

# Scratchin' Post

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NORTHVILLE,  
SD  
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221 3rd St., Mellette, SD 57461

April 2015

## Succeeding in Science



Junior Andrea Rausch, senior Tessa Rush, junior Cory Walter, sophomore Josie Clemens, freshman Sadie Vander Wal, junior Madison Styles, sophomore Derek Boekelheide, junior Logan Schentzel and freshman Addison Sparling won at the local science fair.



Science fair team junior Andrea Rausch and senior Tessa Rush won first place in the "Life" category at the Northwestern science fair.

*Thank you to everyone  
who judged the local  
science fair held Thursday,  
March 5 in Mellette.*



Seventh-grader Cassidy Frericks, sixth-grader Ethan Walter, eighth-grader Caleb Schentzel, eighth-grader Jarret Haven, seventh-grader Miranda Thorson, seventh-grader Hailey Boekelheide, sixth-grader Hunter Schipke, sixth-grader Jace Haven, eighth-grader Gavin Bohl, eighth-grader Riley Granpre, sixth-grader Hannah Schentzel and seventh-grader Madalyn Groft placed in the local junior high science fair held March 5 in Mellette.

### JH Physics

Honorable Mention: Sean Shepherd  
2nd: Hunter Schipke  
1st: Ethan Walter "Do Pulley's Help?"

### HS Physics

Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Heidenreich/Rachael Boekelheide  
3rd: Darien Watson  
2nd: Derek Boekelheide  
1st: Cory Walter "Where Arrows Fly Phase II"

### JH Biology

Honorable Mention: Mitchell Vander Wal, Sydney Schell  
3rd: Zech Clemens  
2nd: Hannah Schentzel  
1st: Jarret Haven "Rations for Maintaining Weight and Homeostasis"

### JH Microbiology

2nd: Riley Grandpre  
1st: Cassidy Frericks "Spreading Phase II"

### HS Biology

Honorable Mention: Cameron Bohl/Abby Fischbach, Hope Bowar/Allison Braun  
3rd: Darienne Frericks  
2nd: Addison Sparling  
1st: Sadie Vander Wal "Viability of Bovine Semen Phase II"

### JH Life

Honorable Mention: Tomlyn Toy,  
By: Rachel Rausch  
Pictures by: Kate Finley

Jackson Mielke, Cody Rausch  
3rd: Bailey Heim, Alexis Rahm  
2nd: Madalyn Groft  
1st: Miranda Thorson "Does a Different Font Effect Your Memory?"

### HS Life

Honorable Mention: Jaidyn Kramp, Peyton Groft  
3rd: Megan Heidenreich  
2nd: Madison Styles  
1st: Tessa Rush/Andrea Rausch "Gender Memory Mnemonics"

### JH Biochem

3rd: Hayden Bohl  
1st: Hailey Boekelheide "Egg Substitutes"

### HS Chem

Honorable Mention: Hannah Palmer, Mackenzie Engels, Chance Sale  
3rd: Daniel Tonga

### JH Material Science

Honorable Mention: Jackson Weidemann  
3rd: Tristan Dvorak, Seth Wood  
2nd: Gavin Bohl, Jace Haven  
1st: Caleb Schentzel "What Do You Pay at the Pump? Phase III"

### HS Environmental

Honorable Mention: Cody Leforge  
3rd: Tyler Braun  
2nd: Logan Schentzel  
1st: Josie Clemens "Creating Potable Water Using Banana Peels Phase II"

# Students Attend Middle-School All-State Band

By: Rachel Rausch

Seventh-grader Cassidy Frericks and sixth-grader-Mitchell Vander Wal attended the annual Middle School All State Band in Huron March 6-7. Participating in this event provides a great experience for students. The songs that they play challenged them and required a lot of hard work to learn.

The students receive the music to practice at home before going to Huron. The students spent two days in Huron. The first day dedicated itself to practicing, with cookie breaks in between. The second day consisted of a few hours of practice before the concert.



Ventriloquist Dave Parker sings to the elementary.

Story and photo by Isaac Groft

Students from first grade to fifth grade attended an assembly March 12 that educated the students about the famous Lewis and Clark expedition. Putting on the assembly was ventriloquist Dave Palmer, who portrayed stories from different perspectives such as Meriweather Lewis, William Clark and even Sacagawea.

"We learned a lot of fun stuff about Lewis and Clark that also taught me quite a bit of information," fifth-grader Teryn Sparling said. "I like that he got everyone involved."

Not only was the presenter of the Skippy and Dave assembly a talented ventriloquist, he also was an exceptional guitarist who often sang out his educational information amongst various songs.

"I thought that it was very educational," fifth-grader Jessica Boekelheide said.

He allowed the students to interact by joining in with him and allowing all of children to have a fun and educational experience.

"It was a very fun assembly, and I learned a lot of new information," fifth-grader Justin Haven said.

