

Jenna Larson Crowned Senior Snow Queen



The snow queen winners stand with Frosty, who was Jesse Weideman.

Courtesy Photo

by **Haley Wetzler**

The Plains Lion Club crowned senior Jenna Larson and freshman Calli Peterson senior and junior snow queen Nov. 28.

The contestants for junior snow queen included freshmen Kelsey Hoellien, Calli Peterson, Kimberly Miles and Courtlen Lechner. The contestants for senior snow

queen were Jenna Larson, Betsey Borchard, Caroline Hansen, Lexi Horning, Korie Braun, Michelle Two Hearts, Hope Stappler and Nona Hawley.

Sixth-grader Madison Styles won the junior talent contest by signing "Our Song" by Taylor Swift. Other contestants in the junior talent division were eighth-grader Kalen Frericks and sophomore Gabby Morgan.

Junior Dalton Franck won the senior talent division by playing "Waterfall" by John Schmidt on the piano. Other senior contestants were Hawley, a duet by Two Hearts and Stappler and another duet by senior Anysia Reed and Mark Wooledge of Redfield.

The kindergarten performance followed the talent contest along with the farewell of the 2009 Northwestern junior snow queen, sophomore Laken Frericks.

"It was kind of sad to give up my crown, but I am so excited for Jenna and Calli. I hope they have a great time at the State Snow Queen Festival," L. Frer-

icks said.

Peterson was crowned the 2010 Northwestern junior snow queen. Hoellien received first runner-up.

"I loved getting dressed up and the experiences in the day of the competition. I will love getting the chance to compete for South Dakota Junior Snow Queen in January. It will be very fun and interesting," Peterson said.

After crowning the junior snow queen, the reigning 2009 Northwestern Sr. snow queen, Caity DeWitte, unveiled Frosty: Jesse Weideman. Kyle Stahl won the Frosty guessing contest.

"I am glad that I was able to participate in the competition. I had tons of fun and learned a lot about myself. I can't wait for the SD Sr. snow queen competition in January when I get to meet new people and represent Northwestern," Larson said.

Hansen received first runner-up and Borchard was nominated Miss Congeniality.

Sophomore Chosen to Attend HOBY

by **Zack Wood**

Sophomore Laine Mielke was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar (HOBY); sophomore Maddy Smith was chosen as the alternate. The seminar will be held in June in Mitchell.

One student is chosen from the sophomore class each year to attend the seminar. Some schools send more than one student, but our school only sends one. At the seminar there are different speakers, and they talk to the students about being a leader.

To be chosen for this, you must fill out a form and if there is more than one person applying, you must go through an interview process. Students must go to an interview, and from the information in that interview, one student is chosen.

"It is an honor to be chosen," Mielke said.



Sophomore Laine Mielke was chosen as Northwestern's HOBY representative.

Elementary Concert a Success

by **Logan Brown**

The elementary and junior high Christmas concert was on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m.

The first and second grade performed together and the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders also performed together. The fifth-graders performed a skit.

The preschoolers sang "The Reindeer Pockey," and "I Like Santa."

The kindergarten sang "O Come Little Children," and "If I Could Fly like a Snowflake."

The first and second grade sang "Here We Come A-Caroling" and "Rules for Christmas."

The third-, fourth- and fifth-graders sang "Happy Christmas Eve," "Foggy, Foggy Night," "What We Need Is a Miracle," "The

Incredible Mission" and "A Super Celebration."

The fifth-graders performed a skit called "The Incredible Reindeer." The cast members included Derek Boekelheide, Darby Duncan, Andrew Lefforge, Matt Metzinger, Ali Johnson, Josie Clemens, Austen Wiman and Klarysa Schnoor.

The middle school band played "Arabian Dances," "Rampage" and "The Message on the Rock."

The middle school sang "All is Merry and All is Bright," "March of the Kings" and "African Gloria."

First Edition Places Second

by **Joni Boekelheide**

The first edition of The Scratchin Post was awarded second place in the Class 2 division. The adviser is Mrs. Nora Groft, and the editor is sophomore Laine Mielke. The journalism staff puts in a lot of hard work to pull the paper together to make it as enjoyable of a read as possible. In Class 2, Canistota won first place and Estelline won third place.

"It takes some time, but I enjoy writing stories for other people to enjoy," senior Zachary Wood said.

"The journalism staff works hard to put out the paper, and I think we deserved to place second," Mielke said.



The first and second-graders perform at the elementary concert held on Dec. 16.

