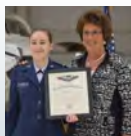




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ADAMS

Kamryn Schmidt receives Amelia Earhart Award

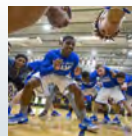
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Men of Courage in the US Senate

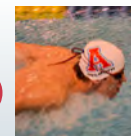
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Senior Spotlights of Cory Helmuth and Tavonte Malone

## MOCK TRIAL STATE

ALICIA KOSZYK - REPORTER

This past weekend, six out of Adams' ten mock trial teams continued onto the state competition. Dead Precedents, Overrule the World, Not Necessarily, Law & Murder, Notorious M.O.B. and Post Truth began their busy weekend by heading down to the County Courthouse in downtown Indianapolis. From a successful weekend at regionals, there was hope for an even better one at state. Mock Trial sponsor Mrs. Donna Sharp said, "All of my Mock Trial teams are awesome. Throughout the year, students have been working daily with their coaches and teammates. No matter what, we are the best!"

Coming from regionals, leading Adams was the all junior team, Dead Precedents, who placed first at regionals. Those on the team are Patrik Bauer, Naomi Freel, Ben Fecher, Mia Utayde, Michael Garcia, Niki Hakimzadeh, Alex

Blad, and Logan Reimbold-Thomas. Mia Utayde said, "We were focusing on the future and meeting up as much as we could, to compete our very best, unlike at regionals, where it revealed the many things we had to improve on."

Right behind them in second place was Overrule the World. Their team members include sophomores Tina Rea, David Engel, Sofia Lora, Ethan Lindley, Keiasia Brown, Stanley Rozenbilt, Maddie Lorenz, and Max Thompson. In third place was the senior team, Not Necessarily, which includes Amanda Brewster, Ana Marie Broden, Alice Goulding, Elijah Grammer, Brendan Hayner-Slattery, Robert Howard, Douglas Moody, and Abi Trzaskowski. The other John Adams' teams that headed to state as well were: Law and Murder in sixth place, Notorious M.O.B. in ninth place, and Post-Truth in twelfth place.

As usual, the state competition was carried out over two days. The case this year was the same as regionals and in between that time the teams go back and fix the flaws they had at regionals. Dead Precedents teammate, Ben

*"We were in shock. When they announced the runner-up first and they said the other team's name, my entire council table all audibly gasped. It was great."*

Fecher, said, "Hundreds of hours are put into figuring out the ins and outs of the case, writing and rewriting scripts, memorizing those scripts, and then competing with those scripts." In addition to that, attorneys are expected to memorize all of the different rules of evidence. With

this, an attorney should be prepared to make objections, but also to receive them. If there is an "objection sustained" - meaning that the judge agrees with the objection and disallows the evidence or testimony - then both the attorney and the witness must come up with a new testimony on the spot.

When the rankings were revealed on the second day of competitions, there were three teams that placed

in the top five. In fifth place was Post Truth, in third place was Dead Precedents, and in second place was Not Necessarily.

Continuing on about how state works, the top two teams in these rankings must then compete against each other in the final round. In this case, it was Adam's top team Not Necessarily that went against first place, Carmel High School's America's Next Top Lawyer.

When it came to the final round, Not Necessarily didn't feel intimidated at all. Lawyer Amanda Brewster said, "I knew no matter how we scored, we had put in the work and I really just wanted to have fun in the last round. I knew I would be proud of how far we had come whether we won or lost." Witness Robert Howard added, "The round was just enjoyable to watch. We were so evenly matched with the other team...it was quite possibly the most fun round of the weekend." In the end, Not Necessarily brought home Adams' 20th State Championship. "We were in shock. When they announced the runner-up first and they said the other team's name, my entire council table (the lawyers) all audibly gasped. It was great," exclaimed Lawyer Alice Goulding. Until Nationals takes place in May at the Civics First Inc. in Hartford, Connecticut, the members of Not Necessarily are recuperating from their huge win.



