



THE IRON BLADE

SINCE 1955



Ferrum
Folks:
Franki
Rutherford
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Vol. 55, No. 2

55 Years of Ferrum College News

September 28, 2009

Recent campus construction starts on the ground, goes to the roof

Kyle Zeller
Staff Writer

Located at the corner of Route 40 and Ferrum Mountain Road, a new Ferrum welcome sign greets students and guests. The new sign, along with much needed improvements to the John Wesley Hall roof, are the two most recent improvements to the physical campus.

The previous sign was almost 25 years old and was in need of a make-over. Trena Leavitt, a landscape

architect for Harvey Design Land Architects, created the new sign design in 2007.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Sat., Sept. 19, by the Parent's Council, who raised most, if not all, of the \$30,000 needed for the project.

Along with the new sign, John Wesley Hall has also been under construction during the past few weeks. John Wesley Hall is the oldest building on campus, dating back to 1914, where it served as a men's residence hall until the 1960s.



New Welcome sign with landscaping is located on the corner of Route 40 and Ferrum Mountain Road.

photo by Samantha Dickerson



John Wesley Hall, the administration building, having its roof repaired.

photo by Heather Bozarth

College prepares for H1N1 prevention

Jordan Edelin
Staff Writer

The Ferrum College departments of Student Affairs and Human Resources have enacted a plan of prevention for H1N1, more commonly known as swine flu. Dr. Andrea Zuschin, vice president of Student Affairs, and Mrs. Mary-Alice Whisenant, director of Human Resources, started planning for a flu outbreak about two years ago, when there was talk of Arian flu in Asia.

Zuschin and Whisenant have been in constant contact with the Health Center, the Virginia Department of Health in West Piedmont, as well as

the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in order to keep up with procedures for dealing with swine flu

A plan was put into action at the beginning of the year. "We are in the educational phase of the plan now," stated Whisenant. This phase includes distributing literature and sending e-mails warning and informing students, faculty, and staff of virus symptoms and precautions to take to avoid getting H1N1.

"We want to teach everyone good hygiene now in order to prevent catching swine flu later," said Whisenant.

see H1N1 page 2

Being as historical as John Wesley Hall is, Bobby Thompson, vice president for Business Affairs, is adamant about more renovations to the building, including a functioning elevator. That project, however, may come later than expected.

"We always put students and education first," says Bobby Thompson, "so classroom space and residence

halls are top priority in regards to building projects."

More projects have been planned for the future. Those include lab upgrades in Garber Hall, additional residence space, and the new Hank Norton Athletic Center.

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Molecular biology professor receives \$100,000 grant

Tia'Lavon Butler
Staff Writer

As funding for further bacteria research, a sum of \$100,000 was awarded to Michaela Gazdik, assistant professor of Molecular Biology. The grant was given from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases or NIAID (a branch of the National Institute of Health).

The grant was issued in August and is expected to stretch over the next three years. Gazdik plans to reaply should the project continue.

The project will benefit Ferrum College students in a variety of ways. Students will have opportunities to participate in hands-on activities both inside and outside of the laboratory. Students will also earn credit for

independent research.

The students will be researching gene regulation in bacterium, similar to the same bacterium that causes tuberculosis. Depending on the temperature, some bacteria need different genes to survive. Students will study the connections between temperature and bacterial survival.

Students interested in participating in this undergraduate research opportunity should contact Gazdik in Garber 226.



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Ferrum hires new Chief of Police

Natalie Faunce
Public Relations Director

The first woman to achieve the rank of lieutenant with the Roanoke Police Department has taken on a new challenge. Elizabeth ("Libby") Legg has been named Ferrum College's Director of Campus Safety and Chief of Police. Legg brings to Ferrum over two decades of law enforcement experience with the Roanoke Police Department, where she was the first female lieutenant in the history of that agency.

"I am really excited to be a part of the Ferrum College community," says Legg. "My main goal right now is

to increase the level of awareness for every member of the Ferrum College community, while providing excellent service to those with whom we make contact, and to promote lifelong skills for personal safety."

Legg is also a qualified mental health professional, has worked with special needs students, and volunteers with the Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. (WVEMS).

Mary Alice Whisenant, director of Human Resources, says the College is thrilled to have someone with Legg's qualifications. "As a private college, we have made a commitment, to the best of our ability, to adhere to the

Governor's campus safety plan for public colleges," explains Whisenant. "We are constantly looking at ways to improve and enhance our procedures and practices. Libby Legg's appointment is the next step in the development of our new campus model, one that more effectively pulls law enforcement into our overall campus safety plan and initiatives. Her experience and broad range of skills will be a huge asset for us."

