

PHOENIX RISING

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Officer Sulzer happy to be at Phoenix

By Thom Aiello
Phoenix Rising co-advisor

Officer Michael Sulzer's fifth year as a full-time member of the Delavan Police Department offered a major change of pace as he took the position of working at Phoenix Middle School following the winter break in January.

"So far, I like it. I've met some good kids," he said in an interview with the Phoenix Rising Newspaper Club staff shortly after accepting his new duties. "I've had no negative experiences since I've been here."

Sulzer, who worked part-time for a year with the police department before becoming full-time, said he enjoys the Phoenix assignment "because I get to interact with all you great kids."

He added, "It's a change of pace from (working) night shifts."

Typically, the officer assigned to Phoenix also has duties working patrol on some nights also. The shift is usually from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and a perk is having three-day weekends.

Sulzer feels it is a good thing to start knowing people at an early age.

"(If we) meet now, we're friends," he told the staff members. "As (you become) adults, then it is different."

The 40-year-old Sulzer, an Illinois native who who lives in Lake Geneva, also worked a summer as a boat patrol officer for the Town of Delavan. He also has worked in the construction trades, including work with concrete, plumbing, welding and carpentry.

"I first decided (to be a policeman) because I was tired of being laid off in the trades," said Sulzer. "My dad and grandfather were police officers."

He had good reason to take the Phoenix position when the previous Phoenix officer this school year decided to accept a position with a different police department.



Officer (continued)

“Because I’ve always helped with kids - coaching, mentoring.” he explained when asked why he took the school position. He said the mentoring was at the Wisconsin Challenge Academy in Fort McCoy. He coached youth sports, like hockey, in Joliet, Ill. Sulzer has also done work with children at the Williams Bay Recreation Center and with Lake Geneva youth football. As a kid, Sulzer played pick-up hockey in indoor rinks.

“I meet all the kids and interact with them,” he said. “I get to mentor more than police (at Phoenix)...There’s been nothing outstanding (problem-wise) as it relates to middle school, a few behavioral issues. (It is) more a chance to mentor kids.”

He said in his free time he likes to run - “a lot.” That includes 5-kilometer, 8K and 10K runs.

“I run every day, usually a minimum of three miles,” said Sulzer. He wakes up at 4 a.m., works out and then gets ready for work, he added.

Besides fishing and “a lot of hunting,” he said he likes riding his motorcycle and taking it for vacations, and his girlfriend has her own bike. Among his pets are three dogs.

Sulzer has two children (18-year-old JT and 15-year-old Hannah, a freshman at Badger High School in Lake Geneva) and two step-children (18-year-old Hunter and 17-year-old Emerald).



Formal, graduation important events

By Haley Fischer

Phoenix Rising co-editor

Graduation...Formal. How do you describe those two words?

Everyone sees graduation as the end of their high school years. It's where teenagers think they're all grown up.

People see a formal as type of party with a bunch of adults sitting around talking. Yet at Phoenix Middle School, we have an eighth-grade graduation to show off all of our accomplishments and to present awards to our fellow students. This is to reward all the hard work it took to reach their goals and achievements throughout the 2016-2017 school year.

Continued, next page

Formal, graduation (continued)

The formal is one last dance of the school year for only the eighth graders. The formal is the one dance many girls look forward to. They get to dress up in dresses and not be judged by doing so. Most guys don't get as excited for the formal because they aren't as interested in dressing up and dancing. Even though guys don't like going as much as girls, I know they all end up having fun in the end. The eighth-grade graduation and formal represents our end-of-the-year benchmark. We've met our goals and it's time to move on to high school and make new ones.



Opinion:

Time in middle school flies by

**By Trinity Dement
Phoenix Rising staff**

Have you ever noticed how fast your time in middle school goes? I have been in middle school at Phoenix for three years now. I always looked forward to coming through those doors and meeting my new teachers, plus seeing my friends, but none of those other years was quite like this one.

When I was in sixth grade, I looked up to the seventh and eighth graders. I wanted to be just like them. When I was in seventh grade I fell in love with science and knew what I wanted to be...a zoologist.