THE JOHN ADAMS

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*The Tower* is a student-run newspaper publication and a voice for the Adams student body and staff. Letters to the Editor must pertain to Adams lifestyle, student/staff opinions, or local issues. Letters to the Editor must be sent to slewis@sbcsc.k12.in.us, or submitted physically to room 1831 or mailed to John Adams High School, 808 S. Twyckenhams Dr.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY:  
A GUIDE

HUNTER MELANSON - REPORTER

It is officially March, which means the weather will soon get warmer, spring is just around the corner, and Shamrock Shakes are back. March also brings about the celebration of Irish heritage and culture, commonly known as St. Patrick's Day. Here is everything you need to know to know about this unique holiday.

## Origins

Believe it or not, Saint Patrick's Day is more than just wearing green or drinking McDonald's Shamrock Shakes. The holiday actually derives from the patron saint named St. Patrick. He was born in 390 AD in Roman Britain. When he was just a boy, Patrick was kidnapped from South Wales by a group of pirates. He was sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped after about six years. Legend has it that he escaped after seeing visions of God who ordered him to escape on a getaway ship. After escaping, Patrick migrated to France, where he studied Christianity for twelve years. When he became a bishop, he received visions of calls to Ireland. The ambitious future saint set out for Ireland where he converted the Gaelic Irish people to Christianity. Despite continuous arrests, he continued his endeavors over the course of twenty years. Throughout Ireland, he established monasteries, schools, and churches, while winning converts along the way. He died on March 17, AD 461, which is the day we now dedicate to St. Patrick's Day. Although he was not native Irish, he was still a fundamental figure in Irish Christian history.

## Why Wear Green

Although we typically associate the color green with Saint Patrick's Day, it wasn't always that way. Before St. Patrick's Day became a commercialized global holiday, blue was the color of choice among revelers. The color held a significant importance in Irish history and sovereignty. Blue was eventually replaced by green which was favored by most of Ireland. Green became a more mainstream way to represent Saint Patrick's day because of how present it is in current Irish culture. The flag of Ireland contains a stripe of green, and for most of the year, Catholic priests wear the color.

## Where to Celebrate

Take part in the Irish festivities here in South Bend by attending the annual Saint Patrick's

Day Parade on March 18. The parade begins at 11 am Saturday morning and marches all through downtown South Bend. Following the parade is the greening of the east race, in which the river is dyed green. Come out for a fun time and don't forget to wear green.

## BIBLE CLUB

ABBY MYERS - REPORTER

As the school year is getting busier and busier, students are continuing to find ways to be involved in school clubs and activities. There is a special group of students at Adams who have come together and formed a unique group for others to join: Bible Club. The entirely student organized and student-led group was re-established in September of 2015. Bible Club serves as a unique setting for students to share their religious interests with their peers and learn more about Christianity.

As opposed to other clubs at Adams, Bible Club's objective is to provide a small, comfortable environment where students are free to speak their mind. "The purpose of Bible Club is to provide an outlet of free expression for John Adams' students who desire to know more about Biblical Principles and how to apply them to everyday life," explained Bible Club sponsor and JA school counselor Ms. Gaye Johnson. At meetings, the groups' members discuss religious current events, analyze biblical text, and enjoy Bible-based entertainment.

Like other Adams clubs that celebrate students' diversity, Bible Club lets students celebrate their freedom of religion and applauds religious diversity and freedom in our country and school. In a time when people will do anything to separate themselves, Bible Club challenges the stereotype and gives open arms to one and all. As Johnson put it, "This organization is a glowing demonstration of how those from a variety of ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds can appreciate individuals from many walks of life."

When asked why students should be a part of this club, Johnson answered, "John Adams provides something for everyone! Bible Club has become a place where students can comfortably come to hear, seek, and learn about Biblical truths and its relationship to individuals, families, and the world at-large." Members hold weekly meetings on Mondays from 3-4pm in Ms. Farrow's room (Room 1222). If you are interested in joining the club, be sure to listen to school announcements and look for posters advertising upcoming events.

# KAMRYN SCHMIDT RECEIVES AMELIA EARHART AWARD

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On February 23, JA junior Kamryn Schmidt was presented with the Amelia Earhart Award by congresswoman Jackie Walorski. This award, named for female aviator Amelia Earhart who achieved fame as the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, is given to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets who complete 11 out of 16 achievement levels in the CAP cadet program and pass a comprehensive exam. Only about three percent of CAP members receive this award.

