

Yearbook Awarded for Excellence

By: Kate Finley

The Northwestern journalism class received the Jostens 2014 National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award for producing a dynamic and engaging yearbook.

"I am very proud of our journalism program at Northwestern. Our students work very hard to produce school publications, such as the yearbook and newspaper, of which their communities can be proud of as well," journalism teacher Mrs. Nora Groft said.

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content announced that Northwestern High School's yearbook program has been named the 2014 Josten's National Yearbook Program of Excellence. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies literacy.

The Northwestern award-win-

ning yearbook program was led by editor Madison Hahler under the direction of Nora Groft, Northwestern High School journalism teacher.

"Our publications do well because they are student-centered, not adult-centered. The students choose the topics, write the stories, edit the content, take the pictures and design the layouts. I take my role as adviser very seriously. I cannot sub myself into a volleyball match to play for an athlete who is struggling, so I cannot do that in the journalism classroom either. The students learn by doing, not by my doing it for them. Making mistakes is how they learn."

The award presented to Northwestern High School's yearbook program achieved the defined criteria for creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement and successfully managing the yearbook creation process.

"Yearbooks connect the students' hearts and minds to the



Journalism III students, seniors Julia Sparling and Haley Grandpre, proudly accept the yearbook award from Jostens Rep. Melissa Storley.

and we are dedicated to helping schools, yearbook advisers and students to strengthen their programs by providing state of the art tools, resources and best practices that support the development and creation of award-winning yearbooks."

The NW journalism program received a plaque to display in the yearbook area and a banner to display in the school.

"I think it is an honor, and Maddie Hahler worked very hard last year to earn this. The banner looks very pretty in the classroom!" senior Julia Sparling said.

This year's yearbook editors have high expectations on them.

"Maddie Hahler did an amazing job with the yearbook last year. This definitely puts pressure on Julia and I to continue the winning streak!" Grandpre said.

Robotics Advances to Regionals

By: Madison Styles

Seventeen Northwestern High School students loaded up their gear and headed for Brookings on Nov. 1 for the South Dakota State University statewide robotics event consisting of 22 different teams.

The judges evaluate the teams based on their robot, exhibit, sportsmanship, engineering notebook, and a marketing presentation in attempt to "sell" their robot.

Northwestern's robot placed second individually and first overall. Northwestern's robotics team consists of multiple mini-working groups within, such as the engineers, graphic designers, the promotions team and the finance team.

"It was a lot of fun, because last year we were one of the worst teams. This year we were the best team in the whole competition,"

sophomore Derek Boekelheide said.

"Winning the best robotics award was a great team and school accomplishment," high school teacher Denise Clemens said.

Northwestern will be competing at the national regional robotics event in Fargo, N.D., Dec. 4-6 against students from states such as Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

"It was exciting because we won and beat all the teams that were at the top last year. Winning was awesome, especially coming from the bottom last year to where we are now," junior Codi Sparling said.

Good luck to the team as they head to Fargo to represent Northwestern!



Northwestern Robotics Team's Robot named MACK. Front Row: Tanner Ewalt, Josie Clemens, Nolan Peterson, Cody Lefforge, Wyatt Hahler, Codi Sparling and Kyanne Anglin. Row Two: Zech Clemens, Sadie VanderWal, Evy Peterson, Christine Morgan, Darien Watson and Coach Denise Clemens. Back Row: Derek Boekelheide, Hans Leonhardt, Trey Bierman and Chance Sale.

Students Learn About Rachel's Challenge

Story and pictures by: Kate Finley and Nolan Peterson

Unfortunately, as a country, we reluctantly hear graphic, horrific, appalling stories on the news about school shootings. Far too often have we heard about these awful attacks and there has been talk about bullet proofing our schools, training our teachers to become soldiers, and hiring guards. In fact, many schools have taken precautions like these, even our own. Our school has installed only a few years ago, a door lock security system that automatically locks all outside doors to keep potential threats out. Our state has even required lock-down teacher meetings where teachers are given information on how to perform in serious lock-down situations.

On April 20, 1999, two teens went on a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, killing 13 people and wounding more than 20 others before turning their guns on themselves and committing suicide. The crime was the worst high school shooting in U.S. history and prompted a national debate on gun control and school safety, as well as a major investigation to determine what motivated the gunmen, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17. There was speculation that the two committed the killings because they had been bullied, were members of a group of social outcasts that was fascinated by Goth culture, or had been influenced by violent video games and music; however none of these theories was ever proven.

At approximately 11:19 a.m., Harris and Klebold, dressed in trench coats, began shooting fellow students outside Columbine High School, located in a suburb south of Denver. The pair then moved inside the school, where they gunned down many of their victims in the library. By approximately 11:35 a.m., Klebold and Harris had killed 12 students and a teacher and wounded more than 20 other people. Shortly after 12 p.m., the two teens turned their guns on themselves.

The first victim claimed of this dreadful epidemic was Rachel Joy Scott. She has since been the subject of several books and is the inspiration for Rachel's Challenge, a nationwide school outreach program for the prevention of teen violence, based on her life and writings. Rachel's Challenge includes a series of student empowering, educator motivating programs and strategies called the Awak-

en the Learner Five-step School Improvement Process that equips students and adults to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement.

Rachel's Challenge was started by Rachel's dad and step-mom, Darrell and Sandy Scott when they realized that the writings and drawings Rachel left not only had an impact on her friends and classmates, but also resonated with students around the world. Although Rachel was a typical teenager who even wrote about her "ups and downs," she had a passion and conviction that she would someday change the world. The Scott family knew her story and passion had to be told to inspire others to make their world a better place.

Traveling to Redfield for the day, Northwestern students and teachers had the honor of participating in an informative session of Rachel's life, motivating stories and inspiring theories.

