

Mount Mercy Times

A student publication serving Mount Mercy University

Issue 7, Thursday, January 18, 2018

Inside the Times:

Turning tragedy into help for kids



Father's death motivates MMU sophomore Kaytlyn Rmelhart to make music and to work with children facing similar life events.

See Snapshot, Page 6

Market day



Enactus draws December crowd to annual Market on the Mount.

See Page 2



Fisher shines in final role

Cam Junge says "Star Wars" maintains its force even though movie series is four decades old.

See Page 4

New SGA leaders

President shares her plans for the year, Times shows new cabinet.



See Pages 4 and 6

Heads up:

Dodgeball league night 2

The second week of the dodgeball league will be held Saturday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. This night will determine seed placements for the final tournament that will be held later this month. This event will be hosted by Intramurals.

Men's volleyball home opener

Support the men's volleyball team at their first home game for the 2018 season on Friday, Feb. 2. The Mustangs will take on Grand View University. The first serve will take place at 6 p.m.

First "UC Takeover"

New this year, on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 8 p.m. a plethora of events will be taking place in the University Center during the UC Takeover. Events include zombie escape room, mini golf, human bowling, and more. This event will be sponsored by Student Engagement.

Superbowl watching party

Intramurals will be hosting a superbowl viewing party in the UC on Sunday, Feb. 4. Festivities will begin at 5 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Click it:

'Mercy Creative Review'

The first issue of Mount Mercy's "Creative Review" is available online and in print. This magazine features faculty, staff, and alumni's writings. Visit <https://www.mtmerry.edu/creative-review> to see it online.



Connor Mahan/Times

Dr. Joy Ochs, professor of English, was the lead writer on an application that secured a sustainability grant for Mount Mercy University.

Year of sustainability

New director named to lead campus programs

By Connor Mahan
Editor-In-Chief

One theme of 2018 on The Hill will be "sustainability."

Mount Mercy University applied for a grant last year and was selected in fall to receive \$425,000. The grant will be used by campus mission and ministry to house an office of sustainability and stewardship.

The grant will fund many initiatives, including academic programs in sustainability studies, a new sustainability scholars program, co-curricular opportunities, staff development and outreach.

"The most exciting thing I think we are going to have is the sustainability scholars program. This program will allow students to do leadership in sustainability and stewardship."

Joy Ochs, professor of English

"The most exciting thing I think we are going to have is the sustainability scholars program," said Joy Ochs, professor of English. "This program will allow students to do leadership in sustainability and stewardship."

Ochs took the lead in writing the application for the grant. The grant is funded

to do leadership in sustainability and stewardship."

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President's words give support to 'Fire and Fury'

By Savannah Oler
Graphics Editor

A new controversial book that gives readers an inside look into Trump's White house has been heavily criticized; however, a Mount Mercy University history professor says that even though it's poorly written, it's still credible.

The book "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" by Michael Wolff that was published this month has stirred criticisms from President Trump himself. He even hired a lawyer try to prevent publication with a cease and desist letter.

The book contains a range of huge claims about the president and those who surround him. Extracts from the book have made headlines worldwide. Allison McNeese, assistant professor of history at Mount Mercy, shared her

How Trump could leave office

Many people have speculated whether President Donald Trump will remain in office for his full term, especially with the publishing of the controversial book "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House." Allison McNeese, Mount Mercy assistant professor of history, says there are only four ways Trump could leave office early:

- ◆ Resign
- ◆ Die while in office
- ◆ Be impeached
- ◆ Be removed via the 25th Amendment

The 25th Amendment has to do with the vice president replacing the president because the president is unable to fulfill his presidential responsibilities. Some reasons for this would be that he goes into a coma, has signs of mental illness or dementia in which written declaration would declare that he is unable to continue his duties in office.

responses after reading the book.

"Not written very well and edited poorly," said McNeese.

Despite that, she found

most of the

information to

be credible.

"Careless

mistakes could

have been

caught by better

editing,"

said McNeese.

As for

Trump's reaction,

McNeese

Day.

MMU held four events, one each day, Monday through Thursday, including making care packages, watching "The March" (a documentary), a free visit to the African American Museum of Iowa, and watching "The Butler" (a

movie).

Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Center, students made packages that included toothbrushes, socks, deodorant for both men

◆ See More than 100: page 4

MLK Days

Making care packages starts King events

By Connor Mahan

Editor-In-Chief

Making care packages in the Sisters of Mercy University Center Monday kicked off four events Mount Mercy staged this week to celebrate Martin Luther King

Connor Mahan/Times

Antwain Strong (below) had his best game against Grandview College, scoring 30. He dribbles during the Jan. 6 game against Benedictine College. (Story, Sports, page 5)

Playing strong



Despite poor editing, book gives insight

President's words give support to 'Fire and Fury'

By Savannah Oler
Graphics Editor

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FIRE AND FURY

INSIDE THE TRUMP WHITE HOUSE

MICHAEL WOLFF

One market day

Shopping in a winter wonderland!

