



Hanson Named Student of the Month



By: Cheyenne Steemken

Brittany Hanson was recently named Student of the Month for March. Brittany is a senior at EPJ who plans to attend SDSU in Brookings in the fall to study nursing.

Throughout Brittany's high school career, she has been very active and involved in school activities. Since her freshman year, she has participated in band, volleyball, basketball, and 4-H. While staying busy with extracurricular activities, Brittany has also maintained a spot on the A Honor Roll throughout high school.

Brittany has earned many honors for all of the hard work that she puts forth into her activities. For example, this year she was chosen as the drum major for the high school marching band, and last year she was a participant at the Quad State Honor Band. She has also been a member of National Honor Society for the past two years.

In addition to maintaining her grades and participating in extracurricular activities, Brittany volunteers her time to help with community activities such as Little Huskies Volleyball Camp, Friends Feast, Edgar's Basketball Tournament, and concessions. She also teaches preschool at St. Paul Lutheran Church and assists with VFW events. She has held several summer and part-time jobs during her high school career as well.

Along with the title of Student of the Month, Brittany will enjoy exclusive use of the reserved parking spot during the month of April as well as class memorabilia and recognition at Senior Awards Night.

Music Department Finishes Strong in Contest Season

EPJ music department was busy during the first week of April. The high school choir and band took a trip to Vermillion High School on Wednesday, April 2. There, the choir gave an outstanding performance in large group and received a score of 32, which is also scaled a 1 or a superior rating. The band also made a grand performance playing three different songs. They scored a 31, which is also a 1.

Jazz Band performed on Thursday, April 3, in Brookings at the Optimist Jazz Festival. They took home a first-place win in their final competition of the season.

Students Against Destructive Decisions

By: Amy Zeller

On Friday, March 28, the high school Natural Helpers of Elk Point-Jefferson traveled to Sioux Falls to attend the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Conference. Group advisor Mrs. Christine McMeekin took seven students from various grades to learn more about the variety of struggles and decisions that face youth today.

The Natural Helpers is an organization that promotes student welfare throughout the school. As the group is always looking for new ways to spread positive encouragement and advice to their peers, they planned to attend this conference with the hopes of gaining further knowledge on how to better advise their constituents.

Bobby Ortiz, a junior attendant of the conference, said the experience was

both educationally beneficial and memorable as well.

To start off the evening's events, a welcoming ceremony took place which consisted of different games and activities to help the students from different schools meet each other.

The SADD conference welcomed a woman speaker to talk about her experiences regarding the consequences of not speaking up for one's safety and beliefs. Mrs. McMeekin commented that her speech was very empowering and humbling.

Afterwards, the students split up into smaller groups to discuss in more detail certain topics including eating disorders, homelessness, stereotypes, and texting while driving. The Natural Helpers finished their day by participating in team-building exercises and even a scavenger hunt.

Seniors Say Thanks

By: Heaven Zevenbergen

The third annual Chili Cup fundraising event was held at The Pointe on Friday, April 4. Those who attended had the opportunity to participate in the Chili Cup's live and silent auctions which included prizes such as four tickets to Disney World, a pheasant hunt, and a dinner for twelve.

All proceeds raised from the event will go toward the Community Commitment Scholarship fund which will give a portion of the raised funds to Elk Point-Jefferson graduating seniors who meet the scholarship's qualifica-

tions. This year's event raised approximately \$14,000 for senior students planning to move on to a college education.

The senior students of EPJ would like to give a thanks to all who attended the event and a special thanks to committee members Christine McMeekin, Melissa Curry, Lori Jacobs, Kerri Johnston, Lisa Kempf, Kari Kneip, Deb Boone, Michelle Lichtenberg, Tracy Moore, Heidi Nearman, Amy Scarmon, Melissa Shanks, Leah Shatswell, Tracy Torrez, Deb Karpen, and Emily Wells for organizing this year's successful benefit.

All School Play Wraps



EPJ Drama Department performed *Hydrangea Albright: Comedy or Tragedy* on Friday and Saturday, April 11-12. Pictured above is the cast and crew (back L-R) Jim Smith, Ely Buehner, Shannon Hennessey, Michael Griffin, Meghan Schenk, Alex Lawler, Andrew Flannery, Ian Grassel, Jenny Dailey, Jalissa Connors, Chyenne Markee, Emma Dawdy, Ulrike Hovland, Connor Pederson, (middle L-R) Sean Schmidt, Kerrey Jorgensen, Alicia Nelson, Keegan Mahin, Caleb Ambrose, Matthew Ambrose, Peyton Swanson, Daniel Petra, Briley Weidner, Kristen Leitru, (front L-R) Bradie Timmins, Sammy McInerney, Emily Peirce, Denielle Minor, Irene Williams, Katey Carter, Elena Giorgio. The play was directed by Mrs. Kirsten Colt.