CAP is the volunteer auxiliary of the Air Force, which Schmidt joined in September 2014. "I knew I wanted to join the military," she explained, "and I knew Adams didn't have an ROTC program." In doing research for a project in eighth grade, she stumbled upon CAP and, knowing that Adams at the time had nothing of the kind to offer, decided to join.

This award also means a promotion from the rank of Cadet to Cadet Captain. Schmidt hopes to attend the prestigious United States Air Force Academy, whose acceptance rate hovers around 12 percent. The Earhart Award "gives [her] a better chance of getting in." She explained that she has less than a year to achieve the Spaatz Award, which would promote her to the rank of Cadet Colonel. The Earhart Award "gets [her] closer to

that."

While the Air Force Academy is her main goal, she plans to use the Earhart Award - and, hopefully, the Spaatz Award - to "boost [her] application to the [service] academies."

We at *The Tower* would like to congratulate Cadet Captain Schmidt and wish her luck in achieving the Spaatz Award and all of her future aspirations in the military and beyond.

## GOP CLUB

BRENDAN HAYNER-SLATTERY - REPORTER

Students at Adams have always found many ways to become involved in social or political issues, but a new environment for discussion and debate has sprung up this year with the GOP Club. Every few weeks, club members come together to talk about contentious issues in American politics, particularly as they relate to the Republican Party. "It's mostly just been current events - what's going on in the world," club member Connor Melanson explained. Meeting topics range from one student's recent experience at the Trump inauguration to the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. Discussion centers around whatever issues are viewed as important by the students themselves. Nor do they shy away from controversial subjects, said member Angel Diaz; rather, they focus their discussions on "topics that are up to debate."

The GOP Club first met in November of 2016, in the weeks immediately following Election Day. This timing was not a coincidence: several members view the election season as the impetus behind the formation of the club. "I feel like that's really what sparked this idea - how much politics played a role in our society and in our everyday lives," Diaz explained. The GOP club was created with a concrete vision in mind. "We wanted a place that was open to debate," recounted Melanson, "a place where we could talk about politics without just being yelled at or criticized." Due to various scheduling issues, the club has not been able to meet very frequently in the four months since its creation. Nonetheless, members remain confident that it will continue into the next year, with several juniors in the club ready to carry it on in the future.

Despite the club's name, students of all backgrounds and opinions are encouraged to join. "It's not just a Trump club," remarked Melanson. Diaz expressed a similar sentiment, declaring that "this club is open to anyone who has any political belief, as long as they're ready to debate and defend their ideas." The club meets after school in Mr. Kingston's room every other Wednesday, and meetings typically last between 30 and 45 minutes. Students interested in joining can speak to Mr. Kingston, the club's faculty sponsor, or listen to the announcements to find out the date of the next meeting.



# MEN *of* COURAGE:

## SENATOR JOHN McCAIN: THE MAVERICK RETURNS

### OPINION

KAITY RADDE - ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

John McCain, a Republican Senator from Arizona, has been a public servant in some facet for the majority of his life. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1958 and served in the navy until 1981, when he retired as a captain. During his time in the navy, he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam from 1967-1973, where he sustained countless beatings and episodes of torture, resulting in permanent injuries. Since then, he has been an outspoken opponent of the United States's use of torture.

In 1982, he was elected to the House of Representatives, and in 1986, he was elected to the Senate, where he has served since. While he generally adheres to conservative principles, he quickly earned a reputation as a "maverick" for his willingness to publicly oppose his party and maintained it, especially on issues concerning the military. During Barack Obama's second term, he became integral in negotiating deals

with Democrats in a strictly partisan climate. Since 2015, he has also been chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Since the previous election and inauguration, he has become increasingly vocal regarding the Trump administration and its attacks on ideals and institutions that many people on both sides of the political aisle see as fundamentally American. To quote CNN, McCain is "basking" in his role as a "Trump tormenter," which seems to be an accurate description of his recent role in the Senate. From parting ways on policy to railing against Trump's apparent love of Russia, he has no qualms parting ways with the president. He defended his behavior, saying that "I have done right for this country under Republican and Democrat presidents. I will continue to do so. This is not a departure from the way I've conducted myself in the United States Senate," which is true. As he pointed out, he didn't refrain from criticizing even Ronald Reagan, a veritable Republican saint.

