

# THE HALL PASS

October 2006

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Oktoberfest
- 1 Halloween Around the World
- 1 Word from the Man
- 1 Thrill Seekers Wanted
- 2 Announcements and Events
- 2 Student Recognition

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## Oktoberfest: Celebrate German Culture!

*Blayne Sinyard and Jacob Waldrep*

Oktoberfest is a seventeen-day long festival held in Munich, Bavaria, Germany during late September and early October. It is held in an area called the Theresienwiese (also called the d' Weisn for short). Visitors also consume large quantities of food, which include sausage, chicken, cheese noodles, sauerkraut, and roast ox tails.

The festival is also known for its wide availability of beer.

The first Oktoberfest took place on October 12, 1810. It was originally a horse race held in commemoration of the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. In 1816, carnival booths began to give away prizes of silver, porcelain, and jewelry. In the year 1880, the city government approved the sale of alcohol. In the 1900's, the game booths and dance floors were re-organized to make more room for guests and musicians. As a result, the booths became large beer halls.

For those who prefer a non-alcoholic Oktoberfest (or who can't go to Germany), there is the Cullman County Oktoberfest, which celebrates its twenty-first anniversary this year. It begins Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends the next Sunday. Some of the events include a quilt show, a golf tournament, a German lunch, a church choir concert, and the Burgermeister's Ball at McGukin Civic Center.

## Halloween Around the World

*Terrance Cleghorn and Justin Pullins*

October is not really a festive month, and there is not even a holiday until the last day of the month. However, Halloween, or All-Hallows Eve, is celebrated the world over. We all know how Halloween is celebrated in the U.S. Every year we see black cats and witches, demons and vampires. But how is this celebrated in other countries? In Ireland, "Samhain" is celebrated by dressing up as monster of the underworld. Such things as goblins, zombies, and ghouls can be seen roaming the streets, begging for nuts and sweets. There are impressive firework displays and bonfires all around the country. In Scotland, instead of asking for candy by knocking on doors, the children instead offer entertainment in return for gifts. Not much different than America, but it is evident that customs do vary from country to country. So, this Halloween, have a good time however you celebrate it. Whether you go "trick-or-treating" or watching fireworks, remember to have fun and be safe.

## Thrill Seekers Wanted

*Tori Brown*

Ah, October; the time of year has arrived when being scared isn't avoided, it is anticipated. Every year there are attractions that open up during and only

during the month of October that are designed to scare the pants off of unsuspecting thrill seekers. Birmingham's very own Sloss Furnace is a must see for both teens and adults.

From 1882 to 1971, Sloss Furnaces transformed coal and ore from surrounding acres into hard steel. There were no breaks, there were no holidays; there was only the furnace and its constant hunger for more and more coal. The supervisor over the graveyard shift, Mr. Wormwood, was nothing short of a slave driver. Many thought that the workers had finally had enough of Wormwood's slave driving, and fed him into the furnace--but no workers were ever brought to trial. Sloss Industries soon discontinued the graveyard shift, citing numerous reports of accidents and "strange incidents" that decreased steel production. Workers complained of an "unnatural presence" they increasingly encountered throughout the work site.

Though there has been no steel production at Sloss since 1971, year after year more adrenaline junkies have returned for the haunting festivities. Tour guides offer a walk through the furnace where the history is explained. While waiting for your tour, you can watch scary movies, get a psychic reading and enjoy refreshments such as funnel cakes, colas, and burgers. You can see for yourself on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting September 29<sup>th</sup>. The price for admission is \$15.00 per person. Group pricing is available.

## Word from the Man

*Danny Stallings*

Can you believe it? We've almost completed a grading period! We've already survived one AHSGE testing round and homecoming is behind us. Before you know it, it will be the holiday season. Make sure that you are keeping yourself on top of academic obligations. This is solely your responsibility. You are responsible for you. Keep up the good work and make every minute count toward your own personal goals.



## Announcements

**Shakespeare Festival tickets are now available for this year.** We will be seeing *Crowns* on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Price is \$35.00. Purchase your ticket from Mrs. Murrah ASAP.

**Students and parents:** check our teachers' homework pages for assignments and homework. Visit our website at [www.winstonk12.org/meekhigh/meekhigh.htm](http://www.winstonk12.org/meekhigh/meekhigh.htm) and click on "Classrooms."

