike doesn’t remember much about the experience, as she was very young.

Every experience in college life has some significance to what students do later on in their lives; Pike shows a genuine care for her role in sending packages to troops.

“I really enjoy doing this. I like the process of the care packages and sending them to the troops,” Pike said.

Being in charge of a project as big as the Cares project, she hopes to gain some management experience. Since being in charge of buying the items, at least $700 in items or more has been sent to troops just in the last six months.

King speaks very highly of Pike for taking on such responsibility. “I am very proud of the job Rachel Pike has done this year. She took over the work of buying the stuff we send, packing up the boxes, and collecting all the cookies and donations from the project supporters,” King said.

King hopes to find a junior who is just as responsible and mature as Pike, to take over the same responsibilities next year.

Both King and Pike encourage anyone who knows someone who is deployed to pass along their name and information as they can be added to the list to receive a package.

They also encourage people to donate to the project, as the project is only able to continue moving forward by donations. Care packages usually include candy, cookies, socks, gold bond powder, chap stick, snacks, magazines, puzzle books, and other items.

People can make a tax-deductible donation by going to the registrar’s office, or contacting Rachel Pike (rap9159@moval.edu) or Tamara King (kingt@moval.edu).
Parking lots provide challenges

Pedestrians need to be careful about crosswalks

Matt Ellis
DELTA REPORTER

Recent developments because of factors like weather and record enrollment have left some students around the Missouri Valley campus frustrated and upset with issues surrounding Missouri Valley College parking lots and crosswalks.

A stronger focus has surrounded these particular issues due in part to the type of vehicles in the parking lot, where they choose to park, and how the drivers are parking their vehicles. Many students have also recently been voicing their opinions about vehicles not coming to a complete stop or stopping at all at crosswalks surrounding the campus.

“It’s hard to see getting out of the Ferguson parking lot because there’s always huge four-wheel drive trucks parked on the outer row making it hard to see to get in or out,” Sara Gross, senior at Missouri Valley College, said. “It would be nice if the parking lots were bigger and the people that park crazy would get ticketed.”

The 2010-2011 student handbook guidelines that parking outside a marked space or in an unauthorized space consist of a fine of $35 and for those who park with vehicles not registered with MVC and are caught doing so are fined $50. Repeated offenses by a driver could also result in loss in parking privileges on campus grounds.

Some students that drive bigger trucks or sport utility vehicles don’t feel as though their vehicles are the cause of the parking lot problems.

Vera Carter, junior at MVC, drives a 3500 Chevrolet four-wheel drive diesel truck and drives it every day. “We have bigger trucks for a reason, we need them to haul stuff and use them for work,” Carter said. She added that the parking lots are too small and don’t have enough parking spots so she mostly tries to park on the street.

Karen Chevalier, director of public safety for Missouri Valley College, said that most of the parking lot issues lately can be associated with the recent inclement weather. “About 30 people called in after that big snow asking when they (maintenance) were going to dig their cars out. It was funny,” Chevalier said.

Chevalier has been director of public safety since September 1 of 2010 and said their department has worked hard to keep drivers safe and make sure everyone is following the rules.

Chevalier, a former MVC student, has seen the rise in number of students and the depletion of parking space. “Viking Village has added parking lot space which has helped with the congestion. There’s still a problem with students parking in fire lanes though, which could get MVC fined.”

A handful of work study students and Chevalier patrol the MVC campus daily and hand out about eight to ten tickets a week for numerous violations.

From last fall semester to this spring semester there have been four wrecks recorded with the school, three of the four incidents being in the Baity parking lot.

A select number of students around MVC have also voiced their opinion about using the four crosswalks that surround the campus. Most students that attend MVC have seen their fair share of vehicles not stopping for pedestrians.

Erlene Tweet, sophomore at MVC, said she uses the crosswalks around the campus daily and only sees about 75 percent of drivers stopping to give pedestrians the right of way.

“I think if there were stop signs at each crosswalk it would cut down on people not stopping for students,” Tweet said.

Chevalier attributes the drivers not stopping for students to students not using the crosswalks correctly or not using them at all.

“Drivers call in complaining that students either don’t use the crosswalks or stop in the streets to talk to friends,” Chevalier said.

She added that she planned on taking the proper steps with the city council to control drivers from not stopping at the crosswalks around campus by possibly putting up stop signs at each designated location.