"It was a very opening experience" said sophomore Josie Clemens.

More than 21 million people have been touched by Rachel's message, and they continue the legacy of making a difference in their communities. Each year at least 2 million more people are added to that number. These are just a couple of the results of Rachel's Challenge. In one survey, 78 percent of students indicated they would definitely intervene in a bullying incident in their school after seeing Rachel's Challenge. In the last 3 years, Rachel's Challenge has received nearly 500 unsolicited emails from students stating that after hearing Rachel's story they reached out for help as they were contemplating suicide. Some even state that "Rachel saved their life."

"It was great listening to people open up and share their stories in front of all of us, knowing we made them feel comfortable enough to; it was a great feeling junior Madison Styles said.



The late Rachel Joy Scott gave inspiration and hope to students before and after her death.



Northwestern students watched in awe during the presentation of Rachel's story and her tragic ending.



Seventh-grader Eric Nelson stood up and shared his feelings on what it means to be a leader.

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FOUR SING AT ALL-STATE

By: Madison Styles

Juniors Cory Walter, Isaac Groft and Rachel Rausch and sophomore Darby Duncan took part in the 2015 All State Choir Oct. 30- Nov. 1 in the Sioux Falls Arena.

“The group worked really hard, practiced every morning, learned their parts, and had a great time at All-State Chorus,” music teacher Miss Jaime Kessler said.

On Thursday, the students registered and enjoyed a fun day at the mall. Friday, everyone rehearsed all day and later that night watched a vocal jazz concert. Saturday, the students rehearsed in the morning until the afternoon and performed at the concert that night. A total of 1,000 students from all over the state made up the choir, and an orchestra also played along with some of the pieces.

“It was harder during the actual concert, because the camera was right in my face,” Groft said.

Northwestern’s quartet passed spot checks. For spot checks, they find out that morning what song will be judged, and they perform different parts of the song in front of judges to be sure the students are ready to perform.

“The conductor was awesome, because he was funny and not afraid to pick people out of the crowd if they were doing something wrong,” Rausch said.

The All-State Chorus participants also sang the National Anthem at the District 2B Volleyball Championship Nov. 7.



Junior Rachel Rausch, junior Isaac Groft, sophomore Darby Duncan and junior Cory Walter participate in the All-State Choir in Sioux Falls.

Two Students Participate in First Quarter HONOR NSU Band Clinic

By: Abby Fischbach

Freshmen Evy Peterson and Sadie Vander Wal received the opportunity to attend a band clinic at Northern State University Nov. 12.

“We played a lot of music, and it was fun to meet new people,” Peterson said.

The two freshmen participated in bands throughout the day and played music with different people. The band clinic help at Northern was directed by two band directors from NSU.

“We played and rehearsed three songs all day. We had two directors from NSU who directed the bands. I really enjoyed the experience because I learned so much about performing from the Northern professors,” Vander Wal said.

Freshmen: Straight A: Peyton Groft, Megan Heidenreich, Jaidyn Kramp, Evy Peterson, Addison Sparling, Sadie Vander Wal; A: NONE; B: Darien Watson.

Sophomores: Straight A: Derek Boekelheide, Josie Clemens; A: Darby Duncan; B: Alexandria Johnson, Christopher Johnson, Kyler Johnson.

Juniors: Straight A: Kirstin Borge, Allison Braun, Andrea Rausch, Madison Styles; A: Rachael Boekelheide, Cameron Bohl, Elizabeth Heidenreich; B: Trevor Bohl, Kate Finley, Abigail Fischbach, Darienne Frericks, Isaac Groft, Kaylee Hoellein, Cody Lefforge, Nolan Peterson, Rachel Rausch, Chance Sale, Logan Schentzel, Codi Sparling.

Seniors: Straight A: Hans Leonhardt, Halle Sieve, Corbin Smith; A: Christine Morgan, Jordon Peterson, Tessa Rush, Julia Sparling; B: Zachary Duncan, Haley Grandpre, Hannah Palmer, Kennedi Sparling, Blake Toennies, Colton Zens.

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READERS' THEATER PLACES FIRST AT DISTRICTS

By: Rachel Rausch

Seniors Blake Toennies and Tessa Rush, juniors Allison Braun, Kate Finley, Andrea Rausch and Codi Sparling, and freshman Sadie Vander Wal all participated in oral interpretation districts at Northern State University.

Vander Wal competed in oratory, Braun in humorous, Finley in storytelling and Sparling in serious prose. Toennies and Finley competed as a duet and everyone except Vander Wal competed in reader's theater.

The participants worked very hard and undoubtedly

put on wonderful performances.

The reader's theater received first place on its original piece "Starbucks Apocalypse." The group advances to the regional competition Nov. 18.

Congratulations also to Braun and Finley for each receiving third place on their individual pieces.

"I think that we were the best reader's theater performing, and I am very proud of my teammates," Finley said.

The state competition takes place Dec. 5-6 in Huron, S.D.



Juniors Kate Finley and Codi Sparling, seniors Blake Toennies and Tessa Rush and juniors Andrea Rausch and Allison Braun feel proud of their first-place prize at the district competition at Northern State University Nov. 5.



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Student of the Month

By: Cameron Bohl

Sophomore Derek Boekelheide received student of the month for November.

His parents are Chad and Kris Boekelheide, and he has three younger sisters: seventh-grader Hailey Boekelheide, fifth-grader Jessica Boekelheide and first-grader Ella Boekelheide.

Boekelheide's activities include cross country, basketball, track and field, robotics, band and Future Business Leaders of America.

His hobbies include ice fishing, Rubik's cubes and chickens.

Galen Rupp, the American long-distance runner and Olympic silver medalist, is his favorite athlete.

