



Our Lady of Providence Inspires Faith, Empowers Hope, Strengthens Love and the Formation of the Whole Person through Exemplary Catholic Education

November 12, 2015 e-VISION News

Serving Parents, Alumni and Friends of Providence

Volleyball team wins third-straight state title

*By Coach **Terri (Blunk) Purichia '90***

The 2015-2016 Volleyball season has been one for the record books. The team ended the season with a 37-3 record, setting a new school record for wins in a season. The team achieved its IHSAA 3A state title in Muncie on Saturday, Nov. 7, with a three-set victory over Yorktown, which was voted No. 1 in 3A all season. When the girls won their title, after being moved up a class this season due to IHSAA success factor rule, they made history in several other ways:

- First team in IHSAA history to win back-to-back state championship in two different classes
- Fourth school in IHSAA history to have three state championships in

a row

- Longest active winning streak as the winner of 20 consecutive postseason matches
- Second in IHSAA tournament history with a 60-set winning streak, behind Burriss, which has a 100-plus win streak



The girls themselves also made history. The six seniors - **Audrey Shannon, Claire Shannon, Mandy Barney, Jacquie Hornung, Alyson Bass** and **Anna Wingate** - were part of a state championship team all four of their years on the team. Audrey was the third PHS player in three seasons to receive the Mental Attitude Award at the state finals and the fifth PHS volleyball player to win the award.

Audrey, Jacquie, junior **Lexie Libs** and sophomore **Marissa Hornung** were named to the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association Class 3A All-State team. Audrey and Anna also were named to the ICGSA Academic All-State First Team and Claire received ICGSA Academic All-State Honorable Mention. Coach Purichia was selected as ICGSA Class 3A State Coach of the Year.

Last week, Marissa was voted Courier-Journal Southern Indiana Athlete of the Week. This week, Audrey is up for the vote. To vote for Audrey, click [here](#).

The team graduates six great seniors and will look to Lexie and Marissa for leadership next season.

Coach Purichia has led the Lady Pioneers since 1999. She has an outstanding record as Providence Volleyball coach, including being

named ICGSA South Coach of the Year in 2002 (Class 3A) and in 2012 (Class 2A). She has been named ICGSA State Coach of the Year for three years, the first two in 2A and this year in 3A. Additionally, in January she was named by the National Federation of State High School Associations as 2014 Coach of the Year award in the sport of volleyball for the state of Indiana.

During her tenure, the five Mental Attitude Award winners mentioned previously were all under her tenure. In addition to Audrey they are **Charly Day '03 (now Neal)**, **Diana Zipp '02 (now Gaddis)**, **Abby Spitznagel '13** and **Patricia Mattingly '15**.

Winning a 3A state title is wrapping up some unfinished business for Coach Purichia, whose first Providence team was a 3A state finalist in 1999. Her postseason coaching accomplishments include:

Sectional titles:

1999 (3A), 2001 (3A), 2002 (3A), 2005 (3A), 2006 (3A), 2011 (2A), 2012 (2A), 2013 (2A), 2014 (2A) and 2015 (3A)

Regional titles:

1999 (3A), 2001 (3A), 2002 (3A), 2011 (2A), 2012 (2A), 2013 (2A), 2014 (2A) and 2015 (3A)

Semistate titles:

2012 (2A), 2013 (2A), 2014 (2A) and 2015 (3A)

State finalist titles:

1999 (3A), 2001 (3A), 2002 (3A) and 2012 (2A)

As an athlete, Coach Purichia was a Providence Volleyball player when the team won sectional all four years during her high school years. In 1986, her freshman year, the team won regional and semistate and was a state finalist. She still holds records from her college playing days at Xavier University. She is tied for sixth for sets played (138) in 1993, tied for sixth for matches played (37) in 1991 and tied for ninth for matches played (36) in 1990, her freshman year there. She also is named on the All-Time Roster for 1990-93.

Coach Purichia introduced the Little Volleys K-2 age group for volleyball summer camps at Providence, when she organized the camps by age

group starting in her first year. She has coached club volleyball at UNION for 14 years.

Hardware failure leads to website crash, e-VISION delay



We thank you for your patience this week as our IT Department works to repair a hardware failure that has affected the school website and some internal servers. The e-VISION was delayed because of these problems, and daily announcements have not been able to be posted, although students still receive them on their iPads. The problem should be resolved soon.

STUDENTS IN ACTION

Football ends season in sectional semifinal; Cheer, Dance ready for basketball



All fall sports have now wrapped up their season, with the football team falling in the sectional semifinal to 2A No. 1 Evansville Mater Dei in the sectional semifinal. The Providence Cheer and Dance teams also ended their fall seasons but are preparing now for the basketball season and more competition opportunities.

