



DI Captures Tri-Valley's Riley to Represent USA in Lyrical Dance

By: Denielle Minor

Forty-two teams from area schools competed against each other in the Regional Destination Imagination Competition held at Tri-Valley High School on March 2.

At this competition, each team selects a challenge, or problem, and finds an original, creative solution. Each solution must involve a skit. Challenges can be in the areas of technical, scientific, fine arts, improvisational, structural, service learning, and early learning.

EPJ took six teams to DI Regional Contest. The Senior Level team came back as first-place winners. Their challenge was to build a structure that could hold a large amount of weight. The team's members are Kelsey Marshall, Jessica Gates, Nicole Rupp, Ashley Gylfe, and Cecil Gylfe. Their manager is Arlinda Gylfe.

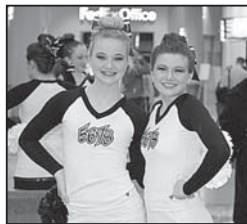
The Middle Level team consisting of Jess Huber, Destiny Love, Bethany Dillon, Mariah

Heckathorn, Katey Carter, and Erin Weightman also took first place in their competition, earning the distinction of the DaVinci Award as well. This award honors competitors who demonstrate the true risk-taking spirit. The Middle Level team was managed by Christy Heckathorn.

At the Elementary Level, a first-place award went to the team of Sean Coyle, Mackenzie LaBrune, Madison Dillon, Jesenia Salazar White, and Kelsey Olson. Their managers are JoAnn Lee and Sarina Compton.

Finally, senior Ashley Gylfe was awarded the Spirit of Discovery and Imagination Award. This award is given to those who serve as superior role models in the areas of spirit, sportsmanship, and volunteerism. Ashley has competed in DI for the past ten years. She says this was an emotional moment for everyone: her team, her family, and herself.

The three first-place teams advance to state-level competition in Pierre on Saturday, April 6.



Jessica Riley, left, with her dance partner Katelyn Rice.

By: Jenny Dailey

Jessica Riley is a freshman at Elk Point-Jefferson High School. She has been dancing with a dance team named 5-6-7-8 for ten years, and finally her team has gotten some major recognition.

During the weekend of February 23-24, Jessica and her team danced at the national dance competition in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Coached by Melissa Strong, Jessica earned fourth place for her duet with a teammate, and her team received

a National Champion title.

As a result of their accomplishments, team members also got a bid to go to the World's Competition in Orlando, Florida, the last weekend in April. Only sixty-nine teams from the United States are chosen to go to World's every year, so this is a very big event for Jessica and her team. At the competition, they will compete against seventy-two teams from all over the world. All of the sixty-nine teams from the US will combine their scores, one of the scores being Jessica and her team, representing the U.S. in Lyrical Dance.

Jessica and her team are working hard to get ready for the competition. She said they all have been practicing so hard, and their coaches always push them to do their best.

When asked about her trip, Jessica said, "The team and I are really looking forward to going to the theme park together! This is my first time going to Florida, and I am super excited!"

Senior Spotlights

This week our spotlights shine on Tatum Lee Adema and Dakota David Navrkal. Tatum and Dakota are two of the 65 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes both Tatum and Dakota a bright future filled with opportunities.



Tatum Adema

Parents: Loren and Nancy Adema
Siblings: Matthew and Andrea Adema
Birthday: January 26, 1995
Future Plans: attend SDSU; major - undecided
HS Activities: cross country, track, and basketball
Little-known Fact about Me: I hate movies because I cannot sit still!
Famous-person Crush: Ryan Lochte
Role Models: my parents, always wanting me to get better
I've Always Wanted to Visit: Italy--I want to meet Italian boys and eat spaghetti.
Age I'd Love to be Forever: age 4, because you never get in trouble. It's the holy age before school starts.
Hobbies: hanging out with friends
Advice for Underclassmen: Be yourself. Don't try to impress anyone.
FAVORITES:
School Memory: saying "I like Jared" in our kindergarten videos
Superhero: Wonder Woman --she is the only woman.
Movies: *High School Musical*, *Last Song*, *Pitch Perfect*
TV Show: *Pretty Little Liars*
Food: I love food. I could live on Edgar's Peanut Butter Cup Surprise.
Sports Team: New Orleans Saints
Holiday: 4th of July
Color: purple

