



# Ponder High Monthly ROAR!

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 20, 2003

*For the first time, a team from Ponder has advanced to State in Cross Country.*

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## Boys Cross Country Team to State!

By Heather Shirley

Saturday, November 8th was an historic day for the Ponder Cross Country program. For the first time, a team from Ponder has advanced to State in Cross Country by placing third in the regional meet. Daniel Lujan placing fourth with a time of 16:52 led the boys to accomplishing this extraordinary and rare feat. The other team members are Kelsey Johnson, Daniel McPherson, Tanner Deussen, Layne Boxell, Rudy Sandoval and Matt Wolodzko. The team will run in the state meet in Round Rock, Texas on Saturday, November 15th.



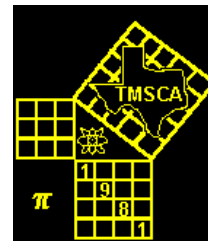
Pictured top: Coach Doug Boxell, Kelsey Johnson, Daniel McPherson, Layne Boxell, Kyle Camp, Coach Jude Stanley  
Pictured bottom: Rudy Sandoval, Matt Wolodzko, Tanner Deussen, Daniel Lujan, Jason Hale

## First Issue of Ponder High Monthly Roar!

By Tiffany Sandell

Every issue of Ponder High School's paper will be full of sports stories, interviews of fellow students and teachers, a monthly puzzle and a calendar of school events so you never miss an event. But how did it all begin? It really is a very interesting story. One day, while wrestling alligators in the swamplands of Louisiana, the idea first presented itself. Wouldn't it be great if everyone knew the trials and tribulations of the school in print? It was a crazy notion, but it had to be done. So the idea was pitched to a teacher who too liked

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## TMSCA Hosts Meet

By Ben Quigg

The Ponder TMSCA Meet, held Saturday, November 8, was a huge success. Twenty-three schools, bringing around 320 students, attended the meet. The Ponder High School TMSCA Team was preparing a full month before this event. Mrs. Naylor still had many a sleepless night thinking of and doing work for the meet. The TMSCA Team thanks all of the volunteers that helped at the meet, with a special thanks to Donna Crider for providing all of the food for the hospitality room. Many of the junior high students that came to the event were very pleased with the overall production. Ponder High School's TMSCA (Texas Math & Science Coaches Association) team hosts a junior high meet every year to raise money to attend the State Meet in San Antonio.



Cheerleaders have spirit.



## Bleacher Mania

By Tiffany Sandell

The 2003 Bleacher Mania Event, which kicks-off Ponder's basketball season, was a jungle. The high school gym was transformed from a place of serious sport to a vine-swinging shout fest for this special night. Featured performances including members of the High School Choir and first-year American Sign Language students, opening the night by singing and signing the National Anthem; High

School and Junior High Cheerleaders led school spirit; our beloved Junior High Mascot played a little skit; and a routine by the Elementary Dance Team was adorably carried out. All presentations were well performed and warmly, if not loudly, received by all.



Junior High Mascot, Delanie Darnell entertains the crowd.

*Spirit Week seeks to determine who among the staff and students possesses the most school spirit*

## Spirit Shown All Week With Dress Up Days

By Tiffany Sandell

Bleacher Mania, however, is not just a one-night extravaganza. There is a whole week leading up to the roaring grand finale. A week of dress themed days to determine whom among the staff and students possesses the most school spirit.

During the week, the winners received a certificate and special prize. On Friday night at Bleacher Mania, the weekly winners received a spirit stick and certificate.



Chelsey Schroeder shows spirit on Red & White Day

## Juniors Win Most Spirited Class

By Tiffany Sandell

To the Junior class, the most important ceremonious act at Bleacher Mania is by far the award of Most Spirited Class. There exists an extreme rivalry between the class of 2005 and any other contender that may be a threat to what they feel to be their honor. This year was going to be different; it was determined as

the week's festivities began. There was going to be no contest. It would be obvious to all who the supreme victor was to be. With snare drum, propane-can-noise-maker and class flag in hand, they set forth to indisputably win the coveted Spirit stick. In a roar unparalleled even by the loudest thundering apocalypse, the Junior Class dominated the night to come out on top with their treasure.



