November-December 2025

ECHO



Snow Days & Delays



Winter weather strikes exams

By Mason Barnes

Even though winter is in its early stages, the weather has already been a story for the Westfall district.

Westfall Local Schools, along with various school districts among the county, closed due to a snow day on Tuesday, December 2.

Tyler Thacker Evans, a senior at Westfall High School, enjoyed his day off.

“I loved it,” he said. “It provided a nice break from school and I got to hang out with my friends and play football.”

With change in weather, some negative sentiment occurred during December 3. Various students experienced setbacks in their education, with some students having problems starting their vehicle, and some students driving on icy roads. However, the general consensus surrounding this snow day appeared to be relief, as it was the first day off school due to snow of the season!

As midterms approached, students did everything in their power to prepare. CCP students took finals for their college classes from December 8 through December 12.

Finals for high school students were the following week. However, a wintry mix over the weekend forced the school to improvise a bit with the exam schedule. Snow and ice closed the school for the first two days of the week and forced a two-hour delay on Wednesday.

NHS induction ceremony celebrates new members



By Mason Barnes

The National Honor Society inducted its new members, and they are excited to participate.

Mrs. Grady is the new leader of the NHS, and she has made efforts to hold the NHS to a high standard.

The National Honor Society at Westfall High School sits at around 50 members. Landon Yang, a newly inducted member, is to participate in the society's activities.

He stated that the induction ceremony was smooth and went well. Landon Yang was particularly popular in the NHS, receiving a thunderous applause. He plans to return to NHS in the 26-27 school year.

Mrs. Grady stated that the "Induction was successful, and the officers had great speeches, although there were some areas needing improvement."

Future plans for the NHS will aim to collect over 200 socks towards the needy. Also, NHS members plan to tutor struggling students through the school's after hours program. The National Honor Society is planning the blood drive, sock drive, and hopefully, the powder puff game. The NHS also plans to involve parents more in the future.

One big change coming in this school year: unlike last year, the NHS will nominate its members this spring.

Boys basketball looks to improve on last season



By Sean Williams

The winter weather reminds us that basketball season is here. Last year, our boys finished with a 9-14 record, going 7-7 in conference play. This year, the team hopes to learn from last season's successes and mistakes, and kicked off the 2025-2026 season with a win over Amanda-Clearcreek.

"We were an inexperienced team last year, and it showed some on the floor," said the team's coach Mr. Joseph. "But we return most of our varsity minutes this year, and we have grown a lot as a team from last year's experience."

With most of their starters returning, they plan to rebound from last year, quite literally. Coach Joseph explains, "We don't have a ton of team size, so rebounding will have to be an area of focus for us all year long."

He added that the team's biggest strength is their defense.

Senior Ethan Rose is one of the key pieces to this year's team. Going into each game, he explains that he tries "to keep a process-over-outcome mindset, and controlling what I can control while staying present, using a consistent routine, and letting my instincts guide my quick decisions."

Ethan also described how important holding each other accountable can be.

"We establish our team goals together and we give consistent feedback to each other while not criticizing one another," Ethan said. "Also, trusting each other and owning our own mistakes help too."

Wrestling works to top SVC again



By Sean Williams

Westfall's wrestling season started early in December with a home event, the Butcher Green tournament. Westfall placed second in the tournament out of 21 teams, an improvement from 3rd place at last year's tournament.

Champions Bryson Campfield, Vincent Gerlach, and Brady Speakman all placed 1st in the tournament for their respective weightclasses.

William Breyer, the team's head coach, has led the program to 10 straight SVC wins, and he says his goal for this year is to win another one. One of his major goals this year is to send more wrestlers to the state tournament.