Photo by Jared Fischer

NEWS

SENIOR PROFILES

By Logan Brown

Will Cass

Parents: Rod and Donna Cass

College/ Major: Northern/ Physical Education

What you will miss most about high school: Seeing friends



Landon Gab

Parents: Kurt and Donna Gab

College/Major: USD/ Physical Therapy

What you will miss most about high school: Football games and gatherings



Logan Clemensen

Parents: Michelle and Roger Clemensen

College/Major: Lake Area/ Ag Production

What you will miss most about high school: Grilling burgers in the locker room.



Jalen Diede

Parents: Karen Bierman and Louie Schmidt

College/Major: Joining the Navy

What you will miss most about high school: Sports and Friends



Colette Fortin

Parents: Calvin and Brenda

College/Major: Minnesota State University Moorhead

What you will miss most about high school: My awesome classmates.



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NEWS

SAT Program Now Available At Northwestern

by Laine Mielke

The Student Assistance Program is a team consisting of teachers, administrators, school counselors and other support personnel. The team plans to assist young people dealing with at-risk behaviors and provide essential linkages to local and state services.

The members of the SAT program include Mrs. Marilyn Battey, Mrs. Sue Neiger, Mr. Chris Osborn, Mr. Rich Osborn and Mrs. Jackie Remily.

The mission of the program is to provide assistance and intervention for students and to improve school life.

"I have been included in a program like this before and I am very excited to have it available at Northwestern," guidance counselor Sue Neiger said.

The purpose of the team is to address the four areas of concern: attendance, academics, behaviors and school health. If a student is experiencing anger/violence, depression, high absenteeism/tardiness, alcohol and other drug programs or is failing classes, the team can help.

There are four ways for a student to be referred to the program. Referrals can be made by parents,

members of the community, students, and all school personnel. A referral may be made in person; a locked box will be available in a location to be determined. A student is automatically referred by the administration when the student has six absences per semester, they have reached six Saturday school points, or there are playground concerns.

After a student is referred, the staff gathers further information and holds and SAT meeting to determine and appropriate plan of action.

High School Christmas Concert Held

by Cory Oberfoell

The Northwestern band and chorus put on its annual Christmas concert on Monday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. in the gym.

The band played many songs including "Hark the Harold- Angels Sing," "Wonder as I Wonder," "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Sleigh Ride." Also, a brass quintet that included Justine Tuscherer, Heather Stayner, Josh Clemens, Alex Boekelhiede and Laken Frericks performed. They played "Oh Christmas Tree."

The chorus sang "Canon of the Bells," "I'll be Home for Christmas," "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" and "Baby it's Cold Outside."

The girls chorus performed. "I Saw Three Ships." "It was good and very loud," eighth-grader Nathan Palmer said.

"It was ok," sophomore Ruth Phillips said.

NW Advances to State Competition

by Ruth Phillips

The state oral interpretation competition was held in Sioux Falls on Dec. 4 and 5 on the University of Sioux Falls campus.

Seniors Caroline Hansen and Michelle Two Hearts, juniors Rachel Finley, Dalton Franck and Elizabeth Leonhardt and sophomores Annie Lutter and Kathy Stuck advanced to state to represent Northwestern. The students are coached by Laura Melius.

"I enjoyed the really funny pieces," said Leonhardt.

There were 16 teams in attendance from around the state, and no one from NW placed.

"The funniest part about the whole thing was the ride up there and going to Wal-Mart," Lutter said.

FBLA Hosts Blood Drive

by Trevor Toennies

Northwestern Future Business Leaders of America hosted a successful blood drive on Dec. 3 in the small gym of the school.

When asked how the blood drive went, Mrs. Anne Frericks replied "Wonderful."

"It went well until I passed out," sophomore Katrina Frericks said.

A total of 49 people signed up to give their blood. Twenty-six people gave blood successfully for the first time. A total for 44 units of blood was taken.

"It was the time of my life," senior Grasen Lechner said.

This year's blood drive has been more successful than other years.

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NEWS

Student of the Month

by **Joni Boekelheide**

Junior Amanda Finley was selected as the November Student of the Month. Her parents are James and Jolinda Finley.

Amanda's activities include basketball, track, softball, science bowl, one-act play, Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and 4-H. Her hobbies include painting and science fair.

Her future plans are to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to major in chemical engineering. Amanda's favorite classes are art and chemistry.

Her favorite quote is "To be great, is to be misunderstood," Ralph Waldo Emerson.



In the Elementary

by **Evan Morgan**

What is your favorite part of winter?



"Playing outside," kindergartner Jessica Boekelheide said.

"Snowmobiling," first-grader Hunter Schipke said.



"I get to play in the snow," second-grader Kyle Stahl said.

"Going to the Black Hills," third-grader Riley Grandpre said.



"Go sledding," fourth-grader Tucker Bohl said.

"Getting to make big snowmen," fifth-grader Darby Duncan said.



