

“KONY 2012”

Invisible Children campaign under question

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MHS students to attend Buckeye State Program this summer

Seven juniors were nominated to attend the Buckeye Boys and Girls State Program, sponsored by the American Legion this summer, where they will be educated in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of a good citizen. Check out thecspn.com to find out about the program and the students' personal goals going into the program.

Varsity track teams trek to University of Tennessee

The Mason boys' and girls' varsity track teams are competing the University of Tennessee Volunteer Classic in Knoxville, TN, today. Read about their preparations, expectations and what they are hoping to take away from the competition on thecspn.com.

Academic Team vs Staff face off

As the Academic Team represents the GMC in the regional tournament on April 21, in order to prepare for the competition the team hosted a Staff vs Academic Team meet on Wednesday. Check out more at thecspn.com.

“Anything Goes” coming April 26

The MHS drama department is putting on the musical “Anything Goes” starting on April 26. Click on thecspn.com to read more on the event.

compiled by Ashley Calvani

Economy major factor in Obama's political campaign

Voters looking for a “change” in economy in order to re-elect

Ashley Calvani | Staff Writer

As the end of President Obama's first term in office approaches, the direction of the economy will have a significant impact on Obama's 2012 campaign for re-election, according to nytimes.com.

Economics teacher Chip Dobson said this is because the economy is usually on the top of the list for most voters.

“Americans can look at all these different issues a candidate debates [about], but if the economy is good, a president stands a better chance of getting re-elected,” Dobson said. “If it's bad, they usually do poorly [in the election].”

This is the case because a stable or improving economy during a presidency is usually attributed directly to the president, according to Dobson.

Junior Andrey Backscheider said that America needs proof that Obama did indeed cause “change” with his policies, and citizens will

look to the state of the economy to measure that.

Dobson said that depending on the numbers at the end of Obama's first term, Obama's campaign may become stronger or weaker.

“A lot of people have been saying that Obama didn't ‘change’ much during his term, contrary to his original 2008 campaign slogan,” Dobson said. “But, if the economy looks good right now, it will look good for his campaign. He can point to the numbers, and if they've improved, he can say that at a time when our country was at the precipice of falling apart [economically], his policies changed that for the better. That looks good to voters.”

Despite the fact that statistics usually provide inarguable, black-and-white information, Dobson said it's not so easy with the economy; there are layers to the several economic indicators that are often over-looked by those who don't

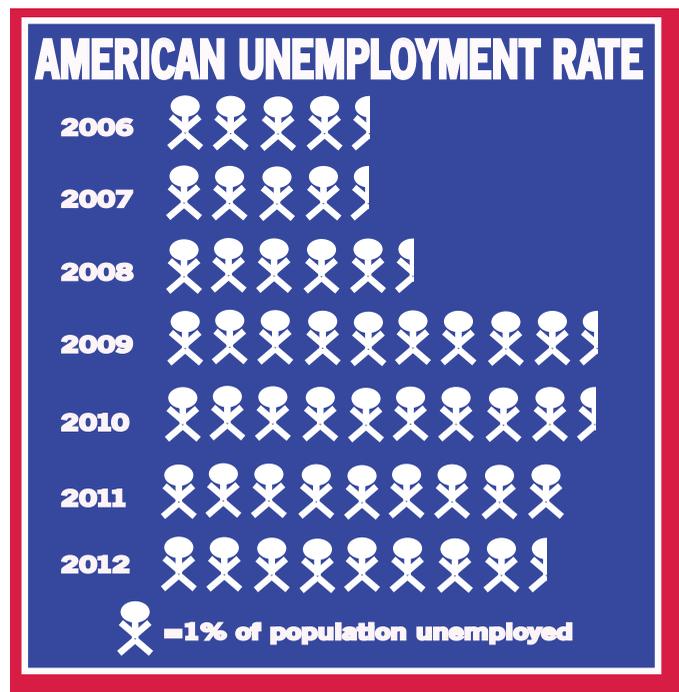
know what they're looking for. One example: the unemployment rate.

“Lately, the numbers seem better [for Obama's economy],” Dobson said. “But, it depends on who you talk to. Some would argue that unemployment has gone down. But, that number varies because a lot of times people have been looking for a job for so long that they actually come off that unemployment number. There is a real unemployment number, and then the one you hear on TV. Yes, both have improved, but the real unemployment hasn't improved quite as dramatically as some reports might suggest.”

Other common economic indicators are the Consumer Price Index, inflation rates, Consumer Sentiment and Housing Starts values. American Government teacher Dan Broaddrick said that these statistics can be muddled depending on the provider, and the context.

“I think in the same way the

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