# Red Ribbon Week

By Tiffany Sandell

Red Ribbon week is a national event that encourages students to resist peer pressure and other elements that may tempt one to do drugs. It is recognized by anti-drug themed dress days, school events and student participation activities. This year, Red Ribbon Week was held October 27th through the 31st. The winners are shown in the table at right. Each winner received a gift bag of candy and other prizes.

Another way Red Ribbon Week's meaning was enforced was by a door-decorating contest. Although all the doors that participated were creatively decorated, only three places could be awarded, those being: Mrs. Smith in 3rd Place, Mrs. Brocket in 2nd Place, and Ms. Koleber in 1st Place, whose second period class won a donut party for their decor.

The committees of DASH (Drugs, Alcohol, Safety and Health) and NHS (National Honor Society), also had students sign commitments to take the

Day: Event	"A" Lunch Winner	"B" Lunch Winner
Monday: <i>Turn Your Back on Drugs</i>	Kasey Daniel	Courtney Pardue
Tuesday: <i>Team Up Against Drugs</i>	Ryne Reeves	Jonathon Griffin
Wednesday: <i>Put A Cap on Drugs</i>	Amber Spann	Jaimie Holifield
Thursday: <i>Wear Red Day</i>	Travis Watson	Jonathan King
Friday: <i>Tie Down Drugs</i>	Doug Kennedy	Rhiannon Griffin

first steps in becoming drug free. Students signed hands pledging to do no illegal drugs for a week as a first step in a long process, and a graffiti wall made by NHS to encourage other students to not do drugs. Also, after a day of exchanging and signing hearts, PALS (Peer Assistance and Leadership) members sent students candy Hugs and Kisses when the signed hearts were returned.

The week concluded with the Grim Reaper, which handed out tombstones to students "killed" by some act that could have been prevented had drugs not been a factor. It is the hope of all that contributed to this week that drug use can be curbed and one day made a less widespread problem.



Ms. Koleber's 1st Place Door

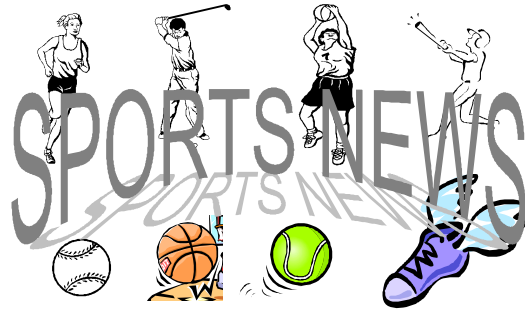


Grim Reaper with Drug Victim

## First Issue

*Continued from Page 1*

to wrestle alligators in Louisiana. A Ponder High School newspaper was slowly being formed. But how could two people, though with a thoroughly fascinating alligator fetish, concoct an entire issue and it be out early enough for anything in it to be relevant? A plan was made. Students were tricked into joining the newspaper staff by an irresistible lure... the prospect of word-wide fame, starring in a movie about none other than Alligator Wrestling. However, when many of the prospective reporters found out that it was a mere ploy, they high-tailed it out. Only the lucky few stayed behind to become the staff of the prestigious *Ponder High Monthly Roar*.



## Freshman Runner Qualifies for Regional Cross Country

By Heather Shirley

**M**ychelle Gregg represented Ponder High School in the regional meet and placed fifteenth with a time of 13:15. Mychelle's time is only two seconds slower than the second place runner of the state meet last year.

Mychelle felt that the regional course was much easier than expected. She started off in first place, but about halfway through she found herself in thirty-third place. With the support of her parents, coaches and the Lord she was able to come back and place fifteenth. She feels that without the support she wouldn't have been able to come back as she did. Next year the girls hope to advance to regional as a team.



## Can't Beat A Perfect Season

By Heather Shirley

**T**he Jr. High Boys Cross Country team capped off a perfect season by winning the District Meet. The boys were undefeated—placing 1st in every meet this year! “Winning District was our goal for Cross Country this year and edging out Krum by 1 point and staying undefeated was quite an accomplishment for our kids,” said Coach Steve Young. Medal winners were Jesus Lujan—2nd, Salvador Sandoval—5th, Colton Ream—8th, Sky Sciscoe—9th, Doug Kennedy—12th, Isaiah Boxell—14th, and Joel Garza—18th.