His future plans are to find a college with a good cross country and track program and go there to study and improve

in his running. Boekelheide recently competed in the state cross country meet, placing third in the Class B division.

His favorite quote is "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift" by Steve Prefontaine, a famed University of Oregon runner who died unexpectedly during a car accident.

His favorite classes are Algebra II and biology.

"Derek is the kind of student that challenges a teacher and keeps teachers on their toes, which makes the classroom more interesting," Mrs. Jennifer Schell said.

Congratulations to Derek and all of the nominees!



Photo by: Abby Fischbach

HOBY Reps Selected

By: Kate Finley



Sophomores Ali Johnson and Klaryssa Schnoor have been selected as the 2014-15 Northwestern Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership candidates. They will participate at the state HOBY seminar on the campus of Dakota State University in Madison June 11-14, 2015.

"I am REALLY excited to get to attend!" Johnson said.

HOBY is a fun, inspiring and motivating leadership camp that succeeds in building self-confidence and social skills. It focuses on keeping you active and inspired. Making new friends and acquaintances from all over the state is a giant part of the experience. HOBY programs are conducted annually throughout the United States, serving local and international high school students. HOBY programs provide students selected by their schools to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences.

HOBY also provides adults with opportunities to make a significant impact on the lives of youth by volunteering. Over 4,000 committed HOBY volunteers plan and execute the programs each year, serving both at the local HOBY affiliate level and on HOBY's Board of Trustees. Due to the selfless efforts of volunteers and the contributions of generous donors, nearly 10,000 students participate in HOBY programs annually.

"I'm nervous but I can't wait to go!" Schnoor stated.

The students will be housed in DSU's dorms while attending HOBY, and on the last night of the conference the parents of the students will get to participate in a dinner while the students say good-bye to the new friends they have made. HOBY is definitely an experience worth having.

Artists Attend Annual Art Workshop at NSU

By: Cameron Bohl

The Northwestern art students took a trip to Aberdeen for go to the 21st Annual High School Art Invitational Exhibition at Northern on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Each student submitted one work of art, but only six pieces from each school could be displayed. Sophomores, juniors and seniors submitted work. From Northwestern, seniors Jordon Peterson, Kennedy Sparling, Halle Sieve, Tessa Rush, Blake Toennies and junior Kate Finley submitted pieces.

First place received \$100, second place received \$75 and third place received \$50. No one from Northwestern placed.

The students had all day to go to two out of six workshops: Drawing: Make Your Shapes Dance, Green Screen Special Effects, Plop & Slop: Fun with Plaster, Monster Stuffedies & Cell Phone Cases Using Easy Sewing Techniques and Photography: Painting with Light. At the end of the day, the students attended the awards ceremony.

"It was really fun being able to see students' artwork from around the state and pick up new ideas from their pieces. Some of their artwork was really amazing and definitely makes our own art students want to step it up a notch and improve on our own skills," senior Jordon Peterson said.

Mrs. Jennifer Schell, the art teacher, took the students to the workshop. As a graduate student at Northern, Schell painted a canvas that she had been working on for a few weeks. Almost done with the project, she decided she would finish it the next day due to some wet paint. She usually signed her name after the completion, but this time she signed it before she finished it. The next day Schell came back to find her painting missing. She searched everywhere, but could not find it.

On Tuesday Nov. 4, something caught her eye. A painting in an enclosed area looked extremely familiar. She walked up to the painting to find her missing painting from 22 years ago hanging on the wall with her name and still unfinished.

"I felt closure and relief knowing that my painting had been found," Schell said.




Senior Jordon Peterson cleverly crafts her new piece of work she learned to make in the NSU workshop Nov. 4 in Aberdeen.

Photos by: Kate Finley

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Volleyball...

By: Isaac Groft

Northwestern defeats Hitchcock/Tulare in three sets, 25-12, 25-9, 25-10, on Oct. 30. The Wildcats served 68/73 with 11 aces led by sophomore Josie Clemens who served 25/25 with four aces. Northwestern attacked 62/70 with 38 kills led by senior Jordan Peterson who attacked 29/32 with 23 kills. The Wildcats set 64/64 with 34 assists led by sophomore Darby Duncan who set 52/52 with 30 assists. The team's 44 digs were led by Clemens who had 10. The Wildcats had two solo and four assisted blocks led by senior Julia Sparling who had two solo and one assisted blocks.

Northwestern defeats Leola/Fredrick in the District 2B Semifinal in three sets, 25-13, 25-13, 25-8, on Nov. 6. The Wildcats served 68/71 with 10 aces led by freshman Peyton Groft who served 14/14 with two aces. Northwestern attacked 84/96 with 43 kills led by senior Jordan Peterson who attacked 27/32 with 19 kills. The Wildcats set 93/93 with 42 assists led by sophomore Darby Duncan who set 81/81 with 34 assists. The team's 52 digs were led by senior Kennedy Sparling who had 13. The Wildcats had four assisted blocks led by Sparling who had two assisted blocks.

Northwestern loses District 2B Championship to Warner in three sets, 25-18, 25-16, 25-12, on Nov. 7. The Wildcats served 42/48 with 3 aces led by sophomore Darby Duncan, who served 8/8 with one ace. Northwestern attacked 92/107 with 26 kills, led by senior Jordan Peterson who attacked 35/43 with 11 kills. The Wildcats set 104/106 with 26 assists, led by Duncan with 95/96 with 26 assists. Senior Kennedy Sparling led the team's 56 digs with 14 of her own. Sophomore Josie Clemens had one solo block for the Wildcats. The team ended its season with a record of 26-5, losing to Warner four times and Sioux Falls Christian once.

Cross Country...

