



— Inside —

Antioch Community High School  
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**Feature**

**Snowboarders missing snow this winter**



The popularity of this winter activity had ski hills and mountains bracing to accommodate the crowds of snowboarders.

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**Arts & Entertainment**

**'Sam's' illogical plot able to touch audiences**



Not quite everything in the movie 'I am Sam' fits together, but audiences won't easily be forgetting the story line.

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**Sports**

**Cheerleaders shocked, denied State berth**



For the first time in 16 years, the cheerleading squad does not qualify to go to the state competition.

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## Crisis Plan presented to Board, students, parents

By Michael Cohen and Lauren Hungarland

"Without voter approval on March 19, we will reach a crisis situation," said Antioch Community High School District 117 Superintendent Dr. Dennis Hockney. This Crisis Plan was presented to the school board, the student body, a handful of community members, and local reporters at a school wide assembly by School Board Vice President Wayne Sobczak on Jan. 15, in the Antioch Community High School north gymnasium.

The referendum, an increase in the educational fund, would increase taxes by \$.28 and would raise a homeowner's taxes about \$160 if their house was worth \$200,000. Since the new school being built for District 117 will not open until 2004, the tax will not be implemented until then.

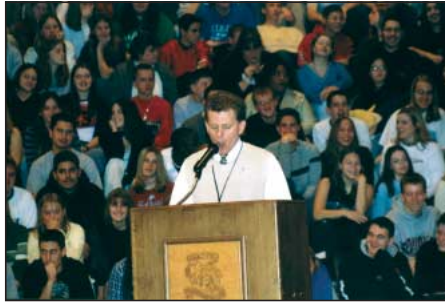


Photo by Carrie Strickland

**CRISIS PLAN ANNOUNCED: On Jan. 15, Wayne Sobczak addresses the board and students about the possibility of implementing the Crisis Plan if the referendum is not passed.**

The first year of operation, voters will see only a \$.14 increase because only freshman and sophomores will be using the building, located on the corner of Grass Lake Rd. and Deep Lake Rd. in Antioch.

"It will be a much different district than we know today," said Sobczak. Among the first programs to be cut by the 2005-06 school year, if voters do not pass the referendum, are all athletic activities, all band, chorus and drama activities, and all field trips. Other measures taken by the School Board would include reducing expenditures on maintenance, eliminating staff development activities, increasing driver's education fees from \$100 to \$250, increasing registration fees 25%, and the reduction of bus routes. Summer school would also be eliminated.

An open forum was scheduled for Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the ACHS Commons. The open forum allowed concerned parents and voters in the district to hear the Crisis Plan presentation

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## Two apartment fires keep firefighters busy

**Fire Department spends weekend putting out fires in local apartments**

By Rick Mengyan

With sirens whaling, the Antioch Fire Department and the Antioch Police Department arrived on scene of two apartment fires, each started in the basement areas of the units.

According to the Antioch Public Information Officer of the Fire department, Chris Lienhardt, the first fire officials responded at

approximately 1:30 p.m on Jan. 10.

The fire occurred in the first floor of the apartment complex that also has a basement and a second floor, for additional housing.

Lienhardt said, "When the officers arrived, they were met with medium to heavy smoke conditions."

In addition to the fire department, the Antioch Police force also responded to the call. Detective Dayrl Youngs and a fellow officer arrived on scene to assist in the investigation.

The police spoke with the occupants of the building as the fire fighters secured the building. The police further discovered that

a juvenile who was playing with matches, according to Lienhardt started the fire.

This is a good example of how the two agencies can work together to aid in the investigation conducted by the fire department as well as the police department.

"[Antioch Police officers] came and said, 'Here's what we think happened.' ... That was the piece of the puzzle that was missing," stated Lienhardt, in reference to the way in which the fire was started, as well as to how everyone was cleared from the building.

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Photo by Ciarra Kent

**NEUMANN DENIED: Residents post anti-Neumann signs in the Antioch Community High School Commons.**

**"No" votes win**

**Neumann loses fight for housing development**

By Amy Dembinski and Ciarra Kent

The Village Board of Trustees on a 6-0 vote on Jan. 21 has denied the Preliminary Unit Development (PUD) plan proposed by Neumann Homes, which consisted of 1,240 homes on 635 acres of land located west of Savage Road on Rte. 173.

Antioch Community High School held the Village Board Meeting in the Commons, where approximately 300 anxious residents awaited the final outcome. The meeting began in executive session for the first 25 minutes, then was immediately proceeded by the vote.

Before the vote, Trustee Scott Pierce asked Antioch's Attorney, Donald Anderson if the easements needed for the necessary sewer and water in the development were in place. He also asked if the

... **NO TO NEUMANN**  
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Photo by Rick Mengyan

**LOUNGING AROUND THE FIRE: Two Antioch Fire Department fire fighters wait for abandoned house on Main St. to burn down during a training session held Jan. 13. See page 6**