



# The COMMONS

Published biweekly by and for the Upper School students of Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa, OK

VOLUME IV NO. 12

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

On the other hand,  
 you have different fingers.



Three fans discuss their favorite NBA stars . . . . . 2



How can a whole country go broke? . . . . . 3

The COMMONS is published biweekly during the school year by the Upper School Newspaper class at Riverfield Country Day School, 2433 W. 61st Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132. No issues are published the weeks of Fall Campout, Winter Break and Spring Break.

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## weekend weather

SAT 74

SUN 83

INFORMATION FROM WEATHER.COM, 4/2/10, 10:15 A.M.

## New classes next year



Mr. de Verges is looking forward to working with even more students next fall as the Upper School's arts curriculum expands.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

By Meghan Kelkar  
 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

A change in class offerings for the next school year is coming. Three of Riverfield's extracurricular activities and electives are planning to expand by offering new academic courses.

We all know about the rock bands at our school and how hard they work during their classes. Now this subject will be supplemented by a "Music Theory Fundamentals" class taught by Mr. Knight. Another new course by Mr. Knight will be "History of Music."

Art is another subject that will be expanding with an "Art History" class taught by Mr. de Verges. The Drama curriculum is also expanding with a new "Fundamentals of Theatre" class taught by Mrs. Long.

The new Music History and Art History courses are being offered as history alternatives for seniors and also to any other high school students who might want to pursue Music or Art in college.

Mr. Knight gave a grand summary

which explains both new Music courses. "The Fundamentals class is the first level in a two-year music theory and ear training core class that is designed to mirror the material covered in traditional and non-traditional collegiate music theory classes. Though the student does not have to take both years, the first year's material is a prerequisite for the second course. One of the goals a student may have upon completion of this course and the course that follows it, Music Theory and Aural Skills, is the ability to test out of the first year of collegiate music theory. Another thing this course offers, which in many ways is more important than the first, is the chance to gain knowledge to help develop a deeper understanding and love of many different styles and periods of western tonal and contemporary music."

Regarding his new Music History class, Mr. Knight says, "History of Rock is a course designed to familiarize the student with the history of rock music. Prominent players and groups of each era will

—See "Arts Curriculum," page 4

## OK House passes no-texting bill

By Chris Dickey  
 STAFF WRITER

The Oklahoma House of Representatives recently passed a measure that would ban texting while driving.

This bill passed the House with a vote of 70-28 and states that "a person shall not operate a motor vehicle on a street or highway while using a handheld mobile telephone to write, send, or read a text message while the motor vehicle is in motion." Violators would be required to pay a fine and court costs not to exceed \$1,000.

Rep. Danny Morgan said the

measure would not stop a person from talking or making a normal call with their cell phone. Rep. Paul Roan said the measure would not ban texting by drivers who pull over to the side of the road. An officer could not stop someone for the offense, but a driver could be issued a citation when they are stopped for another offense. (Current law only allows a citation when an accident has already occurred.)

I asked a few people at our Upper School what they thought about texting while driving. Carl Berry responded by saying, "It's bad—m'kay?" Bryce Rossler

said, "I did it once and I lost two limbs...now I can't do it anymore."



Matt Faeth checks for text messages while parked.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Riverfield spring sports

By Ryan Peake  
 STAFF WRITER

Riverfield's sports teams have been really busy the past few weeks with some type of sporting event almost every day.

In early March, the boys and girls had their first tennis matches of the year. They played a strong NOAH squad, with the boys losing 9-1 and the girls losing 7-2. The team played Rogers late last week, and the boys won 3-0. Jon Kelley and Kenny Kite won both their singles and double matches. The girls' team lost 2-3. Ramsey Talladivedula and Tia Rector won singles matches.

On the soccer side, three weeks ago the girls beat Nathan Hale 3-2. Last week, the boys' and girls' teams were supposed to play Cushing on Monday, but the game was postponed because of the weekend's heavy snowstorm. The games were moved to Friday, but got canceled again because Cushing had a scheduling conflict. Tuesday last week the girls had a tough loss to 6A school Owasso. The girls play next against Wright Christian Academy. The boys' next games are not determined as of this writing because two games have yet to be rescheduled.

The Riverfield golf team's first tournament was in Stroud yesterday, April 1. Approximately 16 teams signed up for the tournament ranging from 5A to Class C schools. "For our first tournament, we did good," said golfer Michael Kelley. "We weren't last!" The team is looking forward to its next tournament in Drumright on Wednesday, April 7.

