

## Alumni in the News

### COMMODORE BUILDING RENOVATED

As the oldest building in the Perrysburg school district, the Commodore building has served students of many ages. The building, which was constructed in 1931, now houses the Perrysburg School District's administrative offices and provides meeting, auditorium and gymnasium space for the community. In summer 2008 the oldest and most deteriorated part of the complex was demolished. Renovations continue and plans are to use the remaining Commodore Building for office and meeting space.

#### Renovations to date include:

- Constructing a main entrance that includes restructuring the west stairway and taking it back to its original design. New fire and building codes require that the stairway be enclosed.
- Tuck pointing, restoring and cleaning brick and stone on the west side.
- Replacing part of the roof.
- Installing new windows on the west side of the building.
- Replacing some doors.
- Replacing and expanding the parking lot.
- Painting the outside of the Commodore gym.
- Landscaping work next to the gym and parking lot.



The new entry will be used as the main entrance to the Commodore Building. "Our goal was to match the new entry to the old building," comments Richard Jones, Perrysburg Schools Business Manager. "We worked with the architects to come up with something that matched the existing architecture."

Future renovations will convert the second floor into offices and complete the outside restoration. "We had to set priorities – with roof replacement being the first priority – before we could redo the inside of the building," says Jones. The other phases will also depend on funds being available. The Commodore renovations are being paid for with tax abatement money from businesses that have been granted tax abatements from the city, but must make "hold harmless" payments to the schools.

#### Tunncliffe Named World Sailor of the Year

Anna Tunncliffe ('01) was named the 2009 ISAF Rolex Female World Sailor of the Year on November 10, 2009 in Busan, Korea. The award is the highest accolade for a sailor. In 2008 Tunncliffe won the Olympic Gold Medal in the Women's Laser Radial dinghy at the Olympic Games in Qingdao, China. She has been the world's #1 ranked women's Radial sailor for most of the past 16 months.

#### Roginski Appears in Hit Musical

Lindsay Roginski ('01) was voted "most likely to become famous" her senior year of high school. Looks like she's on her way. Roginski, a member of Actors Equity, is a cast member in the national tour of the hit musical, Chicago. She plays one of the inmates in the Cook County jail and appeared at the Stranahan theater when the tour made a stop this November. Roginski moved to New York in 2002 to attend AMDA, a two-year conservatory. The training helped open doors for her. She has appeared in other national tours as well as in regional theater productions.

#### Ahmed Named Fulbright Scholar

Beenish Ahmed ('05) has earned a Fulbright Fellowship and has begun working on a Master of Philosophy in Modern South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge, Great Britain. She is also conducting archival research in Colonial-era education policy and managing a literary development program for young people in London's struggling South Asian communities. Ahmed will offer creative writing and art development workshops for South Asians in London. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree this year from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in Creative Writing and Literature as well as Political Science. Ahmed hopes to work in academia or a "think tank."

#### Dangelo Airman of the Year

Staff Sergeant Paul Dangelo ('05) was named the 2008 Airman of the Year by the Ohio Air National Guard. He is a sophomore at Ohio State University with a dual major of International Security and Intelligence Studies and Latin American Studies. Dangelo spent his first year out of high school in Guard training. The next year was spent at Ohio State University followed by a year in Iraq. He has received numerous awards during his 4-1/2 years in the Ohio Air National Guard. After graduation, Dangelo is considering a career with the U.S. Air Force or in one of the U. S. government's intelligence agencies.

#### Devolder Male Actor of the Year

Max Devolder ('07) was named the Male Actor of the Year for his age group in the International Modeling and Talent Association's event held in New York this summer. Devolder also won the male title as Toledo's Next Fashion Model in the Epic Rocks Fashion Show held this summer at Levis Commons, Perrysburg. Devolder credits Kate Philabaum, his Perrysburg Junior High Music Teacher, for getting him started on performing. He is currently living in New York and hopes to have success as an actor or model.