Finken Finds a Home at EPJ

Many people are afraid of change, but junior Conner Finken recognizes its value. He made a big change a little over a year ago, and it turned his life around.

In December of 2012, Finken was a sophomore at Arvada High School in Arvada, Colorado. He took a look at his life and decided he wanted more. He wanted a new beginning where he no longer would be failing in school and could change his terrible attitude towards life into a better one.

When the opportunity was opened to him, he took the chance and moved in to his uncle's spare bedroom in Elk Point, South Dakota. When he started school at EPJ after Christmas break, it was definitely a new setting. He said, "The schooling out here is way harder, but I am pushed to do my best almost every day."

He saw this hard work as an opportunity for change. He quickly learned that he had to be a strong, independent person as he does not live with

his dad or mom and has little financial support. His responsibilities went from being a typical teenager to life as an adult as he currently pays his own bills. He says, "Managing to work enough to pay for my life and still go to school with a positive attitude every day is a struggle and can be very stressful at times."

Finken believes that life is what you make it. There is so much the world has to offer; it's a person's choice whether or not to take advantage of the right things. He believes the choice of moving to South Dakota has set him up for a much better future. Paying bills, meeting new people, working every day, this has taught him to follow his intuition and make what he wants out of his life. Although he admits that decisions he has made have not always been the best, everybody makes mistakes, and they must fix them for themselves. "Everything happens for a reason," he says.

Senior Spotlights

This week our spotlights shine on Amber Leigh Kelly and Steven Francis Honomichl. Amber and Steven are two of the 45 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes both Amber and Steven a bright future filled with opportunities.



Amber Kelly

Parents: Jim and Kim Kelly
Siblings: Emma and Ethan
Birthday: May 23, 1996
Future Plans: major in physical therapy at the University of South Dakota
HS Activities: softball, basketball
Hobbies: volleyball, reading, softball
Little-known Fact about Me: I have wanted to play college softball since I was little.

Famous-person Crush: Ryan Sheckler
Role Models: my family - all of them have helped me in some way.
I've Always Wanted to Visit: Cancun

Age I'd Love to be Forever: 22 - not young and not old
Advice for Underclassmen: Stick up for yourself; don't let anyone bring you down.
FAVORITES:

Quote: "Nothing will work unless you do." -Maya Angelou
School Memory: helping with extracurricular activities

Superhero: Mrs. Incredible
Movie: *The Last Song*
TV Show: *Under the Dome*
Book/Author: *Secrets of the Pirate Inn*- Wylly Folk St. John

Food: chicken alfredo
HS Class: sociology
Song/Artist: "Bless the Broken Road" - Rascal Flatts
School Lunch: chili and cinnamon rolls
Sports Team: KSU Wildcats
Pet: Deja, my first dog



Steven Honomichl

Parents: Neil and Jackie Honomichl
Siblings: Lana Ruden
Birthday: April 11, 1996
Future Plans: attended college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
HS Activities: jazz band, band
Hobbies: playing saxophone, hunting, road trips

Little-known Fact about Me: I have played the saxophone for about eight years.
Famous-person Crush: Lauren Cohan
Role Models: my dad and grandpa

I've Always Wanted to Visit: Western Europe
Age I'd Love to be Forever: 22 - because you aren't fully thrown into the real world yet
FAVORITES:

Quote: "That's a nice bari." - Mr. Schmeling
School Memory: The many shenanigans that occur in the band room.

Superhero: Iron Man
Movies: *Gran Torino*, *Star Wars*
TV Shows: *The Walking Dead*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Breaking Bad*

Book/Author: *The Stand* - Stephen King
Food: buffalo wings
HS Classes: band and jazz band
Comedian: Larry the Cable Guy
Song/Artist: "More than a Feeling" - Boston
Sports Teams: Vikings, Cornhuskers

Husky Events

- Thursday (4/17): No School - Easter Break
- Friday (4/18): No School - Easter Break
- Monday (4/21): No School - Easter Break
- Tuesday (4/22): Track at Beresford 4:00
Girls Golf at Hartford 9:00
- Thursday (4/24): Track at Hartford 3:45
7/8 Track at Canton 3:45
- Friday (4/25): Hershey Track Meet 3:30-6:00
- Saturday (4/26): Prom
- Monday (4/28): Senior Awards Night 7:00
Girls Golf at Vermillion 10:00