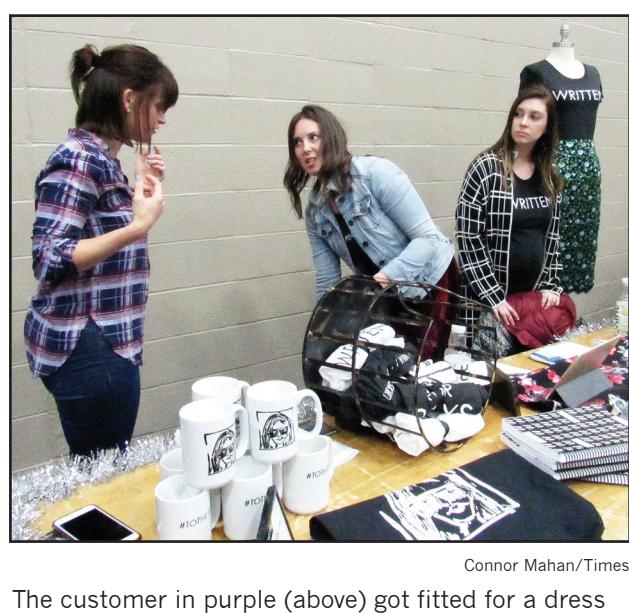


Connor Mahan/Times

A woman (above) hands cash to a vendor to pay for two buttons on display.

A vendor (right) talks to two women about what she is selling.

A customer (far right) finalizes her purchase to the Mount Mercy bookstore.



Connor Mahan/Times

The customer in purple (above) got fitted for a dress that she wanted to buy.

Customers (to the left) filled the Hennessey Rec Center Dec. 9, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Market at the Mount continues to bring in high numbers

By Connor Mahan
Editor-In-Chief

It's not every day that people go to a farmer's market during the winter—except when it's held here on the hill. Enactus club sponsored its fourth annual Market on the Mount Dec. 9, 2017 in the Hennessey Recreational

Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's market brought in just over 1,600 people. That is approximately 600 more people than last year, and the Prairie Drive/27th Street lots were packed with cars and the recreational center was filled with people.

"I'm so excited, the students have done an amazing

job promoting the event, getting the vendors here, helping them set-up, and then just learning what it means to be part of a business," said Nate Klein, assistant professor of business and interim dean of students.

When Enactus club sponsored its first Market on the Mount in 2014, 22 vendors attended the and a little over

275 people showed up to purchase goods. This year, there were 62 vendors who received a combined revenue of \$27,931 in five hours, \$6,891 more revenue than last year, making this Mount Mercy's largest market.

"Mount Mercy does a great job of marketing so we can depend on a lot of people coming through which you

need because we don't make things for everyone—just some people," said vendor Nancy from Anna's Button Box.

Anna's Button Box has been attending the Market on the Mount event for a couple of years.

**WANT TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
THIS SPRING?**

Mount Mercy Spring Break Service Trip
BEAUMONT & PORT ARTHUR
TEXAS
March 18-23, 2018

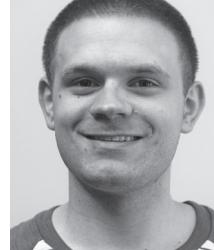
Cost: \$250
-includes all meals, travel, lodging, project supplies, tools, insurance & service project coordination.

Seven Faculty/Staff Advisors will be attending.

Spots will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions? Contact Jamarco Clark at jclark@mtmercy.edu

Cam era man



Know movies? Cameron Junge does. Follow his movie reviews in each issue of the MMU times. Cam, a man of this era, a Cam era man.

ALL MMU STUDENTS + EMPLOYEES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Health + Wellness Fair

MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY

MTMERCY.EDU/HEALTH-WELLNESS-FAIR

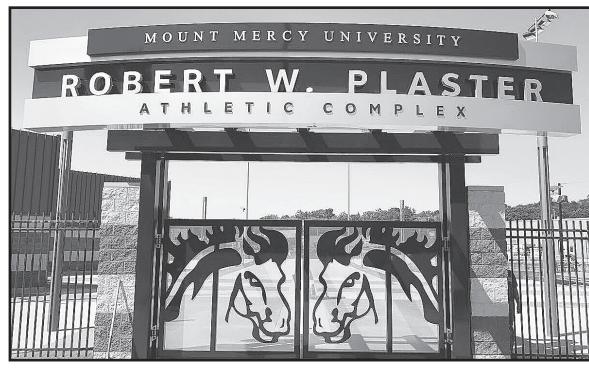
**FEB
08
2018**

11 AM-1 PM

**BETTY
CHERRY
HERITAGE HALL**

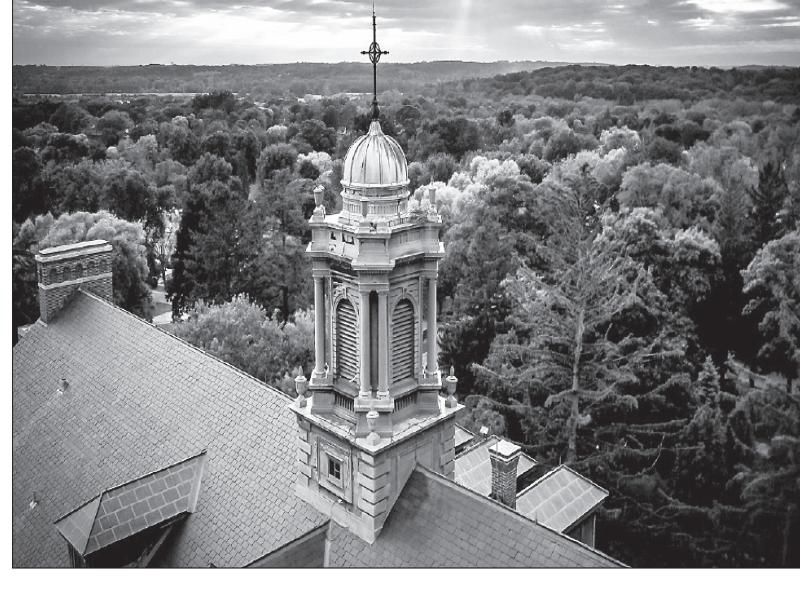
**LUNDY
FITNESS
CENTER**

**Admission is
FREE**



Newest, oldest

The Robert W. Plaster Athletic Complex (left) is one of Mount Mercy's newest editions. The complex was officially open in Fall of 2017. It serves as home to all MMU's outdoor sports such as soccer, track and field, softball, and baseball. The image at left and below were used by MMU faculty or web site.



Warde Hall (right) is the oldest building on campus. It is named after Francis Warde, a good friend of Catherine McAuley. A statue of Francis Warde can be found sitting on the bench around the fire pit. In the early beginnings of Mount Mercy, Warde Hall served as the only campus building, until they later expanded.

Happy 90th birthday, Mount Mercy!

The date Sept. 11 now is unfortunately associated with one of the most tragic occurrences in United States history. That's too bad—because on The Hill, Sept. 11 had, for many years, meant something else.

Mount Mercy Academy and Junior College was founded 90 years ago this year, on Sept. 11, 1928. The Sisters of Mercy purchased Mound Farm and the Greene Mansion and opened up a high school and junior college for women.

Warde Hall was the only academic building at this time and served as the learning environment, dormitory and cafeteria. The original hardwood flooring can still be found in Warde's first floor.

Staff Editorial

The opinion of Times editors

Fast forward to today, and Mount Mercy University has changed drastically.

However, one aspect of Mount Mercy that has not changed is our name of is still "mercy." And as it says on the Rohde Plaza, our spirit is compassion.

Through many years, the name changes, the building additions, and growing student diversity and numbers, Mount Mercy has strived to remain true to the qualities for which we were founded.

Although MMU is young when compared to other colleges and universities, we should be proud that our founding ideal is still very much present in the atmosphere of our university.

As for today, well, 90th birthdays don't happen very often. To celebrate

this accomplishment in the fall, the Times suggests birthday cake and party hats! Maybe a picnic on the plaza. Ninety bongo drummers or fire eaters? Maybe 90 minutes of music and dance.

Also, a celebratory Beyoncé concert would be fun, too. She could even sing "Happy Birthday," which recently went into the public domain.

As MMU embarks on its 90th year, we want to remind Mount Mercy to preserve and celebrate the past, but do not let it restrain the future.

"All hail our alma mater, her banner blue and gold." Hmm. That song would sound better if it, too, were sung by Beyoncé. Even to a 90-year-old.

Heard on The Hill

By Connor Mahan

What people are saying on topics of interest

"With J-term being different than a traditional semester, how are you taking advantage of the extra free time J-term allows for?"



Jonny Specht, freshman, outdoor conservation

"It's an easier chance to get work done since you have more free time available."



Alexis Freyfelt, senior, social work

"With one class, I have been working and I am going to be interviewed here shortly because I'm trying to get an internship with the Mercy Volunteer Core. I also have been getting money to pay off bills so I'm ready for spring semester."



Antonio Boffeli, freshman, nursing

"I have been reading a lot more with my free time. It keeps my mind off things."



Bailey Hepworth, freshman, nursing

"I have been saving more because I am trying to go to Italy. It is a beautiful country and if you have watched movies that were filmed in Italy—it's gorgeous!"



Courtney Hoffman, freshman, journalism

"I have been spending a lot of time seeing friends and family. I also have been looking for a job to pay off loans."