Only 2 weeks away!

## Prom 2010

April 17 — 7-11 p.m.  
 Harwelden Mansion



See Mrs. Knight for tickets...

# 2 Sports

WATCH OUR ATHLETES COMPETE! Tennis at Jenks 3:30 today, 4pm at Edison on Monday...Girls' (5pm) & Boys' (6 & 8pm) Soccer at Broken Arrow on Thursday . . .

## Who will be the NBA's MVP? Our staff picks. . . .

### KEVIN DURANT: The future's so bright...

By Matt Faeth  
STAFF WRITER

Kevin Durant has been deemed by FSN Oklahoma commentators as a "junkyard dog." This description best personifies Kevin's playing style. He rips apart any opposition that gets between him and his goal.

In only three years in the NBA, he has become a contender for MVP. His stats this year are ludicrous. Kevin Durant had an unheard-of 33 game streak with 25 points or

more, a feat that hasn't been accomplished since Allen Iverson did it in 2001. He averages a league high 29.7 PPG, with 7.5 RPG, and 2.8 APG. Looking at his stats throughout his career, no one stat has gone down (with the exception of a three-point percentage by a meager 4%).

Keep in mind, this man would have graduated from college only last year if he hadn't gone pro. This guy is truly a phenom. Other contenders' stats, like LeBron's and Kobe's, have obviously peaked. Kevin

seems like he can only go up from here. His stats are impressive, but his ability to lead a team has been evident, too. During his first year in the NBA, his team went 20-62. His second year, his team went 23-59, and this year the Thunder are going to make their first-ever playoff appearance with a 38-24 record.

The future for "KD" looks very bright. Championships seem inevitable in his future. They will go very well with his 2009-2010 season MVP trophy, too.

### KOBE BRYANT: The one who deserves it

By Carl Berry  
STAFF WRITER

We have all known who will win the NBA MVP award this year, and we have known since the season started. The media's excessive and unwarranted love for LeBron James ensures that he will win, even if he doesn't deserve it.

So who does? The answer may surprise you: Kobe Bryant. This is for one reason:

Kobe is the most clutch player in the league. In the fourth quarter, who do you want calling the shots? LeBron? Kevin Durant? No. Kobe. No Lakers fan ever worries if the team is down in the 4<sup>th</sup>, because we know Kobe can win it for us.

Kobe has made six game winning shots this year. That means if Kobe hadn't been around, the Lakers' record would only be 40-21. LeBron and KD don't take over the 4<sup>th</sup>

and overtime like Kobe does. Throw in the fact that Kobe plays in the much more competitive Western conference (the last seed in the West is six wins better than the last seed in the East), and Kobe is the easy favorite to win MVP.

Of course, his actual chance of winning is extremely low, as is Kevin Durant's. My only solace is that LeBron won't be with the Cavs this time next year.

### LEBRON JAMES: All hail the King

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

Step aside, Dwight Howard, the *real* Superman is here. Enter LeBron James: the second best basketball player in the history of the game (behind only Michael Jordan) and the 2009-2010 NBA MVP -to-be.

A flat out basketball playing machine, King James blends hyper-athleticism and finely-tuned skills to make himself the greatest player in the league.

While Kobe Bryant surrounds himself with other stars (Andrew Bynum, Pau Gasol, Lamar Odom, Coach Phil) and Kevin Durant has a solid overall cast, LeBron holds the hand of one big star (who is currently injured by the way) and an influx of minor characters, yet has still managed to keep his team in first place.

When asked who had the best record for the eastern conference, Carl Berry said, "LeBron, er—The LeBrons," a statement indicative of how powerful the King really is.

LeBron overall beats Durant and Bryant in the three major stat categories, with 30.0 points, 7.2 rebounds, and 8.5 assists per game in comparison to Durant's 29.6 points, 7.6 rebounds, and 2.8 assists per game and Bryant's 27.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, and 4.8 assists per game.

In short, LeBron is the best player on the team with the best record, while Kobe Bryant and Kevin Durant are the best players on teams with good records. All hail the King.



Matt Faeth, Carl Berry, and Bryce Rossler disagree about who should be named the NBA's Most Valuable Player this year.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## The Masters begins

By Ben Rao  
SPORTS EDITOR

The smell of fresh grass, the taste of Georgia peaches, the ping of a driver off the tee... It is The Masters, golf's most prestigious tournament. The winner receives the green jacket, the game's ultimate prize.

