



THE BEAR

Student Newspaper

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NINE WRESTLERS CLAIM BID TO STATE; TWO MEDAL

Ashlynn Nash
Photography Editor-in-Chief

By the end of the night on February 10, the WB boys wrestlers made history.

The team qualified nine wrestlers to attend the Iowa High School State Wrestling Tournament, which took place February 14-17. With nine wrestlers qualified for the state tournament, the 23-24 season sent a school record number of qualifiers, beating last year's newly-set record of six.

The wrestlers who qualified were freshman Ethan Humphrey at 106 lbs.; sophomores Logan Christoffel at 132 lbs. and Cooper Gates at 165 lbs.; junior Tate Frantz at 190 lbs.; and seniors Lincoln Edwards at 120 lbs., Auron Marsh at 144 lbs., Cale Seydel at 157 lbs., Quintyn Rocha at 215 lbs., and Logan Wright at heavyweight.

Returning Bears to the state tournament were Wright, Seydel, Edwards, Gates, and Christoffel. Going into this year's state tournament, many were motivated by last year's ending.

Rocha said, "Coming up short last year and not making it [was my motivation]."

Wright commented, "The feeling of state last year when I lost to place and the year before I placed 8th kept me driven."

Nonetheless, all of the Bear wrestlers in attendance had distinct feelings about getting a bid to state.

"It is just another stepping stone to my goals that I set for myself. Making it to state is just a small thing, and it's just an expectation for me," Humphrey said.

"It was a great feeling to know the hard work paid off," Frantz said.

On day one of the official state tournament, the Bears were geared up and ready for their nighttime wrestling to begin at 6:00. Humphrey wrestled first and took a technical fall win against Connor Sullivan from Nashua-Plainfield at 4:23. Humphrey then continued in the championship bracket and wrestled Connor Morrow from Akron-Westfield and won in a 7-1 decision.

Edwards then won his first match over Sam Dominick from Woodbury Central in a technical fall at 6:00. In round two, Edwards battled and lost against Cael Morrow of Akron-Westfield in a technical fall at 6:00. This sent Edwards into the consolation bracket for Thursday, February 15.

Christoffel came to the mat and conquered Chance Christenson from Riceville with a 7-1 decision. In his next round, he competed with Dawson Youngblut who beat him in a fall at 2:38. This set Christoffel up for a Thursday night consolation bracket appearance.

Next up was Marsh who had a tight first round match against Woodbine's Brenner Sullivan but came out on top with a 2-0 decision. His next fight ended with a 1:45 fall versus Charlie Veit from East Sac County. This meant Marsh's Thursday would continue with consolation battles as well.

Marsh, making his first and final state appearance, had a tough schedule. Marsh said, "The 7th seed [was the most difficult opponent] because he was stronger than me and was very technical."

Seydel faced a first round upset from Underwood's Will Buckholdt in a 6-1 decision. This sent him directly into the consolation bracket.

Round one for Gates looked a bit different; he earned a bye. The round two match against Clay Wilgenbusch of East Buchanan ended in a 12-5 decision for Wilgenbusch and sent Gates into the consolation bracket for Thursday.

Frantz battled hard but lost in his first round to Bryce Wiskus from Kuemper Catholic in a 12-8 decision. The opponent, Wiskus, threw a polished lateral drop to end Frantz's championship presence, and Frantz entered consolation play.

Rocha stepped up to the mat and grabbed a hard-fought 6-4 win against Logan-Magnolia's Carson Edney. Next

up was his bout with Ashton Honnold of Nodaway Valley which ended in a 5-2 decision loss. Rocha then prepared for the next day's appearance in the consolation bracket.

The final wrestler of the open-

ing night was Wright, who had a bye in the first round. He debuted strong in the second round and won against Cooper Marvel of Southwest Iowa by a 5:16 fall.

Wright and Humphrey were the two Bears who would push forward into

the championship bracket of the state tournament on Thursday. Moving deeper into the tournament, Humphrey had one goal in mind.

"I wanted to keep moving up on the podium," Humphrey said.

On day two of the tournament, there was a lot of work to be done for most of the Bears to dig themselves out of the never-ending consolation hole. However, Humphrey began his work in the championship quarterfinal match and lost to the number one seed, Hayden Schwab of Don Bosco, in a 4:27 fall.

"I wrestled my hardest match and lost," Humphrey commented.

Edwards dug deep in his first consolation match and won over Alta/Aurelia's Aden Rieb in a 5-0 decision. In his next match, he took another win, this one being over Gabe Johnson from Southwest Iowa in a close 5-4 decision. Edwards left day two looking good, and it was onto Friday for more battles.

Christoffel was back to the mat again, this time wrestling Riverside's Jack Branan and finding success in a 3:36 fall. In consolation round two, Christoffel took his final state appearance, taking a hard fought 5-2 decision loss from Ethan

**"THIS IS MY
LAST SHOT, AND I
MIGHT AS WELL
MAKE IT COUNT." -
LOGAN WRIGHT**

Sachau of Hinton.

Marsh then wrestled his day two, first matching up against Kaden Lange of Jesup. Lange, seeded 24, took down Marsh and won in an 8-2 decision. Marsh was done for the tournament.

Seydel's consolation Thursday began with a first round bye. In Seydel's second round, he faced Woodbury Central's Jackson Verschoor and ended his season with a 3:43 fall.

Gates performed well in his consolation Thursday and took a strong win over West Monona-Whiting's Jordan Orr in a 1:28 fall. Moving on, Gates wrestled Andrew Kimball of Don Bosco and lost in a 5-0 decision.

Similar to teammate Seydel, Frantz had a first round consolation bye. Then, he wrestled Hayden Heun of Underwood and lost in a 7-1 decision, ending his junior year state run.

In Rocha's battle back to the podium, he produced a first round win over Peyton Hackett of Kingsley-Pierson. The call that granted access to Rocha's win was a major decision call 10-2. In his next match, Grant Henderson of Sumner-Fredericksburg finished his season with a 3:52 fall.

Wright, still in the championship bracket, faced Gage Jorgenson of Emmetsburg for his quarterfinal match. Every day in the championship bracket was hard, but Wright pushed through. He won his quarterfinal contest in a 7-1 decision.

"The fight was very stressful

**"WINNING
STATE IS NO DOUBT
THE ONLY THING ON
MY MIND." - ETHAN
HUMPHREY**

and I was very nervous," Wright said.

Moving into day three, the bears still had three of their nine state wrestlers alive in the tournament. Humphrey, the only freshman, started the day three Friday off with two consolation matches. His first match, against Max Millage of Earlham, kickstarted his path to success with a 3-0 decision in his favor.

Taking down Max Millage was

LOGAN WRIGHT

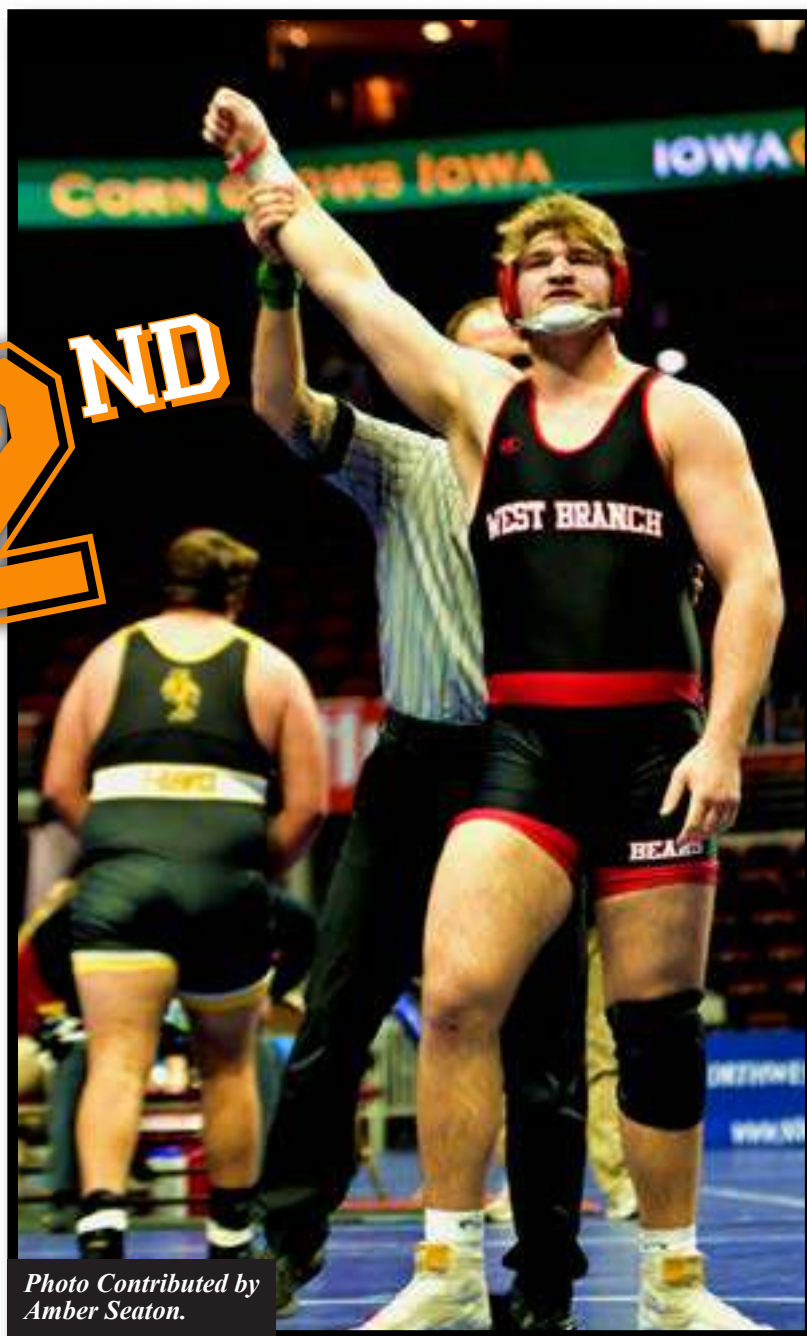


Photo Contributed by
Amber Seaton.