Mount Mercy's sustainability grant granted: A great asset for MMU

Opinion



Jess Hiney
Guest Writer

I am excited to see recognition of the importance of sustainability on Mount Mercy's campus, and that one position will be entirely dedicated to shedding light on this global injustice. To be frank, the future of the entire globe depends on the steps we take now to live sustainably, and it begins with the education of what sustainability is, and why it is important.

The sustainability grant is also a great asset to Mount Mercy because it falls into the wonderful values of our founders, the Sisters of Mercy. The education will include what sustainability really is and how to live sustainably, but it also entails contemplating the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, and how sustainability plays a key role in all of them. The five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy are as follows: immigration, racism, women and children, non-violence, and care for the earth.

Related Content

Joy Ochs organized and wrote the grant application—page 1.

It is natural to think that sustainability's focus of these five concerns would be on care for the earth, which is accurate and fair. However, it is challenging to isolate one social injustice and not connect it with another. My hope is that with the new position of sustainability, and the resources from the Margaret A. Cargill grant, is that there will be a greater understanding of how much climate change affects the world we

live in and contributes to the social injustices we see.

But, most importantly, I believe that by receiving this grant and having a new position entirely dedicated to sustainability, it will bring much hope to all of the students, staff, and faculty of Mount Mercy. I also hope that we are not too late to make a difference in this world for the better, and to actively strive to alleviate the social injustices that take place each and every day, worldwide.

Content in the Times represents student writers, and is not official communication from Mount Mercy University. Editorials express the opinions of the Editorial Board and may not be the opinion shared by the university nor by all individual Times staff members. Bylined commentaries and cartoons reflect the opinions of the writer or artist.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Letters should be concise, 300 words or less, and preferably emailed. The author's name, phone and address must be included. The name is published with the letter. Longer commentary, in the form of guest columns, is also encouraged. Besides the name, a photograph of the author is published with guest columns.

The Times reserves the right to edit or omit submissions. Letters and other submissions may be sent to the Times via email, campus mail or brought to the Times office in the lower level of the Busse Library.

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The Mount Mercy Times is a biweekly student publication serving MMU students, faculty, and staff and those close to the Mount Mercy University community. The Times is published on alternate Thursdays during the school year (each issue has a Thursday date, but the paper is usually distributed Wednesday).

In addition, the Times maintains a student-run website for the dissemination of additional news in various forms, including Times TV video stories.

Membership on the staff of the Times is open to any MMU student, full- or part-time, undergraduate or graduate.

Please attend one of our staff meetings, which are all open to the public, or contact an editor or our advisor for more information. Meetings will be announced in the paper, via social media and with on-campus posters.

Staff Writers are listed by name on the stories they write, photographers are credited on photos.

the right to refuse an ad at its sole discretion.

The Mount Mercy Times will not print material found to be in poor taste or that it deems detrimental to a person's personal character. However, provocative comments on matters of public interest are encouraged.

Letters are due Friday at noon for consideration of publication the following Thursday.

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Even 40 years later, the force is still with 'Star Wars'

Fisher shines in poignant final movie role

For over 40 years, audiences worldwide have traveled to a galaxy far, far, away and witnessed their favorite heroes going on epic adventures, taking part in epic space battles and saving the galaxy from the forces of evil.

Even after two trilogies, a spin-off film, numerous animated television shows, and numerous projects currently in development, it is safe to say that the Star Wars Saga has established itself as a highly successful franchise that shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon in the near future. Now the wait for Star Wars: The Last Jedi is finally over and director Rian Johnson delivers the best installment since The Empire Strikes Back from 1980.

Taking place immediately after the events of Star Wars:

Review



Cameron Junge
Movie Reviewer



Disney publicity images

Carrie Fisher (above) steals the show as General Leia in the recent Star Wars movie. Multiple characters are featured in a publicity poster for the movie (right).

The Force Awakens, Rey has finally located the self-exiled Jedi Master Luke Skywalker and attempts to persuade him into fighting the First Order while also hoping to be trained in the ways of the force. Meanwhile, the sinister military faction known as the First Order is bent on wiping out the Resistance for good and with the stakes being higher than ever before for General Leia and her dwindling band of resistance fighters, a small group of rebels formulate a daring plan in a desperate attempt to save their allies from

impending doom.

In one of the many trailers for Star Wars: The Last Jedi, we hear Luke Skywalker telling Rey that "this is not going to go the way you think." That is a fairly accurate description of what fans can expect when watching Star Wars: The Last Jedi on the big screen because director Rian Johnson makes some pretty bold decisions with both the characters and story while taking this installment into uncharted territory.

Without going into spoilers, Star Wars The Last Jedi has several scenes and plot twists that caught me off guard and had me at the edge of my seat. Even though they're not as shocking as the iconic "I am your father" quote from The Empire Strikes Back, I have to give director Rian Johnson credit for making such bold choices with the characters while at the same time taking the story in a new direction.