There have been no recent injuries or incidents recorded because of driver failure to stop at crosswalks around the campus.
Student stays active beyond years of sports

Jessica Marrs
Delta Reporter

On a cold, snowy day in the beginning of February, I found myself walking up the steps of a sloping, snow-covered porch. A small cleared path, barely wide enough for a person to walk through, waited to be widened. As I walked through the door, two fairly large dogs bombarded me.

Jayme Pettigrew jumped off her couch and calmed the dogs down like she does it all the time—which she does. The slim brunette clears a spot for me to sit down next to her on the couch.

She talks with ease, and has a slight Canadian accent that is sometimes only noticeable when she says certain words. I notice right away that one word she says funny is “been.” She pronounces it like the word “bean,” and when I chuckle she says she gets that a lot.

Jayme, a huge animal lover, adopted her two dogs from animal shelters over the last three years.

Dexter, who looks like he is a mixture of a Schnauzer and a larger dog, possibly a Lab, tries to climb his way into my lap as I sit down. His coarse hair is mainly black, with the exception of some random white and grey hairs and white on his belly. He has a beard that looks like it belongs on an old man, somewhat scrappily and small, joined by the biggest, bushiest eyebrows that I have ever seen.

Romeo, Jayme’s other dog, wags his big, hairy tail in excitement. He looks like the cross of a Lab and a St. Bernard. His has the big lab head, but his hairy, bulky body looks like a St. Bernard, minus the drool. His disposition is exactly like his name makes him out to be, loving and sweet. With both dogs licking me profusely, Jayme and I start talking.

Jayme is from Canada. Calgary, to be exact. She came to Missouri Valley College four years ago on a volleyball scholarship, but played tennis and softball for the school as well. You can probably tell that she likes to stay active and is an energetic person, which is exactly right. Since her sports eligibility is up, she has found other ways to stay active.

“I help coach a club swim team at the Y, and some days I help a boy, Ben, who is overweight. I have to come up with challenging activities to get him active and I have to stay positive and try to motivate him while we are doing it. It’s good to know I am helping him lose some weight and be happier with himself,” she said.

As we are talking, Dexter starts to walk funny and acting as if he is in pain. Jayme leaps from the couch to grab him and comfort him.

She explains that he is having a seizure, and tries to keep him calm. I immediately jump from the couch to help comfort him as Romeo stands next to us, smelling Dexter’s face.

Watching a dog have a seizure is possibly one of the saddest, most terrifying things I have witnessed. His eyes screamed with pain, while he made no noise on the outside. His body was so tense that he couldn’t move for a few minutes after the pain subsided.

I asked Jayme what is wrong with him, and she said that he has epilepsy. He has two medicines that he takes, but they can’t stop the seizures. She can’t do anything but comfort him when they come. I get a sense that Jayme has a huge heart, to keep a dog that has seizures and has to be on medicine constantly. Not everyone would want to go through that, to watch the suffering and to pay the bills that come with it.

Jayme goes on to explain that Romeo, who is only a little over a year, also has some issues with his body. He has hip dysplasia. This causes him to limp, and have pain in his hips.

She has taken him to a specialist, who put him on a diet to ease some of the pain, and also put a gold bead in his paw to help the pain. The diet consists of cooked ground beef and dried fruits and vegetables. Not only does she have to buy large quantities of beef, but Jayme has to buy the dried-out fruit and vegetables as well.

Jayme has spent well over what most people would on dogs in a lifetime on these two dogs. Vet bills, medicine, dog food, all of these things add up. When I asked her why she keeps them, she has a simple answer. “I love them,” she said.

“Take Pride in Marshall” city clean-up will take place Saturday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Groups and volunteers will meet at the Marshall City Office building, just north of the Marshall Square, Marshall resident and organizer David Kemm said.

Missouri Valley College and Marshall High School sports teams will be taking part, along with church groups, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts.

The clean-up day has been an annual event for the past 30 years, Kemm said.

Lunch will be served afterward at the Marshall Park with prizes given away. The following Saturday, there will be tree-planting done at the Marshall Park, he said. Trees are planted in memory and honor of friends of those who choose to take part in the event. Nine trees have been planted in the past two years with the eventual goal of 999 being planted, Kemm said.