## New Twist On An Old Rivalry

The rivalry between Perrysburg and Maumee High Schools took a different turn on a late Sunday in October when 238 runners and walkers took part in the 1st Annual Rivalry Run at Maumee's Sidecut Metropark. Competitors were welcomed by the mayors of each community – Nelson Evans of Perrysburg and Tim Wagener of Maumee. Participants from the two communities competed for the memorial bell, created in memory of two former Maumee High School students – Dominic Hess and Wes Shook – who were killed in 1999 while working for Maumee Schools. Family members of both boys agreed to use the bell for this charity run in their sons' honor.



Perrysburg won the bell, which was awarded to the school that had the most community members registered to participate in the race. This year, Perrysburg had 138 participants to Maumee's 100. The top male and female finishers from each school were awarded plaques at the Maumee-Perrysburg football game. Perrysburg High School student Kaylyn Weisenburger finished first for the girls, while Perrysburg student Craig Potthast finished second for the boys.

The idea for the race was proposed by members of the Maumee High School Student Council, who then proposed the idea to their Perrysburg counterparts. Both councils spent several months planning the event. This year's Rivalry Run collected \$4,188 from the sale of t-shirts. All proceeds were used to support Hospice of Northwest Ohio.



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The Old Town Pump statue portrays a boy pumping water for a young girl to drink. It is located on the campus of the Commodore Building.

## Perrysburg Grad Dedicates Statue

Ralph Kleeberger remembers the old town pump that was once a familiar sight in Perrysburg back in the 1920's and 30's. Located at the corner of Louisiana and Second Streets, the pump no longer exists... but the memories still do. Memories of children having playful water fights, farmers stopping to water their horses, and people gathering to pass the time of day.

Kleeberger has found a way to immortalize the once familiar landmark while honoring the children of Perrysburg, past and present. The self-taught artist has created and donated a life-sized statue of a young boy and girl playing at the town pump. Kleeberger worked for six years on a clay sculpture version using two local children as his models. The Perrysburg Area Arts Council helped arrange for the casting of the sculpture and monitored the project. When it was completed, the bronze statue was placed in Commodore Square near the northwest corner of Indiana and Louisiana Avenues on the campus of the Commodore Building – Perrysburg's oldest school building, which houses the Perrysburg Schools administrative offices. The statue was placed on a 9,000-pound granite base that was installed on a cement pad donated by the schools. Kleeberger is working to arrange lighting and benches near the statue. A dedication ceremony and unveiling were held on Saturday, October 10.

"I enjoyed doing it," the artist says of his work. "Everybody wants to leave something. I was born in Perrysburg and lived here all of my life. It just seemed the thing to do."

Kleeberger is a graduate of Perrysburg High School. He dropped out of school to join the navy in World War II and fought in the South Pacific, then returned for his senior year after he was discharged, and he graduated with the Class of 1946. He has been sculpting since he retired in 1986 from Northwood Schools, where he spent over 30 years as a business teacher and guidance counselor.

"This is a very generous gift that Mr. Kleeberger has donated to the Perrysburg community and especially to Perrysburg school children," comments School Superintendent Tom Hosler. "It is a remarkable legacy that he is sharing with his hometown."



Ralph Kleeberger (46)

#### Perrysburg Schools Board of Education

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#### Perrysburg Schools Administration - 419-874-9131

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#### Perrysburg Schools Principals

High School – Dr. Michael Short  
 Junior High – Dale Wittse  
 Fort Meigs Elementary – Scott Best  
 Frank Elementary – Brent Swartzmiller  
 Toth Elementary – Dr. Beth Johnson-Christoff  
 Woodland Elementary – Dan Creps

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## Honoring Our Servicemen & Women



As we approach the holiday season with America at war, we thank all Perrysburg High School graduates who have served – or are currently serving – their country in the armed forces. Thank you for protecting our freedom. There is not enough space in this issue to honor all of you, so we have chosen to feature two of our older graduates who have served us in World War II and Korea. If you have served or are currently serving our country, please send information to Rachel Johnson at rjohnson@perrysburgschools.net.