# Boys and Girls State Delegates Chosen

...Congratulations to the following *Girls State delegates: Rachael Boekelheide, Kirstin Borge, Darienne Frericks, Elizabeth Heidenreich and Codi Sparling and Journalism City delegate Kate Finley. Boys State delegates: Nolan Peterson and Logan Schentzel.*

# Congratulations

Congratulations to sophomore Josie Clemens for winning first place from the Spink County Soil Conservation District with her science research project. Clemens received a \$50 cash award for her project.



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# FBLA Hosts Blood Drive

By: Abby Fischbach

During the school year, the Future Business Leaders of America hold two blood drives at the school.

This is a great opportunity for high school students who are sixteen or older to help others by donating blood. Community members and others from around the area also sign up to give blood. The second blood drive of the year was held Thursday March 19.

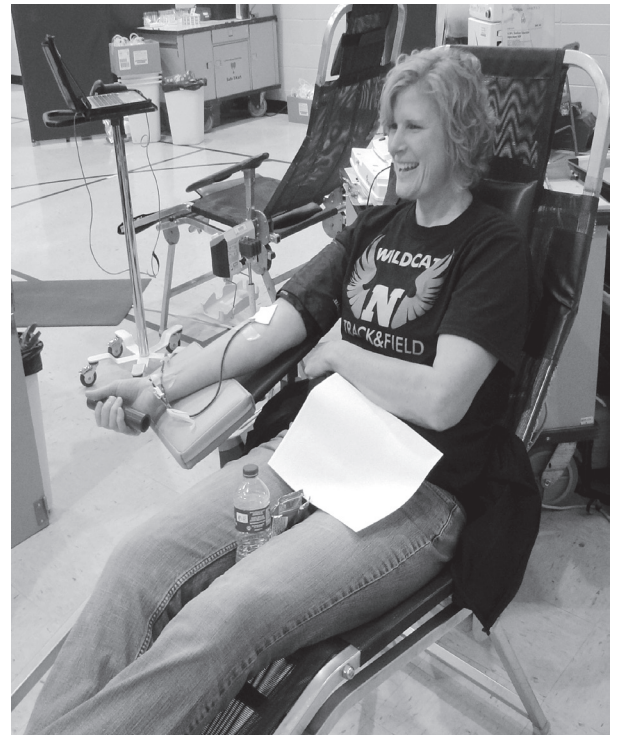
"I think it is a great opportunity for our school to participate in donating blood and to be able to give back to the community and surrounding area," science teacher Mrs. Denise Clemens said.

"It is nice to see the high school students participating in an event that can help out the community and help out those in need," business teacher Mrs.

Anne Frericks said.

"The best part is getting the chance to help people. The cookies are a bonus," junior Nolan Peterson said.

**Thank you to all the community members, faculty and students for donating this year at Northwestern!**



Denise Clemens



Junior Trey Bierman

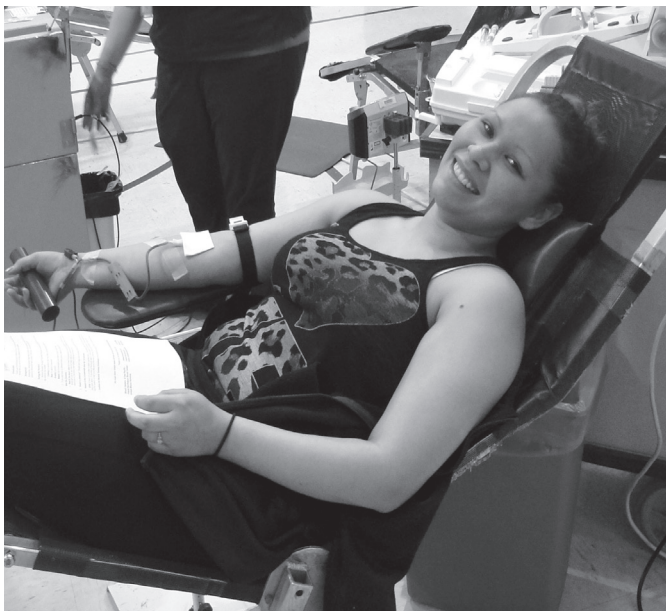
*"Thank you!"*

-United Blood Services

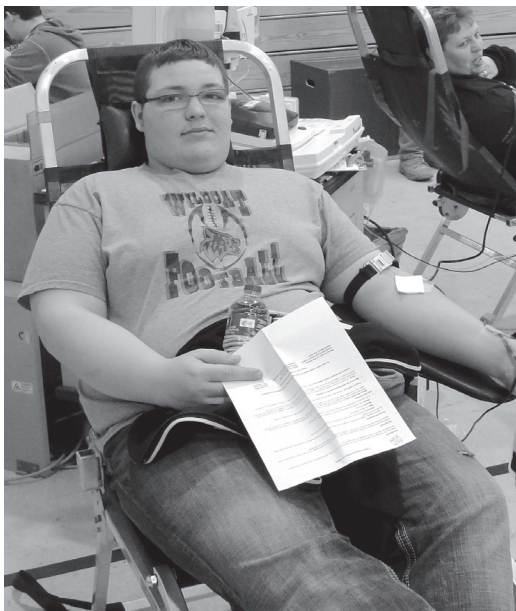


Senior Jordan Ashlintubbi and sophomore Kyler Johnson

Senior Darvella Dotson



Junior Mark Phillips



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# CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats to senior Christine Morgan, who placed third at the South Dakota High School Powerlifting Championships in Madison!

