The Bagpiper

June 6, 2025 | Reporting Freeman's news since 2009 | Volume 11, Issue 2

Elected ASB officers have new goals

By Emma Dreyer
Staff writer

The 2025-2026 school year ASB officers have just recently been selected, and they have many ideas on how to make next year the best one yet.

To begin with, the new ASB officers were asked to reflect on how they thought this year went, what they want to continue and what they want to do differently next year.

"I wish that we (ASB) were more of a tight team," junior Trenton Sanborn said, incoming Spirit Commissioner.

Another take on how this year's ASB did was from junior Greta Van Gemert, the current ASB Junior Treasurer and incoming ASB President.

"There's some things that didn't work in our favor, and then there's some things that did," Van Gemert said. "But I think the things that didn't work in our favor ended up making our end goal more special than we thought it was gonna be (when we achieved it)."

Next year, ASB unanimously agreed that they would like to bring back a rival game of some sort, like the Golden Garment or the Honey Bucket.

"My goals for ASB next year?" Van Gemert said. "Well, there's a couple. I would like to get a rival game going, and I would like to maybe bring up the more competitive side between our younger classmen and our upperclassmen to overall improve the involvement."

The rivalry game isn't the elected ASB's only idea.

"I want to give students more opportunities," junior Avery Boswel, ASB secretary, said. "Whether that's adding more clubs or more opportunities for people."

We can safely say that next year's student body rests in good hands, as the 2025-2026 ASB can't wait to make it the best year yet!

Photo Cierra Hayek

Junior Greta Van Gemert shares her ASB President platform with the student body during her election speech.

"How do you plan to get more students involved next year?"

"To lead by example and show up to everything I can," Avery Boswell (11) said.

"I plan on being as vocal and an advocate for every student and bring the vibes," Trenton Sandborn (11) said.

"I plan to get more students involved by creating a new way of doing games and assemblies. Spirit weeks," Greta Van Gemert (11) said.

"We're planning on running a lot more student involved stuff, so the house idea we had this year, we're planning on revisiting that next year," Cooper Florence (10) said.

"I'm planning on doing a lot more fundraisers that will span over the entire grade, and hopefully incorporate a lot more people to show up," Ava Aylward (11) said.

"It's not necessarily that we're trying to get more students involved, we're trying to change the atmosphere of Freeman itself," Rylee Russell (11) said.

"I plan to do my best to work alongside the rest of the ASB officers and support them in whatever we decide to do," Emma Dreyer (9) said.

"I am, hopefully, going to have more events and spirit weeks in order to increase competition throughout all of the grades," Briley Snyder (10) said.

The Bagpiper Staff 2024-2025

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2 hour late starts: more time to relax

By Lakiyah Gum
Staff writer

With the sun barely rising when we awake, we realize that it is the first Wednesday out of the month which marks the day we have a two hour late start. The feeling of excitement ripples through the body when you remember the extra time that comes with a late start.

Late starts help with the usual chaos of morning routines, having extra time to sleep in, complete work from the night before, or any other tasks that would be nice to accomplish before school.

Personally, I enjoy having two hour late starts. I am not a morning person so he two extra hours of sleep puts me in a better mood because I am more awake since it's not super early in the morning. With all the energy I feel motivated and ready to have a good day at school.

"I enjoy late starts," freshman Paityn Poston said. "Getting extra sleep in the morning is a big plus to my day. It gives me more time to get ready in the morning because I normally wake up late. I have more time to do my hair and pick a nice outfit. I normally wake up at 6:00 am which is difficult for me because I am not a morning person, so any extra sleep I can get makes a difference."

Junior Sienna Tatsey agrees.

"I personally love late starts because it gives me more time to get better rest and refresh my brain for the next day," Tatsey said. "I'm allowed to get work done and be ahead and more prepared for school the next day."

Late starts are helpful for our active student body to get caught up as well.

"Students that have sports and other extracurricular activities need extra rest because they have a lot on their plate," Poston said. "I believe athletes tend to stay up late tackling homework, I think late starts help with students' stress levels."

Sophomore Briley Snyder relates.

"I think late starts do benefit my mental health because when I am stressed and overwhelmed I have something to look forward to every month," she said. "I also believe it helps other students because it can make a big difference throughout the week. It gives students the opportunity to relax and recoup after a few weeks of ongoing school."

Senior Megan McGowan said "Mental health and stress levels for high school are definitely more expected. Normally in the morning, I am rushing which stresses me out, with the extra time I don't have to rush and I can take my time which relieves my stress levels"

"I like the schedule, yes," Poston said. "But in some classes the workload is much more than other classes so sometimes I feel like I don't have enough time to complete all of my assignments in the time span of that class. So sometimes the schedule can be irritating."

Students seem to be open to having 2-hour late starts more often then just once a month.

"I would love for our administration to add more two hour late starts throughout the year," Snyder said. "With a different schedule this school year, shortened classes are not shortened very much therefore students will get the appropriate amount of school."

Most two hour late starts are blessings in disguises. Instead of rushing through the morning, everyone has time to catch up with work from the night before, complete tasks that haven't been done, you can catch up with friends, chill, and enjoy the extra two hours that you have been given. As the day wraps up the two hour late starts bring a sense of joy and connections with students as they feel more rested and relaxed.

New class electives offered next fall

By Emma Dreyer
Staff writer

Next year offers new learning opportunities to Freeman students as new classes are being added to the 2025-2026 roster of possible electives. There are many reasons that Freeman would add new classes to the schedule. The main reason being the seven period day.

"Y'all are taking more classes," Freeman's college and career counselor Kaela Holm said. "When we offer the same number of classes that we had in a six period day in a seven period schedule, it started to mean that y'all started repeating classes."

Next fall, five new classes are being added to the schedule to help students avoid repeating classes. The new classes are Intro to Business and Marketing, Core Construction, Intro to Film, Sports History, and Drama.

"I'm pretty pumped about all of them," Holm said. "Anytime we can offer more options for kids, I think that it just enhances y'all's experience, both in the school as well as just in your education in general."

If you are interested in any of these electives, talk to Mrs. Holm to learn more about how to get signed up. Make sure you are taking advantage of these classes while they are still available!

Jim Rae demonstrates lining up a cut to his students.

Drama

Drama is returning to the schedule next year under English teacher Dan Thompson.

Drama class will be different from drama club, as it will focus more on the public speaking side of performing arts. Thompson hopes to do a play sometime next year with the students in his class as well as the members of the drama club.

"My first steps in my life were literally taken on a stage (my parents were in theater)," Thompson said. "Through college, I was in a ton of productions. But, I've also never taught drama before, so this will be a new adventure in teaching."

Intro to film:

Thompson will also be teaching another new course, Intro to Film, for juniors and seniors.