One notable aspect of Star Wars The Last Jedi which surprised me more than anything was the comedy. The Star Wars Saga is well known for having plenty of comedic moments sprinkled throughout the course of the franchise. Despite the film's dark tone and bleak situations, most of the characters delivered a couple lines of dialogue that made me laugh. While the humor did overshadow the pacing of the film a couple times,

it never felt out of place and the comedy was able to blend in with the action seamlessly.

The action sequences, cinematography and visual effects never cease to entertain and even though the battles are kind of over the top, they are perhaps the best space battle sequences in any Star Wars film to date. However, the real strength of the film comes from the stellar acting performances of its ensemble cast, with standout performances from Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker, Daisy Ridley as Rey, and Adam Driver as Kylo Ren. Each of the cast's characters had their moment to shine while at the same time giving me a better understanding of who they really are and what they're trying to achieve.

Even though they all delivered exhilarating performances in their respective roles, it was the late Carrie Fisher's final performance as General Leia that stole the show. Any moment that Carrie Fisher appears on screen makes all of her scenes as Leia both moving and bittersweet for fans that saw her character go from a feisty princess to a fearless leader who's willing to risk her life in the name of freedom.

Overall, I give Star Wars: The Last Jedi 4 1/2 mustangs out of 5 for not just being action packed roller-coaster ride from beginning to end, but for also being a worthy addition to the Star Wars Saga. While the comedic elements may have overshadowed the film's pacing a couple times, it still manages to be the best installment since The Empire Strikes Back and will definitely delight Star Wars fans for years to come.

New SGA leaders seek student input

Whine week coming

As the new semester is quickly approaching, the Mount Mercy Student Government Association has gone through a lot of changes, and is looking forward to a new year. On Monday, Jan. 8, a new executive team and cabinet swore in to take over leadership within SGA. I was sworn in as the new president at this time.

The rest of the executive board is as follows: Cassie Noel, vice president; Alexus Minervini, secretary; and Wyatt O'Connor, treasurer. We also selected a cabinet, which is composed of Tyler Follet, coordinator of clubs; Jordan Polito, activities coordinator; Alex "Ray" Smith, administrative assistant; and Conner Christopherson, director of public relations.

With such a great team, we're all excited to start a new year!

Of course, as a new group, we have a lot of new goals in mind. We'd really like to be more active within the student body this year, and be proactive in tackling any concerns they may bring up.

Last year we put the student activity fee into place, and we're doing our best to put that money back towards the students. The past semester we were able to help fund the Dan + Shay concert, which was a great use of this money! We also want to be able to make improvements that benefit all students at the school.

Overall, we'd really like to be a voice for the students in any way that we can. Whine Week will be coming up in February, so be sure to keep an eye out for that to submit your complaints, and we'll do our best to

address them! In the meantime, we'll be working our best to transition into our positions and be a voice for the students.

I can't wait to spend this year representing all of you, here's to a great and successful 2018!

Editor's note: The MMU Times has agreed to publish columns by the SGA president to help student stay more informed about student government. The column is edited by the Times.

Student government



Abby Recker
SGA president



Connor Mahan/Times

An MMU student (left) writes a supportive message to be put into a toiletry kit being assembled in the Sisters of Mercy University Center Monday. Mavis Phiri, graduate assistant for social justice and diversity, packs the completed kits.

More than 100 care packages assembled in minutes

◆ MLK Days from page 1

and women, axe spray, lip balm, and a handwritten quotation of hope were put into plastic bags.

"People came out in big numbers," said Mavis Phiri, graduate assistant of

social justice and diversity.

"I think the event went very well because we originally planned to have the event for two hours, but in 22 minutes people already came and we assembled more than 100 packages—so that's awesome!"

Since the event did so well in the first 30 minutes,

everyone started leaving after they helped assemble packages. The event went on for less than one hour and boxes containing assembled packages were shipped out.

"It went really fast, and we had a lot of people help," said Mandy Zieser, administrative assistant of campus ministry.



Coe graduate to begin work next week as new MMU directory of sustainability

◆ Year of sustainability from page 1

by the Magaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

Rachael Murtaugh will be starting Jan. 22 as the director of sustainability. Murtaugh holds a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental science from Coe College and a master's degree in conservation biology from Illinois State University. She has been involved in education, research, working in student groups, and overseeing the implementation of various projects.

With Murtaugh's arrival, MMU will be

Related Content:

Jess Hiney gives her take on the new sustainability programs at

MMU, page 3

starting a scholarship-supported "sustainability scholars" program.

"A lot of the student-centered stuff we are trying to do will be developing curriculum and sustainability," said Ochs.

"The sustainability scholars will help with programming, work with student clubs and

organizations, and the point is to help the campus get on board with a culture of care for the earth—so that's one of the mercy concerns."