She competed as an individual and as a Northwestern team, a team of one.

Way to go Christine!



## Student of the Month:

By: Cameron Bohl

Freshman Sadie Vander Wal received April student of the month.

Her parents are Jeff and Beth Vander Wal. Vander Wal has one brother, Mitchell.

Her activities include 4-H, competition cheer and dance, Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Drama Club, American Legion Junior Auxiliary, shooting sports, band, chorus, robotics, showing and judging and science fair.

Sadie's favorite classes are physical science and geometry.

Vander Wal's hobbies include showing, reading, helping out on the farm, spending time outside with her pigs and cows, participating in 4-H activities and spending time with family.

Sadie's future plans involve attend-

ing a 4-year university and possibly going further in that education.

Her favorite quote is "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity"- I Timothy 4:12.

Her role model is Sadie Robertson because she is an example of staying true to who you are and not allowing others to stop you from achieving your goals.

"Sadie is an outstanding young adult who is very responsible and respectful inside and outside of the classroom," Mrs. Denise Clemens said.

**Congratulations to Sadie!**



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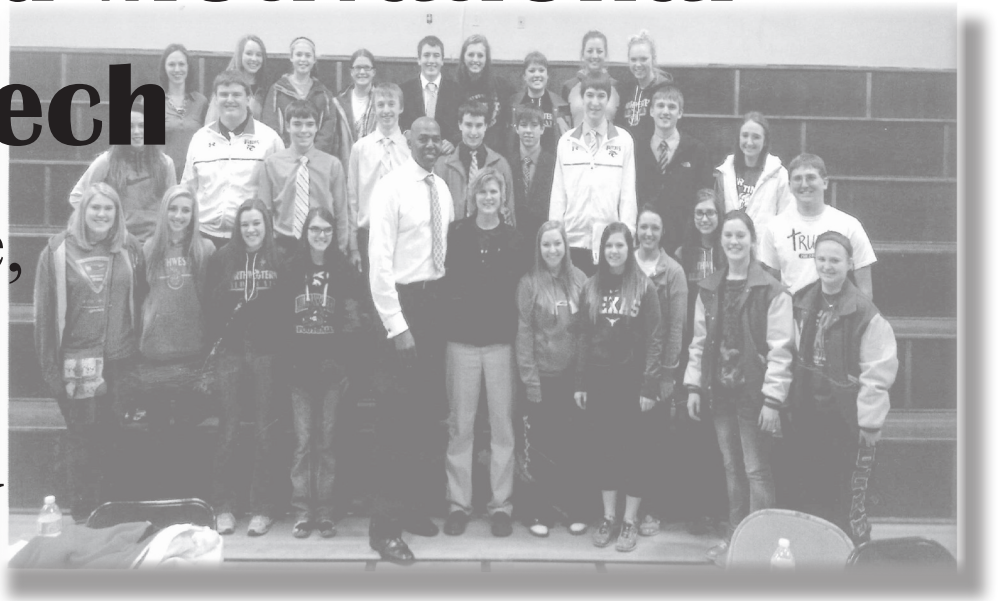
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# Students Attend Motivational Speech

“If you are not uncomfortable, you are not growing.”

-Thurl Bailey



By: Nolan Peterson

Thurl Bailey inspires others to win in whatever the odds or disappointments. Bailey is a master storyteller and inspires companies and individuals to focus on what matters most. Thurl Bailey is recognized for the 1993 North Carolina State Wolf pack team which beat the famed University of Houston in the NCAA National Boys Basketball Championship. Bailey was coached by one of the best coaches that has ever been around: Jim Valvano. Thurl Bailey played 16 years of professional basketball, 12 of which in the

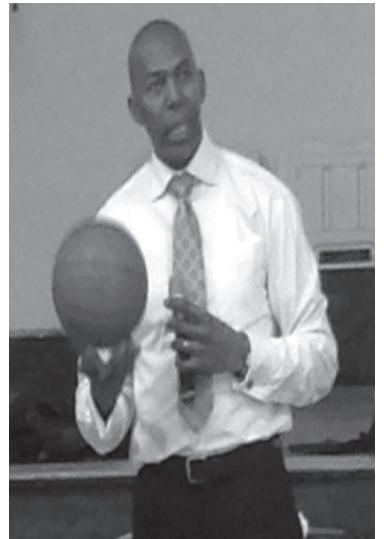
NBA and the other four overseas. Many Northwestern students had the privilege to hear Bailey speak in Northville, S.D., at the Northville Community Center. Bailey was brought to South Dakota by Kim Peterson to speak at his crop production meeting.

