



EPJ Athletes Honored



Four EPJ girls basketball players were recently honored by the Dakota XII Conference for their season performance. Senior Keely Bertram was honored as the Dakota XII Conference Player of the Year. She was also named to the All-conference 1st Team. Sophomore McKenzie Mennenga was named to the 2nd Team, and seniors Brittany Hanson and Hope Erickson were given Honorable Mention status. Pictured above (L-R) are Keely Bertram, Brittany Hanson, McKenzie Mennenga, and Hope Erickson.

Music Department News

By: Elena Giorgio

Members of the Elk Point-Jefferson Show Choir *Momentum* sang their way to Vermillion on Saturday, March 1, for the annual Rhythm in Red show choir competition. *Momentum* is made up of twenty two performers as well as a nine-member band.

Momentum's performance consists of the songs "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield, "Let's Get Loud" by Girls Club, "I Was Here" by Lady Antebellum, and "Get On Your Feet" by Gloria Estefan. Schools around the area performed throughout the day on Saturday, with the finals announced in the evening. Elk Point-Jefferson's choir did not move on to the finals, but they placed second in their class division. Emmetsburg Junior Varsity Show Choir placed first.

The overall finalists that performed Saturday night were Omaha Skutt Catholic, Aberdeen Central, Emmetsburg, Sioux Falls Washington, and Mitchell High School.

MS Conference Quiz Bowl

On Monday, March 10, seven Elk Point-Jefferson students traveled to Tri-Valley to compete at the very first Dakota XII Conference Middle School Quiz Bowl.

Whereas the six other competing teams were comprised of 7th and 8th graders, EPJ's squad was made up entirely of 6th grade students. These students were some of the top competitors at the local middle school quiz bowl held back in November.

Momentum attended two other competitions this month, one at Sioux Falls Washington High School on March 15 and the other at The University of South Dakota on March 18. They also have an upcoming event at Mitchell High School on March 22.

Elk Point-Jefferson High School Jazz Band competed in the Jazz in the Upper Great Plains competition at Augustana College on March 3. Competing with schools around the Sioux Falls area, Elk Point-Jefferson placed third out of nine total schools in their class size. In Elk Point-Jefferson's class size, Vermillion High School Jazz Band earned first place and Tea Area High School took home second.

Augustana professors judged the competition and critiqued the Elk Point-Jefferson Jazz Band to help them for their next competition at The University of South Dakota.

To finish off the season, the EPJ Jazz Band will participate in the Optimist Jazz Festival in Brookings on April 3.

Team members included Elisabeth Peirce, Kelsie Olson, Brody Weavill, Adam Grashoff, Grayson McCuin, Matthew Giorgio, and Joshua Lehman.

After six rounds of challenging questions and answers, the team took home fifth place. They won two rounds, tied one round, and had extremely close battles in all three losses.

Congratulations to the EPJ Middle School Quiz Bowl Team!

Kuchen up a Storm

By: Dalton Croy

Mrs. Teri Trumble's high school Food and Cultures class provided a tasty treat to 4th graders on March 12 as a culmination of the 4th grade South Dakota Scrapbook Project.

Year after year, 4th graders make the scrapbooks as an interactive way to learn about local and statewide history as well as the culture of their home state. Students learn about the state flower, the American Pasque; the state sport, rodeo; and

the state dessert, kuchen, which hails from Germany.

Eleven years ago, FACS teacher Mrs. Jan Baagoe began the ongoing tradition of having her high school class prepare the state dessert for 4th graders as their South Dakota scrapbook project came to a close. This year, Ms. Trumble continued this delicious tradition.

Ms. Trumble and her Food and Cultures class spent Tuesday, March 11, making the apple kuchen in order to serve the treat on Wednesday.



Students in 4th grade enjoy the South Dakota state dessert, kuchen, which was baked and served by Mrs. Trumble's Food and Cultures class.

Juniors Prepare for Career with Job Shadowing

By: Denielle Minor

Juniors at Elk-Point Jefferson High School get a head start at life and their future careers. Throughout the months of February and March, members of the junior class are given the opportunity to job shadow in a field of interest.

Juniors began this journey by taking an online survey that helped them get placed into a field of interest that fit their personality.