New Graduation Requirements Adopted for Middle School Students

by **Laine Mielke**

The South Dakota Board of Education recently approved new high school graduation requirements at its meeting today. During the 2009 legislative session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 185, which eliminated the basic, or standard, pathway to graduation.

Students will now be required to take Algebra I, Algebra II and geometry; however, schools have the ability to waive students out of Algebra II or geometry-but not both-if deemed appropriate. Biology, a physical science and chemistry or physics will also be necessary; schools have the ability to waive students out of the chemistry or physics requirement as well.

School districts will have the option of allowing students to receive up to one credit for extracurricular activities in the area of Fine Arts; these activities will have to be approved by the local Board of Education.

Students will be required to take one-half unit of physical education. Beginning with freshmen in 2013, students will be required to take one-half unit of stand-alone health at any time grades 6-12.

Beginning in 2013, students will be required to take one credit from a menu of courses that includes career and technical education, world language and a capstone experience or service learning.

The majority of the changes will begin with students entering high school as freshmen in the 2010-2011 school year. Students currently in high school will be able to finish out under the existing graduation requirements or the new requirements.

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NEWS

Santa Letters *From the first-graders*

Dec. 11, 2009

Der Sata Clas,
Good luck dlivering thos presentes. I want a car batry if you want to kown wiy, I want 1 of thoes becos my uell Craig has a lon mower with no blaides for me! And I wader how you git thoes presentes dlivering in 1 night? And I want halo for Wii! And I want some sprises!
your frend
Ethan
Ps and I have a skocing for the Wii games.

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! I want a Wii, games, and Sonics 3. and a Camera and Buzz Light year. Olso a spidr trfrmr wode. Merry Christmas!
Yore frind,
Zach

Dec. 9, 2009

Der Santa,
Good Luck Dlievering the slay to nitn. I like you. Have fun with your randeer. Ples brin me a Remote cuntrol Dinusrn.
frum,
Kyle

Dec, 9' 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! I want a wii fit and a drbeck if can you. I was a gud boy. Santa, I want a toy and remote control car.
Jackson W.

Dec 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! What I want for Christmas I want a Wii.
Merry Christmas Santa!
Do you want cookies and milk?
Love,
Hunter

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! Santa, I want a Wii and Nintendo DS and Moreo games, Xbox games and play stashun games. I am good. Jescua, my sistr has ben good to.
yor frend,
Jackson C.

Dec 9, 2009

Dear Santa, I want toys and mor toys. I wat a lot of barbies and a barbies house. Santa I will lev some cookies and millck.
Love Samantha

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa. I want toys. I will see you at the bar. I hope I see yor elves. Will I see one? I will lef cookies out. Merry Christmas!
Love,
Jace

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa! What I want for Christmas is a polar Express Train. And some trains and a Christmas Train,
Love
Jackson M.

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
I read that your button popped off your coat! I will help you put it back on when you bring me my presents. I want a guitar, please. Thank you. I will wait for you!
Joe Groft

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! Santa, I want a Wii and some games. I want a computr. I want a red ipod. I will lev cookies for you and cerits for your rander.
From Alexis

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! I hope the reindeer and elves are doing good. I have bin cynda a good boy. I want a wii. Thak you if you do. If you want to nyo what I want I want contchry cds and farm stuff and a Ipod. Merry Christmas Santa! Ho ho ho!
from, Mitchell

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! Can I ples have a guitar and a lot of presents. I will be rety for you. I will have cookies for you and carets for your reindeer. I hope the reindeer get the carest.
Love
Hannah

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hi! I want a lepster, a scoobedo moive, and a toy dophin. I want a Wii to play and a guitar to play and prinsess and the frog moive. What else I want for Christmas is a Baribe and the three muskatears casle and the moive and pixos and chixos.
Joclyn

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello. Can you put a candycane in my stocking? I like getting presents. Can I have a mp 3 player and the Care Underwood cd and a sleigh? I want a red one.
Merry Christmas Santa.
from: Bailey

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa. Can I pless have a candy cane in my stocking. I hope you do not get sick this Christmas. Can I have a Spider-man toy and a Mare lane toy pless and a venom trap pless? You are fun. I can make cookes and milk for you. I will be wating for you in my bed. It is fun when you are here. Merry Christmas!
from Cody

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hi! I want a tv. I wuld like a guitar. I wuld like a computr.
Love
Danika

Dec 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hallo Santa! Can I have a lot of presents at this Christmas? Thak you Santa. I like you Santa. I hope your elves are doing good. Merry Christmas.
From Hayden Bohl

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hi! I will leev you some cookies and milk. I want a new sled. Merry Christmas to Santa from Hailie.