ETHAN HUMPHREY

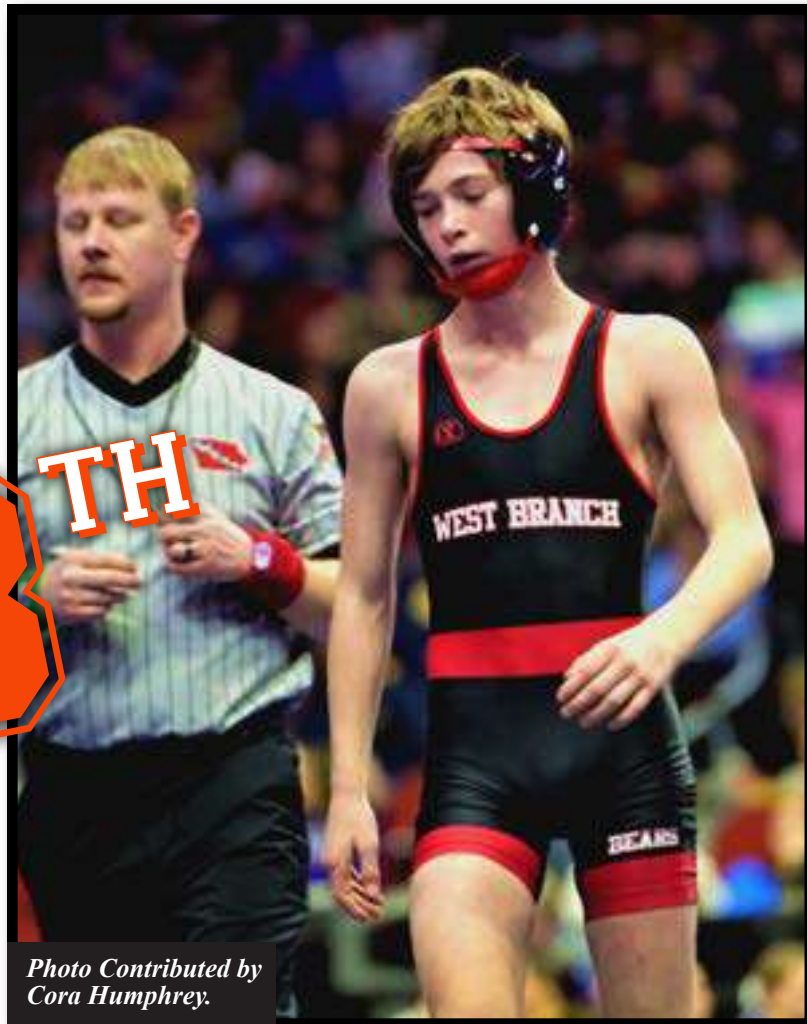


Photo Contributed by
Cora Humphrey.

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March 21, 2024

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NEW MURAL PLACED IN EAST HALLWAY



A muralist rolls out new artwork inside the east entrance on February 28, bringing life to what was once a barren, gray wall. *Photo by Olivia Naber.*

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Intro. to AFNR Diorama Project
 AFNR = Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources

PROJECT: STUDENTS ARE TO EFFECTIVELY AND CREATIVELY MODEL ALL COMPONENTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM AND ACCURATELY REPRESENT: GEOGRAPHY, NATURAL RESOURCES, FLORA, FAUNA, AND HUMAN INTERACTIONS

Level 1 Ecological Regions Assigned:
Xavyer Boone - Arctic Cordillera
Drake Hosch - Tundra
Reid Hansen -Tiaga
Mason Pedersen - Tropical Dry Forests
Alissa Van Hall - Hudson Plains
McKenna Worrell - Temperate Sierras
Kaylynn Stein -Northern Forests
Ava Burnett- Northwestern Forested Mountains
Sulli Bucknell - Marine West Coast Forests
Holly Woody - Eastern Temperate Forests
Melayna Burmeister - Great Plains
Lilah Pedersen - North American Deserts
Ashleigh Miller - Mediterranean California
Ethan Humphery - Southern Semi-Arid Highlands
Emma Wolf - Tropical Wet Forests
Heather Powers - Tropical Dry Forests
Anthony Heitzman - Temperate Sierras
Shay Kinsinger - Northern Forests
Seth Hosier - Northwestern Forested Mountains
Allison Tygrett - Eastern Temperate Forests
Chloe Albrecht - Great Plains
Coleten Nelson - North American Deserts
Cooper Exline - Mediterranean California
Grace Hamann - Tropical Wet Forests



Freshman Grace Hamann uses a hot glue gun to add pieces to her Tropical Wet Forest diorama. *Photo by Karina Krall.*



Freshman Allison Tygrett paints part of her Eastern Temperate Forest ecological region. *Photo by Karina Krall.*

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 2. ____ is the color that represents St. Patrick's day.
 4. The St. Patrick's day holiday was first celebrated in ____
 5. If you are lucky enough to find a four-leaf clover, you will be granted faith, hope, love and ____
 6. The ____ is a type of clover that was famously used by St. Patrick to teach the Holy Trinity.

DOWN
 1. The ____ is an Irish fairy that causes lots of mischief.
 2. Irish legend says that at the end of a rainbow you will find the Leprechaun with a pot of ____
 3. A ____ is a multi-colored arc that is formed when sunlight and rain droplets meet.

WORLD HISTORY CLASSES ILLUSTRATE THE PROCESS OF URBANIZATION

"To better understand the process of urbanization during the Industrial Revolution, I had students illustrate the changes in a British village as it evolved into a factory town. I read narratives about inventions, construction, technology, and social issues that cropped up in the 18th and 19th centuries, and as I did so, students worked in groups to add houses, factories, mines, tenements, taverns, and jails to their illustrations. Each required addition came with a time limit, so by the end, students were scrambling to add features to an overcrowded city without adequate time to strategize about where things should go. It was kind of a fun way to help students see how chaotic, crowded, and troubled early industrial cities could be," said Erin Brown, instructor.



Sophomores Saylee Gingerich, Jericho Hobbs, and Lincoln Naber start to design their British village. *Photo contributed by Erin Brown.*



Above is a completed drawing of a British village illustrated by sophomores Addi Schultes, Lexi Skay, Mia Rice, and Dani Crutchley. *Photo contributed by Erin Brown*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

ACROSS
 2. Green
 4. Ireland
 5. Luck
 6. Shamrock

DOWN
 1. Leprechaun
 2. Gold
 3. Rainbow

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POLL

What superstition do you have?

"Knocking on wood." - Peyton Braddock

"I disagree with the whole thing about black cats being bad luck. Black cats are so cute, and I'll pet them any chance I get." - Nina Torkelson

Who's your favorite ginger?

"My dad!" - Ashlynn Nash

"Emma Stone." - Lincoln Naber

What gives you luck?

"Praying" - Stone Wildman

"The people I love!" - Nora Ziehr



SAVE THESE DATES!
Annual Events in Historic West Branch

LADIES' NIGHT OUT
 Extended Hours, Special Offers, Pop-Ups
 Spring Edition - Wed. March 6, 2024
 Holiday Edition - Wed. November 6, 2024

SWEETS FOR SUCCESS
 Fundraising Dessert Auction + Social
 Friday, April 5, 2024

KICKOFF TO SUMMER
 Sidewalk Sales, Seltzer Stroll, Live Music
 Friday & Saturday, June 7-8, 2024

HOOVER'S HOMETOWN DAYS
 Fun for the whole family!
 Friday & Saturday, August 9-10, 2024

FALL FEST
 Sidewalk Sales + Free Family Fun
 Friday & Saturday, October 11-12, 2024

TRICK OR TREAT ON MAIN ST.
 1 hour prior to Citywide Trick or Treating
 Thursday, October 31, 2024

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 Festival of Timeless Holiday Activities
 Friday & Saturday, December 6-7, 2024

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Student Life

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March 21, 2024

JUNIOR CLASS PREPARES "A STARRY NIGHT"

Madelyn Stout
Staff Writer

The junior prom committee is finishing up final details on this year's prom. It will be held at the high school from 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. on April 20. Kalona Country Catering will be providing the dinner, but the meal is still being determined.

The theme is "A Starry Night" with signature colors of gold, silver, and

midnight blue. They plan to have a photo booth area as well as a DJ.

As for the funding, Sponsor Ruth Farmer said, "We did very well with World's Finest Chocolates and Short's Eastside events [for fundraising]."

Junior prom committee member Julians Laing said, "We have been meeting and looking at Pinterest and other sources to find inspiration for our 'Starry Night' theme. We have most of our tasks either done or being worked on." Com-

mittee members Jordan Waters, Dawn Johnson, and Katey Lenocho seconded this.