By: Cameron Bohl

The cross country team placed very well at state in Huron on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Sophomore Derek Boekelheide placed third out of 128 runners with a time of 17:30.32. Junior Isaac Groft placed 99th with a time of 20:23.62.

"There was a lot of good competition, so it felt great to place third at state. I plan to keep training hard so I can improve on my finish next year," Boekelheide said.

Sophomore Josie Clemens placed 24th with a time of 16:40.07. Eighth-grader Miranda Thorson placed 30th with a time 16:58.40. Freshman Peyton Groft placed 34th with a time of 17:03.42. Sophomore Darby Duncan placed 62nd with a time of 17:49.39. Eighth-grader Tya Weideman placed 63rd with a time of 17:49.55 out of a total of 118 participants.

The girl's team all together placed fifth.

"I was more nervous for this race than any other race, but it was a great experience! Hopefully this will help me with future races," Thorson said.

Donation Going Toward Wildcat Athletics



Rhonda Borchard gives Mr. Richard Osborn a check from the Cross County Bowl tailgate donation. The money donated will be split evenly among the athletic programs at Northwestern High School.



Sophomore Josie Clemens, freshman Peyton Groft, sophomore Darby Duncan and seventh-grader Tya Weideman enjoy their 5th place victory at the state cross meet in Huron.



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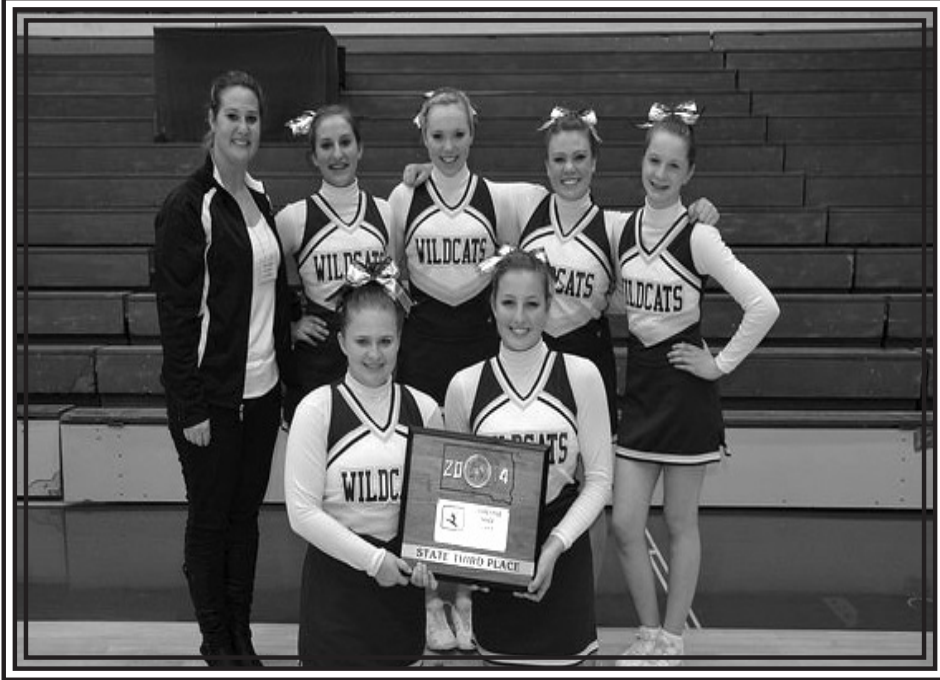


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Competition Cheer... By: Nolan Peterson

Cheer Squad Places Third at State!



Coach Holly Morgan, Megan Heidenreich, Rachael Boekelheide, Darienne Frericks Sadie VanderWal, Codi Sparling and Elizabeth Heidenreich present their trophy for third in the State.