“He was one of the most inspirational speakers I have ever heard, and he motivated me to keep chasing after my goals,” junior Madison Styles said.

“I heard him speak twice, and both times gave me goosebumps. I felt

honored to be able to listen to him speak because he is one of the most inspiring men I have ever heard. Definitely one I will remember!” senior Julia Sparling said.

Thurl Bailey is an amazing speaker and did a fantastic job that day and influenced us all.



Photos by Cameron Bohl

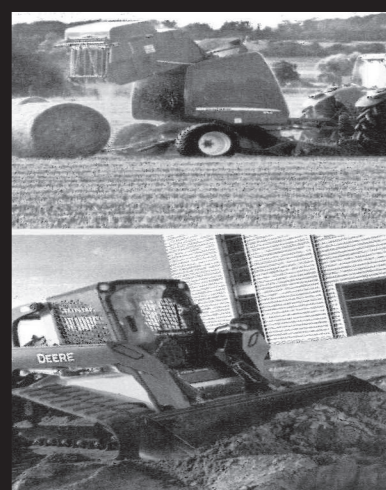
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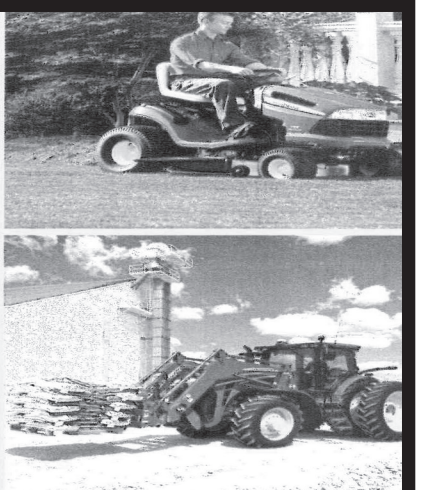


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# Juniors Job Shadow at Local Businesses

By: Rachel Rausch

Every year, juniors taking Mrs. Anne Frericks's business management class are in charge of lining up two different places for themselves to job shadow.

On March 17, the students spent the day job shadowing, attending one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

"I went to Sludge's Seed and Spraying. You really have to know your numbers in the agronomy business," junior Nolan Peterson said.

This activity is a great way for students to explore the careers in which they are interested.

The students saw what a typical day in that particular career would entail.

They learned about things that they may not have previously associated with the job, and knowing everything included in the job helps students decide whether or not they are still interested in following that career path.

This year, the students job shadowed at many different places including Aberdeen American News, Avera St. Luke's, Northern Plains, Butler, Odie Ice Center and one student even went outside the South Dakota border for their shadowing.

"It was very informative. I learned the ins and outs of how the Aberdeen American News works, and I got to meet some awesome people!" junior Kate Finley said.



The indoor printing press for the *Aberdeen American News* produces the newspaper most community members and students read every day.

## Northwestern Warms up for Track and Field

By: Cameron Bohl

The Northwestern boys' and girls' track teams have one thing in common: six runners each. Freshman Peyton Groft, sophomores Josie Clemens and Darby Duncan, juniors Abby Fischbach and Kirstin Borge and senior Jordon Peterson make up the varsity girls' track team. Freshman Daniel Tonga, sophomore Derek Boekelheide, juniors Isaac Groft, Logan Schentzel and Trey Bierman and senior Zachary Duncan make up the varsity boys' track team. The boys and girls varsity team are coached by Mrs. Jennifer Schell, Mr. Scott Boone and Mr. Wade Rozell. Middle school athletes will likely be utilized to fill out the rest of the track roster as the season progresses.

Varsity Track Schedule:

DATE	MEET	LOCATION	TIME
Tuesday, March 24	NSU Fuller Invite	Barnett Center	3:00
Tuesday, March 31	NSU Wolves Invite	Barnett Center	3:00
Thursday, April 2	Patriot Invite	Miller	11:30
Friday, April 10	Central Dakota	Miller	11:30
Tuesday, April 14	Sunshine Bible Invite	Huron	9:30
Thursday, April 23	Redfield Relays	Redfield	10:00
Saturday, April 25	Ipswich	Ipswich	10:00
Tuesday, April 28	Groton Kiwanis	Groton	12:00
Friday, May 1	Sisseton Relays	Sisseton	1:00
Tuesday, May 5	Miller Invite	Miller	11:00
Saturday, May 9	Potter County Invite	Gettysburg	10:00
Thursday, May 14	LRC	Ipswich	12:30/2:30
Thursday, May 21	Region	Milbank	10:00
Friday-Saturday, May 29-30	State	Rapid City	TBA

# Boys' Basketball...

By: Madison Styles

The Northwestern boys' basketball team fell to Hitchcock/Tulare 67-30 Feb. 20 in Tulare. Sophomore Derek Boekelheide led the team with eight points, three rebounds and two assists. Junior Isaac Groft followed with seven points and one assist. Eighth-grader Jarret Haven contributed six points and four rebounds, as well as senior Corbin Smith adding five points and five rebounds. As a team, the Wildcats made two of four free throws and 16 of 53 shots from the field. The Wildcats, 2-15, will next take on Aberdeen Christian Feb. 27 in Aberdeen.

