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Weekly Refresher

Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy

- Jesus (Matthew 5:7)

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Guilford Gazette

Hammond Theatre Group Presents Hilarious Musical



Bad guy, Caldwell B. Cladwell, played by Alex Pecos, displays confidence in his plan to make it rich off the backs of plain folks in Urinetown. Pecos is surrounded by jubilant cast members playing various roles as corporate employees in Cladwell's employ.

Fun, fast, and hilarious! The Hammond Players are definitely in their element in this witty, fast-moving adaptation of the Broadway musical, Urinetown. Ms. Lauren Tobiason, the director of this musical and drama teacher at Hammond High School, bills this fun show as a “family

friendly production with a PG rating” in contrast to the show’s name that might suggest otherwise. She may be on to something.

In a preview for the students and teachers, the cast presented parts of several scenes – just enough to whet the appetite and reveal that the

production is all about the audience having fun. If you like comedy, then you will enjoy this show.

During a time of drought, the town has implemented some extreme water-saving measures and found a way to raise revenue.

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Neighborhoods**

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The Publisher's Notes

The Guilford area is served by several public schools – Guilford Elementary, Patuxent Valley Middle, Lake Elkhorn Middle, and Hammond High. Within the walls of each of these schools lies Maryland's future. Based on what we see, the future is looking good.

In one month, operating this newspaper, we have found student orators, business leaders, performers, and historians. Certainly, this is the tip of the iceberg. We have discovered dedicated teachers, mentors, and creative administrators. The people involved with the public schools in our area should be commended. Who are the parents of these learned children who represent our future?

A quick examination of these schools reveals the obvious. Students are working diligently to educate themselves, and their parents affirm their children as they take on the heavy load as cheerleaders and encouragers. The teachers are prepared to harness what good has already been established and they stand poised to bring out hidden talents.

Heaping ample praise on students, parents and teachers for their work, and the administrators who create superb learning environments, can never be too exuberant.

We welcome the academic excellence of the schools, the tireless efforts of the teachers, the tenacity of the students, the discipline of the administrators, and the tough love of the parents. Hooray for our schools! Hooray for education!

Hammond Student Wins First Place at Rotary

Roberto Lopez, a Hammond senior, took first place in a speech contest sponsored by Rotary Club of Columbia-Patuxent. Roberto's first place finish entitles him to compete in the semi-finals on March 17th at Glen Burnie High School.

Roberto's speech on bullying met or exceed-

ed the demands of the club's Four Way Test – Speech Contest. His speech had to cover four areas: Is it the truth?; Is it fair to all concerned?; Will it build goodwill and better friendships?; and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Roberto, the three

Hammond students who competed - Miranda Pham, Sabir Shrestha, and John Lamberton, and other students – all serve as volunteers and student leaders through Hammond's Interact Club, an arm of the Rotary Club, which is dedicated to students.

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Five of the 50 cast members pose for photos during the Hammond short sneak peak performance staged for students and teachers. From left to right: Gary Malveaux, Jon Beahm, Tex Pardue, Jason Schoenfeld, and Aine Mangan.

Theatre from page 1

Caldwell B. Cladwell, played by Alex Pecas, is the creative genius behind a pay-to-pee scheme that nets his company a pretty profit and supposedly helps the town conserve its most valuable resource – water.

The cast is 50 members strong, accompanied by seven musicians in the pit (six are students), and 15 students on the technical crew. This is a major production that made for weeks of 12 hour days for the students and teachers involved in the effort. Their hard work paid off. The timing of scenes and music was near perfect. The cast seems quite natural on stage. No noticeable flubs. When watching this musical you forget that you are watching ama-

teur actors and singers. Many of the performers are in their third year as members of the theatre group. That adds up to quite a bit of experience when you consider that Hammond stages two major shows and several smaller productions per year.

According to Ms. Tobiason, the students have fun discovering a “wonderful creative outlet”. Jason Schoenfeld, a Hammond senior from Huntington said, “I have a passion for performing. I like being in front of a crowd. It’s my favorite thing to do.” Tex Pardue, a Hammond junior from Kings Contrivance performed in a movie while living in Greece during his middle school years. Tex said that performing on a movie set does not cause as much nervous-

ness as performing in front of a live audience. Jon Beahm and Aine Mangan, both Hammond seniors from Jessup and Dickerson, respectively, echoed their joy of the arts. Jon said, “I am having a lot of fun. [Performing] builds my confidence in singing.” Aine, who plans to enter the military after graduation said, “I really like performing. It’s great for building how to be a different character [and how] to be calm under pressure.”

The show is open to the general public and runs March 1st through 2nd at 7 pm, and March 3rd at 2 pm. Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 in advance. Hammond students can purchase tickets during lunch.

March Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

Call Me Mister:

This scholarship is for black males who would like to become a teacher and attend college out of state for free. The Call Me Mister program is offered at four historical black colleges in South Carolina: Benedict College, Chafin University, Morris College, and South Carolina State University. If you are interested, visit www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.html or call 1-800-640-2657. If you have demonstrated ability in some specific area or have exhibited leadership qualities and performed community service. The deadline for the application is March 15, 2012 and can be downloaded from <http://hcfbeca.community.officelive.com>.

Columbia Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship and Awards:

This scholarship is for African American high school seniors. The minimum GPA must be 2.5. An essay is also part of the application and an interview may be required. The deadline for this scholarship and awards is March 10, 2012. Applications are available in the counseling center.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Phi Lambda Chapter:

The Alpha Foundation of Howard County funds the education programs and efforts of the chapter, which is based in Howard County. These programs include the presentation of nine scholarships to high school seniors who have excelled academically. Scholarships are reserved for applicants planning to attend two or four year colleges or universities. All applicants must be African American and residents of Howard County or enrolled in a Howard County school. Applications must be post-marked no later than March 14, 2012 and are available in the counseling center.

NEW: Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement:

This scholarship is for African American students who have been Howard County residents for at least 15 months prior to the date of the scholarship award. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.5 and must be US citizens or permanent US residents. Applicants must have demonstrated a special talent or ability in some specific area or have exhibited leadership qualities and performed community service. The deadline for the application is March 15, 2012 and can be downloaded from <http://hcfbeca.community.officelive.com>.

NEW: Maryland PTA Scholarship:

This scholarship is offered to students who plan on pursuing a career in education in the public schools of Maryland. Financial need, academic record, and student resume will also be considered with each application. All applicants must have a 2.75 un-weighted minimum grade point average. The application is due on March 15, 2012. Please see your counselor for an application.

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Scholarships from page 4**Jewish Community Services (JCS) General Scholarship:**

This scholarship is for Jewish students from single parent homes. The factors that the JCS Scholarship Committee will consider are financial need, academic performance and potential, extra-curricular and community activities, part-time and summer employment, and Jewish community involvement. The deadline for this application is March 15, 2012 and the website to obtain an application is www.jcsbaltimore.org/jcs-scholarship-program.

Newhoff Scholarship:

This scholarship will be awarded to a Jewish student with documentation of a diagnosed learning disability. Students do not need to be from single parent homes to be eligible. The Jewish Community Services Scholarship Committee will consider factors such as financial need, academic performance and potential, nature and impact of learning disability, extra-curricular and community activities, part-time and summer employment, and Jewish community involvement. The deadline for this application is March 15, 2012 and the website to obtain an application is www.jcsbaltimore.org/jcs-scholarship-program.

Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award:

This scholarship is given each year to students who have exhibited extraordinary efforts in community service to benefit Columbia residents, reside on assessment paying property or has a parent who works full-time on or owns CA assessed property, and have a cumulative grade point average of C or better (2.00). The deadline to apply is March 15, 2012. To apply, go to the following website: <http://www.columbiaassociation.org/pdfs/getinvolved/SpiritColumbia.pdf>.

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Hammond News

Advanced Placement Exam Registration Ends March 15

Registration for Advanced Placement exams ends on March 15 at 2:30 pm. AP exams are administered May 7 through 11, 2012. For more information visit <http://www.hammondhs.org/APTest.htm>.

Annual Hammond Bull Roast Set for March 18

The Hammond Boosters Club is planning their annual big event, the Bull Roast. It is set for March 18 between 4 and 8 pm. The Boosters are looking for donations for the planned auction. For more information or to buy tickets for the event visit <http://www.hammondboosters.org/bull-roast>

Hammond PTSA Prepares to Elect New Officers

The Hammond PTSA is looking for officers for next year. Interested? Contact Laura Borowski: mborowski@hotmail.com.

Rotary from page 2

The Interact Club serves the public in at least two note-worthy ways. They volunteer to clean around Snowden River Parkway as part of the county's Adopt-A-Road program, and they also collect food donations to contribute to the Savage Food Bank, according to their Hammond mentor, Ms. Deborah Barlow.

The Club meets twice a month with Ms. Barlow and a Rotary Club representative, Kellie N. Lego, an attorney. According to Ms. Barlow, the students plan events and discuss potential leadership opportunities. Roberto won \$100 for his first place win. He stands to win \$1,500.00 if he wins first place at the semi-finals.

Sophomore Information Night

The Hammond Counseling Department is inviting college-bound Hammond sophomores (10th graders) and their parents to Sophomore Information Night on Monday, March 12, 7pm – 8 pm in the school's cafeteria. Academic counselors will be available to answer questions at this event.

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Board of Education Candidates' Forum

Mon., Mar. 5, 6 p.m.

Dept. of Education, Board Rm. A-B, 10910 Rt. 108, Ellicott City

Get to know your Board of Education candidates at this forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the PTA Council of Howard County.

Learn more about the candidates and the important role of the Board of Education at http://www.ptachc.org/?page_id=1031.

For more information, contact Chaunfayta Hightower, PTA Council President, at president@ptachc.org.