

The end of school is near so don't slack off

Everyone knows that the end of the school year is coming up in a few short weeks. After today, there are only eight class days left at G. Ray Bodley High School until final exams, and students are starting to become excited about the upcoming summer vacation. While it is understandable that students are anxious for the school year to end, it is not over yet and with Regents and finals coming up, this is no time to start slacking off.

At this point in the year, the workload in some classes might be decreasing, but this is no excuse not to do the work. All assignments can affect a student's grade, and a few zeroes can turn a passing grade into a failing grade. Fourth quarter grades count just as much as the other three quarters on students overall averages, so there is no reason why assignments

at the end of the year should be taken any more lightly than those at the start of the year.

The assignments that are given this late in the school year are preparing students for final exams; those who chose not to do them are seriously jeopardizing not only their fourth quarter grades, but also their final exam grades.

In many classes, the final test is about twenty percent of a student's final grade. By blowing off homework and not taking class seriously any more, students could be putting their grades at risk.

Even if students have had decent grades all year, by doing badly on a final there is still the potential to fail the class. No one wants to have sat through a class all year and not get the credit for it because they slacked off in the final few weeks.

Most finals are not even that bad, but by slacking off and not studying; students put their grade in jeopardy. Contrary to popular belief, Regents are quite fair, and often quite easy. Most people have the ability to pass them with good grades, as long as they put a little bit of effort into doing so. Studying the night before will not help, but by starting a week or two in advance, students can review slowly and retain the knowledge through the test.

By working hard right up to the end of the school year, students can almost guarantee themselves good grades on their finals. The last few weeks are no time to start slacking off, summer may be approaching, but it is not here yet. Until then, school should be students' number one priority.

By Daniel Summerville

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Girls run well at Section III, Class A track meet

Paced by a first place showing in the pole vault and an outstanding effort from the relay teams, the Fulton girls track and field team came on strong last Friday at the Class A Championship meet. The Raiders scored 34 points, good for eighth place in the 16 team field. Fulton might have advanced even further up the ladder if the weather had cooperated as high jump specialist Kim Goutermout and the rest of the field saw their event cancelled.

Jamesville-Dewitt took the overall title with 107 points, outdistancing runner-up Phoenix (72), New Hartford (54), Camden (45) and Homer (43) to round out the top five finishers.

Leading the Fulton cause was school record holder Courtney Beckwith, as she bested the field and her own previous mark in the pole vault by clearing 8-feet-6 to harvest first place points for the Raiders. Kayla Distin was fourth in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:02.29 and Morgan Cooper placed fifth in the 100 meter dash at 13.11 as other individual place winners.

All three girls were also members of an impressive relay corps that placed third in the 4 x 100, 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 meter relays. The trio joined Christine Pensabene to claim third in the 4 x 100 with a 52.95 clocking. Anna McKay joined Distin, Pensabene and Cooper to form the third place 4 x 400 meter relay

foursome in a time of 4:16.69.

Kayla Distin finished off a productive day by running the first leg of the 4 x 800 meter

relay before handing the baton to sophomores Mary West, Mary Morrison and Allyson Bricker for a third place effort of 10:40.95.



Kayla Distin, shown here during an early season meet, was a quadruple scorer for the Raider girls at last Friday's Class A meet at East Syracuse-Minoa. The fleet-footed junior placed fourth in the 400 meter dash before taking part in third place Raider efforts in the 4 x 100, 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 meter relay teams.

Opinion

A girl, her cow, and a memorable competition

By Patty Morrison

I'm going to get one thing out of the way before I start this column: I am not a farmer. I do not live on a farm, nor do I own a barn. I don't do anything as extensive as my fellow *RaiderNet Daily* correspondent Dan Summerville and his family.

I just show cows. I don't milk them, they don't live at my house... I just own one yearling, and I show her at the County Fair level. So I only know a small portion of the work that goes into owning these animals. I get the more glamorous end of things, I'll admit.

