

# COLTON STRONG

## IRISH FAMILY HELPS STANLEY FAMILY By: Joel Drees



< Blood drive ^ Promedica toy delivery

### Why you must see “Freaky Friday”

**By: Gabrielle Parker**

CCHS has always been a creative school. But this year they have something really special. FREAKY FRIDAY!! It's a musical play about a mother and daughter switching bodies! They go through the process of discovering themselves and the other. A future attendee, Samantha Reagan, is excited to attend the play. She said, "I love theater and I've been doing it for a long time and it's great to see other people's performances." Freaky Friday is a musical put on by your fellow schoolmates. Everyone should go see it! "It's going to be filled with lots of laughter!" said a classmate and cast member. This amazing musical play will be happening on May 3 and 4 at 7 pm and May 5 at 2 pm.

"It's really fun and it's energetic, and everyone is putting their time into it," said Kayla Brown, a cast member. Another future attendee said, "I know it's going to be a great play! It's put on by Central of course! I can't wait to see it and all the hard work my friends put in."

The adults involved are also very passionate about the play, like Ms. Giffin, Mrs. Mills, and Ms. Toland, and can't wait for it to be seen by all. If you are interested in this performance you should try out for glee club. Next year you'll be putting on the show! It's never too late to start. Stay tuned fellow Irish - there's more to come.

At just four years old, Colton Stanley's world was turned upside down when he was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma which plunged his family, especially his brave mother Corri Stanley into a whirlwind of uncertainty and fear. As a cherished alumna of Central Catholic and a dedicated teacher and coach for 17 years, Corri's strength in the face of adversity inspired our community to action. The news of Colton's diagnosis resonated deeply within the Central Catholic family which prompted support and solidarity. In response, we organized a series of fundraising initiatives aimed at providing both financial assistance and emotional encouragement to the Stanley family. This was done through Colton Stanley fundraising t-shirts which could be worn on exclusive dress-down days instead of regular uniforms. Also, two basketball games were dedicated to fundraising which featured a 50/50 draw where both winners graciously donated their winnings back to the Stanley family. As the momentum continued to build we hosted a spring Sadie Hawkins dance where a multitude of students showed their solidarity with Colton's cause. All proceeds from the event were generously donated to the Stanley family. Most notably, a blood drive was organized in honor of Colton's life-saving transfusions. Many students, staff, and community members joined forces to contribute to this vital cause. Personally involved in the event, I had the privilege of interviewing Corri, who expressed her profound gratitude for Central Catholic's unwavering support where she emphasized how much she misses teaching history and coaching basketball. Through this challenging situation the message of adversity was made evident to me and it showed me that a tough situation can be transformed into an opportunity for unity and positivity. It serves as a constant reminder that even in our darkest moments there is strength in our community and in our faith in our lord and savior Jesus Christ. As we continue to navigate this journey alongside Colton and his family, let us remain steadfast in our prayers and trust in the mysterious workings of God, knowing that through our collective efforts we can overcome even the most daunting of challenges. #ColtonStrong



## SYNCERE THOUGHTS

*Syncere Roberts is an exemplary senior writer and contemplative, introspective, and wise young woman of God.*

**Learn to not take advantage of the opportunities given to you, but rather use them to your advantage.**

I met a woman, Mrs. Penny, at the career fair last school year and she was there to represent the “Young Women of Toledo Program.” After hearing what the program was all about, I was eager to join. Fast forward to June, I began the program and our purpose was to design a chair for a charity. As a group of young ladies, we were challenged to build this chair from scratch. Everyone else already knew what they were doing because they were there from the previous year, but as for me, everything was a full learning experience.

Here’s my story...

The focus of my chair was to symbolize mental health. The seating part of the chair depicts struggles, hardship, and all of the dark moments that you’ve faced in life. Its opening shows that when you seek God, He welcomes you into a new life of peace, purity, love, and hope. The tree and the book both tie together, resembling the Bible and the tree of life. The cover of what I made to be the Bible is a scripture from Isaiah 41:10, and it reads, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and uphold you with my righteous hand.” This scripture connects with the reaching arm at the bottom of the chair, making the connection that God is always there for you when you feel no one else is.