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! Can I have a motrstom 3 E. Can I have a ipod that is green yellowish and CD big green tratr. Can I have a stoff disory and some soprscis.
yor buddy,
Seth,

Dec. 9, 2009

Dear Santa,
Hello! I want a fake puppy and cat move and I will give you cookies and milk. Santa you are fune.
From Sydney

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Refrigerator
Accelerated Reader Quizzes
Science Fair
Hutterville Colony Music
Teacher Appreciation

OPINION

Should Semester Tests Be Held After Christmas Break?

Pro

by **Laine Mielke**

The administration at Northwestern recently decided to change the schedule of semester tests.

In previous years, the second quarter ended before Christmas vacation, and semester tests were also administered before Christmas vacation. This year, however, the quarter will end in January; therefore, semester tests will be taken in January.

Since Northwestern operates on block scheduling, and students have each class every other day,

the administration moved the end of the quarter back to allow more class time. In the long run, this will allow additional learning time and added preparation for semester tests.

With the adjustment to the schedule, students will have the entire Christmas break to study for their tests. When students have a longer time to prepare for their tests, it reduces their stress and levels of anxiety. Having ample time to prepare also helps students to perform better on the tests.

When semester tests fall during the commotion of the

holiday season, it puts a great deal of pressure on the students and teachers; the staff is pressured to cover all of the classroom work while also lining up semester tests.

The holiday season also brings a lot of travel and family time. Moving the semester tests back to January will put the tests after the time that most travel occurs. In return, it will hopefully lead to fewer absences during test days.

Moving the semester tests back can be a positive change for the students and the teachers.

Con

by **Haley Wetzler**

A change has been made to the semester test schedule from last year. The semester tests will be taken after Christmas break. Northwestern will not have school from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4, which is eleven days off. Or in others means that could be eleven days of worrying; worrying about semester tests.

Another problem about having semester tests after Christmas break is the students come back unfocused.

They are all hyped up about having no school for so long and in particular

the holiday season. Over Christmas break most students are not focused on school, they are more focused on spending time with family, friends and just in general the “no school” aspect. During Christmas break students forget a lot of the important information and skills they have learned in the weeks and months before Christmas break.

During Christmas break the students are usually out of their study habits. Most likely not very many students are going to study everyday of Christmas break. They will end up cramming the night before the test.

Over Christmas

break the students are obviously not in class. They will be out off all of their classes for eleven days, which can result in forgetting the information they have learned weeks before.

Overall, having semester tests after Christmas break cannot only be a hassle for students but for teachers also. Teachers will have to go over the lessons they have already taught the students. It seems that last year’s semester test schedule, which included having tests before Christmas break, was much easier on the students and the faculty.

What you think



“I think it should be before because the students will forget the information they learned,” senior Carly Peterson said.



“I think it would be easier to have them before Christmas break, so it would be easier for the students to remember the information,” senior Nona Hawley said.



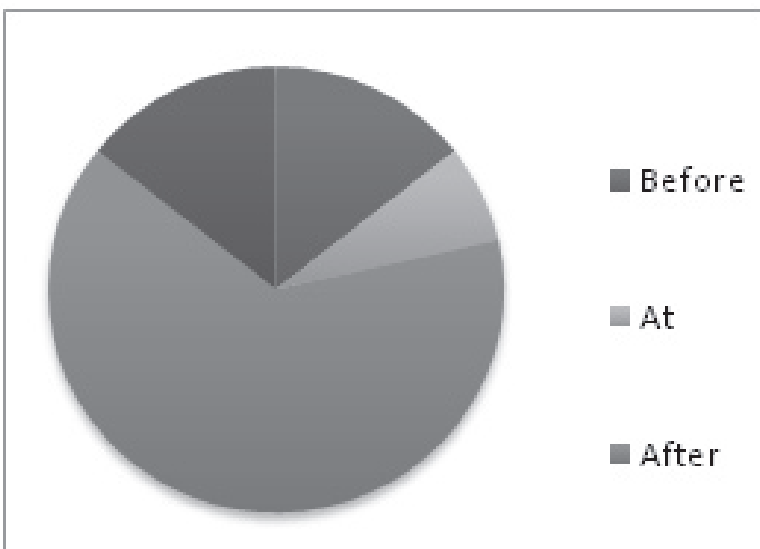
“Some students will use their time over Christmas vacation to study for semester tests. However, I feel that the majority of students will be ready for an extended academic break by Dec. 23 and will not focus on studying. I feel the semester tests should be given before Christmas,” Mrs. Jeannine Jilek said.



“I forget everything over the long break, so they should be before the break,” sophomore Mariah Taylor said.



“I think it could go either way. We will have a week to review before the test, so it could go either way,” Mr. Scott Boone said.



Do think the second semester should start before, at, or after Christmas break?