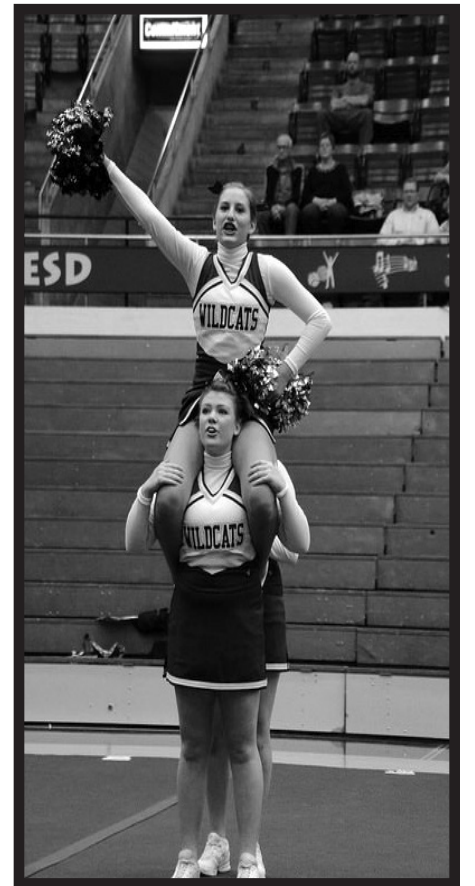
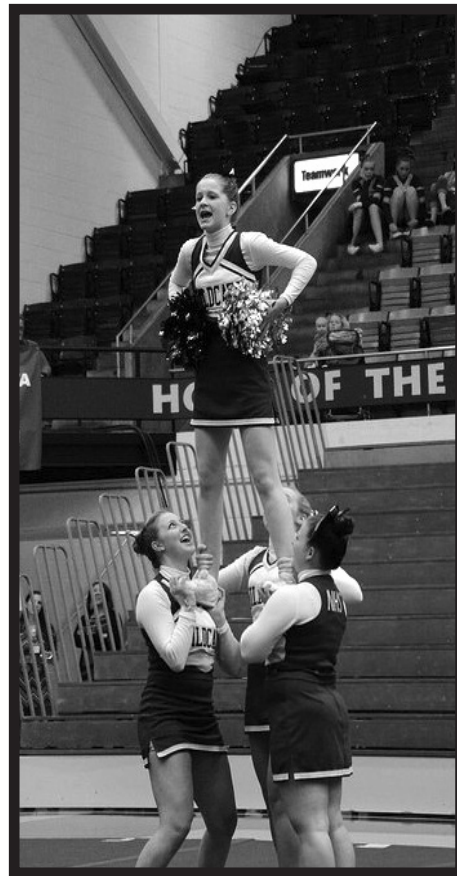
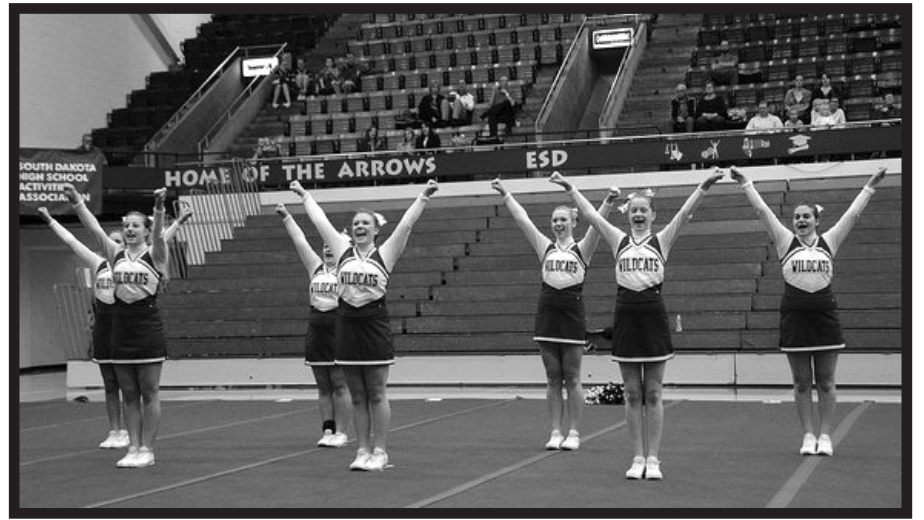
The Northwestern Cheerleading/Dance team did very well this season. The team went to six competitions this year around the state. Their first stop this year was held at Dell Rapids where they placed sixth overall. They then placed second at Warner. Northwestern also put a competition of its own, placing fourth overall for cheer, first in hip hop, first in jazz and second for its pom routine.

The team's next stop was at Redfield where it placed second overall for cheer, second in hip hop, first in jazz and second in its pom routine. At the Faulkton

competition, the team placed fifth in cheer, second in hip hop, first in jazz and third in its pom routine. In Lake Preston, the team just participated in the cheer portion and placed fourth overall.

The Northwestern Cheerleading/Dance team walked into the state tournament feeling very confident. They received sixth in the cheer portion, fourth in hip hop, third in jazz and third in pom.

The Northwestern cheerleaders also took third overall in the state competition.



The cheerleaders hold their poses for the judges during different intervals of their performance at the state competition in Watertown.

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Veterans Day Program

Story and photo by: Abby Fischbach

Every year on Veterans Day, Northwestern holds a Veterans Day program open to the community. Veterans Day is to remember veterans who served our country.

Parts of the program included the posting of the colors, the national anthem, Veterans Day facts and a guest speaker. This year superinten-

dent Mr. Ryan Bruns spoke about his past experience and current involvement with the Army Reserves.

“The Veterans Day programs are very good for adults and students. Everyone needs to remember our Veterans and the sacrifices they make for the country,” third-grade teacher Mrs. Marilyn Battey said.

“I thought it was very informing and fun to listen to the speakers,” freshman Addison Sparling said.

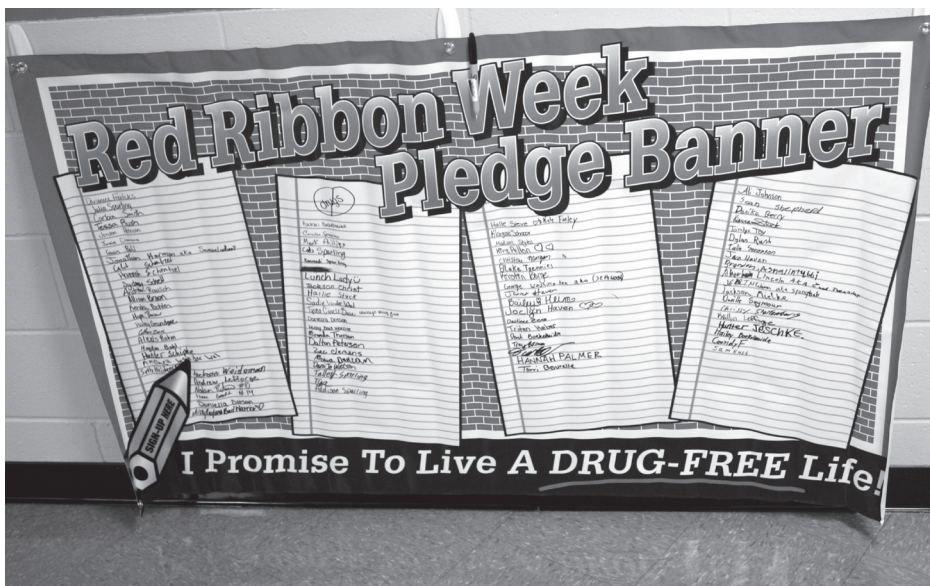
“It was fun seeing pictures of Mr. Ryan Bruns in the Army and listening to the essays,” fourth-grader Quintin Fischbach said.



