

"No member of our team is more important than the students we serve."

"Plant the Promise" tulips will blossom into a beautiful symbol for students in the spring

As hundreds of holes were dug for the planting of tulips, an occasional giggle or laugh could be heard from the students when earthworms and bugs crawled on their hands or garden tools.

The group planting 1,000 red Holland tulips were with the SALSA (Students Advocating Life without Substance Abuse) Club at Floyd C. Fretz Middle School. They participated in the project this fall in conjunction with National Red Ribbon Week "Plant the Promise" activities that were held nationwide. SALSA Club advisors Mike and Susie Dennis were on hand to supervise the large number of SALSA students who planted the bulbs.

Mr. Dennis, who is a businessman in the community, said he and his wife volunteer as advisors for middle school and high school students in the club. He said the tulip project was conducted nationally as a symbol of hope. He said the project was aided on the local level by Superintendent Sandra Romanowski.

"It was Sandy Romanowski's idea. She came to me in the summer and said 'Hey, if I buy a bunch of flower bulbs to dress up these beds, would your SALSA kids plant them for me?'"

He said when the flowers blossom in the spring, the message of Red Ribbon Week will be remembered and reinforced for students to "Say No to Drugs."

Mr. Dennis said students with SALSA pledge to stay tobacco-, alcohol-, and drug-free while they are in school and to focus on academics, healthy lifestyles and respect for others. They also pledge to give back to their school and community through a variety of projects and programs.

"Part of what the students learn in SALSA is to come out of their shell, work with a team and obtain leadership skills," Mr. Dennis said. He said SALSA, now in its sixth year in the school district, is open to all students in grades 6 through 12. There are 87 members at the middle school and 42 at the high school. Mr. Dennis said adult volunteers are needed and are welcome to join the group. One of the students who was at the site planting bulbs was Robert McCormick.

"I like SALSA, all my sisters have done it," said Robert after planting a number of tulips.

Another student, Telicia Hallock, said she also enjoyed SALSA and its activities.

"I like it because it's fun. The kids are drug-free and we're good role models," said Telicia.

Mrs. Romanowski said she was proud of the work accomplished by the SALSA students as well as their commitment to make the school a better place.

"I can't wait to see all these beautiful flowers bloom next spring," Mrs. Romanowski said.



Telicia Hallock (center) flashes a winning smile as she and other SALSA students plant tulips near the district administration building and the adjoining middle school building.

About this newsletter

Welcome to the Fall 2009 newsletter for the Bradford Area School District.

It has been a busy year so far at all four schools in the district with students and staff accomplishing a number of worthwhile projects on their campuses as well as in the community.

In this issue, you'll read about a couple of high school seniors who set up a haunted house to benefit the elderly residing in a local nursing home. You also see a story about two very talented seniors who have appeared in annual Kiwanis Kapers benefit shows since their kindergarten days.

The middle school students also were busy this fall, as evidenced on this page, with the planting of tulips around their school. A group of students from Fretz also showed their thoughtfulness when they set up a program to honor local veterans.

At School Street Elementary, fifth-grade students have been participating in a new science program. In addition to that, the entire student body has joined in on the newly revived Accelerated Reading program.

You'll also read about the colorful design that was painted along the main ramp at George G. Blaisdell Elementary, and a visit children received from Eddie the Eagle.

Our stories also include an item on a local sports broadcaster, as well as a longtime coach who were both honored this year for their dedication to their respective professions.

We hope you'll enjoy reading about our students, staff and community members who have helped make the Bradford Area School District a great place to be!

Have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and we'll see you next year.

Body Worlds tour provides students with a unique look at human specimens

One of the human specimens looked as though it could take off skiing down a mountainside at any given moment, while another cadaver was beautifully positioned in a gymnastic pose.

The anatomical specimens, preserved by a unique method called Plastination, were part of the "Body Worlds and The Story of the Heart" exhibit recently displayed at the Buffalo Museum of Science. Over 200 human specimens, as well as whole-body Plastinates preserved by silicon polymers, were on display during the event.

Among the thousands who visited the exhibit were a mixed group of students from Bradford Area High School. Organizing the field trip were teachers Pam Digel, who instructs high school science classes, and Jan Russell, middle school enrichment teacher. The students who participated in the event were from a variety of classes and programs.