Legg replaced former Chief of Police Debbie Hogan, who retired in August.

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Libby Legg is the college's new Director of Campus Safety and Chief of Police.

photo courtesy of Public Relations

"Farm to Cafeteria" & energy conservation plans support college's "Sustainability" theme

Ashley Hale
Editor-in-Chief

The School of Natural Science and Mathematics selected the theme of "Sustainability: Becoming the change you want to see in the world," for the 09-10 academic year. Many projects have already been initiated in order to promote the theme.

Rachel Troyer has worked at Ferrum College as a laboratory assistant for the past two years. This year, in addition to her lab duties, Troyer has taken on the role of

Sustainability Coordinator.

As Sustainability Coordinator, Troyer's two main responsibilities are to coordinate ideas and voices in the "Farm to Cafeteria pilot" and support efforts for energy conservation on campus.

The "Farm to Cafeteria pilot" is aimed at using Ferrum's own agriculture products in the cafeteria. The pilot has been a collaboration between Chef Bo and dining staff, students and faculty. This program allows students to gain hands-on learning experiences and leadership opportunities

while learning the importance of local foods, explains Troyer.

Troyer's second major project is focused on energy conservation. The plan is to sub meter several buildings on campus, including every dorm, to collect energy-use data for each building. "By next semester we hope to have flat-panel displays in dorms showing real-time figures for the electricity being used," states Troyer.

Troyer is excited about the new opportunities being given to the students. "One of my main goals is to inform students on how they can get

involved," said Troyer.

Within the next few issues of The Iron Blade, Troyer will write a series of articles explaining the "Farm to Cafeteria pilot," methods of energy conservation, and the availability of Student Green Grants.

Troyer graduated in 2004 from Warren Wilson College in NC earning her B.S. in Environmental Studies.

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17th Annual Student Leadership Conference held

Ashley Hale
Editor-in-Chief

Ferrum's 17th Annual Student Leadership Conference was held Sept. 20, 2009. Students were able to attend sessions ranging in topics from the Student Government Association, prioritizing and listening skills, undergraduate research, and sustainability.

Faculty, staff, and students presented.

Kate Hersey, coordinator of Student Development and the Bonner Program Director, began the conference with her presentation entitled, "Pathways to Leadership Programming." She unveiled the new Eportfolio matrix on Angel and explained that students using this application will now be able to record leadership

experiences.

The conference was broken into three workshop blocks in which students were allowed to select the presentation they were most interested in attending. Presentations were categorized into theory, skill set, best practice, or sustainability, which is the theme of Ferrum for the 09-10 academic year.

The conference was well attended. The goal of the conference has always been to promote and educate young student leaders. Hopefully, this year's conference accomplished that goal.

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H1N1 from page 1

The pamphlets consist of various ways to prevent catching swine flu, such as frequently washing hands and using hand sanitizer before and after eating. Another precaution is to avoid making contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth.

The literature describes symptoms of swine flu and what one should do if contracted. Students who feel they may have swine flu should remain in their rooms and have buddy go to the dining hall and get a care package for them. The care packages contain a day's worth of food to assist in a healthy recovery.

Phase two consists of having teachers put two weeks of lesson plans on ANGEL in the event that students get sick or the professors themselves become ill. Phase two of the plan will only need to be carried out if there are

confirmed causes of H1N1 on campus. Thankfully, this has not occurred.

Zuschin and Whisenant don't anticipate having to go further in their planning, but if the situation calls for it they will. They just want the student body and staff to be aware of swine flu and how to prevent getting it. Prevention is the key.

"We advise students to take advantage of the seasonal flu shots being offered as well as the H1N1 shot being offered in October."

Zuschin and Whisenant would like all the students and parents to know that they are not trying to evoke of sense of fear; they simply want to promote precautionary measures to ensure a healthy campus.

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5k Panther Scamper announces winners & category runnerups

Olivia Walker
Staff Writer

Ferrum's first annual 5k Panther Scamper was held Sept. 19. Over one hundred people came out to support the event and the St. James Food Bank.

Eighty-seven runners participated, while thirty volunteers came out to show support. Door prizes, medals, and awards were given. Trophies were awarded to the fastest man and fastest woman.