I got started showing cows when I was eight years old, when I was walking through the barn at the Oswego County Fair. It was switch day when the beef cows left and the dairy cows came in, and I just wanted to walk through one more time. My mother happened to run into a friend who had 4-H kids who showed cows at the fair too, and she let me go out between the barns and wash cows with some of her kids, and help make beds for the cows with them.

The rest, as they say, is history.

I joined 4-H the next year, and I have been in love with it ever since. I have learned so much from raising calves into yearlings and from yearlings to cows, so much that I never thought I would learn about. I've learned how to take responsibility for an animal that depends on you for a lot of things, I've learned about selective breeding, and I have learned, of course, how to milk cows. I have also learned how to be a winner, and a loser, and how to be good with sportsmanship, and always congratulate the winner, no matter how hard it is for you to do that. I have also won several trophies, plaques, and countless ribbons, but that didn't all just come to me over night. It took me a long time to win all of those things.

It took me almost eight years to get to the top. Eight years of working harder than anyone else who showed cows with me, eight years of bruises, eight years of saying, "there's always next year," eight years of blood, sweat and tears. Eight years of not knowing which cow I was going to have the next year. Eight years of never giving up.

Then, I had this cow. Her name was Mindy, and she was a brown swiss cow. She was stubborn, would not walk three inches on a halter, had a hard head, and hated my mother. In fact, she was just like me, except I don't hate my mother. I don't know what brought the two of us together, but it took me two years, until she had her first calf, to even like me, and from that moment on, we were just like bread and butter.



She would only lead for me, she only came to me, heck, I think she only ate when I was around too. She was one of a kind, that milk cow.

The year she turned two, that was our year. I knew it was our year, and I could feel it. The second I took her off of the trailer at the fairgrounds, there was just something different. I think she knew it too. Neither one of us knew what it was though, so we just went on with our daily routines. Up at five-thirty to wash, feed and milk her, then she would get tied in the barn for the day and I would keep watch over her, picking up droppings that she or other cows left in the straw, answering questions that the public would answer. She had it easy. All she had to do was stand there and look pretty, which she did with class.

"She had it easy. All she had to do was stand there and look pretty, which she did with class."

Then came show day. It was youth day, which meant my least favorite class started the day: showmanship. Don't get me wrong, I love the class, but it is always so stressful, because I have to make sure that everything is one hundred percent perfect. Meaning that the cows ears are spotless clean (that in itself has earned me many bruises) their show halters (which are made out of leather) have to be polished, and the cows hooves have to be polished as well (also difficult, really, have you ever tried to get a cow to stand still on a piece of paper?). Then I have to put on my whites, all white clothes that do not take away from the image of the animal.

The judges judge you based on the way that you present and handle the animal. They can also ask you questions, which you are expected to answer correctly, and they have the ability to walk up to you, take your animal's lead out of your hands and say, "go to that cow, over there, and lead her for a while." It's as nerve-wracking for the cow as it is for the kid, but I never really expect much in showmanship. I've never done well in it before, but this year was different. The judge pointed at me for first place, and I couldn't believe it. The judge said it's because we, "flow together" Mindy and I, and I think it's true. If a kid and a cow can be on the same wavelength, we definitely were.

Later in the day, (after having won all of the classes that were possible, we were in the running for Supreme Champion, which would make us the best of the best at the fair. We didn't win that day, my

(continued on page three)

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Reflections

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Opinion

County fair has something for everyone

By **Patty Morrison**

Rides, games, great food, and lot of animals..usually

those things are never around in the same vicinity, however, once a year, there is one place where you can go and get all of those things.

This year, the 154th annual Oswego County Fair is set and ready to go from June 30 to July 4. The gates open at 9 every morning, with free admission and parking. And this year, there are going to be many fun-filled events that the whole family can enjoy.

Opening day of the fair, June 30, will be Senior Citizen Day, with events for senior citizens scheduled through the day, such as Senior Oreo Stacking, and a Senior Spelling Bee. There will also be a Children's Sawdust hunt, and the Black River Fiddlers are set to perform. Also, on the agricultural side of things, the Youth Poultry Show, Little Britches Showmanship, and Field to Fit will be scheduled that day as well. If

you aren't familiar with the fair, Little Britches showmanship is when kids aged five and under can have their chance showing a baby dairy calf and win ribbons, and prizes. Field to Fit is a contest for older dairy cattle showman, where contestants bring their cow to the fair, unclipped, and then clip them and get them ready for the show in less than two hours.