The game's best players will make the trip to Augusta, Georgia next week. For the last 12 years, one player has dominated all 18 holes. Tiger Woods, four-time Masters winner, will rejoin the golfing world at this year's tournament, but perhaps being a bit rusty, the field will be open for anyone's victory.

Players like Ian Poulter, winner of this year's Accenture Match Play Championship, is easily one of the favor-

ites. He is fifth in the world rankings and has played well so far this year.

Another player to watch is Camillo Villegas, who finished 13<sup>th</sup> at last year's Masters. The 28 year old has been knocking on the door of a Masters win for some time, and he has the talent to do it.

Rory McElroy and Jim Furyk also could break through.

Despite all of these great contenders, I believe that a familiar figure will win this year's Masters. This is the year for Phil Mickelson to capture his fourth major title. The center of cheating accusations (for using a Ping wedge) this year, Mickelson more than ever is out to prove something. Now is the time for him to take the next step toward reaching Tiger.



The world's best golfers will be teeing up next week for the annual Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Top picks for NBA Rookie of the Year

By Matt Faeth  
STAFF WRITER

Every year a select few rookies emerge on the scene against their older, more experienced competition and show a huge amount of potential.

This year four of these boys have proved by their extraordinary talent and natural composure that they are the future of basketball.

At number four on my list lies James Harden. Harden, from Arizona State University, was the third overall pick in the 2009 NBA draft. In the NBA this year, he has served as a very effective sixth man for the young, emerging Oklahoma City Thunder. He has averaged 9.6 PPG, 3.3 RPG, and 2.0 APG.

Number three on my list is Brandon Jennings. He was drafted tenth overall in the 2009 draft, from a team in Israel. He started off this season with a giant 55 point

game, but every month since his shooting percentage has gone down. Despite this, his season average is still 16.5 PPG, 3.6 RPG, and 6.1 APG (a high among rookies).

Number two is Stephen Curry, a pure shooting phenom out of Davidson. He was taken seventh overall last year by the Golden State Warriors. He has proved his shooting is still just as pure at the next level. He averages 15.3 PPG, 4.2 RPG, and 5.1 APG.

Finally, my number one Rookie of the Year pick is Tyreke Evans, taken fourth overall by the Sacramento Kings, out of Memphis. He has a great ability to penetrate and finish, not only among rookies, but in the entire NBA. He averaged 20.1 PPG (a high among rookies), 4.8 RPG, and 5.3 APG.

The future looks very bright for the NBA, because of this explosion of players that are beyond compelling to watch.

# 3 Features

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Should the driving age be raised? The world's richest man, the worst film ever made, and much more . . .

## Facebook's famous 'Farmville'



SCREEN CAPTURE FROM FACEBOOK.COM / FARMVILLE

By Sam Laney  
NEWS EDITOR

The farming industry is on a steady decline. Droughts, floods, and varying growing conditions make it a very risky business.

But lately there has been a trend to park the tractor and pick up the mouse. Farmville, a Facebook application, is projected to soon become the

most popular app on Facebook. Urbanites "get their hands dirty" without all the grime by spending around twenty minutes a day planting and selling produce as well as milking cows and shearing sheep.

The game has been called a "cultural phenomenon" and provides an "incredibly fun, wholesome and rewarding experience." Unlike most recent games, Farmville has no vio-

lence. In fact the game has an overwhelmingly positive atmosphere because it lacks even natural disasters that could cause crop failure.

While I am not sure how wholesome and rewarding a farm role-playing game can be, it obviously provides a connection that mainstream America desires, whether that is a connection to the agricultural arts, or just a game that doesn't require skill or fast reaction times.

Farmville boasts 13.4 million daily users, the most daily users of any application on Facebook. The second top app is Farm Town with 6 million daily users, and the third is Mafia Wars at 5.8 million.

These games are obviously popular and in terms of technical complexity are not as good as many flash-based games on the web, but they do provide a relaxing environment where you can chat with friends. Don't forget to tend your farms!

## LED tattoos coming?

By Kenzie Zwayer  
STAFF WRITER

Somewhere in an elementary school at recess, a girl's friend asks her what time it is and the girl, having no watch, checks her bare wrist and snarkily replies, "a freckle past a hair." Somewhere else, a man is walking around with the time seemingly written in ink on his wrist. Upon seeing this, some people laugh—until the "watch" changes, increasing by a minute.