One of the students at the event was Beth Johnston, who said she was intrigued with a specimen that provided a close-up look at the nervous system.

"It showed the nervous system in detail, it was pretty cool," Rachel said after taking the tour. "It was a lot of fun and a really neat experience."

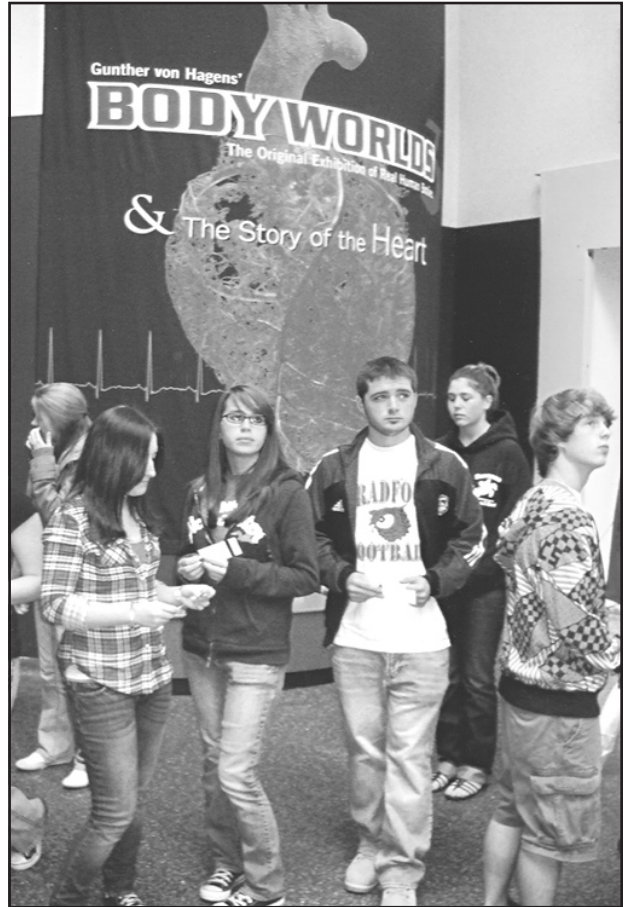
Mrs. Digel said she believes the trip was beneficial both to the students and teachers.

"I think this was amazing, absolutely amazing," Mrs. Digel said. "One of the kids said to me, 'You can look at models and at pictures, but when you get to look at something like this, you really get it.'"

Mrs. Russell agreed and said her students also were impressed with the exhibit.

"I think this makes it more alive for the kids when they get back in school," she said.

Bradford Area High School students pause for a moment before entering the Body Worlds exhibit at the Buffalo Museum of Science.



Spooky senior project benefits the elderly

When Jonnie Mascho and Erin Black were trying to come up with an idea for a senior project, both wanted to help the Alzheimer's unit at the Bradford Ecumenical Home as they had grandparents who had been affected by the disease.

The two girls eventually came up with a plan for a senior project that would not only help the Alzheimer's unit, but would also provide a haunted house activity in the community. They named their project the "Jail of Terror" and set it up at the former Corning factory on High Street. During the event, the two girls had over 30 students from the school district volunteer their time.

"We didn't come up with the idea until the beginning of October so we had to work on it really fast to get it ready," Jonnie said. She said Bob Cummins, owner of the building, provided the building to the girls free of charge as the event was for a charitable cause.

Erin said she and Jonnie are expected to provide a complete report, a video tour and presentation on everything involved with the project. In addition, they were expected to put in a minimum of 40 documented hours.

"It's been a lot of work," Jonnie said while putting make-up on Krissy Kessel, one of the students who helped "haunt" the building. They also sold snacks during the event to raise additional funds.

Jonnie's mother, Terrie, said she knew the project was special to her daughter because the Alzheimer's Unit had helped her grandmother.

"Halloween is also Jonnie's favorite time of year" so the event was extra special, Mrs. Mascho said. The girls reported that they raised \$1,610 that was given to the Alzheimer's unit a couple of weeks after the event.



Jonnie Mascho (at left) provides frightening make-up to Krissy Kessel under the watchful eye of Olivia Chapman prior to the opening of a benefit haunted house.

Hitting the Kiwanis Kapers' stage since kindergarten has kept two very talented seniors in the community limelight

It didn't matter that Marissa Buchheit had the flu and her friend, Mary Bean, was recovering from corrective leg surgery, as they were both determined to be in this year's Kiwanis Kapers show no matter what.

