

News

Laingsburg Drama Program Makes School History

Drama program places second at State Theatre Festival for the first time in school history.

Cameron Aillen Reporter Not many would expect high school students to wake up at 5 A.M. on a Saturday and voluntarily cake their face in makeup. Yet, that is precisely what the members of Laingsburg High School's drama program do during their competition season. This year's competition season made Laingsburg theatre history, as the studio show "Disenchanted" placed 2nd at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association (MIFA) State Theatre Festival on February 15.

At Districts and Regionals, students performed two plays: a comedy "Disenchanted" to a studio audience and tragedy "The Yellow Boat" on main stage. Both shows placed 4th at Districts and qualified for Regionals.

"[At Districts] the judges had a lot of notes for us to improve and they enjoyed the show," Nathan Lalonde said.

Lalonde, a senior at Laingsburg, is the Student Director of "The Yellow Boat" who assists Director Jennifer Strickland with coordinating practices, keeping the cast



The drama club poses after performing at States at Avondale High School. Photo courtesy of Bill Marrison

on task and guiding the actors/actresses through the script.

"The Yellow Boat" is a play based on real events about a boy named Benjamin who was born with hemophilia and [focuses on] his family as they go through the struggles of his early childhood and the many

problems the hemophilia brings," Lalonde said. "Benjamin develops AIDs through the blood transfusions he gets to stop his bleeding (known as factor 8). It is a tragedy that shows the effects such as disconnect from friends and the world that AIDs had on a family in the late 1970s/early 80s."

Jackie Bobb Retires After 25 Years

Justin Grandy Reporter Imagine dedicating a considerable amount of time to a small, rural school district to provide your expertise to better the community. That is exactly what Jackie Bobb, a hardworking, diligent, perseverant worker, accomplished throughout her lengthy career within the Laingsburg School District.

Bobb's career at Laingsburg began with the opening of the new high school building in the 1993-94 school year. Hired as a lunch cashier, Bobb worked her way up to become the district's Business Manager- one title that, in reality, incorporated three different positions: Business Manager, Transportation Director, and Food Service Manager.

After dedicating 25 years of her life to Laingsburg Community schools, Bobb decided it was time to move on to the next chapter in her life.

"I officially retired on December 31, 2019," Bobb said. "In my position, I had the opportunity to know and interact with everyone on staff and to get to know our



Jackie Bobb, pictured above, announces her retirement. Photo courtesy of Steven Butler.

amazing food service staff, bus drivers, maintenance and custodial staff, central office and school office staff and our teachers. I will miss everyone!"

Over the course of the last three and a half years, Bobb not only successfully balanced the extensive responsibilities of a Business Manager, but dedicated her time to making sure the tasks required were done correctly and at 101% effort.

Regionals took place February 8th at Woodhaven High School, which meant the end of the road for "The Yellow Boat", which placed 4th, but "Disenchanted" placed 2nd and continued on to States.

"We had five days between Regionals and States to make adjustments to Disenchanted," Grace Matthews said. "This included vocal changes, characterization and a lot of choreography changes to make it feel like more of a studio show."

Matthews, a junior at Laingsburg, is the Choreographer for "Disenchanted". During a studio performance, the audience is placed on three sides of the stage, differing from the normal main stage show.

"Disenchanted" brings an empowering twist - with a dash of feminism - to the original stories of nine Disney Princesses," Matthews said.

"Disenchanted" originally placed 3rd in Division 2's studio performances at the State Theatre Festival but, due to a MIFA error that placed two schools in the wrong division, Laingsburg actually placed 2nd.

Oink! Oink!

Elena Kozachik Reporter February 10 and 11, Laingsburg High School welcomed its new addition-20 piglets born to two sows. FFA students Elena Kozachik and Gabrielle Paquet assisted in the delivery with the guidance and supervision of teacher Beth Eggleston and student teacher Samantha Wagner.

The first sow delivered her 10 piglets on Monday, February 10. Due to the delivery complications, only two piglets survived the birth and one more was successfully resuscitated by Mrs. Eggleston and Elena Kozachik.

The second sow delivered 20 piglets on Tuesday, February 11. The first set of eight piglets was delivered in a matter of two hours with no complications. Twelve more piglets were delivered in the second set: three were stillborn, one more was resuscitated by Gabrielle Paquet.

The students are taking care of the sows and the piglets under the watch of Mrs. Eggleston and Ms. Wagner.