



## Rememberin' Stuff



By: Dylan Colt

Two weeks ago, thirty-one EPJ high school students were the cast and crew for the Spring play "Rememberin' Stuff." The setting takes place in a high school drama class, where the teacher asks her students to get in front of an audience and share their memories. The students, at first, are reluctant to speak, but once the first few stories are shared, everyone wants to have their stories heard. The memories are funny: stories about learning to drive with a werewolf in the car, or wanting hot dogs on Thanksgiving Day instead of turkey.

Some are very poignant: talking about when he learned he was adopted, or when she realized she was poor; other stories are very serious: retelling stories of abuse, addiction and even death.

The play was picked by Kirsten Colt in order to have a change from the usual Spring play comedy. "Some of the seniors told me that they wanted more of an acting challenge this year, they were ready to get away from slap-

stick comedy and wanted to take a more serious road. I had been looking at this script for a few years and decided that this year, it was finally time."

The cast rehearsed three days a week, two hours a day, for six weeks. Putting on a play requires lots of time, practice, and dedication! The talented cast and crew consisted of fourteen seniors. The cast included: (Seniors) Joshua Crabtree, Bradie Timmins, Howard Smith, Daniel Petra, Ryan Shearer, Katey Carter, Emily Pierce, Dylan Colt, Mariah Heckathorn, Emma Wilkenson, Alyssa Hurley, Jack Grassel, Morgan Smith, Lynsey Klunder, (Juniors) Morgan Swanson, Logan Donelan, Kate Corio, Eric Nelson, Stone Vermilyea, (Sophomores) Emma Proudly, Brianna Chicoine, Brooke Crabtree, Jady Reed, Katherine Chicoine, (Freshmen) Kelsie Olson, Josh Lehman, Callie Chicoine, Emma Robinson, Elisabeth Peirce, Jennica Colt, and Matthew Giorgio.

## Pierce Plays Perfectly

By: Kylee Donnelly

Emily Peirce, a senior at Elk Point-Jefferson, has recently made school history. She is the first person ever to qualify for All-State Band all four years of high school.

Emily's love for music began in elementary school. Here, she started singing and learning to play the piano. A few years later in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, she picked up a clarinet and joined the band. Since her original interest in music, she has furthered her involvement in the fine arts. Emily has lettered in choir, band, and jazz band throughout high school. Outside of school, she gives young students piano lessons. The clarinet, Emily's personal favorite, is the instrument that she has used to qualify for All-State Band.

Many things had to be done before Emily could have even been considered for All-State. First, she had to prepare a solo, an etude, and about eighteen different scales. Then, she had to perform a sight-read etude and take a fifty question test at her audition. After all this preparation, the judges select the forty best clarinet players across the state. For four years, Emily has proven to be an exceptional clarinet player and made it to All-State Band.

Before the concert can be performed, the accepted musicians must practice together to create the perfect sound. After almost three

days and many hours of practicing, Emily notes that her fingers were quite sore by the end of the week. However, all that practice helped to fully prepare them for their concert. The concert took place at Sioux Falls O'Gorman High School on Saturday, March 25, 2017. At the concert, Emily was awarded with the Four-Year Award for being selected all four years.

Undeniably, Emily's love for music and her work ethic helped her become the musician she is today. She believes the most important thing someone striving to qualify for All-State is determination. Emily feels that a lot of credit for her success should be given to EPJ band teacher Aaron Schmeling and her parents. She said, "Despite how it might have been to listen to me practice when I first started, I am grateful for their continuous encouragement."

When asked about his student, Aaron Schmeling described Emily as "a fantastic musician who deserves all of the honors she's earned. She's worked extremely hard to achieve her goals and I could not be more proud of her."

Emily plans on combining her love of music with her future career. She will be majoring in music education to teach either band or vocal in schools. Everyone at EPJ would like to congratulate Emily on this memorable and "note"-worthy accomplishment.

## Senior Spotlight

This week our spotlight shines on Kristen Audrey Pyle. Kristen is 1 of the 45 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes Kristen a bright future filled with opportunities.



### Kristen Pyle

**Parents:**

Michelle Tuttle, Kirth Pyle

**Siblings:**

Hillary Zirble

**Birthday:**

March 7, 1999

**Future plans:**

Attend Northern State University to become a physician's assistant

**Activities:**

color guard, choir, show choir, trap shooting

**Hobbies:**

Reading, hunting, fishing, singing

**First crush:**

Matthew Ambrose

**Famous-person crush:**

Ryan Gosling

**Kindergarten BFF:**

Erin Schult

**Pet peeve:**

People who walk very slowly in front of me

**A place I have always wanted to visit:**

Anywhere in Europe

**The best thing about EPJ:**

Choir with Mrs. Schmeling

**If I could be any age forever:**

17, I'm young enough to not have to have adult responsibilities, but I can make my own decisions.