In Intro to Film, students will analyze the making and meaning of film through writing and discussion. Students will also be given the opportunity to make their own mini films to better understand the concept of movie development.

"For a long time, I've wanted to teach a film class, so I am super excited to help students see the beauty of filmmaking as a storytelling form." Thompson said.

Sports History:

Sports History is offered for juniors and seniors by Matt Smith.

In Sports History, students will explore the impact sports have had on the United States and around the world, diving into topics such as culture, politics, and economic factors.

"This is a student-driven class with an emphasis on research from various perspectives," Smith said. "Students will analyze how sports evolved from ancient times to modern professional leagues, understand how sports reflect and shape societal values, including issues of race, gender, and class. Students will also evaluate the role of politics, economics, and technology in sports history."

Intro to Business and Marketing:

Intro to Business and Marketing is a 9th-12th grade elective taught by Business Ed teacher Kyle Monasmith.

It is a CTE class geared towards uding what makes a business, how to start a business, and how to market a business.

"I am ecstatic to be adding another business class opportunity for students at FHS next school year," Monasmith said. "Intro to Business and Marketing will be a great opportunity for anyone wanting to learn more about how a business functions, what makes them successful and get insight into real world roles that might be a good fit for them in their future career. The hope is that we can offer an Advanced Business and Marketing class for students who want to continue their business journey the following year!"

Core Construction:

Core construction is an elective, geared towards underclassmen.

"Core Construction is a curriculum that was created by teachers alongside people who work in the construction industry," shop teacher Jim Rae said.

Students will gain an in depth understanding of the woodworking side of construction. It includes "skills such as being on time, showing up to work, and how to keep yourself safe," Rae said. "I am very excited because the curriculum is well done and comes with a lot of support. I believe it will be very beneficial for me and the students."

Bowen keeps our school running smoothly

By Zoie Hueser
Staff writer

Have you ever wondered what it was like to clean a school? Our janitor Joe Bowen works hard everyday to keep our school clean.

"I do enjoy my job as my second job," Bowen said. "My first job was very stressful as an aircraft mechanic."

Being a janitor is not easy though. Bowen faces many difficulties each day here at Freeman.

"Planning (is hard) because there's so many things to do," Bowen said. "I'm only one person. This place has so many areas that require effort, but I can't get them all. So I have to kind of itemize what I do when I do it around the schedule of classes and sports, day-to-day throughout the year."

Bowen follows a schedule that he has perfected over the years to best manage his time.

"The day starts with opening the building before anyone gets here, setting up for the daily activities, whether it's lunch and whatnot, take care of anything that might not have been gotten to by the night crew, and flow through the day as it happens. And obviously I have about half of the building to clean in the morning before school starts."

It does not cross our minds about how much Bowen does for us, but here's some things we can do to help his day run smoother.

"I wish they would not throw stuff, maybe food fights, stuff like that, like they would at home," Bowen said. "They wouldn't do it at home, try not to do it here. I understand they're having fun but maybe less messes. If you spill something, come grab me rather than just walking off. Stuff like that."

Bowen also shared some cleaning tips with us

"Just do the best you can do," he said. "Cleaning is pretty self explanatory. Everybody has to clean their house or somewhere back in their lives, so you just do the best you can. One thing I would say is with chemicals, use your gloves if you can, so you don't put yourself in unnecessary danger."

In conclusion, Bowen works tirelessly everyday to make sure we have a clean, healthy environment to learn in, and we should be more observant and appreciate it more.

Are there enough microwaves in our school?

By Bailee Amaral
Staff writer

Students all over our school have been complaining about the small amount of microwaves. With a little less than 300 kids in the school building every day, the lunch room, library, and the gym hallway are full of students during lunch. It can be a long wait until you can warm up your food.

Some students enjoy bringing their own food over buying the school lunch. Some may have allergies or food preferences. Some kids also bring leftover meals from home that they enjoy.

The lunchroom microwaves are helpful to heat up their own food, but there are issues with this: long lines, not enough microwaves, and the time we have to eat.

"I definitely would add maybe one or two more, just so that way it's not such a fight to get there," senior Layla Roberts said.

While the high school only has two microwaves in the lunchroom, the K-8 MPR has four available to students.

High school students interviewed for the article all agree that they would like another microwave just to try and speed up the process better.

"Maybe add in another microwave because I feel like only two is not enough for the whole school," freshman Samantha DuPont said.

Principal Jeff Smith also weighed in on the microwave issue.

"We actually used to have three," Smith said. "Our microwaves actually wear out very quickly compared to perhaps the middle school, elementary school MPR because we have a lot more students who actually heat their food up. They do wear out quickly. We also have only, unfortunately, just a couple of circuits in our MPR that can even handle microwaves."

With the growth of our school. The principal and ASB are hoping to bring in at least one more microwave to the lunch room.

These lines have been a struggle to be able to heat up your food. But at the end of the day, there are still two until there is a new outlet able to run a third microwave safely.

Photo Bailee Amaral

Students line up at one of two microwaves in our lunch room, waiting for their turn to cook their lunches.

Parker Vernon and his clarinet career

By Savannah Bickler
Staff writer

It's senior Parker Vernon's last year playing clarinet in the band. He has been greatly affected by the people in the band and his teacher James Jydstrup.

"I've been in band since 5th grade, so about 8 years," Vernon said.

Vernon spends an hour playing during class every day, sometimes bringing his clarinet home to practice or help other people.

Playing music and hanging out with everyone is the fun part of the band for Vernon, as well as listening to all the songs and getting to play them.

"Mr. J is a really good teacher," Vernon said about his biggest inspiration. "He helps motivate me to do better."

Music has made a positive impact on Vernon's life. It has given him experiences he will never forget.

"I think music is just very helpful in peoples' lives and helps open them to things they normally wouldn't do," he said. "My favorite memories are probably just going to state and playing and hanging out with my friends afterwards."

Vernon's family has helped him grow as a clarinet player just dealing with him practicing at home occasionally.

"It's really sad that this is my last year playing here and for Mr. J," Vernon said. "I am definitely going to try to come back for alumni nights if I'm here."

Vernon hopes to continue playing clarinet in the future.

Photo Nora Gass

Avery Boswell (11) and Parker Vernon (12) play at the December concert.

Photo Rowan McGarity

Parker Vernon plays with the pep band at the State B basketball tournament.

The only violin in the band

By Bailee Amaral
Staff writer

Senior Colin McPhillips is the only violin player in the band. He explained that he has a very quiet instrument.

"Nobody really hears me, but they're not really supposed to," he said.

Within the huge family of string instruments it can be hard to pick just one.

"I originally wanted to play the cello or bass and just started with the violin, but I ended up really liking the violin so I stuck with it," McPhillips said.

McPhillips has been playing the violin for 9 years starting in an orchestra then moving his way up through private lessons, the Freeman band and an orchestra at EWU.