Coordinator of Intramural Pro-

gramming and Wellness and Panther Scamper organizer, Chris Rill stated, "We had such a good turnout this year. We were able to raise over \$400 and donated over 200 cans of food to the St. James Food Bank."

Rill expressed his gratitude toward all the volunteers and participants. "I am really proud of what we've done."

All proceeds went towards St. James Food Bank.

see 5k page 6

The photo of Papa John's on page one of the Sept. 21 Iron Blade was credited to Ashley Hale but was taken by Olivia Walker.

Opinion/Editorial

An Episode of Marital Hiss

Glenn Thompson
Special to The Iron Blade

I am writing this missive, if not under threat of pain and death, at least pain of divorce. I hunker down before the screen and keyboard, praying to the ancient gods of quill and parchment that my wife doesn't sweep through the room, taking my writing in a glance and attempt to rearrange my cranium with any blunt object near at hand.

Okay, I admit it. I may be exaggerating her reaction just a smidgen...but not much. Years of cohabitation give most couples amusing little tales and anecdotes to treasure and tell on each other, and this is one of those.

Decades of jousting with windmills and some rather intense military service poker games have helped me develop an innate ability to maintain a "stone face" in times of great adversity, as well as those of challenging humor. This gift has served me in good stead more times than I care to think about, but this particular incident is one well worth sharing...at least until the violence begins.

Building a certain kind of trust is part and parcel of developing a lasting relationship. When, through a certain irresistible compulsion, you simply have to take advantage of it, you must be prepared to pay any price deemed acceptable by the other party involved. And pay...and pay...and pay.

Please understand. I have traveled a great deal of the world in my life, and to date, had about three dozen occupations. So, besides playing a lethal game of Trivial Pursuit, I am cursed with knowing a bit of something about a lot of subjects. This has always meant that my wife often feels confident about asking me questions about the most obtuse of subjects. Patience...patience, I'm taking the long way around, I know.

One evening, roughly 10 or so years ago, while watching a PBS show about musical instruments, she queried, "Did they really make violin strings out of cat gut?" The temptation slid through me like a greasy burger. The "stone face" locked into place with an almost audible click. "Yes. As a matter of fact, they were still doing it through the first half of the twentieth century. Intestinal ligature, I believe.

Something about the purity of tone, I think." She looked pensive for a moment then asked, "But what happened to the poor cats? Did they kill them?"

At this point, I knew that I should have come clean and made a loving admission of tomfoolery, but I just could not. I was so very, very bad. I locked my statue eyes on hers and replied, "Of course not, dear. They gave them tiny colostomy bags." Asinine, I know, but it was spur-of-the-moment. The naïve acceptance

in her lovely eyes assured me she had bought it, hook, line, and sinker. Yes, I know I am demon-possessed.

An eternity passed in maybe, ten to twelve seconds.

The lights of hell suddenly glowed in her eyes as she turned to me, and stone chips crumbled and tumbled down my chest. The rest...well, let's just say it wasn't pretty.

We still laugh about it to this day. All right, I laugh softly, and she grinds her teeth...but at least not in my flesh.