He scolded the president for his arguably pointless dispute with the Australian Prime Minister. He reminded him that "they fought alongside us in wars, including losing over 500 brave Australians in the Vietnam War, which some of us remember," both referring to his time in the military and taking a dig at Trump's multiple avoidances of the draft. He also questioned Trump's raid of Yemen - the president's first military operation, which left a soldier dead - and demanded a full briefing on the issue.

After Trump suggested reinstating the use of torture - specifically, waterboarding - the former prisoner of war said, "I don't give a

*"He quickly earned a reputation as a 'maverick' for his willingness to publicly oppose his party and maintained it"*

damn what the president of the United States wants to do or anybody else wants to do. We will not waterboard." He continued, explaining that it not only is ineffective but also makes it hard for the United States to claim moral superiority.

He criticized his pick of Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State along with Senators Lindsay Graham and Marco Rubio over ties to Russia, though all three men later voted to confirm him, and he voiced his distaste for his pick of budget director for his record of cutting defense spending. He aptly described Trump's disaster of a travel ban as a "self-inflicted wound in the fight against terrorism."

And, with Trump's continued categorization of all media coverage that he dislikes as "fake news," McCain stood up fiercely for freedom of the press. On "Meet the Press," he said, "if you want to preserve democracy as we know it, you have to have a free, and many times adversarial press. That's how dictators get started." He is one of few Republican Congresspeople to formally identify Trump's actions as borderline autocratic, which is, in my opinion, one of the most effective things that can be done to stop the beginnings of autocracy.

All elected representatives have the responsibility to be the voice against not only "tyranny" - that word that political opposition loves to turn to but is scarily close to literal these days - but also against simply and utterly bad ideas, whether they are morally lacking or just logistical and monetary nightmares.

John McCain has proven himself to fulfill that facet of public service for the vast majority of his career, and his willingness to criticize not only his opposition party but also his own only further proves his consistent integrity. At this uncertain point in our history, it is comforting to know that there are people on both sides of the political aisle that will stand up against what may be the greatest threat to American democracy since the Civil War.



# THE U.S. SENATE

## SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER: TAKING ON THE BULLY'S PULPIT

### OPINION

ALICE GOULDING - MANAGING EDITOR

Chuck Schumer, the senior Democratic Senator of New York and the Senate Minority leader, has been a champion for New Yorkers and Democrats nationwide for over forty years. His entrance into politics was entirely by chance – as a student at Harvard, Schumer failed to make the basketball team due to his height and almost dropped out because of it, until one night he opened his door to find two volunteers for the Democratic party on the other side, asking him if he wanted to volunteer for the upcoming elections.

From there on out, Schumer dedicated the rest of his free time as an undergraduate – and some of his time at Harvard law as well – to political activism. Straight out of law school, he ran for and won a seat in the New York State Assembly; six years later he ran for a vacant seat in the House and won. In 1998, Schumer was elected Senator of New York. Having never lost an election in his life, Schumer began his fourth term in the Senate this January, in addition to being unanimously appointed the minority leader of the Senate, effectively making him one of the most powerful, and certainly the most influential, elected member of the Democratic Party. From this position, he will be expected to lead the opposition against Trump's and Congressional Republican's agendas.

Schumer clearly has a lot of work on his plate. After the 2016 elections, the Democrats find themselves in the worst shape they've been in in decades, holding a minority of seats in the Senate, House, Governorships, and State Legislatures. Thus far, Schumer has worked extensively with other Senate Democrats to block Trump's cabinet picks that they find to be unqualified or otherwise ill fitting for the job, including Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Throughout the campaign, Schumer was an

avid Hillary Clinton supporter. Clinton and Schumer actually served together as senators from 2000-2008, and Schumer did not shy away from pointing out the disparities between Clinton and Trump's experience in government. He also frequently chastised Trump for not acting in a presidential manner, be it his conduct online or at rallies. Now that Trump has been sworn in, Schumer has not shied away from criticizing Trump's inability to act "presidential;" Schumer even stated in January that "with all due respect, America cannot afford a Twitter presidency." True to his title, Schumer participated in the Women's March with hundreds of thousands of women in New York City on January 21 to reaffirm his solidarity with his minority and disenfranchised constituents.