(A full version of this story will appear on the school website once it is restored. We apologize for the inconvenience.)

Students have opportunities to help the hungry



Two upcoming events shine light on the needs of others in our community. First, on Friday, Nov. 13, the cafeteria will sponsor its annual Soup Day. The event includes a food and warm clothing drive and a simple meal served during lunch in the cafeteria. Students are asked to donate any kind of staple food as well as gently used clothing, coats and blankets. The snack line will be closed, and the menu will include two offerings of homemade soup plus carrots, celery, fruits, Jell-O and breadsticks. Proceeds and donations will be given to In Heavens Eyes ministry at Holy Family and the Jeffersonville Soup Kitchen.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, the Art Club and the House of Humility is hosting the annual Empty Bowls Event in the cafeteria from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For a minimum donation of \$15, patrons receive a handcrafted ceramic bowl to keep and a simple meal of soup and bread. The event supports local hunger coalitions and ministries, including Meals on Wheels, OLPH soup kitchen ministry, In Heaven's Eyes and St. Elizabeth-Catholic Charities' food pantry. Over the past several years, the event has raised donations of more than \$15,000. Art students and Art Club members have created nearly 200 bowls for this year's event.

Sophomore learns from two leadership retreats

By sophomore **Ethan Furnish**

I feel truly blessed to have been able to attend two different leadership



retreats recently. First, I went on the Student Leadership Program retreat (SLP) along with fellow sophomores **Andrew Bittendener, Emme Wade, Jack Wagner, Kaleb Dunn** and **Heidi Popson**. I later went on the Rotary Club's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards retreat (RYLA) at

Bradford Woods in Martinsville, Ind. Both were extremely different experiences, but both were very worthwhile and rewarding.

[The SLP retreat brought together students from several Catholic high schools to grow their faith and their leadership skills. The RYLA conference taught the students how to be servant leaders.]

(For a full version of Ethan's story, please check the school website. A hardware malfunction has disrupted service and delayed the e-VISION, and it should be back online soon.)

Freshman turns love of crafts into small business

What started as a fun project has become a blossoming small business for freshman **Alexandria Henderson**. Last November, she made some necklaces for herself and friends. They were so popular, she decided to try to sell them in a local gift shop and the campus store -- and added more items.

She named her design business Quarterback Designs because her pendants have a quarter on the back. Since then, she has advanced into using heat transfer and a vinyl cutter to enable her to "put a design on basically any material," Alexandria said.



"I love crafting, and it's better than any other job I could have," she said. "It takes up a lot of time, but it's a lot of fun and I also gain from it."

(For the full version of this story, check on the school website in a day or two. The website is down temporarily due to a hardware malfunction that has taken some time to resolve.)

PHS to host Children's Theatre Workshop

Students in the St. Genesius Theatre Society and Popcorn Players will hold a [Children's Theatre Workshop](#) on Saturday, Nov. 21, for children in grades kindergarten through grade eight. The workshop will be held in the Robinson Auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to noon with registration at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$15. Click [here](#) for a registration form.



***Charlotte's Web* a success**

Also in theatre news, freshman and sophomore theatre students put on the play *Charlotte's Web* last weekend, with two shows for the public and a matinee on Monday for Deanery students.

Earth/Space students test Falls of the Ohio exhibits

Several students from Earth/Space class were some of the first people to tour the new interactive displays at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center.



They were a pilot group to run time studies on the new exhibits, which will open in January.

Selfie video contest winners announced

Congratulations to junior **Joseph Garcia**, who was the winner of the

#ILOVEPROVIDENCE selfie video contest. Two students received honorable mention, senior **Alex Duffy-Dries** and junior **Justine Oppelt**. Joseph's polished [video](#) won by popular vote, Alex created a true selfie [video](#), and Justine captured all the elements of Blue Pride in just [15 seconds](#). The students received gift cards to Qdoba for being finalists.

PARENT CONNECTION

Guidance Spotlight: Programs, presentations and tests

The Guidance Office has been busy this fall with many classroom visits. The following programs were taught to students:

- **Circle of Grace:** A program to help students recognize boundary violations and how to take action if a boundary has been violated. This program is taught to all grade levels, every year. All grades except freshman learned about Circle of Grace in the first quarter.
- **Green Dot:** An anti-bullying, -violence, and -harassment club, made presentations to the freshman classes. These hour-long presentations discussed the origin and mission of the club and discussed the philosophy of bystander training and the elements of being a good bystander. All freshmen are encouraged to take part in and join Green Dot.
- **Career Assessment presentations:** Freshmen currently in Freshman Focus took the IDEAS assessment to determine specific areas of interest and corresponding careers. The IDEAS result is in each student's folder in the Guidance Office.
- **PSAT presentations and test:** All 10th and 11th graders were given PSAT, career and college information; these hour-and-a-half presentations were made prior to fall break in the first quarter. The PSAT test was administered at the end of October and results will be back before Christmas break.