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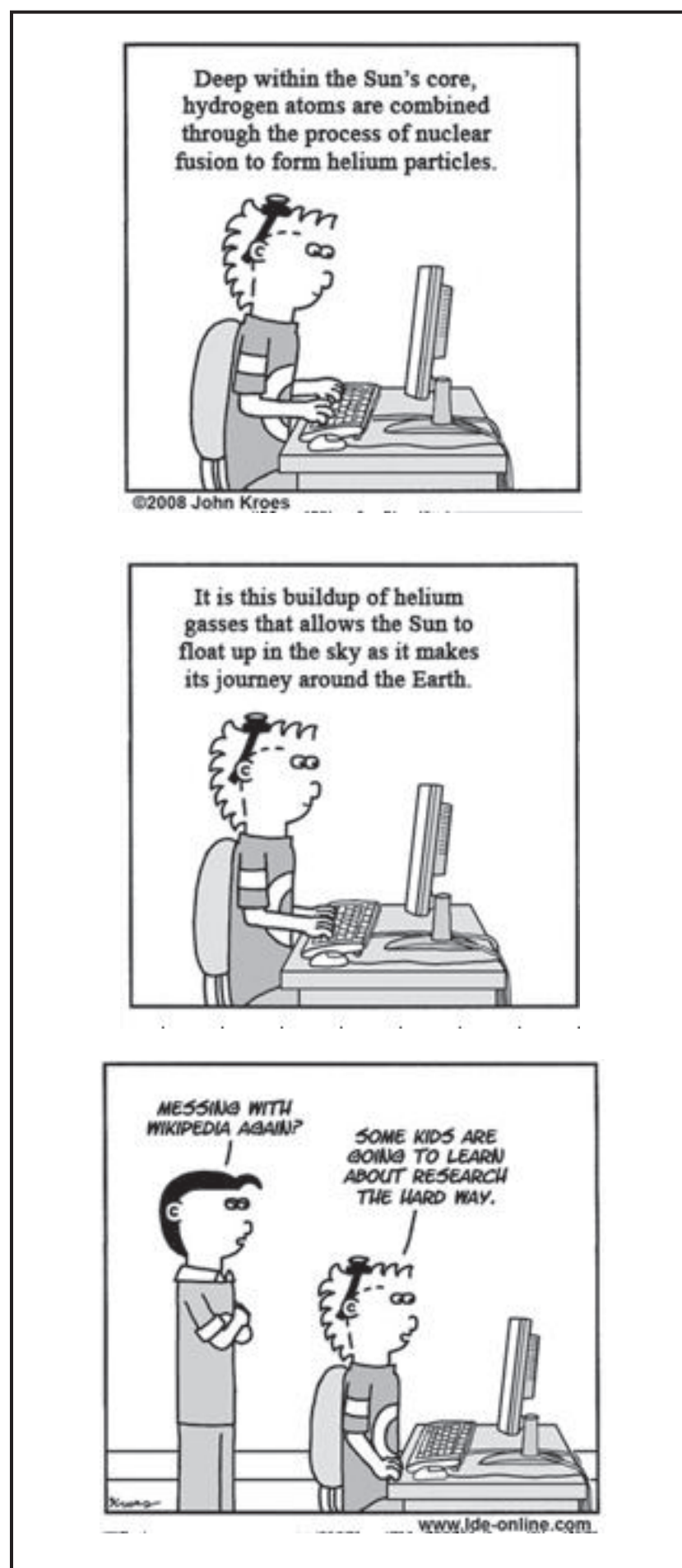
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Opinions expressed in The Iron Blade do not necessarily reflect those of Ferrum College administration, staff, faculty, or students.

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The 50th Anniversary crest on page one was designed by
Iron Blade alumna Sandy Southard ('04).



Ferrum Forum

compiled by John Wells

Where are you from? What attracted you to Ferrum?



Jon Sartell

Rhode Island. I came to Ferrum because of scholarships.



LeKeya Newbill

Woodbridge, Va. I came to Ferrum College to major in political science.



Zack Brown

Georgia. I came to Ferrum to play football and to get a college degree.



Calvin Ruffin

Hampton, Va. 757. I was recruited to play football by Coach Shaw.



Ashley McGehee

Richmond, Va.. Because of Jared Stark and all the attractive males and, of course, my education.



Chris Cornwell

NOVA. What attracted me to Ferrum was that it was the only place that accepted me.



Jared Stark

Chester, Va. What attracted me to Ferrum is the education and the women.



Teara Terry

Danville, Va. Closest to home and it's a small school where I knew I could concentrate on my education.



Chris Bartlett

Mechanicsville, Va. What attracted me to Ferrum was the mountains and Sigma Alpha Kappa.

Features

Student Activities Calendar

compiled by Khoseraw Habibi
Staff Writer

Monday, September 28

8: 30 a.m.

Art Exhibition: What is Graphic Design? Radford Defines" Greer Gallery, Stanley Library through Oct. 8

2:30 p.m.

SACS Compliance Audit Team mtg. Founders' Room

6: 00 p.m.

Weekly Agriculture Club meeting Garber 123

6: 30 p.m.

Ferrum Outdoors Bouldering Session Bouldering wall beside the Fitness Center

7:00 p.m.

The Church: Last Lecture Vaughn Chapel

Wednesday, September 30

6: 30 p.m.

College Against Cancer/Relay for Life meeting Beckham 103

Thursday, October 1

8: 00 p.m.

Recharging Thursday Night Bible Study Roberts Hall Conference Rm

Friday, October 2

5:00 p.m.

Movie Night, Eagle Cinema 5 Rocky Mount via Ferrum Express

Saturday, October 3

6: 00 a.m.

Ferrum Outdoors Gauley River Whitewater Rafting Trip

8: 45 a.m.