On Friday, July 1, which is also Agriculture Appreciation Day, there will be many livestock shows for the public to enjoy, including youth and open beef shows, a meat goat show, and the youth swine shows. There will also be a pie eating contest, and a demolition derby later in the evening.

Saturday, July 2 will be Legislator Day, and the people at the fair and in the barns will be in for a treat when New York State Legislators come through the fairgrounds and say hello to everyone. There will also be a Youth Goat Show, and racing lawn mowers scheduled for people to enjoy, as well as the Fritz Polka Band, who will be there in the evening hours.

Sunday July 3 will be a day filled with livestock shows as well. Three are scheduled for the morning, including the Horse Show, a Rabbit Show and the Youth Dairy Cattle show. Later in the day, there will be a cruise in of classic cars, and a demolition derby.

Monday, July 4 will be Children's Day, and it will kick off with the Open Dairy show in the morning, the Baby Show, and Garden Tractor Pulls. However the buildings will close early that day, because it is closing day of the fair, and everyone who is exhibiting an animal is going to want to go home as soon as possible. The fair will also close at 5 pm that evening, so the animals can leave the fairgrounds safely.

Whether you are young, or old, or somewhere in between, the Oswego County Fair, located in Sandy Creek, is sure to be a fun-filled week for anyone choosing to attend, and you will be missing out if you don't.

The perfect day

(from page two)

friend Gabby did. I was upset, because everyone had thought that Mindy and I were going to win, but I didn't let it affect me, because we still had the next day to show too, and the next day was a repeat of the Youth Show. I won everything, every single class that I could win, I won. We even won Supreme Champion, and I cried. I did, there were tears from everyone, including my mother, and my 4-H leader.

This experience taught me that hard work really does pay off. I watched my friends get things handed to them for eight years, while I got nothing, and almost wanted to quit. But now, I look at that trophy that is sitting in my room on a shelf, and I think to myself, "I'm sure glad I didn't give up."

The Yearbooks are coming!

Listen to the morning announcements for more details.

Seniors! Stay in touch with your class! Check out the new website for the senior class at <http://grbclass2011.blogspot.com/>

Quote of the day:

"Nothing encourages creativity like the chance to fall flat on one's face."

~James D. Finley

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Sports

NHL's big show starts tonight with Cup finals

By Colin Shannon

The final round of the NHL playoffs begins tonight, as Vancouver and Boston square off in a game one that promises to be superb. Boston will begin the quest for the city's sixth Stanley Cup overall, the first since 1972. The Vancouver Canucks have never won the Stanley Cup in the history of the team, but have made the finals two times before, getting swept by the New York Islanders in 1982, and losing in seven games to the New York Rangers in 1994.

Vancouver got to the final by beating Chicago in seven games, Nashville in six and San Jose in five. Boston got there by beating Montreal in seven, Philadelphia in a sweep and then Tampa Bay in seven.

The Canucks are heavily favored statistically, as the team from Vancouver won the President's Trophy for having the best record in the regular season. The Canucks accumulated 117 points in the regular season, a full five wins ahead of the Washington Capitals,



who finished with 107, and seven wins ahead of final foe Boston, who finished with 103.

However, the Bruins do have some tricks up their sleeve, such as goaltender Tim Thomas, who had a record setting regular season, and is favored to win the Vezina Trophy, which is awarded to the best net minder of the year. A game 7 shutout in the Eastern Conference finals has Thomas on the top of his game heading into the Cup finals, and if he can continue his strong play he could be the difference maker in this series.

After being benched in game 6 of the first round, Vancouver goaltender Roberto Luongo has stepped up his play. Since being benched, Luongo has gone 9-3 and is making his case for not only the Vezina Trophy but the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoff MVP. If Luongo can continue his stellar play between the pipes

and outdue Thomas at the other end the Canucks should have enough of an advantage offensively and defensively to win the final seven game series of the 2011 postseason and hoist the Stanley Cup.