The second graders and chorus girls practice for the Veterans Day program held Nov. 11.

Northwestern Celebrates Red Ribbon WEEK

Story and photos by: Kate Finley



October 27-31, 2014

Grades 2 through 6 participated in an essay contest. The topic: “How do you pledge to live a long healthy life?” Congratulations to all the students who participated in the contest and made their inspiring pledges. A special congrats are given to the following students who placed first in the contest. Their essays are given below.

2nd grader: Rhianna

Today, I pledge to be healthy so when I grow up I can be When I get into high school I want to be a cheerleader. I will drink lots of water, eat good foods, and get plenty of exersize. If someone tells me to drink something that is not healthy, I will say no. When I am out of colage I am going to be a famouse dancer. I will stay healthy.

3rd grader: Lincoln

I will choose to live a healthy life by: not taking drugs so I can live up to 100 years old. I really want to do that. I will also not smoke, eat bad stuff and not take medicine if I don't need it. I want to be a pharmacist when I grow up.

4th grader: Olivia

I will choose to live a healthy life by: I will not have any tabacco, alcohol, or tabacco products because that will lead to cancer. You could get cancer from cigarettes, tabacco products, and alcohol. And I want to be a role model to the other little kids as I get older and when I'm an art teacher by not using the products. I want to be like my big brother Jacob and exercise, do lots of non-violent sports like dance, cheer, and volleyball, and eat healthy. You should fight peer pressure that making you do bad stuff and put good peer pressure on kids that are doing the bad stuff. Be a role model to the little kids like my brother Jacob was to me.

5th grader: Haiden

“I pledge to live a healthy and drug free life.” I will not hang around the kids that do drugs alcohol and smoke. I will tell a teacher or my parents so that those people will not be able to do drugs and other things any more. I will tell other kids that it is bad to smoke drink and do drugs I might help the people that did do any of those things stop and try to stay away and maybe even start a club were kids that did do drugs can come and tell people there story what happens when you do drug and other thing and how they over came there problem with drug, alchol and smoking.

6th grader: Hayden

“I pledge to live a healthy and drug free life.” Through my middle school years and high school years, I pledge to be drug free! One thing I can do to be drug free is set a goal for myself. If you like sports, you have to eat healthy, be totally drug freem and get good grades. It is probably adicting once you start drugs, but together we all can stop saying yes to drugs and more. I believe even the smallest bite of tabacco will make you want more, just like a cigarrete. When you breath in a cigarrete just like that, you are looking at a better chance of dieing. Even if you think you are ok, you aren't ok. You can die if you do these terrible things more than once. Please take a stand and be a drug free person. it will help you out a lot!

Elementary, middle, and HS was judged separately.

Monday:
 *H.S. SADD & FCA students handed out red ribbons to students and staff.
 *Students signed a pledge banner that will be displayed in the high school

Tuesday:
 *M.S/ H.S. SADD and FCA volunteers counted pledge cards.
 *”My future is TOO BRIGHT to make unhealthy choices.” Northwestern students wore neon colors!

Wednesday:
 “Northwestern is Healthy and Drug-free” School Spirit Day, NW wore thier apparel. How can we start a chain reaction of positive choices at NW after “Rachel’s Challenge” in Redfield?

Thursday:
 *”TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR RED DAY” (SADD & FCA judged class contest; class with the most red will win a prize!)

Northwestern Crowns Snow Queens

Story and photos by: Kate Finley

As the snow begins to blow and the temperature starts to fall once again, Northwestern happily crowns a new junior and senior snow queen. Past reigning queens Kalen Frericks and Klaryssa Schnoor participated in state Snow Queen last year after their crowning at Northwestern. This year the contestants for junior snow queen were Sadie VanderWal and Tyrae Circle Bear. The senior snow queen contestants were Christine Morgan, Carolina Spielman and Halle Sieve.

Circle Bear won junior snow queen and Morgan won senior snow queen.

For the junior talents we had the pleasure of hearing a sweet and mysterious tune from Jackson Mielke. For the senior talents, Darby Duncan and Tessa Rush showcased their vocal skills. Both students did a fantastic job with each of their songs. Through judge's choice, Duncan will be advancing to state with her talent. After the talent performances, the kindergarten princes and princesses sang for the audience.

Northwestern would like to wish good luck at state to the snow queen winners as well the talent winners.

Northwestern would also like to thank the Plains Lions Club for hosting another successful snow queen event.



**Senior Snow Queen
Christine Morgan**



Contest Winners: Darby Duncan, Christine Morgan, Steve Smith (Frosty) Tyrae Circle Bear and Jackson Meilke.



**Junior Snow Queen
Tyrae Circle Bear**




Kindergartners sing their hearts out on stage at Snow Queen.



Senior Tessa Rush gets her game face on before performing for the talent portion of the evening.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NWA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, NOV. 10, 2014