Schumer's primary concerns, however, are not with Trump's mannerisms, or even with his obsession with the news media, but with his policies; he hopes to protect former-President Obama's legacy against the Trump regime's more radical executive orders. When the White House revealed the Travel Ban executive order, which targeted seven majority Muslim countries, Schumer spoke out strongly against the ban, finding it unconstitutional, saying, "I think this executive order is so bad and so poisoned and its genesis is so bad and terrible that he ought to just throw it in the trash can."

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, the Trump administration issued a statement regarding the day that failed to mention the words "Jew," "Jewish," or "Judaism." Schumer, who is Jewish, was appalled at the White House's insensitivity when condemning the genocide. The subject was especially personal for Schumer, whose great-grandmother and seven of her nine children were murdered by Nazis in World War Two. Schumer spoke out, stating, "The abominable Nazi Final Solution had as its target the extermination of the Jewish people. This is a fact. And one that must always be remembered.



It is troubling and unfortunate that the administration did not acknowledge and honor the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime in the Shoah."

As recently as March 2, Schumer was standing up to the Trump cabinet, condemning the actions of Attorney General Sessions after information was leaked that showed Sessions did make contact with Russian officials during Trump's campaign, a fact he explicitly denied during his Senate hearings. Schumer went as far as to call for Sessions's resignation, saying in a press conference that "it would be better for the country if he'd resign."

As head of the opposition, Schumer has been fearless in his public condemnation of Trump, never shying away from critiquing his statements – or lack thereof – on a multitude of issues, as Schumer has correctly pointed out in the past that Trump has no grasp on the vast majority of issues the presidency deals with. In times such as these, where it often feels like Trumpian Republicans are ready to undo all of the progressive legislature passed in the Obama era, replacing it with old-fashioned and ill conceived policies that their demagogue swears are what once made America "great," it is inspiring to know politicians like Schumer still exist, who will continue to place the wants and needs of Americans, as well as basic moral principles, over his career (though, judging by his election track record thus far, he probably has little to worry about).

# 89th ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS

## OPINION

MARIAH RUSH - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2017 Oscars will be the topic of conversation for a long time - perhaps as a joking “remember that?” moment among friends, or maybe a discussion on what events actually transpired that night. This is not due to host Jimmy Kimmel’s topical monologue, his late night tweeting to our president, or even the odd surprise visit of tourists on a sightseeing bus to the award show. This is due to the original misgiving of the pinnacle award, Best Picture, to “La La Land,” and then minutes later giving to award instead to its rightful owner, “Moonlight,” after multiple people from “La La Land” had unfortunately already given their acceptance speeches. Presenters for Best Picture at the

89th Academy Awards were Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty (they portrayed Bonnie and Clyde in the 1967 film). Beatty expressed confusion upon opening the envelope that ultimately was determined to have contained the winner for Best Actress, Emma Stone, who starred in

“La La Land,” leading the presenters to assume the award was for the same film. Confusion ensued after a man in a headset stormed the stage during the speeches, until “La La Land” producer Jordan Horowitz graciously announced that “Moonlight” had actually received the Academy Award, and ushered them onstage, while showing the camera the newfound correct envelope.

A gaff like this has only happened another time in Academy Award history. A similar event transpired in 1964 when Sammy Davis Jr. was handed the wrong envelope for Best Music Score. However the caliber of Davis’ mistake is not near this year’s mistake, as Best Music Score is both not the biggest award of the night as Best Picture is, and the 1964 mistake was corrected much faster than this years.