"I started playing all the way back in elementary school in an orchestra."

McPhillips said there were benefits to playing violin.

"I don't have to hold my breath like everyone else."

McPhillips' advice for anyone wanting to play a stringed instrument is to "pick something that you can play with someone else. But I would recommend the violin because it's the superior instrument to anything."

McPhillips has definitely made his mark being the only violinist in the band.

Photo Chase Svelmoe

Freeman students share spring break adventures

By Emma Dreyer
Staff writer

Roy Sweeney

Over spring break, senior Roy Sweeney was able to relax and refresh in Idaho with his grandparents. He went fishing, set off fireworks, and took the time to reset for the rest of the school year.

"Once you take a break off school, you come back feeling better," Sweeney said.

Annie Schiene

Senior Annie Schiene spent her spring break in Odessa watching her dad's dirt bike race. While there, she was able to ride an electric vehicle for the first time around a small dirt bike track. She spent lots of time with her family, watching movies and going out for brunch. Schiene hopes to never forget the time she spent with her uncle.

"I hope to never forget sitting around the fire and hearing about (my uncle's) life," Schiene said.

Sofie Wasley

In Oahu, Hawaii, freshman Sofie Wasley was able to relax and refresh for the upcoming school year. She spent her time paddle boarding, swimming, and shopping with her mother and cousin. While Wasley feels refreshed after the break for the most part, she wishes she was given just a little more time.

"I wish spring break was just a little bit longer. Maybe like two weeks so we can better prepare ourselves for the upcoming work load."

Rex McGowan

Sophomore Rex McGowan spent his spring break working at Reinhardt and McKee's farms, where he painted a truck, picked up sticks, and completed other miscellaneous tasks. Over spring break, McGowan also shot his personal best in trap, which is 49 out of 50. Though he was very busy, McGowan still had enough time to spend with his family, especially his grandmother at her arena.

"I was riding horses with (my grandma) a lot," McGowan said. "She has an indoor arena for our horses. So that was fun."

Grace Duncan

Freshman Grace Duncan went to Palm Springs, Calif. over spring break, relaxing by the side of the pool, spending time with her family, and enjoying the warm weather.

"Spring break is the perfect time for students to refresh and relax before the rest of the semester," Duncan said.

Wylie Patzlaff

Over spring break, freshman Wylie Patzlaff visited both New Orleans, La. and his hometown in California. In New Orleans, Patzlaff went to a Tyler Childers concert, which he says was the highlight of his vacation. After the concert, he went to California to visit his old friends and family.

"Spring break is fun, but family is funner," Patzlaff said.

Berglund shines in FBLA

By Addy Agee
Staff writer

Future Business Leaders of America's (FBLA) importance for students is to give them a chance to build essential skills like leadership, teamwork, and communication. It has given sophomore Avery Berglund the opportunity to join a group of people and meet so many different people.

"Everyone I had talked to had said that it was one of their favorite parts of high school," Berglund said. "You get to meet so many amazing people from it."

Berglund said she was inspired to join FBLA by another member.

"Kate Schneider inspired me to join FBLA because she told me that you have no idea what an amazing experience it is until you join it."

She wanted to join and try it to see if she enjoyed it as much as everyone else did.

Berglund has been a member of FBLA for two years now and is planning on continuing her FBLA profession.

"Yes, absolutely," Berglund said of continuing her FBLA membership."I love it so much and it brings so many opportunities."

Berglund is competing in two group presentations, Intro to Business and American Enterprise. Sophomores Logan Pecht and Tansey Coyner are in her partners for the presentation "Money management tips for teens" in the Intro to Business category. Then she and seniors Emma Hollen and Brooke Berglund placed 4th, qualifing them for Nationals with their presentation on the American enterprise system and how the Golden Gem uses it to grow and maintain their business.

Her biggest accomplishment she has had in her FBLA years was winning 2nd with her presentation team in regionals.

Additionally, Berglund gets to present and compete with her sister. While also getting to compete with her sister, she is also one of Berglund's biggest supporters.

"She is always willing to practice my presentation and always gives me tips," Berglund said. The support and guidance of her sister has had a huge impact on her enjoyment of competing.

Berglund has had "lots of fun experiences and information about the different ways to become a Business Leader other than just having a whole bunch of money." Berglund has learned a lot of things to help her in the future with jobs.

June 29- July 2, Avery, Brooke and Emma will fly to Anaheim for Nationals.

Brooke Berglund, Avery Berglund and Emma Hollen qualified for nationals in American Enterprise.

FBLA State results

Congratulations to all the FBLA members who competed at state April 23-25. 26 members competed in a variety of competitions to try to qualify for Nationals in Anaheim Calif, June 29-July 2.

4th place, National Qualifiers:
Avery Berglund (10), Brooke Berglund (12), Emma Hollen (12): *American Enterprise Project"*

6th place:
Gianna Dilucca (12): *"Public Speaking"*

8th place:
Claire Poulsen: *"Job Interview"*

10th place:
Claire Poulsen, Lane Mathews: *"Graphic Design"*

Finalists
Ella Jones (12), Morgan LaMotte (12): *"Visual Design"*

Maris Vernon (11), Lillian Truett (12): *"Graphic Design"*

FBLA members competed at state for a shot to go to Nationals April 23-25. Congratulations to all of our state placers and to Avery Berglund, Brooke Berglund and Emma Hollen for qualifiying for Nationals!

Mr. Bruno, a passion for the outdoors

By Emma Dreyer
Staff writer

Outside of the classroom, history teacher John Bruno is more than just an educator. He is a hunter and nature-lover who enjoys spending his freetime outside.

He finds that nature is more than just a hobby for him; it is a way of living. Nature brings him a sense of peace and adventure that he can't find anywhere else.

"My favorite hobbies are everything in the woods," Bruno said.

One activity Bruno enjoys is scouting for animals. It is an activity that can be enjoyed both by hunters and by wildlife observers alike, as it is used to better locate animals and to understand animal movement patterns.

"I put up trail cameras and check them all summer," Bruno said.

Along with scouting, Bruno says he enjoys how peaceful fishing is.

"I am getting into fly fishing, and that is extremely fun and relaxing," Bruno said. "I think being outside is really healthy for people, and people should be as active as possible."

Mountain biking is another staple in Bruno's pastimes. He enjoys biking to new areas that he has never been to so that he can set up trail cameras and see what kind of animals live in that area.

"Another thing is that I'm getting into cross country mountain biking," Bruno said. "I bought myself a carbon fiber hardtail bike, and I go on closed roads and trails and try to explore new ground."

Bruno's connection to nature is clear, and he encourages others to get out there and enjoy it for themselves. His advice for anyone looking for something to do this summer is to go and explore the nature around you, you may be surprised by what you find.

Photo John Bruno

Photo John Bruno

The Tecate Grill: Good or bad?