### Allen Kazmaier ('36), World War II

People find different ways to celebrate their birthdays. On his birthday in 1942, Allen Kazmaier enlisted in the U.S. Air Force with a goal of becoming a Navy pilot. "My brother-in-law had an airplane at Metcalf field, and I used to go up with him," says Kazmaier. "There was a Navy recruiter at the airport, and he got me interested in joining." Kazmaier went through boot camp in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and then on to Peru, Indiana where he learned to fly biplanes. Major league baseball players Ted Williams and Johnny Pesky were there at the same time for training. "Ted Williams had tremendous eyesight and could tell if he was hitting the seam on a baseball," says Kazmaier. "His superb eyesight also made him a good fighter pilot." His next stop was Pensacola, Florida where he learned to fly a twin-engine Beech. "We learned how to fly in formation and to use celestial navigation," says Kazmaier. Next, he moved to San Diego, California where he trained on the B-24, a low-altitude bomber with a flying range of 2,500 miles. "Each plane had three officers – a pilot, co-pilot and navigator – and eight crew members," explains Kazmaier. His crew was flown to Hawaii at the Kaneohe Bay Air Naval Station. They then made their way to the island of Enewetak and later, to Tinian, where they flew patrols in the Pacific. Kazmaier and his crew were part of the air strike force to bomb the famous island of Iwo Jima prior to its invasion by American forces. Kazmaier estimated he flew 75 missions, 10 of which were actual bombing runs. "We only got into trouble once when one of our engines was shot out on a mission," recalls Kazmaier. "We dumped all the heavy stuff from the plane and made it back on three engines." He was discharged from duty in October 1945 and moved back home to Perrysburg. Kazmaier is 91-years-old and lives in Florida.

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Allen Kazmaier in 1943



Allen Kazmaier ('36)

**We're Searching...**  
 for the oldest living Perrysburg Schools alumnus.  
 Please send information to Rachel Johnson at  
 rjohnson@perrysburgschools.net

For Address Updates, Click on Alumni at [www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net) or Call 419-874-9131.  
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## Honoring Our Servicemen & Women (cont.)



John Parrish ('50)

### John Parrish ('50), Korean War

You would be hard-pressed to find a more enthusiastic supporter of veterans than John Parrish. As one of the first two men to be drafted from Perrysburg for the Korean War, Parrish was sent to Fort Meade, Maryland for induction. His next stop was Breckinridge, Kentucky for basic training with the 101st Airborne division where he attended truck-driving school and later became an ambulance driver. Parrish was then moved to Camp Stoman, California where he was shipped overseas to his permanent base at White Beach, Okinawa, Japan. As he debarked the ship in Okinawa he was greeted by children waving and shouting "Ohio." "I was quite taken by the fact these children knew my home state," says Parrish, "until I learned that 'Ohio' in Japanese means 'good morning!'" Private Parrish drove an ambulance for Ryukyus Army Hospital in Okinawa, an island 10 miles wide and 60 miles long that had served as a submarine base for the Japanese during World War II. While he was in the service, Parrish says he kept in touch with his favorite

high school teacher, Elizabeth Munger, who taught English. When his tour of duty was completed and he was discharged in 1953, he returned to Perrysburg where he spent seven years in the Army Reserves at the University of Toledo. In those seven years of Reserve duty he spent two weeks each summer at a military base working as an ambulance driver. Parrish joined the American Legion Post 28 with prodding from a friend. He has been an officer in the Legion from the very first day and was Commander of his Legion post for nine years. He is currently the Commander of VFW Post 6170. Local citizens know Parrish from his chairmanship of the annual Memorial Day parade. He believes it is important for servicemen and women to join veteran's organizations. "The more people who join and take an active role, the more voice they will have in Washington, D.C.," he says. Parrish has been married to his wife, Jean, for 54 years. They reside in Perrysburg.