This is the magic of LED tattoos: they are impossible to tell apart from normal tattoos, except they are programmable and *move*.

LED tattoos are made by inserting a thin sheet of material under the skin. The sheet can be any size and is made of silk with a number of silicon transistors the size of grains of rice suspended in its weave.

Over time, the silk is absorbed by the body, leaving only the silicon circuits under the skin. The patch conforms to the body's movements and shape, with or without the silk.

The transistors are being engineered to send and receive signals from computers and electronics so their displays can be programmed.

The silk is biocompatible and harmless to the body, and so far the silicon has proved biocompatible as well. There is no irritation to the skin since the electrical components are miniscule, raising the skin above them only by about 250 nanometers. The technology is still in its early stages, but it exists.

LED tattoo technology could be applied to scientific needs. Similar to the aforementioned "wrist watch," a blood sugar meter on the wrist could warn diabetics of high or low readings without the need for a finger prick.

And for all of those wondering about the permanence of tattoos, whenever the wearers wish to hide their LED tattoos, they only need to switch them off. Complete removal of the tattoos is relatively easy, with the rice-sized silicon chips only needing to be picked out from under the skin.

## Chuck Norris turns 70

By Matt Faeth  
STAFF WRITER

On March 10, one of the most interesting men in America, and probably the most rugged man ever to come out of the great state of Oklahoma, turned 70 years old. This man is Carlos Ray Norris, more popularly known as Chuck Norris.

Mr. Norris is also a devoted Christian and has written a book dutiful to his unwavering faith. Chuck was born in Ryan, Oklahoma in 1940. He went on to the Air Force, and it was after the Air Force that his elusive martial arts career began.

Mr. Norris runs his own martial arts school called Chun Kuk Do. His extraordinary martial arts abilities led him to the cinema where he starred in movies and TV shows such as "Way of the Dragon" with

Bruce Lee, and "Walker, Texas Ranger." Norris is best known for his signature move, the roundhouse kick to the face.

What most highschoolers might know good ol' Chuck for is a series of so-called "facts" about his absolutely undeniable manliness.

I'll share a couple of these "facts" with you. (1) Norris played Russian roulette with a fully loaded gun and won. (2) For undercover police work, Chuck Norris pins his badge underneath his shirt, directly into his chest. The popular website advocating Chuck's greatness was first launched in 2005, and the popularity of the jokes and site has taken off exponentially since.

Chuck may be 70 years old, but it is irrefutable that Mr. Norris is still the quintessential man.

## A living legend in our midst

By Ben Rao  
STAFF WRITER

The man who invented sliced bread is also the best thing since it: Dr. Albert Prince III Mordechi Jr. Tomshany, the Most Interesting Man in the World.

No mere mortal can fully grasp the meaning of his life. He is a descendent of Mohammad himself, as reported by MSNBC.com, which spreads Dr. Tomshany's liberal agenda, competing with Ric Breig's Fox News, and Daniel Hodges' Onion News Network.

His accomplishments are many. He once hopped up to the top of Mt. Everest, then parachuted down. He fought the Dalai Lama at chess boxing, and beat him in a one-

move checkmate. He discovered the cure for gigantism, but instead used his knowledge to breed Yao Ming.

And still, his work is not finished. Tomshany plans to buy The Coca-Cola Company and bring back New Coke, except this time it will be successful. In reality, it will be original Coke only in New Coke bottles, allowing the company to charge 55 cents extra. Tomshany secretly plans to use the revenue to buy the rights to Oprah's soul.

He speaks French in Canadian. He dances the cha-cha to the tango. He wins a marathon by lapping the field five times. He is Doctor Tomshany, the Most Interesting Man in the World. No single article can encompass his greatness. Perhaps a quote from Tomshany



Dr. Tom, King of Genius, enlightens his Book Club class.  
PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLEDIVEDULA

himself best describes his life and its meaning. At the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Tomshany announced to a crowd of thousands, "Mission Accomplished." Yes it is, brave young son.

## Greece goes broke, no help appears to be forthcoming



Greece goes belly-up in the vast Mediterranean sea.

TEXTBOOK PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLEDIVEDULA

By Sam Laney  
NEWS EDITOR

The current recession has hurt many Americans, and during times such as these, it can be difficult to see past our own problems. However, Greece has the highest budget deficit in Europe, one which is four times the limit set by European budget rules.

