



H.E.L.P. Is Coming!

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and other Louisiana communities seemed to get much of the attention of the news media and the world, but it was Hancock County, Mississippi that many now refer to as Katrina's 'ground zero'.



While hundreds of millions of dollars are being donated from throughout the U.S. and around the world to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and other disaster relief organizations, a coalition of Ela area communities, governments, public and private schools, churches, businesses,

Much of Hancock County was literally swept away in the hurricane. All but one of the county's government buildings were destroyed. The Hancock County School District saw two of its schools destroyed and others damaged. Fourteen members of the county's police force miraculously survived with their lives by holding onto a bush. Many of those who survived and have stayed in Hancock County are living out of tents. Mosquitoes and other pests have become a real problem, as has obtaining essential life support items such as fresh water, food, fuel, clothing, etc.

service organizations, and citizens are taking a much more personal approach. Known as the Hancock/Ela Long-term Partnership or H.E.L.P, the coalition has decided to provide Hancock County with supplies and the materials it needs to rebuild its communities. The focus will be long-term.

"This isn't just for one-time assistance," said Lake Zurich Mayor **Jim Krischke**. "Hancock County needs help both now and for the long-term. We are going to provide that long-term assistance."

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Board Honors "Goal for the Field" Committee, Donors

On September 22, during its regular meeting, the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education honored the citizens who made possible the installation of new synthetic turf on the Mel Eide Field at Lake Zurich High School. The Board also approved and honored Foot First Podiatry as the official sponsor of Mel Eide Field for a 10 year period, or until the new turf is replaced, whichever is

longer.

The new synthetic turf field, which was officially certified for play on September 9, is the culmination of the hard work and dedication by an enthusiastic and committed group of community members known as the "Goal for the Field" Committee. Headed by co-chairs **Mark Hutton** and **Geoff Meyer**, with the assistance and advice of Lake Zurich High School Athletic

Director **Gene Curran**, the group established a goal of \$625,000 to pay for the new turf, as well as the installation of a new fence and scoreboard. This past summer, the committee began an intensive fund raising effort that, as of this date, raised approximately \$512,000 in cash and pledges.

One specific donor, **Dr. Keith Sklar**, the parent of both a 2005 graduate and a Lake Zurich High School student, made a significant cash contribution in excess of \$100,000 that helped make it possible to begin the installation of the field. While the group has not yet reached its total financial goal of \$625,000, it is continuing its fundraising efforts, which includes a raffle for a new 2006 Ford Mustang convertible.

"Our athletes, our school district and all of the communities we serve owe a debt of gratitude to these men volunteers for turning a dream into a reality," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "Thanks to their efforts and the generous contributions of Dr. Sklar and the other contributors, we are able to offer a first-class athletic field to our athletes and our community."

Right: A woman walks through debris next to the roof of her house, which she found approximately 50 yards away from where her house originally stood in Waveland, MS. (Photo by AP).



Dr. Keith Sklar accepts a plaque from Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson** recognizing his contribution to the *Goal for the Field* campaign as committee members look on.

York Walkathon Oct. 2

The sixth annual Ryan York Foundation Walkathon will be held on October 2. The walk starts and finishes at Paulus Park located north of Rt. 22 on Rt. 12 in Lake Zurich. Registration for the walkathon is at 11:00 a.m. and the walk begins at 12:30 p.m.



Ryan Wesley York

was a 14-year-old Lake Zurich High School student who succumbed to Neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer, on February 15, 2001. Ryan, a talented sought-after soccer player, was diagnosed with cancer on October 20, 1999. During

his battle with cancer he set an example of strength and courage for his family, friends and community.

It was because of the support that Ryan and his family received from the Lake Zurich community that the family and friends created The Ryan York Foundation. The foundation was established to support families affected by cancer

and to benefit specific children's organizations.

The first walkathon in 1999 began as an outpouring of support to Ryan from his eighth grade class-

mates. Within 23 days, **Elizabeth Wagner-Rathgeber** (Ryan's teacher) was able to organize a successful walk, with the help of fellow teacher **Sophia Ramdass** and Community Unit School District 95. The walkathon generated over \$25,000 and involved over 500 people within the community.

The walkathon has now grown to 1,500 annual participants, 50 corporate sponsors and has raised over \$200,000. Proceeds from the walk have helped to assist children with cancer.

The walkathon is held each fall in Lake Zurich, IL. It is a 5K walk around the lake that starts and finishes at Paulus Park. Participants receive a t-shirt, and entertainment is provided before and after the walk, with food and refreshments available for purchase.

For more information on how you can participate, visit the Ryan York Foundation web site: www.theryanyorkfoundation.org.



Above: Walkers take to the streets during the 2003 Walkathon.

Right: Ryan York

'The Nerd' is at LZHS

just a little too comfortable with his life. Then he receives a visit from a man to whom Willum feels indebted.