In relation to that, I chose the Zepf Center. While this charity helps people in a variety of ways, their focus on mental health stood out to me the most. They’ve dedicated the month of May as Mental Health Month. “Raising awareness of the importance of speaking up about mental health and asking individuals to share what life with a mental illness feels like...”

From my personal experience, a few years back, my grandfather passed away. For my mom, my brother, and me, it felt like a piece of our world went missing. Going through the stages of grief, my brother and I had my mom to find comfort in, but as for my mom, she truly had to seek God to heal. By “seeking ye the kingdom first,” my mom is now truly a living testimony. I’ve watched her come from a dark place to now a woman walking by faith and living in her purpose.

I want people to see this chair and know that whatever struggles they’re going through won’t last forever, and when they feel like no one is there for them, God is always there as a helping hand. As I’m coming to a close, I truly learned what it means to be empowering. The YWOT program was a great experience working with other women and young women who are strong, ambitious, courageous, and full of bright ideas. Together, we worked and motivated. Most importantly, we created something valuable for a good cause.

# IDT Night doesn’t miss

By: Alyssa Josey

Our six-time State Champions, the Irish Dance Team, recently held the annual IDT Night on March 24 in the Sullivan Center. Our electric dance team took center stage on the floor captivating the audience with jazz and hip hop performances. This annual performance demonstrated the dancers’ dedication, skill, and talent throughout the night as well as showcasing our winning State Championship choreography. The audience also had the chance to enjoy performances by parents, teachers, and students.

IDT night is an important part of the tradition here at Central Catholic, and it is the perfect time for the Central Catholic family to get together to celebrate what it means to be a part of the Irish family. We all come together to support our dance team and have fun.

“It was such an amazing opportunity to be a part of IDT Night as a freshman. I had so much fun getting to showcase all of our dances and be able to show how hard our team had worked this season,” Savannah Tobokoue, freshman at Central Catholic, said.

As the night came to an end, it was clear that IDT had exceeded everybody’s expectations yet again. There is no dance team in Toledo with more drive and determination than the Irish Dance Team, and IDT Night is a prime example of that. The Irish Dance Team’s annual showcase was a successful celebration of this extraordinary group of dancers.



# Spring sports battle competition AND the elements

## BOYS TENNIS & BASEBALL

Our boys' spring sports team are some of the best teams around, not just on the court but off as well. One such sport is boys tennis. According to Dylan Hegedus and Ryan Greene, the tennis team shares an inclusive bond as tennis players play singles and doubles with all the age groups playing together. A memory shared by Hegedus is this: "After games played the team loves to share a meal at Culvers and have a good time regardless of the matches' wins and losses." According to Hegedus and Greene, St. Francis is the biggest rivalry for this upcoming season, for both Baseball and tennis, as both teams are extremely competitive.

Baseball is also one of our great sports to watch in the spring. The competitiveness and teamwork makes the team closely connected, and again our biggest rival are the Frannies, so as the Irish support nation I encourage all the Irish fans to come out and support the baseball team as they play St. Francis and other rivals. Baseball is a sport that needs determination and focus in order to play the game. You have to stay focused on the ball if you're batting to hit from the pitchers, as the team that scores the most runs in the 9 innings wins the game. This is a very challenging sport, and not just because of the skill required. Sometimes, the greatest real estate to overcome is between the ears, the mental game.

Hegedus answered this way when asked what he believes is the greatest challenge most athletes are facing today: "I think it is finding encouragement and self empowerment. I feel like at times athletes become discouraged and think they're not good enough, but it's more like a mental block, especially if you don't have encouraging coaches or teammates, and it can affect how you play, regardless of the sport."



## LACROSSE

Lacrosse Player Emmy Castillo is a leader who wants to guide her teammates. "Being a part of such a close group of girls has really helped me to open up and figure out who I am. I want to show them they can do anything they put their mind to and help them figure out who they are as well, just as I have."

Then they have the coach who makes everything happen. She is determined and works hard, and never backs down. She treats her players like children and helps them: Coach Brock. "She is patient and understanding. She has so much knowledge about the game and she is very passionate about sharing the sport with everyone," Castillo said. At practices, they work on weaknesses and strengths, tactics, plays and movements. Emmy uses practice as a time to ask questions and really focus on developing her skills. For example, "I take as much time as I can in practice to work on carrying my stick in my non-dominant hand. I always push myself to go as hard as I can because I know it will help me in the long run."