By Leighla Bias
Staff writer

Tecate Grill, a Mexican restaurant brought to Spokane in 2005, is the place to go whether you are looking for a flavorful burrito, or a nice serving of chicken strips from the kids menu.

They serve a variety of meals, all stacking flavor, beans, your choice of meat, and, my personal favorite, their rice, all given in large, filling serving sizes.

Outside of these meals, each aspect inside of this restaurant is very fun and inviting.

When talking about the atmosphere and feel of the restaurant, my family and I all had great things to say about it.

For those that are sensitive to a louder restaurant, this place might not be for you. But to my family, each birthday song and loud Spanish interjection was very exciting. When singing happy birthday, each accent brought another perspective, and a yelp towards the end made by the restaurant's manager brought a jump and quick heart beats to many, including myself.

As you walk in, you instantly feel welcomed. Each worker was friendly, inviting, and quick to get you seated. Each time I've eaten here I was welcomed by a familiar face, feeling that the Tecate workers are much like a family.

The music is a continuous hum in the background, less heard under the laughter and chatter made by everyone. Each of these aspects definitely makes a person want to come back.

The food here is phenomenal and can cater to all taste buds.

"I thought the food was incredible because not a lot of places have food options for picky people," Alora Bissell, a "picky" 6th grader, said. "I was surprised that they had a food I liked, their chicken strips and fries."

As someone who has a very strict diet of pizza and chicken nuggets, Bissell had recommended Tecate's kids menu and their chicken strips.

I've been to Tecates countless times, usually just ordering a very large plate of their rice. But recently I ventured out and ordered a variety of their burritos and tacos, my most favorite so far being the "Tecate Burrito," which seemingly is a very popular order. I was surprised to find that there isn't much on this menu I wouldn't enjoy. I feel that comment could apply to many with this particular restaurant.

Overall, this Tecate Mexican Grill is a definite affordable favorite for my family and I.

From their workers to phenomenal and quick service to a tasteful menu, all adding personality and fun to a Mexican restaurant experience.

I would definitely recommend this restaurant for all. Rating in stars: A definite 4/4.

The Day the Earth Blew Up: A Looney Tunes Movie

By Colin Bailey
Staff writer

The Day the Earth Blew Up is a Looney Tunes movie about Daffy Duck and Porky Pig's adventure after their parent, Farmer Joe, leaves them with his house. In an effort to save the home from being condemned, they need a job to fix their roof; meanwhile, aliens slowly take over Earth.

Daffy Duck and Porky Pig's (both voiced by Erik Bauza) relationship goes back to when they were babies being raised by Farmer Joe (voiced by Fred Tatasciore). When they grew old enough that they didn't need Farmer Joe anymore, he left them with his house.

Daffy and Porky have to fix their house to keep it from being destroyed and their property from getting sold. They go venturing for a job but keep getting fired. Eventually, they find the perfect job from their new friend, Petunia Pig (voiced by Candi Milo). Daffy investigates the strange man wandering the factory of their new job. It's pretty important to remember there's a slow alien invasion taking place in the background, becoming more obvious as the movie progresses.

The animation is classic Looney Toons style with the unrealistic physics and the very dangerous injuries being survived instantly. The animation definitely has improved and is more clear than the older Looney Tunes cartoons.

The characterization was very clear on each character. For each character, you know how they would react to everything and how they developed their personality. The relationships in the movie are deeply connected to each other.

The humor of the movie is classic Looney Tunes humor, such as loud bangs, explosions, character injuries, character realizations, and random moments of slapstick and bodily humor. Adults and teens would have a great time watching this with their children.

The sound effects were very similar to the original Looney Toons animations, such as the loud bangs, huge explosions, a balloon inflating, and huge pops. These sound effects definitely play a huge role in the humor of the movie.

The Day the Earth Blew Up is a humorous story with a fresh twist. I recommend this movie for adults with younger children who love cartoons, and all other ages would most definitely find this movie entertaining.

I'm not a fan of Looney Tunes myself, this movie is definitely a 3 out of 4 stars because the story/plot was pretty basic.

Photo imdb.com

Photo gfanimation.com

Dave's Hot Chicken: Good or Bad?

By Leighla Bias
Staff Writer

Dave's Hot Chicken, a new restaurant brought to Spokane by Kevin Eggen, is the place to go if you are looking for a variety of chicken, all offering a strong spicy flavor.

Don't underestimate the spice of this chicken. Though it looks innocent, each bite brought heat and often a tear to the unsuspecting crowd. Outside of the chicken, each aspect of this new restaurant was intriguing and fun.

Freshman Kami Seubert also went to experience Dave's Hot Chicken during its opening weekend.

"It felt pretty good, a lot of graffiti, a lot of things to look at," Seubert said about the restaurant's atmosphere. "I feel with other places that everything is so boring, but I felt like I could look at stuff, and have conversation starters. Because there were all of these little knick knacks that you could point out."

I agree with her completely. Each detail inside was intriguing, entertaining, and exciting to look at. There seemed to be so much to explore as you let your eyes wander up and down each wall. It was wild, but in the best ways. It wasn't too chaotic and the building still had a comforting and fun feel to it.

The decorations and feel of the place were impeccable, and made the not-so-great service a bit less noticeable.

"The service was pretty good," Seubert said. "I just think they were packed, but they always made sure to check up on people."

We went to Dave's Hot Chicken the first weekend it was open, so it was very obviously busy.

Even though the restaurant was busy, and the line was long. Our food came quickly and the workers tried to consistently check in on us.

Photo Leighla Bias

Dave's Hot Chicken's chicken tenders meal.

For their first week, a few of their drink machines weren't working and all shakes, slushies were unavailable, which was a bit of a let down since I was looking forward to a "Top-Loaded Shake" with bits of M&Ms or Oreo.

Seubert and I had differing opinions about our food choices.

"It wasn't terrible," Seubert said about her meal of two hot chicken tenders and fries. "The bread was good, the fries were nicely seasoned. I just think the chicken wasn't seasoned all throughout. I guess I got chunks of spice, and it was not the best."

I thought my meal of two hot chicken tenders and fries was a bit too spicy, but when I went back and got mild, I enjoyed it far more. The flavor is both strong and tasteful, and far more noticeable when your mouth isn't burning.

There was also a complaint by my father, about how some of the chicken was kind of hard and difficult to chew.

I enjoyed Dave's Hot Chicken. The chicken was ok, and probably would've been better if I had chosen less spice. The sauce and the rest was helpful to add an extra complimenting flavor to the chicken, which made the meal far more enjoyable.

Both Seubert and I agreed that Dave's Hot Chicken definitely was a great restaurant to experience.

"It wasn't terrible by any means," Seubert said. "I would still recommend it. I would say the service is like a three out of four. The food itself, maybe like a two."

