



## PRIDE Awards Ceremony

Gobles Public Schools recognized several influential teachers during the Program to Recognize, Inspire and Develop Excellence (PRIDE) awards ceremony on Friday, June 3.

For the last 14 years, Gobles has marked the last day of school with the PRIDE awards ceremony; a program that recognizes teachers for their outstanding accomplishments, as well as their contributions to students, the school and local community.

"Because of each of you, we have a great school district at the heart of our community," said Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Rehlander.

The Gobles Board of Education's Board President, Terry Doyle, also spoke to the teachers about their impressive contributions to the Gobles Public School system.

"After 12 years of being on the school board, I can't say that we've ever had a better year of education," said Doyle. "I really appreciate all that you've done and all that you continue to do."

Emily Redmond and Julia Baker were honored as the recipients of the Education Hero Awards, a Van Buren County distinction that recognizes local educators and community members.

"I'm proud to say that Emily has provided leadership with the band at Gobles that has been noticed throughout the state," praised Rehlander.

The superintendent described Julia Baker as a "learning expert," going on to say that she is "Very valuable to Gobles Public Schools."

Erin Tregloan and Ellie Lower presented Michelle Guritz with the Elementary School Teacher of the Year award.

In a presentation that focused on Guritz's love for being at the pool, the presenters explained why she was the clear choice for this honor.

"Unlike these flip-flops, Michelle is extremely professional," boasted the co-presenters. "This year alone, 78% of her class met the ELA benchmarking goals, which was the highest individual classroom percentage at Gobles Elementary."

In the words of one of her students, "My teacher helps me every day because she's nice, and sweet, and kind, and does new things."

Loriann Harbaugh and Emily Redmond recognized Shaina Tubergan as the recipient of the Middle/High School Teacher of the Year award.

Harbaugh and Redmond began their presentation with a pop quiz in honor of the last



day of school. The final question revealed the 2016 award winner as Tubergan.

During their presentation, Harbaugh and Redmond shared several quotes from Tubergan's peers and students.

"She is the hardest working teacher I have met and does so without letting other people know how hard she is working. She simply works hard for all of the students in our school system," cited a peer.

A student explained, "She is always positive and makes people feel warm, and not dark and cold."

Julie Boes and Veronica Peterson presented Bob Lisowski with the At Large Teacher of the Year award, a third-time recognition for the educator.

Lisowski is known as a teacher who strives to make learning fun in any way that he can. Students often look forward to taking his exciting, yet challenging, classes.

"Mr. Lis class is full of surprises, entertaining lessons, and tons of dead things just waiting to be cut open," gushed a student.

In addition to the commitment to his students, Lisowski is also notorious for being a selfless and unfailing peer.

"Bob gives relentlessly to his community, school district, union and curriculum. He will never turn away someone who needs him, and never stops trying to better himself," said the co-presenters.

Boes and Peterson also acknowledged Lisowski's wife and family with flowers for their constant support and contributions to the community.

The award-winners were surprised to be greeted by their friends and family in honor of the award.

In addition to the many honorees that were recognized during the PRIDE celebration, Lowie van Staveren was also honored for his retirement after 14 1/2 years with Gobles.

"It's been a privilege to represent Gobles," said a proud van Staveren. "I've lived in several different school districts and it doesn't get any better than Gobles."

## Bronze Recognition

Gobles High School has been honored with the U.S. News & World Report Best High School Bronze recognition for the second time in three years.

Students at Gobles High School have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework and exams, with a participation rate of 25 percent.

Additionally, Gobles boasts several cutting-edge programs such as Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM), 1:1 Chromebook Technology, band and two internationally traveling clubs.

Gobles High School is honored by this recognition and will continue to make advancements that will prepare its students for a competitive global marketplace.



## Community Service Day



Gobles Middle/High School participated in its third annual Community Service Day on Friday, May 13.

The sixth through 12th-graders and their teachers, took to projects throughout the community and across the Gobles Public Schools campus in an effort to clean up and beautify the local area.

Students were in high spirits as they participated in activities such as planting flowers, raking leaves, and painting.

