

The Storm Report

OAKES TORNADOES UPDATES

November 7th, 2025



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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!!!

BY: ISAAC BJORNSTAD

With the play an upcoming event, I'm sure many of our peers are interested in how it's progressing. Well thankfully we have the inside story for you all. Interviewing Mrs. Neer yielded some updates about this years play. So, sit back, silence your phones and enjoy the show.

With recent developments, the students have had to memorize new scripts, asking Neer She responded that "Line memorization is going great! We will be without scripts starting this week." Along with the new script there comes the new direction the play follows. When asked about this possible new direction, Neer said "The play is a wholesome, feel-good piece co-written by all of the cast with the help of ChatGpt." And that the story was about "It is about a bunch of Christmas travelers who get stuck at a diner on Christmas Eve."

With the new runtime comes how long we'll be sitting down to watch, with Neer stating she approximates "The run-time will be approximately 35 minutes" for our standard runtime.

When asked what audiences can expect, Mrs. Neer said, "I think they will leave with a warm feeling in anticipation of Christmas. The bonus will be the silly one-liners."

With this new direction and plenty of holiday spirit, the play promises to be a heartwarming experience. The cast has clearly put in a lot of effort, and we can't wait to see what they have in store for us. So, sit back, relax, and get ready to enjoy the show on December 2nd at 7 P.M.



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY: KALYN HAAFKE



This senior has spent her high school years learning to balance hard work with self-discovery. Some of her best memories come from homecoming week, when she joined in the dress-up themes and activities that brought everyone together. Outside of school, she enjoys baking and reading, often with her dogs—Maggie, Lady, and Lucy—by her side. Her favorite book is Quicksilver by Callie Hart, and her go-to movie is Avengers: Endgame. If she had to describe her high school experience in one word, she'd choose “tiring”—a reflection of the effort and perseverance it takes to get to this point.

One of her biggest challenges was Pre-Calculus, but she didn't face it alone. With the help of her three classmates, she worked through each difficult problem until it finally clicked, finishing the class with an A. That experience taught her the importance of teamwork and determination. Over time, she also learned the value of staying disciplined—taking online classes seriously, studying hard, and keeping her grades where she wanted them.

The most important lessons she's learned, though, come from the people who have shaped her journey. Her mom has been her biggest influence—always there to support, encourage, and push her to give 100% even when things get tough. Her favorite teachers, Mr. Sell and Mrs. Haafke, helped her learn how to express herself and apply what she's learned to everyday life, showing her that learning goes far beyond the classroom. And through her friendships, she discovered the value of surrounding herself with people who advocate for her, challenge her, and bring out her best. From all these influences, she's learned that while friendships and sports may fade, hard work, growth, and integrity will always matter most.

Looking ahead, she hopes to earn a high-ranking job in her chosen field, where she can help others, improve her workplace, and make a lasting difference. If she could go back and talk to her freshman self, she'd remind her to try a little harder, never settle for less, and appreciate each moment—even the boring ones.

She's especially proud of her GPA and class rank, which reflect all the time and effort she's put into achieving her goals. To her, being a senior means she's almost done—but also just beginning. She's completed every challenge, passed every class, and is now ready to take the next step forward and make her mark on the world.

A note from the author to this senior: I am so proud of your strength, determination, and the growth you've shown throughout high school. Watching you persevere and find your own voice has been such a joy. I can't wait to see where life takes you—you're going to do incredible things. I am forever cheering you on!

Love, Mrs. Haafke



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

October



Students of the Month

BY: KALYN HAAFKE

For the month of October, we are recognizing students who exemplify Collaboration and Genuine Relationships — learners who work effectively and respectfully with a diverse group of peers and build positive connections in and out of the classroom.

Junior

This student has made incredible strides in his social skills this year. He continues to engage with classmates both in the resource room and throughout the school, spreading positivity and building friendships wherever he goes. His effort to reach out and include others truly embodies the spirit of collaboration.