Kaplan Free Test Drive Roanoke College

1: 00 p.m.

Football away VS North Carolina Wesleyan College

Monday, October 5

3: 30 p.m.

Powder Puff Football Season Begins Bassett Field

6: p.m.

Weekly Agriculture Club Meeting Garber 123

7:00 p.m.

The Church Vaughn Chapel

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Ferrum Folks Franki Rutherford

Tristen Ashley
Staff Writer

Frances Patton Rutherford can be seen most days rolling her book bag down the sidewalk with a big smile on her face. Though she has more life experience than many other college students, Rutherford fits right in.

Rutherford entered Ferrum in August 2007 and will be graduating in May 2010. Sounds like a typical transfer student, but Rutherford is not very typical. She is 60 years old and heading to graduate school next fall.

She graduated from high school in 1967 and left her home in McDowell County, W.Va., to go to a school in Florida. While there, Rutherford got married and decided to put school on hold to find a job. She moved back to her home in West Virginia and eventually got a divorce.

It was the late 1960s, and many people in the country were buzzing with desires to change the world and the system. Rutherford says she began to get interested in some of the social movements during this time, when she also moved to Washington, D.C. and she started working for a law firm.

She began to see the long term effects of the Vietnam War on many of her friends that had been drafted. "I had seen its effects on my friends and the damage it did to the people I knew. I honored the fighting men's and women's service to our country. I never forgot that my friends were drafted."

Rutherford worked in Washington for seven years and says it was there that she began to see that the world needed to be changed. "I never wanted to change the world," she says. "I committed myself to changing my piece of the world. If we all worked to do that, we together would have changed the world and made it a better place."

It was at this time that Rutherford fell in love with the law and the policy behind the law. Rutherford also started working on getting equal pay for women who, at the time were being paid significantly less than men for the same work.

When Rutherford was in her twenties, she found that she had a passion that she says she couldn't control.

One morning she was walking the same path to her job at a law firm in Washington, D.C. in the pouring rain. While carrying her umbrella, she saw a pregnant young woman leaning against a building. She says that something made her stop and help the young woman. She brought that young woman to her law firm and "found arrangements" for the woman, who she later learned was only 15



Franki Rutherford

photo by Lana Whited

years old.

That experience made Rutherford open her eyes to other problems in the world. From that point on she tried as hard as she could to find places for other people in need. After she brought three more homeless people into her law firm, her superior asked her to stop. Her response was "I don't think I can."

Rutherford decided then that Washington was not where she needed to be anymore. She says that she knew that she could be part of the solution if she moved back home. "It (Washington, D.C.) was not a first-class community because it did not take care of its people," she says. "We (McDowell County) don't have much, but we take care of each other."

Rutherford moved back to McDowell County in 1977 and worked for the Tug River Health Association for 25 years. She helped to design a program to help expectant mothers get the health care they needed.

"If we did what we could for those young mothers, we can help our whole community," Rutherford says. "Infant mortality directly affects county health and those young women taught me so much."

It was also during this time that the unemployment rate in McDowell County started to elevate. At one point it was as high as 90 percent. Again Rutherford, along with many others, decided that something needed to be done.

In 1990, some of the community members got together and turned an old school into a Community Center. They called themselves the Big Creek People in Action.

It was this project that led her to find her beloved husband, Carl Rutherford,

an award-winning songwriter. "He had an unbelievable and unshakeable belief in justice for all people," she says, smiling. "He encouraged me to work as an advocate and he helped me do what I had to do."

The Community Center also introduced Rutherford to some familiar faces on Ferrum's campus. Through the Big Creek People in Action, Rutherford met George Loveland, associate professor of library science and public services librarian, and Frédéric Torimiro, dean of the School of Social Sciences and professor of political science.

Through the years and the connection with Ferrum she also began to know Susan Mead, Tina Hanlon, Dave Newcombe, and Jennie West. "They were great friends on this campus who were committed to making things better," she says.

After her husband died in January of 2006, Rutherford began to think about what she wanted to do with her life. Her daughter, Jesse, encouraged her to go back to school.

Rutherford says that she talked to Dr. Leslie Lambert about it, and Lambert helped her take the first step by going to the admissions office at Ferrum.

"I love Ferrum's heart," she says. "It is personified for me in someone like Frédéric Tormiro. "And I wanted to be taught by the people I knew as friends."