Kemm slated the slogan for this year’s clean-up day as “Let’s make Marshall glitter, by picking up litter.”

Annual event
Clean-up day set in April

Story by Will Claggett

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Art gallery shows creative ceramic expressions

Paulene-Wendy Ntsame Assoumou

A dark snake seems to crawl out from the aorta of a pale pink big heart. My favorite one. Click. A dancing tea pot that has arms-like handles, one on the hip and the other in the air. Ready to party! Click. An all-white two part vendetta mask reveals, in the inside, a colourful glossy relief tree. What an original self-portrait. Click. Tamara S. King, associate professor in History, gazes at the amazing production of a gladiator helmet. We are both wowed-away. It definitely is my second favourite one. Click. Click. Click.

To wonder at the exposition in the Vernon Nester Memorial Gallery in Baity Hall is one of the best ways to picture how gifted Missouri Valley College Art department students are.

Danny Harrah, Jessica Clause, Rachel Harrison, Jena Shaw, Phillip Hamer, Lauren Thomas, Nichole Davis, Dakota Duy-Hewell, Roderick Owusu-Andrews, Eric Allee, Kyle Gilbert, Nichole Davis and Rhiannon Kendrick are the 13 budding sculptors for the exhibit.

There is a lot of contrast in the glaze, value changes, texture variety and dynamism on the piece. Valerie Wedel, assistant professor in Art said as she describes the strength of the flower vase of Rhiannon Kendrick.

Wedel teaches Ceramics in Missouri Valley College and organized the project of this exhibit.

She first started getting familiar with the sculpture world when she was in her twenties as she had a pottery wheel in her apartment. She pursued her passion at the University of Missouri where she was exposed to the actual ceramic techniques. Her mentor, the internationally known Bede Clarke, professor of Art at the University of Missouri and winner of several awards for his work, inspired her way of teaching. “Bede Clarke taught me a lot about challenging and pushing myself,” Wedel said.

The students had to create historically inspired ceramics, psychological self-portraits or personal teapots with some clay which is a natural silicate composed primarily of fine-grained minerals (or a brownish, greyish mud-like material)

The harder was to build the base and the body part using the pottery wheel, Phillip Hamer said. He refers to his work as so-called “Outside the Box” self-portrait.

It also was a real challenge to fire the two parts of the “Gladiator Helmet” by Eric Allee, Wedel said.

Indeed, all the sculptures have to melt and bond in some little ovens where the temperature is more than 200 degrees. Some of the glaze peeled or got some micro-rifts but the students all knew how to rebound on it.

On the “Paper Boat” of Lauren Thomas, the contrast between the chalky, white boat and glossy bright, blue wave gave the impression that the peeling is meant to be there. Also the silver-grey stitches to cover the micro-rift on “Nurse’s Teapot” by Jessica Clause, is the perfect answer to a technical difficulty.

“It is all about taking advantage of accident,” Wedel said.

All the students will be graded on this project. But to have the press scoop of which one Wedel is the most impressed with, is hard to dig out as all of them are her favorites, she said.

The MVC community has until March 4 to climb the charming wooden-creaky Baity Hall stair cases and chose their own favorite!
Authors bring book discussions to library

Devon Wade

The second author visit for the month of February was a family affair when author Glenn McCoy came to Murrell Library on February 25.

Several family members came to support McCoy, including his daughter Cindy Carnes, Institutional Advancement Office coordinator at Missouri Valley College, and his granddaughter Teaira Cooksey, a graphic designer who provided the illustrations for the story “The Little Star.”

Cooksey said that she found a nativity scene at Wal-Mart, and used it for some illustrations in the book.

She added that photography as well as illustrations was used in the story. In the first couple of minutes, it was easy to tell how close-knit the family was as Cindy often jumped in to join her father in talking about his latest project as well as his earlier works and even offer a little insight to their family life when she and her siblings were growing up.

One feature the family took pride in was the memorial page for their mom, who died this past December.

The book was originally supposed to be published around the Thanksgiving holiday, but, when McCoy’s wife died it was pushed back. But that allowed the memorial page to be a part of the book. “It was God,” Carnes said.

McCoy also talked about his other book, “It Seemed like the End.” McCoy said that he started the story more 25 years ago but stopped writing it.

Then six years after retiring, McCoy said he was looking for something to do and came across a story that he never finished. “It took me less than two weeks to write the story,” McCoy said.

