Week 7 has arrived, and we at The West thank you for tuning in with us once again. We have a lot of cool articles this week!

Patrick Scarazzo’s article is actually quite fascinating, and is for car lovers.

Don’t let going out to movies burn holes in your wallet any longer, follow these tips and tricks that Blake McGrath has come up with.

There are many other very well written articles that you will enjoy reading.

Questions, comments, concerns?
Also, feel free to submit your articles to The West now!

-Sarah Myers
Senior Editor
STUDIO WEST PRODUCTIONS presents its first musical for 2008-2009!!

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

Based on the Frog and Toad books of Arnold Lobel
Music by Robert Reale
Book and lyrics by Willie Reale

Directed by Eric Gray

October 23, 24, 25  7:30 p.m.
October 26           3:30 p.m.

Adults 10.00
Students 7.00

Presented through special arrangement from Music Theater International
421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Young and old alike will enjoy West Forsyth High School’s first heartwarming and whimsical production. Tried and true friends Frog and Toad navigate through an adventure-filled year, joined by some colorful companions along the way. Set to a jazzy score, this charming musical lovingly captures the spirit of this unlikely friendship as it blossoms and grows.

Directed by Eric Gray, the cast includes: Marcus Terry, Mitchell Jones, Anastasia Bandemir, Allison Owens, Matt Salvatore, Danielle Girardeau, Madison Fuller, Marshall Foster, Emily Diamond, Rachel Voorhis, and Evan Judway.

October 23-25: 7:30 p.m.
October 26: 3:30 p.m.
Adults: $ 10.00
Students: $ 7.00

Bring the whole family! Invite the grandparents! You’ll fall in love with these delightful characters!
In today’s world, the economy runs off of the use of fossil fuels. For over one hundred years, since the rise of the industrial revolution, we have primarily depended on this source of energy for our transportation and many other things. In the past couple years, we have seen increase in global warming, overuse of land, and most recently, the limited supply we really have.

But is using a new hydrogen car. The technology is not as simple as it sounds, but basically, a fuel cell converts hydrogen and oxygen into electrical energy. The byproduct of the process is simply water vapor. The only problem with this new technology is that it won’t be coming out until fifteen years from now, and the cars themselves will cost a fortune.

Another fuel source is solar powered cars. These cars have solar panels on them that capture the sun’s energy, and then convert it into electrical energy. The energy needed for these cars is the energy needed to use a hair dryer. Also, solar powered cars can go up to speeds of 60-75 mph, and can go up to 200 miles in one trip.

Although we have created many new alternate fuel sources, the only problem that is setting us back from using them is greed. Mega gas stations like Exxon, Texaco, and Chevron make billions in one quarter. If the heads of the companies all saw past greed, and tried to make the world a better place, then we might actually be driving other cars. Until then, we will be sitting in long lines for gas and destroying our failing atmosphere all the more.
Throughout the years movie theater prices have risen substantially. It has affected a lot of people. What’s causing them to become so expensive? It’s not just the ticket prices that have been raised, but the concessions as well. According to [http://www.physorg.com/](http://www.physorg.com/), Stanford and the University of California conducted a study on whether low ticket prices or low concession prices brought in more customers. Their research showed that lower ticket prices were more successful at bringing in customers. They believe that this is due to the fact that not everyone has to buy salty snacks to watch a movie on the big screen. They also revealed that only 40% of ticket sales go to the theater itself, due to the fact that they have to share the sales with the movie distributors. Fortunately to the theater 100% of concession sales go towards the theater.

Ticket prices have changed dramatically throughout the years as well. [http://www.natoonline.org/](http://www.natoonline.org/) reveals that the average ticket price in 1948 was .36 cents, in 1978 the average cost was $2.34, and in 1998, the average price was $4.69, almost 3 dollars less than it is today. Of course, inflation plays a major role for the increase of ticket price, but is that the only reason? According to [http://www.seriouseats.com/](http://www.seriouseats.com/), since popcorn sales are rising, ticket prices are said to rise as well because ticket prices are 25% of the cost of popcorn and snacks. Why ticket prices rely on popcorn? It’s because there is an increased demand of ethanol, a rising cost of coconut oil, and the increasing cost producing paper popcorn tubes. The theaters are then trying to cut us a little slack on the popcorn and try to distribute the price of it between the popcorn and the ticket.