At more than \$413 billion, Greece's national debt is estimated to be 120 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Greece is also spending 12.7 percent more than their means. The result is a very bad situation for Greece and for

other countries that use the Euro.

Greece has responded to the crisis by adopting "austerity measures" to confront the rising debt. These measures include a pay freeze for government employees, spending cuts, and tax increases as well as raising the retirement age by two years.

The pay cuts and tax increases have caused several riots by unhappy citizens. Greece is requesting assistance from neighbors, but none have stepped up thus far. As it stands, Greece is not a fully functioning country and is simply holding on. If no assistance comes, there is little hope of recovery.

The United States is recovering from its recession, but it will be more difficult for Greece because of rules associated with using the Euro. Printing more

money is not an option for them, and aid is not yet forthcoming. Greece is trying to survive, and the European Union will do all it can to protect the Euro.



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## 4 A&amp;E / Opinion

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
Riverfield Rocks Street Party—April 30

## They should call it the 'PSWii'

By Malachi Keeter  
STAFF WRITER

This generation of gaming consoles has been interesting.

Playstation released the successor to the PS2, heralded as the best console of its generation, to stagnant levels of success. The PS3 was bulky, had an inconvenient interface, and didn't really provide anything new. Microsoft's Xbox manhandled the PS3 in the online multi-player market, doing what the PS3 promised to do, only better.

The biggest upset, though, came from Japanese legend Nintendo. The Nintendo Wii was the first of its kind, trading conventional controllers for motion-sensitive controllers, meaning that to do something in a Wii game you physically did it, something completely new to video gaming.

Playstation recently released the PS3 Move, a product that could more accurately be named "PS3 Tries to Compensate for its Lack of Originality," although that may not roll off the tongue quite so easily. The controller is essentially a Wii controller made with Playstation's sleek, black visual style.

While Playstation can technically claim they started the motion-gaming sensation with their Eye Toy, this is a bit of an exaggeration as that product was unpopular and uninventive. Games had to be designed specifically for the Eye Toy and were of low quality.

The PS3 Move is an attempt by Sony to make up for the profit they lost with the PS3, a product that, although widely anticipated, turned out to be boring in the face of a novelty such as the Wii.

Every company tries to save public face at one time or another, but Playstation isn't even trying to disguise it. They have completely ripped off the Wii's controller design.



The controller that started it all. PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Arts curriculum...

—continued from Page 1

will be covered, as well as sociological, economic, and cultural factors that shaped the many styles of rock music. Extensive classroom listening and demonstrations/performances will help enhance the learning experience."

Mr. de Verges explained the new Art History class in this way. "I have supplemented our freshman year college prep with a new course of college art survey, which will include Western Art History. Students will be graded on their knowledge of the history of art rather than their actual art. This is an advantage for seniors who are planning to major in Art in college, when a college Art survey is needed to take the college courses. Dur-

ing the first semester I plan to teach Ancient through Middle Ages, then second semester will be the Renaissance through 20<sup>th</sup> Century art."

Mrs. Long said this about her new class. "Fundamentals of Theatre will cover the whole realm of the theatre world, from theatre history to musical theatre. This class will offer all the basic knowledge needed to continue any further interest in pursuing Theatre in college. There will be a lot of group projects, field trips, and guest artists. It will be a fun, informative, class for all those interested in learning and exploring more of the world of theatre."

Everyone in the Upper School seems excited about these new courses, and they cannot wait until next fall to be a part of them.

## Music Review: 'Plastic Beach'

By Bryce Rossler  
STAFF WRITER

Seemingly swooping out of nowhere, the Gorillaz' third album, *Plastic Beach*, proves that, despite their cartoon image and fictional members, they are a legitimate hip-hop group. Band creator Damon Albarn combines pop sensibilities with a wide array of influences and teams up with cartoonist James Hewitt to break the traditional boundaries of hip-hop.

*Plastic Beach* combines the fun of a pop album with the depth of experimental hip-hop, but it is more complicated than that. Just looking at the track list, it is easy to observe the wide influences.

Guests come from everywhere—California (Snoop Dogg), Lebanon (Lebanese National Orchestra for Oriental Arabic Music), and Sweden (Little Dragon)—and influences are garnered from all different genres through the artists—country rock (Bobby Womack), electronica (Little Dragon), punk (The Clash's Mick Jones), hip-hop (Mos Def), and pop (Damon Albarn).

