



Mats Makes his Home at EPJ



By: Matt Lehman

Mats Kvamme, a foreign exchange student from Norway, has temporarily found a home here in EPJ. Living with the Geary family, Mats is experiencing a whole new culture in America.

Back in Norway, his father works for DHL, similar to UPS, and his mother is an elementary teacher. Mats has two sisters, ages twelve and ten, and one younger brother who is seven. Even though he misses them, he is grateful for the opportunity to learn in the United States.

When asked about the differences in education between Norway and the U.S., Mats explained that in Norway, a student needs thirteen years of school to graduate instead of twelve. Also, the teachers in Norway do not grade homework, but instead give much harder tests and quizzes. Mats also explained

that in Norway, they call their teacher by his or her first name.

Mats's favorite foods in the United States are pizza and the wings at Buffalo Wild Wings, and his favorite meal in Norway is the traditional Norwegian dish of mutton stew with cabbage and lamb meat.

Mats is involved in many sports. He plays soccer and handball back home and football and basketball in the U.S. He enjoys going to EPJ school, and his favorite memory is his first American football game against Sioux Falls Christian where the team won and he scored three field goals. Another good memory is when the Geary's took him out to eat at HuHot's for his birthday.

When Mats first learned of his opportunity to go to school in America, he was very excited, but sitting on the eight-hour flight made him anxious about his new life. Fortunately, he has made many friends and made great memories in the U.S. Mats is excited to meet his family and friends again when he goes back, but he knows that he will also miss the people in America as well. Mats has summed up his life with a quote from his favorite rapper Jay-Z, "I will not lose, for even in defeat, there is a valuable lesson learned."

CFK Recycling Provides Money for EPJ

By: Heaven Zevenbergen

This school year, students, staff members, and all members of the community can take an active role in the EPJ school by recycling. Recycling gives the school money for the education of the students of EPJ.

There are various ways to collect and recycle in the community. Examples include clipping the Box Tops for Education logos from participating General Mills products, and recycling Land O'Lakes milk bottle lids which are worth five cents each. When shopping at Target, using your Target Guest Card is another simple way to donate 1%

of your purchases to the school.

The school district is also participating in a recycling program for inkjet cartridges, printer cartridges, laptops, MP3 players, and cell phones. Each month, a box of these items is put towards the recycling program. A collection of pop tabs from aluminum cans will also be taken to the Ronald McDonald house to benefit children in need.

Any and all items can be dropped off at the elementary office in the EPJ School. The school district thanks everyone who participates in any of the recycling programs that support our school and education.

Semester Test Care Packages

By: Conner Knelp

Semester exam time is a stressful part of the year, and many students feel as if they could use a little extra help. The EPJ Natural Helpers took notice of this and sold care packages throughout the week before semester exams.

This year, semester exams take place on December 20 and 21. During the week, parents had the option to purchase a care pack-

age for their students to receive during their study hall. Over one hundred care packages have been sold this year. Each care package contained three treats of the parent's choice, a drink, and a personalized note to brighten their student's day. Care packages have been sold in years past, and the Natural Helpers hope to continue the tradition for years to come.

Family Living Class: Shopping for the Angel Tree

By: Kelley Jorgensen

Every year close to Christmas time, Mrs. Baagoe's Family Living class takes a trip to Sioux City to buy presents for the angels of EPJ. About a month ago, Mrs. Baagoe sent out an application form seeking requests from parents who can't afford to give their children all the presents that they need this year. Mrs. Baagoe then took those requests and made each child an anonymous angel for the angel tree featured in the commons of the Elk Point-Jefferson High School.

The angels were available for people in the community to remove and return to Mona Fennel in the high school office with the requested presents. Unfortunately, not every angel was taken off the tree, so on Wednesday, December 12, Mrs. Baagoe's class took a field trip to Sioux City to

buy coats, socks, underwear, jackets, shirts, and other necessities.

The students split up into pairs of two. The class was armed with coupons and Mrs. Baagoe's credit card and was determined to fill the missing angels' requests. Each pair shopped for seven children, who will receive all that their parents asked for them.

The Family Living class spent the next few days wrapping all of the presents and organizing them by family. The busy shoppers had a lot of packages and sore feet, but they all had fun and enjoyed shopping for the children of Elk Point and Jefferson.