The two Bradford high seniors were adamant about being in the Kiwanis Kapers production because both had appeared in the shows since kindergarten.

During a rehearsal for this year's show, the girls talked about what they have gained from their longtime association with annual event which raises funds for the Kiwanis Club of Bradford. The club then gives the proceeds to local charities and organizations that benefit children.

Marissa sang, danced and was the choreographer for several numbers in the show. She also created the choreography for the "Cellblock Tango" performance for her senior project. Marissa said she not only struck up a friendship with Mary during the shows but also with other young performers.

"Each year that I've done this, I've become more involved," Marissa said. She said she would recommend Kiwanis Kapers to other students.

"There are not a lot of opportunities to do this in our area. I think this is a good one because you can be on stage

multiple times," she said. Marissa said her younger sister, Jessica, is following in her footsteps and was in this year's production.

Marissa's mother, Karen Buchheit, said it was inspiring to see the girls continue on with the show all these years as both are involved with many school activities.

Mary said she has enjoyed being in the productions as they allowed her to showcase various talents that include a beautiful singing voice. She said she also liked being in the productions because her sister, Hannah, and brother, Ben, were in the show.

"It's been kind of neat to be with them and give them an example of how to go out and do stuff," Mary said. "It's so nice just to be able to be here and participate because I've done it for so long."

Mary's mother, Lisa Gifford, said her daughter started out her career with Kiwanis Kapers with a leg cast from surgery, and she ended it that way this year.

"They were dragging her off the stage when the curtains were down because she had a spinal cast on when she was 5," Ms. Gifford said.

"And now this is the second time I've had a cast on" during a show, added Mary.



Mary Bean (at left) and Marissa Buchheit are shown during a dress rehearsal for this year's Kiwanis Kapers production.

Career Fair "lights" up students' lives with a variety of colleges choices



Doug McNamara (left), an electronics student at Alfred State University, shows high school students the workings of an incandescent light bulb.

and Oswayo Valley high schools, as well as Bridgeport Academy, attended the event.

At the Alfred State University table, freshman Doug McNamara of the electronics program was showing students the difference between an incandescent light bulb and a new, compact florescent light bulb which used less power. Mr. McNamara told the students that he planned to obtain his associates degree within two years and be ready for the work force after that.

Junior student Megan Barnes, who is in the Peer Helpers program at Bradford High, was found working at one of the tables. She said she also took advantage of the fair and looked at the information provided by a few of the schools.

"It gives you a little bit of insight on what the colleges are offering," Megan said.

Erickson scholarship designed to help promising students

High school students who show promise in their academics, but may need financial help in attending college, are encouraged to apply for the Leroy G. Erickson Memorial Scholarship.

Mr. Erickson had lived in Bradford a number of years ago and had worked at a local bank. He had been described as one who was concerned about others in need. After Mr. Erickson died in 1963, a portion of his estate was set up for the scholarship.

Recipients can receive amounts in the range of \$500 to several thousand dollars with funds awarded annually over four years of college or longer depending on the field of study.

Students interested in applying to the program must provide a personal data form, a personal essay form, a personal recommendation form, a financial assessment form, and an extra curricular activities and work experience form. Applicants also must provide an official school transcript of grades and provide a copy of their parents' latest IRS 1040 Form. Copies of the application packets can be picked up at the school guidance counselors' offices.

All materials must be postmarked by May 1, 2010 and mailed to:

LeRoy G. Erickson Memorial Scholarship
Scholarship Management Services
Cheryl Reichel,
One Scholarship Way,
Saint Peter, MN 56082.

Awards will be announced by mid-June.

Fretz Middle School

Getting healthy and fit at Fretz is as easy as jumping on a treadmill

A new program at Floyd C. Fretz Middle School is now helping students tone up, get into shape and feel healthy all year long.

The fitness lab and nutrition education program were both funded through a \$10,000 Highmark Healthy 5 School Challenge Grant that was awarded to the school last spring, said Judy Abbey, health education teacher at Fretz.

"This is a new curriculum we put up for health and wellness ... this is a holistic approach to wellness," Ms. Abbey said. "We're moving away from the stereotypical health class where you sit and talk and talk."