## SOFTBALL TRACK & FIELD

The spring sports are finally here. "Athletes in spring sports are determined, hardworking, driven, and focused," senior Emmy Castillo said. This Spring, there are games and meets back to back and CCHS is ready to win them.

And I'm here to get the inputs from some of those spring players on how the season is going and how their team is developing. "Some of the best skills and attributes to have while playing a spring sport is having patience, discipline, motivation, and persistence. These skills help a player to develop their game all while supporting their teammates as well," softball player Morgan Price said.

Softball Player, Morgan Price, also said, "Our head coach works so well with the rest of our coaching staff, he pushes us so hard without burning us out. He pays attention to all of our efforts and individually compliments that, encouraging us to continue putting 110% into the team. I improve myself at practice by being humble enough to listen to my coaches and peers on corrections they may have for me. I work hard to apply these corrections even when it's difficult to do so. I help my teammates get better by showing them the correct way to do something, or explaining a play if they didn't understand it, but the biggest way I try to help my teammates is by being encouraging at all times. I think it's important to lift up my teammates after an error just as much as a good play."

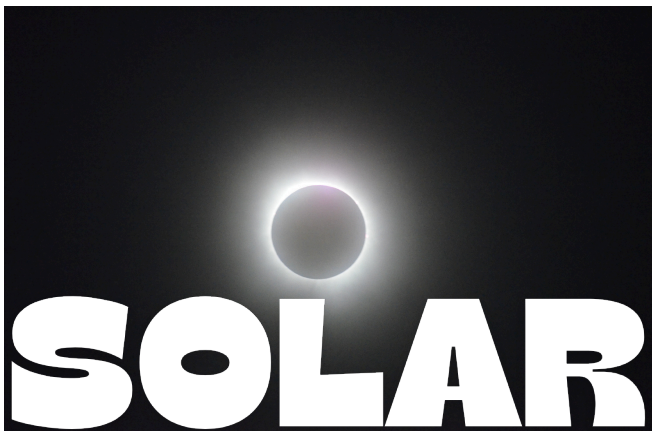
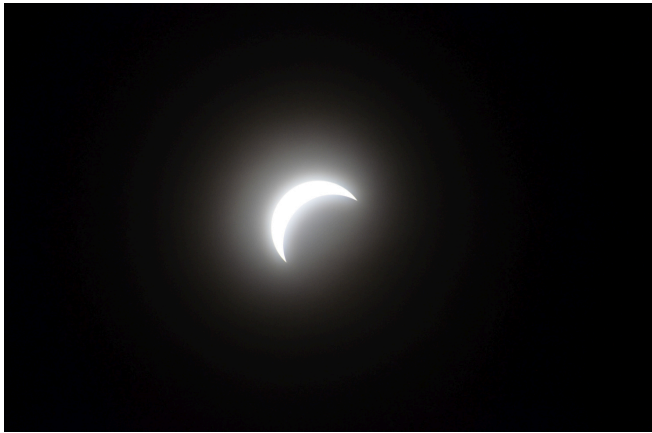
Track Player, Eric Mason Jr., said, "In a spring sport the best attribute for an athlete to have is determination. Around this time many athletes become unmotivated as school is about to end, but the best ones stay on top of their academics so their after school life can be solely focused on their sport. The best way to help your teammates get better on the track is to treat everyday as a practice meet. Friendly competition helps push you and your teammates harder and this will ultimately make you both faster."

These track runners, jumpers, and throwers are natural athletes, running through the wind and ready to play. This season is all about working hard, being supportive, and having a positive attitude. At CCHS, we have coaches who work their hardest to get us where we want and need to be. Some of those coaches do it on the field and in school, being our number one supporter. Spring sports build bonds with every player and focus on their strengths to build them up from their weaknesses and make them stronger.



**Articles written by: ShawnZeya Brown and Sabriah Greer**

# Memories



**SOLAR**

**ECLIPSE 2024**