- Everything is moving forward with the new tech academy at Aberdeen Central.
- National Career Readiness (NCR) test will be given to the seniors on Nov. 18.
- The NW Robotics team will be going to compete at Fargo on Dec. 4.
- Mr. Bruns participated in the Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Setting event in Dallas, TX to consider achievement levels for all grade levels. The team then made a recommendation for Smarter Balanced to state officers.
- Rachel's Challenge was attended by all students and was very successful in showing students to be kind to others under all circumstances.
- Conferences on Oct. 24 were well attended.
- NW is looking into buying a handicap accessible van.
- Thank you to American Bank for donating the tailgate proceeds to the NW Athletic Teams.
- American Trust Insurance will be providing Cherry Berry at the elementary Christmas concert.
- The audit by Eide Bailly is complete and the financial have been sent to the SD Department of Legislative Audit for approval.
- We received a score of 100 percent from the health inspector for the food service area.
- Approved an application for open enrollment.
- Approved the Resolution of Dissolution of Hub Area Multi-District Vocational Center.
- Approved the contract for assistant boys' basketball coach for Nathan Peterson.
- Congratulations to October Student of the Month Isaac Groft.
- Congratulations to the Competition Dance Team on their 3rd place at the State Competition.
- Congratulations to the Cross Country runners on their accomplishments at the State Cross Country Meet. Derek Boekelheide placed third; Josie Clemens placed 24th; the girls team placed fifth.
- Congratulations to the journalism staff for being named a Jostens 2014 National Yearbook Program of Excellence.
- Congratulations to the NW Robotics Team their 1st place overall BEST Award and for their 2nd place robot finish.
- Congratulations to the Oral Interp Team advancing to Regions. Readers Theatre placed 1st – Blake Toennies, Tessa Rush, Allison Braun, Kate Finley, Andrea Rausch and Codi Sparling. Kate Finley placed 3rd in Story Telling and Allison Braun placed 3rd in Humorous to advance to Regions.
- Next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Monday, Dece. 8 at 6 p.m.
- The minutes of these proceedings will be published in their entirety in the Aberdeen American News during the week Nov. 16, 2014.

Small schools need more participation in school activities to be successful.

Northwestern students should be encouraged to participate in more school activities. As a school, we see dwindling numbers when it comes to our in-school activities. Where are the students going? Are they spending their time productively? Most importantly, are we making sure our students are staying active?

Participation in activities needs to start increasing at Northwestern. We no longer have the enrollment to support multiple activities in which students pick and choose. In 1998, we had 106 students in the high school. This year, we only have 71 students. With 35 fewer students, the rest of us need to pick up the slack. We need everyone possible to participate to even have a team or club or group. You do not have to be an all-star to be on the team. In fact, it's good to learn to be a role player rather than a star in just the activities you are good at. Besides, how many students from larger schools who get cut would love to be on a varsity team?

Some positive sides to being in a club or participating in a sport are that you will be with your friends and just have fun. Sometimes you feel left out if you do not do something that your friends do, so why not just go out? Sadly, if your friends are not participating in that particular sport or club with you, it becomes hard to find the activity fun, so we'd like to see more students join in!

Students should participate in school activities because it influences them to hold a more organized, better time managed, responsible life. Students who

participate in activities generally hold better grades and try harder in school. They get into less trouble because they have more structured time.

Students do not have to participate in every single activity, but all students should be involved in at least one or more school activities. When you are in activities, you meet a lot of people and make new friends. Participation in activities also looks good on your college scholarship and job applications. Participating in sports and any activity can also keep you healthy and in shape.

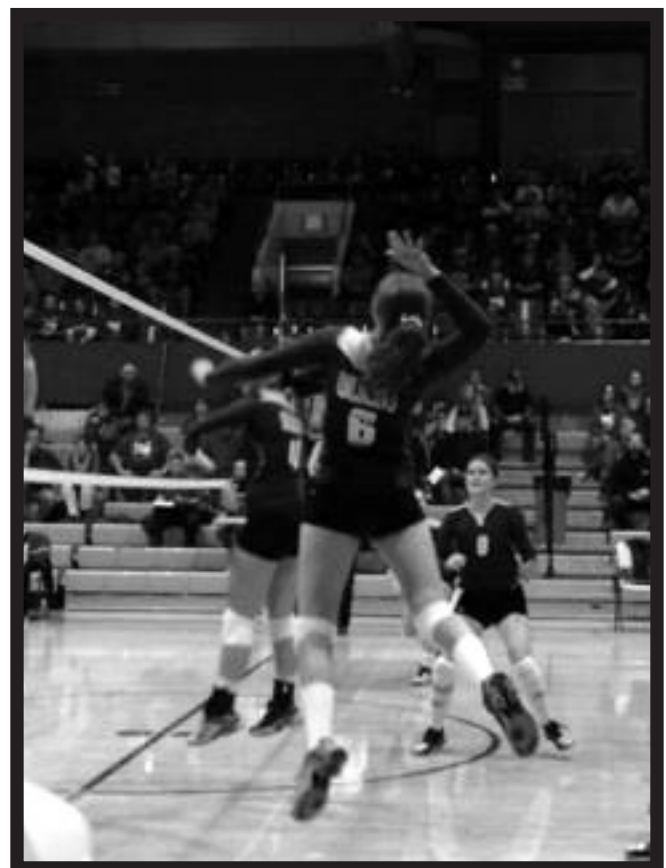
While everyone can see the small numbers in athletics, such as 16 boys out for football, very rarely do we actually talk about the real dwindling numbers in non-sport activities: oral interpretation, SADD, band (with 23 students), chorus (with only three boys) and even One-Act Play. The numbers in those activities can always be found lowering, but unfortunately these activities do not seem to generate as much attention when we talk about school activities. Because of our smaller school, the lack of numbers we see in our sports can also be applied to our other activities.

The grand benefit of attending a small school is the opportunity to become a well-rounded individual with a wide variety of experiences. We encourage you to expand your horizons and consider ALL of the activities--both athletic and extra-curricular--that we have at NW. Parents, encourage your children to stick with band, chorus, oral interp, athletics, etc. Northwestern (and your child!) will be better for it!

Journalism Students Editorial



Chorus students participate in warm-ups before choir practice.



Sophomore Josie Clemens and her teammates participate in volleyball as they try to take in another win at the district tournament.

Photos by: Kate Finley

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In the Hallway...

Photos and story by: Cameron Bohl

If you could be invisible for a day, what would you do?



"I would steal a Mustang Super Snake," freshman Jedd Groft said.



"I would play in an NFL game but still be invisible," sophomore Andrew Lefforge said.