The new program will reach out to staff offices here at Mount Mercy and they will try to incorporate goals in offices to meet a certain amount of sustainability. The program will also reach out to faculty so they can find ways to integrate culture of care into the classroom and look for ways to bring outreach into the community with internship involvement while building better partnerships to improve Mount Mercy as a whole.

Connor Mahan/Times

Junior Sharice Kawakami faces a Ravens defender during the Jan. 6 home game.



Mustangs lose two close games

Collin Wiley
Sports Editor

The women's basketball team looked to turn their season around as they played their first game of the new year welcoming Grand View into the Hennessey Rec Center on Jan. 3.

It was a pretty tight matchup throughout the first quarter. Sharice Kawakami (Jr.) sank two three pointers in the first quarter to tie up the ball game with 2:35 remaining in the first quarter. Lakin Goodman (Jr.) followed up with her own three pointer after a missed three point attempt by Grand View to put the Mustangs up by three late in the first quarter, but they ended up trailing Grand View 15-13 at the end of one.

Mount Mercy had a rough second quarter by giving up nine turnovers which Grand View capitalized on to give them a 10-point lead with 4:39 left to go in the half. The team leaned on Sarah Moffett (Fr.) and Kawakami who scored the Mustangs last nine of the eleven points to help the Mustangs only trail by five at the half.

Mount Mercy battled their hearts out in the second half, winning the point battle in quarter three and four, but wasn't enough as Grand View beat the Mustangs in buzzer-beater fashion 75-73.



Kawakami finished with a career high 27 points. She also added one rebound and two assists. The team overall sank 12 three pointers, along with 15 assists.

With a heart-breaking loss to Grand View just three days prior, The Mount Mercy's

women's basketball team was looking to upset ninth ranked Benedictine at the Hennessey Rec Center on Saturday, Jan. 6.

The Mustangs started out hot making three baskets in a row to make it a 6-0 nothing game early in the first quarter, but Benedictine stormed back going



The MMU women's basketball team faced two recent hard-fought home battles. Here (left and above) they battled Benedictine College on Jan. 6.

on a 10-2 run to end the first quarter with Mount Mercy trailing 13-10. Mount Mercy kept it close through most of the second quarter as well as the Mustangs trailed Benedictine by 25-24 at halftime.

The second half was a struggle for the Mustangs as Benedictine forced 11 turnovers in the third quarter and held Mount Mercy to score only 17 points the rest of the way. The

Mustangs lost their conference battle with Benedictine by a score of 59-41 which still leaves the Mustangs winless in conference play.

Nyawal Dak (So.) scored 11 point for the Mustangs as Audrey Mulumba (So.) snagged 10 rebound tying a personal best.

The women's basketball team was back home on Wednesday, facing Graceland University.



Jake Anderson takes a shot Jan. 6 (left) during the Mustang's home game against Benedictine College. Mike Evans (above) finishes the first half with a dramatic half-court shot which earned MMU 3 points.

MMU starts the new year strong against Ravens & Vikings

By Collin Wiley
Sports Editor

The Mount Mercy men opened up the New Year on Jan. 2 when they squared off against Grand View in the Hennessey Rec Center.

The Mustangs opened the half playing very efficiently, shooting 40 percent (16-40) from the field and scoring from the free throw line 63 percent (7-11) of the time. Mount Mercy's biggest lead of the first half was 16, until Grand View went

on a run of their own to make it a 42-32 Mustang lead. The second half came and went for the Mustangs as they saw their lead dwindle down to single digits, but managed to pull off the win in thrilling fashion by a score of 78-76.

Antwain Strong (Jr.) had the best game of his career as he went on to score 30 points, along with five rebounds and two assists. Strong shot 65 percent from the field (11-17) and shot a remarkable 75 percent (3-4) from behind the arc. Mychael

Brawner-Henley (Sr.) also added 20 points along with 3 steals.

The Mustangs had a quick turnaround as they welcomed Benedictine College in Hennessey Rec Center on Jan. 6.

Mike Evans (Jr.), Dennis McKinney (Fr.), and Mohammed Albagami (Jr.) combined for 57 points, 12 rebounds, and six assists as the Mustangs went on to get their fourth win out of their last five by a score of 86-65.