## District Cross Country Races to Finish

By Heather Shirley

**T**wo weeks ago, on a cold and wind blown day at North Lakes Park in Denton, the district Cross Country meet took place. Over 7 weeks of work - all for this day. All the Ponder teams were feeling well prepared and ready to do their best. The Varsity boys' team took second place and advanced to the regional meet. Daniel Lujan placed second overall,

Rudy Sandoval placed 10th overall and received an individual medals also. The girls placed fifth as a team; the only regional **q u a l i f i e r**, Mychelle Gregg, placed eighth.

The JV boys also placed second with Matt Wolodzko and A.J. Shivers winning individual medals as well.

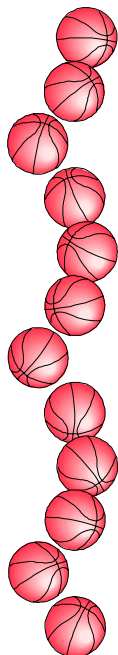
The Junior High girls team placed 2nd with the following team members: Heidi James—3rd, Angeleena Young—5th, Betty Sciscoe—7th, Kalee Josselet—23rd, and Sarah Ream—31st.



# Upcoming Hoops Events

By: Ashley Barger

The following are dates, location, and times of this month's upcoming events:



<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>
Nov. 20-22	H.S. Boys & Girls Basketball	Home, Ponder Tournament	TBA
Nov. 24	J.H. Boys Basketball	Valley View	4:00
Nov. 24	J.H. Girls Basketball	Home	4:00
Nov. 25	H.S. Boys Basketball	Little Elm	4:30
Nov. 25	H.S. Girls Basketball	Home	5:00
Dec. 1	J.H. Boys Basketball	Krum	4:00
Dec. 1	J.H. Girls Basketball	Home	4:00
Dec. 2	H.S. Boys Basketball	Sanger	4:00
Dec. 2	H.S. Girls Basketball	Home	4:30
Dec. 4 & 6	J.H. Boys & Girls Basketball	Home, Ponder Tournament	TBA
Dec. 5	H.S. Girls Basketball	Decatur	6:00
Dec. 6	H.S. Boys Basketball	Home	7:00
Dec. 8	J.H. Girls Basketball	Argyle	4:00
Dec. 8	J.H. Boys Basketball	Home	4:00
Dec. 9	H.S. Boys & Girls Basketball	Slidell	4:00
Dec. 11-13	H.S. Boys Basketball (Varsity)	Stephenville, Crosstimbers Tournament	TBA
Dec. 11-13	H.S. Boys Basketball (JV)	Lake Dallas, Lake Dallas Tournament	TBA
Dec. 11-13	H.S. Girls Basketball (Varsity)	Chico, Chico Tournament	TBA
Dec. 15	J.H. Boys Basketball	Callisburg	4:00
Dec. 15	J.H. Girls Basketball	Home	4:00

## 2003-2004 Ponder Rodeo Team

By Ashley Barger



**P**onder's Rodeo Team has been making great leaps and bounds this year.

There are seven competitors on the team. They are as follows: Randi Ford (goat tying and breakaway roping), Cali Bostick (barrel racing), Lara Arnold (barrel racing and

pole bending), Jake North (calf and ribbon roping), Brice Swafford (calf, ribbon, and team roping), Clint Crowell (calf, ribbon, and team roping), and Shawn Crockett (calf, ribbon, and team roping).

The Ponder Rodeo Team is currently sitting 11th out of 82 teams in the north Texas area. They all love what they are doing and always try their best. You can watch all of these talented riders every weekend at the NTHSRA arena vying to keep their title.



## Meet A New Teacher ----- ▶ ▶ ▶ Coach Josselet

Prepping young basketball players for Coach Cross' Varsity program is, former coach of Munday, Kent Josselet. He graduated from UNT in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in physical education and a minor in Biology and Health. Coach Josselet's Munday team won district once and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> the other two years he was there. His coaching experience spans fifteen

years, including familiarity with basketball, volleyball, track, cross country and football. He has been married for 18 years, has 2 children-a son who is currently a freshman attending Texas Tech and a daughter presently a seventh grader here at Ponder. When asked about the girls team here he stated, "Our team has been improving everyday and

our goal is to split even in district this year. Our toughest opponents look to be Aubrey, Argyle and Gunter." His stated reason for moving to Ponder is locality. Although he misses being close to his family, he likes that there are no football pep rallies every week. It is foreseen that we can expect great things from Coach Josselet's team this year.

