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# The Voyager

Homewood-Flossmoor High School

Volume 47  
Issue 8

March 2, 2006

999 Kedzie Avenue  
Flossmoor IL, 60422



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## Better library security now implemented

SARA MCKEE  
STAFF WRITER

The Flossmoor Public Library is improving its security and changing its staff during the upcoming months due to recent events involving weaponry and suspicious behavior in the library.

In order to improve safety after a group of junior high boys was found with a pellet gun in the library, the staff has hired two new security guards, Terry Fiorenzo, and H-F security guard Joe Veal. "[We have been] working closely with the Flossmoor Police Department on increasing walkthroughs," said Fiorenzo.

After a meeting February 14, the staff of the Flossmoor Library implemented many changes. "We have hired another aid behind the desk to help the patrons' needs. We have hired another security person so the upstairs and the downstairs are both covered. We have set up rules for acceptable behavior and we are talking about getting mirrors for blind spots to be able to see the entire library better," said Fiorenzo.

Some new guidelines include the requirement to be seated in order to remain in the library for extended amounts of time. "The library has become the place to be. It is the mecca of Flossmoor. Maybe when it is colder outside, it just gives people a place to go, but we want to avoid making [the library] a hang out. Part of the problem is that parents think this is a baby-sitting service, and the kids come here and wait until their parents pick them up," said Fiorenzo.

Improvements have already been seen since the security changes have been implemented. "Since the meeting, it has been fairly quiet. At least there have been less people since then, but we are not counting on that to continue. There are more things we can do. Nothing is in the plans yet, but we discussed door swipes, head counts, and maybe cameras," said Fiorenzo.

Other members of the staff believe the library condition was safe to begin with. "I think the situation was not that bad before the new security. It is more of a precautionary measure. I do not know how much it has actually improved, but it is very important to have," said Senior Nicole Murphy, Flossmoor Library Page.

For more information about the Flossmoor library visit [flossmoorlibrary.org](http://flossmoorlibrary.org). "We are working very hard to make this a friendly place. The staff is excellent and they always go out of their way for the patrons. We are trying to make Flossmoor a safer, friendly place where people can do their work and study," said Fiorenzo.

## School Supply Drive

### H-F donates supplies to South Africa



**School support** Students at the Chris Hani Independent School await instruction from their teacher. The school, which originally planned to have 100 students enrolled, now serves over 750 students without financial support from the government.

DONALD GOENS  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

At the Chris Hani Independent School in South Africa, the only source of water is the town well; there are outhouses for bathrooms; and typical classes are held with 50 to 70 kids packed into one train car under the instruction of only one teacher. The school is also low on basic supplies; there was once a time when kindergartners had to sing on the street corner for a month to raise enough money to buy chalk for their classes. Despite the many obstacles facing the school, it continues in its efforts to educate young South Africans, and now H-F has a chance to lend a helping hand.

Various H-F clubs are currently hosting a school supply drive until March 24 for the Chris Hani Independent School, a transitional school for children ages six to 16 who are attempting to enter the public school system of Cape Town, South Africa. The school is located in the Joe Slovo Squatter Camp Township, which is an unofficial settlement, and as a result, does not receive support from the government. Many students come from illiterate parents and only speak their native languages, preventing them from entering the public schools of Cape Town where only English is spoken.

H-F Dean Tina Halliman was one of 12 delegates from across the country given the opportunity to travel to South Africa as part of the

People to People Ambassadors program. Through the program, the delegates visited seven different schools and exchanged information related to the field of special education. Visiting the Chris Hani Independent School was not part of the program, but Halliman took the opportunity to meet some of the members of the school first-hand. "They are very happy, very proud people; they just do not have the resources we do," said Halliman.

In order to teach students the English language while preparing them for the public schooling of Cape Town, parents and residents of the community joined current Principal Maureen Jacobs and a group of teachers to form the Chris Hani Independent School in 1991. The school originally aimed to have approximately 100 students enrolled. However, the number of students currently enrolled at the school has grown to over 750.

"I work and pray with the knowledge that if we do not get the job done [here and now] for our precious children, it will not get done," said Jacobs in a brochure for the school.

Participating clubs and organizations are asking students and teachers to donate basic school supplies including paper, writing utensils, and rulers. Classrooms will have brown paper bags for donated supplies, and collections will take place every other day. For more information about the supply drive, see Special Education Teacher Tiffany Chavez in E-26 or Halliman in the South Building Dean's Office.

## Pool reopens after temporary closure

JOHN HENRY  
STAFF WRITER

Following a structural incident involving an air duct falling from the pool's roof onto area bleachers, the pool has reopened.

The incident, which occurred at night, was only witnessed by the school's cleaning crew, according to Director of Operations and Maintenance Tom Wagner. He believes that the incident may have resulted from a corroded bolt on the air duct. "We did not do a scientific analysis, but we think one of the bolts fell that was holding [the air duct] up. We found a snapped bolt. We think it was corrosion, but we are not sure," he said.

Wagner says that overall,

there were four sections of the air duct that fell onto the bleachers. "One section fell and that just created a domino effect that pulled the [other sections] down. [The air duct] was not designed to hold all of the pieces; however, all of the pieces were putting weight on it," said Wagner.

The temporary closing of the pool affected many students and staff at H-F. Gym classes participating in swimming units had to change their schedules, and the Boy's Swim Team had to divert its practices to Thornwood High School's pool in order to train for Sectionals.

Despite the change in practice area, Head Varsity Boy's

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**Closed no more** Ever since a 50-foot-long air duct fell onto the pool area's bleachers, the surrounding area had been closed off to the rest of the public. Director of Operations and Maintenance Tom Wagner expects for gym classes to re-enter the pool next week.