SPORTS

Football Awards

Bar letter winners: Ty Brown, Will Cass Logan Clemensen, Jalen Deide, Landon Gab, Grasen Lechner, Evan Morgan, Brock Penfield, Stetson Kretschmar, Gary Phillips, Zach Wood, Cory Oberfoell

All conferences winners:

- Evan Morgan
- Josh Clemens
- Michael Smith

Academic All State

- Ty Brown
- Landon Gab

Mr. Football

Michael Smith

All state

Alex Bauer

Team Awards

- Captains
- Landon Gab
- Brock Penfield
- Evan Morgan

Offense MVP

Evan Morgan

Defensive MVP

Michael Smith



Senior Zack Wood makes the tackle during a football game this fall.

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The Adventures of Brock and Evan

As we were boating north away from New Zealand, we realized it was getting very close to Christmas time. So we decided we would head up towards the North Pole, so we could go and get Santa Claus and bring him back home with us to have the best Christmas party ever. As we boated past Indonesia we were going to drop Logan back off but he begged us not to. He said he could not miss kidnapping Santa. He said we would be legendary if we could pull it off. As we got close to the North Pole we laid out our arsenal of weapons and equipment. We put away all the deadly weapons and kept out our stun gun. As we crawled through Santa's air vents, we reached his office and hid until he showed up. He could not see us because we hid behind his doors. We closed the doors, tased him and threw him outside for Logan to put on our boat. We then set our GPS towards home for our grand Christmas party.

SPORTS

Northwestern Defeats Roncalli

by Laine Mielke

To start of the season, Northwestern beat Aberdeen Roncalli in a 54-38 game on Tuesday, Dec. 8. NW was led in scoring by senior Megan Peterson with 24 points. The team made 24 of 52 field goals and was led by Peterson who made 12 of 19 field goals. The Wildcats had a total of 33 rebounds; 12 offensive and 21 defensive. Peterson had a total of 15 rebounds. Led by sophomore Haley Wetzler, Northwestern had 13 total steals. NW committed 19 turnovers and had six assists. Sophomores Jussy Tuscherer and Wetzler led the team with two assists each.

Wildcats Win Over Knights

by Laine Mielke

The Northwestern Wildcats beat the Aberdeen Christian Knights 79-32 on Thursday, Dec. 10 in a conference match-up. Freshman Ashley Clemens scored 15 points and led the team in scoring. The Wildcats made 33 of 70 field goals; Clemens made 6 of 7 field goals. NW had a total of 41 rebounds; 16 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds. Clemens had five total rebounds. Sophomore Mariah Taylor had four of the team's 15 total steals. Northwestern committed ten turnovers and nine assists. Sophomores Jussy Tuscherer and Katrina Frericks each had two assists.

Wildcats Steamroll Chargers

by Laine Mielke

The Northwestern Wildcats defeated the Sully Buttes Chargers on Saturday, Dec. 12 in Mellette. NW made 13 of 38 field goals and were led by sophomore Haley Wetzler who made four of six. The Wildcats had a total of 22 rebounds; six offensive and 16 defensive. The team had 11 steals. Senior Megan Peterson, sophomore Jussy Tuscherer and Wetzler each had three steals. NW had five blocks, all by Peterson. The Wildcats committed 13 turnovers. Sophomore Mariah Taylor had three of the team's five assists. The points leader was Taylor with 12.

Sports

by "the" Landon Gab

The college football regular season is over after some exciting games. In the SEC Championship game #2 Alabama upset #1 Florida. Alabama used a strong running attack and precise passing to take down the Gators. Cincinnati came back after being down seventeen points to Pittsburg to go 12-0 on the season. The most exciting game of the championship games was the Big 12 Championship. The Nebraska Cornhuskers, behind a dominating performance of Ndamukong Suh, were within one second of taking down Texas. Suh used his performance to insert himself into the running of the Heisman Trophy award. Only one defensive player has ever won the Heisman trophy. I predict that Suh will be the second ever to win the award and predict him also as a top three draft pick next spring.

In the NFL teams are rising and teams are falling. The Pittsburgh Steelers have lost their last five games in a row and now seem to be out of the playoffs. The Tennessee Titans fueled by quarterback Vince Young have pushed themselves into the hunt for the AFC playoffs. Other teams like the Green Bay Packers continue to win and stay in the hunt. My MVP for the season looks to be Chris Johnson of the Titans after he has helped carry the load and bring the winless titans back to 500.