Senior

This student has faced many challenges with injuries but continues to show up each day with a positive attitude and a smile. His resilience, leadership, and ability to connect with everyone make him a great role model for younger students and a valued member of our school community.

8th Grader

This student brings genuine warmth and kindness to everyone she meets. She always takes time at the end of class to share stories about her life or check in on how others are doing. Her thoughtfulness and interest in those around her create a welcoming and connected classroom environment.

Senior

This student shines every day through her helpfulness and compassion. In class, she can always be found lending a hand—whether it's helping peers clean up in the kitchen or offering support to classmates. Her kindness and teamwork set a wonderful example for others.

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SMALL TOWN LIVING



BY: MCKENNA ALLSTON

Recently, more OHS alumni have chosen to return to Oakes. The recent influx of young adults has me wondering... why?

The first person I interviewed was Isabella (Hansen) Wagner. My first question was what influenced her to come back. Bella said, "I love the idea of being in a small town. I met my now husband and we knew that small town living was just for us." She goes on to tell me about how she wants to be able to give back to the community that has done so much for her. Bella said she never planned to come back to Oakes, but her career and family brought her home. When I asked what her favorite thing about living in Oakes was she said, "My favorite thing about living in Oakes is that even though it is a smaller town, there is still plenty to do here and the surrounding area." She mentions, "The people here are great. There are so many people who are willing to help in any way they can."

Like Bella, another alumni who has recently returned to Oakes is Garret Meehl.

My first question to Garret was, why did you decide to move back to Oakes? He replied with, "The room for both my fiancé and my career. Oakes is a "bigger" small community in North Dakota." I asked Garret where he was before returning to Oakes. He attended college in Moorhead, Minnesota. He even went on to help with the MSUM Dragon basketball team. Garret was also asked what his favorite thing about Oakes is. He said, "I love being able to go into any store in town and I most likely know the owners. I know that they give back to the community in various ways."

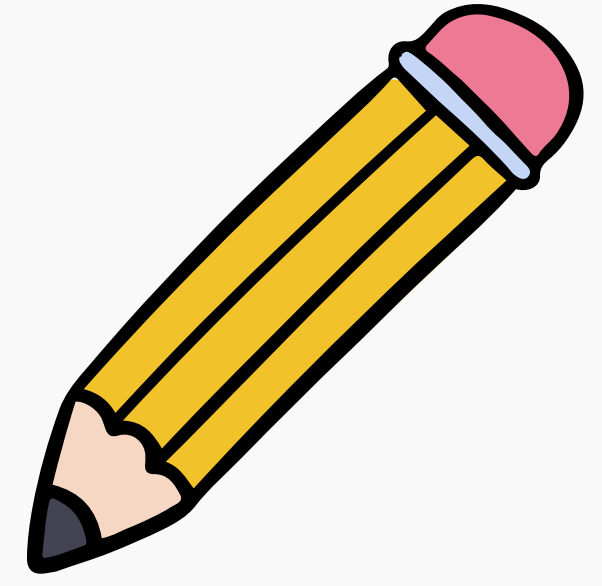
As more alumni find their way home, it clear that many factors play into their return. Family, career and community influence their decisions the most. Welcome home Bella and Garret!



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UPDATE ON STUDENTS LIFE

BY: NADYSEN MCKAY



Aiden, who is a 10th grader at Oakes Public School, said this year has been really different for him. He feels like he's grown more confident and more comfortable with himself. He's also learned how to manage his time better and take things more seriously, like his grades. Last year Aiden felt unsure of himself, but now he feels like he actually knows what he's doing.

Aiden said this year has been good but also kind of stressful. Now that he's in 10th grade, he has more work and harder classes. Even though it could be a lot, he's met new people and had some fun times. He said, "It feels like a year of growth and learning, both in and out of class."

Along with the hard stuff, Aiden talked about some of the good parts of this year. The best part for him has been spending time with friends and making new memories. He's gotten to hang out more and do things outside of school, which makes the year more fun.