If you have questions about any of the programs or would like more info, please contact the PHS Guidance Office! Also, check out the Guidance link on the Providence website, under the Guidance tab for lots of GREAT resources and scholarship information!

PHS eLearning to continue; updated info needed

As you read in Dr. Mindy Ernstberger's parent letter emailed Wednesday, Providence will once again be utilizing eLearning during snow days this winter. For more information on the eLearning process, check the school website.

In order to ensure proper communication of snow days and eLearning days, Providence needs your up-to-date emergency contact information. Please be sure to follow the instructions in Dr. Ernstberger's email to update your information.

First Quarter Honor Roll posted

Parents can view the First Quarter Honor Roll on the school website. [Click here](#) for the listing.

Save the Date: Placement Exam

The High School Placement Exam for incoming freshmen for the 2016-2017 school year is Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Students should arrive by 8:45 a.m. at the Robinson Performing Arts Center. Bring two No. 2 pencils and a check for \$15 made payable to Providence High School.

For more information, please contact the Providence Admissions Office at 812-945-3350 or e-mail dsmith@providencehigh.net.

Reminder for senior parents

Senior yearbook portrait and Baby Ad deadline is Nov. 15. Senior yearbook portraits must be taken at Lifetouch or Whyland's, and appointments made after the deadline may incur additional fees. For information about purchasing a Baby Ad for the yearbook, [click here](#).

Blue Pride Madness to debut basketball season

Come join the fun this weekend on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. for Blue Pride Madness, the official introduction of the 2015-16 Boys Basketball program with a scrimmage to follow. The Girls Basketball program, which had its first game Nov. 10, will be introduced and participate in contests.

Prizes will be given away and the event will include music, smoke machines and light shows. Entry fee is \$2 with Providence and Deanery students in free.

In related news, Boys Basketball Coach Andrew Grantz '07 will be featured on a weekly radio show throughout the season. Listen to 1450 AM WXVW at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

Preparations for annual Gala Dinner underway

The annual Gala Dinner & Auction is Providence's largest and most festive gathering of alumni, parents and friends. We invite you to join us on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at Huber's Orchard & Winery. Formal invitations will be going out soon.

You can also support the event by providing items that will be used to create several silent auction items. We are in need of donations of gift cards/certificates for restaurants to be used for our Dining Out Tree, and gift

cards/certificates for

stores to be used for our Shopping Tree. We also need items for the following university baskets: IU, UofL, UK, Purdue, and Notre Dame, which can include basketball tickets, spiritwear, or other campus merchandise. All donations should be sent to the attention of **Ronda (Miller) Stumler '83**. Please include your name and contact information on your donation. Donations received by Dec. 1 would be greatly appreciated. Call the Advancement Office at 812-945-3350 for more



information.



ALUMNI NOTES

Consider Providence on #GIVINGTUESDAY

The season of giving officially begins on Tuesday, Dec. 1, otherwise known as #GivingTuesday. Providence is participating along with thousands of organizations worldwide to encourage charitable giving.



We'll be tracking gifts made to PHS through our [website](#) that day and will have a drawing for up to three PHS sweatshirts for those who contribute a minimum of \$25 and tweet or post a selfie (known on Giving Tuesday as an "unselfie") that says It's #GIVINGTUESDAY and I support PHS #AlwaysAPioneer.

Spread the word!

Second Senior Retreat next week

The second Senior Retreat of the school year is next week, Nov. 17-20. Please keep the seniors and leaders in your prayers. For more information, contact **Leah (Cissell) Kelly '05** at lkelly@providencehigh.net.

Calling all Girls Basketball alumni

Any alumna who ever played or coached for PHS Girls Basketball is

invited to be a part of the inaugural PHS Girls Basketball Alumni Night. Please RSVP to Coach Brad Burden at bburden@providencehigh.net with your graduation year.

Players will be recognized between games during the Providence vs. South Central game on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. (please arrive by 6:45).

Pioneer Gear Store has Christmas gift ideas



Looking for a great gift to give at Christmas? Check out the offerings in the PHS Pioneer Gear Campus Store! If you live locally, campus store hours are school days from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Items also are sold during home Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball games and are located on the balcony. The store will be open to the public Dec. 1 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Enter through the main entrance and take the elevator to the second floor.) And you can order items from our online campus store any time! [Click here](#) to check out our offerings.

Save the Date: Breakfast with Santa



Mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 5, for the annual Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Girls Soccer team and featuring the Popcorn Players.

Breakfast with Santa will be located in the Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and will feature crafts, a continental breakfast, a performance by the Popcorn Players at 9:45 a.m. and a free photo with Santa. Admission is free, but donations to offset the cost of food are accepted.

