

"The Union Street Journal"

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

A Final Farewell

By Abbi Gillespie, Maddie Clemens, and Sydney Allen

For the last two years we have been members of Delta's Self-Promotion and Community Outreach group. We have been responsible for creating and producing the Gopher Podcast, the Gopher Gold Award, and "The Union Street Journal." In addition, we have worked with local businesses to collect prizes for the Gopher Gold Award and the G.O.P.H.E.R. card raffle. The three of us are now seniors and we hope that Delta's hard work will continue to make a positive impact in the school and the community for many years to come.

As the school year is winding down, there are many banquets and final activities for us as seniors to attend. This makes springtime a fun and busy season. At the beginning of May we had our biggest and most exciting dance of the year: our senior prom. This was our last chance to join together with our grade and form lasting memories. We have also had the opportunity to attend many banquets to recognize our academics, FFA membership, and senior accomplishments. During these events we may receive awards, scholarships, and other honors. Finally, to end our high school years, we will celebrate with our graduation parties and the ceremony itself. This will allow us to say our final goodbyes and recognize our classmates one last time. The end of our senior year will

definitely be busy, but we plan to enjoy every minute of it.

After graduation, the three of us will be continuing our education at separate universities. Abbi will be attending the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities to study Biology in order to pursue a career as a physician assistant. Maddie will be enrolled in the Elementary Education program at the University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse. Sydney will be attending Augustana University to major in Biology. We are excited to see what the future holds for us!

While we are looking forward to our new adventures, there will be many things we will miss about Chatfield High School. It will be hard to find a more contagious laugh than Ms. Fritz's or a more helpful smile than Ms. Virgin's. We will miss standing in the student section to cheer on our fellow Gophers. We will also miss making tie blankets for Service Club, planning Homecoming with Student Senate, and attending State Convention with FFA. We encourage all students to get involved in the many clubs at our school because they will help you grow, develop new skills, and create many fun memories. The three of us have cherished our 13 years at Chatfield Schools and cannot wait to see what the future holds for us and the school. We want to thank everyone who helped us during our time here, and as the Gopher Podcast always says, "cue the band."



GO-PHER BROKE: Trap Shooting

By Owen Dammen

This year's trap team was a blast. There were so many new people that joined the team as well as returning familiar faces.

Here's what a typical shoot looks like:

Our one-hour practices span from 1-6pm and all participants are divided up into groups based on age. These groups were about 15 students each and were varying ability levels within each group.

The shooting range is set up with five stations set up in a line: left, left middle, middle, right middle, and right. You get in a line of five people (you and four others), each person taking a station. You wait until everyone is ready, then the coach pulls a practice pigeon. He presses a button on a remote that launches a pigeon, all of this out of an automatic thrower.

Then we officially start.

The person on the far left loads a round and gets in a stance. When they are ready, they say "pull" and a pigeon shoots out. It's a hit or a miss, then it goes on to the next person on the right. As that is happening, the coach announces the results from the last station. This process goes on until everyone has shot five rounds at their station. Once everyone has completed their rounds at that station, the coach says "rotate", and everyone moves one station to the right.

After these five people have shot five times at every station, their group goes to the coach for their overall score and puts their

equipment down while the next group gets ready for their round. This continues until three groups of five students have completed this entire process. The entire process is then repeated, so each student gets a total of 50 shots.

The total score at the end of the practice or competition is out of 50 points.

The guns we use are our own shotguns and you have the option of choosing a 12 or 20-gauge. Normally this is chosen by size and therefore age. 20-gauge tends to be the choice of starters while 12-gauge is for more experienced shooters. We always wear safety glasses and ear protection, and we have a pouch worn on the waist where we keep our ammunition. Our ammunition and safety equipment are kept at the Fish and Game Club, which is where we always shoot.

Sundays are generally competitions while Thursdays are practice rounds or make-ups for missed competitions. The variable weather kept things interesting! Some days it was very windy which made it challenging to hit your pigeon.

My season has been affected by me breaking my wrist about a year ago and missing a season due to COVID, so I'm finally getting back in the swing of things with my overall shooting score. I love being a member of the Trap Team because I like guns and hunting and this gives me practice. I'm happy to see lots of others doing the same thing!



TRACKing success!



by Lauren Cole

As the school year comes to a close, and track and field enters the championship portion of our season, I have begun to reflect on my experience in the sport. I began track in seventh grade, and have looked forward to running in the spring ever since. Although we have had a cold and rainy spring, and many canceled varsity meets, the team remained optimistic about our season. I am extremely proud of my teammates for working hard through training for numerous weeks without a competition.

One of the reasons I enjoy track so much is because of the focus on personal improvement. In track, the effort you put into practice directly correlates to results in a meet. During conditioning and training, times are not nearly as fast as they will be by the section meet. Between the first meet and the last, it is exciting to decrease a race time, jump higher, or throw farther. There is no better feeling than finally

achieving a personal goal.

For me, the best part of track is being part of such a supportive team. Everyone there wants to see you succeed and will cheer you on along the way. For example, I recently jumped my personal best in high jump, and another one of the jumpers was just as excited as I was. She was cheering me on for every jump, taking videos, and ran to give me a hug when I finally cleared the height. Even though we are competing against each other, we both want the other to succeed. That is one of the many examples of camaraderie within the team.

I am extremely grateful for the positive experience I have had on the Chatfield High School track and field team. I am thankful for my teammates and coaches for creating such an experience. I would encourage anyone who is debating going out for track to try it. There is a place for everyone. I am excited to see the track and field team grow and succeed in the years to come.



"Dreaming Big..."

By Nicholas Long

Anyone who knows me knows I have many interests. That's why I am currently in my 4th year of speech, going to state with 10 other students, captain of the state competing engineering team, a member of the state competing knowledge bowl team, an athlete in Track, a recent inductee to Delta, and preparing a lead role in a musical at the Civic Theater in Rochester Minnesota as well as a trumpet solo to bring to competition. The rest of the year, I participate in school plays, cross country, one act, and band, while I film low-budget movies and write short fiction and plays on the side.

Please refrain from believing I write this to brag about my schedule (because believe me, it is not something you should feel envious about.) Rather, I mention this all merely as a preface to the fact that I recently got a job. That threw a wrench into my already full schedule. I got the job, though, because I need to save money for college. I am very future-conscious (is that a term? Probably not, but nonetheless, I'm making it one) and I need every boost I can get to become a film director and cinematographer. This calls for many late nights and early mornings, but the dreams I have are too big for 24 hours. I want to do so much in this world, that I constantly want to sample everything offered on the plate. I may have restless nights, worried if what I'm doing will help me get to my dream col-

lege, but there's other times I am so content with all my occupations I ignore the looming work to be done. As a sophomore, I look with hope to what my future holds and what experiences the next two years of high school offer me.

I believe that it is important to go after one's dreams. My curiosity for so many things is why I am so involved, and I don't regret it at all. With new experiences and opportunities come new passions, so I encourage everyone to try many new things, and to stay curious in many pursuits throughout life.



Pictured with the speech coaches



Speech Team

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