But the up tempo, happy-go-lucky pop feel is not accompanied by traditional American club pop lyrical values. Casual, childish mentions of dancing, fornication, and money are replaced with serious, indie rock-like, metaphorical lyrics.

The only complaint about the album is its sloppiness and

its lack of Albarn's—er, 2D's—dreamer's drawl. Spontaneous and guest-ridden, this album could possibly feel hollow due to the infrequency of Albarn's appearances and the album's lengthy run-time in respect to the number of cameo artists.

But overall, Gorillaz once again proves their ability to be fun, meaningful, and successful in the mainstream (*Plastic Beach* peaked in numerous countries' Top Ten.) Although the track list does contain some filler, it's also riddled with standout tracks such as "Superfast Jellyfish," "Some Kind of Nature," "Rhinestone Eyes," and "On Melancholy Hill."

Rating: 3.2 out of 5

Letters to the Editor are welcome at any time, but all submissions considered for publication must be signed. E-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at [mfaeth@riverfield.org](mailto:mfaeth@riverfield.org).



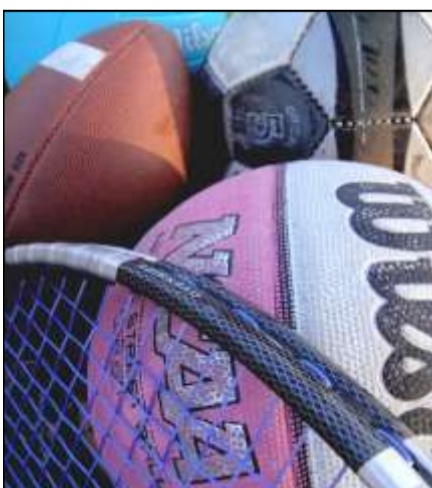
How will the new laws impact our area hospitals?

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

## Too many sports at Riverfield?

By Ramsey Talladivedula  
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 550 students are enrolled at Riverfield, with about 98 of those in the Upper



Riverfield offers an amazing number of sports choices for a school with such a small student body.

PHOTO BY RAMSEY TALLADIVEDULA

School. For those 98 students, eight different extracurricular sports are offered during the school year: football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, basketball, soccer, golf, and tennis.

The question comes to mind: Are there too many sports at Riverfield?

Bonnie Duffield says, "There's so much going on that it's hard for anyone to make a full commitment to their sport."

There are about three sports offered per season, which sometimes makes it hard to put together strong sports teams. The good thing about having so many sports is that everyone can play a sport they like.

Tristan Hightower says, "There's a good number of sports because

everyone seems to have at least one sport they are interested in."

It is true, most students in the high school play at least one sport for Riverfield. It would be nice if all the students wanted to participate in busy seasons, such as spring and fall.

Ryan Peake says, "If the sports weren't all at the same time, then if people played multiple sports, it would work out."

"The only reason it seems like we have too many sports is because we need more students," says Steve Pittman.

Of course, if we get more students, we would need a bigger high school. Some students have concerns with Riverfield growing. They like the small atmosphere.

It is great that we can offer such a wide variety of sports to students even though we are a small school, but it does make it challenging to field teams from season to season.

## Healthcare reform ultimately passes

By Malachi Keeter  
STAFF WRITER

On February 25, the White House held a summit on the controversial issue of healthcare. After two years of inaction, President Obama said it best during the summit when he said, "there cannot be another year-long debate on this issue." Unfortunately, the healthcare summit did not accomplish all that he (and we) hoped it would.

However, a landmark healthcare bill managed to pass both houses of Congress almost a month later and has now been signed into law. Though the Republican Party was largely opposed to it, the Democrats managed to push it through at the end.

This has caused some controversy, but quite a bit of it

seems to come from people who heard an explanation from someone who heard an explanation from someone who heard an explanation from someone who watches Bill O'Reilly, and there have been quite a few cases of would-be rebels labeling the bill "socialism."

The Democrats trying to defend it are not faring much better though, as most seem to be basing their defense not on numbers or statements in the bill, but rather on their overpowering desire to not be Republicans.

It is a major reform, passed during a tough situation, and for the most part it looks like it will work. The only way to really tell will be to watch and wait, and remember: It is not the end of the world.