One of Aiden's main goals is to keep his grades up and stay organized. He really wants to finish the year strong and not fall behind. He also wants to stay positive even when things get hard.

Aiden said the hardest thing for him this year has been trying to balance school, responsibilities, and his personal life. He said, "Sometimes it feels like there's just too much to handle at once." He's still trying to figure out how to manage his time better and not get overwhelmed.

Overall, Aiden's school year shows that he's learning and growing, even if it's not always easy. His story is something a lot of students can relate to because school can be stressful, but it also has good moments too.



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MELISSA UNLEASHED: JAMAICA IN DANGER

BY: BREANN YOUNG



Hurricanes are super powerful storms that can cause a ton of damage fast. Every year, lots of countries in the Caribbean deal with hurricanes, and they can be dangerous for the people who live there. This year, Jamaica got hit by one of the strongest storms ever, Hurricane Melissa, and it caused massive destruction across the island.

Before the storm hit, the Jamaican government warned everyone to be prepared. They opened over 100 emergency shelters for people who had to leave their homes. Families boarded up windows, stored food and water, and tried to stay safe. Even with all those precautions, the storm turned out to be stronger than expected. When the hurricane finally hit, it destroyed roads, blocked highways, and knocked down trees everywhere.

Hurricane Melissa was a Category 5 hurricane, which is the highest level. With high winds around 185 miles per hour, tearing through homes, trees, and power lines. The storm dropped more than 20 inches of rain in some areas and caused huge floods and landslides. Whole neighborhoods in Kingston, St. Ann, and St. Elizabeth were underwater, and more than 80% of the island lost power. It was one of the worst storms Jamaica has seen in years.

After the storm passed, Jamaica looked like a completely different place. Houses were gone, power lines were down, and flooding covered many streets. At least three people were confirmed dead, and several others were injured or missing. Airports had to close, which made it harder for rescue teams to get supplies to the island. The Jamaica Defense Force worked day and night to help rescue people trapped in flooded areas and bring food to communities cut off by the storm.

The hurricane did not just damage homes, it also did hurt Jamaica's economy. Tourism took a big hit because beaches and hotels were destroyed, and thousands of acres of crops like bananas and sugarcane were ruined. Experts think it could take six months to a year for the country to rebuild everything. The government and groups like the Red Cross are helping families find shelter, food, and clean water, but it is going to be a long process to fix all the damage.

Scientists said the hurricane got stronger fast because of how warm the ocean water was. Many believe climate change is making storms like this stronger and more dangerous. Hurricane Melissa showed how powerful nature can be and why it is so important for people to prepare for disasters. Even though things are tough right now, the people of Jamaica are strong, and they are already starting to rebuild their homes and communities.

Hurricane Melissa may be over, but its impact will last for a long time. Hopefully, Jamaica will recover soon and come back even stronger than before.



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TOP 10 REASONS THE WI-FI IS STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP

BY: MASS MEDIA CLASS

Students across the building have reported a serious issue. No, not the lunch menu- something even worse...the Wi-Fi speed. The Wi-Fi seems to be moving slower than a Monday morning. After some investigating and wild speculations, we think we have narrowed down the possibilities. Here are the top 10 reasons why the Wi-Fi is slower than waiting for what seems like an eternity for your Easy Mac to finish cooking.

The Real Reasons Why the WiFi is Slow

1. Loud Trucks/Big Rigs

The real reason the Wi-Fi is slow is because of them big ol' diesel trucks that vibrate the school so much that it disrupts the signal. Not only is it them revving their engines, it's the bumping from their subs. Wi-Fi struggles to travel when those subs are stealing the Wi-Fi for their diesel truck parties.

2. The Statue of Liberty

In the grand hall by Mr. Engel's office stands the Statue of Liberty. Standing so tall with the torch, and the seven spiked crown with the hope that kids be enlightened with what they are learning. So, then nobody could do the activity they desperately wanted to do.

