



## Blood drive offers "life-changing" experience

By Natasha Luis

While the concept of a "life-changing" experience has been overused by many teenagers, on Friday, March 30 students will have a chance to really change a life as G. Ray Bodley High School is hosting the annual Student Senate Blood Drive. The donations begin as early as 8 am, and go on until 3 pm for a good cause that helps many people. With every one donation, three lives are saved?

The sign up procedure is easy, as students only have to go to room 100, which is Mr. Thurlow's room. In order to sign up, a person has to be at least 16 years of age, or older to join. If you are 16, you will need a consent form that your parent/guardian must sign. You also must weigh at least 110 pounds, unless you plan on doing the double red donation, where the height and weight differ.

People who are sick or not feeling well are also not allowed to donate for medical reasoning. A donaees blood pressure needs to be between 80/50 and 180/100. If someone has diabetes and receives insulin shots, they are permanently ineligible to donate. This is also true, but not limited to, HPV, Hepatitis, HIV, and other related illnesses. If you have had a piercing recently, you may be eligible if the instrument used for the piercing was sterile, or a single-use needle. If you are unsure, or those conditions do not apply to your situation, you must wait 12 months.

This is also true if you receive acupuncture and electrolysis. If you are pregnant you are not eligible to donate. If you recently have gotten a tattoo, you may donate if it was done in a sterile, professional environment, using sterile needles, and ink, that was state-regulated. If those conditions do not apply to your situation, you must wait 12 months before you are eligible to donate again. If you have traveled outside the U.S to places with a malaria risk, you must wait 12 months. Ask your local Red Cross about

other traveling ineligibilities.

This is a time in life where donating blood is so important. It could go to a precious little girl or boy battling a blood disease, or to a parent who got into a car accident and needs a blood transfusion. With just a few minutes out of your day, and a simple blood donation, you could save up to three lives. For

## Raider softball sets sights on playoffs

By Ashlynn Palmitesso

With the return of a talented pitcher and a new head coach, the softball girls are looking to conquer their league. Seven returning powerful seniors, two experienced juniors, and three aggressive sophomores make up the diverse roster. Senior ace pitcher Lindsey Larkin, injured for a good portion of the 2011 season, is back at full health and looking to lead her team to sectionals.

Last season ended with frustration and an unfortunate record, but the Lady Raiders have put it behind them and are ready to

that reason eligible students are urged go to room 100, before March 30 and sign up to save people's lives. It is life changing.

Don't think of blood transfusions as giving up a part of yourself to keep a total stranger alive. It's really a total stranger giving up almost all of themselves to keep a part of you alive.

make some noise. Lindsey Larkin has nothing but a positive attitude towards this season's team, saying, "I know it will be a good year because everyone is working hard. We have great chemistry together and everyone gets along!"

First-year Varsity Coach Derek Lyons is hoping to improve the softball program with his enthusiasm and expertise. When you come into a program, the first step is to set goals. And that is exactly what he has done. He said, "Our main goal is to get better every day. We want to make sure the girls coming up see a good work ethic and a hard-

(continued on page 4)



The return of a healthy Lindsey Larkin to the pitching mound is one of several reasons why the Raider girls are optimistic heading into the new season. Larkin, who will attend Syracuse University in the fall, was injured for much of the 2011 campaign. (Ashlynn Palmitesso photo)

## Opinion

# Seatbelts on buses are there for a good reason

By Vanessa Langdon

As students, we have all seen the seatbelts on school buses the many times we have ridden, some people two times a day. But I, for one, have never seen anyone use them and that worries me with good reason.

Research done by CNN shows that school bus passenger injuries have risen by 94% between 1985-96 nationally.

School buses have been in the news frequently the past couple of weeks for less than complimentary reasons. There has been two buses crashes in the United States in the past week one in Indiana the other in Washington. The first bus crash was in Indianapolis on Monday, March 12 while taking 50 students to the Lighthouse Charter School the bus ran into a concrete bridge. The bus carrying 5 to 16 year old children purportedly ran into the bridge because of either the driver falling asleep or having a heart attack, but it cannot be certain until an autopsy is performed. The driver consequently died, along with a 5 year old student.

The second bus crash occurred the same day outside of Seattle in Quincy, Washington when the bus rolled over after veering off the road and the driver overcorrecting. This bus also was carrying kindergarten to high school age students and factors such as weather, drugs, and alcohol were not factors in the crash.