**FAVORITES:**

**Quote:**

"To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone."

-Reba McEntire

**School memory:**

Battle of the Homerooms in middle school

**Superhero:**

Deadpool (does he really count though?)

**Book/Author:**

J.K. Rowling

**Movie:**

Inside Out

**Team:**

Vikings

**Food/school lunch:**

Buffalo chicken pizza

**Holiday:**

Halloween, some of the costumes are great!

**Class:**

Choir, show choir

**TV show:**

Grey's Anatomy

## Middle School Citizens of the Month



By: Bradie Timmins

Elk Point -Jefferson has named two new students as the March citizens of the month. Kalla Bertram and Christian Welch were chosen by the middle school staff because of their excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. Each of these 8<sup>th</sup> grade students has a long list of activities and hobbies that more than qualify them for this award.

Kalla Bertram is the daughter of Rahn and Maria Bertram, and she is the younger sister to EPJ graduate Keely Bertram. Kalla is very involved in athletics at Elk Point-Jefferson, participating in basketball, volleyball, and track.

In her free time, she continues her love for basketball on a travel team and spends time with her friends and family. Outside of school Kalla loves reading, working on her grandmother's farm,

making DIY's, and watching women's college basketball games. She participates in the new FCA program ran through the school, and when she isn't in school or playing basketball, she is babysitting, dog sitting, or mowing.

Kalla admires her older sister because of her determination in both academics and athletics. She also is grateful for the way that Keely has always been there for her, even though she attends college at Black Hills State University. Kalla is going to miss the middle school teachers and all the activities that the middle school does throughout the year.

Christian Welch is the son of Amy and Ray Welch and the brother to Taylor and Sadie. He runs cross country and plays basketball for Elk Point-Jefferson. He attends church at Immanuel Lutheran church and is involved in the youth group at his church.

### Lunch Menu

**Thursday, April 13:**  
Tator Tot Hot Dish or Hot Dog

**Tuesday, April 18:**  
Italian Dunkers or BBQ Rib Sandwich

**Wednesday, April 19:**  
Chinese Tacos or Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwich

## Music in Our School

By: Matthew Giorgio

Every March, elementary music student celebrate Music in our Schools Month to promote music education in schools. Students participate in many activities during their music class, led by Mrs. Tatro. One of the many fun activities is the mystery musician contest where faculty members and students try their best to guess the correct musician from clues hidden around the school. Another contest is Tune Tuesday. Every week, students learn about four songs and composers in music class. The next Tuesday, the song is played over the intercom and students guess who wrote the song to win for a candy reward. During class, the students learn about music and how it affects their lives. Each student draws a picture about music; the pictures are hung in the hallway for all to see. Music in Our Schools Month and the activities that follow are a favorite among elementary students and they promote an important part of their lives: music.

Outside of school Christian is very involved with the community by helping with the Burbank Easter Egg Hunt and playing basketball. During the summer, Christian can be found reading, playing basketball, running, or working on his grandpa's farm. His role models consist of the NBA player Stephen Curry and the entire Winnebago, Nebraska, high school boys basketball team. When Christian finishes middle school, he will miss all of the middle school staff.

Elk Point-Jefferson's staff and students congratulate these two on all of their hard work. Their honor will be announced at 8<sup>th</sup> grade awards, their pictures with them holding the plaques they received will be hung up in the cafeteria, and they get to be at the front of the lunch line for the month of April.

## Super Hoopers



The basketball season has ended and special honors have been awarded to four of Elk Point-Jefferson's varsity athletes. Elsie Aslesen, a junior and team co-captain, was named to the Dakota XII All Conference 2nd Team. Senior and co-captain Karlee Shatswell was named to Dakota XII All Conference 3rd Team. As-

lesen and Shatswell were also named to the All Region Team.

On the boys' side, junior Presston Kollbaum was named Dakota XII Honorable Mention. Aaron Koupal, senior and team captain was named to the Dakota XII All Conference 3rd Team. Congratulations to all that were honored this season.

### Husky Happenings:

**Saturday, April 15:**

Baseball at Parkston -2:00 Varsity/JV to follow

**Monday, April 17:**

Girls' golf quad at Spring Creek- 3:00

Baseball with Bonn Homme at Tabor -1:00 Varsity/JV to follow

**Tuesday, April 18:**

Girls' golf at The Pointe- 4:00

Track at Gayville- 4:00

**Thursday, April 20**

Girls' golf at The Pointe- 9:00

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