Then eighth grade came along. I have to say, something about eighth grade makes you want to stay. It may be because it's your last year as a middle school student or because eighth grade is special. For me, it's both. I have had my ups and downs and in-betweens, but I am glad to be a part of this eighth-grade family.

The teachers here at Phoenix Middle School are amazing and have many stories to share with everyone. They will make you laugh as if there's no tomorrow and you will have so much fun. You feel like part of a family here.

It's a wild ride with projects, tests, laughter, and a whole lot more. I have to say "thank you" to my friends and teachers for standing by me. I couldn't be happier without you.

Also, watch out everyone younger, your middle school time is going to fly by.



Transitioning to High School: My Perspective

By Morgan Lock
Phoenix Rising staff

Change. Going to middle school, going to high school, for me, it's all about change. Change can be good, but change can also be bad. I am really excited for this change in my life, which is going to high school.

However, I am very nervous for what is going to change. Even though I've done some pretty embarrassing, stupid, or silly things in middle school, I wouldn't change a thing. It's our flaws that make us human, and our mistakes that help us grow.

In sixth grade, I was so nervous, and I thought I'd never get my locker open, or find my way around the huge school. I was this girl who was so dependent on everybody else around me, and it was hard to be independent. I'm really working on that now. Eventually, I got the hang of it, and now, I've been going to this school for three years. It's so hard to believe.

Some of the friends that I thought would be my friends forever don't talk with me anymore, and some people that I thought I'd never, ever be friends with, are some of my best friends. Although our looks change, our personalities change the most - how we view the world, and our values. I think the scariest thing about moving on from the middle school is drifting apart. It happened to a lot of us in middle school, what's to stop it from happening in high school?

High school is where you get more freedom, and that excites some people, but it can really scare others. For me, I'm in between. I am very excited for new opportunities in the future, and I can't wait to start this new path. I just don't want to rush myself right now, you know?

In elementary school, it's mostly a given that you're going to middle school with all of your friends, but in middle school to high school, not as much. People move around to other schools because of lacking school programs, sports, or things like that. It's hardest, then, because you have to get used to not seeing some of your most favorite people in the world every day. Although, you can make new friends and discover so many more things in high school. I am looking forward to high school and starting this new chapter in my life, even though I know there will be plenty of bumpy roads on my journey.



Looking for help

Elizabeth Sanchez looks to pass at a seventh-grade girls basketball game.



Calling talented students for show

By Kaia Warner

Phoenix Rising Staff

Calling all Phoenix students!

If you have a talent you'd like to share with the school, you should consider auditioning for the end-of-the-year talent show. The Phoenix Middle School talent show is an annual tradition, a competition that happens on the last day of school. It's just a fun little activity for kids to participate in.

Auditions will take place on May 25 after school. Auditions need to be three minutes or less. Everything must be school appropriate.

Sign up on the sheet on Ms. Engerson's door. Auditions will be in the choir room starting at 3 p.m. The top 10 acts are selected from the auditions to compete on the last day of school, June 8, for first, second, and third places. Last year, there was a gymnastics routine, students playing instruments, singers and even a beat boxer! Everyone loves the broad variety of talents; it is always encouraged to think outside of the box. Good luck!



Lock, Fischer named editors

New shirts given to Rising contributors

Eighth-grade students Morgan Lock and Haley Fischer were selected as co-editors of the Phoenix Rising newspaper at Phoenix Middle School earlier in the school year. Mrs. Rachel Eglite and Mr. Thom Aiello, co-advisors of the student newspaper, made the announcement at a club meeting.

"Both Morgan and Haley have been active participants on the newspaper staff each of the three years they have attended Phoenix," said Mr. Aiello. "They both are very hard-working and positive students and club members who contribute greatly to our editions."

Aiello added that Lock and Fischer are very good leaders for a talented group of younger writers on the staff to follow.

Lock and Fischer now share the editor title that belonged to Jacob Prado last school year. Prado is now a freshman at Delavan-Darien High School.

The newspaper club met every other Thursday right after school for approximately an hour in Mrs. Eglite's eighth-grade classroom. Students wrote about various topics, took photographs or contributed artwork that interested them. The student newspaper might move to the high school next year, so stay tuned for more details on how to get involved. Club members who actively contributed recently received Phoenix Rising T-shirts. On the back of the shirts is the slogan, "The right to write."

