



## Senior Spotlights

This week our spotlights shine on Jared Merkley and Jacob Reed. Jacob and Jared are two of the forty-eight talented seniors who will graduate this May. EPJ wishes both Jacob and Jared a bright future filled with opportunities.

## EPJ Says Farewell

### Mr. Wedel

By: Will Suing

The time has come to say farewell to Douglas Wedel, an English teacher here at Elk Point-Jefferson High School. Mr. Wedel has been a teacher at EPJ for two years. He taught both eleventh and twelfth grade English and Honors English. Mr. Wedel also ran the newspaper staff for those two years. He will be moving to Des Moines, Iowa to be closer to family with his wife and two daughters. Mr. Wedel will be teaching students at Ruby Van Meter School in Des Moines. The school specializes in teaching students with significant intellectual disabilities. He says he will miss seeing students mature academically



and personally from the time they enter his classroom as juniors till they leave as seniors. He will also miss the challenge of engaging students in grammar and literature. He will also miss the supportive and friendly staff and administration at EPJ. We all wish Mr. Wedel the best and for a bright future!

### Señora Patnaude

By: Karson Hall

The time has come to say farewell to Elk Point-Jefferson's Spanish teacher, Señora Jane Patnaude. She has been at EPJ for twenty-seven years and has taught Spanish I and II, seventh grade Spanish exploratory, and English novels. She enjoyed the kids who made her laugh, and she knew that each class she had was different. It was fun to her to see each class's strengths and to watch them grow. It made her day when former students stopped by and reflected on their fun experiences in her Spanish class. She always envied their studies abroad in Costa Rica, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama that they told her about. She will miss the over 4,500 lunches dates with her peers



in the workroom. Every summer, she goes on a pilgrimage, but this time when she returns she will go on her first cruise to Alaska. When asked what she plans to do after leaving EPJ, she answered, "I will do anything I want." Thank you, Señora, for your dedication to making students learn and grow in your class. We will all miss you.

### Mrs. Challgren

By: Meghan Brewer

The Elk Point-Jefferson school district will be very sad to see Alyssa Challgren leave at the end of the school year. Mrs. Challgren began her career teaching sixth grade language arts, world history and eighth grade literature. Mrs. Challgren taught in the middle school for one year, but she then decided she would take a position in the high school. Mrs. Challgren taught English I and English II for four years. In her four years, she took on the role to be the high school Student Council advisor. When asked what she enjoyed the most about EPJ, Mrs. Challgren had more than one answer. She enjoyed getting to know her students every year and watching them mature in academics and as young adults. She also had a passion for the content that she covered. "I think often times, English is overlooked and deemed soft curriculum because we read and write and talk about every little detail, but in reality, these skills shape a great communicator, and that's what every ca-



reer path needs. Without the temerity to have individual thoughts and then have the confidence to talk and write about those thoughts, no one can be successful in the workforce." Mrs. Challgren then said she will greatly miss the staff at EPJ. She stated, "The overwhelming kindness, compassion, and drive for the better of all students sets an incredible standard for all schools." When asked what her future plans were, Mrs. Challgren replied, "I will be taking a break from education for a period of time as I have my first child and discover the inner-workings and joys of parenthood." We wish Mrs. Challgren the best, as she will be greatly missed.

### Ms. Dubbelde

By: Jadyne Reed

As this school year comes to a close, we begin to say goodbye to many familiar faces. Alisa Dubbelde, the high school art teacher, is one of educators who is bidding EPJ farewell. Ms. Dubbelde taught high school art and sixth and seventh grade exploratory art, and she was the yearbook adviser for the high school. Ms. Dubbelde says she will miss everyone she knew at Elk Point-Jefferson, especially the students. She has enjoyed working with the students; she recalls that one of her favorite memories of teaching is when her students got to venture to USD for an iron pour/sand mold work shop. Ms. Dubbelde said, "Every student here has



taught me something and has made me a better teacher, and I am very thankful for that. I will miss EPJ very much." After she leaves Elk Point-Jefferson, Ms. Dubbelde will go to Freemont, NE to teach in an area closer to where she is from (Omaha, NE). Thank you Ms. Dubbelde for all that you have done for this school.

## Easy as Pi

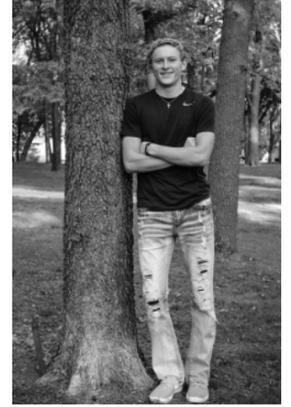
Elk Point-Jefferson mathematicians, under the guidance of algebra and calculus teacher Ms. Ahman, added up a great sum of individual placings as well as compiled the overall team victory at the USD Math Competition in Vermillion on Saturday, April 7th. In the Algebra I division, Zariah Zevenbergen took first place while Abby Kastning, Nora Kastning, and Nicole Wriedt

brought home third, fourth, and fifth place respectively. Will Geary took top honors in the Algebra II division, as did Tyler Walsh in the Geometry division. Skyler Oberg placed fifth in the PreCalculus division. Matthew Noteboom was honored with a scholarship as a result of his performance in the Calculus division. The first-place team victory by EPJ was their fourth successive team victory at the competition.