As this headlining event closed the show, the rest of the awards show was still entertaining and provided many memorable moments. As

for the major awards, Best Actor went to Casey Affleck (“Manchester By the Sea”) for his portrayal of an uncle who is left to care for his nephew after his brother dies. “Manchester By the Sea” also received Best Original Screenplay. Unsurprisingly, Emma Stone took the award for Best Actress, giving “La La Land” its sixth Oscar, the others for Cinematography, Direction, Score, Song, and Production Design. For Best Supporting Actor, Mahershala Ali was chosen for his role in “Moonlight.” He became the first Muslim actor to win an Academy Award. Due to President Donald Trump’s travel ban, Iranian director Asghar Farhadi did not attend in protest for the people in his country and the six others affected, even though he won his second Oscar for Best Foreign Film for “The Salesman.” In his place, he send two American NASA scientists, Firouz Naderi and Anousheh Ansari, to read his acceptance speech about the importance of not dividing the world and inciting fear. Viola Davis won Best Supporting Actress for the emotionally driven movie “Fences” and delivered an equally emotional and inspirational acceptance speech



about the importance of telling the stories of people unable to do so themselves after they have died. After the Best Picture mix-up, there have been questions to the accuracy and legitimacy to the entire Academy Award process, as well as qualms to the fact that the all-black cast of “Moonlight” missed out on its big moment of winning, while the primarily white cast of “La La Land” celebrated what they believed to be their seventh award win of the night. It is truly unfortunate that this gaff occurred, and it appears that this may have happened no matter the film that truly won. While the headlines are about the mistake, and it is important to recognize it and the fact that this carnival-esque event that we crowd around the television to watch every year, is by no means foolproof, we should still focus on and celebrate the fact that the amazing story of “Moonlight” was able to be told and appropriately recognized. The magnitude of the story of the gay, black impoverished man dealing with the stigmas associated with masculinity deserves to be felt and recognized, as the Academy has done. As a viewer and lover of the carnival-esque behaviour, I cannot wait to see what next year’s show has in store.

# DNC CHAIR ELECTION

DAVID ENGEL - REPORTER

As we all know, South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg was in the running to be the chairperson of the DNC. He gathered a sizable following, and he even racked up some high-caliber endorsements from the likes of former chairperson Howard Dean and several mayors of large cities. Buttigieg was seen as the compromise between the establishment wing of the party with former labor secretary Thomas Perez and the liberal sect of the party with Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison. However, right before the time came to vote, Buttigieg told the DNC in a speech that he was dropping out of the race. He explained that it was “for the party,” and that it was “time for [the process] to move towards a solution that [the committee] can all get on board with.”

After two rounds of voting, the DNC elected Tom Perez to chair the party. Perez was the establishment favorite, having been labor secretary under former President Barack Obama and a staunch loyalist to the Obama/Clinton wing of the party. Ellison was the progressive favorite, and he racked up the endorsements of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, and “Progressive Democrats of America.” However, the 448 voting members of the DNC consisted largely of establishment politicians, and Perez pulled through after only two rounds of voting.

Several prominent Democrats congratulated Perez after the election, and even President Donald Trump recognized him on Twitter. Also on Twitter, Senator Bernie Sanders congratulated Perez, but warned him that he needs to “understand that the same-old, same-old isn’t working and that we must bring in working and young people in a new way.” Perez’s first move as chair of the DNC was to appoint Keith Ellison to be deputy chair in an attempt to appease Ellison’s supporters and the progressive wing of the party. Ellison addressed his disappointed followers, saying “we don’t have the luxury [to be] divided.” When it comes to policy, Ellison and Perez’s platforms are nearly identical.

At a time when the DNC requires strong leadership, many people doubt Perez’s establishment politics and wonder if he will bring the change the DNC demands. Others believe that Perez will “open the tent” of the Democratic Party and encourage new members to join, as well as expand fundraising capabilities. It will surely be interesting to see where the Democratic Party goes from this point on.

# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

CASEY CARROLL - REPORTER

Science Olympiad is a nationally recognized competition in which teams compete in 23 different events. The John Adams Science Olympiad (JASO) began with six members and has grown to over thirty members over the years. JASO has been around for six years, ever since Raymond Han wanted to continue his Science Olympiad career in high school. They have twenty five members - enough members to fill up two teams. Ms. Sally Troxel, JASO's coach states, "In my opinion, the greatest thing about being the JASO coach is to see what the students have created - it's a team that is built on helping each other, helping the incoming members get up to speed, and helping the competition. It's a self-perpetuating machine that can operate on its own through the sweat and determination of its members. It's amazing to just sit back and watch them work (and earn medal after for their efforts, of course)."