The Northwestern boys' basketball team fell short to Leola/Frederick 64-57 March 2 in Aberdeen. Senior Corbin Smith ended the game with 17 points and seven rebounds. Sophomore Derek Boekelheide backed him up with a total of 15 points. Junior Isaac Groft contributed nine points and six rebounds, while eighth-grader Caleb Schentzel added six points to the final score. As a team, the Wildcats made eight of 15 free throws and 28 of 77 shots from the field. The Wildcats finish out the season 2-17.

# Girls' Basketball...

By: Nolan Peterson

Northwestern played its first game in districts against the Leola/Frederick Titans. The Wildcats defeated the Titans 60-40. Senior Kennedi Sparling led the team with 18 points, one assist and three steals. Senior Jordon Peterson contributed 13 points, one assist and four steals. Sophomore Josie Clemens totaled 11 points, three assist and three steals. Freshman Addison Sparling added seven points with five assists and one steal. Sophomore Darby Duncan contributed five points with one assist and one steal; freshman Peyton Groft added two points. Senior Julia Sparling had two points, six assists and one steal, junior Kirstin Borge also contributed 2 points in the game. The Wildcats played a great game to make it to the District Championship against the Warner Monarchs.

The Northwestern boys' basketball team was defeated by Aberdeen Christian 47-86 Feb. 27 in Aberdeen. Eighth-grader Caleb Schentzel led the team with 13 points, while junior Isaac Groft trailed close behind with 10 points and four rebounds. Senior Corbin Smith and sophomore Derek Boekelheide contributed eight points each. Boekelheide added five assists, and eighth-grader Jarret Haven added six points. As a team, the Wildcats made two of five free throws and 25 of 75 shots from the field. The Wildcats, 2-16, will next take on Leola/Frederick March 2 in Aberdeen.



The Wildcats were defeated by the defending Girls' Basketball State B Champion Warner Monarchs 48-41 in the District 2B Tourney. The girls played an outstanding game as sophomore Josie Clemens led the team with 13 points, three assists and one steal. Senior Jordon Peterson followed with nine points with one steal. Sophomore Darby Duncan added eight points, with one assist and one steal. Senior Kennedi Sparling added five points and one steal. Senior Julia Sparling contributed four points and one steal. Freshman Addison Sparling added two points with four assist and one steal. The Wildcats ended the season 14-7.

Sophomore Josie Clemens goes up for a free throw during the girls' District 2B basketball championship game against Warner.

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# Nothing Plain About This Carnival

By: Abby Fischbach

Every year at Northwestern, the Plains Lions Club holds a carnival for all ages. The carnival was held on Sunday, March 8. This event helps to raise money for the junior class and the Lions Club. Many different varieties of games and activities are available for all ages of people. The event had a very good turnout this year.

"It was a lot of fun being able to watch all of the children interact and have fun with the games," junior Codi Sparling said.

"I liked being able to get tokens at the games to win prizes," first-grader Ella Boekelheide said.



**Plains Lions Carnival begins to wind down.**



**Junior Elizabeth Heidenreich surveys the prize table.**



**Freshman Peyton Groft stands next to her printed design for the Women in Science 2015 conference.**

## Northwestern Attends Women in Science

By: Kate Finley

The Women In Science conference aims to encourage young female students to pursue a career in science.

On March 10, the girls picked four speakers of their choice to listen to throughout the day. Attendees included:

7th: Tally Sparling, Hailey Boekelheide

8th: Riley Grandpre, Moira Duncan, Caitlyn Fischbach

9th: Peyton Groft, Darien Watson, Evy Peterson, Addi Sparling, Sadie VanderWal, Megan Heidenreich, Jaidyn Kramp

10th: Josie Clemens, Klaryssa Schnoor, April Wilson

11th: Darienne Frericks, Abby Fischbach, Andrea Rausch, Kirstin Borge, Codi Sparling, Rachel Rausch, Rachael Boekelheide, Allison Braun, Cameron Bohl

## School Board Highlights: March

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NWA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, MARCH 9, 2015

