

The Storm Report

OAKES TORNADOES UPDATES

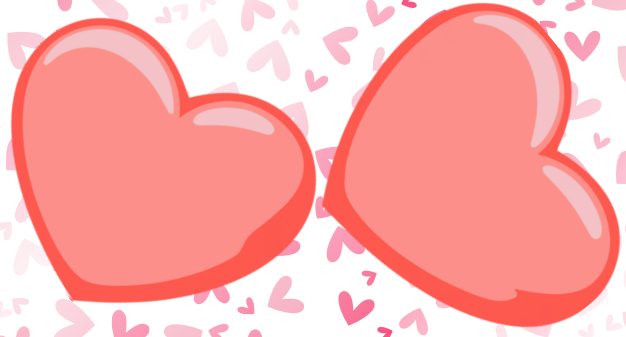
February 13, 2026



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Valentine's Day

By Ava Thompson



Giving your significant other a valentines day gift is a simple but a meaningful way to show your love and appreciation. A gift doesn't have to be expensive or fancy, it's the thought that counts. Taking time to choose or make something shows that you care, that you pay attention to what they like, and that you value in the relationship. After all your actions speak louder than words.

Valentines Day gifts help you strengthen emotional connection. According to [Party Alibaba](#) small gestures can make your partner feel seen, appreciated and loved which builds trust. Giving something as simple as a gift creates a shared moment and positive memory, reminding both people why they enjoy being together. Even a simple card, flowers, or favorite snack can go a long way and make someone feel very special.

Here are some ideas of what you could get them!

Women

- Gift cards
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Jewelry
- Self-Care Items
- Candles
- Water Bottle
- Phone Cases
- Snacks/Drinks
- Stuffed Animals

Men

- Gift Cards
- Video Games
- Tools for working in the shop
- Car Accessories
- Cap Hat
- Toy Tractors
- Hot wheel cars
- Water Bottle
- Clothes
- Drinks/Snacks

The Storm Report Boys Basketball Updates



By: McKenna Allston

The boys basketball team has had a great season so far, with their record being 15-3. With the regular season wrapping up, they're hoping to make another state appearance. Head coach, Jeremy Sitzler said bringing home the cowbell and watching different players earn player of the game has been some of the best highlights. Starting shooting guard, Beau Thorpe said, "The season has been going great so far, a few downs in the road but getting better every single day. The team needs to work on cutting out unnecessary turnovers, rushed shots, and second chance points for the other team before we head to districts."

Jeremy said the team had faced challenges when they had to start the season, they had to replace 3 starters from last year's team. Another challenge they faced was learning to play as a team. Senior, Jack Thorpe said, "I think that this years basketball team has been tremendous." Jack said that he has never been apart of a winning season in basketball.

Beau Thorpe: 22.7 points per game, 5.5 rebounds per game, 3 assist per game. Beau Thorpe reached 1,000 points in his career and broke the school record for 3 pointers in a season!!

Jyles Meier: 11.5 points per game, 9.5 rebounds per game, 3 assist per game

Reese Nitschke and Braysen Sagert: Each with 8 points per game

David Bakke and Andrew Udem: Playing great team basketball and playing the role as our point guards well.

Jack Thorpe: 5 points per game, 5 rebounds per game, 1 assist per game. "His numbers don't tell the importance of him on the team. He is the spark plug and voice this team needs. Brings that senior captain role everyday to practice and I know every game he is ready whenever we call on him." said Jeremy.

Be sure to cheer on the Tornadoes at LaMoure, on February 19th!



What Does NIL Mean for Future Athletes?

By: Breann Young

Friday Night lights, packed stadiums, and school pride used to define college sports. Now, dollar signs and brand deals are stepping onto the field too. College athletics are changing fast, and three letters are at the center of it all.

NIL stands for Name, Image, and Likeness. It's a policy that allows college athletes to earn money from their personal brands through endorsements, social media promotions, autographs, and appearances. Before 2021, athletes could lose their eligibility just for making money off their fame. Now, they can get paid while still playing their sport.

At first, NIL seemed like a fair change. College athletes spend countless hours training, traveling, and competing, so many people believed they deserved a chance to benefit financially. But along with the positives, NIL has also created some serious concerns.

