

Top Stories

— By JENNIFER FOSTER & RAPHAEL LEE —

2010 Hoosac Symposium.

Symposium is when the school takes three days off from regular classes and does other types of educational activities. This year, Fidel Moreno, who was a Friday night speaker on November 13th with Native American drumming and chants, will be hosting a school-wide seminar and activities that the students and faculty will participate in.

North Korea says it holds 2nd American.

The North Korean government informed the State Department on Friday that it is holding a second American citizen who, the North Koreans say, entered the country from China, a State Department spokesman said.

The American, who has not been identified, was detained Monday for trespassing on North Korea's border with China, state-run Korea Central News Agency reported Thursday. The incident is under investigation, according to the agency's report.

Spokesman P.J. Crowley had said Thursday afternoon that the

State Department had been unable to get information on the reported incident.

North Korea announced December 29th that it was holding an American who had entered the country illegally from China on Christmas Eve. The news agency did not identify the man, who it said was "now under investigation by a relevant organ."

At the time, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Washington was concerned by reports that a Korean-American missionary, Robert Park, had gone into North Korea, but could not confirm them.

Cell phone bans don't reduce accidents.

A new study suggests laws banning the use of hand-held devices while driving have not reduced the rate of accidents in three states and the District of Columbia.

In addition to the nation's capital, a report was issued by the Highway Loss Data Institute, which reviews insurance claims in New York, Connecticut, and California. It also compares the data

to other areas that do not have cell phone bans.

"The laws aren't reducing crashes, even though we know that such laws have reduced hand-held phone use, and several studies have established that phoning while driving increases crash risk," said Adrian Lund, president of the Highway Loss Data Institute.

There were no fluctuations in collision rates before and after the laws were put in place, the report said. "So the new findings don't match what we already know about the risk of phoning and texting while driving," Lund added. According to the study, the crash rates in the nation's capital were the same as in Virginia and Maryland, which don't have laws limiting the use of cell phones while driving.

Increased rates of crashes when drivers use hand-held cell phones have been well documented, so it's unclear why the four jurisdictions' accident rates did not mirror the trend after their cell phone bans took effect.

Strongest Team In Years

— By STEPHEN BURKE —



Photo from Austin McCroskie

The lady Owls seen here during a home game.

The Girls Basketball team has, and still is working hard to win as many games as it can. The team is coached by Mr. Ryan, and is assisted by Miss Kelly '04. The season started immediately after our Christmas break. The team's major players are Sewa Egunsola, Mengkun (Kaci) Liu, and Ruoxi (Sarah) Sun. When asked about the team's strong and weak points, IVth former Sewa Egunsola said, "The team has good teamwork, but it could improve. We also need to work on scoring."

Hoosac, as we all know, is a small school, so finding good basketball players out of the 32 girls we have is a challenge, especially when the girls have many other sports as options to play, like skiing, snowboarding, yoga, and swimming.

The team practices at 3:15 every day during the sports period. It has most games on either Wednesdays or Saturdays. Out of the 6 games played by the girls so far, the team has won two and lost four. The girls have three games scheduled for the rest of the season. The next one is on Tuesday, February 16th. In the previous game, the team came close, losing 30-33 against Grace Christian on the Wednesday before we left for break, February 3rd. When assistant coach Kelly was asked about what the team did correctly/incorrectly, she responded, "They had a really strong game, and they've improved a lot since the last time we played Grace Christian. Since we were on a winning streak, their confidence improved." The season will end before we go on March break, so good luck to the girls until then. This is the best Girls Basketball team Hoosac has had for several years.

From The Heart

— By ARIAN HOLMAN —



Photo from <http://cathylwood.files.wordpress.com>

Candy and flowers are popular gifts for the Valentine's holiday.

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men in his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is a bit blurry, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for

friends and lovers, in all social classes, to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year.

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages (written Valentines didn't begin to appear until after 1400), and the oldest known Valentine card is on display at the British Museum.

"Valentines is one of my favorite holidays; you get to express what you feel to the person you love with gifts and spend some special time," says David Brassard '10. "I think Valentines Day is not only about lovers, it is about friendship and eating chocolates; I like to feel spoiled," says Tony Jorgenson '11. "I love Valentines Day. Everywhere you go is filled with hearts and makes everyone feel special," says Naomi Whetstone '12.

Dust To Dust

— By JENNIFER FOSTER —

In the Christian Calendar, Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Lent lasts for forty days, from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The Sundays of Lent are technically not included in the season because Sunday is always a joyful day of Jesus' resurrection. During these forty days Christians concentrate on self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, reading and meditating on Holy Scripture (Book of Common Prayer 265). We remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and the temptations and struggles he faced there. The Ash Wednesday service reminds us we are mortal and asks god to "create and make in us new and contrite hearts...." Many Christians receive a smudge of ash on the forehead on this day to remind them that they are mortal. So beginning on Ash Wednesday, you can give up something or take on something in order to observe Lent.

Ash Wednesday 2010 is February 17. As in past years, Hoosac will celebrate Ash Wednesday and Father Dugger will do the service. "The importance of Ash Wednesday is ashes on the forehead, and lots of people give something up like candy. The phrase for it is, Dust you are and to dust you shall return," he said.