She said the program, which will be provided to every child in the building, includes a nutrition class followed by a cooking lab one day of the week. There is also an individualized wellness program in the fitness lab the next day of the week. The third class period has the students back in class working on wellness and nutrition, followed by another fitness lab session the fourth class of the week. The fitness lab, which is supervised at all times, also is open to students for one hour after school each day to work on their individualized wellness programs. The lab is also open to staff before and after school.

"They are so self-motivated, it's surprising," Ms. Abbey said of the students in the fitness lab. "I haven't seen any kid who hasn't been motivated to do something."

Student teacher Steph Cottillion said she was very impressed by the new program.

"I think it's great and the kids seem to like it," Ms. Cottillion said. "I would love to have something like this once I become a teacher."

A student in the class, Ann Confer, said she really enjoyed the class and exercising on the various equipment in the room.

"I like the teacher and that we actually get to work out," Ann said.



Elena Esch and Lucas Rice (on treadmills) get in a good workout in the new fitness lab at Floyd C. Fretz Middle School.

Enrichment students conduct Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day services by the Enrichment Class students

This year's Eighth Grade Enrichment Classes have been learning about veterans and their contributions to our country.

On Dec. 7, 2009, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, this group of students honored veterans at a celebration which was completely student-directed.

Students invited veterans from the Bradford Area School District to attend and share their thoughts on sacrifices veterans experience when serving in the armed forces. Additionally, there was a "Missing Man" formation on display during the ceremony. The display table with the "Missing Man" and POW MIA contained descriptions of the items on view. The show choir group at Fretz also gave a performance during the event.

Also on display was an American flag created from the photos of the eighth-grade students. In addition, there was a slide show that was made by the eighth-grade students. The slide show, which played the song "Proud to be an American," had pictures of many things relating to the military and our celebration. Veterans were recognized as well. We did this to honor our military heroes!



New science program at School Street helps students “weigh in” on their knowledge

Students at School Street Elementary could be seen leaning over tables in science class this semester to make sure they were reading their scales accurately.



Fifth-graders in the “Science: It’s Elementary” program are participating in the new curriculum offered at the school this year through a grant from the state. Teacher Heather Colwell said about half the fifth-grade teachers were trained last year to teach a module for the mixtures and solutions program. She said all fifth-grade teachers were trained this fall to teach the second module on variables.

Mrs. Colwell said the program teaches the students the fundamentals of chemistry. During one of Mrs. Colwell’s classes, students made a salt water solution and later attempted to separate the salt from the water.

“They tried using their screens (to filter out the salt) and that didn’t work, and they tried using a coffee filter and that didn’t work,” Mrs. Colwell said. “Today, they’re going to learn that the only way you can separate a salt water solution is through evaporation.”

Students in the class included Hannah Ervin who said she liked “learning stuff in science.”

Another student, Jaden Renko, said it was “really fun to experiment with salt water.”

Fifth-grade teacher Heather Colwell (from left) shows students Victoria Zamberlan, Emily Reams, and Ashley Root how to weigh mixtures and solutions as part of the science curriculum.

Accelerated Reading program makes a comeback at School Street

In its early years at School Street Elementary, the Accelerated Reading program was the type of competition that students not only enjoyed but also reaped a number of benefits that included a love for reading.

The program was reintroduced on the school-wide level this year thanks to the efforts of fourth-grade teacher Jill Cottillion. She said the early organizers of the program were former librarians Jim and Libby Sprague

who introduced Accelerated Reading (AR) to the students close to 10 years ago. The Spragues provided interesting incentives for the children if they read a certain amount of books. Mr. Sprague shaved his head in front of the students on one occasion, and kissed a pig another time. After the couple left the school district for other opportunities, the program was not continued throughout the school. Ms. Cottillion did opt to continue on with the program in her fourth-grade classes.

“I’ve been doing this all along, and I’ve had classroom incentives every year,” Ms. Cottillion said. The program requires children to read books on their reading level and then answer questions on a computer program to show they understand the material.

Assistant principal Erin Waugaman said the school decided to run the program again because of the reading success Ms. Cottillion has had with her students in the past few years.

“Everyone kept commenting on how her kids loved to read,” Ms. Waugaman said of Ms. Cottillion. “When we asked her what she was doing, she



Students Stevie Eschrich, Todd Smith and Hunter Sostakowski plow into their books as participants of the revived Accelerated Reading program at the school.