3. Squirrels in the Walls

The real reason you can't turn in your work on time or get any work done during school is because of what's in the walls; squirrels. They're everywhere. Running around messing up wires and disrupting the flow of the internet. So, if your student can't get their work done, don't blame them, blame what's in the walls.

4. Bats in the Attic/Closet

The bats in the attic love to hang upside down on the powerlines. Maybe they think it's a fun jungle gym. Little do they know that while they're having fun, they are actually stopping our productivity.

5. Ghost in the 3rd Floor Boys Bathroom

The ghost from the 3rd floor boy's bathroom has upgraded his haunting. He's moved into the main router and now spends his afterlife streaming ghost documentaries and updating haunted apps. The real reason why the Wi-Fi is slow is because of one bored ghost messing around with the Wi-Fi router.

6. Mr. Engel Pressed Play on a Hallmark Movie

Sources confirm that Mr. Engel is watching his favorite Hallmark movie. He just can't wait for Christmas season (48 days, but who's counting) to be here. The Wi-Fi just couldn't handle all of the predictable romance, so it decided to call it quits. Christmas love stories and slow internet- both move at the same pace.

7. Time Wasting

If you stopped to consider it, a lot of kids would want to spend their time on YouTube now. Whether it's watching mukbangs during wrestling season, people playing the same video game you can't wait to play when you get home, or anything to escape your actual school work. If you would spend more time just doing your school work, the Wi-Fi would be able to keep up.

8. Get More Math

If you know you know, if you don't consider yourself lucky.

9. Robin Working Too Hard

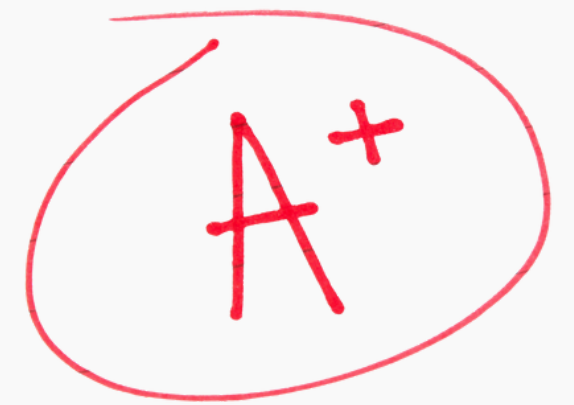
The Wi-Fi is slow because, Robin is working so hard, so it said, "Nope, not today, Robin." The Wi-Fi decided to not keep up with her, so it decided to take the day off.

10. Miss Schieler is Printing Again

Have you ever walked to the 3rd floor printer to grab some things your teacher printed or walked past the printer and hear it going 24-7. The main cause of this is Miss. Schieler printing things for her students. The Wi-Fi is dying, and so are the trees!

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HOW TO SURVIVE 7th GRADE



BY: AVA THOMPSON

Being a 7th grader can be a little scary and exciting at the same time. There's more homework, a new building, harder classes and new teachers. We have all been a 7th grader at one point and feel that stress. For the new and upcoming 7th graders here are some tips and tricks to survive your 7th grade school year.

Stay organized- Keep a planner or notebook where you write down homework, tests, and projects. Check it every day so nothing sneaks up on you. Having folders for each class can also help you find your papers much faster!

Don't procrastinate- Do your work as soon as you can instead of waiting last minute. You will feel less stressed out and have much more time to relax and hangout with your friends.

Ask questions- This is a big one if you don't ask questions right away you will just hurt yourself such as not understanding the content but if you do ask questions you will understand what your learning. Chances are other students are wondering the same thing and are scared to ask the question.

Find your study style- Some students learn the best by taking notes, others make flashcards, quizlets or try to teach someone else. If you try different study methods and stick with what works best for you, you will do so much better in school.

Take breaks- Don't study for hours straight. Work for 20-30 minutes then take a break and move around, get a snack, this kinda helps to re-fresh your brain.