As far as the After Prom Party plans go, parents are planning to do the same as last year but with different times. It will again be held at the North Dodge Athletic Club, and everyone is to provide their own transportation to and from. Check in will start at 11:00 p.m., and they will not let anyone check in after 11:30 p.m.

There will be many activities available, such as swimming, playing pickleball, Bingo, black jack, cards, and a hypnotist. There will be lots of prizes, like gift cards, candy, Keurigs, airpods, microwaves, mini fridges, tool sets, speakers, coolers, carts, Alexas, and much more. There will also be a cash cube.

Food will also be offered; as to what, that is yet to be decided. The After Prom Party will end at 2:30 a.m.



SERVICE DAY APPROACHES

Larkin Brown
Staff Writer

Service Day will be held on Wed., April 24. It is when WBHS students go out into the community to work on a service project. Some of the locations and activities included this year are card making, tie blanket making, Cedar County Fairgrounds clean up, food/can drive around town, bed mats

ministry, backyard abundance, and more.

"We think this is a great thing to be doing with high school kids because it gets them out in the community doing volunteer work and getting to work with the town," said Olivia Naber.

Students can also earn Silver Cord volunteer hours for the day.

During Service Week, there will also be some fun activities to participate in, yet to be decided.

MSWB SWEETS FOR SUCCESS ENTERS 11TH YEAR OF FUNDRAISING

Larkin Brown
Staff Writer

Did you hear that a West Branch cake sold for \$3,000? You're probably thinking, "That's crazy!" and "Where in the world did this happen?" Well, it happened at the 2022 Main Street West Branch Sweets for Success event.

More specifically, in 2022, a Peanut Butter Chocolate Cake sold for \$3,000 at the fundraising event. Cakes normally auction off at \$50 - \$1,500 to benefit MSWB.

"Sweets for Success" began in 2013, and this will be its 11th year. This event is fully volunteer-driven, and it's also fully non-profit. If you are looking to attend, it's happening from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. on April 5, 2024, at Little Lights on the Lane.

This event started before current Executive Director Jessi Simon took over. Last year, the fundraiser brought in \$36,000. This total includes the dessert auction, table reservation, fees, and sponsor support. This is the highest total to date. The goal for this year is to top last year's total.

So, what is different about Sweets for Success this year? The


members of Main Street West Branch decided to allow the silent auction to be open to the public. Even if you don't have a chance to get to this amazing event in person, you will still be able to participate in the auction online.

Members will also be providing deliveries to the people who won items in the silent auction.

All of the proceeds go to MSWB. This money helps them plan big events like Hoover's Home-town Days, get flowers to beautify downtown, and also help out the local businesses.

There are a lot of opportunities for high school students to volunteer at this event to earn Silver Cord hours. About 10-15 high school students are needed to help out. It takes a lot of people to pull off this event successfully, and there are 12 dedicated volunteers on the planning committee, 20 that help on the event day, and over 75 volunteer bakers who contribute desserts for the auction.

This event requires over 300 hours of volunteer work in total. If you want to participate in the online bidding, it's going to be on April 5th from 5 to 9 p.m. The link will be posted on the Main Street West Branch Facebook page and Instagram on April 5.




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INDUSTRIAL TECH. STUDENTS REAP REWARDS OF HANDS ON EXPERIENCES, OPPORTUNITIES



Reese Gingerich adds hurricane clips to the roof of the seed shed in construction class. *Photo by Olivia Naber.*

Peyton Braddock
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Since the beginning of the school year, Randy Robertson's **construction class** has worked on **building a seed shed** for Travis Spevacek and to his specifications. The class is during 8th period, and the shed will help store various seeds for the Spevacek farm. The class is learning how to construct a small building that is mainly built out of wooden resources. Garrett Spevacek, son of Travis, is currently enrolled in the construction class.

G. Spevacek said, "It feels good to be involved in the construction of the shed, and it feels great that I have the help of my peers as well."

The completion of the shed is estimated to be done by the end of April.

On March 21, there will be

eight students who will attend the first **Shaw University Day**. Eight other schools will also be attending, including Davenport West, Davenport Central, Davenport North, Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, Assumption, and North Scott.

Students will cycle through a variety of hands-on stations, including conduit bending, fall protection, lifts, wiring, wire pulling and more. Each of the stations will also be led by at least one Shaw Electric Employee.

Robertson said, "It's a great opportunity for these students to get hands-on experience for jobs like these in the real world."

Additionally, Robertson is taking 30 middle school students on the **Build Your Future** field trip on March 31. This field trip is hosted by the Iowa Skilled Trades and is the largest hands-on career exploration event in the state

of Iowa. During the Build Your Future event, there will be over 100 hands-on activities that allow over 1,300 students attending to gain experience in jobs of welding, plumbing, electrical work, HVAC, and more. Employers of these careers will also be present to help students enroll in internships and apprenticeship during high school.

Upcoming on April 25 and 26, **SkillsUSA** will be competing in the **Iowa District Competition** in hopes of qualifying for the SkillsUSA State Competition. The individual contests that students can compete in are automotive service, technology, carpentry, and welding. As of now, the welding fabrication competition will take place with WB participants Jeremy Budreau, Reese Trepanier, and Dylan Schiele.



Allison Tygrett, Kaylynn Stein, and Alison Gade enjoy their time in the ACE workshop. *Photo by Olivia Naber.*



STUDENTS DEFY SOCIAL SANCTIONS IN "BREAKING THE NORM" PROJECT

Maryam Martin
Staff Writer

Have you seen some strange things going on in the WBHS halls? If you have, more than likely, it was students participating in a sociology experiment called "Breaking the Norm."

The goal of this project was to get students to do something out of the ordinary. There were various norms being broken, such as wearing sunglasses all day, wearing their backpack in front of them, walking backwards, wearing no shoes, etc.

Jake Swisher, who wore his VR headset all day, said, "When I walked by people, they gave me either a look of surprise or curiosity."

Sociology teacher Joe Betts explained the reason for this project. "This assignment helps students think about 'sanctions,' which are punishments you get for breaking a norm. An important concept of sanctions is that they vary greatly depending on the type of norm you break. Normally when we think about punishments, we think about getting in trouble or getting detention time or even jail. But sanctions can be as simple as a weird look or getting called a weirdo. These sanctions are society's attempts to stop you from breaking that norm and go back to conforming to it."

Sanctions are one takeaway from this assignment, but Betts also had another objective in mind.

He said, "The assignment itself is useful for helping students start to think about norms in our culture. We become so used to our norms over time that we stop noticing them; it's not until we start thinking about them that we notice they are there. We might not think about walking in the hall, but try walking backwards to all your classes for the day and see the reactions you get from those around you."

There were mixed reactions from students regarding their thoughts about the project.

Dilan Kazlauskas said, "I liked this project because it was something different we got to do. We had to come up with our own idea and experiment with it."

Preston Mayhew said, "I didn't like this project. I had to interact with different people."

Betts has also participated in this project both in high school and college. He plans to continue the project in years to come with possible modifications.

Betts said, "I will continue this assignment in the future...it's a rite of passage in some way for sociology students around the country. However, in order to make students get more creative about the project, I may have students sign up in class for the type of norm they want to break and limit that to one group per class."



Caden Green (Evidence of Understanding), Wylder Morehead (Best Overall), Talan Hultine (Judges' Choice), and Aurora Blakey (Voice and Presence) pose with their Poetry Out Loud trophies after winning awards in their eighth period class. *Photo contributed by Elizabeth Gallagher.*

JUNIORS CONTINUE SEVEN-YEAR "POETRY OUT LOUD" TRADITION

Olivia Naber
Head Editor-in-Chief

English teacher Elizabeth Gallagher completed her annual Poetry Out Loud unit with this year's junior class, marking seven years of the program at WBHS.

The project requires every junior to select an eligible poem from the Poetry Out Loud website to memorize and present in front of a panel of judges. It isn't solely about regurgitating knowledge, however; students must add their own style, hand gestures, and voice inflection to their piece to demonstrate full understanding and convey the poem's meaning.

In each class period, four awards are presented to exceptional performers: Voice and Presence, Evidence of Understanding, Judges' Choice, and Best Overall.

This year's staff judges included Colby Vos, Jessica Taylor, Miranda Schwick-erath, Theresa Zumbahlen, Sara Oswald, Annie Popkes, Lukas Jordan, Abby Noelck, Chris Reed, Kristen Westpheling, and John Walsh. Several of them adjudicated in past years and jumped at the opportunity to do so again.

Reed said, "Luckily, Mrs. Gallagher allowed me to judge this years ago when she first started it, and I have really enjoyed being a part of it each year since. Without our school having a speech program, I feel this is a great project to get behind and support."

"I always agree to be a judge if my prep period aligns because it gives me an opportunity to see students in a different way than I might see them in my Spanish class," Popkes agreed. "It also allows me to see and hear from some students that I don't teach or know."

Poetry Out Loud may not be your typical English project, but it cultivates much-needed real-world skills.

Reed, who teaches choir, musical theater, and show choir, emphasized the plethora of skills needed to recite poetry. "[They use] so many skills: public speaking, communicating with an audience, speaking in a louder voice than in normal situation, enunciation and diction so what they are saying can

be understood, interpretation of poetry, memorization, how to memorize a poem, phrase and line, tempo, vocal modulation, breathing for public speaking, eye contact, stage presence, posture, poise, professionalism, the ability to control nervous mannerisms, facial expressions, gesturing while speaking, and building self-confidence," he said.