Movie theaters are a great source of fun. However, if you wait until the movie comes out on DVD and Blu-Ray, you can see the same great movie for about half the price and without paying $10 for snacks. If you really wish to go see it in theaters, go to a theater that allows you to bring your own snacks in, or forego the snacks you buy. Don’t let ticket prices eat a hole through your pocket.
The 14th Annual Cumming Country Fair and Festival had its grand opening on Thursday, October 2nd. This is the fourteenth year of the fair and it’s sure to be a hit! There are so many things going on, you don’t want to miss anything!

The first thing anyone thinks about when they here a fair is coming is, the rides! The fair is featuring the Great James H. Drew Exposition, which includes over 40 rides and games! The Ferris Wheel and Swinging Ship are just two of the rides sure to be a hit. Once you’re done with the rides, check out the ground acts! This year they have Brian Ruth, the master of the chainsaw who carves sculptures with a chainsaw out of logs! Also, for the extreme sport lovers, they’ve got the King BMX show. Professional BMX riders show off their skills in amazing aerial tricks. If you like animals, they feature the Frisco Brothers Petting Zoo and Pony Rides plus the Kachunga and Alligator show and the amazing Robinson’s Pig Paddling Porkers, a pig race! On top of all this, they have a robot named Oscar and a High Dive Show!

This year, The Cumming Country Fair and Festival has all kinds of specials. On Thursday, the opening day of the fair, everyone got in free! On Saturday October 4th, it was kids day so kids 12 and under got in free! On Sunday, if you bring in any church bulletin, it was a dollar off ant adult ticket! And for all the students, Student Night is Monday the 6th! But, the specials don’t just include free admission. There are specials on rides too!

If you’re looking for entertainment, there are many concerts at the fair. Chris Cagle, Ronnie Milsap, and Silver City are just a few of the performers who will have great concerts at the fairgrounds.

One of the best parts of the fair are the prices; admission is only $7.00 for adults, $3.00 for students, and kids 4 and under are free! Parking is $3.00. The rides aren’t expensive either. Each ride takes 2-4 tickets. One ticket equals $1.00.

So what are you doing this weekend? I know ill be heading over to the Cumming Country Fair and Festival. For specific show times, details and dates of the concerts, and more, visit the website, www.cummingfair.net.
Winter Is Coming! -Sandy Salvatierra

Bundle Up

Now that we’re halfway through fall and winter is just around the corner, all Physical Education classes are trying to bundle up. As you may know West Forsyth High offers many active classes, from weight lifting to body sculpting. Being active outside of school keeps you fit but having a coach to teach you new ways to exercise is more precise and helpful. Another thing important to this is that in order to graduate you need at least one Physical Education/Health class credit. Moreover, winter is right around the corner and here are a couple of things to keep in mind while participating in a Physical Education class.

Due to popular demand, the West Forsyth Wolverine Wear committee is selling sweat pants and hooded sweatshirts but these items are only available through pre-order. Just like the rest of Wolverine Wear it shows our Wolverine spirit. These items are perfect for those lazy days; you can just throw on your hoodie and get to school. That is perfect for activity days during school or going to a football or school related event in the cold. This is only allowed for those who pre-order their outfits! By doing that it saves the hassle of ordering and organizing all the people that “say” they might buy a hooded sweatshirt or sweat pants.

To pre-order a pair of sweats and a hooded sweatshirt for you, find a Physical Education coach or teacher and ask for a pre-order form. There will be no remainders, and this sale only goes on once! Know that while being active in P.E you don’t have to suffer the consequences of having a loose fitting or thin uniform. While you’re working out or just passing by the day it’s a good way of feeling comfortable and sporty during the long cold days or participating in P.E.