- \* Next year, the building trades class is planning to work with the Aberdeen Housing Association to build a house on site in the development located by Central High School.
- \* The automotive class will be involved in a 4AAA contest with the top two students qualifying to intern at Pierson Ford.
- \* March 12 is the end of the third quarter.
- \* Mr. Osborn will be talking with the students about registering for Spanish and Tech Academy classes for next fall.
- \* The Athletic Banquet will be May 19. This will be a catered meal with the NW Student Council purchasing the students meal. Adults attending will need to purchase their meal.
- \* A shot clock mandate for class B schools is possible for the 16-17 year.
- \* The following are building projects NW is looking into: roof repairs, improvement to men's bathroom in the lobby, high school bathrooms, plumbing repairs, locker room updates, A/C in the high school and replacing portions of the sidewalk.
- \* Marissa Harms accepted the Kindergarten position, Jackie Remily accepted the Elementary Special Education position and Rachel Krogman accepted the middle-school teaching/special education position.
- \* Thank you to Target for the Take Charge of Education donation. Also thank you to everyone that uses their Red card.
- \* The five-year administrative review for our food service is scheduled for April 1, 2015.
- \* Approved the surplus of a car seat. Anyone interested in purchasing this please call Lisa Frericks or Ryan Bruns at 605-887-3467.
- \* Approved moving forward to purchase a new school bus for the 15-16 school year.
- \* Re-announce board vacancies. NW will have two positions open for election/re-election for the three year term beginning July 1, 2015. Petitions may begin to be circulated on April 7, 2015, and must be filed no later than May 8th at 5:00 p.m.
- \* Congratulations to Kate Finley for being chosen Student of the Month.
- \* Next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- \* The minutes of these proceedings will be published in their entirety in the Aberdeen American News during the week March 15, 2015.





## Journalism Students Editorial

### Students and adults clash on social media.

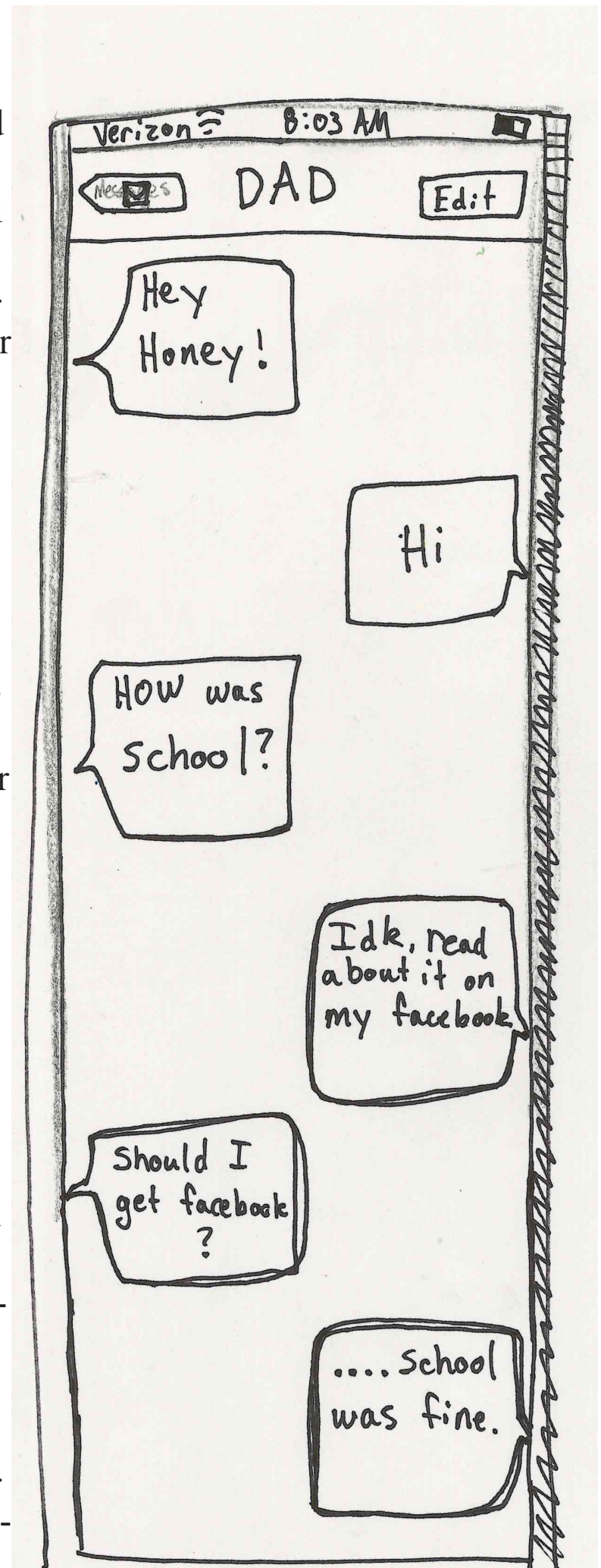
Many parents, and adults in general, have some form of social media. Whether it be Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, parents can and will take advantage of the near obsessiveness of teens and their social media to keep an eye on them. The real issue is whether or not this should be considered okay.