Good public speaking skills will be critical in every student's future, according to the judges.

"Almost everyone will have to do some public speaking at some point in their life," Popkes said, "whether it is for their job, a college class, giving a eulogy at a funeral, or giving a toast at a wedding. I don't enjoy public speaking, but the more you do it, the easier it gets, and the more your confidence grows."

Vos agreed, "I think that students gained the valuable experience of having to get up in front of an audience they are uncomfortable with and recite their poems. Public speaking isn't easy, so any chance they have to do it, I think students should jump at the opportunity. So much in the real world revolves around public speaking and talking in front of people that I think we should spend more time on it."

The project shows alternate sides of students that teachers don't typically see.

"I love getting to see what students are capable of when they are separate from their peers," Noelck said. "When in front of the class, sometimes students shut down or, alternatively, act out to get a reaction from their peers. When you take them out of that environment, you often get a much better sense of what they can actually do. I find that in these situations they almost always rise to the challenge."

Westpheling said, "I find it especially interesting when students I have had before that were quiet or didn't speak out in class end up doing great with their poem. It is just like watching students play in a basketball game because it is a totally different environment than where I usually see them."

Gallagher hopes to carry on the project in future years to continue a strong tradition of poetry readers and confident public speakers.

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4/3 RIITZ

4/5 OCEANO
4/6 Slayer Tribute Band
4/10 Burlington Street Bluegrass Band
4/12 Creed Fisher
4/14 SCW Wrestling
4/17 Andrew W Boss
4/18 King ISO
4/20 Mason Ramsey
4/21 Alice Wallace
4/22 Demun Jones

APRIL 4th
The High Hawks
feat. Vince Herman (Leftover Salmon), Tim Carbone (Railroad Earth), Adam Gevel (Horseshoes & Hand Grenades), Chad Staehly (Hard Working Americans), Brian Adams (DeadPhish Orchestra), Will Trask (Great American Taxi)

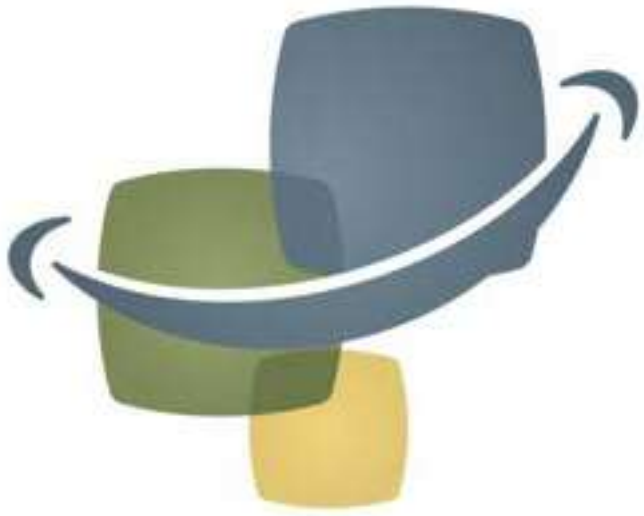
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TWO DOWN, TWO TO GO: LARKIN BROWN REFLECTS ON THE MIDPOINT OF HER BOWLING CAREER

Olivia Naber
Head Editor-in-Chief

Larkin Brown and the City High Little Hawks may not have ended the season with a bid to the girls bowling state tournament, but they nonetheless experienced several other victories.

The Little Hawks' girls team defended the Queen Pin from West High on February 9th, putting up 2506 points to the Trojans' 2272 and maintaining a consecutive six-year streak. The City High boys team put up a valiant effort against West, but ultimately lost the King Pin by a mere 8 pins.

The Queen and King pin competitions are a special time for both teams due to their closeness both proximity-wise and as people.

"It's basically like a regular meet," Brown said. "But, being so close with West means we have a little rivalry because we share the same lanes."

Brown explained that the two teams practice together on Tuesdays and Thursdays, fostering both a sense of connection and a sense of rivalry between the two programs. The close proximity to one another brings in more spectators during this meet; oftentimes, meets will be farther away, making families reluctant to travel and cheer on the team.

According to Brown, this makes the Queen pin and King pin meet

a more electrifying environment for all involved.

"You just feel so good because everybody's up and cheering," Brown said. "[We're] so close and everybody knows this is the biggest competition of them all for both teams. It's just an amazing feeling."

To get into the bowling mindset, Brown plugs in her music and lets the stress of her day fall behind. It's an important part of the sport, she says, since much of the game lies in mental fortitude.

Brown said, "If you're in a bad mood, more than likely you're not going to bowl well because you're so angry and you're not going to be throwing it right. If you spend the whole time worrying and being mad, you lose the joy and passion for it and that's not what sports are about. Once you start losing joy for it, it's not really a sport. You're just doing something to

keep yourself busy."

average, Brown scored 155.36 points per game across 22 games, and her goal is to score in the 200s next season. She nearly breached the 200 mark several times this season, her highest score being a 191. Still, she recognizes how far she's come in her bowling career and feels proud for the growth she's already achieved.

"Last year I was shooting 120s. If I was lucky," Brown said. "So [the improvement] was amazing with more spares I picked up and how my form got better. All that just got better and that's what made me happy."

As a whole, the team went 5-7 on the season and ended up in fourth place during the 3A state

qualifier.

The Little Hawks fell short of the state tournament this year, but Brown still holds her head and hopes high for the future.

"As we are losing two good seniors, it's [a] very small [chance of going to state next year]. I will say that we lost a lot of girls due to women's wrestling," Brown said. "We did lose a lot of girls, but I think if we really just put our mindsets towards it, we could actually do it... maybe not next year, but hopefully my senior year."

Having met the halfway point of her bowling career, Brown plans to make the most of her upperclassman seasons. She hopes to make the individual state tournament her senior year just like her sister, 2022 graduate Shaylin Brown, did during her senior year.

L. Brown looks forward to the next two years with the team and feels grateful for the chance to bowl with a big school like City High.

"I'm thankful for City because without City I wouldn't be able to do this and I've created a whole 'nother family over there.... It's crazy to me that I get to go to a bigger school and meet all these people," Brown said.

Brown encourages those from small schools like WB to take a leap and try a sport at a bigger school. She said, "I would tell anybody to just take the opportunity. It may be scary, but what's life without scares? What's life without scares? I think it's one of the best things that I've decided to do."



BASKETBALL PLAYERS EARN SEVERAL ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS

Kya Montgomery
Staff Writer

Both the boys and girls basketball teams finished off with strong seasons and achieved many individual honors.

Senior Holden Arnaman reached 1,000 career points and attained the rank of #4 in the state in made 3-pointers, with 84. Senior Reese Trepanier grabbed over 500 rebounds.

Arnaman and Trepanier were unanimously selected for the 1st team All-Conference. Arnaman also earned RVC MVP.

Sophomore Brennen Dale

made 2nd team All-Conference. Sophomore Michael Montgomery garnered All-Conference Honorable Mention. Jason Kern received River Valley Conference (South Division) Coach of the Year.

The boys team received a bye into the second round of postseason play-offs where they hosted Mediapolis. They took down the Bulldogs, 53-45.

The boys then traveled to West Liberty to play West Burlington Falcons. The Bears fought hard but fell short in the end, 44-61.

"I felt the season went very good. Obviously, it didn't end the way that we wanted it to, but overall, we ac-

complished a lot on and off the court," said Trepanier.

Coach Kern said, "I am really proud of the guys this year. We won our 3rd RVC Championship in 5 years and had great senior leadership by Holden Arnaman, Reese Trepanier, Trenton Schutte and Cameron Gingerich. These guys have laid a strong foundation for us to keep expanding on for years to come!"

For the girls' season honors, senior Kylie Pickett earned 2nd team All-Conference. Senior Alyse Klinkkammer, received All-Conference Honorable Mention and attained 200 assists for the season.



Above: Senior Trenton Schutte looks to make a pass in a game against West Burlington. Photo By Olivia Naber.

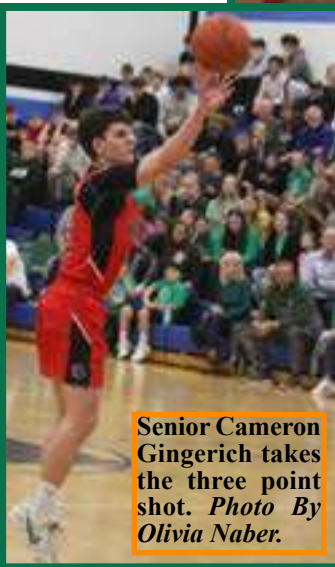
Left: Senior Holden Arnaman makes his way to the basket in a postseason game versus Mediapolis. Photo By Olivia Naber.



Varsity Boys Basketball Team. Back Row: Head Coach Jason Kern, Assistant Coach Grant Meth, Brennen Dale, Cole Crosthwaite, Brandon Pickett, Nolan Staker, Michael Montgomery, Nathan Hills, Lincoln Naber, Brandon Pedersen, Assistant Coach Cooper Kabel, and Assistant Coach Kaleb Duwa. Front Row: Jarrett Ellyson, Ethan Miller, Trenton Schutte, Cameron Gingerich, Holden Arnaman, Reese Trepanier, Jayden Harris, and Manager Brooklyn Nash. Photo contributed By Tracy Schutte.