Another key situation to pay special attention to are the special teams for each squad. The Bruins have had a horrendous power play in the post season, operating at a paltry 8%. Many feel this pace is much too slow to be able to register key goals in the final series. Boston's penalty kill has been more respectable, but their 79% effectiveness will have to improve against a Canucks team which has one of the best power plays in the postseason, scoring on nearly one in every three opportunities. Vancouver holds a distinct advantage on special teams despite a skewed power play effi-

ciency that was bolstered by three 5-on-3 conversions in a single period against the Sharks.

Although the Canucks are favored, the Bruins have many weapons and unsung heroes who are more than capable of turning the tides to edge out the team from Vancouver. If the series goes according to the outline set forth by the regular season and the teams' playoffs thus far, one would be leaning toward the team hailing from Canada to win their first Stanley Cup.

However, it is not out of the realm of opportunity for a Bruin to step up and put the team on his shoulders. The series will be nothing short of pure entertainment, as game 1 is scheduled to face off tonight at 8 p.m., on NBC, so be sure to tune in and watch what promises to be a show.

Virginia battles to NCAA lax title

The NCAA men's lacrosse tournament came to an end on Monday afternoon, as Virginia defeated Maryland 9-7 to clinch the championship. The path to the finals for both teams proved to be a very difficult one, as each team was forced to play top level competition in both rounds.

Unseeded Maryland was forced to go through a very difficult bracket consisting of North Carolina, Syracuse, and Duke in each round. The Tar Heels were defeated 13-6, while it took overtime to banish the Orange, a close game that ended 6-5. Many wrote off the Terps when they were forced to play Syracuse, but Maryland controlled the pace of play to upend the #1 ranked Orange. The semifinal game proved to be filled with less tension, as Maryland defeated Duke 9-4.

Seventh seed Virginia had a much weaker bracket coming in, but showed a high level of play in each successive round, defeating Bucknell, Cornell, and Denver on the way to the finals. Bucknell was defeated 13-12 in overtime, Cornell fell by a score of 13-9, and Denver fell victim to a 14-8 defeat.

The game proved to be a spectacular display of back and forth possession, with defense being the key in the first half. After the first quarter, unseeded Maryland was up by a goal, with a 1-0 lead. The second quarter proved to be nothing but the Cavaliers, as Virginia found the net five times to the Terps two, pulling out to a 5-3 lead at halftime. The third quarter was deemed a stalemate as both teams stepped up the defense, and each team was held to one. The fourth quarter also proved to be a draw, as both teams scored three times, ending the contest at 9-7. The second quarter proved to be the one that lost the game for the Terps, and Virginia claimed their fifth National Championship in school history.

Leading the charge for the Cavaliers was midfielder Colin Briggs, who scored five goals in the contest. Briggs was playing on fresh legs, as he was not allowed to play Saturday for disciplinary reasons unspecified. Nick O'Reilly also had five points in the game, notching one goal and four assists in the 60 minutes. Attack Matt White had a hat trick, recording three goals in the game. Standing between the pipes was Adam Ghitelman, who recorded 9 saves on the day.

Fighting hard for the Terps were Grant Catalino and John Haus, each with three points on the day. Catalino had two goals and an assist, and Haus netted one goal and had two assists. A player of note throughout the game was Ryan Young, who had one goal in the game. Young lost his mother at the start of the season due to pancreatic cancer, and the team bonded because of this. Maryland deemed themselves as a family from the start of the season, and showed these characteristics throughout the playoffs, especially in the finals.

The game proved to be an energetic display between two ACC rivals, one of which was just a little bit quicker than the other. As with all championships, the winner will be remembered, and the loser will not, but one cannot help but think that the Terps overcame a lot of adversity and fell just short to the Cavaliers, as both teams played a very solid game. **By Colin Shannon**

Raider Sports

Raiders end season on a high note, look to future

By Brett Williams

The Fulton boys lacrosse season is now over, and unfortunately it did not end up the way many of the seniors had intended. The Raiders finished the season 3-13, winning against The Chittanooga Bears once and the Whitesboro Warriors twice. Other than that, it was hard for the Raiders to find a groove to settle into.

