

THE CHARGER

Charger launches website, podcast

Laurel Barber
@lawl_e_20

Charger readers no longer have to wait a full week for a dose of WHS news.

In addition to printing each week in the Wabaunsee Signal-Enterprise, the Charger has launched a website, whscharger.com, to bring more stories to students and community members in a timely manner.



The Charger staff hopes to use the site to update people multiple times a week, as well as to reach many new readers who do not get the paper print.

Adviser Brendan Praeger said he hopes it will change the way students approach reporting. "I'm training students to be journalists, and spending weeks on a print story is no longer the norm for professionals," Praeger said. "Our goal is to make more timely content to start, but eventually we'll be able to produce stories in new formats."

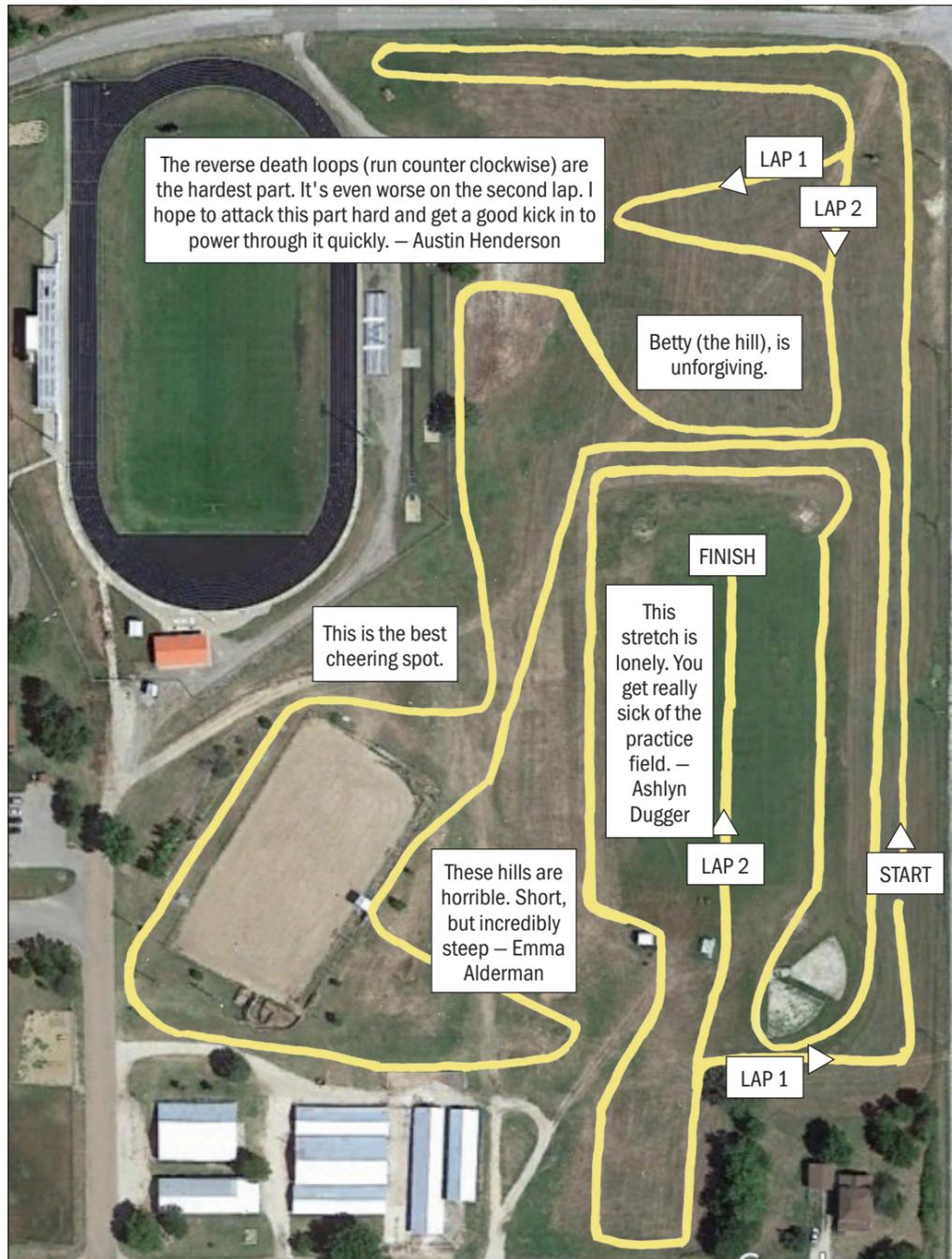
The Charger is also branching out into new formats with the launch of the Senioritis Podcast. The podcast was started by four seniors: Luke Barber, Madison Alderman, Dillion Spellman and Charger editor Abby Oliver. Each week they plan to discuss school and community news as well as some random topics. "Our main goal is to make people laugh and have fun, as well as get information across," Oliver and Barber said.

Praeger said the students are learning every step of podcast production on their own. "We purchased microphones, but they had to figure out how to do things on their own. I think listeners will see an increase in sound quality as the year goes on," Praeger said. Producer Dillon Spellman edits each episode in Garage Band before posting it to the website. The students also created art for the podcast and fulfilled other criteria to get the podcast on the iTunes store.