Right: Reese Trepanier goes up for the shot with Michael Montgomery and Cameron Gingerich alongside. Photo By Olivia Naber.



Senior Cameron Gingerich takes the three point shot. Photo By Olivia Naber.



Above: Senior Alyse Klinkkammer earns All-Conference Honorable Mention. Photo By Brooklyn Nash.

Left: Senior Kylie Pickett receives 2nd team All-Conference. Photo By Brooklyn Nash.



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Sports

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March 21, 2024

KICKOFF TO SPRING SPORTS

GOLF

Madelyn Stout
Staff Writer

The golf season for both boys and girls will start with practice on March 18.

Boys Golf Coach Randy Sexton said, "Last year, our season ended at sectionals when we finished 4th. Fortunately, Will Bridges advanced to Districts by being the Sectional Medalist. He went on to finish in a tie for 4th at Districts to advance to the State Golf Tournament!"

Sexton also said, "This season our goals will remain the same as what we always have set for our teams...to improve each and every practice so that at the end of the season, we are playing our absolute best golf. Our mission is to be successful in our duals/tournaments and make a push towards a return to the State Golf Tournament."

Jan O'Neil is the girls golf coach.

Senior Claire Jarrett said, "Last year, we finished the best we have since I've been in high school and since Mrs. [Jan] O'Neil has been the head coach at WB. We finished 3rd at the 1A state tournament, and I finished 10th individually."

This year, my goal is to finish in the top 5 individually and continue to improve every day."

They will have their first meet on March 25 at West Liberty to kick off the season.

SOCCER

Madelyn Stout
Staff Writer

Girls soccer practice will start on March 18. Becky Hosier and Jose Gongora are the girls soccer coaches.

Senior Maryam Martin said, "We didn't do as well as we wanted [last year], but considering the circumstances of most people being new, including myself, we improved every game. My goal this year is to improve my skills and learn more about the game of soccer."

Junior Miley Shields said, "I really hope to have fun and grow together as a team, so we can be the best we can be!"

best we can be!"

Their first game will be held at home on Monday, April 1 against Tipton.

For the boys soccer team, Coach Ted Miller said, "Last season, we finished, 14-4, losing to Des Moines Christian in the State Quarterfinals. Our goal last season was to make it to State. This season, we will have the expectations of getting to State again. We have a lot of talent returning this season as well as talented underclassmen."

They started practice on March 14, and their first game is a triangular against Solon and Clinton on Saturday, March 30.



TRACK

Madelyn Stout
Staff Writer

The 2024 spring sporting events are right around the corner. The high school boys and girls track teams started practice on Monday, February 20. They had open gyms for a month leading up to official practice.

Boys Track Coach Taylor Larson said, "We had a successful season last year. We qualified multiple events to the State meet and set multiple school records [4x100 and Sprint Medley Relay]. We had a great group of seniors out last year, and we will miss them this year for their leadership and teaching ability for this team."

leadership and teaching ability for this team."

Taylor said his goals for this season are "to qualify multiple events for the State track meet. We want to see kids improve each week, each event, and each meet. Our end goal is to hit our personal best marks during the Conference meet, the District meet, and the State meet. We have the same goals each year."

Luke Posivio is the girls track coach. Senior Nina Torkalson has said, "This season I'm hoping to PR in the 800 and, honestly, just keep getting better at each meet."

Their first meet is at Wartburg College on March 4.

HARTZ BATTLES THROUGH GIRLS STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Claire Jarrett
Photography Editor-in-Chief

Junior Teagyn Hartz made her way back to the Iowa Girls High School State Wrestling Tournament after placing first at the Conference tournament and at Regionals. Heading into State, Hartz had a record of 20-2 and was seeded 8 for the weight class of 170 lbs.

At the State tournament, Hartz lost the first round, 0-6, but won her first

wrestle back by fall. She then lost, 0-2, and was eliminated from the tournament. Although she didn't place at State, she felt accomplished after being able to win the meet that took her to State for the second time in a row.

Hartz had a big support system throughout her season and at State. She said, "It was nice to know that people were there to support me." Hartz looks to leave an even bigger impact next year.



Teagyn Hartz stakes her claim at the top of the podium as she punches her ticket to the Girls State Wrestling Tournament. Photo contributed by Tracey Hartz.

Wrestlers

Continued from page 1

Humphrey's 'blood match' that ultimately made sure he placed on the podium.

"It was tough after my quarter-final match loss but I had to refocus and win my blood round match. I won that match to place," said Humphrey.

After this match, Humphrey had another against Ayden Bergman of Jesup in which he lost in a decision 11-4. This put Humphrey into the seventh place match on Saturday, the final day of the tournament.

As for Edwards, he battled his last match out on Friday, ultimately falling to Dawson Jacobsen of Central Springs at 1:22. The senior had a tough ride, now having three straight state appearances, but no placements.

Lastly, to end Friday night with a bang, Wright wrestled against Cody Fox of East Buchanan in the semifinals. Fox was a tough opponent, seeded at #2, but Wright pulled out an upset, winning 3-1.

Wright said, "The most difficult match was the semifinals against Cody Fox. He was really tall and was a lot heavier than me and he was the #2 and I was the #6 seed."

With Saturday drawing closer, Humphrey was in a position to get a seventh place 1A finish, and Wright to get first place in 1A. Humphrey wrestled hard in his seventh place match but ultimately fell short to Lake Mill's Lucas

Oldenkamp in an 8-4 decision. Humphrey earned an eighth place finish on the podium in the 106 lb class 1A State Tournament.

Humphrey is only the second freshman to medal at the state tournament for the Bears. Teammate Gates was the first one to accomplish this last year when he took eighth place in the 152 lb. Class 1A State Tournament. Although Humphrey hoped to have placed higher, he still has three more years to compete.

Humphrey spoke of his best season memories and said, "Winning my blood round to place was special, it was a big win and hearing the crowd was the best part." As for next season, Humphrey has his goals in place.

"Winning State is no doubt the only thing on my mind. I believe in myself and trust my coaches and family," Humphrey said.

Wright played out his finals match against number one seed Mason Knipp. Knipp of Columbus Catholic was a tough opponent, having a preferred walk-on football position at the University of Iowa as an offensive lineman. Wright faced a few injuries and ultimately lost his battle in a 5-2 decision.

Wright, placing second in the Class 1A heavyweight State tournament, was proud of how far he had come. As a sophomore, Wright placed eighth. Junior year, he didn't place but attended the state tournament. Finally, he achieved a second place finish for his senior year.

"Sophomore year, I was young, and it was a good experience. My junior year, I kinda took it for granted and didn't

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FFA WEEK EXCITES STUDENTS, ADDS ACTIVITIES TO DAYS

Lauren Keeler
Staff Writer

National FFA Week took place from February 16 - 23. The Strengthening Ag. Committee, led by Dylan Schiele and Addi Schultes, planned all of the activities for the special week.

One of the staples of FFA Week is hiding small, toy tractors around the school each morning, which can be found by the students and returned to FFA Adviser Renee Thompson for a prize.

The events during FFA Week included dress up days, Sub-District Contest, the member breakfast hosted by the alumni, a teacher breakfast hosted by the officer team, and an assembly to close out the week. The dress up days this year were Pajama Day, America Day, Career Day, National Blue and Corn Gold Day, and FFA Shirt Day. Everyone who dressed up throughout the week was entered into a drawing for a prize.

The first big event of the week was Sub-Districts at Calamus Wheatland. Members McKenna Worrell, Shay Kinsinger, Lauren Keeler, Layla Samuelson, Saylee Gingerich, and Jeremy Budreau participated in contests.

Kinsinger advanced to Districts in the Manual Quiz. Treasurer Saylee Gingerich, Secretary Maddie Neuburger, and Reporter Amber Wolf brought their officer books to Districts for judging. Members Lexie Isabel and Lauren Keeler participated as delegates to elect district officers.



Hope Kruse smashes an egg on Cooper Gates head, sending egg yolks and whites flying across the gym. Photo by Olivia Naber.

Wednesday was also considered Drive your Tractor to School Day and

was when the member breakfast was held. This year, Drive your Tractor to School Day was open to anyone who

wanted to participate. Alumni member Brian Neuburger provided breakfast pizza and beverages for the members.

Thursday was the teacher breakfast in Thompson's room. The officer team provided eggs, bacon, sausages, muffins, fruit, and a variety of beverages. Around 20 staff members were in attendance.

Friday was the final day of FFA Week. During IS, the chapter hosted an assembly to close out the week. The first activity was trivia about FFA history. A representative from each grade level came down for trivia with a twist; the consequence for getting a question wrong was getting an egg broken on your head. Participants got to pick from a box of 6 eggs; 2/3 were hard boiled, then the other 1/3 was raw.

The first round was freshmen vs. juniors; Stone Wildman and Hope Kruse represented their grade levels. Next was sophomores vs. seniors; Cooper Gates and Reese Trepanier participated. The final round was between Kruse and Gates. The finals consisted of 6 questions and a dozen eggs. Kruse won the final round for the juniors.

Next was the relay race where participants had to run to the other side of the gym and grab coveralls, boots, and a bag of chicken feed. While the runner grabbed the supplies, their partner had to put on the clothing, which varied in sizes from a child large to an XXL. Freshmen Keaton Gates and Robby Boaz won the race.