Once again, he had been surrounded with people who could help him and this time it was a member of the church who had been able to proofread the material before it was sent to the publishing company. “I got F’s in spelling growing up,” McCoy said with a chuckle.

He needed someone to correct some misspelled words and this woman was able to do that, he added John Gault, professor of Physics joked that it’s good that someone can and this woman was able to do that, he added John Gault, professor of Physics joked that it’s good that someone can still write a book, which the crowd found very funny.

Aspiring writers, such as SGA President Raymond Banks wanted to take advantage of talking to someone in the profession.

It’s good to get exposed to different writers and speak with people in the field already, Banks said. He then asked the Christian author if he had any advice for up and beginning authors. “Stay with the stuff,” McCoy said.

It is easy to get discouraged, and McCoy said that he knew from his own life experience that it is easy to get discouraged.

Rob Noah, McCoy’s step-son, added that the author was questioned why he had the desire, and realized that God wanted him to write these books. Noah said that it is in his heart and he wants to help people.

Members of the crowd were interested in whether or not there were any new books in the works for McCoy, and he said that he has ideas in his head but, since his wife died, it has been hard for him to sit down and focus long enough to write anything down.

In the meantime, McCoy is content with spending time doing something that he and his daughter Cindy both enjoy, and that is gardening.

Carnes and a couple of her sisters even took time during the presentation to joke and reminisce about gardening experiences while they were growing up.

The presentation seemed more like a family gathering, inclusive of everyone in the room, than a group of people in a room to hear an author speak.

Rose M. Nolan speaks at the Murrell Library. (Photo by Devon Wade)
Dreams really do come true
Cheerleader enjoys MVC opportunity

Madison Petersen
Delta Reporter

An eerie silence hushed over the auditorium as the two teams waited patiently for the final results.

Vashti Stevenson’s perfect make-up and shiny hair bow was topped off with imperfect taped wrists and an ankle brace. As the announcer came on the loudspeaker nerves controlled every inch of her body. “The winner of the 2011 NCA Collegiate National Cheerleading competition is…” She could only dream that her team’s name would be announced. And that is all that it was, a dream.

The alarm clock buzzed at an annoying frequency waking Vashti from her reoccurring nightmare that reminded her that she wasn’t living her dream. She rolled out of bed, took a deep breath, and prepared for a routine day of classes at Pittsburg State University. Little did she know that this day would be much different.

Vashti had always wanted to be a cheerleader. Her compact 5-foot body agreed with the standards. From the time she was in fifth grade, she knew it was her destiny.

“I remember the moment I knew,” she reminisced. “I was walking down the street with my friend Hailey talking about how amazing it would be to be a cheerleader.” From playing cheerleader at recess to mimicking the high school cheerleaders at every football game, Vashti had fallen in love.

Middle school came, and so did her first cheerleading tryout. After waiting outside for an hour to see if her name was on the list, the moment came. The excitement of making the team fueled Vashti’s passion, as cheerleading soon became a part of her life. “In Middle school, cheerleading evolved into something I did all the time. But it didn’t become my life until high school,” she said.

Cheerleading became more than just shaking pom-poms at sporting events for Vashti once she began her career as a Lamar High School cheerleader. The added stress of competition made cheerleading much more exciting. One year at state competition, Vashti woke up the day of competition with strep throat.

Rolling her eyes, she explained, “That was extremely frustrating. I had to call cheers and I couldn’t even talk. In the tunnel right before we performed, I couldn’t breathe or talk or anything but, as soon as we hit the competition mat, everything was OK… at least for three minutes. As soon as we were done, all of the sick came rushing back.” (That is dedication.)

Some of her best memories were made during those years of high school cheerleading. From cheering on the football team in 2006 through a record playoff journey, to placing second at state, this was the best time of her life. She thought it was only the beginning, but soon all of that would change.

“Senior year was extremely disappointing,” Vashti said, dropping her head and lowering her voice. A state cheerleading competition failure started the downward slide of her cheerleading career. Next came her tryout at Pittsburg State University. When asked to sum up her experience with college tryouts she said one word, “Destroyed.”

This was the first time in her life that she didn’t have cheerleading to define her. “I got judged by my appearance, not my skill. And the people who made it over me had a smaller waistline but didn’t have near my skill.” Devastated, she had given up on her dream. “I got rid of all my cheerleading materials, everything. It was over for me.”