I recommend this restaurant to all, it just depends on what you are looking for. And if that's a spicy, tasteful meal you will love it here. Overall, I would rate Dave's Hot Chicken a three of four.

Photo Leighla Bias

Photo Leighla Bias

A Minecraft Movie brings the blocky world to life

By Logan Kusler
Staff writer

I've been a *Minecraft* fan for as long as I can remember. Whenever I could, I would either be playing or watching someone play the open-world classic. So when I heard that *A Minecraft Movie* was being released during Spring Break, I bought my tickets as fast as I could and wasn't at all disappointed after finishing the film.

★★★½

A Minecraft Movie introduces us to Steve (Jack Black), the most popular and default character in Minecraft. He breaks into a mine to fulfill his childhood desire to become a miner. Inside the mine, he discovers an orb and a crystal that transports him to the Overworld where Minecraft takes place.

Photo Warner Bros.

Steve is able to build his own personal paradise in the overworld and relax until he discovers the portal to the Nether, a dark and brutal world underneath the Overworld. There he meets Malgosha (Rachel House), the Piglin ruler of the Nether, who imprisons Steve due to his creativity. She seeks the orb and crystal that he discovered so that she can rule the Overworld, but Steve is able to send his dog, Dennis, back to the real world to hide it under his bed.

We are then brought back to Earth, where we are introduced to Garrett Garrison (Jason Momoa), a former video game champion who is struggling to keep his video game store open. He buys the contents of Steve's house at auction, finds the orb and crystal, and puts them in his store.

We then meet Henry (Sebastian Hansen) and Natalie (Emma Myers), who are siblings. They come into contact with Dawn (Danielle Brooks), a real estate agent who dreams of opening a petting zoo. After a jetpack incident at school, Henry pretends that Garrett is his dad and follows him back to his video game store, only to discover the orb and crystal.

Henry's curiosity gets the best of him, and he puts both pieces together, sending Garrett and him to the Overworld. Natalie and Dawn track Henry's location and are also sent to the world of Minecraft. Once they encounter Steve, he tells them his predicament, and they must defeat Malgosha. Along the way, they learn to adapt to their new, blocky environment and make new friends.

One of my favorite aspects of *A Minecraft Movie* is its comedy. Black is a very funny person, and it shows in this movie. Even the simplest lines, such as "I am Steve.", "Chicken jockey!" and "This is a crafting table." are delivered in such a way that you can't help but laugh. He also performed a song called "Lava Chicken," which was very funny.

A Minecraft Movie also really brought the world of *Minecraft* to life. Certain creatures in *Minecraft*, like creepers, piglins, zombies, and villagers, were re-imagined on the big screen. This was done fairly well in my opinion with clearly lots of effort and detail put into each design, especially the zombies and piglins.

The animators of this film also had to design landscapes, with a very nice mix of blocks and realism that works well with the initial concept of *Minecraft*.

I also enjoyed the references to popular people in the *Minecraft* community. *Micecraft* YouTubers DanTDM (one of the first YouTubers I ever watched) and MumboJumbo were featured in the scene where Garrett purchased Steve's house at an auction. There was also a pig featured in the film that was inspired by Technoblade, a popular *Minecraft* YouTuber who unfortunately passed away from cancer almost three years ago. I felt that *A Minecraft Movie* did a good job of including these pivotal members of the *Minecraft* community.

I did think that the writers of *A Minecraft Movie* could've done something more with the plot. I've seen similar storylines done before, where the misfits try to stop the evil person from taking over the world. I also felt that instead of a never-before-seen Piglin character, they could've had the Ender Dragon be the antagonist. They could be saving this idea for the possible next film, but time will only tell.

I think that *A Minecraft Movie* can be enjoyed by anyone who likes video games and a fun story, but I especially recommend this film to anyone who enjoys *Minecraft* because it is very true to the game and is chock-full of references that only Minecraft fans can understand.

Though this film may be targeted toward younger audiences, I still believe that *A Minecraft Movie* is a great film and is very enjoyable to watch. 3.5/4 stars.

Photo Warner Bros.

Steve yells "Chicken Jockey!" after Garrett comes face-to-face with a kid zombie on a chicken in a wrestling ring. Steve's phrase has gone viral in the past few weeks.

Photo Warner Bros.

Left: Malgosha, Ruler of the Nether. She is voiced by New Zealand actress Rachel House.

Tavolàta brings a taste of Italy to Spokane

By Logan Kusler
Staff writer

Downtown Spokane is home to many great things: Riverfront Park, River Park Square, and even the Garbage Goat. Yet downtown is home to another notable sight: Tavolàta.

Just by hearing the name, you know exactly what Tavolàta serves: Italian food. Since 2021, they have served almost everything Italian, from rigatoni to romana croquettes.

The design of Tavolàta is great; a calm, relaxed atmosphere that includes lots of wood and mood lighting, with a sort of brewhouse feel throughout the restaurant. I went before sunset, but during previous visits at night, the vibes are completely unmatched. A focal point of Tavolàta is their wall of mirrors, which adds lots of charm to the restaurant.

Photo Logan Kusler

My spaghetti entrée.

Before my main dish, I had a salami plate (prosciutto with Romano cheese), which was very good since both blended together well. I also ordered some crustini along with the plate, whose butteriness and crunch blended well with the salami.

After finishing my appetizer, it was time to try my entrée of spaghetti. Needless to say, I ate almost all of it. The noodles were thick and had a great taste. Other pastas mostly taste like sauce, but the taste of the noodles blended in with the sauce well.

The sauce is a puree of garlic, parmesan, basil, and tomato sauce, which I personally love as I can't do chunks in my sauces. The sauce has just the right amount of oregano, basil, and love. My only complaint is that the parmesan was a bit too much and overpowering, but in retrospect, I could've asked for no parm.

Photo Logan Kusler

My mom's halibut entrée.

I am a very picky eater, so I didn't try much else from Tavolàta. I went with my mom though, and she tried halibut with cannellini beans. She thought the halibut was grilled perfectly with crispy top and bottom. The tenderness and moistness of the fish was a highlight of their meal, along with the different textures of beans and vegetables and the meatiness of the fish.

The drinks Tavolàta served were also great. They had a homemade lemonade that was perfectly zesty and sweet, along with cold Boylan root beer that was maybe the best root beer I've ever had the pleasure of tasting.

Tavolàta's mastery of flavor set it apart from other local Italian restaurants. Unlike restaurants like Olive Garden and Ferraro's which, though I like, tend to oversalt their food. At Tavolàta, you can taste everything, without the need for heaps of salt.

Overall, Tavolàta is one of the most pleasant restaurants in Spokane, Italian or not. Tavolàta's expertise when it comes to food shows they have so much passion for crafting delicious meals. Next time you're downtown and want a delicious and filling meal with a great atmosphere, go to Tavolàta.

