

Herky student proud to be part of Dunklin family

Caitlyn Huber
Herculaneum High

Herculaneum is a small city, and the Dunklin R-5 School District, which is based there, is small, too. Some people might think big school districts are better, but the Dunklin community members know that's not true. They know small means family.

The Dunklin School District does a lot for its community and I am proud to say I am a part of it. My name is Caitlyn Huber and I am a junior at Dunklin's Herculaneum High School. I participate in a few of the many volunteer organizations the high school offers, including National Honor Society, the school's Leadership Class and the Varsity Letterman's Club. I also am a part of the Herculaneum girls' basketball team.

Fundraising and community service are a big part of these organizations. For example, the Herculaneum girls' basketball program has raised money by collecting items for baskets to raffle off for cystic fibrosis, a condition that affects the lungs and digestive system which a former student battles.

The girls' basketball team also takes part in a project called Hoops for Hope, which raises money to fund cancer research and services for local cancer



Caitlyn Huber photo

Lexi Baiter, a junior at Herculaneum High, discovers a slug among the plants in the HHS Butterfly Garden, a project of the school's Ecology Club.

patients and their families. As part of the fundraiser, the Herculaneum High basketball teams play the Jefferson R-7 teams.

Also, every year the National Honor Society program helps local veterans, making holiday cards, collecting coats and even knitting blankets for them.

The Leadership Class sometimes partners with the National Honor Society to help veterans by collecting coats, food and other items they need. In addition, the Leadership Class hosts a free breakfast and

an assembly for the veterans to celebrate Veterans Day, when the high school band plays, the choir sings, and the leadership students and teachers give speeches to honor those who have served our country.

The Leadership Class also participates in a program called "Blackcat Buddies" where we go to Pevely Elementary or Senn-Thomas Middle School and mentor younger students. The Varsity Letterman's Club participates in a similar project, which has athletes wear their

uniforms to visit the elementary school and read to students.

Other organizations that help the community include the Ecology Club, Student Council and Bright Futures. Ecology Club cleans up the community by collecting trash, promoting recycling and planting flowers. They even planted the "HHS Butterfly Garden" outside the school in between the gymnasium and the main building.

Student Council members organize a lot of fundraising not only for the school but also for the Special Olympics. Student Council members go to the local Special Olympics competition and help out the athletes who participate, especially those from Herculaneum High.

Lastly, Bright Futures offers a lot of help to the community, including an annual event before the start of the school year for Herculaneum High students and families in need, providing them with school supplies and other assistance. Any leftover supplies from the event go into the Blackcat Closet, which National Honor Society and the Leadership Class help manage, providing students and community members in need with clothing and other items.

These are just a few examples of how the tightknit Dunklin community works together to help each other.

School notes

Comedy show to feature hypnotist

A comedy show by hypnotist Brian Powers will be held Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Fine Arts Theatre of **Jefferson College** in Hillsboro. The event, "Powers of the Mind" will begin at 7:30 p.m.



Brian Powers

Advance tickets are \$5 (\$2 for students and seniors). If available, tickets will be sold at the door.

Powers has been performing his comedy hypnosis show for more than a decade. Volunteers on stage are placed into a hypnotic or dream-like state.

The show is part of the college's Performing Arts and Cultural Enrichment series.

Upcoming events include a performance by Eighth Blackbird on Feb. 14; the spring play, "One Slight Hitch," from Feb. 28 to March 3; a choir concert entitled "Masterworks Performance" on March 10; a band concert called "Travels of the Mind" on March 12; the spring jazz Showcase with Grammy-winning trumpeter Terrell Stafford on March 14; the 48-Hour Film Festival from March 15-17 (screening on April 26) and the Jefferson County Shakespeare project, "Romeo and Juliet," on April 13.

For information about the series, visit jeffco.edu.



The therapy steps demonstrated by Mapaville students and teachers-therapists, including, back row left, principal Brad Mora. In the front row are Herculaneum shop students.

Donation will elevate Mapaville students



Ashley Haun paints the steps.

Students at Mapaville School for the Severely Disabled will now be able to practice climbing stairs after a donation of therapy steps made by students in the shop class at Herculaneum High School. Some Mapaville students struggle with climbing stairs inside their own homes or getting on a bus. Dunklin R-5 Director of Special Services Tom Moreland talked with a parent who has to carry her teenage daughter up the steps every night for bed. Moreland then spoke with Mapaville Principal Brad Mora about having the shop class build new steps. Lowe's donated all of the materials. Shop teacher Jordan King designed the steps to be effective for therapy, narrow enough to fit through a doorway and basic enough to be built by his students.

Healthy habits class scheduled at college

The **Jefferson College** Friday Speaker Series will continue on Friday, Feb. 1, with a presentation by Emir Kandzetic, community health coordinator of The Oasis Institute.

The presentation will be from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Viking Room of the Student Center on the Hillsboro campus. Admission is \$7, which includes a buffet lunch. Advance reservations are recommended.

This presentation will highlight the benefits of "eating the rainbow" and becoming more active.

To make reservations or to be added to the speaker series mailing list, call 636-481-3101 or email lvinyard@jeffco.edu.

Comedy night to benefit grad event

A comedy night to benefit **Windsor Operation Graduation** will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at Windsor Intermediate Center, 6208 Hwy. 61-67, in Imperial. The featured entertainer will be stand-up comic Bruce Veach.

Admission is \$10. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the performance will be at 7 p.m. The opening act will be the 55 South Band.

Operation Graduation provides a safe all-night party for graduates on the night of graduation.

For information, email WindsorOperationGraduation.2019@gmail.com.