Which brings us back to this normal day at Pitt State. She drug herself to class, dreading the smell of her professor’s coffee breath. Instead of listening during class, she made plans to be elsewhere. She decided to go to the Lamar High School football game later that evening.

There she ran into the biggest opportunity of her life, a new start at an old dream, a second chance. She ran into an old friend who asked her a question that would change everything, “Do you want to cheer at Missouri Valley?” and she said yes.

“I went to a high school football game with my sister and left with a cheerleading scholarship,” said Vashti Stevenson, smiling from ear to ear. “I was crying. I realized that it could actually happen and was literally crying.”

Vashti added, “I did not think I’d ever be at Valley. I got sucked into the vortex of big scholarships, but I’m glad I’m here.” So now she has the chance to live out her dream as the cheerleading team prepares for college nationals in April.

News notes

“The Chronicles of Narnia” will be shown as part of “The Jesus Through Many Eyes Film Series” on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the R. Wilson Brown Room.

Mardi Gras is just around the corner! The MVC library will offer some beignets for the occasion on March 8.

The movie night event will present “Law Abiding Citizen” at 8 p.m. at R. Wilson Brown Room on March 8.

Oral historian Jim Two Crows Wallen will speak at Murrell Memorial Library from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 10.
Commentary by
Matt Ellis

Babe Ruth signed on with Baltimore in 1914 for $600 for the entire season. Alex Rodriguez, who signed with the Yankees, made a staggering $33 million during the 2010 season; more than 40 times what Ruth made in his entire career.

Ruth once said to a group of reporters about his contract being bigger than President Herbert Hoover’s salary, “What the hell has Hoover got to do with it? Besides, I had a better year than he did.”

Major League Baseball is the sole remaining sport in the United States that does not have a salary cap overseeing the league.

The question in recent years has been if Major League Baseball should conform like the rest of the leagues and instate a salary cap. What used to be known as a little kids’ game has turned into contract holdouts, million-dollar incentives, and outrageous multimillion-dollar deals.

A salary cap in theory would give the entire league the opportunity to compete at a similar level. Teams that are considered at the bottom of their division’s year in and year out would have a fighting chance instead of being written off as lost causes before the season even starts.

Teams that are geographically in smaller markets like Kansas City cannot compete with bigger cities like New York and Boston.

The cheapest game day ticket to a New York Yankee game for the 2011 season is $23 in the grandstands; at a Royals game, a Hy-Vee view seat is $7. The Yankees spent a combined $423.5 million on three players in 2009. In 2003, the Florida Marlins won the World Series with a team salary on $45 million.

The website www.bls.gov states that in 2010 the national unemployment rate across the country was 9.6 percent. Information obtained from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that in 2010 the median household income for the year was only $49,777.

A salary cap with revenue sharing among the 30 teams would ensure a more competitive league through farm system development and less roster jumping by big name players.

Lower overall salaries would also mean a drop in prices around the league in prices of merchandise, tickets, food and drink. A parallel can be drawn between Major League Baseball spending and our nation’s swollen budget.

Like taxpayers taking on the burden of the national debt, the true baseball fans shoulder the outrageous amount of money being slung around to that CY Young pitcher or the home-run hitting power hitter that looks like a bulldozer.

Baseball is a game of sharing. Each team gets three outs per inning and then it switches to the other team, giving them a chance to retaliate and score. The big spenders of baseball have robbed not only the fans of the game but have taken away the spirit of the game. The player’s integrity has been compromised over dollar signs and money is tossed back and forth like candy during a parade.

Baseball is a game of mistakes. A consensus among the average fans can be drawn that, besides the “steroid era,” the worst thing about baseball currently is the salary size of the top players and amount of money fans have to spend to enjoy our nation’s pastime.

Until the A-Rod’s, Sabathia’s, and Cliff Lee’s of the world decide they want to restore the legitimacy of the game, fans everywhere will cry foul until players decide to play for the love of the game and not money.

Growing up, every little boy has his own baseball heroes of their decade. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Mickey Mantle, Hank Aaron, and others.

How will our children be able to identify with baseball heroes in the post-steroid era? Once the kids are old enough to understand the words “arbitration, free agency, and incentives,” their favorite players at that point will more than likely have played for three different teams making more money than ever in baseball history.