Photo Logan Kusler

Our salami plate, with my Boylan Root Beer to the right.

Photo Logan Kusler

Tavolàta in Downtown Spokane. It is located across the street from the Numerica Ice Ribbon.

Scan this QR Code to access Tavolàta's menu.

Rewriting the fairytale: Does *Snow White* deliver?

By Colin Bailey
Staff writer

Snow White is a live-action remake of the original Disney film, following a young princess escaping her jealous stepmother. This version focuses more on Snow White growing into leader than on being rescued.

Snow White (Rachael Zegler) lives under the rule of the Evil Queen (Gal Gadot). When the Queen feels threatened by her step-daughter's beauty and kindness, she orders her to be killed.

Snow runs into the forest and finds shelter with seven mysterious people, now reimagined as "magical creatures" instead of traditional dwarfs. They help her realize who she really is and how to stand up for herself.

The Queen uses her magic to disguise herself and trick Snow into eating a poison apple. Snow falls into a deep sleep that no one can wake from.

Instead of focusing on a prince saving her, this version shifts the story to Snow saving herself. It's more about her character growth and finding the strength to face the Queen.

The visuals of the movie keep some classic fairy tale elements but are bigger and more dramatic. The costumes, sets, and effects all help create a darker but still magical atmosphere.

The movie adds new songs and removes some parts from the original, focusing more on independence than romance. Some fans don't like these changes, while others think they make the story more modern.

There's still a message about kindness and bravery, but it's told in a different way. Snow White becomes a symbol of standing up against people who try to hold you back.

Snow White is a bold remake that changes a lot from the original but keeps the heart of the story. It's more about becoming a leader than finding true love. Any classic movie disney fans would enjoy, especially the younger age of kids.

Ripke sets Scotties' all-time strikeout record

Addy Agee
Staff Writer

Junior Kaylee Ripke has had some huge accomplishments to start off the softball season. On March 22, Ripke had her 500th strikeout.

"I honestly didn't even know I had gotten 500 strikeouts until a few days after the game," Ripke said.

Photo Jack Florence

Once she found out that she hit the pitching milestone, there was a lot of excitement and shock.

A moment of realization that she accomplished a big goal. Not only did she have a huge accomplishment of her own but she's also been helping lead her team into huge accomplishments.

"Because of Kaylee's dominant performance on the field and her team leadership, the team's goals are still on track," coach Tom Sefton said.

The team is currently #1 in league with their only losses coming to Mt. Spokane on April 28 and Liberty on April 29.

They are ranked #1 in 2B, first place in the south division conference, and on pace to be a #1 seed in district playoffs. "Most of all this team is tougher, more confident, looser, and having much more fun because of Kaylee's leadership on and off the field as a player," Sefton said.

Ripke has helped the team reach these goals.

Ripke has been playing softball since she was 6 years old.

"Growing up watching my dad play and hearing from people how good he was made me want to play and be just like him," Ripke said.

Her parents' support has a big impact on the mental side of her game just knowing her parents are there watching her play and enjoy the sport she loves.

"They are always there to support me no matter what, whether that be rain or shine, far or close."

Ripke has a bigger dream she's chasing.

"My goal is to play softball at the highest level after high school," she said.

She is hoping to continue her softball career at the next level but doesn't know where she wants to go yet. She just knows that's something she wants to do after high school.

While playing softball, Ripke has created unique bonds with many different people.

"So many, way more than I could have ever imagined," she said. "Softball has brought me so many of my best friends in life. I am so grateful for all of them."

Sefton says that Ripke's leadership is her overall strong suit.

"She brings a type of leadership that you rarely see," Sefton said. "She leads by example on and off the field- always giving 100% no matter what the score or the situation is. She is a vocal leader when she senses that's what the team needs. But more importantly, she helps and inspires others to do better when they may be struggling."

Photo Jack Florence

Ripke steps up to bat during the Scotties' 3-1 victory over Liberty on April 17.

Not only does she work on how she can benefit the team based on what she does to help, but when others are down, she is always helping lift them up. Ripke tries to make sure everyone is happy, ready for what they are about to do, strong and confident.

"Kaylee is like having another coach on and off the field, " Sefton said. "Her teammates respect her and look up to her."

Her leadership has had a tremendous impact on the team's game as the Scotties finished 2nd in state.

Photo Jack Florence

Photo Paityn Poston

Treton Sandborn, stepping up to the podium

By Leighla Bias
Staff writer

Junior Trenton Sandborn has already accomplished great things with his talent on the track, continuously finishing first by a large lead. Last year's win at state in high jump is one of the greatest shows of this talent, the other is his hard work and dedication.

Not only does he have a true talent in track, he brings his talent into volleyball and basketball, and off-season track at Spokane Speed Academy.

When asked what he learned from his teammates and coaches, Sandborn said "don't give up and try your hardest." He shows this at practice and at the track daily, while working hard in practices and being consistent while learning new abilities and perfecting them.

Sandborn tried track and field for the first time in 8th grade, and high jump during his freshman year. Throughout this, he has shown impeccable improvement and triumph with a PR of 6'8.25" in high jump. When asked about his skill in high jump, Sandborn said "I broke the school record, so I think that's a big improvement." His goal for high jump this year is to win state, which he is confident in.

Sandborn also competes in hurdles, with a Personal Record (PR) of 14.57 seconds in the 110m and 39.91 seconds in the 300m races. He also holds the school record in the 110m hurdles and multiple 1st place finishes.

Sandborn is both talented and powerful. Sandborn defended his state championship in high jump with a height of 6'7" as well as took first in the 110 hurdles (14.64) in May. Congrats on all of your wins and accomplishments.

Photo Logan Pecht

Knight drives her way to first place in district

By Savannah Bickler
Staff writer

Junior Lily Knight has big goals for her future in her golf career. She is hoping to achieve these goals by working to get better with the help of her coaches and trainers.

Knight's favorite part of golf is "the team aspect. It's just a lot of fun when we get to go places and play a round of golf with friends."

Knight first tried golf when she was 3 years old, but started playing competitively since freshman year. Knight grew up with a family that played a lot of golf, and that is essentially how her love for golf sprouted.

Knight's advice for anyone playing golf for the first time is "just have fun and just keep going out and playing and eventually it will click and you'll get better."

Golf is Knight's "favorite thing to do" in her spare time and has been for most of her life.

"The tournaments are pretty long, and we definitely get up pretty early, go get food then warm up and play and kind of just hang out with each other and have fun," Knight said.

Knight loves that golf is an outdoor sport and likes how you can pretty much play anytime you want.

"It's a lot of fun getting to see different people and how they play because we play people from different schools," Knight said of her favorite part of playing. "We make a lot of friends and become closer with our teammates as well."