The Mustang's shot 46 percent (34-

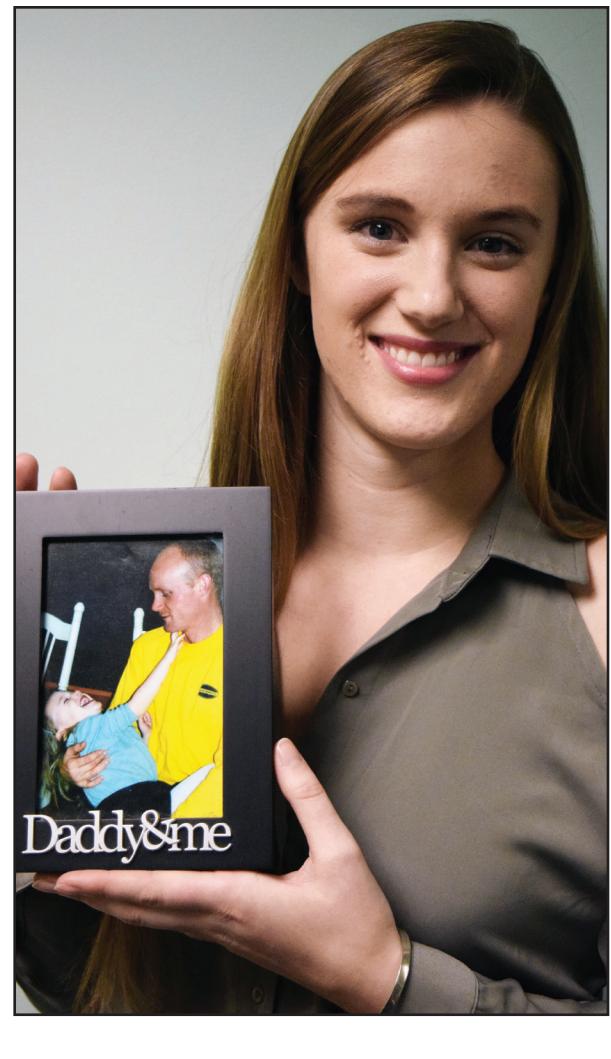
70) from the field along with a 48 percent (12-26) clip from behind the arc. The only downfall from the matchup was the Mustangs free throw shooting. Mount Mercy went only 33 percent (6-18) from the foul line, including five from McKinney.

The red-hot Mustangs were home again Wednesday as they faced off against Graceland University.



Savannah Oler/Times

Sophomore Kaytlyn Rumelhart plays piano and composes her own music (above) to deal with the events of her life, which include losing her father to cancer at a young age (right).



Motivated to help

MMU sophomore understands pain kids face when parent dies

By Savannah Oler
Graphics Editor

We will all experience personal loss in one form or another, but a Mount Mercy student turned her painful experience into something beautiful by helping others who've been in a similar situation.

Kaytlyn Rumelhart is a sophomore majoring in international studies and philosophy. In her free time, she is usually at practice for throwing on the track and field team. She also reads and writes her own music; she is often practicing piano on campus.

When she is not on campus in the summer, she is working at a special camp.

"Camp Kesem is a camp for kids whose parents had or have cancer," said Rumelhart. "About a third of those kids have lost their parents to cancer, so they

know what it's like to lose someone."

She explained kids can attend camp for free due to the fund-raising of the camp counselors. This way, parents don't have to worry about other finances on top of medical bills, and the kids are still able to go.

Rumelhart's grandmother told her about the camp. "She found an ad for the camp on a bulletin board at the hospital she worked at," said Rumelhart.

Her father had chronic lymphocytic leukemia for seven years when she was a kid, but she didn't really understand he was sick at the time.

"It was Feb. 10, my mom's birthday, in 2012," she said. "We went out to eat later that day, and they told my sister and I that his white and red blood cells were not where they were supposed to be. We were told he had

Other activities Rumelhart does

Aside from being a camp counselor, reading, and immersing herself in music, sophomore Mount Mercy student Kaytlyn Rumelhart has also been very active growing up. Below is a list of the activities she has been involved in over the years:

<input type="checkbox"/> Hip-hop dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Karate	<input type="checkbox"/> Kneeboarding
<input type="checkbox"/> Jazz dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Tae kwon do	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming
<input type="checkbox"/> Ballet	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprinting	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian riding
<input type="checkbox"/> Tap dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Throwing	<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer
<input type="checkbox"/> Gymnastics	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheerleading	<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball

to start chemo."

About a month and a half later he got sick to the point where he was sleeping through the day. At this point, her mom gathered him up and took him to the hospital, where he was then flown to Portland.

"He was there two days. Then my mom called and said my aunt was going to come pick us up to take us to the hospital. I didn't get to see him when we got the news that he had already passed. The meeting room my sister, mother, grandmother, cousins,

and aunt were in was directly across from his room. I heard the moment his heart monitor went off."

Kaytlyn was 14 years old and in eighth grade when she started camp at Camp Kesem.

"It was a 6 1/2 hour drive to the camp in California, because I lived in Oregon. It was kind of scary at first because my family was so far away, and I only had my mom and sister left."

She described the camp as having a strong family atmosphere. Rumelhart was a camper

at Camp Kesem for three years, and then became a counselor for three years after that.

"The camp helped me embrace my experiences and understand that I had been given a purpose through my experience," she said. "Instead of just being someone who had their father die, I became someone that understood what those kids were going through and was able to help them."

Music has also shaped Rumelhart. She wrote her first song the summer before her junior year of high school, about two years after her father died.