After that, they began the process of locating a job shadow experience by writing a letter to request a shadow position. There are a few restrictions: they are not allowed to job shadow a family member or relative, and they are not allowed to job shadow within EPJ school.

The point of this project is to get students on their feet and venture into what their future may hold. Job shadowing helps a student get a grasp on how a particular career might fit his or her personality and if that is really what he or she is suited to do. Students are allowed to job

shadow for up to eight hours. They may also shadow in two places for one-half day each. They can choose to travel a great distance if they wish, as long as they have a way to get there and back, because the school does not provide transportation for this project.

A wide variety of shadow experiences have been accomplished. Several students applied and were accepted to shadow at the Omaha Zoo. Chris Johnson was able to shadow an athletic trainer from USD. He also attended a men's basketball game with the trainer. Shannon Hennessey shadowed at Studio 427 in Sioux City; an added bonus to her job shadow was the offer of a summer job. James Smith was able to shadow in Yankton at Applied Engineering. He reported that his shadow included testing the products they were creating, bows and arrows.

Students have until March 21 to complete their shadowing. The culmination of the project will be a research report pertaining to their career of choice.

Senior Spotlight

This week our spotlight shines on Katherine Jo Mickelson. Katherine is one of the 47 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes her a bright future filled with opportunities.



Katherine Mickelson

Parents: Marla and Scott Meadows; Dominic Mickelson

Siblings: Emily, Megan; Mariah, Ashley, Matt Meadows

Birthday: March 26, 1996

Future Plans: attend USD to study radiology

HS Activities: band, vocal show choir, CCD

Hobbies: reading, singing
Little-known Fact about Me: I'm bad at making decisions.

I've Always Wanted to Visit: I love traveling. I want to go everywhere and experience new things.

Age I'd Love to be Forever: 17, I love where I am now. I like not having full responsibility, but just enough.

Advice for Underclassmen: Don't procrastinate; doing stuff last minute isn't fun! Have fun while you can.

FAVORITES:
Superhero: Spiderman
Movie: *50 First Dates*
Food: Suddenly Salad
Sports Team: Vikings
School Lunch: French dip
Holiday: Christmas
Color: pink
Animal: my dog Molly

Destination Imagination

By: Mariah Heckathorn

Three Elk Point Destination Imagination teams competed at the Regional DI Tournament on March 1. Destination Imagination involves creative problem solving. The teams work on a long-term problem months in advance, and they prepare for an instant challenge when they get to the competition.

The three teams competing at regional DI involved one elementary level (grades 3-5), one middle level (grades 6-8), and one senior level (grades 9-12). The elementary and the senior level teams took first place in their categories and will advance to state-level competition in Pierre on March 29.

Members of the senior-level team include Katey

Carter, Jess Huber, Destiny Love, Erin Weightman, and Mariah Heckathorn. They are coached by Ashley Gylfe.

The elementary team winning first place includes team members Bradley Griffin, Sean Coyle, Mackenzie LaBrune, Taylor LaBrune, Abby Olson and Casey Kneebone. They are coached by Jennifer Griffin.

The middle level team placed third at regional competition, so it will not be competing at state. Middle level is coached by Carrie Stepp and Amanda Abraham. Team members are Kacie Stepp, Dameon Abraham, Emma Robinson, Kelsie Olson and Mackenzie Jordan.

If the teams place first at the state level, they will advance to Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee, May 21-24.

Swish and a Sundae: Edgar's Tourney History

By: Alex Lawler

Friday, February 28, and Saturday, March 1, marked the 26th annual Edgar's Basketball Tournament. The tournament, originally started by Gary Nebelsick, was meant for non-professional players to come together for a week-end of friendly competition.

After the first tournament, financed completely through fundraisers, Nebelsick approached local business owners Barb and Kevin Wurtz, owners of Pioneer Drug and Edgar's Old Fashioned Soda Fountain. The Wurtzes agreed to sponsor the tournament.

For the third year of the tournament, the competitors were composed of grade-school teams from Elk Point and the surrounding area. The Wurtz family provides all of the food, drink, and awards for the tournaments, and profits go to the EPJ school for funding in certain areas that do not receive much attention in the athletic department.

Along with the tradition of attending the tournament at the school, many teams have a ritual of heading to Edgar's after their games to celebrate with ice cream. After twenty-six years, Barb and Kevin say that the tournament is still going strong and is a fun idea.