### Perrysburg Schools Staff Members Who Have Served in the Military

**Larry Asmus**, *PHS Science*: Specialist, Military Police, Ohio National Guard  
**Jennifer Beale**, *PHS & PIH Orchestra & St. Rose Band & Orchestra*: 1st Lieutenant, Air Force (180th Fighter Wing)  
**Richard Brundrett**, *PHS Science*: Lt. Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
**Molly Butts**, *PIH Math-6th Grade*: Captain, U.S. Army, Field Artillery  
**Stanley George**, *Ft. Meigs Music*: Master Sergeant, Air Force  
**Arnold Lewandowsky**, *Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor*: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Infantry  
**Glenn McIntyre**, *PHS Math*: Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, Submarines  
**Jeff Smith**, *PHS Industrial Tech*: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, Avionics/Electronic Mechanic  
**Phil Smith**, *Toth Music*: SMSgt., Air National Guard  
**Ron Stewart**, *PIH Paraprofessional*: Corporal/Petty Officer, U.S. Navy WT, Nuclear Weapon Tech  
**John Trudel**, *Computer Support Technician*: TSgt., Air Force (180th Fighter Wing)  
**Lisa Watson**, *Woodland Playground Monitor*: TSgt., Air Force (180th Fighter Wing)

The new Widdel Field, in Steinecker Stadium, features state-of-the-art synthetic grass with a sophisticated underground drainage system. The field was installed this past summer. It was made possible by a very generous \$500,000 life insurance policy donation from the Ken Widdel family and a significant donation from the High School Athletic Boosters.



## We Want Your Feedback!

If you are a Perrysburg High School alumnus, please take a moment to complete our online alumni survey at [www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net) – Click on Alumni.



The Perrysburg Board of Education recently presented Doug Pratt with a crystal plaque commemorating his half-century of service to the Perrysburg Schools. Pictured (l-r) are: Perrysburg School Board President Valerie Hovland, Mary Ellen Pratt, Doug Pratt, and Perrysburg Schools Superintendent Tom Hosler.

## Transporting Treasures For 50 Years

For 50 years Doug Pratt has been Mr. Reliable. Snow, wind, and rain couldn't stop him from his mission of transporting students on a Perrysburg School bus. Until his retirement, no one had more years in the school system than Pratt.

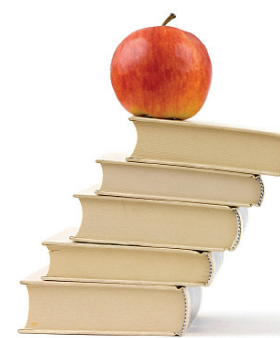
"Doug Pratt is the type of person all school employees should strive to be," says Tom Hosler, Perrysburg Schools Superintendent. "He has been dedicated to serving the students of Perrysburg. He is a person of high character, and he has a tremendous work ethic. I think we are a better school district because of Doug Pratt."

Pratt began his career as a school bus driver on September 1, 1958, having returned to Perrysburg after serving in the army. In 1996 he retired after 37 years of service but continued to drive as a substitute driver until 1999 when he returned to full-time duty. He retired for a second time in September of 2008. During that time he worked for nine superintendents and had routes all over Perrysburg while continuing to farm. In addition to driving a bus, Pratt served as the district's mechanic for almost 20 years. When he wasn't driving a bus or farming, Mr. Pratt also served as a volunteer fireman for 32 years and was an amateur pilot.

Pratt says he always took it as a compliment that people trusted him with "their greatest treasure" as he drove their children to and from school each day. "I always had good kids, never had a problem with them," he says. "The kids always treated me with a great deal of respect. I probably had the best ones in the whole school district." That attitude served Pratt well over his 50-year career and didn't go unnoticed by Perrysburg students and parents.

The Board of Education honored Pratt with a plaque for his half century of service to the children of Perrysburg. "I was honored to visit the Pratt's home and award Doug a plaque for his 50 years of service," says Board President Valerie Hovland. "There isn't a more genuine or dedicated man in our community. This was truly the highlight of my year as president of the board."

In his retirement Mr. Pratt continues to farm, living with his wife, Mary Ellen, on the family homestead started by his great-great-grandfather and where his family has lived since the 1800's. Summing up his career, he comments, "Every day was a good day. Some were just better than others. It was a fun job – it really was."