**Red Ribbon Week** is October 23-31. Look for activities sponsored by our local SADD Chapter.

**Band Competitions** are during the month of October. Support the band at a competition this year!

Benjamin Russell Competition—October 7<sup>th</sup>

Muscle Shoals Competition—October 21<sup>st</sup>

Winfield Competition—October 28<sup>th</sup>

**The Book Club is planning a field trip on November 30<sup>th</sup>!** More info. TBA.

## Student Recognition and Awards

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Vickery and Weston Cleghorn** for being selected as August's Students of the Month!

Congratulations to **Ashton Carter and Scotty Swindle** for being honored by their senior classmates as Mr. and Miss Meek.

Congratulations to **Kella Jackson and David Hearn** for being selected Good Citizenship Boy and Girl by the faculty and staff.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Vickery** for being named the 2006 Meek High School Homecoming Queen! Also, congratulations to **Miranda Eddy and Sara Farley** for being chosen the Senior and Junior High Princesses.

### Varsity Football Schedule

10/6	@Lynn*	7:00
10/13	Sulligent*	7:00
10/20	@St. Bernard*	7:00
10/27	Parrish*	7:00
11/3	@Brilliant	7:00

\*Region Game

### Junior High Football Schedule

10/2	@Berry	6:30
10/9	@Phillips	6:30
10/17	Carbon Hill	6:30

### Volleyball Schedule

10/2	@Phillips	4:30
10/5	@WCHS	4:00
10/7	County Tourney at Lynn	
10/16	Area Tourney	TBA
10/21	Regionals	TBA

**Who's Who for the Senior Class of 2007 are as follows:**

**Friendliest**—Whitney Butler and Mindy Barbin

**Most Athletic Boys**—Scotty Swindle and Jason Trussell

**Most Athletic Girls**—Ashton Carter and Ashley Rice

**Most Likely to Succeed**—Ben Tolbert and Blayne Sinyard

**Best Dressed**—Alex Murray and David Hearn

**Most School Spirit**—Tori Brown

**Most Talented**—Kella Jackson and Zach Cleghorn

**Most Talkative**—Marcus Mauldin and Ryan Hall

**Best All-Around**—Elizabeth Vickery and Mikie Burkett

**Most Studios**—Robin Hyche and Jacob Waldrep

**Wittiest**—Terrance Cleghorn

**Most Likely to Have a Good Time**—Luke Bryant and Michael Beck

**Quietest**—Justin Pullins

**Most Fun-Loving**—Jessica Smith and Devin Rivers

**Class Clowns**—Brett Mitchell and David "Scooter" Walter

**Most Easygoing**—Kejum Hayes and Marshall Honeycutt

**Most Dedicated**—Elizabeth Culver and William Dickey

**Most Likely to be Heard**—Mandy Handley and Marlina Trussell

**Most Optimistic**—Rob Henderson and Joseph Butler

**Most Creative**—Phalicia Moore

**Most Likely to be Stranded on a Deserted Island**—Jimmy Moon and Clifton Smith

**Teachers' Pets**—Clint Jones and Margaret Moore

**Most Likely to be on a Reality TV Show**—Kathy Wilson

**Best Smile**—Lucas Bell

**Most Eccentric**—Kenny "Turtle" Madison and Lori Roberts

## This Month's Events

**Tuesday, October 3rd**

**Who's Who Picture Day**

Seniors will be excused from class from 8:00-11:45 A.M.

**Tuesday, October 3rd**

**Bean Supper for Space Camp**

Plates will be served from 4:00-6:00 for \$3.00. All proceeds will benefit the 6<sup>th</sup> grade's Space Camp field trip.

**October 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>**

**Fall Break**

School will be closed during this week. Have a safe and happy break!

**Tuesday, October 17th**

**Senior Graduation Materials Order Day**

Graduation materials will be presented on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, so students will have over two weeks to make their selection on memory books, invitations, thank you notes, and many other senior materials. All money and order forms are due on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Orders will begin with 12A at 11:00 and with 12B at 11:45.

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Report Cards Issued**

The 1<sup>st</sup> nine-week report cards are scheduled to be issued on this date.

**Saturday, October 29th**

**Daylight Savings Time Ends**

Set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed.

**Mark your calendar! The annual SGA Blood Drive is coming on November 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Biggest Redneck**—Chris Treece

**Most Likely to Skip School**—Brandon Holliday

**Most Laidback**—Gary Ary and Casey Sides

**Senior Class Favorites** are Whitney Butler and David Hearn

**Senior Class Officers** are President, Tori Brown; Vice President, Mikie Burkett; Secretary, David Walter; and Treasurer, Jessica Smith