



Rolfes's Robotic Reign

By: Alyssa Hurley

Elk Point- Jefferson senior Emily Rolfes has recently competed at the U.S. CREATE Open in Council Bluffs on April 7th and 8th. Rolfes started robotics when she was 12 years old through 4-H using the Lego Mindstoms and EV3. She didn't start competitive robotics until her mom started up a competitive team when she was a freshman in high school. The Vermillion Area Robotics Club (VARC) does 3 types of competitions: BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology), VEX EDR, and VEX IQ. Rolfes has competed in BEST twice and she is in the end of her 3rd EDR season. VEX has 3 programs: EDR (middle school-high school), IQ (elementary-middle school), and U (college). Rolfes competes in EDR, which are metals. The season is a full year, and each year there is a new game. This year's game is Starstruck. In qualification matches, you are randomly partnered with

another team. After qualifications, you select your partners to be in the elimination bracket. Each alliance typically has 3 teams and you rotate which two compete. The high school teams help mentor the IQ teams. IQ is a simplified version of EDR with snap together pieces. Rolfes has competed in multiple competitions. These include in 2014 and 2015 for regions at North Dakota State University and state at South Dakota State University, U.S. CREATE Open at Council Bluffs 2015, VEX Worlds in Louisville, Kentucky, 2016 in Elkhorn, Omaha, Council Bluffs, Omaha North, Waterloo, and Louisville, Kentucky again. Rolfes says, "Robotics teaches many life lessons and opens kids' eyes to a whole new world of possibilities." Congratulations to all the hard work and dedication you have put in over the years in robotics! Robotics teaches many life lessons and opens kid's eyes to a whole new world of possibilities.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

By: Will Suing

This year high school football coach Jake Terry and girls head basketball coach Gary Nebelsick worked together to start a Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) organization for Elk Point-Jefferson Students. With the help of Pastor Dave Bambas they have been able to round up groups of students on Thursday nights and help them to learn how to grow in their athletics while sticking to their faith. Football coach, Jake Terry said that he, "wanted to start a group in Elk Point, because I had a group at my High School and it helped me become a better player." At the first meeting

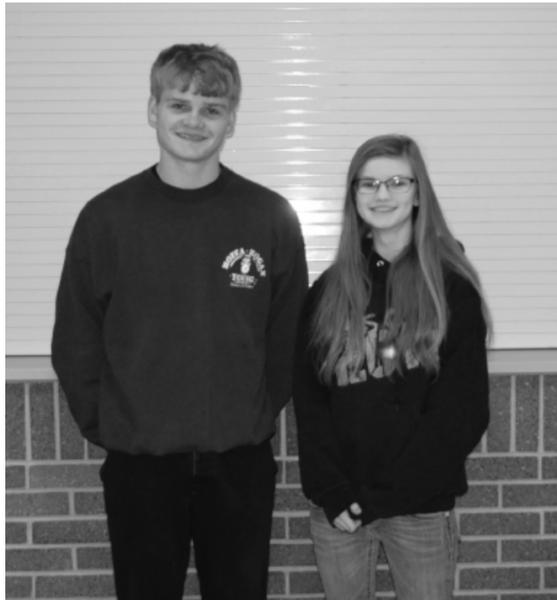
they had 40 students show up to listen to a former NFL punter, Brian Hansen, and two top ranked athletes from USD to come and speak about FCA and how it works how or how it has impacted their lives. The second meeting had 42 students attend and they hope that the number will keep growing. The main goal is to continue with meetings through the summer and right into next fall to create an atmosphere that is focused on team building activities. Coach Terry wants to give a special thank you to Scott and Angie Hansen for letting FCA meet at their house. Help FCA grow in Elk Point to make you a better teammate and player for years to come!

Prom Success

On April 22nd, EPJ held its annual Junior and Senior prom. This year the theme was "All that Glitters is Gold." The students arrived at the school to find the gym decked out in all gold. The evening commenced with the Grand March that introduced each couple of the night. This year's prom royalty featured eight seniors that were honored at the Grand March. This year's royalty were Alexa Montagne, Emily Mickelson, Mariah Heckathorn, Kylee Donnelly, Zeke Robinson, Tim Mingo, Alex Wu, and Collin Elkins. It was King Zeke Robinson and Queen Kylee Donnelly who were crowned at the Grand March.

After the dance, students ended the night with the After Prom which featured glow-in-the-dark dodge ball, canvas painting, a photo booth, bumper cars, poker, an inflatable obstacle course, a hypnotist, and prizes for each of the students. Overall, students had a memorable night that will be hard to forget. Congrats to all included in the royalty and to the king and queen. Thanks to all the sponsors and donors that helped to make the night possible for the students.

Representative Man & Woman



Elk Point-Jefferson's staff and senior students voted Dylan Colt and Emily Pierce to serve as the 2017 Graduation class's Representative Man and Woman. Each of these seniors has shown an excellent amount of dedication to their studies and extracurricular activities making them exceptional recipients of this honor. They will be presenting the opening address and the commencement speech on May 13th during graduation.

Nolzzy Awards

By: Dylan Colt

Perhaps the most highly anticipated event of the school year took place last week. The 2017 "Nolzzy" Awards were held on April 14th. For those unfamiliar with the Nolzzy awards, Mr. Nolz has his US History students write their own play about a civil rights movement event. He then awards his students in each of the two classes with best actor, best actress, and best screenplay. The students had a variety of events to choose from, like the Little Rock 9 or Rosa Parks's bus sit-in. Each group was required to make their own sets, costume, and stage directions.