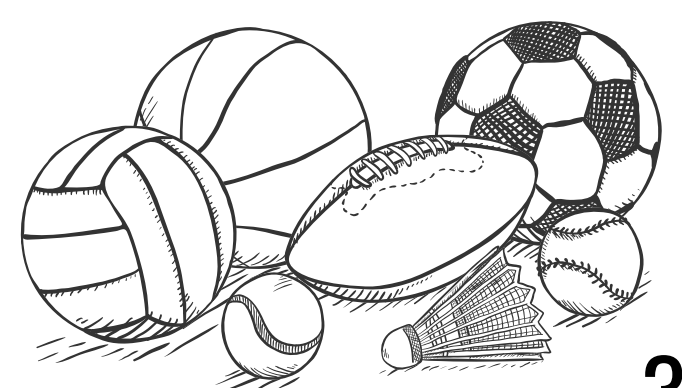
One major issue is time management. Student-athletes already juggle practices, games, travel, and schoolwork. Adding brand deals, social media responsibilities, and legal contracts can lead to stress, burnout, and distractions from academics. Another concern is that without proper guidance, athletes may sign unfair contracts or make poor financial decisions.

To get an adult perspective, I interviewed teacher and coach Shawn Sagert. When asked his overall opinion on NIL, he said, "It's ruining college sports." He believes NIL has changed recruiting and coaching in a negative way. "As a coach, you have no idea how long you have them in-house, so you have to coach them differently," he explained.

Sagert also worries about loyalty and team stability. With athletes able to transfer more freely and follow better financial opportunities, it can be harder for teams to build strong, long-term relationships. He even questioned the balance between college and professional pay, saying some college players are earning more than pro rookies.

Even though NIL gives athletes new opportunities, it has clearly changed college sports forever. Coaches, schools, and players are still adjusting to this new era where sports and business are more connected than ever, and the debate over whether that's good or bad is far from over.

After everything was said, is NIL still helping college sports grow, or changing it into something it was never meant to be?





Senior Spotlight: Zade “Nator” Heier

By: Kalyn Haafke

Zade Lawrence Heier, better known to many as “Nator,” has made the most of his high school years by staying active and involved. A multi-sport athlete, Zade participates in football, wrestling, baseball, and golf, keeping himself busy throughout every season of the school year.

When it comes to classes, Zade’s favorite is gym. He says it is the only class where you can run around and still call it learning. Instead of homework, students get to throw dodgeballs, shoot basketballs, and burn off energy without getting told to quiet down. For Zade, it is the perfect mix of fun and activity.

One staff member who has made an impact on him is Shawn Sagert. Zade appreciates that Mr. Sagert knows how to make things fun while keeping students on track. He describes him as someone who does not let things get out of control and is also just a genuinely cool guy to be around.

One of Zade’s favorite high school memories was beating Central Cass in football during his freshman year, a moment that still stands out to him. He also looks forward to school traditions like the Homecoming Week car smash, which brings excitement and school spirit each fall.

Outside of school, Zade enjoys snowmobiling during the long North Dakota winters. At home, he spends time with his three dogs: two Rottweilers named Diesel and Luna, and a German Shepherd named Cow, a name that definitely fits his description of high school as unpredictable.

If Zade had to sum up his high school experience in one word, it would be unpredictable. Between sports, traditions, friendships, and big wins on the field, his journey has kept him on his toes.

Congratulations, Zade. We cannot wait to see where life takes you next.

The Storm Report

Groundhog Day

By: Nadysen McKay



Every year on February 2nd, a small groundhog becomes the center of attention as people wait to see whether winter will continue or finally end. Groundhog Day is a long standing tradition based on the belief that the groundhog's shadow can predict the arrival of spring. While most people don't take the prediction seriously, the holiday is still widely celebrated for its humor and history.

Groundhog Day started in the late 1800s and came from old weather traditions in Europe. German immigrants brought these beliefs with them when they moved to the United States. They believed animals could help predict when spring would arrive. After settling in Pennsylvania, they picked the groundhog because it was easy to find in the area. The first official Groundhog Day took place in 1887 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where Punxsutawney Phil still makes his prediction each year.

On Groundhog Day 2026, Punxsutawney Phil made his yearly appearance to predict the weather. When he came out on February 2nd, Phil saw his shadow, which means there will be six more weeks of winter. A large crowd gathered early in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to watch the event as members of the Groundhog Club shared his prediction. Even though people know it's not very scientific, many still enjoy the tradition and look forward to Phil's forecast each year.