Photo Rowan McGarity

Lily Knight lines up a put at Freeman's home match.

Knight loves to play golf with her friends and thinks it is a great way to build or strengthen already existing friendships.

Knight plans on continuing her golf career in the future and hopes to play in college and possibly beyond that.

She is finished 1st in the districts, and took 4th in state individually. The girls golf team won the state championship in May.

Emma Hollen wins the March Madness competition

By Logan Kusler
Staff writer

As the buzzer rang and cheers came from around the country, Florida fans celebrated their March Madness victory. But one of our students had extra reason to celebrate.

"I was very excited," said senior Emma Hollen, champion of the 2025 Freeman March Madness tournament. "I love to win and am very competitive in everything I do, so it's always a good feeling to get 1st place."

March Madness is the name for the annual NCAA college basketball tournament. In this single-elimination tournament, the best Division I colleges from across the nation battle for the NCAA Championship, where only one team will take home the title.

This tournament was a fun one. Every 1-seeded school made it to the Final Four, with Florida beating Houston 65-63 in the championship. Hollen decided to root for Florida since she thought "they were the best, most deserving team."

But it was more than a simple decision for Hollen. Hollen decided her picks based on both bracket and player statistics.

"I look at their schedule, best players, the players' experience, and how their last 10 games have gone," Hollen said. "That helps me get an idea on how they're doing currently, the team dynamic, and the types of teams they lose to."

Hollen correctly chose numerous upsets, such as the Midwest Conference 12-seeded McNeese's win over 5-seeded Clemson in the first round and the West Conference 12-seeded Colorado State over 5-seeded Memphis.

Photo Emma Hollen

Senior Emma Hollen beat out second place by 17 points.

Not all of Hollen's picks were accurate, which is inevitable during March Madness. Hollen carried 12-seeded Liberty to the Sweet Sixteen, but they lost in the first round.

Hollen also brought Wisconsin and St. John's to the Sweet Sixteen, with both losing in the Second round.

Hollen placed 1,843rd out of approximately 34 million Men's March Madness Brackets. She is near the 99.9% percentile in the 2025 March Madness bracket.

"The best part [of the tournament] was beating all the boys, especially Jack Florence, because they are always so cocky and think their bracket is the best and they will win," Hollen said. "So it's very satisfying to win the March Madness Bracket Challenge my senior year and end as the champion."

We congratulate Hollen on her impressive achievement. Placing better than over 30 million people is something that can't be understated. Who knows, in the future, Hollen could be the first person to ever secure a perfect bracket. Only time will tell.

Hollen's passion for tennis leads to on-court success

By Lakiyah Gum
Staff writer

Spring sports are in full swing, bringing a fresh burst of energy and excitement. As the weather warms up, players hit the courts ready to play tennis. Athletes show their skills and passion for the game.

A passion for a sport is a powerful force that leads to involvement and enjoyment of the activity, whether it's playing, watching, or discussing the sport. Emma Hollen finds the passion for the game that she has pursued for some years now.

Photo Pia Longinotti

Hollen serves in her win over Reardan/Davenport.

Being inspired by a sport means feeling motivated and encouraged, being confident, and enthusiastic for the sport.

"I always played pickleball in the summer with my family and I loved it, so I thought I'd like tennis too," Hollen said. "I have been playing tennis since my freshman year."

Hollen saw connections between tennis and her other sports when she joined.

"Tennis was a new sport for me, but it had similar motions to volleyball, so I thought I would pick it up quickly."

Coaches are crucial in sports because they guide athletes to develop skills, improve performance, and overall enhance their well-being and success in the sport.

"Mike Shanks was my coach for the first three years and he helped me develop my serve and net play which are my best skills," Hollen said. "He taught me the basic tennis skills and smarts. Ms. L has helped me see the game from a different point of view and really helps me improve my groundstrokes. The location and speed on them has improved a lot in only a few months."

Hollen has impressed coach Pia Longinotti with not only her tennis skills but her leadership on and off the court.

"It's been a real joy to coach Emma this year," Longinotti said. "I've watched her compete in both volleyball and tennis over the years from the sideline, and knew that she was going to have a strong shot at state this year. She's impressed me with her work ethic and willingness to try new things this season."

Hollen took on singles this year, after playing doubles for her first three years on the team.

"Hollen was willing to try something new this season. Playing singles has strengthened her doublesgame, where she will compete in post-season with Avery Boswell. It's been a joy to coach her and watch the improvement to an already solid game this season."

Friendships in sports are often important because those are your teammates. They work together, lift each other up and support one another and most importantly make memories.

"I grew really close with Kate Schneider who helped me a lot with the mental side and taught me how to play a more aggressive game," she said. "She also became more than just my partner, she became one of my best friends. One of my favorite memories was in my sophomore season, Kate and I made it to the district championship and we won districts as a team. I also had a lot of fun practices that year with Jack Schneider. We would joke around and laugh and that made practices a lot more enjoyable."

Hollen has taken those lessons she learned on the court and stepped up as team captain this year.

"Emma has been a strong leader this season," Longinotti said. "She has taken our new players under her wing, including them in practices and cheering them on in their matches. She supports her teammates and is willing to slot into whatever role is needed on the team."

For an athlete to succeed and do well in a performance, it means that they are around a good environment where they have support and encouragement.

"My biggest supporters are my parents and grandparents," Hollen said. "I can't just pick one of them because they all show up. They've rarely missed a game and most times all four of them are there. I always talk strategy with my dad, and my mom is always my biggest cheerleader, and my grandparents are always so proud of me, and they bring me good snacks for after my matches."

All good things do come to an end. Hollen has other plans when she heads to college in the fall.

"I definitely could play tennis but it's not something I see myself doing in the future," Hollen said. "I want to focus on my academics and other things in college so if I do tennis it will just be for fun."

Although, Hollen does say she will miss it.

"It's pretty crazy that it's my last year. I feel like I was just a freshman yesterday. It's a little unreal, especially because we only have less than a month left in the season. I am okay with it ending, but I will miss it, especially playing competitively."

Hollen and partner Avery Boswell won the 2B state champoinship in doubles to bring her career to an end.

Photo Pia Longinotti

Hollen returns serve in her singles victory over Lind-Ritzville.

Zehm brings passion to the diamond

By Colin Bailey
Staff writer

Senior Gavin Zehm is a key baseball player for Freeman's baseball team. Zehm brings a lot of experience to the team.

"I was probably four or five years old when I played T-ball for the first time," Zehm said.

Zehm's goal for this season "is to win districts and to make state."

While Zehm loves everything about baseball he has an absolute favorite part of baseball.

"My favorite part of baseball is the relationships I get to make with my teammates and coaches," Zehm said. "I just think that's the best part of it."

Zehm loves everything about baseball.

"My least favorite part of baseball is probably nothing," Zehm said, "Yeah, I love everything about baseball."