This year the award for best actor in each class was Easton Keuck and Isaiah Jallow. The award for best actress was given to Morgan Swanson and Trinity Smith. And the award

for best original play went to "The Assassination That Shocked the Nation", "Rosa Parks Bus Boycott", and "Lunch Counter Sit Ins".

As a two time Nolzzy award winner myself, I know how difficult it is to become a Nolzzy award winner. This is one of the world's most prestigious and coveted acting awards. To put in perspective how hard it is to win a Nolzzy award, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Meryl Streep, and Johnny Depp have a combined 0 Nolzzy awards. Mr. Nolz said, "I was very pleased with this crop of Nolzzy award winners. The Nolzzy awards represent the best in acting and historical accuracy through the process of historical research and representing many great historical figures." Congratulations to everyone competed in this year's competition, and all the winners from previous years.

Senior Spotlight

This week our spotlight shines on Taylor Branson. Taylor is 1 of the 44 talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes Taylor a bright future filled with opportunities.



Taylor Branson

Parents:

Angie and Steve Branson

Siblings: Zach Branson

Birthday: October 7, 1998

Future plans: Go to Mount Marty and become a Nurse

Activities: vocal and softball

Hobbies: playing softball

Role model: Her mom

Famous-person crush:

Luke Bryan

Kindergarten BFF:

Raquel Rosenbaum

Pet peeve: People walking

slow in front of me

A place I have always

wanted to visit: China

If I could be any age forever: 22, You are on your own and old enough to have fun!

FAVORITES:

Book/author: Fault in Our Stars, John Green

Song/musician:

Any Song by Luke Bryan

Food/school lunch:

Chicken nuggets

Holiday: Thanksgiving

Class: Anatomy

Tv show: Grey's Anatomy

Welders Weld Well

By: Josh Lehman

Elk Point-Jefferson took first place at the WIT Welding competition. This year's team was made up of Cash Hemmingson, Garrett Chicoine, Ethan Marx, and Alex Wu. Ethan Marx was awarded second place, and Hemmingson, Chicoine, and Wu all earned fourth, which gave EPJ the highest score overall. The team was tested on several different styles of welding and took a knowledge test. Over 60 students from around the region participated in the competition. EPJ took first place at the competition last year as well, and we are looking forward to see the success continue for the years to come. As Cash Hemmingson said, "It was a good experience, and it can be rewarding to see your work pay off in competition. I am

looking forward to competing next year!" Mr. Seth Fischer, the team's coach and teacher, had this to say about the competition this year. "I was very pleased with the performance of all four students at the WIT welding competition. EPJ's welding program is still in its infancy and I am continually impressed that the work ethic and education prowess of the EPJ students allows our program to have sustained success in my four years as a member of this community. I hope to continue to build our program and the number of students who take advantage of the opportunity to learn skills that are taught in our Industrial Technology classes. As my grandfather always said, "If you know how to work with your hands, you will always have a job."

Honoring the Nearmans

By: Deb Limoges

As a tribute to the memories of Chris Nearman and Vicki Nearman for their years of dedicated service to the students of EP and EPJ, a joint fund raising effort of retired teachers and the middle and high school student councils was held to create a memorial leaf for both Chris and Vicki which will make them Charter Members of the EPJEF.

Through an email campaign, 22 retired staff members, who served both EP and EPJ, donated \$1480 to achieve the \$2000 goal. Two Bronze Leaves will be added to the Charter Member Tree in the commons to honor the memories of Chris and Vicki, both of these teachers epitomized the spirit of honor and dedication to the teaching profession and the students that they served.

The middle school student council was contacted to ask if the middle school could help with the payment

of two leaves for Chris and Vicki Nearman. The Council was glad to help because the students had had them as teachers in the past years. The council came up with a fundraiser to earn money by letting the middle school have a Pajama day and eat suckers. It cost one dollar for the privilege to wear pajamas to school and one dollar to buy a sucker to enjoy throughout our morning classes on March 16. This fundraiser raised \$400 for the leaves. The council also held another fundraiser to make a human sundae. A bucket for every middle school teacher was put in Mrs. Langle's room. Students then could put money in those buckets to make a certain teacher into a sundae. The teacher with the most money was turned into a sundae on April 13. That teacher was Mrs. Meadows. The council reps from her home room, Shandie Ludwig and Javon Harris, had the chance to decorate her with whip cream, chocolate syrup, strawberry

syrup, and sprinkles. This fundraiser raised \$141.45. The total donated by EPJ MS Student body was \$541.45.

Throughout most of March and April, the EPJ High School student council hosted a bake sale each Friday. The treats were all baked voluntarily by the student council members. Each treat was sold for \$1. The students were very excited about these sweet treats each week, but not just because of the sugary goodness. They made purchases and donations toward the cause because they were taught by Vicki and Chris Nearman. Those two women hold a very special place in their hearts. The support from students, staff, and the community was overwhelming. The council collected \$610 dollars in total for five bake sales, exceeding all expectations. This total consists of both purchase money and at least \$150 in straight donations.

Husky Happenings

Thursday, April 27:

5-8 Spring Concert- 7:00

Friday, April 28:

Girls Golf at Beresford- 3:00

Monday, May 1:

7/8 Track at EPJ- 3:45

9-12 Concert- 7:00

HS Art Show (Voting starts at 6:00 prior to HS Concert)

Tuesday, May 2:

Track at Beresford- 4:00

Girls Golf at Dell Rapids-9:00

Wednesday, May 3:

Baseball with Beresford -5:30

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