School Street and GGB students raise funds for several charitable organizations

Students at School Street Elementary were busy helping others this semester when they held fund-raisers for a number of charitable organizations.

Third-graders McKenna Shipman and Taylor Lucco held a drive to collect donations, money and supplies at the school as well as in their neighborhoods for the McKean County SPCA.

Students throughout the school also collected \$2,054 through a Read-A-Thon program and a pie-eating contest. Proceeds from the collection were provided to the United Way of the Bradford Area, CARE for Children and McKean County Special Olympics.

At George G. Blaisdell Elementary, second-grade teacher Kristin Franz said her students also held the third-annual Alex’s Lemonade Stand benefit to aid pediatric cancer research and services.

mentioned AR, so this year we decided to go school-wide.”

Ms. Cottillion said she was pleased that the program has been picked up by the entire school again as she knows it will benefit all students.

“We have individual incentives (prizes) for the whole school, there are classroom incentives and grade-level incentives,” she said. “The point of it is to make them lifelong readers.”

Eddie the Eagle teaches students safety in all areas of their lives

Students at George G. Blaisdell Elementary got to dance with a big bird named Eddie the Eagle while learning about gun safety during a program presented this semester through the McKean County Sheriff's Office.

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program was presented to first- and second-graders to teach them about age-appropriate gun safety, said Melissa Olearchick, school counselor.

"First- and second-graders at G.G.B. will learn if they find a gun in an unsupervised situation, they should stop, don't touch, leave the area, and tell an adult," Ms. Olearchick said.

Sheriff Mason said the event was the first time his department had presented the program at a

school in the county. He said Ms. Olearchick invited his department to come to the school, and Deputy Steve Smith organized the session through the National Rifle Association.

"We had been doing it for the Kinzua Outdoor and Travel Show and at the McKean County Fair," Sheriff Mason said. "This is sponsored by the National Rifle Association for gun safety."

The program included a talk on safety and a video, as well as a question and answer session on issues that included bicycle and fire safety. Some of the students got to dance with Eddie at the end of the program and all of them received a certificate from him at the end of the session.



Students received certificates after participating in the Eddie Eagle GunSafe program presented through the McKean County Sheriff's Office. Shown are Sheriff Brad Mason and Deputy David Engman.

Beautiful designs spring to life at GGB

A walk up the main ramp at George G. Blaisdell Elementary is now like a wonderful journey through a Waterford book thanks to the hard work, talent and creativity of several teachers and Floyd C. Fretz Middle School students.

The artwork is called the Waterford Mural and was an idea that came about during a conference at the Waterford Institute attended by Superintendent Sandra Romanowski and Principal David Jones. The administrators thought that painting the walls along the ramp with main characters from the Waterford Early Learning Program would add a wonderful dimension to the school.

After they received permission from the institute to reproduce the artwork, Mrs. Romanowski hired Janelle Turk, middle school art instructor, to design the mural. When Ms. Turk had completed the design, she and Rainey Coles, GGB art instructor, began the process of painting the mural last summer. They were assisted by Fretz students



Fretz students Tayln Piganelli (from left), Naomi Kriner and Carter Nickel stand in front of the Waterford Mural that they, other students and teachers painted last summer.

Jennifer Eddy, Naomi Kriner, Carter Nickel, Chandler Nickel, Conner Nickel, Talyn Piganelli and Jennifer Zebley. The acrylic artwork took three months to complete, and was covered with a gloss coat for protection.

Mrs. Romanowski said she and Mr. Jones were very pleased with the completed project.

"We are so proud of our staff and students who helped out," Mrs. Romanowski said. "It totally transformed the place." She said the project is part of a three-year plan with more hall artwork planned for the main lobby area as well as other walls in the school.



Maddie Emerson (from left), Breanna Bernhardt and Courtney Prentiss visit during the annual "50th Day of Kindergarten" celebration at George G. Blaisdell Elementary. The event was for all kindergarten classes and included a 50's-style sock hop, drag racing and root beer floats. Children were dressed in rolled up jeans, T-shirts and poodle dog skirts and also participated in math and reading activities centered around 50.

Local broadcaster continues to inspire high school athletes and community

Frank Williams is so dedicated to his broadcasting of the Bradford Area High School sporting events that he is delaying hip surgery until after the basketball season to make sure he doesn't short-change the athletes.