EDITORS



Opinion: Technology in schools has good and bad aspects

By Anna Lock

Phoenix Rising staff

Have you ever wondered what school would be like without technology? Would it be worse or better?

Well, I do know one thing for sure, that is that technology has influenced the way many schools see education. Everything from state-wide tests on the computers, to fun activities and school work on technical devices, schools are big into technology.

For example, lots of schools in the area have Chromebooks in the class to share, or each student has an individual Chromebook. I think technology involved in schools has both a positive and negative side.

I agree it is easier to work together on technology tools. For example, your whole class could be collaborating on the same Google document. It is also convenient to have to carry less supplies, since most of the students' work is provided on their Chromebooks.

However, there is also a downside to using technology in schools, and that is the fact students are messing around and being inappropriate with school devices, so teachers are worried to do Chromebook activities. Teachers can also not monitor every student when they are on Chromebooks to know if they are using the Chromebooks properly. Another downside, or negative effect, on using technology in schools is the fact that some students focus better when they have an actual physical paper copy of the test or homework. It can also reduce eye strain by not looking at a screen for a whole length of a state test. Another issue with using Chromebooks in school is that some students might not have internet at their house to do homework assigned on their Chromebooks.

In conclusion, I think Chromebooks are a great learning tool provided in schools, but also cause distractions and misuse.

Facing the hurdles of a track season

By Trinity Dement
Phoenix Rising staff



The Phoenix Middle School track and field season got off and running, so we interviewed a few people about it. Our first interview was with Mr. Ben Herland, who is one of the three coaches for track.

On April 3rd, a lot of 7th and 8th graders joined track. This is what Mr. Herland said about the season.

What events are in track?

Herland: sprint 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 yards, 800 to 1600 distance, high jumps, long jumps, shot put, discus, hurdles.

How do you feel about this track season?

Herland: "Excited about how many people are doing track and wanting to improve themselves."

What is your focus for coaching track?

Herland: "(The) challenge is getting students to understand track and field is more than just running. It's an opportunity to compete."

We also talked to an 8th grader about her experience in track and what her goals are for this year.

Anna Sorg is Erin Sorg's little sister. Erin Sorg is a top runner at Delavan-Darien High School. Her record is the 1600 meter and is 6-13-12. Anna says she will try to defeat her older sister's Phoenix records. We asked her a few questions about this year's track team.

What do you do in track?

Sorg: Long jump, 800 meters and 1600 meter.

What are your goals this year?

Sorg: To get better.

What do you enjoy about track?

Sorg: Running.

What's the hardest part about track?

Sorg: "Saving my energy."

Do you think there's a lot of pressure on you this year?

Sorg: "No, but I will try to beat my sister's record."

We also asked Sorg about the coaches. She said they are very good at coaching track.

Jelly Belly Factory is jolly good pleasure

By Anna Lock

Phoenix Rising Staff

The Jelly Belly Factory is a chain factory that has made over 50 flavors of jelly beans. The factory has a large variety of things to do, including: the Jelly Belly tours, buying Jelly Belly souvenirs, trying the Bean Boozled Challenge and several more enjoyable activities.

The Bean Boozled Challenge is a game in which players have to try one sweet-flavored jelly bean and one gross-flavored jelly bean, then they have to guess what the flavors are. Some flavors involved in the game are: dead fish/strawberry banana smoothie, spoiled milk/coconut, stinky socks/Tutti-Fruitti and several more gross and sweet combinations. The challenge has been a huge hit for teens and kids. The challenge is also a popular trend on Youtube and a fun activity to do with friends.

One thing recommended to learn about the history of the factory is the Jelly Belly tour. The tour explains how the jelly beans are made, shows inventions made with jelly beans, the history behind the factory, and about the flavors of the jelly beans. Also, when you go to the Jelly Belly Factory and do the tour, you get free jelly bean samples! The factory itself also has a huge display of many delicious jelly beans flavors to try.

The factory is at 10100 Jelly Belly Lane in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. Here is the link to the Jelly Belly Web site: <https://www.jellybelly.com/>.