How well do you know your teachers and fellow students?



By Damon Lawrence



## Meet A New Student ----- ▶ ▶ ▶ Justin Keshler

Who knows Justin Keshler? Where did he come from? What does he like to do? Who is his favorite friend here at Ponder? Wonder no more; Justin Keshler is revealed.

Justin came to Ponder High School by choice, stating "Lake Dallas was boring... nothing ever happened there. Ponder is such a cool place!". Justin misses being in a big school because he got

away with more, but when asked what he missed most he said without hesitation "FOOTBALL".

Now on to more personal matters. Justin is on the tennis team, in drama and is considering TMSCA. He enjoys playing guitar, watching movies with friends and helping out with the FBC Ponder youth group. His favorite subject is "math, but Geometry doesn't count". His best friend at

Ponder so far is Trista Antle, and favorite teacher is Mrs. Neighbors. He thinks Ponder, as a whole, should have more love for animals. When asked to describe himself in one word, he simply said, "blunt." He leaves us with these words of wisdom: "Don't count your penguins before the polar bear comes."



## Movie Review

### Radio

By Charlene McGinnis

I Give  
it :



**R**adio is a touching true story based on a mentally handicapped young man, who changed the lives of everyone involved with T.L. Hanna High School in 1976.

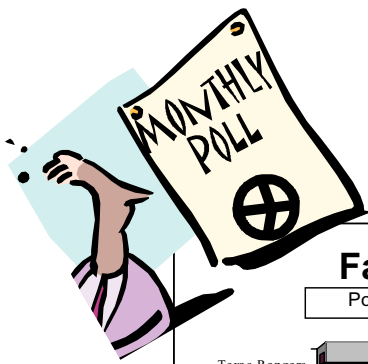
Radio is based on true events that began in Anderson, South Carolina and continue to this day. Radio, otherwise known as James Robert Kennedy, was a young boy who was grieved, or as others in Anderson would say, blessed, with a genetic disorder that affected his speech and men-

tal capacity.

In the movie, Radio (Cuba Gooding Jr.) is a troubled young man noticed roaming around the fences at T.L. Hanna High School by Coach Harold Jones (Ed Harris). Radio gets off to a bumpy start, many people in the local town thinking he is a nut. Coach Jones, noticing that Radio has a special liking for sports, invites Radio to come and help out with the football team. Some start to think of Radio as a distraction, but Coach Jones sees

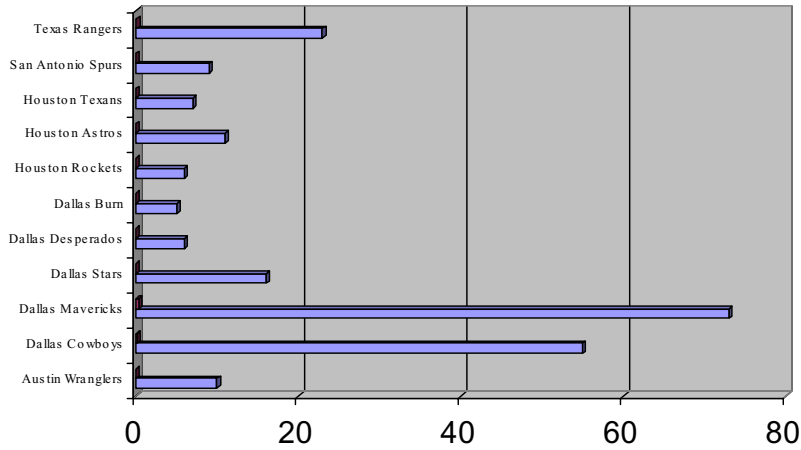
the better half of what Radio is doing for the town and fights for him. Harold Jones (Ed Harris) states, "We aren't the ones that's been teachin' Radio, Radio's been teachin' us."

The struggles that this man endures are heartbreaking. The movie shows the racial and disability boundaries of the time. This movie is great for all (young, old, guys and girls). Everyone will enjoy this movie.



## Favorite Texas Sports Teams

Poll Conducted November 12, 2003 at Ponder High School



Do not bite at the bait of pleasure till you know there is no hook beneath it.

**Thomas Jefferson**

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

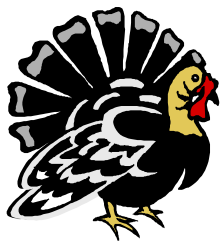
**Steven Covey**

I took a speed-reading course and read 'War and Peace' in twenty minutes. It involves Russia.