It is this type of devotion to the student athletes and his profession that helped earn Mr. Williams an award earlier this year from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters as the "Voice of the Owls." Mr. Williams' son, Stephan, also was honored by the association for his "Color Commentary" segments.

"It was a great honor since we were up against 50 other stations," Mr. Williams said.

He said he has provided coverage for the Owls' football team for the past 22 years and didn't expect the honor. Mr. Williams is well-known for his lively coverage of games. His shouts of enthusiasm when touchdowns or baskets are made by the home teams have become his trademark.



Sports broadcaster Frank Williams, also known as the "Voice of the Owls," is shown at the WESB/WBRR radio studio in Bradford.

"My voice is hoarse after a game and I usually don't feel like talking the next day," Mr. Williams admitted. He said game days can start at 5 a.m. when he begins working at the studio, and not end until midnight when he returns home from broadcasting in another community.

"A lot of guys don't want to go on the road anymore, so they just don't broadcast the games," Mr. Williams said of announcers in other communities. "We do all the games, home and away."

His devotion has not gone unnoticed in the school district or its Athletic Department.

"Frank's dedication to Owls' sports over the years is next to none," said Tim Walter, director of athletics. "There is not another sports information director or sports broadcaster for high school sports in a 100-mile

radius who has the passion and love for their high school sports teams the way Frank does."

"Frank Williams is an asset to high school sports, we are proud to call him "The Voice of the Owls."

—Tim Walter, Director of Athletics

New High School concession stand makes life easier for volunteer workers and fans

For the past 20 years, Nancy Fuhrman and other volunteer parents have had to cart food and drinks up and down the steps at Bradford Area High School whenever a concession table was set up for inside sport competitions.

That all changed this fall with the completion of the new concession stand at the high school. The facility is located next to the gymnasium in what used to be a storage room for the gymnasium sound system and electrical items. Mrs. Fuhrman, who is a member of the Boys' Basketball Booster Club, said the new concession area was made possible thanks to Superintendent Sandra Romanowski, human resources director Sam Johnson, athletic director Tim Walter and maintenance supervisor Gene Woodmansee. The Kiwanis Club of Bradford also contributed to the endeavor with a \$400 donation that was used for the purchase of a refrigerator and kitchen items. In addition, the Pepsi company donated a cooler for the room.

"This makes it a lot easier," Mrs. Fuhrman said of the new concession stand. "For the past 20 years, we've been carrying stuff up and down the stairs so this is a dream come true."



Volunteers Dawn Babcock (center) and Jenette Busch (at right) waited on customers this fall at the new concession stand located next to the gymnasium at the High School.

She said work on the stand was done last summer and early fall by Mr. Woodmansee and his staff. Their work included knocking out a portion of the hallway wall, laying a new tile floor and painting the walls.

Mrs. Fuhrman said the concession stand will provide service for visitors who attend girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, and wrestling competitions.

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Longtime cross country coach Tom Tessena honored

Longtime cross country and track coach Tom Tessena was honored this fall when the cross country course at George G. Blaisdell Elementary was re-named in his honor.

The Tom Tessena Cross Country Course also has a bronze plaque on a stone and steel monument, which represents the strength and longevity of his service, said officials with the school district and the Cross Country/Track Booster Club. People who spoke at the ceremony included school board president Tim Bean, former coach and human resources director Sam Johnson Jr., athletic director Tim Walter, WESB radio sports broadcaster Frank Williams, and Booster Club president Denise Bean.

Officials said Mr. Tessena's career with the district spanned 40 years with the accomplishments of his teams and individual athletes "overwhelmingly impressive."

Going back to 1999, Coach Tessena's cross country and track squads have amassed a dual meet record of 197 wins against four losses, including a current combined unbeaten dual meet string of 138 victories dating back to 2002.

Equally impressive has been the positive impact Coach Tessena has had on hundreds of student athletes that he has mentored, officials said.

Coach Tessena's career includes the following highlights.

Track and Field: Numerous State Meet place winners dating back to 1970; two top Four State Team places; win-loss record of 342 wins and 67 losses; and currently on a 76 dual meet winning streak dating back to 2000.

Cross Country: Win-loss record of 457 wins and 67 losses.

Coach Tom Tessena is shown in front of a monument and cross country course at George G. Blaisdell Elementary that were named in his honor this fall.



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