"I would go mess with people in Wal-Mart," junior Codi Sparling said.



"I'd scare the people I hate most," senior Carolina Spielman said.



"I would sit in the corner of Boone's room and listen to him tell stories," Mrs. Christy Cardella said.

In the Middle School...

Photos and story by: Madison Styles



"I would go around and listen to people's conversations," sixth-grader Kiarra Stuck said.



"I would sneak up by people's desks and drag them around the room," seventh-grader Kyle Stahl said.



"I would play volleyball so no one would see my hits coming," eighth-grader Gavin Bohl said.



"I would secretly get on a plane and go to the jungle," eighth-grader Moira Duncan said.



"I would go home and see what Arden does all day during the winter months," elementary librarian Mrs. Nancy Taylor said.

In the Elementary...



"I would move to a different grade and learn all of the stuff," kindergartner Sierrah Johnson said.



"I would walk through walls and scare people by taking a book and putting it in the air," second-grader Jessica Christ said.



"I would go to the store and get stuff for free," third-grader Tyanne Franks said.



"I would dress up so it would look like I was a floating cloak and run around scaring people," fourth-grader Ethan Boekelheide said.



"I would ride my scooter to my cousin's house because it is easy to get there," first-grader Layla Ortmeier said.

Rachel's Book Shelf

GONE

By: Rachel Rausch



All the adults are gone. Teachers, doctors and parents, all gone. Everyone 15 and older disappeared in the blink of an eye. The town of Perdido Beach is in a panic. There is an impenetrable barrier surrounding the town that is painful to the touch. No one knows what is happening or what to do. There is no way to know how long this will last. Kids turning 15 disappear on the exact minute they were born, an act dubbed "the poof." On top of it all, some kids are developing powers.

Some children are taking advantage of the missing adults, raiding grocery stores and bullies trying to control the weaker population. In the midst of it all, a building starts on fire and 14-year-old Sam Temple rushes to the rescue. He rallies a group of kids to start watering down the hardware store next door to keep the building from catching fire also, while he rushes into the burning building to rescue the child that can be heard screaming. It is this act of courage that sends kids running to him for help.

Shortly after the disappearance of all the adults, kids from Coates Academy, the school for trouble children a few miles from Perdido Beach, drive into town. Caine, the leader of this group, puts on a show of keeping things in order and is soon running the town. Eventually, children learn of Caine's ability to move objects, no matter how heavy, with only his mind and movement of his hands. They also learn of how he has captured other mutants at Coates Academy.

Sam is the only person able to stop Caine. He is the only person with a strong enough power. Sam discovered his power even before the disappearance of the adults, but has not learned to control it. He is able to create green white light, either a ball that simply lights an area, or a beam hot enough to burn through brick. But will Sam be able to stop Caine before he turns 15?

Pass the Popcorn

Big Hero 6

By: Kate Finley



Big Hero 6 is a PG movie that covers all the basic needs for family entertainment. There is grief, comedy, drama, suspense, and ACTION. This movie is bound to keep the children entertained as well as the adults.

Personally, I found the movie too be strangely entertaining. As I entered the theater, I was overwhelmed by the amount of little children running around. "Oh great," I thought "this is a little kid movie." I had the general idea that it was going to be a movie for younger children, but not this young.

As the movie began, I quickly realized that it was definitely going to be interesting. Especially considering the first scene was set in a creepy back ally in an illegal betting ring.

One of the film's main themes is about coping with grief, as the main character's beloved older brother (Tadashi) (his only immedi-

ate family) tragically dies early in the film.

The movie is an unconventional original story that focuses on the power of brotherhood, friendship, and using your gifts to help others.

What Frozen was to sisterhood, Big Hero 6 is to brotherhood. Even though the main character (Hiro) and his older brother (Tadashi) don't get the happily ever after that Anna and Elsa enjoy, this is still a story about the power of brotherly love, encouragement, and support.

I also really enjoyed how cleverly Disney input jokes into the film that the younger audience didn't catch.

With its refreshingly diverse cast and uplifting message, Big Hero 6 is a captivating adventure story for the entire family.

Check out this movie at the Carmike Cinema in Aberdeen this weekend!

By: Madison Styles

Maddie's Music Review

Twenty-four-year-old sensation Taylor Swift grew up in Reading, Penn. on a Christmas tree farm with her mother, a marketing executive, her father, a financial advisor, and her younger brother Austin. At the age of nine, Swift and her mother traveled regularly to Broadway for vocal and acting lessons. She then fell madly in love with music and unexpectedly learned how to play guitar at the age of 12 from a computer repairman at her house to fix their family computer, teaching her three chords. Bound and determined to learn how to play, she began writing songs and taught herself the rest. At age 14, Swift's family

moved to Nashville so that she could pursue her singing dream. While performing at the Bluebird Café one night, Scott Borchetta, president and CEO of Big Machine Records Recording Label heard her and snatched her up immediately.

In 2006, Swift released her first album titled Taylor Swift, with her first single "Our Song," making her the youngest sole writer and singer of a No. 1 country song. In 2008, she released her second album, Fearless, which went straight to the No. 1 on the Billboard 200 Album Chart and No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100, making it the top-selling album of 2009.

Swift also produced two other extremely successful albums, Red and Sparks Fly, and she currently holds the spot as top-selling digital artist of music history.

"No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind," Swift said.

After spending her career in the country music business, Swift recently released her fifth studio album, 1989, that consists of nothing but pop music. She made her switch of genres very clear and expressed her feelings very openly about it, which shocked many people. Within the first week of sales,



which shocked many people. Within the first week of sales, the new album sold roughly 1.287 million copies. Swift has made a great name for herself and connected with people of all kinds through her music that anyone can relate to. I predict huge success with her new album and 1989 tour.