### Jacob Reed

**Parents:** Kimberly Johnson and Stanley Reed  
**Siblings:** Jadyne and Jaley Reed  
**Birthdate:** August 27th, 1999  
**Future Plans:** Continue education at USD  
**Activities:** Track and Field  
**School Awards:** Honor Roll, Honors Study Hall, Letter in Track and Field  
**Community Activities:** EPJ Angel Tree, After Prom, Fall Festival Volunteer  
**Kindergarten BFF:** Spencer Nilson  
**A Place I Have Always Wanted to Visit:** Burbank, California  
**FAVORITES:**  
**Quote:** "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."  
-J.K. Rowling  
**School Memory:** Prom 2017  
**Superhero:** Iron Man  
**Book/Author:** Harry Potter and Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling  
**Team:** Iowa Hawkeyes  
**Food:** Spicy Crab Sushi Rolls  
**Holiday:** Christmas  
**Class:** Physical Education



### Jared Merkley

**Parents:** Kevin and Amy Merkley  
**Siblings:** Garrett, Rachel, Samantha  
**Birthdate:** March 15th, 2000  
**Future Plans:** Attend the University of South Dakota to major in exercise science  
**Activities:** Football, Basketball, Baseball  
**A Place I Have Always Wanted to Visit:** Seattle, Washington  
**FAVORITES:**  
**School Memory:** Breaking Coach K's ankles playing basketball my junior year  
**Superhero:** Spiderman  
**Book:** Bible  
**Team:** Milwaukee Bucks and Green Bay Packers  
**Holiday:** Christmas/ 4th of July  
**Class:** History  
**Video Game:** Fortnite/ Madden



The 2018 prom royalty are Jared Merkley, Nathan Harvery, Garret Chicoine, Presston Kollbaum, Breanna Hutcheson, Jess Huber, Morgan Swanson, and Peyton Hall.

## Weld Done

By: Ben Hanson

On April 6th, Ethan Marx, Zach Branson, Garret Chicoine, and Cash Hemmingson went to Western Iowa Tech to compete in a welding competition. The students were brought there by Mr. Seth Fischer, the industrial arts teacher at Elk Point-Jefferson. Mr. Fischer said, "It is a great experience for those who compete in it. It is good for them to get the opportunity to see where they sit as far as ability with kids from other places." The WIT Welding Competition also offers scholarships to those students who place first overall individually. Ethan Marx placed second individually and the rest of the Husky welders also performed very well. Schools are also judged in this competition on their performance as a team. This competition is a great opportunity for the students of Elk Point-Jefferson to hone their knowledge of real-world skills.

## Husky Happenings

- Thursday, April 26:**
  - 7:00 5-8 spring concert
- Friday, April 27:**
  - 1:00 Varsity Track Invitational at Yankton
  - 3:30 Girls Varsity Golf Triangular Beresford
- Saturday, April 28:**
  - 8:00 5-8 Solo/Ensemble Contest
- Monday, April 30:**
  - 3:45 JH Track Invitational at EPJ
  - 6:00 Art Show in the Commons
  - 7:00 High School Concert
- Tuesday, May 1:**
  - 9:00 Girls Varsity Golf Tournament at Dell Rapids
  - 4:00 Varsity Track Invitational at Beresford
- Thursday, May 3:**
  - All State Jazz Band in Aberdeen
  - 9:00 Girls Varsity Golf Invitational at The Pointe
  - 7:00 K-4 Concert

## Huber Honored as Student of the Month

By: Peyton Hall

Jess Huber is Elk Point-Jefferson's Student of the Month for the month of April. Jess is involved in many activities inside and outside of school. She is involved in Destination Imagination, National Honor Society, the school play, volleyball, cheer, and science fair. Just recently, Jess was awarded to go to International Science Fair with her science fair partner, Elsie Aslesen, and their teacher, Mrs. Stabe. Jess also takes it upon herself to help those who are struggling academically by tutoring. During her free time, she enjoys reading books or bingeing on Netflix marathons. In the fall, she will continue her education at Dakota Wesleyan University. Jess will study elementary education and



volunteer with the McGovern Center. The McGovern Center focuses on leadership and public service through education. Jess referred to the Jiminy Cricket quote "The most fantastic magical things can happen, and it all starts with a wish" as she reflected on high school. She stated, "This quote just reminds me that high school has its high points and low points and can be super stressful, but things all work out in the end. This quote also makes me feel like a little kid again and like I'm not about to go off to college because it keeps me wishing." Jess also says her favorite part of high school is graduation.