Rutherford has been enrolled at Ferrum for over two years now. She will graduate with a degree in political science so she can pursue the policy

see **Folks** page 6

Movie Reviews

“Jennifer’s Body” doesn’t deliver; writer, director, actors fall short of promise

Michael Rich
Staff Writer

For us guys sitting through “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” one thought came to mind. Can Megan Fox actually act? All she did was run around and look beautiful for the camera.

For her first title billing in “Jennifer’s Body,” Fox stars in a film penned by Diablo Cody. Cody, if you remember, won Best Original screenplay for “Juno.”

Fox also co-stars with Amanda Seyfried, who was the breakout star from “Mamma Mia.”

This film is also directed Kayrn Kusma, who directed “Girlfight.”

With these four women, what could possibly go wrong?

The result is a film that is entertaining enough but not as good as it should have been.

Needy (Amanda Seyfried) and Jennifer (Megan Fox) are two best

friends living in the town of Devil’s Kettle. Even though Needy is friends with Jennifer, Needy can upstage Jennifer in any way. Jennifer is also the sort that every guy wants to be around. Considering Devil’s Kettle is a small town, they have one local bar. One night the bar features a local band called Low Shoulder with leader singer Nikolai (Adam Brody).

During the course of the night, Low Shoulder starts a fire in the bar. Several local high school kids die in the fire, but Needy and Jennifer make it out. Then a shell-shocked Jennifer decides to get into Low Shoulder’s van. Needy decides to go home.

At home, Needy discovers Jennifer there, all covered in blood and throwing up gook. Jennifer promptly leaves and the next day acts as if nothing is wrong. Much to Needy’s chagrin, Low Shoulder has been declared heroes for getting everybody out.

During the next couple of weeks

after the fire, Needy discovers that Jennifer is actually evil. Not just high school evil but seriously evil. The revelation of what actually happens to Jennifer the night she got into Low Shoulder’s van is either sheer brilliance or absolutely ludicrous. This all leads up to an ending that is again either sheer brilliance or absolutely ludicrous.

I have to say Megan Fox does give a rather interesting performance. She really does act like a girl who is on her period. Amanda Seyfried looks a little lost, though that isn’t really her fault. Adam Brody does his best as a punk rocker who has made a quite an interesting deal with some spiritual being.

In watching the film, I got the feeling that Diablo Cody was going for a female empowerment film. I have no problem with that, considering you really don’t see many these days. This film even has a similar tone with “Heathers.”



But overall, it doesn’t deliver on the promise of its talented personnel.

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FOLKS from page 5

that she loves so much. “It is the policy behind the law that enables Americans to be all they can be.”

After graduation in May, Rutherford will be joining her daughter Jessi who is finishing up her master’s degree in communication. Rutherford will be living with her daughter in Arlington and going to graduate school for Women’s Studies and Public Policy.

Rutherford says that going back to school has been a learning experience,

but she feels that she made the right decision.

She says she has learned a lot from her fellow students. “This generation has a number of incredible young people,” she says. “Even though we come from different places and have different perspectives, it is possible to work together.”

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5K from page 2

Winners of the 5k Panther Scamper

Male 51+

1st place: Rob Schurz 29:46
2nd place: Dave Newcombe 46:46
3rd place: David Howell 51:53

Male 41-50

1st place: Frank Haranzo 24:49
2nd place: Rick Fischer 29:57

Male 26-40

1st place: Bill Tharp 26:18
2nd place: Jason Jones 26:37
3rd place: Chad Snyder 33:25

Male 21-25

1st place: Travis Smith 24:24
2nd place: James Long 24:37
3rd place: Sam Catron 30:09

Male 18-20

1st place: Josh Horan 19:02
2nd place: Aaron Waters 19:16
3rd place: Matt Jeffers 20:20

Female 51+

1st place: Christine Stinson 27:54
2nd place: Gloria Howell 51:52
3rd place: Pat Newcombe 55:40

Female 41-50

1st place: Joanne Catron 40:08
2nd place: Bonnie Lawson 1:00:07
3rd place: Debbie Poore 1:09:46

Female 26-40

1st place: Missie Gerst 24:58
2nd place: Andrea Zuchin 38:09
3rd place: Cat Travato 55:46

Female 21-25

1st place: Tonya Wright 28:16
2nd place: Amanda Waters 30:55
3rd place: Tiffany Garnett 34:57

Female 18-20

1st place: Kelsy Walters 28:20
2nd place: Adeena Weekes 30:48
3rd place: Hanna Martin 31:43

Female 17 and under

1st place: Hillary Moore 29:59

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Ashley Hale contributed to this article.