Stay positive- When you have a bad day like getting a bad grade or you know that the test you just took you bombed it. Don't just give up. Stay positive and remind yourself that everyone struggles sometimes and you're not alone. As Albert Einstein once said "A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

Get involved- Join a club or sport activity that you might have interest in. Such as drama, volleyball, basketball, football, honor society, FFA, student council, etc. It's a good way to meet new upper classmates and not be thinking about school 24-7.

Be kind- Treat people how you would want to be treated. Being kind helps make school a better place for everyone and helps build stronger friendships.

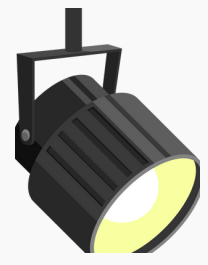
Take care of yourself- Get enough sleep, eat breakfast and drink a lot of water. You will feel more awake and ready to learn. A healthy body helps your brain focus more.

Celebrate small wins- When you do good on a test, pat yourself on the back. Do things you want to do such as eat candy for breakfast to reward yourself. Those small celebrations keep you motivated throughout the year.

In conclusion 7th grade is a big step, but it's also a chance to grow and discover who you are. Stay organized, be kind, be confident, find ways that help you learn, and just do what you know is expected of you and you will do just fine in 7th grade!

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



BY: ADDIE UMBREIT



Robin Paul has many responsibilities around Oakes High School, and sometimes her dedication and patience may go unnoticed. Most people don't realize that one of the most challenging parts of being an athletic director is the unexpected changes like having to reschedule events around snowstorms and cancellations. Despite the obstacles, Robin's favorite part of being an athletic director and junior high girls' basketball coach is seeing the kids succeed, she says, "There's nothing better than seeing our students succeed – on and off the court. Also, working with my amazing coaching staff, that have passion, knowledge, and heart. I am grateful for all they do every day for our students." What she enjoys most about working with the junior high girl's basketball team is their willingness to learn. Along with that she says, "Everyday is something new, they trust you and take in everything you say and ask questions."

What made her want to go into the education field? Someone who inspired Robin was her volleyball coach Kathy Warren. Kathy let Robin coach junior high volleyball her senior year, which was one of the reasons she wanted to coach or be part of the education field.

Robin is an avid shoe collector with around 90 pairs. One of her favorite hobbies is shopping for new shoes to add to her unfinished collection. If Robin could swap jobs with any staff member for a day, she would choose Jeremy Sitzler. "I would watch the cameras all day and carry a taser," she said, "and if I were running in the halls, I'd look important doing it." Along with this, if there was a song that played every time she walked in a room, she said it would have to be "Rockin' Robin."

Between coaching, organizing athletic events, and caring for her many cats, Robin still finds ways to bring smiles to those around her. Whether she's in the gym, the office, or first-hour Mass Media, Robin Paul is proof that dedication, humor, and heart can make all the difference at Oakes High School.

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DEER SEASON SECRETS: TIPS EVERY HUNTER SHOULD KNOW



BY: JYLES MEIER



Deer hunting is a tradition that combines patience, skill, and respect for nature. Whether you're a beginner or have spent years in the woods, there are a few strategies that can make a huge difference in your success. Things like awareness and preparation and some other techniques are what separate the good hunters from the great.

First, scouting is essential. Successful hunters spend time studying what the deer do in the offseason. When scouting, hunters go to their spot and make sure they have clean shooting lanes so they can get a good shot. This includes finding shooting lanes, or making shooting lanes. Preparing for any situation.

Secondly, the wind plays a big part in hunting. Deer are very smart animals. Their sense of smell is crazy. Not washing your hunting equipment with laundry detergent before hunting season is essential. Deer will smell your detergent and be wary and might even get spooked. The wind plays a big part in also knowing where you should walk into your spot. Walking leaves your scent and could scare the deer. Trying to be scent less is key when trying to secure a deer.

Thirdly, patience is key. When hunting it might take all day to see a deer. But leaving a stand early might mean missing a deer. Consider yourself a lucky hunter if it takes 45 minutes to get a deer.