It was inconsistency more than anything else that prevented the Raiders from a better record and season. "You guys came out here ready to play. A few mistakes were made but it was nice to see you pick yourselves up from a deficit and end the season on a good note," confirmed Coach Halladay after the last game of the season.

The players themselves shouldered much of the blame for a disappointing spring campaign. "We had the talent, but the dumb mistakes and not listening to the coaches stopped us from winning," stated senior captain Corey Crook.

"If we had played like we did in the last three games, I believe our season could've changed immensely," confirmed Captain Don Watson. With seven seniors graduating and some big gaps to fill, it is the upcoming seniors jobs to step up and make the Fulton program better.

Filling the shoes of this years seniors will come from juniors Ross Maxam, Tyler Lockwood, Mitch Johnston, Mitch Terzulli, Pat Sullivan, Bryan Benton, Joe Cortese, Joe Sutton, Jesse Ives, Aaron Cooper, Nick Metcalf, Justin Bowering, and Steve Delisle. Colin Blake, Fulton's goalie, will also need to step up big and control the defensive end of the field in order to make the program better.

The stats this year for the Raiders were fairly spread out. Leading the Raiders this year was senior captain Brett Williams who recorded 27 goals, 15 assists, and 53 ground balls. Next was senior Captain Corey Crook with 22 goals, 9 assists and 32 ground balls. Also helping the Raiders this season was junior Bryan Benton (18 goals, 4 assists, 32 ground balls), Ross

Maxam (12 goals, 13 assists, 27 ground balls), Joe Sutton (7 goals, 1 assist, 18 ground balls), and captain Don Watson (5 goals, 42 ground balls). Standing tall in the net was Colin Blake, who recorded 132 impressive saves. Many of the players who did not have as much time on the field as expected supported their teammates and worked hard every day in practice, working to get better and make the team better.

The Raider season may be over, but senior captains Brett Williams and Don Watson have been selected to further their season and play in the Senior All-star Game, representing Fulton.

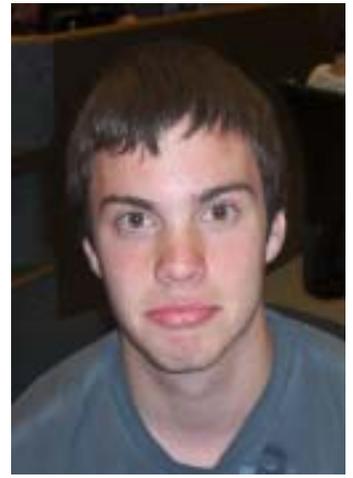
"It's sad to believe that our final moments in a Fulton Raider jersey have been played and that our high school career is over already. Best of luck to upcoming players. Wear that uniform with pride, because before you know it, you're done. Coaches, we thank you for the fun, and the opportunity to become a better player and person," stated captains Brett Williams, Corey Crook, and Don Watson.



Moments of jubilation proved few and far between for the Raider varsity lacemen this spring, but one highlight of a 3-13 campaign came when Brett Williams scored in overtime to propel Fulton past East Syracuse-Minoa, much to the delight of the entire team. (Kayla Hanczyk photo)

School of Thought compiled by James McKay and Tyler Crandell

What did you do over Memorial Day weekend ?



"Worked with Rusawski".

"I played on my boat."

"I went to some parties."

"Partyin', Partyin', Yeah!"

Mark Bailey

Mrs. Ruzekowicz

Erik Bierbrauer

Brian Garrett

Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Mostly sunny. High in the upper-70s.
Record high: 91 (1954).
Avg. high: 74.

Tonight:



Clear skies. Low in the low-50s.
Record low: 35 (1966).
Avg. low: 51.

Tomorrow:



Sunny and cooler. High in the mid-60s.
Record high: 88 (2007).
Avg. high: 74.

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*