“Cloudy” faithfully recreates children’s book

by Andrew Munoz
The Lariat, Baylor U.

September 22--This weekend, fans of the 1978 book “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs” got to see the beloved book from their childhood make its grand debut on the big screen.

In 3-D, no less.

It’s obvious that “Cloudy” was written to appeal to a younger audience, but what was truly surprising was the film’s ability to keep its older viewers interested as well.

I went into the theater expecting to be decently entertained, but I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered that the movie was written and designed to keep all of its viewers engrossed as it told the surprisingly endearing story of how people should strive to showcase who they are to the world and never be ashamed of this.

One of the movie’s strongest selling points are the vibrant visuals presented in 3-D. The entire look and feel of the movie was perfectly matched in order to convey the story in an appealing manner. From quirky character designs to twisters composed of spaghetti and meatballs, the world designed to showcase the story crackles with life and keeps audiences enraptured as they attempt to take it all in.

And the 3-D simply pulls it all together in a most spectacular fashion. Instead of cheesy sight gags, “Cloudy” makes use of the fact that it was clearly designed to be viewed in 3-D.

Furthermore, the film’s voice-acting is top notch. Everyone present gives an excellent performance, but the real surprise comes from Neil Patrick Harris.

It truly is surprising how much raw comedic value can be derived from a monkey whose only ambition is the acquisition of gummy bears. Whatever works, works, I suppose.

While the movie itself was a fantastic experience, potential viewers should note that it does deviate heavily from the book.

It’s worth mentioning because die-hard fans might not appreciate the new-age spin put on their beloved childhood memories.

It didn’t quite work in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” after all. But the movie does stay true to some of the more iconic images found in the book. The scene involving a giant stack of pancakes crushing the local school can still be found in the film adaptation.

Barring a few stale jokes and an overly graphic meatball found toward the end of the film, “Cloudy” stumbles very little throughout its 90-minute run. Audiences can expect a fun time for the kids, and older viewers can enjoy keeping up with the never-ending stream of pop-culture references; all in all, the forecast for “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs” is exceptionally bright.

This review can be viewed in full on U-Wire at www.uwire.com.

Sports

Men's Soccer Preview

Caleigh Gibson
Staff Writer

The Ferrum College Men's Soccer Team is beginning this season with high hopes. After the departure of last year's coach Rod Baker, Jonathan Freeman comes to Ferrum College this season with a game plan to turn last year's record into an even better one.

Coach Freeman says "the team is training hard and bringing a very good attitude to the practice and game field. We realize we may not be the most talented team in the conference, but we have the ability to outwork any team we play against. Attitude that we bring to the field, discipline on and off the field, and respect for teammates, opponents and ourselves have been key components in creating what is turning out to be good team chemistry. All three attributes have improved and we are looking for them to continue in that direction." The team has a tough schedule this year in the USA South Conference and out of conference. In USA South, North Carolina Wesleyan and Christopher Newport are looking to be the top contenders for the conference crown. The team has already faced 2008 ODAC champions Roanoke College. Even though the schedule is tough, they are looking at it optimistically and are not letting this tough schedule stop them from doing their best. Though the team has already suffered three losses they are using those losses to improve their weaknesses and to prepare for future games

The team has six returning starters. Mike Barnes is the team captain for this year and "is anchoring the team with steadfast leadership." He is starting at center mid. Barnes will be joined in the center midfield by Billy Rhodes. Seniors Will Jorgensen and Zach Poole are starting defensemen who have a habit of making it tough for the other teams to get through to score. John LaPointe-Ridley is starting as a forward and has proved to be a force up top as he has scored two goals and added one assist in the first



Matt Ballinger scored a pair of goals off the bench to lead Ferrum in 4-0 win over Warren Wilson Sept. 19 on the road.

photo courtesy of Sports Information

three games. Senior Chris Taylor will be the starting goalkeeper.

Also on the team are senior right back Walter Wright and freshman left back Thomas Robinson. "Both have played well thus far and have shown a lot of mental toughness." Freshman Collin Hill has been giving the team quality minutes as an attacking center mid and has been rewarded with a goal and a couple of assists. Sophomore Chris Key has been a tireless worker on the wing. Junior Isaac Slone and freshman Ryan Cypress have split time as outside mid and have both contributed a goal apiece.