A salary cap would limit players to move to only certain teams because of having a set amount of cap room. Players’ salaries would decrease resulting and smaller team payrolls, raise revenue as a league, and the prices in these coliseums known as baseball parks would once again be reasonable.

Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig might oppose a salary cap but our national pastime is quickly spiraling out of control in a money-drunk haze.

Players are leaving behind a hangover of many distraught fans in need of players playing for the love of the game, not those extra million dollars.

‘Miss Julie’ provides creative theater mix

The impressive performances of Charlique Rolle, Matthew Ford, and Kloee Shipp, mixed with masked dancers, moments of comedy, and a dark ending, made the “Miss Julie” play unique in its February presentations in the MET.

The director for the play was Harold Hynick, assistant professor of Theatre. The choreographer was Hana Urabe. Scenic and lighting designer was Jay Rozema. Costume designer was Dyann Rozema.

(Photos by Catie Combs)
March 4, 2011

The Delta

SPORTS

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Brazilian student ‘breathes’ soccer

Leon Emperio
Delta reporter

Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is that time of the day where columns of trees like those of the boulevarded streets of Beverly Hills cast their shadows and amass a stoked young people under its shades.

The breeze and wind roar. Pedestrians shift their attention from talks/altercations about whose team is the best soccer team in Brazil to the refreshing shade. Boys and girls commute to the sands and seas of São Paulo’s golden beaches.

Traditionally, Pedro Franco awaits the sun, shadows and breeze to force him out of his room replete with posters of soccer luminaries of Pele, Ronaldinho, and Kaka.

In his room visions of a young man’s dream to be courted by a professional soccer team line the walls. Pedro’s hands peel off the red and white Coca-Cola label from its bottle, his deep black-flecked, brown as pecan shelled eyes stare at the poster of Pele that stands tall and proud like a Himalayan mountain.

In the left-side of the room adjacent with the channel of light that pervades the metal blinders the poster is struck by a beam of light that centers on the heart of Pele’s agile body.

The light accentuates the colors of the black and white poster indicating the green-light for Pedro Franco to vacate his room and to march in columns with young people of shared aspirations and ambitions to a place and space where the future of such realizations are fostered.

Suddenly, the air changes. Clammy cold and the wind brings a granite sky and a mizzling rain. It is only slightly past four o’clock in the afternoon.

The pallor of a winter evening closes upon the hills of Sao Paulo, cloaking them in mist. Soon, night falls. Blackness, thick as velvet, engulfs the streets of the city.

Pedro slips into his shorts, t-shirts and shoes to play street soccer in the middle of the night. They play in court yards, moving from one neighborhood to another, the sound of neighbors screaming, especially this old woman with a skeletal crone voice as thin as if emaciated by her years.

She screams, “Go away, don’t you have a home to go to?” her teeth barely visible, echoing the sound of her heavy distorted breath that silenced the night songs of cicadas.

“I am terrified of her, sometimes I have to change my shorts,” Pedro said.

All these nuisances and constant complaints and police chases did not stifle nor deter the spirit of Pedro and his friends from kicking an Adidas soccer ball into the early hours of every night. The pungent smell of perspiration emanated through neglected and unwashed shorts, t-shirts, and socks evoked familiar yelling from Pedro’s mom asking him to refrain from concealing huge piles of dirty clothes underneath his bed and inside his closet.

“I literally breathed soccer,” Pedro said. “It was overwhelming.”

As the winter trees lose their leaves, Pedro’s dream to pursue soccer on a professional level blossoms like autumn flowers.

In 2008, Pedro was contacted by a soccer agency to participate in tryouts for a U.S. Soccer Scholarship. Following the steps of his big sister – Marcella – he seized the opportunity and made an impression on scouts and soccer agents.

Pedro was offered a soccer scholarship at Missouri Valley College to become a Viking.

It was a momentous decision for Pedro to migrate to the US without any knowledge of the cultural differences and language. The lack of English language morphed Pedro into a comedic, affable character at Valley.

“Once I had a problem so I went to the business office,” Pedro said. “The dean asked me to wait for present, but at the time I thought the dean was going to get me a present.”

It is fair to say that Pedro has come a long way and his command of the English language is fairly good. The new soccer recruits from Brazil look up to him and know that their problems with language will subside just like Pedro’s did.