2009 Northwestern Volleyball Awards

Team Awards

Parkston Tournament Champions
Sioux Falls Christian Tournament Champions
Arlington Tournament Champions
AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
SDHSAA Team Academic Achievement Award
Record: 29-3

JV won the Hitchcock-Tulare JV Tournament
JV/C won the Parkston JV Tournament
Record: 23-3

Kimberly Miles

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Kelsey Hoellein

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Ashley Clemens

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Northwestern Rookie of the Year
Pin and bar

Gabby Morgan

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Laken Frericks

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Shelby Peterson

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Katrina Frericks

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Mariah Taylor

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Serve Receive Passing Percentage Leader

Haley Wetzler

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Captain
All-Lake Region Conference
Digs Leader
Serve Receive Passing Level Leader

Jussy Tuscherer

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Captain
Aberdeen American News Athlete of the Week
AVCA Athlete of the Week
First-Team All-State
All-Lake Region Conference
Aberdeen American News All-Area Team
Northwestern Will-to-Win Athlete

Joni Boekelheide

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award

Alyssa Morgan

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Serving Percentage Leader
Pin and bar

Kara Fischbach

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Ace Server

Carly Peterson

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Captain
Academic All-State
All-Lake Region Conference
Aberdeen American News All-Area Team
Assists Leader

Megan Peterson

AVCA Team Academic Achievement Award
Argus Leader Athlete of the Week
First-Team All-State
Northwestern Player of the Year
All-Lake Region Conference
Aberdeen American News All-Area Team
Kills Leader
Kill Efficiency Leader
The Wall—Blocking Leader

SPORTS

Northwestern

Loses to Sully Buttes

by Joni Boekelheide

The Northwestern Wildcats lost to the Sully Buttes Chargers 44-76 in a non-conference boys' basketball game in Mellette on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009.

After the first quarter, the score was 12-23 with the Chargers leading. At half-time, the score was 21-49. After the third quarter, the score was 27-68.

For the Wildcats, leading scorers were Josh Clemens with 12 points, Michael Smith with 11 points and Grasen Lechner with 11 points. Smith led in rebounds with nine of the Wildcats' 17 rebounds. The Wildcats had 16 steals, and Clemens had seven steals. Northwestern had nine assists, with Landon Gab and Michael Smith with three each.

For Sully Buttes, leading scorers were Zach Merwin with 20 points, Tate Senftner with 14 points and Hayden Handcock with 10 points.

Wrestlers Place at Kimball

by Zack Wood

The Warner/Northwestern Wild Monarchs attended the Kimball wrestling tournament Dec. 5 and took 11th place overall with a score of 25 points.

Two wrestlers placed at the tournament. Wrestling in the 130-pound weight class, junior Ethan Steward (0-2) took sixth place overall. Wrestling in the 140-pound weight class, junior Casey Bade (2-2) pinned Anthony Walloch of Scotland and Cody Heezen of Mount Vernon/Plankinton/Ethan and took fourth place overall.

"We did all right, but we need to keep working hard and getting better," Steward said.

Freshman Adam Ochsner, (0-2) 119 pounds, lost both matches. Wrestling in the 145-pound class, junior Chad Peterson (0-2), lost both matches. Sophomore Trevor Toennies (0-2), 152 pounds, lost both matches. Freshman Andrew Meyers (0-2), 160 pounds, was defeated twice (non-scorer). Sophomore Levi Dinger (0-2), 160 pounds, lost both matches. Freshman Landon Seaman (0-2), 171 pounds, lost both matches. Senior Matt Ochsner (1-2), 189 pounds, defeated Shenandoah Babb of Marion/Freeman and lost two other matches. Freshman Ryan Fair (0-2), 189 pounds, lost both matches (non-scorer). Eighth-grader Chris Scott (0-2), 215 pounds, lost both matches. Freshman Jeremy Smidt (1-2), 275 pounds, defeated Tanner Nelson of Kimball/White Lake and lost two other matches. Eighth-grader Andrew Mitchell (0-2), 275 pounds, lost both matches (non-scorer).

In the stands

Cory Oberfoell

Who's your favorite basketball player and why?



"The sophomores are because they are my loving classmates," sophomore Hunter Wood said.



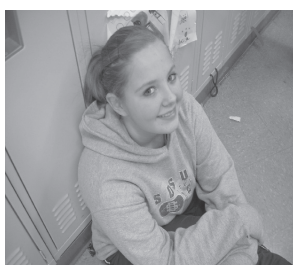
"Megan Peterson is because she is a beast on the basketball court," senior Zack Wood said.



"Jerry Serfling is because he is my boyfriend," junior Alyssa Morgan said.



"Joni is because her name rhymes with boloney," sophomore Annie Lutter said.



"Mariah is because she is a good player," freshman Kaitlyn Sparling said.

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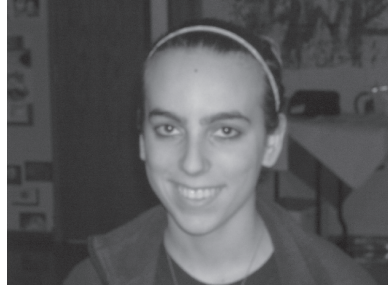
SPORTS

Meet the Girls' Basketball Players...