FFA SHARES WINTER NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Amber Wolf
Guest Writer

December

Holiday Party - 21 members were in attendance at the holiday party this year. At the holiday party, the members engaged in many rounds of suspenseful, fun, and crazy bingo. We also had a fun gift exchange. For the gift exchange, each member that wanted to participate bought a gift worth \$25, wrapped it, and got to choose a gift in return. There was also an ugly sweater contest. Fruit Pick Up - All members and each class period worked very hard to turn over and inspect every piece of fruit and sort each box into the correct pile. Thank you to everyone who ordered, we greatly appreciate it.

January

Legislative Symposium - Max Lodge, Noah Pedersen, Layla Samuelson, Saylee Gingerich, and Amber Wolf attended this year's Legislative Symposium & FFA Day at the Capitol. While in the morning program, these members listened to multiple speakers, including Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, who announced that the 2024 FFA Week in Iowa is to be February 17-24. Afterwards at the capitol, they got the opportunity to listen to and talk with Senator Dawn Driscoll and Representative Heather Hora in a group meeting. They then got to privately meet with Senator Zach Wahls.

February

Subdistricts - Subdistricts took place on the Monday of Presidents' Day. Members

who participated in events at Subdistricts include: Layla Samuelson, Job Interview; Saylee Gingerich, Ag. Broadcasting; Lauren Keeler, Prepared Public Speaking; Jeremy Budreau, Welding; McKenna Worrell, Creed Speaking; and Shay Kinsinger, Manual Quiz, who will be advancing to Districts.



Legislative Symposium Attendees. First Row: Saylee Gingerich, Layla Samuelson, Amber Wolf. Second Row: Renee Thompson, Max Lodge, Noah Pedersen, Senator Dawn Driscoll. Picture contributed by Renee Thompson.



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March 21, 2024

CJU45 FINISHES STRONG, SETS SAIL ON FINAL PERFORMANCES

Caleb Pedersen
Staff Writer

This year, CJU45 competed at four competitions, making finals everywhere they went. To start the season, they traveled to Mt. Pleasant Music InMotion. CJU45 placed first in the 2A Division and fifth place in finals with the Best Crew award.

The second competition of the year had CJU45 travel to Pella to attend Pella Dutch Masters. The members were worried about the competition, knowing there were a lot of tough competitors at-

tending. With a mindset that they were not going to make the finals, CJU45 pulled off a well-synched performance and beat all 3A and 2A schools to make it to the finals. They placed first in the 2A Division and fifth, overall, in the finals.

At the third competition of the season, CJU45 competed at Central Lee in the 24th Annual Central Connections Invitational. With high hopes, the members expected a high placement in the finals. Unfortunately, the judges at this competition didn't agree. CJU45 placed first in the 2A Division and fourth

place in the finals.

To end the competition season, the pirate crew competed at Fort Madison's Stars in the Spotlight.

CJU45 placed first in the 2A Division and fifth in the finals. They were awarded Best Crew and Best Opener.

"I think our season went well. We performed very well, but our placements at competitions were questionable in a lot of people's opinions," said senior Emily Coleman.

The annual Swing Show was held on March 1 and 3 where CJU45

performed for the WB community. At the Swing Show, many students from WBHS and WBMS performed. Groups and soloists included middle school jazz band, high school jazz band, middle school show choir (JiveWired), as well as soloists Nolan Staker, Nina Torkelson, Maddie Reed, Miley Shields, and Jenie Gomez.

Gomez said, "My solo went well in my opinion. It was a nerve-racking and exciting experience, but I'm so glad that I did it."

CJU45 ended both shows with their 2023-2024 pirate performance.

PEYTON BRADDOCK



ROBBY BOAZ



NINA TORKELSON



KELLEN DYKSTRA



WYATT CHAPMAN



MILEY SHIELDS



All photos by Brooklyn Nash.

BPA HOSTS FIRST-EVER BPA WEEK, INVITES JENNIFER WALKER TO SPEAK

Claire Jarrett
Photography Editor-in-Chief

BPA Week ran from February 12-16 where community member Jennifer Walker was a guest speaker, and trivia questions happened throughout the week.

Walker spoke to the student body regarding her own business, The Serving Cafe, and how she started her career in the entrepreneurship field. With the help and support of her staff and husband, she has been able to create a successful coffee shop that serves both food and drinks in downtown WB.

Stout said, "It [BPA Week] was

simple. The only challenging thing was communicating with Mrs. [Sara] Oswald and Ms. [Miranda] Schwickerath to figure out when Jennifer could come in. I think Jennifer was a great speaker to have as many students go to The Serving Cafe, but some people were being disrespectful and rude so maybe that would be something to think about for next year."

Organizers of the week included President Madelyn Stout, Kya Montgomery, Caleb Pedersen, Miley Shields, and Alyse Klinkkammer. Members will finish out the year on April 10 by attending the Design Dash Conference at the University of Iowa.



Jennifer Walker, owner of The Serving Cafe, speaks to the student body during BPA Week, explaining the blessings and challenges of being a business owner. Photo by Olivia Naber.



KETTLER REVIEWS BLACK CHALK

A reflection on recently-completed Book Club selection

Kaylee Kettler
Guest Writer

The concept behind *Black Chalk* by Christopher J. Yates is intriguing. Set in the 1990s, the novel follows a group of six adolescent friends at Oxford University who are presented with the opportunity to be a part of a complex and secretive psychological game. This game involves progressively embarrassing and personal challenges that players must complete without revealing to the public that they are dares.

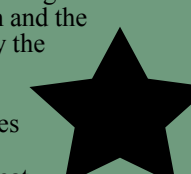
The winner of the game, whoever lasts the longest, gets a cash prize. All the participants put a deposit into the pot to play the game. Throughout the book, we observe the friends, focusing on the charismatic Jolyon.

Readers see how the game and its challenges affect him and the others throughout its run. By the end, one has discovered all sorts of twists and turns and, ultimately, see who lives and dies.

Black Chalk is a great, fascinating read. This book is, however, written in past and pres-

ent tense, so it can be challenging to follow at times, but readers will get into the groove as they get more familiar with it. The Book Club had many fun conversations and theories about this book and how it'd conclude.

I'd reread this book and recommend it to anyone interested in reading and engaging in a novel like this. I'd rate this book a 4/5 stars.





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NHS MEMBERS DELIVER VALENTINE'S ROSES, FUNDRAISE FOR TIPTON'S FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS SHELTER

Olivia Naber
Head Editor-in-Chief

Rather than the typical carnations, roses made their way around WBHS on Valentine's Day as a part of National Honor Society's annual flower delivery, charity fundraiser. Students,

staff members, and community members purchased roses for \$2 each and had the option to customize a note to go with them or select a pre-written message to be included with the delivery. This year, NHS raised \$220 for the Friends of the Animals shelter in Tipton.



Alyse Klinkkammer gives Alex Moss a Valentine's Day rose. Photo by Olivia Naber.



Nate Hills hands Lynden MacGillivray a rose as he puts them in his teeth. Photo by Olivia Naber.



NHS member Claire Jarrett bestows a rose upon Amy Budreau. Photo by Olivia Naber.



Olivia Naber presents Dani Crutchley an NHS rose. Photo contributed by Kaylee Kettler.

WBHS BAND ATTENDS ALL IOWA CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL

Keaton Norfleet
Staff Writer

The All Iowa Concert Band Festival is "such an education focused event," teaching students not only improved playing techniques, but also proper audience etiquette.

On February 20, Director Samuel Ogilvie, along with the WBHS Concert Band attended the All Iowa Concert Band Festival at Central DeWitt High School in DeWitt.

"Central DeWitt is a really nice place to host because they have the space," Ogilvie said. "But, also, when they passed their construction project, they lumped purchasing percussion equipment into that, so they had enough percussion equipment for both the performance and the clinic, which was nice."

Schools participating in the non-competitive performances received clinician time with music professionals from across the United States. Fifteen bands from all around Iowa performed at the festival.

The WB Concert Band performed three pieces: "Big Four March" by Karl L. King, "Hymn to the Dawn" by Kimberly K. Archer, and "Balken Seven" by Scott Watson.

After performing, the band spent their clinician time with Dr. Jack Stamp, a member of the American

Bandmasters Association and an active guest clinician and conductor throughout the United States.

In between performances, students were given the opportunity to sit in on other schools to watch and listen.

Ogilvie said, "This is a well rounded approach for an event for concert band because not only do we get to perform, we also get immediate feedback and get to work on stuff with our clinician. Then we also get to the ever important, listening to other groups. If you can teach your students how to listen to music, it can solve a lot of things we work on in rehearsal, so it's huge that they include that as part of the event."

After their performance on Thursday, March 7, the Concert Band will have two more performances in their 2024 season. The first will be on May 1 at the WBHS Performing Arts Center (PAC), and the second will be on Saturday, May 4 at the Large Group Festival at Tipton High School.

"Concert band doesn't always get as much love as marching band, jazz band, or even pep band," Ogilvie said, "So, it's nice to be able to have an event we can take our concert band to. I felt like all the judges gave us really good feedback, and I also love that I get critiqued on my conducting. It's such an education focused event."

JAZZ BAND, ENSEMBLE TRAVEL TO COE COLLEGE JAZZ SUMMIT

Keaton Norfleet
Staff Writer

Musicians in the WB Jazz Ensemble received professional feedback from a member of the Iowa Jazz Hall of Fame.