Accompanied by Mrs. McMeekin, Mrs. Limoges, and Mrs. Baagoe, eight students from Elk Point-Jefferson spent over \$3,000 stimulating the economy and warming the hearts of the community members of both Elk Point and Jefferson.



Maggie Christensen and Kelley Jorgensen smile for the camera as they shop for children's presents.

Wrestling with Weavill

By: Cheyenne Steemken

This wrestling season the Huskies welcome a new wrestler, Bailey Weavill. A freshman at Elk Point-Jefferson, Bailey is the first female to wrestle varsity at EPJ, and so far she is doing a great job.

When asked about her experience so far, she said, "I am not going to lie, it is hard to be the only girl in a room filled with guys. Guys out-power me and expect to beat me without any problems. What they don't know, though, is that I am going to have to try ten times harder than they will just to keep up with their strength, and I won't give up. I don't expect anyone to give me special treatment, and so I have to work hard to get respect. All I want is respect," says Weavill. Bailey is very diverse and

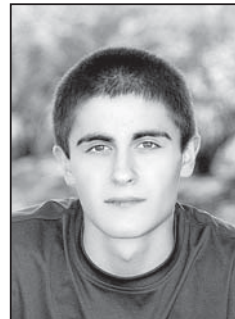
involved in many sports and activities. She is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, a participant in Judo, track, and cross country, and a painter. Her paintings have even appeared on the Husky Creative Corner on the school website.

Whether she's painting, running, or wrestling, EPJ continues to be awed by the multi-talented Bailey Weavill. EPJ wishes her the best of luck throughout the rest of her season.



Senior Spotlights

This week our spotlights shine on Cody T. Strassburg and Sabrina Marie Langley. Cody and Sabrina are two of the 65 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes both Cody and Sabrina a bright future filled with opportunities.



Cody Strassburg



Sabrina Langley

Parents: Jeff and Sue Strassburg
Siblings: Mary, Chrissy, Michael, Jodi, Lauri, Shawn
Birthday: January 16, 1995
Future Plans: joining the United States Marine Corps

Hobbies: airsofting
Little-known Fact about Me: I'm friendly.

Role Models: Marines
I've Always Wanted to Visit: Okinawa

Advice for Underclassmen: Follow the rules, and do what you are told.

FAVORITES:

Quote: "The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle." -Gen. Pershing, US Army

School Memory: saying hello to people in the mornings

Superhero: Ironman

Movie: *Windtalkers*

TV Show: *Stargate Atlantis*

Book/Author: *Blackhawk Down* by Mark Bowden

Food: fish

HS Class: art

Song/Artist: "Lost it All" by Avenged Sevenfold

School Lunch: Mr. Rib

Holiday: Christmas

Color: green

Parents: Suzanne and Eddie Langley
Siblings: Adam, Andy, Samantha, Anthony, Nikolas, Lukas, and Isaac

Birthday: October 22, 1994
Future Plans: to become a correctional officer

Role Model: my sister

I've Always Wanted to Visit: Jamaica

Age I'd Love to be Forever: 24, because it's the perfect age; I could do what I want.

Advice for Underclassmen: Don't let anyone bring you down; just be yourself.

Hobbies: working

FAVORITES:

Quote: "Be a leader, not a follower."

School Memory: when Lindsey hit Jasmine in the head with a bowling ball

Superhero: my parents

Movie: *Chucky*

TV Show: *NCIS, CSI*

Book/Author: "Heaven is for Real" by Todd Burpo

Food: spicy food

HS Class: Mrs. Baagoe's classes

School Lunch: buffalo chicken pizza

Color: green

Holiday: Halloween

Husky Upcoming Events

Friday (12/21):	MS Battle of Homerooms/Holiday Dance Girls and Boys Basketball Dell Rapids 4:00 Early Dismissal 1:45
Thursday (12/27):	Boys Basketball at Aberdeen with Sisseton 6:00
Friday (12/28):	Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli 6:00
Saturday (12/29):	Wrestling at McCook Central 9:00
Wednesday (1/2):	Choir Trip to Disney World in Orlando, FL
Thursday (1/3):	BSC Boys Basketball at Sioux Falls Christian 6:00 Wrestling Quad at EPJ 5:00
Friday (1/4):	BSC Boys Basketball at SFC
Saturday (1/5):	BSC Boys Basketball at Dakota Valley
Monday (1/7):	Classes Resume