Both buses involved in the crashes did not have seatbelts, but I presume that even if they had happened in New York State, even in Oswego County, the outcomes would not have been altered by the fact that seatbelts would have been installed as people do NOT use them.

New York State is one of six states, New York, New Jersey, California, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, that require seat belts on all buses. Out of these six states California is the only one to require shoulder strap seatbelts. All of the others, New York included, only require lap belts. But this requirement will do nothing to save lives in the unfortunate event of a bus crash if they are not enforced! National law hold no jurisdiction over seatbelt use as the laws regarding them are left to state and local governments. New York



State was the first to pass a law regarding mandating seatbelts on buses, so maybe there is hope that New York will be the first state to require the USE of the mandated seat belts!

Many opponents of mandatory seatbelt use claim that the design of the seats in busses coined with their greater mass make them safe enough sans seatbelts, but studies show that seatbelts are most effective in side impact and rollover accidents where the high back seats alone are least effective in preventing injuries. Along with claims that they are safe enough without the use of seatbelts some claim that the use of seatbelts could possibly hinder safety upon getting into a crash negatively by effecting evacuation. But in actuality the use of seatbelts would ensure that in the event of a crash students would remain in their seats, allowing them to then exit the bus safely.

On top of the improved safety that using the seatbelts would provide it would also clear up a point made by The National Coalition for School Bus Safety, "Opponents ignore the fact that by not providing seat belts, a school district is demonstrating a form of negative education," the coalition's website states. "This negative training carries over to the family car, leaving children defenseless against their No. 1 killer, the automobile collision."

Mr. Greg Henrie, Fulton City School District transporter, commented regarding the seatbelt issue by saying, "Unfortunately school districts have not made it mandatory for students to wear [seatbelts]. We are going into the right direction with having the seatbelts installed on all buses. If we all keep pushing the issue, someday it will become mandatory. Our first concern is "SAFETY" for all students, please use them." The issue of safety and the concern of adults in position to change rulings is not in question it is quite obvious that no one is intentionally endangering children but it seems a bit contradictory that the issue of seatbelts seem to be directly linked with the level of safety children receive and are so strongly suggested that a mandatory rule would be beneficial.

Maybe someday in the future people will realize that although buses may be deemed safe, improving the safety could never be a bad thing and doing so may make the number of fatalities and injuries that result from bus crashes go from few to none at all.



## Reflections

-THE- Salon & More

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Opinion

# Energetic debut for Hunger Games movie

By Nate Hawthorne

The highly anticipated movie, *The Hunger Games*, came out last Thursday night. Crowds were lined up down the block near Oswego Cinema hours in advance for access to see the movie. There was excitement in the air as people stood in the fresh air, deep in anticipation for the doors to open. Every few minutes one could hear chants of "Hunger Games! Hunger Games!" break out from the jovial movie goers.

When the doors did open around 10:30 pm the crowds were ready to rush in and grab their seat well in advance of the movie starting. Although the crowd still had to wait an hour and a half until the movie began, the energy did not cease. These people were ready to see *The Hunger Games*, and no wait could ruin their mood. Oswego Cinema held a raffle where one boy and one girl who attended the midnight release would get their name drawn and win a free tub of popcorn and a Hunger Games poster. Out of the entire two theaters packed with people, G. Ray Bodley's very own Neil Devendorf was the fortunate man to win this treasure.

For those who are unaware, *The Hunger Games* is a movie based on the book of the same name by Suzanne Collins. In it, every year each of the 12 Districts has to send one boy and one girl, between the ages of 12 and 18, to learn survival techniques and fight to the death in a battle known as The Hunger Games. This is done for the amusement of The Capitol, as punishment for a previous failed revolution. *The Hunger Games* follows the plight of Katniss Everdeen, who volunteered to take the place of her sister as tribute for District 12.

Once the movie started the crowd's full attention was on the screen, soaking in every scene. The energy of the crowd could still not be contained though, as with every high energy moment or surprise twist a roar of applause would erupt. Maggie Ryan, who attended the midnight release commented, "I really enjoyed the movie. I believe it did the book justice, but I believe the audience couldn't handle themselves. I would advise future audiences to contain their outbursts."

Although the movie ended late, with the audience leaving around 2:30 am, many who went felt that it was well worth it. Brian Garrett, who also attended the midnight release, commented, "It was a phe-

nominal movie that I would recommend everyone go see."