Zehm has many special memories of baseball, but he has one special one that took place in districts championships last year.

"My favorite memory of baseball is probably the final out we had in the district championship last year," Zehm said. "That was a really cool moment to celebrate."

Photo R. McGarity

Zehm makes contact during the Scottie's win over Lind-Ritzville on April 1.

Photo R. McGarity

Zehm slides into home scoring against Lind-Ritzville.

The easiest part of baseball for Zehm "is probably the fielding aspect." Zehm said.

The most difficult part of baseball for Zehm is when he's up to bat.

"The hardest part of baseball is definitely hitting," Zehm said, "I would say just trying to make contact with the ball can be challenging sometimes."

Zehm plays basketball as well, thoughhis favorite sport still remains to be baseball.

"Baseball is my favorite sport because I just love the relationships you get to make and also just getting to be outside," Zehm said.

Zehm and the Scotties finished 2nd in state this year with a 23-3 record.

Fiona Anderson looks to set new heights in pole vault

Addy Agee
Staff writer

Sophomore Fiona Anderson has been making significant strides in track since her seventh grade year. Anderson's events include pole vault, 200m, 4x100m relay, and 4x200m relay.

Anderson is a versatile athlete who consistently pushes her limits. In her 4x100m relay, she runs with Rylee Russell (11), Dakota Daines (12), and Nicole DuPont (11), while her 4x200m relay is with Russell, Daines, and Anneke Haskins (11).

Track has been filled with huge accomplishments and exciting records to beat with more new records trying to be reached daily for Anderson.

"I kinda always have records I'm trying to work towards in the back of my mind so being able to achieve something that I've worked at for so long is really special," Anderson said.

During her fourth season, she has broken the pole vault school record and the 200m school record. Anderson won the pole vault at state this year with a height of 10'6". She was also a part of the team that won the 4x200 and the time was 1:45.23 which set the 2B state record.

Getting to celebrate with her supporters around her, "both felt surreal!" she said. "Having people around me who got me there and are just as excited as I am adds a whole layer to it and makes it even better."

One of Anderson's favorite memories from track was freshman year state.

"My favorite memory from state is getting to bond with the team and experiencing a high level of competition in high school track," she said.

The chance to bond with her team and the competition was an important thing for Anderson and a huge enjoyment for her. Other people's support helps her enjoyment for track expand. Not only does she have the support from her teammates around her, but she also has the support from her grandpa and parents.

Photo Trenton Sandborn

"My parents provide every opportunity possible for me to pole vault," she said. "My grandpa and my parents are at every single one of my track meets even if they're across the country. It means a lot."

With the skill that Anderson has, she has been given many big opportunities.

"I've had the opportunity to compete at nationals 4 times through club track," Anderson said. "Situations like this push me to become a better athlete because it allows me to notice specific technical things that can get me to the next level."

Another big moment from track for Anderson was the Oregon relays.

"My favorite memory from the Oregon relays was competing at Hayward field and the atmosphere of it," she said. "It's in an area that's really interested in track so I had the best time watching track events there and competing."

Anderson was inspired to join track because "seeing people with similar backgrounds athletically such as gymnastics made me realize that there wasn't really a cap on how much success I could have as long as I wanted it badly enough and I was willing to work for it."

Anderson puts a lot of hard work into track to accomplish her goals and to help her eventually reach even higher goals she has for her future.

Anderson is hoping to continue her track career in the future.

"I've started to email college coaches and I hope to compete at the D1 level," Anderson said. A goal she is hoping to achieve in the future.

Dawson Burk tees up for the season

By Colin Bailey
State writer

Junior Dawson Burk is a phenomenal key golfer for the Scottie team. Burk is a great player with a phenomenal point of view on golf.

Burk has been playing golf since he was five years old for fun. He gradually become competitive throughout the years.

Burk's competitive nature drove him to continue golf. He enjoys the competitive aspect of golf and finds tournaments particularly enjoyable.

"My dad was my biggest motivation," Burk said. "I think I'm just a competitive guy, so the thought of competition just makes me motivated to keep playing golf."

Burk said he enjoys the competition in golf.

"The easiest part is probably just that I really get nervous for competitions," Burk said. "There are a lot of things hard things about golf, and there really aren't easy things, but I definitely like the competition."

Burk said the challenges of maintaining motivation during an off round is particularly challenging, emphasizing the importance of persistence. Mental strength in moments like this is a great way to do your best.

"It's such a mental sport that when you have bad days. They can be so hard on you. That's just where I have to keep going."

Burk seems like a very competitive player with a determined mindset. Burk ended the season qualifying for state.

Photo Naomi Davey

Burk practices his drive off the tee.

Spring sports state roundup

Photo Pia Longinotti

Girls Tennis: Junior Avery Boswell and senior Emma Hollen won the 1B/2B state championship on May 24. They defeated Manson's Stella Peterson and Brynn Williams 6-2, 6-1. They also brought home the 3rd place team trophy for Scotties tennis. Anchored by Boswell, the #1 doubles team (which also featured Ava Mounts during regular season) went undefeated on the year.

Photo John Bruno

Golf: The Lady Scotties are the team 1B/2B state champions! Individually, junior Lily Knight placed 4th, senior Ashlynn Meenach and junior Kassie Broers tied for 9th, Anna Marie McNally placed 11th, and junior Emerson Conklin placed 19th. Senior Tanner Goldsmith finished 13th in the boys 2B state tournament.

Photo Kristal Hayek

Softball: The Scotties took 2nd in 2B state after losing to Adna 6-10. The girls beat Lake Roosebelt (11-1), Northwest Christian (7-3) and Toledo (11-1) on their way to the championship game May 24.

Photo Bryce Williamson

Baseball: Baseball finished 2nd at the 2B state baseball tournament. They beat Warden (5-1), Liberty Bell (5-4) and Chewelah (2-1). They lost the championship game to Tri-Cities Prep (4-14).

Photo Kristal Hayek

Boys Track: Boys track placed 1st as a team at the 1B/2B/1A state meet. Junior Tyce Gilbert won the 300 Hurdles (39.45). Sophomore Trenton Sandborn is the state champion in High Jump (6' 7") and the 110 Hurdles (14.64). Tyce Gilbert (11), Jaetyn Cole (10), Cody Cayce (12), Jared Bazar (12), and Gio Sutherland (12) won the 4x100 (43.56).

Photo Kristal Hayek

Girls Track: Girls track placed 2nd as a team at the 1B/2B/1A state meet. The girls 4 x 200 team of Fiona Anderson (10), Anneke Haskins (11), Rylee Russell (11), Nicole DuPont (11) and Dakota Daines (12) won with a time of 1:45.23, setting a WIAA 2B state record. Daines won the Long Jump (16' 10.5"). Anderson won the Pole Vault (10' 6")