Review: To tell you the truth, this takes a lot of Nerve

By Morgan Lock

Phoenix Rising co-editor

Do you like playing truth or dare? Well, so do the players in the game “Nerve,” *although their version is a little different. Nerve is a book and a movie. In this book and movie, players compete in a game called Nerve.*

Nerve is like truth or dare, but without the truth. In the book, players of the game compete in crazy dares and earn super sweet prizes. It’s the same with the movie, but instead, players earn money. There are also the watchers who pay \$20 to watch their favorite players for 24 hours.

It is a thriller, suspense, and even considered part of the crime genre. I know some of the eighth graders enjoyed seeing the movie in Mrs. Eglite’s last-hour class during movie time in December. However, I definitely recommend reading the book. What most people don’t know is that the book came first. I am currently reading the book, and as soon as I started reading, I was hooked.

The dares in the book are different than the ones in the movie, and that can cause suspense for the readers since they don’t know what is coming next. In fact, most of the book dares are even more intense than the movie dares, and a lot of the readers would enjoy not knowing what’s coming next.

The main character is Vee, a girl that isn’t very daring. Her best friend, on the other hand, is Sydney, who is one of the biggest daredevils at their school. Sydney is constantly pressuring Vee to be more daring. Sydney convinces Vee to join Nerve as a watcher, or so Sydney thinks. Vee joins in as a player, causing her friends to be shocked. Vee is partnered with Ian, a gorgeous stranger that she meets in a coffee shop. Although Tommy, Vee’s other friend, is unsure of what to think about Ian. Ian is very desired by movie fans because he is played by heart-throb Dave Franco.

Does Ian know something about the game that others don’t? Is he just there to mess with Vee’s emotions, or will some romance come out of it? Tommy also warned Vee that the dares can get very dangerous, but she doesn’t listen. Does Tommy have all of the answers, or is he just jealous? Watch the movie or, better yet, read the book to find out.



New movies can keep everyone busy

By Freddy Zomer

Phoenix Rising staff

There are many new movies to check out in 2017-2018. The current list includes: Star Wars the Last Jedi, Kong: Skull Island, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2, Fate of the Furious and many more.

For those people that like action and adventure, there are Fate of the Furious, Logan, Power Rangers, Star Wars the Last Jedi, The Return of Xander Cage, Spider Man Homecoming, Dunkirk, and many more.

But if you're one of those people that like to sit on the couch and laugh your heart out, then Dispicable Me 3, Cars 3, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2, Smurf's, and others would be good choices.

Duna nana nana nana Duna nana nana nana...BATMAN! For those of you who like Legos or just enjoy a good laugh, like me, I would suggest going to The Lego Batman Movie or The Lego Ninjago Movie. Both of these are so funny, and I think the creators would agree.

All in all, there are many choices for you to choose from out there this summer and next year. Enjoy!



Review: 'Beauty And The Beast' has new twists, great music

By Anna Lock

Phoenix Rising staff

The latest edition on a classic Disney movie "Beauty and the Beast" has hit the stage!

Premiered in March, the movie was awarded with Golden Globe awards for Best Motion Picture/Musical, Best Original Song, and Best Original Score. The film starred Emma Watson as Belle, Dan Stevens as the Beast, Luke Evans as Gaston, and Ewen McGregor as Lumiere. Mrs. Potts is played by Emma Thompson. Lastly, Cogsworth is played by Ian McKellen.

One thing I found very interesting about the film was the twist on the original movie. I liked how they made the characters slightly different, but kept the original ideas from the Disney film. The film was very lively and had fantastic music, which won Academy Awards (listed above).

Belle (Watson) is a young girl who tries to find her lost father (Maurice), played by Kevin Kline, and ends up in an enchanted castle. Belle ends up falling in love with a very kind, loving beast. The beast's castle is enchanted and all of the servants in the castle are turned into furniture. If the beast does not find someone who truly loves him before the last petal of his enchanted rose wilts, he will be a beast forever, and the servants will remain furniture.

If you want to find out if the beast will ever find true love before the last petal wilts, and how the movie compares to the original Disney movie, see the movie now!