The events include build events which are those that require designing and building a device such as helicopters and bridges according to set parameters and study events which are those that require students to learn advanced college level material and take tests over what they know during the competition. The build events include designing and building a device that floats over any surface and propels itself forward, a.k.a hovercraft, creating a design for a tower that is only about 14g in mass but can hold 35 pounds of weight and building and testing it, building a helicopter whose design allows it to stay aloft using only rubber bands for motors for as long as possible, in which John Adams' Science Olympiad team has reached 1:40, and designing a machine that can move a specified distance, which is unknown until the event, quickly and stop on a dime. The study events also include a wide variety of sciences and events.

JASO Varsity won first place and Junior Varsity placed fourth at the Goshen Regional competition on February 11, 2017 at Goshen College, beating North Ridge High School, their local competitors that qualified for Nationals last year. The individuals who have shown the greatest ability, expertise, versatility, and attitudes were chosen for the State team. Each qualifier is only allowed to send one team to the state

competition. The JASO State Team is made up of eighteen of Science Olympiad's most talented members. On making her decision of which students would be apart of the State team, Ms. Troxel stated, "It is always a difficult decision to narrow down the numbers but this year was the hardest in my years of coaching, because they were so many that could have gone to State and performed well." The State tournament will be at IU Bloomington on Saturday, March 18.

Congratulations to the John Adams Science Olympiad team for your amazing performance at Regionals! We wish you all the luck at upcoming State!

## BOYS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

KAYLAN PARKER - REPORTER

The John Adams boys varsity basketball started their sectional round of games on Tuesday, February 28th. The sectional draw is something all sports fans look forward to. On Saturday, March 4, JA boys basketball won their sectionals by defeating Plymouth 53-43 to claim the Sectional Championship. It is the 13th title for the program and first since 2013.

Adams varsity basketball team first played Riley in sectionals, since Riley also won the N.I.C championship, and played each other for the third time this season.

In their first game, Riley won 78-53, but in a thrilling rematch, Adams junior guard Walter Ellis scored in the final seconds, securing an Eagles' victory, 71-69.

Fortunately the Eagles did put their best effort forward beating the Riley wildcats by 1 point the third time around. Parker led the scoring with 20 points and Mike Green with 18 and Walter Ellis with 17. At one point in the fourth quarter the Eagles were down by 10 points with only 3 minutes left. To get the momentum back on

our side, Parker hit a three and Adams never looked back. Will Jeffers got a putback dunk which only left the Eagles down by 1. Teshan Godwin got a steal and gave the ball to Mike Green who was fouled. Green made the game winning free throws with 0.2 seconds left on the clock adding another exciting win against Riley this season in win or go home. Green said, "Man! I'm speechless, I'm so happy we won, thank you Lord."

Next, the team played and won in two over-times their game against Laporte for their semi-final sectional game. They won 66-63 over LaPorte. Michael Green led the Eagles with 22 points, and surpassed 1000 points in his career and now has 1004, a major milestone for any player's career.

In their final game during the sectional, JA boys played Plymouth on March 4. Michael Green scored 15 points, while Walter Ellis scored 14, and Kyreece Parker with 12. The Eagles defeated Plymouth 53-43 to claim the Sectional Championship in the largest defeat in the Adams sectional. Green said, "We are very excited... it's nice to be part of a legacy and have our own picture on the wall." The boys will play Merrillville in the first game of the Michigan City regional on Saturday, March 11. Merrillville's record is currently 19-7, and have beaten some of the same teams as Adams. Green said, "I think we have a great chance of beating Merrillville we just have to come out with the same intensity we did during sectionals, but better." Come out to watch the Eagles at Michigan City during regionals on Saturday!



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: CORY HELMUTH

TAYLOR WALDRON - REPORTER

Senior Cory Helmuth has been voted MVP of the John Adams Men's Swim team (JAMS) two years in a row, and was recently named WMHE's Student Athlete of the Week. From being the JAMS Most Improved swimmer his freshman year, to MVP and captain of the team his senior year, Helmuth has had a consistently impressive athletic career at JA.