Another thing I've learned about hunting is reading your surroundings. Being aware of what is around you and certain paths that look like they're heavily used. Also being aware of what spot has food or water depends on what time deer are in need of food or water.

In the end, deer hunting is more than just taking the shot. It's about understanding nature and learning from each hunt. Every hunter knows it takes time and patience. Deer hunting teaches discipline, responsibility, and respect for nature things that go beyond just the hunt.

IS 6-7 REALLY GOING AWAY ANYTIME SOON?

BY: JYLES MEIER

6

Six Seven has continued to be used and is making multiple big platforms. You can find six-seven on Life 360, Clash Royale and even on an ad in the National Football League. Most of us were hoping six-seven would be a fading trend, but... Will six-sevennnnn continue to grow??

7

ART IN ACTION: STUDENTS BRING IMAGINATION TO LIFE

By: Lila Iverson

In the art class they have a large amount of creative freedom. For the media they choose to print but some of them make sculpture, paintings, or a mix! This was an inspiring class because of how they compared their projects to improve the quality. Mrs. Gramlow is an art teacher. She is pleased to see how everyone feels about the different art medias and the different techniques on how to create them. It is more than another assignment it is a creative adventure.

Who is someone helping with the creative process? Teacher Virginia Gramlow. She has been teaching for 18 years now. She has the mindset that the kids should pick their projects because “it is more about the process.” That is why she presented printmaking for their monotype and mono-print unit. “I think they loved it, because they got to have choice,” said Mrs. Gramlow. She hopes they take away “a love of creating things and to always be a creative thinker.” With the addition “of it, not just being a creative thinker but critical thinking too because they have to make a lot of choices and figure out what works best for which situations.” There are two groups high schoolers and the seventh graders. The high schoolers tried out multiple approaches to create something with a variety of materials. “Print making was working on trying out multiple approaches to create something. They also need to be proficient in a variety of materials. Since this is printmaking, they need to be proficient in the processes of printmaking. 7th grade worked on demonstrating persistence in developing skills. They need to try out new things and work their way through the creative process.” Mrs. Gramlow expressed that loved giving them freedom to express themselves.

What was created in the creative class? Well, some made paper mache objects that included an elephant, bowl, paper machine, cow, jewelry crown, and a mini basketball. A clay; penguin, cheeseburger, milnor Holder, hotdog vase. Last, but not least paintings and prints. In class, students are inspired by each other. Marly was “inspired to try to trace because of Alayna’s final project. I was originally going to print my snails another way, but I liked the fuzzy- almost 3d look that this style of printmaking gave off.” Some just took away compliments from the class like Isaiah ‘s work. “Every day is a new thing because everyone is doing something different” says Mrs. Gramlow. But every creative path comes with some struggles. “The most challenging part was deciding what color and paper I wanted to print on for sure,” said Marley. Also mentioning “it was definitely hard to decide it was done because I always want to add more. But I decided that because I chose a more cluttered background to print on, I would keep it simple with my print.” Isaiah thought the hardest part of his project was “trying to draw him. Making something out of scratch.” He made an elephant using various kinds of media. Even through their struggles, they are both satisfied with the way their projects turned out in the end. The artwork is on display in the library at the high school. Some of them are on the wall in the hall, and some of them are displayed in the case by the concession stand, each of the art pieces are carefully displayed on the walls and in the case, creatively distributed in their own personal space. But what do the artists think about this arrangement? “I really like that Mrs. Gramlow puts our artwork in the hallway for display. It’s a great spot to put it up where tons of people walk through everyday. I always love to see my classmates work, and I always get comments from other kids and teachers that say they saw my work in the hallway,” said Marley. “I like that people get to see my project and see how hard I worked on it” mentioned Isaiah. Art brings contemporary ideas to life and helps create expressions.

The art room might be messy, but it is full of a masterpiece in the making if one thing is certain these kids know how to turn imaginations into art.

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ART SPOTLIGHT