"Our supporting cast has come filled in with solid performances. Ben Pittsley, Patrick Oliver, James Flynn, Richard Andino, and Matt Ballinger have shown well when called upon and are expected to get even better. Every player is working hard for the group's success. We are looking forward to the challenges that face us the remainder of the season and are wanting to make the Ferrum College campus proud of our program."

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Women's soccer goal: finish in USA South Top 5

Alyssa Frittelli
Staff Writer

The women have played five games so far this season. September 1st they played their first game against Randolph with Ferrum winning 1-0. On September 5th they suffered a loss to Rutgers-Newark, 0-1. Ferrum had another devastating loss to Bridgewater, 0-2 on September 6th. On September 9th they fell to Randolph Macon 1-6. Ferrum vs Hollins was 0-0 tie game on Sept. 12. Ferrum was defeated 1-0 on a penalty kick by Emory & Henry Sept. 15.

Before each game, women's

soccer coach Sandy Lagana goes over the game plan. She gets along with the girls so well that they are in her office all day long. Her favorite part is working with the girls and just getting to know them all. The only frustrating part is when they do not play up to their potential. Their goal is to finish in the top five of the USA South Conference. They are looking forward to North Carolina Wesleyan but they look forward to each and every game. Coach Lagana is looking forward to the 2009-2010 season. The team is filled with unique girls who she believes in.

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Rodge's Hodge Podge

Roger L. Keaton, III
Sports Editor

This new column came to me, your Iron Blade Sports Editor, while thinking about what I wanted included in the newspaper, but I could not find space for it or did not think some of these tidbits deserved a whole article. Whatever is mentioned here is really just the rumblings coming from my mind and the beliefs expressed are in no way the representation of the rest of this newspaper or Ferrum College.

Volleyball is off to a great start in winning eight of its first thirteen matches. I know the team must love having a 6'1" middle blocker in **Kayla Trippeer** and another dominant outside hitter in **Rachel Shumaker** to complement the rest of the team. **Jessica Flanagan** moved into second all-time in school history in kills Friday, September 18 against Shenandoah University. ... **Softball** is working hard in the offseason and will have their fall tournament Sunday, October 4th. ... Every time I see senior football player **Steve Keesler** I feel

for him (during the first game this year he suffered a season-ending injury). ... The football team continues to show off its stable of able running backs year after year. This year **Aaron Johnson** is the newcomer with **Steven Harris** and **Mike Vann** returning for their second and third years in the program. Also playing a big role are senior and junior fullbacks **Matt Lucas** and **QT Banks**. ... **Men's Soccer** is off to a strong start, having already won two-thirds as many games as last year and scored three-fourths as many goals, and they are less than half-way through the season. ... Across the Commonwealth D-1 football programs are off to strong starts. **VPISU** is 2-1 and ranked #11 in the AP poll. **Richmond, William & Mary**, and **Old Dominion** are all off to 3-0 starts while **JMU** is 1-1 and **Hampton** is 2-1. ... **Russell Wilson** who attended Collegiate High School in Richmond broke the NCAA record for passing attempts without an interception.

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Ferrum clips Bridgewater in overtime

Olivia Walker
Staff Writer

Football season is upon us again! After a loss at Emory and Henry, the Panthers dominated the field against Bridgewater College on Saturday, Sept. 19th, in front of the Family Weekend crowd. The Panthers earned a win in the first home game of the season.

Ferrum opened a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on a Matt Dobson to Makya Jackson 21-yard pass and a Mike Vann 31-yard run. The Panthers made it 21-0 on Dobson's 1-yard run.

The score going into halftime was 24-7 with the Panthers leading. Bridgewater scored two TDs in the third quarter while holding Ferrum scoreless. Aaron Johnson scored next for Ferrum on a 16-yard pass from Dobson to put Ferrum on top 34-27, but it was short-lived as Bridgewater scored on its next possession sending the game into overtime.

Scott Puschell's 28-yard in field goal, his school-record tying third of the day, clinched a 37-34 overtime win for Ferrum College over Bridgewater College in non-conference football action.

Ferrum (1-1) will play Southern Virginia University next Saturday,



In overtime play, Scott Puschell secures a win for the Panthers over Bridgewater with a 28-yd infield goal Sept. 19 at home.

photo courtesy of Sports Information

Sept. 26, in Buena Vista, Virginia. The non-conference game will be played at Parry McCluer High School with a 1 p.m. kickoff.

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The Iron Blade meets Mondays at 1:25 in LA 202A. Newcomers are welcome.

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