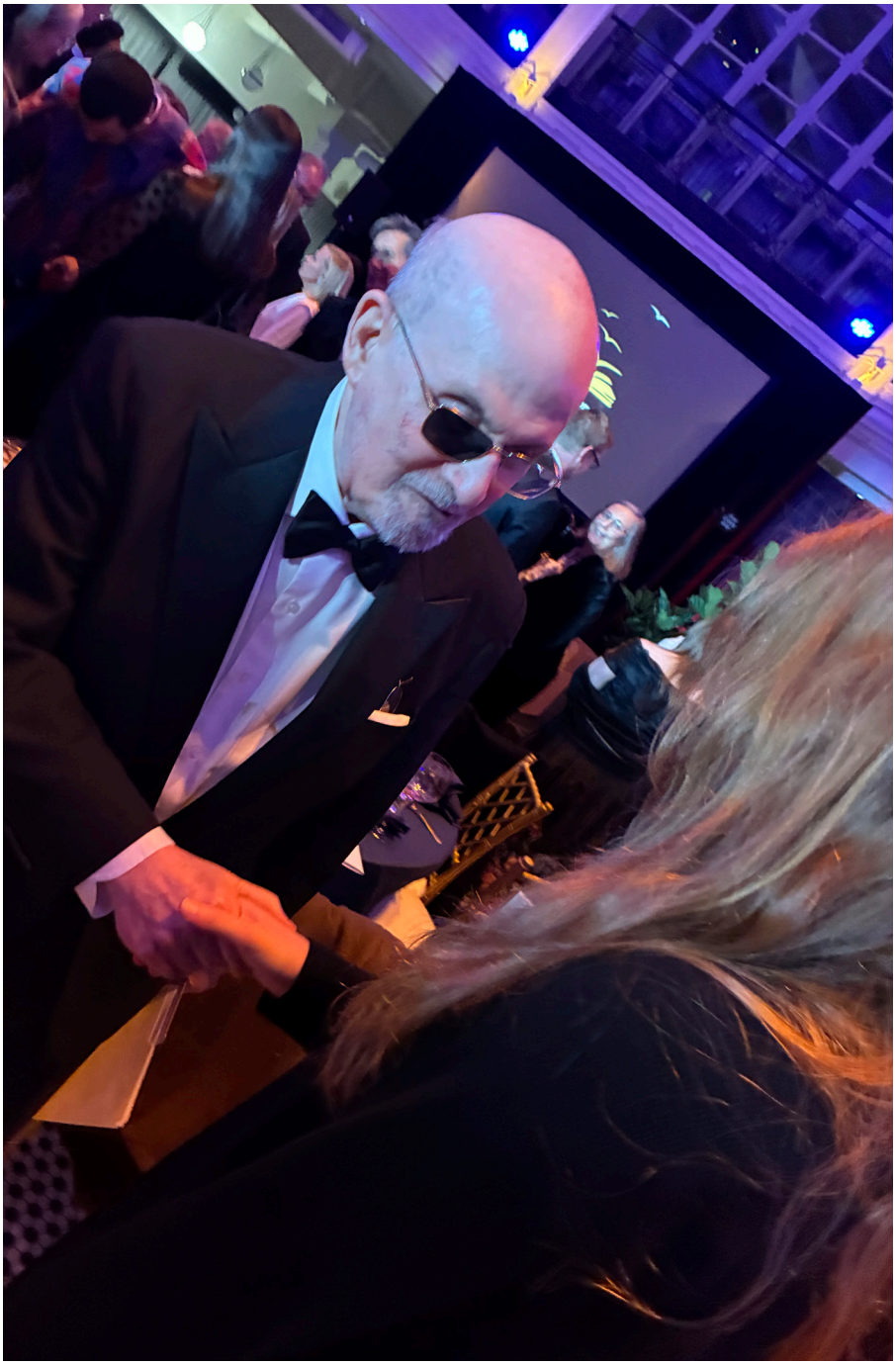
When he first arrived at Westfall, he says, "We had seven wrestlers and had a small wrestling room, but the kids worked hard every practice."

He says that the team's biggest strength this year is "the amount of wrestlers who are returning from last year."

Junior Bryson Campfield, a third-year wrestler, is taking on a new responsibility of being one of the team captains this year. His main goal for himself this season is to place at states, explaining "I believe I can place top seven in the state, maybe even top 5."

As a first-year team captain, he plans to lead and elevate his team to success. He explains, "I and the other team captains will try our best to help with any issues our teammates may have, whether it is a skill issue or a mental struggle. My team will thrive this year, and I have great hopes for this team's season."

WHS senior meets famous author



By Humphrey Tarwater

A Westfall High School senior had the chance to meet Salman Rushdie at the Dayton Literary Peace Prize ceremony held in November.

Several teachers nominated Kathryn Lockhart, a senior, to attend the event, which is "the first and only annual U.S. literary award recognizing the power of the written word to promote peace," according to the foundation's website.

Rushdie, whose works include *Midnight's Children* and *The Satanic Verses*, earned the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award for his "persistent and courageous efforts to guide readers through experiences they often aren't equipped to understand on their own," said Nicholas A. Raines, Executive Director of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation, in a press release.

Kathryn, whose favorite novel by Rushdie is *The Satanic Verses*, requested we not use a photo that shows her face. You can find other pictures of the event on Westfall High School's Facebook page.