On February 22, Director Samuel Ogilvie and his two jazz groups, the Jazz Ensemble and the Jazz Band, attended the Coe College Jazz Summit in Cedar Rapids. The event, hosted by Steve Shanley, started on Thursday and lasted until Saturday. WB only attended on Thursday.

Ogilvie said, "Overall, it's a fantastic event. Steve Shanley is a great host. It's a very well-oiled machine. My only concerns about the event are partially being fixed. I am grateful that next year we won't have to perform in Room One because that will not be used as a performance space next year, and Room One also didn't have the recording capabilities that the other rooms had."

The Jazz Ensemble performed three pieces at noon in Room One: "Fat Cat" by Doug Beach with soloists Nolan Staker, Nora Zeihr, Nathan Hills, Jordan Waters, and Nina Torkelson; "It Don't Mean A Thing (If it Ain't Got That Swing)" by Ella Fitzgerald with soloists Staker and Torkelson; and "Indigo Hippo" by Mike Collins with soloists Torkelson, Maddie Reed, Elliot Hinkhouse, Waters,

and Staker.

After performing, the group received clinician time with Rich Medd, a retired band director and recent inductee into the Iowa Jazz Hall of Fame, and David Lang, a retired band director from Independence High School and "an insane euphonium player," said Ogilvie.

"We got to work with fantastic clinicians," Ogilvie said, "and the bands performed very well."

The Jazz Band performed at 2:00 p.m. in the Sinclair Auditorium. The group performed four pieces: "Naptown Blues" arranged by Wes Montgomery with soloists Rey Watt, Grace Vincent, Oliv Shlitz, Wyatt Chapman, Logan Christoffel, and Eli Farmer; "Stuck in the Rutt" by Kris Berg with soloists Chapman and Shlitz; "Beantown Blues Parade" by Rick Hirsh; and "My Little Suede Shoes," arranged by Charlie Parker.

The Jazz Band received clinician time with Dr. Anthony Williams, the Associate Professor of Trombones at the University of Northern Iowa, and Eric Lins, who was "my first teacher when I was a practicum student," Ogilvie said.

He added, "I am loyal to the Coe Jazz Summit just because I know how well it is run, and all that Steve Shanley does for the world of Jazz education. I want to support him as he supports us. It's just a great event."

Stagecoach

Continued from page 14

However, the experienced movers got the house to its destination all in one piece, and Jensen sighed a breath of relief knowing that her old home had found its new home.

"There's a connection, a deep connection, for me to the house. Because that's my mom's," she beamed. "That's where I would visit my mom every day.... But to know that she's saved, she's in town, she's sitting on a beautiful foundation—there's been kind of a

weight lifted off my shoulders of all the worry—50 years of worry about how we were going to save her."

The moment held much emotional value for Jensen, knowing that her childhood home was finally safe and sound after years of fighting for it.

"People had come and offered mom and dad money," Jensen said. "First thing they were going to do was tear down the house. Everybody that ever came out and wanted to buy the place—it was never on the market—first thing they were going to do was tear down that house. But, that's our home. She shelters us."

Now that the building resides in West Liberty's Heritage Park, the Her-

itage Foundation plans on raising funds to restore the building and open it up as a museum.

Jensen is thankful that the West Liberty Heritage Foundation took such interest in the house and wanted to preserve its storied history, especially since she and her family didn't have the means to do so themselves.

"We didn't have the money," she said. "We had to find somebody. We jumped through the hoops, we put her on the State Historical, we put her on the national registry, but we just didn't have the funding.... We just had to find somebody with deep pockets that could save it, and so the Heritage Foundation... [was] the perfect choice."

Jensen is excited for the museum to eventually open to the public so that the community and her beloved students can have a connection not only with a piece of state history, but also with a piece of her own history.

"You kids all have a connection because of me," she said. "I mean, when you go to visit that place, you'll go 'Oh God, this is where Margaret grew up' because you have that connection, not just that she's pre-statehood and all that. We grew up knowing that, but it's home. We looked at her as just being home."

The inn and future museum can now be found in West Liberty at the corner of Elm and West 4th Street.

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March 21, 2024

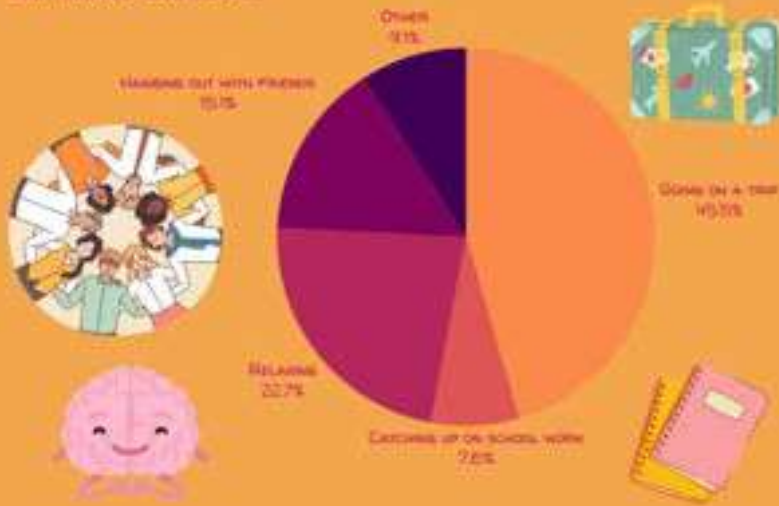
MARCH BINGO

Did you do any of the following in March?

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DONE THE IRISH JIG | WENT SHOPPING | BINGED A TV SERIES | TAKEN A SUNSET PHOTO | FOUND A NEW FAVORITE SONG |
| FOLLOWED @THEBEAR STUDENTNEWS | HAD A MARCH BRANCH OUT FEATURE | GOT PINCHED | FOUND A FOUR LEAF CLOVER | READ A BOOK |
| WENT ON A WALK | TRIED A NEW FOOD | FREE SPACE | PLANNED A SPRING BREAK TRIP | FOUND A NEW HOBBY |
| TURNED IN AN ASSIGNMENT ON TIME | HAD A SHAMROCK SHAKE | SAW A RAINBOW | ONLINE SHOPPED | ATE LUCKY CHARMS |
| BOUGHT A NEW PAIR OF SHOES | WATCHED A NEW MOVIE | MADE A BIG PURCHASE | READ A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE | WORE GREEN ON ST. PATTIES DAY |



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USHER BRINGS BACK NOSTALGIC R&B SOUND

Katey Noble
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On February 9, just two days prior to his Super Bowl LVIII halftime performance, Usher released his ninth studio album, *Coming Home*. Containing 20 new tracks, seven of those songs feature other artists. The album was preceded by singles, “Good Good,” ft. 21 Savage and Summer Walker; “Ruin,” ft. Pheelz; and “Kissing Strangers.”

I believe this new release brings a sense of modernity to Usher’s music, but it still includes his traditional R&B roots here and there. Some of the tracks are just a bit freaky, but then, others jump to a sweet and calmer vibe. The album as a whole is nostalgic but definitely not stuck in the past.

“Coming Home”- Usher & Burna Boy
★★★★☆- This one’s a bit naughty but makes you want to groove. I like the background vocals, it’s a calmer song, and it has a bit of a Michael Jackson vibe in certain parts of the song.

“Good Good”- Usher, 21 Savage & Summer Walker
★★★★★- I was so excited for this one, and it didn’t disappoint! Easy to vibe with, it has a slower beat and definitely has that R&B vibe. This one is a new fav. I’m going to need more of Usher and Summer together!

“A-Town Girl”- Usher (ft. Latto)
★★★★☆- This one begins with a sample of Billy Joel’s Uptown Girl, then remixes into Usher’s A-Town Girl version. Upbeat, almost giving Jason Derulo vibe, it sounds really cool in the car...a summer song for sure. I’ve seen mixed opinions on this one, but I really like it.

“Cold Blooded”- Usher & The-Dream
★★★★☆- It starts off quite slow and is a very emotional sounding song, but a bit repetitive. There is a lot of passion in the lyrics/tone of the words.

“Kissing Strangers”- Usher
★★★★★- I really like this one; there’s a vibe, and I like the sound. It’s almost nostalgic in a way. It sounds like it would be in a romantic drama movie soundtrack. I really feel like I just have to scream the chorus when listening. Usher really delivered with this one.

“Keep on Dancin”- Usher
★★★★☆- This makes you wanna keep on dancin’! It’s more pop

than Usher’s usual R&B vibe. This should be on the *Trolls* soundtrack.

“Risk it All”- Usher & H.E.R
★★★★★- Let me just start off with a

the shower. It’s similar sounding to his old music.

“Ruin”- Usher & Pheelz
★★★★☆- This is a slower song with



Coming Home

wow! Voices blend very nicely, and the harmonization is sooo good. It’s such a beautiful song in all aspects. I need to see this duo together more! The music video is so well thought out. Well done, Dave Meyers (video director)! It’s a love song, emotional and heart-felt...so enchanting, such a masterpiece.

“Bop”- Usher
★★★★☆- This is familiar sounding music, a past relationship type song. Listen to this song if you’re missing that one person. I like parts of it, but select parts of the song kind of make me think of songs that were popular in middle school. Mine seems to be an unpopular opinion, but it’s not my favorite song.

“Stone Cold Freak”- Usher
★★★★★- Again, this is familiar sounding music, a little naughty,. This would be a song to sing in

an R&B vibe, but it also has some afro type beats. It’s really groovy. I can see someone making a dance to this song.