Dakota Navrkal

Parents: David and Theresa Navrkal
Birthday: June 12, 1994
Future Plans: USD--majoring in kinesiology and sports science
HS Activities: football, basketball, baseball, track, vocal, student council, National Honor Society
Famous-person Crush: Emma Watson
Role Model: my dad
Hobbies: hanging out with friends, listening to music
I've Always Wanted to Visit: Hawaii
Age I'd Love to be Forever: 18 --so I'd never be old and just stayed young and had fun forever
Advice for Underclassmen: Don't make the upperclassmen mad.
FAVORITES:
Quote: "When you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you'll be successful." -Eric Thomas
School Memory: catching a 70-yard touchdown on Homecoming my junior year
Superhero: Spiderman
Movies: *Friday Night Lights*, *Miracle*, and *Skyfall*
TV Shows: *Impractical Jokers* and *Tosh.O*
Author: S.E. Hinton
Food: any type of pasta
HS Class: U.S. History
Sports Teams: Green Bay Packers, Nebraska Cornhuskers
Holiday: Christmas
Color: blue-green



Senior Level DI team took top honors at the Regional Destination Imagination Contest on March 2. Pictured back row (L-R) Jessica Gates, Kelsey Marshall, Nicole Rupp. Front row (L-R) team manager Arlinda Gylfe, Cecil Gylfe, Ashley Gylfe.

Cookin' Kuchen

Each year, Mrs. Baagoe's FACS classes continue the tradition of preparing the South Dakota state dessert, kuchen, to assist the fourth grade with their study of South Dakota. Fourth graders are required to make a South Dakota scrapbook in order to learn about the local and statewide history and culture of their state. During the project, fourth grade students learn about their state insect, the honey bee; the state tree, the white spruce; and the state dessert, kuchen.

Mrs. Baagoe and her Nutrition and Wellness class spent Thursday, March 7, preparing apple kuchen for the fourth grade. Students served the treat the afternoon of Friday, March 8, allowing the fourth graders to experience the tasty treat.

After preparing the dessert for the past ten years, Mrs. Baagoe says she enjoyed presenting the elementary students with the dessert. The project provides a good opportunity for interaction between grade levels.



Mrs. Baagoe's students serve the South Dakota state dessert, kuchen, to 4th graders.

A Busy Week for the EPJ Band

The Elk Point-Jefferson Band displayed its pride and talent at two separate, back-to-back events recently. The first event, Jazz on the Upper Great Plains, was held on Tuesday, March 5, at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The EPJ High School Jazz Band, made up of twenty high school students, performed at the festival in the Class A division. Out of eleven Class A Jazz Bands, EPJ placed third.

Along with placing in the top three bands, two EPJ Jazz Band participants, Nathan Ambrose and Joshua Dossdall, received a Special Citation for Outstanding Musicianship.

On the following day, Wednesday, March 6, the EPJ Band traveled to Vermillion High School for the annual Region 1 Solo/Ensemble Contest. At the contest, all band students performed various pieces of music while being critiqued by multiple judges. In all, thirty three of the students' events received a superior or excellent rating. Students were able to look at the judges' comments in order to see where they need improvement.

In upcoming band events such as the USD Jazz Festival, students can apply these critiques to improve their skills and play to their greatest ability.

Middle School Quiz Bowl Competes at Canton

On Monday, March 4, the local winners of the Elk Point-Jefferson Middle School Quiz Bowl competition traveled to Canton to compete in the Big Sioux Conference Quiz Bowl.

The winners of the local competition were Vanessa Perez, Jill Donnelly, Alex Norby, and

Emma Wilkinson. They were accompanied by two alternates, Emily Pierce and Matthew Ambrose. Participant Vanessa Perez summed up the experience: "We might not have won, but it was still a great experience, and I'd do it again if I had the opportunity."

Husky Events This Week

- Thursday (3/14): Teacher Inservice - 12:30 Dismissal
USD Jazz Festival
State Boys Basketball in Rapid City
- Friday (3/15): State Boys Basketball in Rapid City
- Saturday (3/16): State Boys Basketball in Rapid City
Hinton Soundsational Show Choir Invitational
- Tuesday (3/19): Parent-Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00
Early Release at 2:25
- Thursday (3/21): Parent-Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00
Early Release at 2:25