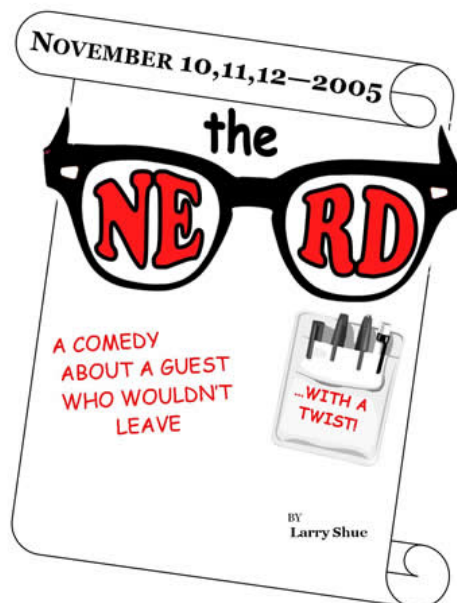
Due to courageous actions on the part of Rick Steadman, a fellow Vietnam Veteran, Willum feels that he owes his life to Rick. Rick has taken Willum up on the invitation to visit at any time—but now he won't leave! Rick is the ultimate social misfit. Wacky farce develops as Willum tries to 'out-nerd' his guest!

"**The Nerd**" will be performed November 10, 11, and 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School, 300 Church St., Lake Zurich. Tickets are only \$8 for adults and \$6 for students when purchased in advance. There is a \$2 up charge per ticket when purchased at the door. The ticket hotline number is: (847) 540-4740.

Congratulations to the following students who have been cast in *The Nerd*:

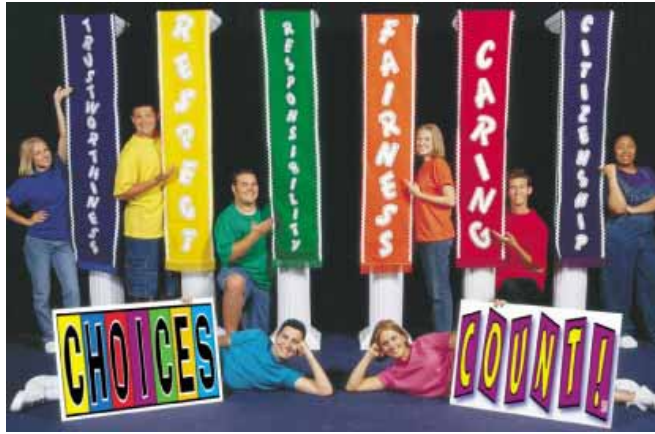
Tansy.....	Emily Brazee
Willum.....	Brad Walker
Axel.....	Alex (Skippy) Johnson
Clelia.....	Sara Lloyd
Wadgrave.....	Mike Scholl
The Nerd.....	Bill Coon
Portia.....	Elise Spoerlein
Martin.....	Shawn Scolnick
Cleo.....	Sam Holappa
Thor.....	Holly Kapraum
Student Director.....	Adrian Dabek
Student Producer.....	Natanya Meyer

For more information, contact **Kathy Koll**, (847) 540-4209, or email her at gkkoll778@comcast.net.



CHARACTER COUNTS! Kickoff Sept. 26

Perhaps you have heard the phrase, "He/She is a pillar in this community." Well, that is exactly what the kindergarten through fifth grade students of District 95 will become under the newly adopted character education program CHARACTER COUNTS!. In fact, they will become not one but 6 pillars: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.



Beginning September 26, District 95 elementary schools will join voices and host a week-long kickoff rally. Each school has planned various activities throughout the week to educate students and parents about the 6 pillars of character. Many schools will be hosting assemblies, having guest speakers and working on projects to introduce the CHARACTER COUNTS! program.

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a nationally recognized program that focuses on 6 pillars of character and designs lessons, ideas and activities to be incorporated into the curriculum. Locally, CHARACTER COUNTS! is being implemented at all six elementary schools after a successful pilot program at Seth Paine School. The district-wide program is being led by Spencer Loomis Principal **Grant Seaholm** and committee members **Kathy Banot, Regina Hope, Adrienne Burton, Nancy Grobarek, Laura DeNovo, Mary**

Beth Kaus, Kathleen Winkler, Beth Magrath, Michelle Ronan, Rocky Kleinschmidt, Joyann Clemens, Laura Berkenfield, Michele Vida, Amy Haynes, and Christopher Finch, Interim Principal at Sarah Adams School.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our schools and our communities

to join in partnership toward common goals such as helping our children become better people and making better choices," said Finch.

The program provides a common language and a consistent message about the importance of character in the lives of young people. Each month will feature one of the 6 pillars of character beginning with Citizenship in October. A District 95 committee oversees the program and meets often to discuss new ideas and evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

"I would like to see this program go community-wide, not just school-wide," said Grobarek.