## Teachers Honored

Four Perrysburg teachers were honored by the Perrysburg Board of Education for achieving the Master Teacher distinction from the Ohio Department of Education. The teachers are: Anne Matolyak, an inclusion coach for the district; Kelley Treece, a fifth grade teacher at Fort Meigs Elementary School; Deborah Snow, a Junior High science teacher; and Tammy Mansfield, a special education teacher at the high school. They are the first Perrysburg teachers to gain the Master Teacher classification.

According to the Ohio Educator Standards Board, a master teacher demonstrates excellence inside and outside the classroom through consistent leadership and focused collaboration to maximize student learning. A master teacher must also strive for distinguished teaching and continued professional growth as specified by the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession.

Each of the four teachers submitted a comprehensive portfolio that included evidence of their teaching abilities. The portfolios were then independently evaluated using a thorough and unbiased process. The four Perrysburg teachers were among the first group to be considered for this honor by the Lucas County Educational Service Center Master Teacher Consortium of which Perrysburg Schools is a member.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As alumni all over the country receive this newsletter, please know that our current students, staff and board of education are very proud of our graduates who have served in the armed forces. As we prepared this edition of the *Buzz*, I had an opportunity to meet with the featured veteran alumni and others who have helped us reach out to the many servicemen and women that call themselves "Jackets."

Just last week I attended some of our elementary schools' programs honoring veterans. These programs involved the younger students and their family members who have served our country. To see these students looking at their grandparents, fathers, mothers, and in some cases big brothers or sisters, with such pride is truly priceless. In Perrysburg we are also proud of those employees who have served our country or continue to serve through the reserves. Each Veterans' Day school program makes it a point to thank the veterans for their service and sacrifice. Teachers share with their classes that the freedom we enjoy today was made possible by the men and women who we honor during the month of November.

Perrysburg Schools has no shortage of heroes. As a district we are committed to honor and remember the names of all of our alumni who have given so much and especially those who, as President Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address: "gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Perrysburg graduates have always answered the nation's call with honor and pride. As we look towards the future, please know that the traditions and honors that you encountered as a student in Perrysburg are still in place today. It truly is a special place, where students and staff alike join together to say "thank you" to all veterans and commit to preserving the freedoms that we have been given by so many brave people.

**Thomas L. Hosler**  
Superintendent, Perrysburg Schools

*Go Jackets!*

[www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net)  
[alumni@mail.perrysburgschools.net](mailto:alumni@mail.perrysburgschools.net)

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[alumni@mail.perrysburgschools.net](mailto:alumni@mail.perrysburgschools.net)

## Furry Friends Help Masters

Two new furry faces have become popular at Perrysburg High School this year. The faces belong to two assistance dogs for students with special needs. Zane, a black Labrador retriever, helps freshman Zach Zies. The two had become a familiar sight at the Junior High over the past two years. Zane was the first assistance dog to be admitted to a Perrysburg School. Zach and Zane have been joined by a new assistance dog duo – Nick Hyndman, a PHS junior, and his dog Charger.

Nick, who had been on a waiting list for 18 months, received his dog, Charger, from Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. last spring after participating in an intense two-week training program. Charger is a two-year-old chocolate lab. Nick and Charger then had a couple of trial weeks last April at the High School with Assistance Dog staff members on hand helping the two learn to adjust to their new situation. "The school was open minded and very willing to jump on board," says Nick's mother Amy.

Nick has cerebral palsy, a hearing impairment and some physical challenges. Charger helps his master by retrieving items, opening doors, pulling up bed covers, getting the phone, opening the refrigerator door and more.

Nick and Zach enjoy showing off their dogs' skills. "It's okay to approach Nick and ask if they can pet Charger," comments Mrs. Hyndman. "It is okay to ask questions. The dog is there to help Nick physically and socially. They take care of each other."



Freshman Zach Zies with Zane, the first assistance dog in Perrysburg Schools.



## EXCELLENT, AGAIN!

Valerie Hovland, Perrysburg School Board President (left) receives the Excellent with Distinction banner from John Bender, a member of the State Board of Education. Perrysburg Schools has received the Excellent with Distinction recognition for two consecutive years – the only two years the Excellent with Distinction designation has been available. In total, Perrysburg Schools has been recognized by the State Board of Education as either Excellent or Excellent with Distinction for nine consecutive years.