Noah "From Noah the most cool awesome guy ever in the whole wide world," says he always pays attention to Groundhog Day because the tradition is just really fun to him. He enjoys how people seriously rely on a small rodent to predict the weather, almost like the groundhog is some kind of God, which makes it entertaining. Even though he would much rather have an early spring, Phil had other plans this year. By the time Groundhog Day comes around, Noah feels a lot of excitement in the air, and it puts him in a really good mood. He says the day lifts his mood so much that it feels like his birthday all over again.

Dmitrii a new foreign exchange student here at Oakes Public School gives a very different answer. He says he doesn't pay attention to Groundhog Day because he doesn't really know what it is. Unlike the others, Dmitrii would actually prefer to have six more weeks of winter. When Groundhog Day comes around, he doesn't feel anything special about it. Overall, the holiday doesn't affect his mood at all since he isn't familiar with what it means.

In conclusion, Groundhog Day may not correctly predict the weather, but it still holds value as a long-standing and entertaining tradition. For some people, it brings excitement, laughter, and something to look forward to during winter, while for others it has little impact. Even with different opinions, the holiday continues to be a fun cultural event that many people enjoy year after year.

The Storm Report

Archery

By: Lila Iverson



Shooting Your Shot This Archery Season! This archery season is taking flight! Since the start of the season, there have already been three tournaments. Archers are still getting settled, setting goals, and working toward success, and this year feels like a fresh start for everyone. We also have one senior on our team this year, Miranda M! Archery is a sport for the mind—you don't have to run laps or do crazy workouts, instead you will stay focused and be yourself. There are ten steps and five whistle commands that you must follow, including stance, nock, drawing, aiming, releasing, and following through, along with whistle commands that tell you when to shoot, get your bow, get your arrows, or stop for an emergency. Once you master these, you're on your way to shooting a perfect 300, which is the maximum score you can get in one flight. Your "flight" is the time you shoot during a tournament, and you have two minutes to shoot five arrows. In bullseye, there are two practice rounds and six scoring rounds, with targets scored from zero to ten. In 3D, there is one practice round and six scoring rounds, with animal targets scored from zero or seven to ten, and distances ranging from 10 to 15 meters. You move one target to the right each round. There is no difference between the girls' and boys' divisions besides gender, and usually about 24 kids from 4th grade to 12th grade are on the line at once, which causes some pretty funny height differences.