Reunion planning for 2016 has begun

Providence has been notified of the following reunions:

- **1962** - (54 years) Dec. 5. Clarion in Clarksville. Annual get-together champagne brunch starting at 11:00 a.m.

Reunion planning for 2016 will include classes with years ending in one and six. If you'd like to be part of the planning committee, please contact **Ronda (Miller) Stumler '83** at rstumler@providencehigh.net.



BLUE PRIDE ON DISPLAY

Coach Gurgol to coach both tennis teams



Boys Tennis **Coach Scott Gurgol** will also be coaching in the spring season as the new Girls Tennis coach. Coach Gurgol has been with the Providence tennis programs since 2007, starting as a volunteer assistant coach for the girls' team for two years that spring and beginning his stint as head coach of the boys' team in the fall. During his time as boys' coach, he also was assistant coach of the girls' team from 2009 to 2012.

While Coach Gurgol was a volunteer and an assistant coach to the girls' team, those teams earned sectional titles in 2007, 2008 and 2009. His

record as head coach of the boys' program is 107-55, having earned his 100th win at Providence this past season. In the 2014 season, he guided the boys' program to its first top-25 state ranking.

Previously, Coach Gurgol was an assistant coach at Evansville Reitz High School for two seasons from 1999 to 2000. Coach Gurgol said he is excited to lead the Providence girls' program on the school's new, state-of-the-art tennis facility and anticipates guiding that program to success as well.

Coach Gurgol lives in New Albany with his wife, Lisa, and is employed by VNA Nazareth Home Care as a physical therapist.

Alumnae college athletes continue to make impact

In the last two issues, we have featured young alumnae who have made great contributions to their college athletic teams. This week, we have two more young student-athletes to be so honored. Stony Brook University (New York) women's volleyball freshman **Taylor Wilson '15** and Northern Kentucky University women's volleyball freshman **Haley Libs '15** each were named Rookie of the



Week for their respective conferences. In other news, **Leah Mattingly '13**, a junior women's soccer player for Ball State University was named first team All-Mid-America Conference for her contribution as a defender in the team's capturing its conference championship and posting a 14-5-2 record.

(A full version of this story, including a Q&A with Taylor, will appear on the school website once it is restored. A hardware malfunction has led to an extended outage.)

BLUE NEWS OF OLD

One class even brought in banana splits!

By **Ray Day '57**, school archivist



November is very often a political month with local, regional, or national campaigns reaching a climax on the first Tuesday of the month. In 1975, the halls of Providence reflected political campaigning in a unique way. A story in the Dec. 16, 1975, issue of the *Pioneer Post* by then senior **Teresa Richard** revealed

"people clapping, cheering, singing; others on roller skates; parades through the hall; and photographers snapping pictures..." Teachers **Mr. Gary Rosenberger ['59]** and **Mr. Don Zipp [(Hon. '13)]** had more than a little to do with the goings-on.

The reason for the antics was the annual simulation game Votes played by all senior government classes. Activities in the mock election process included cheering and singing, candidates on roller skates, parades in the hall, posters throughout the school, and even a little "bribery," with some candidates even bringing banana splits to class.

(The full version of this week's Blue News Of Old will appear on the school website once it is restored. The website is temporarily down due to a malfunction.)

COMING EVENTS

Nov. 12 - Sophomore Unity Ceremony

Nov. 12 - Second Quarter Progress Reports grades posted

Nov. 14 - Blue Pride Madness, Larkin Center, 6 p.m.

Nov. 17-20 - Second Senior Retreat

Nov. 21 - Children's Theatre Workshop, Robinson Auditorium, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 24 - Next e-VISION newsletter

Nov. 25-27 - Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 3-4 - Popcorn Players Deanery tour

Dec. 5 - Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 12 - Placement Exam

LET US PRAY

In honor of Veterans Day this week, we offer a prayer for veterans:

God of peace,
we pray for those who have served our nation
and have laid down their lives
to protect and defend our freedom.

We pray for those who have fought,
whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war,
whose nights are haunted by memories
too painful for the light of day.

We pray for those who serve us now,
especially for those in harm's way.
Shield them from danger
and bring them home.

Turn the hearts and minds
of our leaders and our enemies
to the work of justice and a harvest of peace.



Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor!

May the peace you left us,
the peace you gave us,
be the peace that sustains,
the peace that saves us.

Christ Jesus, hear us!
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer!

Amen.

[From USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org)



We mourn the passing of **Elizabeth "Liz" Vissing**, director of development from 1984 until early 1989, who also was the mother of alumni **Paul Vissing ex-'84, Derek Vissing '85** and **Michael Vissing '89**. For more *In Memoriam* notices, click on the link at left.

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