



Curtain opens Friday on Medieval Musical



Cast members of *Once Upon a Mattress* strike a pose during a recent rehearsal. Top row (L-R) Bryce Taylor, Taylor Donnelly, Charlie Nearman, Rebecca Smith, Gabriela Perez. Bottom (L-R) Kelley Jorgensen, Chelsea Weidner, Denielle Minor, Ian Grassel

EPJ Drama Department proudly presents its fall musical on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10. *Once Upon a Mattress* is a musical comedy that brings back the olden days; princes, princesses, knights, and even a dreadful queen and her silent, spellbound king make an appearance. In this play, trials take place to see if women of the town are true princesses in order to marry Prince Dauntless, played by Charlie Nearman. But there is a catch: the queen, played by Rebecca Smith, does not want her royal son to ever get married. Director of the play is Kirsten Colt, who has directed many successful plays in the past. Written by Jay Thompson, *Once Upon a Mattress* is used by permission of RH Theatrical. The music is by Mary Rodgers and the lyrics by Marshall Barer. The play will be performed in the middle school gym at 7:30 P.M. both evenings.

Day of the Dead Altars

On November 1 and 2, the Spanish II classes of EPJ celebrated the holiday known as "Day of the Dead." This traditional holiday has its origins with the ancient Aztec people and is one of the most widely celebrated holidays in Mexico today. Learning about this unique holiday gives students the chance to connect with the Mexican culture. The holiday celebrates the memory of deceased loved ones and brings the family of the deceased together. Festivities in Mexico include eating traditional foods, holding graveside vigils, and building elaborate altars in memory of the deceased. Throughout the week, the Spanish II classes worked in small groups to build their own altars dedicated to the memory of famous people who have passed on. This year the classes built eight unique altars. Celebrities honored with these altars included Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Chris Farley, Buzz Aldrin, Elvis Presley, Farrah Fawcett, Bruce Lee, and Whitney Houston. At the end of the week, these altars were judged based on criteria such as originality, creativity, and traditional decoration. Pictured below are the teams with their winning altars.



Winning first place for altars honoring famous men was an altar to Presley created by (L-R) Josh Dossdall, Kayla Kayl, Conner Kneip, and Ulrike Hovland.

Record Number of Young Vocalists at Honor Choir

By: Heaven Zevenbergen

Every year, several EPJ elementary students audition for the chance to sing in the South Dakota Elementary Honor Choir. This year, EPJ sent a record fifteen delegates and one alternate.

Throughout South Dakota, nearly 275 elementary students auditioned and approximately 120 students were accepted. The EPJ students accepted into Honor Choir were 6th graders Brooklyn Boulware, Aubrie Franken, Athena Love, Brianna Chicoine, Trevor Nilson, and Hannah VanKirk; 5th graders Matthew Giorgio, Kacie Stepp, Kelsie Olson, Calli Davis, Jennica Colt, and Elisabeth Peirce; and 4th graders Megan Mickelson, Abby Kastning, Addison Stabe, and Ben Hanson.

The students auditioned for Honor Choir last May and rehearsed during September and October for their performance in Rapid City. All elementary delegates traveled with the High School South Dakota All State Choir students to Rapid City for their weekend performance.

On Saturday, October 27, they performed a concert at the Civic Center Theater. The students practiced three vocal exercises and sang "America, My Country 'Tis of Thee" for the audience.

Also during their time in Rapid City, the students of the Elementary Honor Choir had the honor of singing a song to the composer Jim Papoulis that he had written himself. "If You Could Hear My Voice" is a song composed for the 15th anniversary of the South Dakota Music Educators Association Honor Choir. The students learned and performed the four-part harmony over Skype for composer and conductor Jim Papoulis. He then critiqued them with helpful tips.

About the event, EPJ's elementary choir teacher Mrs. Cheryl Tatro said, "The audition process and rehearsals were a lot of work, but in the end it all paid off. We are very proud of them for their accomplishments."

All the effort that was put into practicing was made worth it after a performance and an opportunity that students will remember for years to come.



Elk Point-Jefferson members of the SD Elementary Honor Choir pose with their music teachers during the Rapid City event. Back row (L-R) Abby Kastning, Brooklyn Boulware, Calli Davis, Kacie Stepp, and Mr. Dustin Rusche; middle row (L-R) Hannah VanKirk, Megan Mickelson, Matthew Giorgio, Ben Hanson, Kelsie Olson, Trevor Nilson; front row (L-R) Mrs. Cheryl Tatro, Aubrie Franken, Elisabeth Peirce, Addison Stabe, Briannah Chicoine, Jennica Colt.

Senior Spotlights

This week our spotlights shine on Cody Dean Gregg and Jared Paul Limoges. Cody and Jared are two of the 65 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes both Cody and Jared a bright future filled with opportunities.



Cody Gregg

Parents: Cory and Melissa Gregg; Gretchen and Jeremy Richardson

Sibling: Lorin

Birthday: April 4, 1995

Future Plans: civil engineering at SD School of Mines and Technology

Hobbies: hunting and fishing
I've Always Wanted to Visit: Alaska

Age I'd Love to be Forever: 17, to be a senior forever

Advice for Underclassmen: Take classes seriously.

FAVORITES:

Quote: "Even when winning is illogical, losing's still far from optional." - T.I.

School Memory: East Coast Trip

Superhero: Aquaman

Movie: *The Fast and the Furious* series

Food: Chinese food

HS Class: history

Sports Team: Minnesota Twins

School Lunch: tacos

Holiday: 4th of July

Color: blue



Jared Limoges

Parents: Paul and Jean Limoges
Siblings: Lauren and Kyle
Birthday: May 23, 1994

Future Plans: SDSU

HS Activities: football, wrestling, and rodeo

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, roping, hanging out with friends

Famous-person Crush: Carrie Underwood

Role Model: my Dad

I've Always Wanted to Visit: Alaska - to go on a hunting trip

Advice for Underclassmen: Do your homework!

FAVORITES:

Quote: "Life's a garden; dig it." - Joe Dirt

Superhero: Flash

Movies: *Superbad*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Hangover*

TV Show: *Two and a Half Men*

Food: pizza

HS Class: U.S. History

Song/Artist: "Come Down" and "The Sound of Winter" by Bush

Sports Team: Nebraska

School Lunch: chicken enchilada soup
Holiday: Christmas
Color: orange

Mini Courses Provide Big Fun

On Friday, November 2, the middle school students enjoyed a special treat: Mini Courses. Every year, staff, students, and community members volunteer their time and effort to teach different courses to the students. The courses help the students learn skills, tips, and activities that may benefit them later in life.

This year, the new mini course offerings included a course in making cake pops, a driving simulator with tutorials in drunk and reckless driving, golf lessons, leisure activities, massage techniques, after-school healthy treats, and dancing. In

addition, due to their popularity several mini courses are repeated each year including taxidermy, hair and nail care, archery, cake decorating, and more.

Each student has the chance to take three mini courses in a day, in the hope that they will not only learn something new, but they will have fun at the same time. Jodi Zeller, middle school math teacher who is also in charge of organizing the mini courses, says that she is excited about the mini courses and gives many thanks to everyone who volunteered time and effort for the courses to work out.

Reminder: Teacher Inservice
Tuesday, November 13
Early Dismissal at 12:30