For Physical classes, remember to receive uniform change-out credit you need to put your uniform over the sweats and hoodies. Maybe putting on your uniform over the hooded sweatshirt and sweats sounds ridiculous, but that is rule made by our school administration. You should also know that changing in and out of your gym uniform counts as 60% of your overall grade, so follow that change out schedule!

For more information on pre-ordering and purchasing a hoodie and/or sweat pants seek Coach Allbritton, a team sports, health, and personal fitness teacher, for a pre-order form. In or out of school, you can always boast your pride in West Forsyth High School, so don’t procrastinate and pre-orders yours now.
Check –and Mate –Starlett Jenkins

Chess Club meetings have taken place in Mr. Tozier’s room every Tuesday afternoon from the end of the school day to 5:00 PM since September 8th. Chess Club was founded last year and has continued to grow and thrive since then. Currently, approximately 30 students congregate at each meeting. On some days, the room is silent as players are in deep thought with the air of unflinching concentration, but on other days, parts of the room are vibrant and active, with some members playing and some watching, some carrying on extreme discussion and debate. A few of the more serious members attend the public chess meetings that are held at the Barnes & Noble located within The Avenue Forsyth at 6:00 PM on Mondays. People of all ages attend these gatherings.

In order for the club to continue to prosper, club dues for the year will be $10 per semester ($20 for the overall school year). These dues will go toward buying chess clocks as well as paying for competition costs. These competitions will be limited to members of the chess club or the students of West. He also hopes that we will be able to informally challenge chess players from other schools. In years to come, Mr. Tozier hopes that we can face more experienced players, but for now, competitions are to remain within the Forsyth County School System.

Students of varying skill levels are encouraged to attend, even if they are on a beginner’s level. Starting last week, the rating system has been implemented. If two people are participating in a game where they wish to be ranked based on the outcome of the game, called a “rated game,” then one person from the pair takes a sheet of paper provided by Mr. Tozier at the beginning of the meeting. One of the two players then writes the name of each player, the current score of each player, which color each player used, and who won the match (or if it was a draw, then this person can list it as such.) Everyone starts out with a score of 1400. After the meeting has ended, Mr. Tozier takes the score of each player and enters it into a website which has a type of calculator that determines a player’s new score, utilizing a process that involves complicated logarithms. In the end, the score of the player who wins will rise; the score of the player who loses will fall. Based on the strength of the losing player, one is able to either gain or lose a different amount of points. For instance, if a person who has only won one game previously beats someone who has won dozens of games, the winner will gain more points than he would had he beaten another who had only won one game as well. As of Tuesday, September 30th, the top 3 ranked people are Mick Glover, Ben Yeh, and Daniel Wilson–but this is only the beginning, and it’s possible for anyone to come out on top by the end of the year.

Mr. Tozier says that the skills learned from the game of chess “can easily be transferred to the business or academic world, where planning, anticipating, and adapting are invaluable,” since chess is a game based on skill and strategy as opposed to those of luck and chance and also involves patience and creativity. According to Mr. Tozier, “Studies have also shown that there’s a very high correlation between students who play chess and higher academic achievement, including higher scores on both the verbal and math sections of the SAT.”

Not only will this game improve a student’s academic and problem-solving capabilities, but a highly proficient player may have a shot at receiving one of the few chess scholarships that are available, though these are generally reserved for elite players and such an award would probably only be given to someone with an official USCF ranking who has won at least some tournaments at the regional or national level. Students at West are still developing their skills and may not yet be ready to take on such a goal, but challenging Mr. Tozier and winning would be a feat demonstrating such potential.
The ‘Look’ this season is letting your simple beauty shine through with this natural make up to play up the real you. This look creates an even glowing skin, natural eyes and slightly nude lip color.

The first step to achieve a glowing look is to prep your skin. Do this by using moisturizer lotion to instantly soften your face and in doing so it will absorb the make up that comes to follow. Then apply a very sheer foundation and concealer, but avoid caking your make up on. If you do have very oily skin, you can finish up with a light sprinkle of face powder to even it out.