**Woody Allen**



Thanksgiving  
Word Search



G N I V I G S K N A H T G L T  
 O K U J E S C T E Y G H L C S  
 I N J Y C W N I U O E A S W A  
 R G J R U L P A B F B K H I E  
 E D A R A P Q B E T F Y R Z F  
 M V T E Q K L X O B V I M U N  
 A L A B E E C O W A N B N L T  
 H A B N X U F C R X F E Z G F  
 S O L A Z R T G L W A O E A Q  
 I P E R X K N I F E M U L R I  
 S B O C H E W U M Z I L P L G  
 H M N O V E M B E R L H P T M  
 J L A E N O K Z G S Y K R O F  
 I M E Y B G B R H T H A H P D  
 L I U B Q D O K P M D B R A D

CRANBERRY  
 FALL  
 FAMILY  
 FEAST  
 FOOTBALL  
 FORK  
 GOBBLE  
 GRAVY  
 GREENBEANS  
 HAM

KNIFE  
 NOVEMBER  
 PARADE  
 PIE  
 SPOON  
 STUFFING  
 TABLE  
 THANKSGIVING  
 TURKEY  
 YAMS

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

The PALs class is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive from November 13 through November 21. The food will be donated to Ponder Kares for Kids to help those families who are less fortunate. The group is asking that each grade provide at least two complete Thanksgiving Dinners minus the turkeys, which will be provided separately. The list is shown at right.

The grade that collects 2 complete dinners and donates the largest number of dry or canned items will receive a sub-sandwich party sponsored by the PALs class.

- 1 can Cranberry Sauce
- 1 large can Yams
- 2 boxes Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 2 pkgs. Dry Turkey gravy mix, or 2 jars prepared gravy
- 3 cans corn
- 2 small or 1 large can pumpkin pie filling that includes spices
- 3 boxed pie crusts (just add water)
- 3 cans Green Beans
- 2 boxes hot roll mix

# Ponder High Monthly ROAR!

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We're on the Web!  
The newspaper is  
also available on the  
PHS website on the  
High School Page.

***Want to submit something for the paper?  
E-mail it to us at:***

***roar@student.ponderisd.net***

## Jack Varcados Wins Newspaper Naming Contest

The newspaper staff held a contest to select the name of the new Ponder High School newspaper. Over 30 names were submitted by students and faculty. The staff voted and the top four were put on a ballot for a student vote. The names were: *Ponder Press*, *Ponder Gazette*, *Ponder High Monthly Roar*, and *Ponder Times*. The runner-up name was *Ponder Press*, submitted by Craig Woody, with 24% of the vote. The winning name was *Ponder High Monthly Roar*, submitted by Jack Varcados, with 50% of the vote. The top two winners were presented with candy prizes.



Winner Jack Varcados with  
*Ponder High Monthly Roar* Editor,  
Tiffany Sandell

## Coming In Future Editions:



In this section of each edition of *Ponder High Monthly Roar*, students may write questions and comments to the editor about the previous issue of the paper. The staff of the *Ponder High Monthly Roar* encourages student opinions to make the paper better adapted to the students at Ponder High School. Newspaper editor, Tiffany Sandell, will answer all questions and comments in this section. We hope to hear from you!



We are starting an advice column where you send in confidential questions, and we publish answers to selected questions. To submit a question, write down your question using a secret name like "Desperately Seeking Help," or your real name (which will not be featured in the paper) and place it in the box that will be located in front of the High School Computer Lab. Every month the staff will go through the questions and pick ones appropriate to answer and the response will be displayed in the next issue.

For more instant and private advice, email the *Ponder High Monthly Roar* at [roar@student.ponderisd.net](mailto:roar@student.ponderisd.net).

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to hearing from you!



### Student Articles

This area of the paper is designated for students that would like to express their views by submitting articles to *Ponder High Monthly Roar*. The article can be over any school event or an original work by a student, but no gossip, slander or inappropriate topics, please. A submission box will be located outside of the High School Computer Lab for all works. When a topic is submitted, please be sure to specify whether the article is to be anonymous or have a "by" line. The *Ponder High Monthly Roar* staff will need to meet with anyone who submits an article to verify authenticity.

*-Ponder High Monthly Roar Staff*