*The Hunger Games* has already set records, having the third largest domestic opening of all time, and the largest disregarding movie sequels. Three more movies are in the works to finish up the book series. If you are looking for something to do, *The Hunger Games* will not be leaving theaters anytime soon.

## Meet the Reporters

### Maddie Olon, Senior

Maddie joined the staff of RaiderNet to write news and opinion articles. Outside of school she plays tennis and loves to write poems.

A lot of people don't really know Maddie because she is new at GRB this year, having transferred from Liverpool. Something people don't know about here is that she has, "an obsession with chapstick."



### Quote of the day:

"Fear cannot be without hope nor hope without fear."

Baruch Spinoza

Submit yearbook photos online at [www.hjeshare.com](http://www.hjeshare.com) our school code is: 3049668  
**WANTED: Spring Sports**

Raider Sports

# Softball seeks return to Section 3 tournament

(from page 1)

working team.”

The core seniors having been playing together since Kiwanis. Their bond off the field will contribute to their success. Senior all-star Lindsey Larkin will continue to send batters back to the dugout, while sophomore Maureen McCann squeezes her glove to verify the strikeout. Senior Ciara Chapman will take on first-base, while her fellow classmates Felicia Coleman, Jessica Briggs, and Lauren Snyder will reside in the outfield.

Junior Ashley Cummings will be at third and sophomore Michaela Guernsey will play at short-stop. Coach Lyons has left second base open to the girl who works the hardest.

The Raiders start their season off with stiff competition, the Phoenix Firebirds, who placed third in states last year. Despite their tough schedule, Larkin is determined to win at least nine games to qualify for sectionals. Lindsey is committed to play at Syracuse University in the fall.



The varsity girls softball team has high hopes for the coming season with a strong blend of experience and enthusiasm. Pictured from left to right are front row-Ashley Cummins, Ciara Chapman, , Miranda Bivens, Lauren Snyder, Kassidy Kearns. Standing are Mikayla Guernsey, Ashly Smart, Maureen McCann, Lindsey Larkin, Marissa Laun, Falielia Coleman and Jessica Briggs. Missing from the photo is Kassy McCann. (Ashlynn Palmitesso photo)

Going someplace cool? Take **RaiderNet** Daily

with you and get your picture taken for next year's Fultonian Yearbook feature **"Where in the world is The Raider?"**

## This Week in Raider Sports

- Wed. March 28: Girls Lax @ New Hartford (JV-4L30/V-6 pm); Softball @ Oswego (4 pm-scrimmage).
- Thurs. March 29: Boys Lax vs. ES-M (JV-5/V-6:30).
- Fri. March 30: V Girls lax @ Irondequoit (6 pm).
- Sat. March 31: V Girls Lax @ Spencerport (3 pm).



Keep watching for a more information!

**RaiderNet** Daily

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[www.facebook.com/GRBJournalism](http://www.facebook.com/GRBJournalism)



## Opinion

## Avoid distractions as the third quarter ends

Students within G. Ray Bodley High School as well as students all over Central New York felt the warm weather last week, and it was a sure sign that Spring is here. And with Spring break nearing, it is important that students remember not to slack off in their studies at school.

With the weather warming up and the sun shining, students may find it harder to focus in classes. They may find themselves staring outside, dreaming of being out in the sun. However there is a time and a place for everything, and school is a place to learn. With the end of the marking period creeping up on us it is a necessity to hand in all work and do classwork as well as homework instead of daydreaming, to ensure the highest possible grade you can receive. There will be plenty of time for daydreaming and spending time outside in a week or so.

Staying focused in class during these last few months of school may be hard for some, however if you follow a few of these tips, they may help. First, remember why you're here; to learn and get the best possible education that you can, so that you may further it in college or at the workplace. Next, avoid staring out the windows; they'll only make you want out even more. Also, remember to actually listen and analyze what your teachers are saying, they're not just blurting out words to hear their own voice, they are teaching for you, not themselves. Lastly, remember to always be respectful to others and you'll receive respect back, it will only make these last few days here less stressful.

So again, it's crunch time here at G. Bodley High School, so make sure you're not slacking and doing all that you can this week to either maintain or boost your grades. *By Tony Torrese*

## Warm weather put people into summer mode

March is the warmest month yet and has made record history. As I worked in Rite Aid all last weekend, many people stopped in for refreshments on their nice long walks. I got to hear their stories on how they were off to go fishing, or were getting ready to go on a bike ride.