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Seasonal Blues

- By ANNIE LYONS -

Everyone feels a little gloomy this time of the year. The days are short and cold and right now the economy is unstable. For some people, the change to winter brings with it something more serious than seasonal depression: seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a form of depression that can be unbearable. Mild forms of SAD are believed to affect as many as 20% of the population in the United States.

The two most common symptoms are feelings of sadness and hopelessness, and losing interest in activities like being social. If you feel this way only during the fall and winter, and if these symptoms disappear during the rest of the year, it may be a sign of SAD.

People with SAD tend to feel the need to sleep more during the wintertime. But research has shown that for people with SAD experience, there is a greater occurrence of insomnia and sleep

disturbances. Anger and irritability are common symptoms of depression and SAD. Research suggests that people with SAD are significantly more irritable than healthy individuals. This disorder can increase appetite in some people. 65 percent of people with the disorder report being hungrier during the colder, darker months and get a strong craving for carbohydrates such as bread and pasta.

At Hoosac the gloomy winter is taking place and some people are not in their best moods. Naomi Whestone said that when winter comes around all she wants to do is "crawl into bed and watch movies." Jayla Jung said that she gets in bad moods and "just wants to be in the sun and can't wait until the spring comes." Many people get in bad moods and are depressed when the cold and winter comes, but studies show it can be more serious.

School Sports

- By JENNIFER FOSTER -



Photo by Austin McCroskie

Da Han Han seen here during an earlier game.

Girls Basketball

On February 3 Hoosac hosted a few games. Girls Basketball hosted Grace Christian and Lost 33-30. Top Scorers were Roxie Sun with 10 points, Kaci Liu with 12 points, Soo Jung Seo with 6 points and, Sewa Egunzola with 4 points.

Christian and Lost 59-46. Top scorers were Da Han Han with 21 points and Will Sims with 19 points.

Varsity Hockey

The Hockey team traveled to Winchendon and lost 5-1. Attila Pavuk scored the point for the Owls.

Boys Basketball

Also on February 3, the Boys Basketball team played Grace

Wacky News

- By STEPHEN BURKE -

A man coughed up the ring, which he stole while being interrogated by police. Outside of a jewelry shop, the owner's car was broken into. A woman's purse containing a \$20,000 2-carat ring was stolen. Without realizing it, this man tried to sell the ring to the jewelry shop from which it was stolen. One of the jewelers recognized the ring when the man and a woman came in to try and sell it. The shopkeeper called the police, and successfully stalled the couple while they waited for authorities to arrive. After realizing that the police were coming, the man swallowed the ring. During questioning the man began to cough, and eventually it came out in front of the authorities interrogating him. As reported on cbc.com

A 36-year-old man in California apparently tried to sell his 14 year-old-daughter to an 18-year-old. The man said that the 18-year-old could marry his daughter in exchange for \$16,000, 160 cases of beer, 100 cases of soda, 50 cases of Gatorade, two cases of wine, and six cases of meat. The 14-year-old willingly moved in with the teenager. After several days, the girl's father still did not get his end of the deal, so he called the police to get his daughter back. The man was arrested, charged with the crime of receiving money for causing a person to co-habitate. As reported on cnn.com

A few kids were playing football in Blue Ash, Ohio, when their ball landed in the yard of a grumpy 89-year-old woman. The kids said they asked for their ball back, but the woman refused to return it. A kid's father got involved, contacting the woman, requesting to get the ball back, but the woman still refused. The father took it to the police, who warned the woman twice that if the ball wasn't returned it would be petty theft. The woman remained just as stubborn, and consequently was arrested by police at her home. As reported on msnbc.com

SPORTS

Wed. - 2/17 @ 4pm
Ice Hockey (Home)
vs. Brunswick

Wed. - 2/17 @ 4pm
Boys Varsity Basketball
(Away) vs. Mt. Everett

Wed. - 2/17 @ 2:30pm
Girls Varsity Basketball
(Away) vs. Miss Hall's

Fri. - 2/19 @ 7pm
Ice Hockey (Away)
vs. Kents Hill

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with Nurse Klein
in Nurse Klein's office
in Tibbits

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Chaperone 1 - Mr. Ryan
Chaperone 2 - Mrs. Rabinowitz
Prefect on Duty - Foster
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Sudoku

	7		1		2		
6			2	3			7
		9	5				
	1	8			2	4	
9							3
	5	6			7	1	
			8	7			
4			3	9			1
	2			6		3	

What would you like to see in the Owlet? Give written suggestions to Ms. Roemischer.

Sudoku-Answers

8	3	1	7	6	2	9	4	5
4	2	9	1	3	5	7	8	6
5	7	6	4	8	9	1	3	2
3	9	7	2	4	6	5	1	8
2	8	4	3	5	1	6	9	7
1	6	5	8	9	7	4	2	3
9	4	2	6	7	8	3	5	1
7	5	8	9	1	3	2	6	4
6	1	3	5	2	4	8	7	9

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