Stats so far top three

High school

Lisbon

- Bullseye
- 1st Lila Iverson- 284
- 3rd Isaiah Wertz- 276

3d

- 1st Isaiah Wertz -284
- 2nd Brody Moore- 282 personal best

North Sargent

- 3d
- 2nd Lila Iverson- 285 personal best

Middle school

Lisbon

- Bullseye
- 1st Elizabeth Larson
- 3d
- 3rd Elizabeth Larson-269

Hankinson

- Bullseye
- 1st Elizabeth Larson- 279
- 3rd Cameron Honeyman- 270

North Sargent

- Bullseye
- 1st Elizabeth Larson-284 personal best

Elementary

Lisbon

- 2nd Autumn Handt- 250
- 1st Owen Jordahl- 260

3d

- 3rd Emary Pahl- 236
- 1st Owen Jordahl- 256
- 2nd Zaden Haak- 252

Hankinson

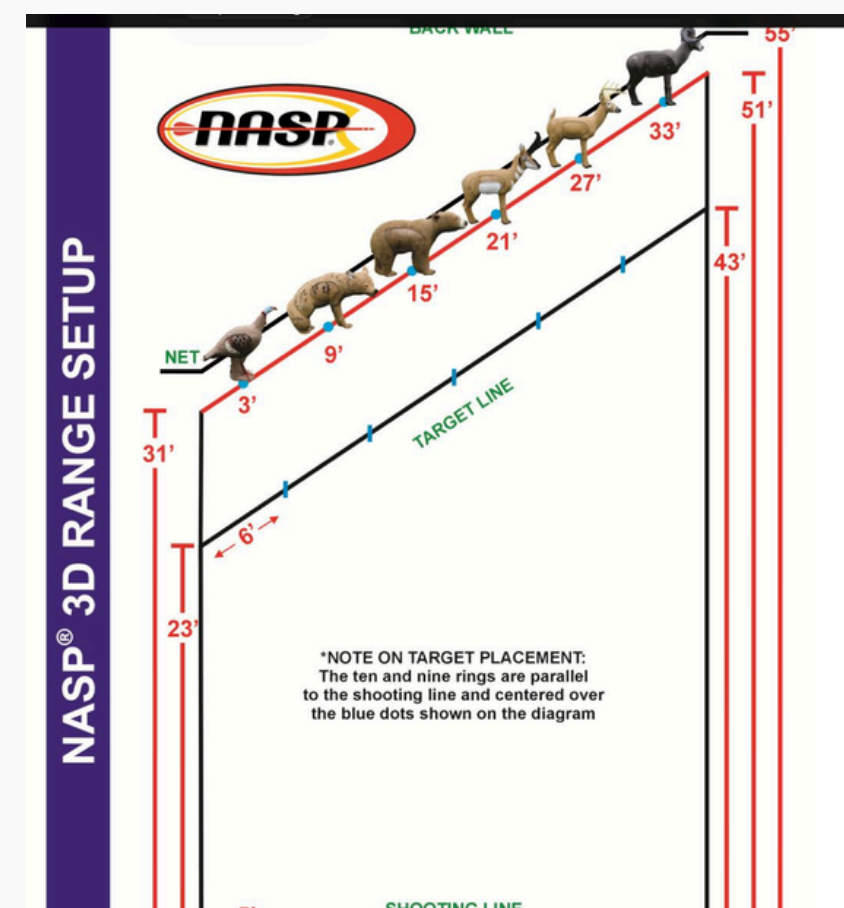
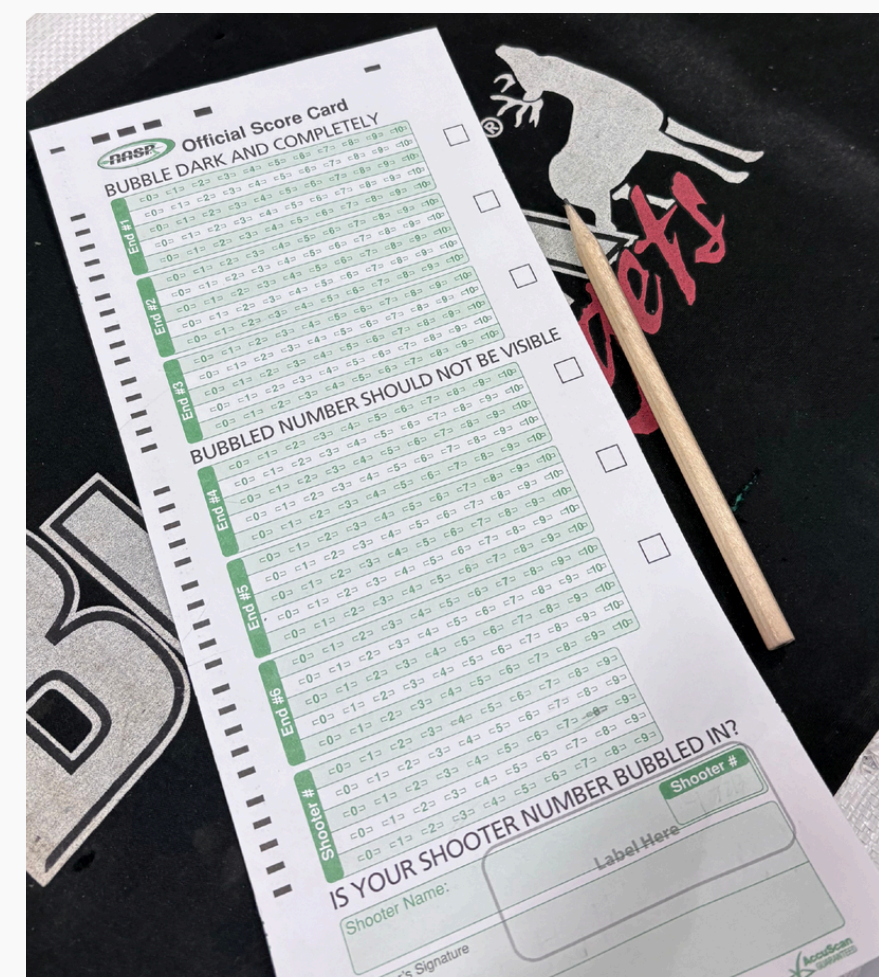
- bullseye
- 1st Zaden Haak-254