"It's nice to give back to Gobles and our school. I also enjoy getting to be outside for a while," explained Alexis Zajda, Gobles High School junior.

Jim Wiseley, Gobles High School history teacher and coach, has participated in every Community Service Day since it began in 2012.

"I think it's great that the students get to give back to the community. This event gives

them the opportunity to build civil service, and allows the them to take ownership of what they're doing," said Wiseley.

"Gobles students take great pride in their school and city. The annual Gobles Community Service Day began when a group of students wanted to help clean up the devastating Gobles fire several years ago. When students were told that they could not help due to codes and safety regulations, they decided to take matters into their own hands and help beautify the community in other ways," said Veronica Peterson, Gobles High School English teacher and event organizer.

The students were excited and eager to participate in the school's community service learning experience.

"I love my Gobles!" exclaimed Gobles eighth-graders Hunter Tenbusschen, Hunter Underwood and Carsen Tackett.

appreciative to be honored by our school and had such a fun time that it became an annual event," said Leah Herman, GPS sixth-grade teacher and co-organizer of the event. "It is a way for us to give back to our community and it honors our elder community members."

Nancy Riggins attended her third soup supper this year. "I've lived in the area for four years and I like to participate. Plus, it helps the young folks when we show interest in what they're doing," explained Riggins.

Many people and local organizations donated time and resources to the worthy event. The generous contributions of Perrigo, Village Market, Gobles Hometown Pharmacy, Gobles Mancino's, Wahmhoff Farms, GPS sixth-grade and high school NHS students, as well as GPS Food Service and staff truly made this important event possible.

"The senior citizens that came were very

## K-12 STEM Showcase



Gobles Public Schools held its first annual K-12 STEM Showcase on Tuesday, May 17.

"STEM education is about teaching students to be problem-solvers, critical thinkers, and innovators. It is about teaching students the skills today that will make them ready for the real-world global marketplace of tomorrow," said Jeff Rehlander, Superintendent of Gobles Public Schools.

The STEM curriculum focuses on educating students in the four most prominent and competitive career fields of the future: science, technology, engineering and math.

"Kindergartners are talking about being engineers today, and that's really thrilling," exclaimed Terry Breen, Principal of Gobles Elementary School.

The student displays were both interactive and visual-based, with a different con-

centration for each school.

The elementary students displayed work that focused on robotics and compound machines, middle school students presented work on VEX robotics and medical investigation, and the high school students showcased work that focused on engineering and the biomedical sciences.

The students are very enthusiastic about the STEM curriculum and were eager to share and explain their projects.

"We're going to put an egg in here and we're going to send it down a ramp, but we don't want it to break. We want to keep it safe," explained the animated Gobles fourth-grader, Hunter Merchant.

## SAC Scholar Athletes



Gobles High School seniors Nick Fenton, Devon Gildea, Courtney Pasek, Sydney Wilcox, Mollee Nason, Ellen Doyle, Kieran Shawhan, and Colton Burke were honored as the Southwestern Athletic Conference Scholar Athletes of 2016.

In order to qualify for this distinction, the

senior athletes must maintain a GPA of 3.25 or higher, and have earned a minimum of four Varsity Letters in at least two different sports.

The banquet was held at the Lawton Community Center and was attended by Tim Hiller, former Western Michigan University quarterback.

## A Year in the Life of a Bear Contest

Mrs. Leah Herman's Gobles sixth-graders won second-place in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) "A Year in the Life of a Bear" video contest.

The winning group consisted of Corbin Baranoski, Preston Zantello, McKenzie Lisowski, Sierra McKenzie, Trinity Stone, Madyson Groth, Morgan Witt, Joshua Pearson, Kendalyn Haskins and Eric Phillips.

The sixth-graders spent the school year learning about many aspects of the Michigan

black bear, including its life cycle, general biology and behavior, as well as how the DNR manages and maintains a healthy black bear population.

Participating classes also get to "follow" a black bear by using data points from a radio-collared Michigan black bear to track the bear through its natural movements.



## Lawson and Henry Sports Signings



Gobles Middle/High School senior, Mason Lawson, a three-time state qualifier in wrestling, recently accepted wrestling and academic scholarships to Davenport University.

