



Fall Sports Seasons Come to a Close

Volleyball

Hazen Norton



The Ledger volleyball team recently came to the close of its season, which proved very successful and ended in Marshall on Thursday, October 26. Although the girls had a mixed start to their season, they ended the regular season as one of the top teams in the conference. The season picked up when the team entered regionals.

Winning their first two regional games, the Ledgers headed to Laconia, the conference champs and previously undefeated team, to battle for the title of regional champions. In an upset, the Ledgers beat the Spartans in an intense five set game.

The girls headed into the first game of the sectional tournament to face the Marshall Cardinals, still on the high from the previous week's victory. The game began with the Ledgers losing the first set, but they proved their determination after their win in the second set. Unfortunately, the Cardinals won the third and fourth set, bringing the Ledger's season to a close. Congratulations from your Ledger community on the amazing season. Thank you, seniors!



United Boys Soccer

Savannah Meyer

The United Boys Soccer Team is a combined team including athletes from SMSA, North Fond du Lac, and Oakfield high schools and is coached by Tony Denzin. You may think having multiple schools in the program might cause the team not to be as close as a typical one school team; however according to junior captain, Leo Desiderio, "Everyone on the team is super close, and there is little to no drama." Leo explained that "having multiple schools in the program allows us to have a team and bring in a wide variety of talent and ideas on how the team should be."



Having high team chemistry is a key component for success in a sport. For the boys' soccer team in particular, their "team chemistry is at an all-time high, especially because of team bonding events such as team dinners, pizza parties, and film study." Practices with the team, according to Leo "are always loads of fun." They take place near North Fondy, which seems to be no problem for athletes from SMSA or Oakfield, with the help of carpooling and kindness of upperclassmen.

On October 9, the United Boys' Soccer Team had an important conference win against WLA. This was the first time a conference victory for the boys' soccer team has ever been achieved. From the beginning of the soccer season, it was anticipated that a conference win was possible, but the team needed to be "flawless." They went into the conference game with a 7-1 record.

The conference game itself was something very special, as Leo explained. "The pure adrenaline from that game was insane." That adrenaline never left the field until long after the game was over. Crowds of people stormed the field as the final whistle blew. Leo pointed out that "people were celebrating, jumping, dancing, hugging each other, crying even." The announcer saying the words, "I present to you, your 2023 Flyway Conference Champs," is something that Leo, and the rest of the team, said would never be forgotten and will be a forever cherished moment.



Think you know everything about St. Mary's Springs Academy over the years? Check out the trivia on page 2!

What is Environmental Club?

Braelyn Lewis

Environmental Club is a relatively new club here on the Ledge. Led by Mr. Zimmer and its president Liv Kristman, the club has plans to change the school and the community for the better.

Environmental Club exists so students can develop skills such as creating a plan and then executing it. Reflecting upon projects is what students will learn by being members of the club. Mr. Zimmer saw an

opportunity to make SMSA and the community a better place and took it. He hopes students and teachers learn that working



toward environmental causes (and most causes) is often met with resistance. He wants them to learn to stick to their goals and find a way to make sure that they

can make the impact that they want to make.

The previous two Aprils, SMSA students worked on an Earth Day tree planting activity sponsored by Lakeshore Trout Unlimited. Students enjoyed the activity and several asked if SMSA could have an Environmental Club. Mr. Zimmer approached Mr. O’Keefe and Mr. Krueger with a proposal which they approved last May to be started this school

year. Unlike classes, which are planned by and taught by the teacher, clubs are an opportunity for students to be leaders. Thus, students will determine the kind of activities the Environmental club will do.

Mr. Zimmer and everyone who is a part of the club hope to make an impact on the school and have fun while doing so. Watch for many fun projects from the Environmental Club this upcoming school year!

SMSA Trivia

Samantha Fouch and Sophie Norton

What was the mascot before the Ledger?

- The Saints

What was the tuition when Springs first started?

- \$75, including room and board (\$2,536.72 today)

How many students were in the first graduating class in 1911?

- 1 - 1911 was the first class to graduate from Springs, and one female was the lone graduate.

What unique gym class activity did students participate in when the school first opened?

- Canoeing! There used to be a pond on campus that was also used for other activities such as ice skating.

Who won field day in 2019?

- Class of 2019

What unique class was offered on the Springs campus in 1936?

- There was a class all about tennis. Hitting and serving techniques were taught on the tennis courts outside.

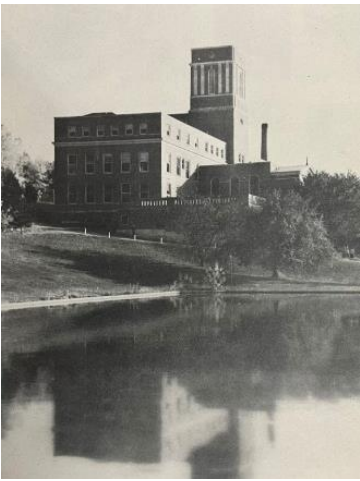


What two unique classes were

offered for juniors in the 1930s?

- Penmanship and Latin.

Additionally, their schedule involved more common classes like math, science, religion, and English.



What were the original uniforms for female students in the 1930s?

- A white middie blouse and a pleated skirt of dark blue serge. (Plaits two inches wide, hem three inches wide).