Over the past four years, Helmuth says that he has made a "ton of memories" with the team. He names his favorite memory as "when [the team] shaved [their] heads freshman year" before Sectionals. In previous years, the boys team bleaches their hair and shaves their heads in solidarity before the big meet. The strong bond of the team has helped Helmuth to grow and prosper both in and out of the pool. Helmuth says, "Swimming has shown me that being consistent with something can bring you far, and swimming has impacted my life. I always have a plan and a schedule."

Helmuth's optimism shines bright, and as a result, he has impacted many students at JA. "I love Cory Helmuth. Every time he speaks in

class I smile," said senior Michael Kirbie. "He's the one of the funniest people I know. I love that moped." Kirby is referring to the baby blue motor scooter that Helmuth has driven to school for the last two years. Because of the moped, Helmuth was recently awarded "Worst Car" for the Senior Superlatives in the 2016-2017 year-book. When asked to describe Helmuth, senior Sarah Dehorn simply said, "He 'flee'."

Helmuth's plan for next year is a bit different from most other seniors. Helmuth plans to take a gap year during which time he will work, save money for college, and continue to train for swimming. Helmuth also plans on attending the JAMS swim practices to help out next year.

As far as education, Helmuth plans on attending either Purdue or Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in 2018. He wants to double major in electrical and computer engineering or specifically get a degree in mechanical engineering in college. "But I'll swim wherever I go," said Helmuth. In the future, Helmuth wants to design and manufacture electronics "ranging from computers to phones to toasters," he says. Ideally, Helmuth wants to work for a large company such as Nvidia or Intel. "I will probably continue swimming after college for general exercise, so it will help me stay in shape after I'm done with competitive swimming," said Helmuth.

Helmuth plans on helping and mentoring the team next year. "I want the returners to encourage each other to get to practice and work hard the whole season. I would like to see them have

another winning season," said Helmuth. "I want to thank my parents, my club coach Mike Anderson, and boys swim coach Josh Kytta for the years of support and encouragement."



# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: TAVONTE MALONE

KENNEDI KYLE - REPORTER

Senior wrestler Tavonte Malone, has been a part of the wrestling varsity team all four years here at Adams. He started wrestling eight years ago, and his skills proved him to be one of the greatest athletes here at Adams. According to Malone, his career at Adams was exceptional with an abundant amount of growth.

Malone says that making the transition from middle school to high school was quite a challenge. "In middle school, everyone ran the same basic moves while in high school some kids know ten times the things you may know," said Malone. One special and exciting moment he will always remember is when both him and his best friend, Danny Olsen, both won the conference tournament. One big focus of Malone's is to be the national champion and go to college to wrestle or play football. He has been lucky enough to not suffer from any injuries, and has been blessed enough to be ranked fifth in the state. Malone enjoys analyzing different wrestlers and incorporating what he sees into how he wrestles- this factor has multiplied and improved his way of thinking within wrestling.

Malone emphasizes the bond between of the JV and varsity wrestling team. The bond that he has with his teammates is simply unexplainable. They joke around with one another which can be described as a brother-like bond. According to Malone, he gets inspiration from professional wrestler Jordan Borroughs because he is one of the best wrestlers of all time. Another person that influenced Tavonte is his dad. "My main coach is my dad. We talk wrestling all season and watch film. I love our conversations because he tells me what I need to correct," said Malone. Since he cares so much for his team, Malone would like to leave them with these words, "I'd like the underclassmen to know that anyone can be beat, especially if you work hard enough."

Malone is fortunate to receive at least six different wrestling awards which consist of Sectional Champion, Regional Champion, two NIC 1st team awards, four All Conference awards, two State Qualifier awards, and Student Athlete of the Week. Along with those awards, he has a scholarship from Marian University in Indianapolis. Malone cites his greatest accomplishment and best matches of his career as when he defeated a D1 wrestler from Penn 12-4 at the A1 Smith Tournament. Lastly, even with all the accomplishments he has achieved, he still has one more goal to meet: being a National Champion.