Lawson led the team this year with an overall record of 41-7. He broke a school record and became the Tigers leader in all-time takedowns with 309, and also earned Davenport's Silver Scholarship, an academic award.

In addition to wrestling, Lawson plans to play football as a walk-on with Davenport. He played on the 'Tigers' varsity team all four years of high school, as well as recorded 306 career tackles and earned a spot on the Kalamazoo Gazette's Dream Team.

Lawson loves the physicality of both wrestling and football, stating, "I'm looking forward to being able to play at the next level."

Lawson's dad, Jeff, is a 1988 Gobles graduate and a former football player. He encouraged his son to begin playing sports during elementary school. "I'm excited to watch him play," Jeff Lawson said. "I'm proud of how hard he's worked."

In addition to his football coach, Jim Wiseley, and his wrestling coach, Vincent Lindahl, Lawson also thanked his trainer, Devante Bailey, for pushing him.

Bailey, who graduated from Gobles in 2010, is now in the Marine Corps. "He worked with me a lot. I wouldn't be here if it weren't

for him," Lawson said. After college, Lawson hopes to pursue a career in the health field.

Shane Henry signed with Alma College to play football on an academic scholarship on Tuesday, May 3.

"I'm really excited to get out there, go to college and play football for Alma," said the 2014 Kalamazoo Gazette Football Dream Team defensive back, and three-year varsity football player.

Alma's newest Scot cited a school visit that he'd taken with a friend to the college as the moment that he knew Alma was right for him. "This is a place that I could call home," he recalled thinking.

Throughout his high school career, Henry cited Double Days as his favorite football memory. A football summer camp where the players practice hard and sleep in tents, Double Days are difficult but give the teammates a chance to spend time together and build a necessary bond.

Dan and Lori Henry beamed with pride over their son's decision to sign with Alma College. "I feel very excited and very proud," said an emotional Lori, "He's worked hard and we've seen so much growth in him."

Henry plans to pursue a degree in Sports Management at his new school in Alma.

## Ampey Sports Signing



Austin Ampey, Gobles High School senior and varsity basketball player, will soon swap his Tiger's Paw for a Cougar's Paw.

On May 11, the Gobles point guard and forward signed with Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC).

His parents, Shawn and Heather Ampey, along with Gobles basketball coach Marc Kline, and KVCC basketball coach Jim Horn, attended the signing in support of Ampey.

"Like any journey, we're just excited to see where this leads," admitted Ampey's father, Shawn.

Austin first picked up a basketball in third-

grade, explained his mother. "Basketball is his love," said Heather.

"He's always shooting, anytime he can get on a court."

Austin was the second-leading scorer for the Gobles Tigers during the 2015-16 season, and was also named 1st Team All-Conference in the same year.

"He's improved so much," said Coach Kline. "I really think he's just going to get better and better over the next couple of years. He has the potential, the work ethic and the drive," he praised.

Ampey, who will be studying nursing in the fall, has always loved the sport. "Everyone plays differently," he said. "It's kind of like a dance - you all have your own style."

Ampey explained that he's most excited for the next level of competition offered in collegiate basketball.

Austin also plays soccer and runs track for the Tigers. Outside of school, he also participates in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

The Gobles sixth-grade class will be awarded a \$500 gift certificate to purchase classroom supplies.

The education program is open to sixth through eighth grade students throughout Michigan.

The first-place prize was awarded to Mrs. Demott's seventh-grade class at Northern Michigan Christian School in McBain, Mich.

## Senior Citizen Soup Supper



Gobles sixth-grade and high school National Honor Society (NHS) students, along with GPS staff celebrated the senior citizens of the local community with its annual Senior Citizen Soup Supper.

Served by GPS students and staff, the local seniors enjoyed a free meal, received a bag of medicine donated by Perrigo, and even played a few games of bingo.

"It's nice to help other people," said Madison Marsh, NHS student, about the worthiness of the event.

The annual soup supper originally began as a part of a bond issue. However, the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the senior attendees made it clear that the popular event would become a cherished tradition within the Gobles community.

"The senior citizens that came were very