Obviously I was extremely jealous because I was stuck inside all day, but the good weather had everyone, including me, in a good mood. Among the activities there were cookouts, bonfires, riding motorcycles, and celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Although the weather has been extremely nice and sunny, people still talk. Is the world changing due to global warming and/or pollution? Is our earth in for devastation, or is this just the normal cycle the earth takes every so often? We will never know until that day actually comes, so there is no reason to worry too much about

it. Enjoy the weather that you are given now because New York is usually swallowed up by five to seven months of cold weather.

Matt Goss a ninth grader stated, "I've been jogging and playing basketball." Along with him, Avery Blair, also a ninth grader stated, "I played soccer and have ridden four wheelers." As you can see, March has turned into a complete summer fiasco and winter has been almost totally disregarded. How can anyone complain about warm weather and summer activities?

March is usually a time of coats, boots, and windy cold weather. It has totally flipped upside down this and we can officially crack out the summer clothing. Earth will run its course and cycles will change sometimes, that's just life and nature speaking. Get outside, develop a tan, and soak up the warm weather.

*By Maddie Olon*

## Plenty going on at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

This time of year is a special time at the zoo. Although the weather is not usually very warm yet and the ground is typically covered in snow, there is a lot of excitement at the local zoo. The animals tend to be more active in the cooler months, making this season a great time to visit. You may be wondering what is so exciting at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, but a few hints include some new faces at the zoo, the return of the elephants to their new elephant exhibit and three little faces that are not so little anymore.

The zoo had the pleasure of the birth of a baby Patas monkey. The little baby can usually be found curled up in its mother's arms. She or he was born on January 7, 2012 around 11:30 am and was named D.J. The baby Patas monkey is just one of the many babies that are new to the zoo.

A few babies are not quite present at the zoo yet. Near the penguin exhibit a house is set for the nurturing of eggs. The penguins are a favorite for many visitors at the zoo. The zoo will be honored with the birth of the new penguins.

Also, at the zoo there are a set of tiger triplets. They were born on May 7 of last year. The three cubs were born the night before Mother's Day. The triplets have certainly grown since last May.

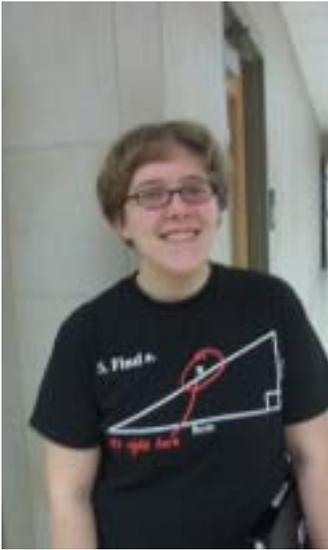
You can find the tiger cubs running around and trying to play with their mother: and just like any baby they have a tendency to take a lot of naps. Whether they are playing or sleeping it is always a joy to see.

On top of all the new faces at the zoo a few familiar faces have returned. "Targa, Mali and little Chuck have safely returned to their home here at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo," said Zoo Director Ted Fox. The three Asian Elephants have spent the last five years in Canada awaiting the completion of their new exhibit. While away little Chuck was born, so the return to the Rosamond Gifford zoo was a first for him.

Now that the exhibit is up it can be viewed by the community and visitors. There is a vast amount of space for the Asian elephants to explore. Also, the visitors can now see into the elephant's house as well as get their picture taken on the elephant statue outside.

These simple and even natural changes at the zoo make it a place to escape and feel free. The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is a place to visit not only in the summer months, but throughout the year because as the seasons change there are more than changes in the weather at the zoo. *By Jeanette Bartlett*

## What spring sport will be most successful?



"Lacrosse, specifically the girls."

Kayla Hatch



Tennis, Let's be honest!"

Noah Sorbello



"Girls lacrosse"

Mr. Halladay



"Boys Lacrosse"

Danielle Parker

# Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Partly cloudy.

**43°**

Average: 48°  
Record: 80° (1989)

Tonight:



Mostly cloudy.

**29°**

Average: 29°  
Record: 13° (1966)

Tomorrow:



Mostly cloudy  
with rain.

**55°**

Average: 48°  
Record: 83° (1998)

GRB senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ [www.centralnewyorkweather.com](http://www.centralnewyorkweather.com)  
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.