On one hand, using social media is a great way for parents to keep an eye on their children. Because teens tend to post about everything they do in their lives, parents can stay updated on their child's whereabouts and activities they participate in. Also, not all families have close relationships, so in a family lacking communication, social media can be used to make sure the children are staying safe. Social media is also a great way for parents to keep up with the community. It is possible for parents to have social media for themselves so that they can keep up with their own friends. A parent might use social media simply as a means to keep up with what is going on in the community.

On the other hand, teenagers do deserve some privacy. Parents constantly posting on students'

walls is questionable. If parents want to know what is happening with their children, they should talk to them in person. Some teenagers use social media as an outlet. They may use it to express feelings they do not want their parents to know about. Parents being on these websites can be seen as an invasion of privacy, or parents being overprotective. Parents also often times post embarrassing things. There are also parents who constantly post about how wonderful their child is, and how proud of them they are. While it is a nice sentiment, it is very annoying for people to constantly see. If a parent is proud of their child, they should tell them in person, not on social media. A private moment of praise between parent and child is a positive one!

Parents on social media can have both advantages and disadvantages. Being on social media is not the problem, the problem is when they constantly post about or closely watch over their children. Know when to draw the line.



Comic By: Kate Finley

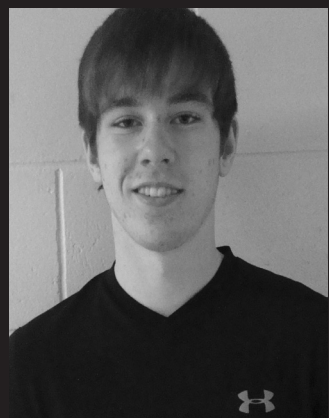
# In the Hallway...

Photos and story by: Cameron Bohl

## What class do you wish we had in school?



“Agriculture because I wish we had more opportunity to take classes related to our own lives,” freshman Sadie Vander Wal said.



“Weightlifting because it would be beneficial to the future football team,” sophomore Andrew Lefforge said.



“Underwater basket weaving because I would like to learn how to make a basket,” junior Codi Sparling



“Home economics so that I can learn how to raise a child in the future,” senior Zachary Duncan said.



“Photography because it is such a big part of social media and is job-related,” Mrs. Jennifer Schell said.

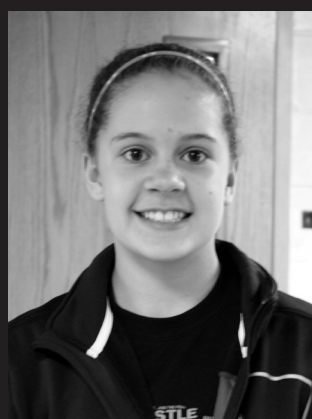
# In the Middle School...

Photos and story by: Madison Styles

## “What class do you wish we had in school?”



“A class on how to show cattle, fit cattle and on the different kinds of breeds,” sixth-grader Mitchell Vander Wal said.



“A farming class to learn about agriculture,” sixth-grade Alexis Rahm said.



“A huge free time to hang out and be on our phones,” seventh-grader Tomlyn Toy said.



“I want FFA, because it has to do with farming,” eighth-grader Gavin Bohl said.



“A nap class, because some days you’re just tired,” eighth-grader Zach Toennies said.

# In the Elementary...

## “What class do you wish we had in school?”



“A class about dogs because they do cool tricks,” kindergartner Tara Blachford said.



“A candy class, because I’d eat all the kinds I was learning about,” second-grader Payton Grandpre said.



“History, because I really like history and the interesting things that happened before I was born,” third-grader Dylan Hahler said.



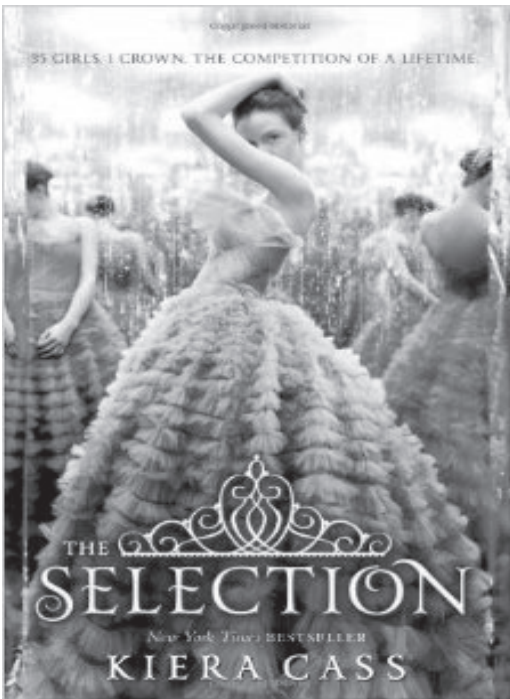
“Chemistry in the fourth-grade classroom, so we could blow stuff up,” fourth-grader Emmy Robeson said.