North Sargent

- Bullseye
- 1st Autumn Handt -263 personal best
- 2nd Emary Pahl- 256 personal best
- 1st Zaden Haak-269 personal best

3d

- 1st Zaden Haak- 264 personal best



<https://nasptournaments.org/>

Nazarene Youth Conference

By: Addie Umbreit

If you're looking for a place to join together in a place of worship, Salt Lake City, Utah is the place to be this summer. The Nazarene Youth Conference, or NYC, is a five-day youth conference with teens from the United States and Canada. This conference is hosted by the Church of the Nazarene and has been held for over six decades. NYC takes place over different locations every few years to give high school students a chance to unite in a time of worship, teaching, and community service. The last conference was held in July 2023 all the way in Tampa Bay, Florida.

This year's conference will take place in the summer located in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 30th-July 5th. Going along with a group of ten teens are two chaperones, Kalyn and Kyle Haafke. One of the teens going along, Weston Sorum, and Mrs. Haafke were able to explain what this trip consists of and how they are getting there.



Mrs. Haafke and Weston described what will be happening at this event. They mentioned that there will be sessions with worship, guest speakers, live performers who will share the gospel, and they will be serving the community of Salt Lake City. Mrs. Haafke is especially looking forward to Elevation Worship being there because they are her favorite. Weston is looking forward to growing faith in Jesus and spending a stress-free week making new friends and memories.

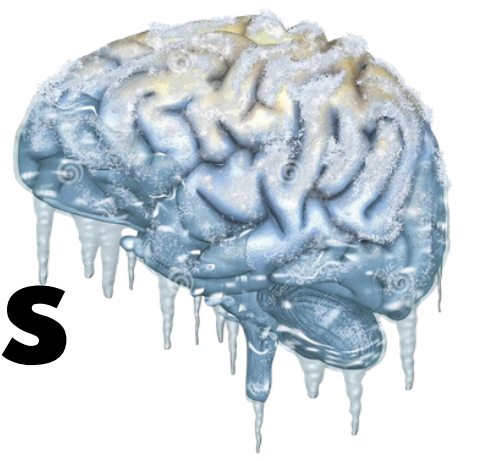
What does it take to attend the conference? In order to attend this event, it costs around \$2,000 per person. Mrs. Haafke explained that their goal was to fund raise half of everyone's trip, and they are almost to their goal. Currently, they have raised over \$9,000 putting them closer to reaching their target. To arrive in faraway Salt Lake City, they will travel by bus.

The Nazarene Youth Conference is a perfect way for teens to connect with peers, understand their role in a larger community, and grow in faith. Throughout this trip they will get to combine worship, service, and recreational activities to create life-long memories and experiences to bring back with them from Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Storm Report

Freezing Weather Frozen Brains

By: Isaac Bjornstad



It's been freezing for the past few months, I'm sure you're all aware of that. So that means bundling up in a jacket to keep yourself warm. Now I'm sure there are some kids who tell themselves that they don't need to, and that they'll be fine (you know who you are). So, I'm here to further convince you so you don't freeze up like a SpongeBob popsicle out there.

To start off, it's not great for your health to be walking outside with only a shirt and pants. According to Great Falls Clinic, you're much more susceptible to illness in the cold, as it lowers your immune system and causes viruses to spread with ease. As well as this, it can also lead to bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and tighten airways. Now I'm sure these sound like ideal ways to stay in your warm bed; however, some of these won't go away after some rest, some of these stick with you forever. So, maybe rethink trying to get in a free sick day, you might have to keep yourself warm a lot longer.

The body is also greatly affected by the cold. According to MIBlueDaily, the cold heightens your body's sense of pain, which can possibly cause muscle spasms. It can also cause injuries already inflicted to become worsened by expanding muscles and tendons, putting pressure on your injuries. You also risk hypothermia, a total body shutdown that can be fatal. So, I'd say it's better to stay warm rather than shatter into pieces because you fell over before you went outside.

And we aren't done, as the cold can also affect your brain functions. According to The Survival University, the cold affects the flow of blood to our brains. Now you might not think much of that, but the brain requires a lot of blood to function properly. This leads to us having a harder time absorbing oxygen, as well as having your thinking skills slowed down. So don't make the sloppy decisions, or your brain might turn into the icy slop on the streets.