Photos by Jared Fischer



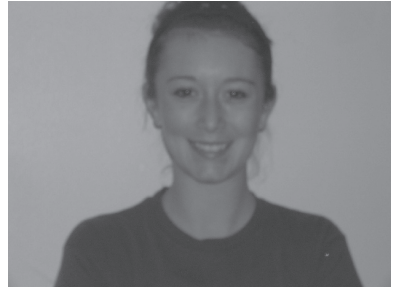
Megan Peterson
#34/35



Tristen Waller
#20/21



Betsey Borchard
#14/15



Amanda Finley
#30/31



Joni Boekelheide
#40/41



Taylor Beardemphl
#52/53



Laken Frericks
#44/45



Mariah Taylor
#4/5



Katrina Frericks
#24/25



Jussy Tuscherer
#22/23



Shelby Peterson
#10/11



Haley Wetzler
#12/13



Gabby Morgan
#42/43



Ashley Clemens
#50/51



Kimberly Miles
#32/33

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STUDENT LIFE

Native Soul

by Michelle Two Hearts

How Oyote-This month I am writing about the four directions. The four directions help us predict what my happen throughout the year. N my graphic is a medicine wheel, these four colors help up. East is yellow, the direction of the sun rising-it helps us to see and understand. East stands for wisdom, to help people live good lives. South is read, when the sun is at its highest. It stands for warmth and growing, powerful life coming from the earth. West is black, when the sun sets and the days end. The end of life comes, and the Wakan Tanka takes us to the Spirit World. The great Thunderbird lives in the west, and sends thunder and rain. West is also the source of water: lakes, streams, rivers, and rain. North brings the cold harsh winds of winter, a decleansing. Winter causes the leaves to fall and earth to rest under a blanket of snow. If someone faces the strong buffalo winds, they have learned patience and endurance. North stands for hardships and discomfort, therefore all of the trails they need to grow through.



Top 10 Failed New Year's Resolutions

by Zack Wood

10. Getting AR books read
9. Stop texting in school
8. Weight Loss
7. Better grades
6. Keep Logan's cows in the fence
5. Stay out of detention
4. Behave better in chorus
3. Getting a girlfriend
2. Getting journalism stories in on time
1. Making a New Year's Resolution

Ag Column

by Zack Wood

Farmers from all around the area are finally getting their crops combined. Thanks to the ground freezing, combines can go in areas that used to be pure mud. The issue is that the grains are still at a high moisture level because they did not have time to dry out. The elevators can only dry the grain at a certain speed so they cannot take large amounts of grain at one time.

Most calves are weaned and in feedlots by now. If they are not weaned they should be very soon. The cold weather causes some calves to catch pneumonia and become extremely ill. Anyone with cattle in their feedlots should check for the signs of pneumonia and treat calves as soon as possible.

In the hallway

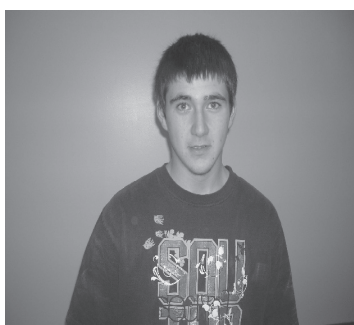
by Brock Penfield

What do you want for Christmas?

"I would like to fix up our 1979 Chevy pickup," senior Tyler Bisbee said.



"I would like to have Adam Sandler in a cage so he can tell me jokes when I'm feelling blue," junior Logen Lechner said.



"I want a new 12 Gauge," sophomore, Tyler Roe said.



"I want money," freshman Nathan Hawley said.

POLITICS WITH ZACK

by Zack Wood

This month I am going to address an issue that I have gotten into a few heated discussions over with my friends. The issue is Obama's approach on gun control. For some unknown reason, many people think that Obama is trying to get rid of guns. This is the most ridiculous idea I have ever heard. Barack Obama does want to make gun control laws stricter. This makes plenty of sense. The only thing he is trying to do is make it harder for people to get guns. The people that it will be harder for are people with criminal records and things like that. He is not going to go and take away your guns.

The topic of ammo costing more and being out of stock is quite easy to explain. Someone started a rumor about Obama trying to take away everyone's guns. Everyone that heard about this quickly ran to the gun store and bought as much ammunition as they could afford. There is very little ammunition left in stock, and ammunition manufacturers cannot keep up with the demand of everyone that needs ammo. That is why there is a shortage of ammunition. It is not because Obama is trying to take away guns.