“He is a great guy,” Fellipe Vurraro said. “He helped me with so many things and he is also a teammate that I look up to and like to imitate.”

On the soccer field, Pedro has decisively contributed to the rise of the MVC soccer team. The team is ranked in the top 25.

Pedro was nominated as an honorable mention NAIA all-American for his performance during the 2010 men’s soccer season.

The junior from Sao Paulo, Brazil, scored one goal and had eight assists for the Vikings — leading a defense which was third in the Heart of America Conference in goals allowed per match (1.00) and fourth in the nation in shutouts (12).

Pedro Franco was also selected to be HAAC defensive player of the year.

“Pedro is arguably one of the best players that MVC has seen by far,” Vladimir Simic, MVC Soccer head coach, said. “He’s a great player and great person.”
Moving forward

Viking football player deals with obstacles

Story by Micah Petersen

He sat, with broad shoulders leaned forward, on the tailgate of the truck. It was a big truck, an F-150, but its rear end dipped under his heavy frame. He gazed into the open corn field with a thousand-yard stare.

It wasn’t a war, but it may as well have been a battlefield.

His head was bloodied and his body bruised.

His body still ached from the car accident that left the truck 15 yards off the road, but the memory of it had disappeared.

“I didn’t even know how I got there,” he said.

“But my glasses had flown off to who knows where, and my head felt like crap!”

Police officers questioned him, but there were no answers. He didn’t know where he was going. He didn’t even know if he was driving. The cuts were from the passenger side window.

His first memory after the crash was sitting on that tailgate. The minutes before that were mysteries, but the message of the moment had already changed him.

Zebediah Mark Dintelman, a name you ask how to spell twice, came to Missouri Valley to play football. At the time of the crash in 2009, it was already the spring of his second semester of college, but it was that moment that completed his transition from high school senior to college student, one step closer to the real world.

One look at Zeb, as he goes by, and it’s not surprising he came to Missouri Valley to play football. At 6’3” and 265 pounds, he is big even by tight end standards, but not big enough to withstand the truck that crashed almost two years ago.

Serving as a reminder of that day, Zeb picked glass out of the side of his head for months. It even forced him out of a few football practices.

“It got to where I couldn’t even put my helmet on a couple times,” Zeb said.

The thought of pulling glass out of your head for months is enough to make you wince, but Zeb talks about it with a laid back demeanor that carries over to every aspect of his life. He casually recalled a high school story that occurred at Wal-Mart in his hometown of Owensville, Missouri, an hour south of St. Louis.

“My and my friends were bored so I found a dead squirrel, stuck in my sweatshirt, and left it in a stuffed animal bin.”

His voice is a boisterous one, and his straight faced answers make you question his seriousness, but he gives no other reason to doubt his words.

Friend or stranger, Zeb will tell you about anything. More stories than not are better left out of print.

An easy-going country boy that finds his fun hunting, fishing, and stirring things up from time to time, Zeb doesn’t seem to fit the academic mold. Get him talking about history or his major, Criminal Justice, and his GPA being over 3.7 isn’t so surprising.

Zeb’s college life seemed to be going along as planned until this past summer. His grades were good and he was seeing playing time on the football field. He had injured his left knee playing football in high school, but it stayed healthy enough to keep him going for two years in college.

While working his summer job pouring concrete it finally gave out.

A doctor’s visit resulted in surgery. The surgery repaired his meniscus and kept him out the first month of the football season. He started rehab, but the knee didn’t get better.

“The pain decreased, but I still couldn’t run or anything,” Zeb said.

“After awhile I decided I better have it checked out again.”

He went back to the doctor and was told he needed a second surgery. At this point, Zeb knew he’d be out the remainder of the football season, and the chances of full recovery for his next and final season were significantly slimmer. He made the choice to hang it up and take the athlete out of student-athlete.

“My knee had always been messed up, and it wasn’t worth it to rehab all off season just to end up where I started,” he stated.

Zeb fills up part of his time as a resident assistant now. He’s scheduled to graduate next May with his Criminal Justice degree.

Two years ago, he crashed off the side of the road in a truck. That moment forced him to transition his life and move forward. After being given the option of a second knee surgery, he’s made his own decision to transition forward now.

Zebediah Mark Dintelman, a name I’ve now asked how to spell three times.