Now when it comes to your eyes, it’s all about playing them up, but with out adding too much drama. You want your eyes to pop and to be the center of attention and not your make up. So look for a sheer matte eye shadow that is fairly close to the color of your skin. To help get this look use a light pencil liner that matches your natural lashes. Also, keep the mascara light, using no more than two coats.

To create that natural warmth to your skin, apply a natural looking blush. If you have very fair skin use a light pink blush. For medium skin tones go for the dusty pinks. Finally, if you have olive skin, a peach or bronze blush will work the best for you. If you have a darker skin tone, plum looks great. An extra tip for when finding blushes is to remember that creams and mousses work better for normal skin and powder blushes work better for oily skin.

To finish the look off, apply a nude lip color and stay away from shiny lip glosses. A creamy lipstick in a shade close to your actual lip color looks the best. Make sure that when you do put the lipstick on that your lips are nice and smooth. It really helps to put on chap-stick before applying your actual lipstick. The key to glow this fall when it comes to make up is to simply be you.
Inside Story Headline

Attention West Forsyth: as of last Monday, September 22\textsuperscript{nd}, it is officially Fall of 2008. The leaves are changing, and so are the fashions. Get ready to rotate your closet so you can look flawless this season.

One perfectly appropriate style for this time of year is blissfully bohemian. Bring out the little hippie in you and dare to be different with bold prints in subdued shades, such as reds, browns, and golds. Feeling extra adventurous? Swap that boring headband for a thin ribbon or leather string around your forehead.

Another important transition from summer to fall is a fresh set of accessories. Leave those Hawaiian prints and straw wedge heels for the heat, and trade them out for a more sophisticated set of patent leather carry-alls and sleek flats in rich colors. Rather than lazily slapping on the flip-flops, remember the season and slide in your flats. If you want to update last year’s boring bag, tie a scarf in a loud print to the handle, and don’t be afraid to mix prints!

Even if it’s a particularly chilly day, you can still dress to impress. Go simply sleek with your preppy items: button downs, girly blouses, and boot-cut jeans. Punch up your classics with loud bags and a matching pumps and flats. To tie it all together, you can slide a colorful scarf in your hair.

Another fabulous trend for you to try out is ruffles. Stand out in the crowd with a ruffled blouse, skirt, or even a dress. Ruffles are fun, but avoid going over the edge. Finish off your ensemble with your favorite dark wash jeans.

This fall, don’t be afraid to be different. Go all out, or clean it up with preppy chic. If you want to make this fall your best, do a wardrobe 360 for the new you.

Style Secret:

Save that tan! Burnt orange is the secret shade for preserving the last bit of your long-earned sun-kissed skin.
In the 1948 election, Harry Truman became President despite the famous mistakes of newspapers that said otherwise the next day. In the 1992 election, Bill Clinton never won the popular vote but he was still able to become President. In the 2000 election, Al Gore dominated the popular vote and America went to sleep that night expecting President Gore to be in office the next day. However, George Bush became our President. Due to the Electoral College, these men managed to win the election. According to answers.com, the Electoral College is a body of electors chosen to elect the President and Vice President of the United States. This concerns many American voters whether or not their vote will be counted.

According to geocities.com, an article states, “The Electoral College is unfair, inaccurate, and unaccountable. Its abolition is the only path to a true American Democracy.” The people residing in large states such as California most likely do not feel very threatened by the Electoral College. However, many people living in states with small populations such as Alaska feel pushed aside and unimportant to the election.

The “Founding Fathers” of our country were forced to settle this same controversy in the process of making the Constitution. They had to determine the amount of power that should be in the hands of the people and how much additional power large states should be given. After compromising, they came up with the Electoral College. Because of the complexity behind this, people feel as though voting is inept because their vote has no meaning. But in reality, people do not understand that when they go to the polls, they are not voting for a national election, but a state election. Their vote will count just as much as anyone else in their state. However, someone who votes in a state with a larger population will have a ‘heavier’ vote.