After one of the main buildings, Boyle Hall, was abandoned in the late 1900s, what was a common conspiracy about it?

- Many believed that Boyle Hall was haunted after the unproven claim that a nun had passed in the elevator.

What time were the residents at SMSA expected to go to bed when the school first opened as a boarding school?

- 9:15. From 8:30-9:15 was “prepare to retire radio programs;” then the schedule ended with “nightly prayers.”

Meet Ms. Sweeney

Peyton Grafton

Ms. Rachel Sweeney is the new biology and genetics teacher who joined the Ledge this year. In an effort to help the students who may not have those classes, we interviewed her.



When asked why she picked SMSA to teach at, she responded, “I chose SMSA because of the science staff. When I interviewed I had so much fun. They were completely themselves which put me at ease. I was also happy to accept because I did not feel like I would ever have to hide my faith.”

She shared that the entire staff has made the adjustment to working here so easy because they are willing to help whenever they can. Ms. Sweeney attended WLA High School and is familiar with the culture of a private Christian school which also

helped her transition into her new job.

She was also asked to describe her experience thus far on the Ledge, to which she replied, “My experience this first quarter was extremely rewarding. From my students taking time at a Friday night football game to talk to me, to meeting parents, it has been a better experience than I could have imagined. I say all the time how blessed I am by God to have this opportunity to work on the Ledge.”

According to Ms. Sweeney, there are, of course,

challenges. With her background in chemistry, finding resources when comparing the sciences, has been a welcome challenge. “I enjoy that my students have the chance to be challenged with whatever resources I create or find.”

Her favorite part about teaching at SMSA so far is the students, staff, and the ability to openly express her faith in the classroom. Finally, Ms. Sweeney expressed that her ultimate goal on the Ledge is to be an effective educator who creates positive memories for her students!

SMSA Chaplain: Fr. Michael Malucha

Teresa Brunette

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the SMSA chaplain, Fr Justin Weber, moved on from St. Mary’s Springs Academy and Holy Family to take on a new ministry with another parish. Thus, at the beginning of this school year, a new chaplain, Father Michael Malucha, joined the Springs community.

Fr. Michael graduated from Marquette University High School in 2013. He began to consider the priesthood the summer before his junior year of high school while on retreat in Canada. During Eucharistic

Adoration, Fr. Michael had a powerful encounter with Jesus, an experience that led him to discerning the priesthood.



Fr. Michael has been very involved in the St. Mary’s Springs community during his time here. He is at Springs for adoration and confession on Monday mornings, lunch for the campus ministry on Wednesdays, and each Friday morning for the

high school Mass in the Chapel, as well as adoration and confession.

Along with these times with the high school, Fr. Michael also spends time with the younger students, even going out with them at recess and playing a mean game of kickball. He says that one of the best parts of being here is that “it’s been a grace to deepen relationships during the week at Springs with those families, students, and teachers whom I also see on weekends at Mass and in our parish community.”

Fr. Michael has been a great addition to the Springs community and has even adopted a favorite color of Ledger blue! Fr. Michael’s advice for students: “Live today for the Lord. Today is God’s gift, and it’s enough, for you and for me. Thank you for welcoming me to the Ledge!”

Note: Do you struggle to get out of bed early in order to attend adoration and confession on Monday mornings? Fr. Michael is now offering confession on Fridays during lunch, from 12:50 to 1:30 PM, in the chapel.

War in the Middle East

Klaudia Sullivan

October 23 marked day 17 of the Israel-Hamas war, at which time at least 1,400 people had been killed in Israel. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, over 5,080 people have been killed in Gaza after Hamas launched attacks on Israel early in October. The Israel-Palestine conflict, a long-standing and deeply complex issue, has once again captured global attention due to recent events.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a dispute that has been at the center of attention in the Middle East for over a century. This struggle is rooted in



complex historical events, nationalist movements, and competing national aspirations. These conflicts are among Jewish Israelis and Palestinian Arabs. To

grasp the current state of the conflict and the challenges, it is essential to know some of their history.

In the late 19th century, nationalist movements gained momentum within both the Jewish and Arab communities residing in Palestine, part of the former Ottoman Empire. This period saw a significant influx of Jewish immigrants due to religious and political motives and the Balfour Declaration in 1917 by the British government. This declaration expressed support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. After World War II, the United Nations proposed a partition plan in 1947, which recommended dividing Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states and designating Jerusalem as an international city.

Jewish leaders accepted this plan, but it was rejected by Arab states. This disagreement



started the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, a conflict resulting in the establishment of the State of Israel and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Israel took control of the land that many Palestinians called home. The only land left was the Gaza Strip, held by Egypt, and the West Bank, controlled by Jordan.

Then in 1967, the Six-Day War marked a pivotal event in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Facing perceived threats from neighboring Arab states, Israel launched a defensive strike that led to the capture of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The status of these territories remains a significant

issue and has been an ongoing and underlying cause for constant tensions.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, launching thousands of rockets into Israel and infiltrating the country by air, sea and land. Sparking fear and killing many, the war officially began. Israel has responded with a barrage of airstrikes that have decimated the Gaza Strip, leaving more than 350,000 residents displaced and without resources needed to survive. While there is no simple resolution, staying aware and educated is vital as these tensions continue to rise and more innocent lives are taken.



In this month of gratitude, we are grateful for you, our readers. Happy Thanksgiving!

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