"I don't think it was about healing mostly for me, but getting out those stories that everyone is so afraid to talk about like experiencing death at a young age, witnessing abuse, falling in love but having your heart broken, they are all things that are somewhat rarely talked about but are really hard to understand emotionally, and I try to portray that in my music."

MMU copes with Arctic blast

By Travis Jones
Web editor

Recently, sub-zero temperatures have hit Mount Mercy and have caused students quite a bit of grief. I talked with Richard Hall, the HVAC project technician from facilities and Michelle Snitselaar, the director of health services and through these interviews, I discovered a few things that I was not aware of prior to the interviews, the most shocking one being that the sub-zero temperatures are not as dangerous as we maybe perceiving them.

What I gathered from my interview with Hall—seems to have just as many pipe repairs during sub-zero temperatures as they do when the weather is average. I asked if there is a better system that we could implement.

"There isn't not in Iowa," said Hall.

I asked Richard what we as students and residents of Mount Mercy could do to potentially ease the stress on the equipment.

"During the winter we keep our heaters set at roughly 68 degrees, if you set it too cold you might damage the system, this could also happen if you set it too warm too," said Hall.

Richard also asks that students please be patient when waiting for facilities to fix the equipment. He informed me that in most cases he can

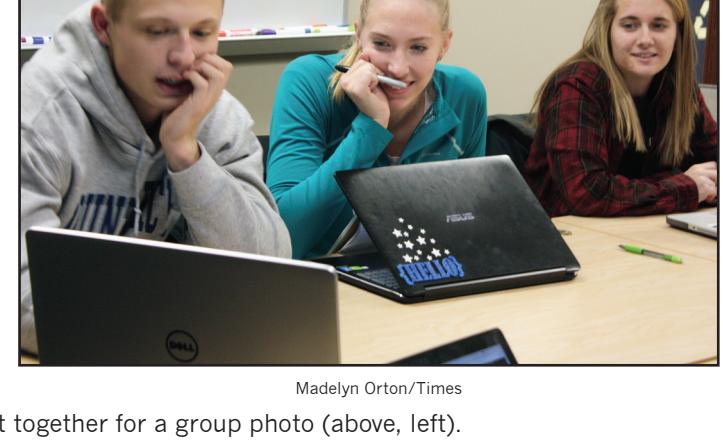
take care of something within an hour, but it could take longer.

In my interview with Snitselaar, she informed me that recent medical research shows that the sub-zero temperatures are not as detrimental to our health as we presumed. However, she still suggests you dress appropriately for the cold weather. Snitselaar also suggests that if you do get sick and you have a fever of over one-hundred degrees that you isolate yourselves from others to keep them from getting sick as well.

"It could take up to twenty-four hours after your fever is gone before you are safe enough to exit isolation," said Snitselaar.

Snitselaar also suggests that in the event of getting sick, you need to isolate yourself therefore you do not get anyone around you like your roommate of getting sick.

Keep to what we have been taught: dress appropriately, keep yourself and the things you come into contact with clean, cough into your sleeve or arm if you have too (do not cough in your hand as this could spread germs), and keep your heater at a reasonable level. These are the main things we, the students and residents, can do to ease the stress on Mount Mercy, both staff and facilities, and ourselves during times of severe cold.



Madelyn Orton/Times

Eight new SGA officers sit together for a group photo (above, left). Abby Recker, (left) is the new president of SGA and has a goal to get more involved with students and hear their feedback. Recker and other officers discuss shirt designs (above, right) during a Jan. 16 cabinet meeting in the Clubs and Organizations Room.



Fresh faces

New SGA officers, including four new positions take office in January

By Madelyn Orton
Managing Editor

This month, eight new SGA officers assumed their new roles. Elected in fall, the SGA leadership serves through the fall semester of next year.

The Student Government Association serves as an outlet to solve and address student's needs. It has added four new roles this year: administrative assistant, management coordinator of clubs, activities coordinator, and director of public relations.

Abby Recker, junior, nursing, is president.

"Our goal is to get involved with

Related Content

Incoming SGA President Abby Recker revives a long-standing tradition of the past by writing a column for "The Times."

See page 4.

students and hear their feedback," said Recker at the regular cabinet meeting Monday.

Cassie Noel, sophomore biology and outdoor conservation major, is vice president.

Wyatt O'Connor, junior math education major is treasurer.

Alexus Minervini, junior biology

major is secretary.

In the new roles, Alex Smith, junior political science major will be serving as the club's administrative assistant. Tyler Follet, sophomore marketing major will be serving as the coordinator of clubs.

Jordan Polito, sophomore biology major will serve as the activities coordinator.

Connor Christopherson, sophomore management major, will be serving as the director of public relations.

Nate Klein, interim dean of students, is the SGA advisor.

To voice a question or concern to the SGA, email SGA@mustangs.mtmercy.edu.

