

## Fox Encourages Civic Mindedness

By Joe Laver

Seniors in Walt Fox's American Government class have spent the past four weeks writing opinion letters to the Letter to the Editor section of the local newspaper, the Register Guard.

Each student was asked to type at least one letter on the topic of choice and submit it to Fox in a stamped envelope so he could mail the letters to the newspaper.

So far only two letters have been published between both of Fox's Government classes; seniors Kayla Backer and Abby Crowell.

"It gives us a chance to voice our own opinion to the public and see how people respond to certain issues," said senior government student Tamara Benedict.

## Choices Day Away

By Livvia Kokkino

Sophomores spent the early part of this week with a group of senior leaders and staff talking about an awkward topic for many of them. This Monday and Tuesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, half the class at a time was engaged in discussions about chastity and healthy relationships in high school. The class was split based on theology class periods, leaving half at school while the rest went on the retreat on each day.

The days focused on learning about making informed decisions in the realm of life choices. Question and answer times were also held for sophomores to ask seniors about their own choices, as well as for sophomore girls and boys to ask each other questions about things they didn't understand of the opposite sex.

## STRONG SPARTAN OF THE WEEK



Photo courtesy of Halie Lawrence

By Kayla Backer

Eighteenth birthdays are a big deal, but not many celebrate theirs the way senior Halie Lawrence celebrated hers.

Literally leaping into adulthood, Lawrence and her dad sky-dived last Saturday afternoon. She was excited to make the trip back down to Earth from the 13,000 feet high airplane. "It was incredible," Lawrence said about her experience, eager to do it again.

# OREGON SUPREME COURT VISITS



After the completion of hearing two trials in the Marist gym, the Oregon Supreme Court takes questions from Marist students and staff. Photo by Toni Cooper

## Marist gymnasium transformed into official courtroom for the highest court in Oregon

By Madisyn Bryant

From a volleyball court to a basketball court to a court of law? With the intent to expose students to the field of law, the Oregon Supreme Court traveled to Eugene on Tuesday morning to try two real-life cases in the Marist gym. The Oregon Supreme Court chose to travel to Marist because Principal Jay Conroy's request while on an AP Government field trip to the Oregon capital in the fall.

Half of the Marist student body spent an hour and a half listening the first trial which dealt with determining whether or not a bar should be held liable for serving alcohol to an already intoxicated man who proceeded to wound two other men in a shooting incident at

another location where the wait staff refused to serve them alcohol.

The other half of the Marist student body spent an hour and a half listening to the second trial which dealt with whether or not a convicted murderer is eligible for the death penalty or not. The man was charged with aggravated murder for stabbing the victim in the legs and torso with a shank while serving a life sentence at the Oregon State Penitentiary. His fellow inmate, who also participated in the crime, did not receive the death penalty because it was proven that he possessed sub-average intellectual functioning. The defendant's lawyer argued in Wednesday's courtroom that his defendant is also ineligible for the death penalty

under the United States Constitution because of his "intellectual disability." The lawyers and judges spent much of their time trying to determine the correct measure of intellectual capacity to apply in death penalty cases.

"I thought it was really, really interesting to see how this really important institution that has such a huge impact on life, functions on a day to day level," said senior Ezra Alltucker. Alltucker was one of the few students who took the opportunity to ask the Supreme Court questions at the end of the trials.

The trials were followed by a luncheon in the ARC where faculty and a small selection of students had the chance to talk with the seven judges about the field of law.

## Kiwanis Club Awards Marist Senior Scholarship

By Natalia Zrelia

Last night eight high school students from Eugene, Springfield and Harrisburg were recognized for their service to school and community at the Emerald Empire Kiwanis Youth Recognition Banquet.

Senior Tyler Fechtel, who was nominated by the Marist staff, was the Marist recipient of the Emerald Empire Kiwanis Youth Recognition Award along with a \$500 scholarship.



Tyler Fechtel receives his award from Marist counselor Jerry Regan. Photo by Jack Kieseewetter

## Inouye Wins Honors In National Contest

By Michael Baird

Congratulations to Marist senior and Spartan Spear photography editor Samantha Inouye who received an Honorable Mention for her photo submission in the national 2015 Jostens Photo Contest which captures junior Bryn Garland singing at the Marist Talent Show in February.

Last quarter, Marist photojournalism teacher Toni Cooper assigned Photography II students to submit several of their own, original photos into the contest. Inouye although not a student in that class, entered five photos into the contest, finding favor with the judges for her academic category submission.



Sam Inouye's Jostens' national award winning photo from the Marist Talent Show.

## Spring Has Sprung!



Photos by Sam Inouye and Sophia Bethel