In conclusion, to the kids that come to school with only a t-shirt and shorts, it's much better to wear clothes that can keep you warm instead of saying "I'll be fine without it." You'll be far safer keeping warm and function much better if you wear something warm. Hopefully this reaches its intended audience, and you stop being so stubborn. Put on a jacket and some gloves already, 'cause it's not gonna get any better, not even with those hot threads.

The Storm Report

Volunteer Opportunities

By: Ava Thompson



Are you someone looking for services hours or wanting to help our community?
Here are 5 starting options for Volunteer Opportunities in Oakes, ND!

1. Oakes Food Pantry

The Oakes Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers. Their mission is to improve people's health and well-being by providing nutritious food. Their main vision is to create a community that is free of hunger through generosity, volunteers, individuals, and community partnerships. If interested, please contact (701) 742-6003 for more information. Feel free to follow their Facebook, The Oakes food pantry for daily updates!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571754187329>

2. Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels are operated by the Dickey Country Senior Citizens. This program is for people over the age of 60 who are too old to leave their home; meals are delivered over lunch Monday through Friday by volunteers. You will NOT get paid however this will help out your community. Here's what you need to know, you will walk into the Manner, get food in bags, and there will be delivery addresses on paper. You would need to get the food to the address. Most people say it is easier to do this in a group of 2. If you are younger without a license and want to do this, someone else will drive you and you can deliver the food yourself! If you are interested, please call (701)-742-3509.

3. Beer Creek Rough Riders (BCR)

The Beer Creek Rough Riders (BCR) are to educate and bring together people who love animals. You can make so many friends through BCR. Some of their major events consist of Irrigation Days Rodeo, Summer Barrel Racing Series, I Wish I Had Horse Nights, Fun Day Shows and Trail Rides. Whether it be working on concessions, opening and closing gates, dragging the arena, setting barrels, poles, and any other volunteer options, they could always use the help. You can also become a member for \$25 individual or family. Check Out their website: <https://www.bearcreekroughriders.com/>

4. Senior center and manor

The senior center and the manner are always looking for volunteers. The old folks love to see young kids or even teens. You could play games with them, make crafts and even just be their friend.

- Senior center: (701) 742-3509
- Manor: Visite their website: <https://www.good-sam.com/locations/oakes>

5. School

- Working concessions if fairly easy. You can make popcorn, give people their food, and drinks. For more information, check out the Teamakers Facebook page to sign up!
- Help clean up after games whether it's at football, volleyball, basketball, baseball.
- Preform the national anthem at school this could be singing, playing interment, or a group preformance.

The Storm Report

Eating Like Champions

By: Kalyn Haafke



Wrestling season requires discipline, dedication, and apparently, the ability to say no to cravings for three straight months.

From carefully measured portions to constant weigh-ins, wrestlers have spent the season thinking about one thing almost as much as winning...what they're going to eat when it's all over.

Now that the season is wrapping up, the dreams are getting specific: donuts stacked high, milkshakes the size of trophies, and enough fast food to feed an entire team. I asked the varsity wrestlers one simple question: What's the first thing you're eating when the season ends? Here is what they had to say.

**A dozen donuts &
an XL chocolate
milkshake**

Zade Heier

**2 Daves Hot
Chicken Sliders
& Fries**

Max Cline

**Anything in sight.
Pizza in New York
City**

Ben Wagner

**Dairy Queen
Bacon Cheeseburger
Meal**

Karsen German

**Maple Long John
with nuts from
Sandy's Donuts**

Mathias Dahlstrom

**Casey's all meat
pizza with
chocolate milk**

Jacob Ptacek

**Daves Hot Chicken,
honey chicken
sandwich with a fruity
pebbles milkshake**

Carter Wald

**Daves Hot Chicken,
Crumbl Cookie, &
Buffalo Wild Wings**

Owen Iverson

**Blue Gatorade &
Sweets & Stories
Sub Sandwich**

Tucker Meierotto

**Chocolate chips
cookies from
McDonald's & a glass
of milk**

Trygg Dahlstrom

**Texas Roadhouse,
Crumbl Cookies,
Sandy's Donuts, &
Wing Wednesday @
T-Stop**

Sutton Stearns

**Large pepperoni
pizza from Corner
C Store**

Jaren Nelson

The Storm Report

Student of the Month

For the months of December and January students were nominated based on communication & genuine relationships.

7th Grader

This student stands out for his strong communication skills and the genuine relationships he builds with others.