Parents should contact their schools for more information about kick-off activities in their school, the CHARACTER COUNTS! program and ways they can become involved. You can also check out more information by clicking <http://www.charactercounts.org/>. To see how one school is embracing CHARACTER COUNTS!, visit <http://www.lz95.org/sl/care/carehome.html>.

Forum to Focus on Communication

Both internal and external communications within Community Unit School District 95 will be the subject of the Community Unit School District 95 Board of Education Community Forum on Thursday, **September 29, beginning at 7 p.m.**, in the gymnasium at Isaac Fox Elementary School, 395 W. Cuba Road, Lake Zurich.

The forum is a follow up to a 2003 community forum on the same topic. At the forum, board members and district staff will highlight the school district's comprehensive efforts to increase the level of communication both within the school district and to and from the communities it serves. Much of the forum will focus on questions and suggestions from the audience on how the district can further enhance its communication efforts.

Board President **Gary Robillard**, who co-facilitated the 2003 forum, is looking forward to sharing with the community the increased communications efforts undertaken by both the board and the district administration.

"We have made some real progress in improving our communication efforts," said Robillard. "We have developed a comprehensive communications plan, as well as utilized current technology to improve the two-way flow of communication between the district and its stakeholders."

The communications forum is one of a series of school board forums to be held this school year and is designed to both inform the community and receive their input on schools and learning related issues.

"Two-way communication is vital to the public's understanding and support of our public schools," said Superintendent **Dr. Brian Knutson**. "Forums, such as this, allow us to both provide and receive information about our schools and district operations. Through such open communication, we can make our schools even better environments for learning."

H.E.L.P. cont.

H.E.L.P. held its first organizational meeting on September 19 and the group has quickly added coalition members, developed transportation lines



to Mississippi, coordinated contribution campaigns, and developed the communications channels essential to getting everyone in the area involved.

Schools in District 95, as well as other area public and private schools, churches and other locations will serve as drop-off locations for donated supplies. An account has also been created at Cambridge Bank so that residents can make contributions that will directly aid Hancock County. Churches and businesses are stepping forward to offer donations, supplies and volunteers. The Ela area is coming together, H.E.L.P. is on the way.

Information on how you can join with H.E.L.P. will be sent home with students, as well as via area news media. A web site is also being created to provide more information. If you wish to make a financial contribution, send your check to:

Cambridge Bank
1100 S. Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Attn: H.E.L.P.

We're Off to See the Wizard...

It doesn't matter if you are a cowardly lion, wicked witch, scarecrow, munchkin, or flying monkey, all are welcome at the *Wizard of Oz Movie Sing-A-Long!* on October 1, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center at Lake Zurich High School, 300 Church St. in Lake Zurich.



During the movie, you can sing your favorite songs from the *Wizard of Oz!* You don't need to know the words to join in the fun, just read them from the screen. Dress up as your favorite *Oz* character, participate in the costume parade and maybe win a prize! Included in the price of a ticket is the "Perform-a-long fun pack" for interactive fun during the show! Ticket prices are only \$10 each.

Mail your check along with the requested number of tickets to: LZHS Theatre Program/ *Wizard of Oz*; 300 Church St., Lake Zurich, IL 60047 - or call the ticket hotline at: (847) 540-4740 to place your order.

For more information, contact **Linda Thomsen** of the Lake Zurich High School Drama Dept. Publicity Committee via email at Thomsen@pioneerlocal.com, or by phone at (847) 797-5132.

Far Left: A dog walks amid the debris of a store levelled by Hurricane Katrina in Waveland, Mississippi September 6, 2005.
(Photo by AP)

Are You in the Know?

A new school year brings new opportunities and fresh beginnings. So start of this school year by being in the know when it comes to news about your schools by joining the Community Unit School District 95 **Key Communicator Network**.

Our Key Communicator (KeyCom) program is a network of community residents, leaders, opinion shapers and watchdogs whose opinions are well respected by friends, colleagues and neighbors.

We are not looking for cheerleaders, but people who care about our schools and want to be kept informed and are then willing to share that information with others.

As a Key Communicator, you will receive timely, factual information via a regular newsletter e-mailed to you about the work we're doing and

the issues affecting your school district and your schools.



Because this is designed to be a two-way communications network, we encourage you to give us your input and share your opinions. As a KeyCom member, your responsibility will be to share the information with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

To become a Key Communicator, simply call, email or fax:

Community Unit School District 95
Communications & Community Relations
400 S. Old Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-2459
Phone: (847) 540-5489
Fax: (847) 438-6702
jim.jennings@lz95.org

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Annette Jacobsen,
Editor
Jim Jennings,
Publisher
(847) 540-5489
jim.jennings@lz95.org
www.lz95.org