“Boxing, because I like hitting stuff,” fifth-grader Justin Haven said.

## Rachel's Book Shelf

By: Rachel Rausch



“The Selection” by Kiera Cass takes place in the future. America’s government has fallen and in its place is a new country called Illea, separated into 35 different areas. According to Illean law, when a prince becomes of age, a competition is held to find him a wife. Every girl within a certain age range has the opportunity to enter this competition, but only one girl from each area will compete. After sending in information about themselves, girls are randomly selected to come live in the palace until they are sent home. The girls are under strict rules and learning how to behave like princesses.

America singer is one of the girls selected for the competition. Although this competition is a great honor, America never

wanted to enter in the first place, only doing so because of a deal with her mother and encouragement to try and find a better life from her secret boyfriend, Aspen. The longer the competition continues, the more confused America becomes. She is confused about her feelings for both Prince Maxon and Aspen, about what life she wants for herself, and whether or not she should be fighting for Maxon.

## “What’s On Netflix!?”

By: Kate Finley

### Movies and TV Shows Coming in April

#### Available April 1

And Now ... Ladies and Gentlemen.. (2002)  
Bandolero (2000)  
Barnyard (2006)  
Bound (1996)  
Buffalo Soldiers (2001)  
Down to Earth (2001)  
Leprechaun 3 (1995)  
The Beautician and the Beast (1997)  
The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course (2002)  
Leprechaun 4: In Space (1997)  
Leprechaun 6: Back 2 tha Hood (2003)  
Suicide Kings (1997)  
Sunset Strip (2000)  
Underworld (2003)  
Whiteboyz (1999)  
Wrong Turn at Tahoe (2009)

#### Available April 2

Life Partners (2014)  
Sinbad: The Fifth Voyage (2014)

#### Available April 3

All Hail King Julien, Season 1 (5 New Episodes)  
Derek: Special  
Starry Eyes (2014)  
The Quiet Ones (2014)  
Available April 7  
Preservation (2014)  
Wilfred, Season 4  
Available April 8  
Halt and Catch Fire, Season 1 (2014)  
Available April 9  
Pioneer (2013)  
Available April 10

Broken (2013)  
Burning Bridges (2014)  
Confusion Na Wa (2013)  
Finding Mercy (2012)  
Finding Mercy 2 (2014)  
Flower Girl (2013)  
Forgetting June (2013)  
Knocking on Heaven’s Door (2014)  
Lagos Cougars (2013)  
Lies Men Tell (2013)  
Mad Couple (2014)  
Marvel’s Daredevil, Season 1  
Mad Couple 2 (2014)  
Matters Arising (2014)  
October 1\* (2014)  
Onye Ozi (2013)  
The Awakening (2013)  
Ties That Bind (2011)  
Available April 12  
The Identical (2014)  
Available April 13  
Video Game High School, Season 3  
**Available April 14**  
The Babadook (2014)  
Goodbye to Language (2014)  
Kink (2013)  
**Available April 16**  
Hot Fuzz (2007)  
Available April 17  
Baby Daddy, Season 4  
Chris D’Elia: Incorrigible  
They Came Together (2014)  
**Available April 18**  
Noah (2014)  
Available April 21  
A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night (2014)  
**Available April 25**  
Sons of Anarchy, Season 7  
**Available April 26**  
The Nutty Professor 2: Facing the Fear (2008)  
**Available April 27**  
National Treasure (2004)

By: Madison Styles

## Maddie’s Music Review

While growing up in Knoxville, Tennessee, the young Kelsea Ballerini set herself apart from all of her friends and family. Instead of dreaming about huge weddings and “prince charming” like everyone else, she set her dreams on wardrobe changes and stage plans based on the tour she planned on producing one day. Growing up, her parents listened to a lot of Frank Sinatra and Stevie Wonder. These artists influenced her a lot with her music, but she knew she wanted to embark on the country route.

At about the age of 12, Ballerini started writing and singing.

“I didn’t start out with the intention of anyone hearing it, I was writing for me, to say the things I needed to say,” she said. For a birthday gift, her mom gave her studio time in hopes of being able to record some of her songs for the ability to look back on them as years went on. This ironically backfired and Ballerini fell in love with it. After a few heartbreaks with record labels, she made the move to Nashville at the age of 15. Within a year or two later, she signed with a publishing deal called Black River Entertainment where she soared from there.

Her debut single titled “Love

Me Like You Mean It” has everyone listening on repeat. With this song, she enters the country music business with a song she co-wrote, making it even more special. Ballerini will be playing this summer at the 2015 Brown County Fair in Aberdeen. I predict a great performance with lots of fun, sassy, happy songs from this new, upcoming star.

*Kelsea Ballerini*

