

Community Sales help a good cause

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The Chancel Choir at Second Presbyterian Church and the youth from Wesley United Methodist will be having group sales on April 25 and May 2 to raise money for the churches' youth and choir programs.

After selling items at the sale the proceeds from the Second Presbyterian sale will be used to pay for the expenses of a choir tour as well as a donation of the remaining money to a charity that the choir will choose before of during the trip. The proceeds from the Wesley United Sale will go toward youth mission trips.

Both Second Presbyterian Church and Wesley United Methodist have joined efforts for the past seven years, and both organizations alternating between set and clean up every year. Everyone working on April 25 and the May 2 sales are volunteers from the two churches as well as anyone willing to help from the community.

"Outreach to the community asks for and accepts all donations by a single person or a group," said Karen Kuntz, co-director of the Second Presbyterian group sale. "Last year we had about 1000 non-youth, volunteer hours. It takes a lot of work to get these sales together.

"It's fun and exciting," said senior Sarah Yount, a youth from Second Presbyterian Church who has worked at the sale for three years and plans to work this year as well. "It contributes for choir tour so everyone in the choir can afford to go."

"It is a good cause," said sophomore Brenna Martin, a youth from Wesley United Methodist. "It is a good experience and you meet new people and new friends."

Both churches encourage those from the community to come and volunteer.

"We need all the help in the world to get the sale done," said Yount.

Items at the sale range from 50 cents to over \$100.

The Sale Barn is located at 2027 South Main Street and the admission to the two sales is free. The sale is open from 8 am to 2 pm.

Viruses infect students' computers

LAUREN LAPINSKI

Editor-in-Chief

Students use their computers for everything: talking to friends, doing homework. Everything we need is just a few clicks away. But what happens when the computer we cherish turns against the user?

While computer viruses have been around about as long as computers have, there has been a recent outbreak that has caught the media's attention, and Bloomington High Schools'.

"One of the big ones is called Conficker," said Mr. Tracy Keller, BHS Systems Administrator. "That's the big one we just tried to prevent an outbreak with, luckily we did."

Conficker mainly copies itself from computer to computer at the moment, but Keller warns that it could have more of an impact later.

"Right now what it does is keep you from going to anti-virus websites or shut down anti-virus programs," said Mr. Keller. "It may change itself [later] to get your passwords and coping band records."

Computer viruses are spread in a variety of ways, but one way to avoid contracting them is to avoid opening emails that are from unknown senders.

"For viruses in general, a general rule of thumb is if you get an email from someone you don't know that has an attachment don't open it," said Mr. Keller. "If you're not expecting the attachment don't open it."

These viruses disguised as attachments could come in a variety of forms including electronic email cards, pictures, and videos, just to name a few.

Viruses may also be contracted from things that someone downloads to their computer.

"Another way viruses are spread sometimes are through games you download, a lot are legitimate but some have virus," said Mr. Keller.

Sites like Limewire could be possible carriers of downloadable viruses.

Besides avoiding emails with unknown attachments, Mr. Keller advises students to ensure that their computers have up to date anti-virus software and up to date Windows software.

Teenagers are not only vulnerable to computer viruses because of their active use of email accounts and frequent downloads, but also because of their Facebook accounts. Students fill their profiles with personal information that could be used by hackers to answer security questions to get into accounts or obtain passwords.

With the recent media coverage of computer viruses, many students and their families have taken the proper steps to prevent viruses from infecting their computer. Senior May Jinaphun has taken measures to prevent her laptop from contracting a virus.

"I download programs like firewall," said Jinaphun. "I always check the status and see if it is clean or not, if a warning comes up I make sure to clean the computer. I care about [my computer] because it's expensive."

Even the school has had to take extra measures to protect the district's computers.

"We were making sure all Windows machines were up to date with security patches and anti-virus software was up to date," said Mr. Keller. "We actively secure the firewall tighter than normal which might have stopped people from visiting legitimate websites for a day or two. But, luckily we were successful."

With the damaging effects computer viruses can have on computers, Mr. Keller advises students to take the necessary precautions, before it is too late.

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