STUDENT LIFE

In the middle school

by Logan Clemensen

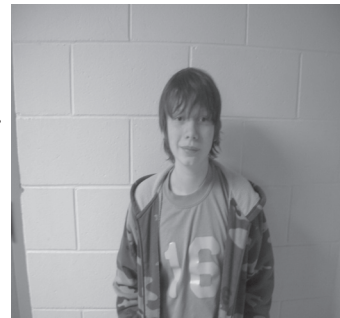
What do you love about winter?



“Driving my snowmobile,” sixth-grader Cody Lefforge said.



“Christmas with my family,” sixth-grader Andrea Rausch said.



“Snow ball fights with my friends,” seventh-grader Trace Hafner said.



“Snowmobiling,” eighth-grader Nathan Frericks said.



“Nothing, I hate the snow,” eighth-grader Torey Bear-demphl.



“Playing in the snow,” seventh-grader Carolina Spielman said.

School Board Highlights

- At HATS the extra house that was built for HAPI was moved out on November 6th.
- HATS is considering several ideas to promote student registration such as a promotional video, new brochure, yearbook, monthly newsletter and student tours and visits.
- Preschool through grade 12 students will be collecting no perishable food items for the Good Samaritan Center in Redfield. The food items should be at the school by Wednesday morning, December 16th.
- The middle school students will be going to Aberdeen bowling, to the mall and back to the school to watch a movie for their Christmas party on December 23rd.
- Mishel and Wayne Sorenson attended the meeting to discuss home schooling.
- Trustworthiness students of the month were Megan Nash – K, Sydney Schell – 1st, Hailey Boekelheide – 2nd, Seth Wood – 3rd, Zach McCabe – 4th, and Ali Johnson – 5th.
- Dibels’ reading mid-year testing will begin on December 17th and end December 21st for the elementary students.
- The SD Coalition of Schools lawsuit for school funding is moving forward with over 50 schools supporting this.
- The boys’ 6th grade basketball players will be participating in the NCA basketball program and not the jr. high program. However, they will be practicing basketball here during their activity period.
- The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 was reviewed and accepted by the Department of Legislative Audit.
- Approved student for home school exemption certificate.
- Approved Hutterville Colony Contract for the 09-10 year.
- Thank you to the NW Community Foundation for the donations

- used to purchase wireless microphones for the music department, a chest freezer for concession activity groups, a rug with a map of the United States for the first grade room and die cuts for the elementary!
- We would also like to thank the Northwestern Boosters for their donation for education materials.
- CONGRAGULATIONS to the following Readers Theater (Caroline, Rachel, Dalton, Elizabeth, Annie, & Kathy) for advancing to the State Oral Interp Festival. Michelle Two Hearts was also named an alternate in Poetry.
- Megan Peterson and Jussy Tuscherer for being selected First-Team All-State for Volleyball.
- Jussy Tuscherer, Haley Wetzler, Megan Peterson, Carly Peterson for being selected LRC All-Conference team for volleyball.
- Jenna Larson for being crowned Senior Snow Queen & Calli Peterson for being crowned Junior Snow Queen! Also congrats to Runners-up Caroline Hansen & Kelsey Hoellein and Betsey Borchard for Ms. Congeniality.
- Snow Queen talent winners Dalton Franck & Madison Styles.
- Editor Laine Mielke and journalism staff for placing second in the SDH-SPA First Edition Contest.
- November Student of the Month Amanda Finley.
- Next regular meeting of the board is tentatively scheduled for the Monday morning, January 11th at 7:30a.m.
- The minutes of these proceedings will be published in their entirety in the Aberdeen American News during the week of December 20th, 2009.

NORTHWESTERN AREA PRESCHOOL SCREENING

The Northwestern Area School District will be screening children who will be three years old on or before February 16, 2010 or five years old on or before September 1, 2010. The screening will take place on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 in the Northwestern Elementary addition. The screening includes children who will be in the 2010-2011 Kindergarten class.

Children will be screened in gross and fine motor skills, general concepts, communications skills, vision and hearing. Additionally, the county nurse will be available to give general physical examinations to the upcoming kindergarten class members. Early identification of difficulties can help alleviate health or educational problems, which may develop during a child’s education.

As part of the school’s “Child Identification Project,” HEARTLAND HANDS OF BIRTH TO THREE CONNECTIONS, Rich Jankord, will be available on the testing date to screen children who are younger than three years of age upon request. Mr. Jankord will be available only if appointments are made in advance through the school.

This is a FREE service provided by the school district. The screenings take approximately 45 minutes.

If you are interested in having your child screened, please contact Jessica Halvorson at 887-3467 x110 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (at least 10 days before the screening) to make an appointment. After appointments have been received, letters will be sent to each family of a three or five year old who has called and made an appointment to verify their time slot for February 16th.

If you know of a family who is unaware of the date for this screening, please share this information or contact the office at the number given. Thank you!