Episode 0, which was the student's first attempt at recording, hit the web October 4 and was listened to more than 300 times. Praeger said he views the podcast as an extension of the Charger, which is also produced by students. Oliver is the editor of the Charger this year, and the other students are all former staff members. "I am advising them to make sure they avoid any legal or ethical problems, but they are doing all of the creative work themselves. It's great to see them take initiative and get excited about sharing their work."

Read the Charger at whscharger.com and check out the Senioritis podcast on iTunes. Updates will also be posted by @whscharger on Twitter.

DEATH LOOPS



The cross country course takes students through two loops around the practice field and fair grounds. "This is the first time running the course in colder weather and not hot weather. It will be better, but this course is still the worst in the league," junior Sierra Quatham said. In the illustration above, students identified the hardest portions of the course. "The course is hard, hills are steep. If you aren't used to it then you are at a disadvantage." Junior Luke Stuhlsatz said. Illustration by Kendyl Bolinder.

Cross country prepares for regionals at home

Sean Dugger
@seandugger01

VOLLEYBALL ENTERS POSTSEASON AS TOP SEED
Volleyball also heads to the post-season Saturday, with substate 1 p.m. at Herington. WHS is the top seed as of press time. Read a full prelude at whscharger.com and follow the team's progress on Twitter Saturday by following @whscharger.

The Wabaunsee cross country team is preparing to compete in their regional competition on Saturday at its home course.

The Chargers ran strong at the Mid-East League meet in Riley County with the boys earning second place, losing to Silver Lake, and the girls getting fifth place.

Despite the performance at league and a strong season record, 39-3 for the boys and 15-16 for the girls, the regional competition will feature many strong teams on both sides that have yet to be seen, including Bishop Seabury and K.C. Christian. Only the top 3 teams and the top 10 individuals, with some exceptions, make it to state.

"I think both teams are in the hunt for state," coach Roger Alderman said. "If we just run

hard, we have a chance."

The runners have experienced the course many times for practice and ran competitively at the home meet, with both teams finishing first.

"It's the home course so I know it," Junior Luke Stuhlsatz said. "I have ran it multiple times."

Wabaunsee is hosting regionals for the first time since 2011. With the course moving from the golf course to town, it will be the first time setting up a large



Junior Maddie Hutley runs at the home meet.

competition in the area.

"We had to make sure that there is enough space to park and make sure the course is clean," athletic director Jeron Weishaar said. "I think we're pretty well set up and ready to go."

The meet is located in the open field east of the football stadium. The girls race begins at 10 and the boys run at 10:45.

OPINION

Twenty One Pilots album a step forward

Emma Frey
@_emmafrey_

The highly anticipated fifth studio album, Trench, from Twenty One Pilots was released October 5th following the band's year-long hiatus.

Everyone either loves this band or loves to hate them. Eighth grade emo Emma would be dying inside right now, but as for sophomore Emma, I kind of thought that Twenty One Pilots was a phase for me. I knew the album was coming, but I wasn't really excited until it actually dropped.



This is definitely a different album for the band. While it includes a few thought-provoking and in-depth songs, true to their nature, it also features some fun songs that showcase the cryptic storyline behind Trench. Songs like "Neon Gravestones," "Legend" and "Smithereens" seem to have a more personal meaning to lead singer, Tyler Joseph. These include his opinions on how the media deals with suicide, a song about his late grandfather, and a song that tells of the extreme lengths he would go to to protect his wife, respectively. These are my favorite types of songs because you can truly tell how someone feels and what they're going through and can apply them to yourself.

Conversely, songs like "Bandito," "Leave the City" and "Nico and the Niners" tell the story of Clancy, a fictional character modeled from Tyler, and his escape from Dema, a fictional city that is meant to represent Tyler's fears and anxieties that hold him back.

Overall, I was kind of apprehensive for the release of the album. I was worried that Twenty One Pilots would become a sell-out band that only tried to cater to a certain demographic, (eighth grade emo girls, i.e. Emma two years ago) but I was pleasantly surprised to find a few songs I actually liked, my favorite being "Chlorine." My favorite line is "Venom on my tongue, dependent at times; poisonous vibrations; help my body run... the moment is medical" because it shows how chlorine is a poison and it will kill you, but it's also used as a cleaning agent. This analogy relates to Tyler in the sense of music. It's cleansing for him to write his feelings and opinions down in a constructive way, but it's still damaging to him to have to look at those thoughts written down and sing them over and over again when he'd rather just forget. That's a pretty relatable topic for most people. It's always nice to express how you feel but it's sort of like beating a dead horse when you can't ever get it off of your mind.

Although their style of music isn't everyone's cup of tea, I definitely believe that anyone and everyone can find at least one song that they can relate to or enjoy from Twenty One Pilots.

Music tends to be a common outlet for people, and I'm no exception. Everyone should definitely check out Trench or some of the band's older albums and give them a try.