While the Electoral College isn’t a deprivation of our rights as Americans, it does seem to make the election even more complicated. It also seems to defeat the purpose of a Democracy, in which the people make executive decisions. On the other hand, it has worked for numerous centuries, so why stop now? Besides, then the people of our country wouldn’t be able to stay up all night watching the states light up.
The first of three presidential debates took place on September 26, 2008 at the University of Mississippi. The debate began with questions about the economy and the recently proposed financial recovery plan and continued into what they would do to help economically as president. Both candidates held similar but fundamentally different views throughout the debate.

The debate started with the lead question, “[W]here do you stand on the financial recovery plan?” Both candidates acknowledged that they would vote for the bill if the proper changes were made to the bill once it was put into writing. McCain pointed out that if the bill did go through, “This isn’t the beginning of the end of this crisis. This is the end of the beginning”. He also believes that, “[O]ur best days are ahead of us”. Obama also acknowledged that this wouldn’t be a quick fix, especially since, “[T]hose of you on Main Street I think have been struggling for a while”. It is his belief that our economic structure is fundamentally unsound, which contradicts McCain’s belief.

A later lead question asked, “[W]hat are you going to have to give up, in terms of the priorities that you would bring as President of the United States, as a result of having to pay for the financial rescue plan?” Again, the candidates agreed that they would have to cut programs or at least part of programs that they would have otherwise established. McCain was even willing to initiate “[A] spending freeze on everything but defense, veteran affairs and entitlement programs.” Obama thinks that this ideology would be like, “[U]sing a hatchet where you need a scalpel.” Obama’s view was that, “[T]here are going to be things that end up having to be ... deferred and delayed.” But as a whole, his programs would go through in the end.

These same core values continued throughout the economic portion of the debate. The candidates plan to cut earmark and pork barrel spending but they each had a different idea of what this entailed. This remained true whether it meant giving tax cuts that would affect different people or in deciding how to go about health care.
During this season of Major League Baseball, there have been many surprises. The New York Yankees have missed the playoffs for the first time in fourteen years, despite having the largest payroll in the league. The Yankees played their last game in Yankee Stadium last Sunday. Yankee Stadium has been around for eighty-five years and has had many major moments in baseball history. Between Lou Gehrig’s speech and Babe Ruth’s home runs, it is probably the most well known stadium in America. The Tampa Bay Rays have probably had the most inspirational story of the season by going from the worst record in the league last year to making the playoffs and winning the AL East Division. The Rays relied on many young players, including Evan Longoria, to lead them to the division title. It was the first time that a team other than the Red Sox and the Yankees have won the AL East since 1997. They fought off a charge from the Boston Red Sox to clinch the division Friday night after a Boston loss to the New York Yankees. The Red Sox were able to clinch a playoff spot as the AL Wild Card team earlier this week.

In the AL West, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim clinched their division all the way back on September 10th. They have also clinched home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Their dominant closer, Francisco Rodriguez, led the Angels with fifty eight saves to the best record in the majors. The American League Central division is still up for grabs between the Chicago White Sox and the Minnesota Twins. The Twins swept a three game series with the White Sox last week to take a half game lead in the division. With one game left in their season, the White Sox face a must win game on Monday against the Detroit Tigers to force a tiebreaker. Whoever wins that game between the White Sox and the Twins would make the playoffs.

In the National League, the Chicago Cubs have the best record, which has earned them home field advantage and the NL Central division. The Cubs have been without a World Series victory since 1908 and many believe this could be their year. The NL West was won by the Los Angeles Dodgers who, with the help of Manny Ramirez, held off the Arizona Diamondbacks to clinch first place and a playoff spot.

The Philadelphia Phillies won the NL East last year thanks to the historic collapse of the New York Mets. The Mets had a seven game lead with seven games to play and managed to completely lose their lead and miss the playoffs entirely. The Phillies won their division for the second year in a row after another collapse by the Mets. The Mets lost a heated battle with the Milwaukee Brewers for the NL Wild Card spot. The Brewers locked up the Wild Card on Sunday with help from CC Sabathia on three days rest. They defeated the Chicago Cubs 3-1 to clinch their first playoff appearance since 1982. The Mets played their last game in Shea Stadium Sunday afternoon, losing to the Florida Marlins 4-2.