I have seen many short reviews on this album, and a lot of them mentioned that they thought the second half of the album was stronger than the first. I honestly have some mixed opinions on this statement. I believe I enjoy the first half more, but there are songs that

“BIG”- Usher
★★★★☆- BIG has a fast beat, which fits for this particular track. A little naughty with an upbeat party song, this is really a summer vibe. It is just a little strange, like it could be featured in a McDonald’s commercial. You’ll have to listen to understand.

“On the Side”- Usher
★★★★☆- It’s not my favorite and is about having a side piece. The beat is nice and, honestly, kind of catchy, but it’s just not my usual type of song

“I Am the Party”- Usher
★★★★☆- This one’s a little bit naughty. A slower song, it sounds like his older releases. It does get just a bit repetitive. This one is good, but it’s not my favorite track.

“I Love U”- Usher
★★★★☆- It seems like the kind of song that would be in a movie. It’s a fun dance type song...the type of song that would be played at a roller rink. It’s not my typical song choice, but I like the liveliness of it.

“Please U”- Usher
★★★★☆- This is another naughty one that I’m vibing though. It has a slower rhythm. I really enjoy the background vocals; it sounds almost like a choir. It has a romantic R&B vibe.

“Luckiest Man”- Usher
★★★★☆- A slow vibe, it’s another song similar to his older music...his original R&B sound. It has charming lyrics and is calming but also uplifting music.

“Margiela”- Usher
★★★★☆- This would be a song I’d want to groove to in the shower. It oozes quite a passionate tone. It’s similar to other songs on the album but has a kind of originality that others don’t have.

“Room in a Room”- Usher
★★★★☆- The very beginning sounds like “Good Days” by SZA. The first time I listened to it, it wasn’t really my vibe, but I do like the melody of this song. I feel that Usher has a refreshing, new melody for each song, which makes each one more enjoyable.

“One of Them Ones”- Usher
★★★★★- This is a love song, about finding the one. This one is really sweet in an R&B type of way, and it really brings out the Usher everyone knows and loves. I love the instrumentals; they really complete the song.

“Standing Next to You” (Usher Remix) ft. Jung Kook
★★★★☆- I wasn’t sure if I really liked this one at first, but it started to grow on me. It gave me a feeling of joy. Again, I wouldn’t be surprised if someone made a dance to this song.

EXPLORE THE TOP 3 LOCAL WALKING TRAILS FOR SPRING EXERCISE

Ashlynn Nash
Photography Co-Editor-in-Chief

1. Cedar Cliffs, Palisades Loop Trail
2. Muscatine Riverfront Trail
3. Coralville Macbride Area - Squire Shore, Weasel Run, Mushroom Forest

With these outrageously warm winter temperatures, a person can spend time outside, in the sun! Better yet, a low-effort and fun but effective form of exercise is walking. Around these parts, there are many entertaining places to walk and chase beautiful views.

With 60 and 70 degree days, a person wants to take advantage of them, and go outside. One of the best ways to exercise, but in a relaxing and grounding environment is to take a walk somewhere special. Need help finding a worthwhile place to walk that is nearby? As an avid walker and trail hiker, I can offer the insights you’re looking for.

My first choice would be the Cedar Cliffs and Palisades Loop Trail located in Palisades-Kepler State Park in Mount Vernon, IA. It is about 3.1 miles and has about a 446 ft. elevation gain. With the

longest edge of the trail being beside the Cedar River, this path offers scenic views and a heightened sense of wildlife.

The Muscatine Riverfront Trail may feature less nature, but it displays the beautiful Norbert F. Beckey Bridge from Muscatine, IA, to Rock Island County, Illinois, as well as the Mississippi River. Many times during the year, the bridge lights up in different colors, such as green and red for Christmas. Plus, if you like a bit of a longer walk, the trail extends up to 7.8 miles! For these bonuses, I’m putting this in second place.

In third and last place, I would recommend anything in the Coralville/Macbride Area, such as Squire Shore, Weasel Run, and the Mushroom Forest. These trails give a person an unlimited freedom to wildlife, from fish to deer and many birds! All together, you’d walk around 5 miles of beautiful beaches, forests, and lake views.

“Walking is a man’s best medicine.” - Hippocrates

So, let this location advice not be just a guide, but yet an encouragement to choose a life filled with adventure. Walking is not only exercise, but a way to find peace of mind.



Oyster mushrooms can be spotted when exploring the forests of the Coralville Macbride Area. Photo by Ashlynn Nash.

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March 21, 2024

HISTORIC STAGECOACH INN FINDS A NEW HOME WITH WEST LIBERTY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Olivia Naber
Head Editor-in-Chief

An 182-year-old house made its way down Highway 6 into West Liberty, taking years of local history with it.

The Beers and St. John Company Coach Inn, previously located four miles west of West Liberty and six miles south of West Branch, changed locations on February 26, 2024, after the West Liberty Heritage Foundation, seeking to preserve the building's rich history, took possession of it.

After being granted the U.S. mail delivery contract between Muscatine (then called Bloomington) and Iowa City in 1839 and beginning mail service in 1841, the Beers and St. John Company Coach Inn opened its doors in 1842, six years before Iowa gained statehood. When the railroad arrived in Iowa City in 1855, the inn closed down and converted to a house for private residential use.

The inn is one of the last remaining First Period (1838-1845) stagecoach inns in Iowa and the only building from the property remaining from that era. Stagecoach inns from the 1830s and early 1840s are incredibly rare, making the inn a special look into Iowa's early history.

For 182 years, the house stood proudly in place, and it spent the most recent third of this life in the ownership of a WBHS staff member and her family.

HS custodian Margaret Jensen's grandfather, James W. Smith, purchased the property in 1963 for her parents and their growing family a year after Jensen's birth.

Jensen fondly recalls the charms and quirks of the house from her childhood, from having the outhouse rather than indoor plumbing to heating water on the wood stove and starting fires in the fireplace. She attributes much of her mindset and values today to growing up in this environment.

"My values are pretty minute as far as what I need to survive in life," she said.

Living in a house steeped in so much history allowed for a rich childhood full of imaginative opportunities for Jensen and her siblings.

"There are 1200 signatures I think in the attic that are carved into the wood. People's names, the dates they stayed there—Possibly Jesse James—the signatures up there of the people that stayed in the inn during that time. Growing up there, we would turn the sill to do gardens and stuff. We would find arrowheads, Indian artifacts—you know, it was a magical place to grow up," she recalled.

In her early 20s, Jensen bought the house from her father and owned it with her mother, Mary Smith Jensen. Eventually, Jensen sold her half of the property to her youngest sister, Laura Jensen Elliott and her husband for \$1:00. The couple eventually bought out M. Jensen's half, and in 2016, she moved to the family's North English farm, marking her as the last person to have ever lived in the inn.

"There's been kind of a weight lifted off my shoulders of all the worry—50 years of worry about how we were going to save her." - Margaret Jensen

The Stagecoach Inn prepares for its three-mile journey with nothing but blue skies above. Photo by Olivia Naber.

The following year, ownership turned over to Nathan Cahill and his wife, Emily Cahill. Originally, they planned to dismantle the house to make room for a new home.

However, the West Liberty Heritage Foundation took an interest in the building for its historical value. After all, the building was completely original and a direct view into the early life of both West Liberty and the state of Iowa.

Because of the work put in to preserve the house, once listed on the Most Endangered Property List, and getting the site on both local and national historic registers, the Cahills decided to donate the inn to the West Liberty Heritage Foundation and build a new home on the property. In total, the house spent around 60 years in the family.

Plans to move the house began soon after the donation.

The Muscatine County Sheriff's Department announced that they would close sections of Highway 6 in both directions for the move, which would likely take the better part of a day.

After careful planning and preparation, coordinated by Goodwin House Moving of Washington, IA, they hoisted the inn onto a truck and arranged the move for Monday, February 26, taking advantage of the recent bout of good weather.

The morning of the move, Jensen's family gathered by the house a final time before the move to take a



Margaret Jensen's family, who has owned the Stagecoach Inn for 60 years, say one last goodbye to their home before it is moved into West Liberty. Shown are Emily Cahill, Declan Cahill, Nathan Cahill, Maclan Cahill, Mary Smith Jensen, Laura Jensen Elliott, Freda Jensen Powers and Margaret Jensen. Photo by Olivia Naber.

family picture and to marvel at what was going to take place soon.

By 8:37 a.m., the sheriff gave the all-clear, and the move began. Moving at a steady yet tedious pace, the house met Highway 6 at 8:47 a.m., and by 8:52 a.m., it was entirely on the road and ready to roll.

Following close behind in her vehicle, Jensen watched with teary eyes as her home made its way down the highway.

"It was very emotional—it was all the years of hoping we could save her and not knowing if we could save her—to know that she was on the road to being saved," she later said.

The inn inched along the highway for hours and cut across the fields of Emily Geetz before arriving at its new

destination, where a concrete foundation had been poured in November to prepare for the move.

As she watched her childhood home make its way to its new home, Jensen couldn't help but worry about whether it would hold up during the move. When the house reached the train tracks, nearly to its destination, it was in a potentially perilous situation. A train was coming and the movers had to pull it off of the tracks and into a small valley. The house got caught up and sat at a tilt for a moment.

"I thought 'Here we go. We're gonna lose her. We're an eighth of a mile from town and we're gonna lose her,'" Jensen said.

Stagecoach - Continued on page 11



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THE BEAR

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