He clearly communicates his needs in the classroom and is always willing to help classmates with theirs. His good-natured personality and friendly attitude make him someone others enjoy being around. He is confident in sharing his thoughts and does an excellent job listening to others. Whether in the classroom or on the court, his peers are always cheering him on. He helps create an environment where everyone feels welcome and included.

Senior

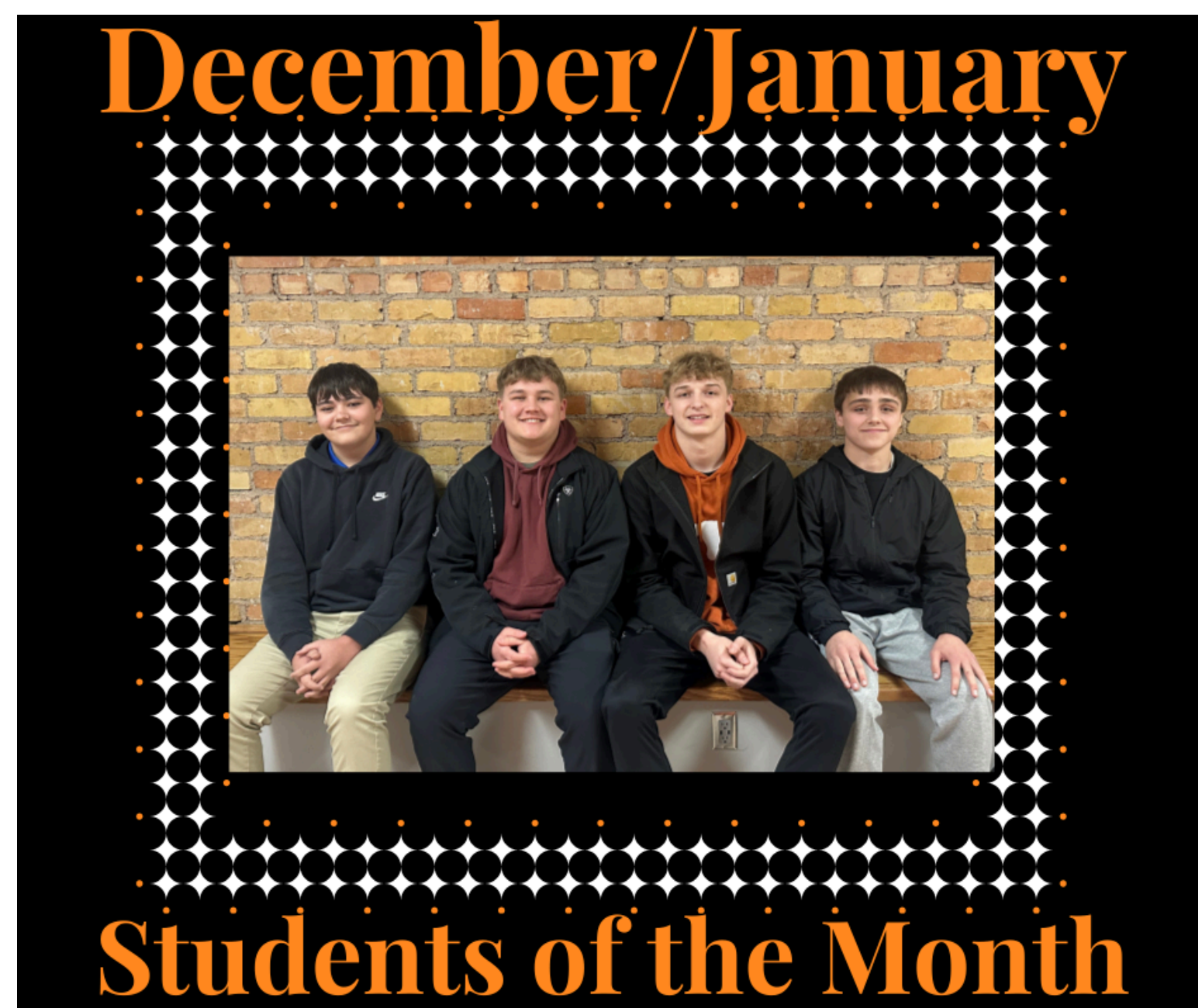
This senior exemplifies outstanding communication in the classroom. He respectfully shares his thoughts and is receptive to the opinions of others. When he challenges ideas, he does so thoughtfully to offer new perspectives in a kind and constructive way. He is a true example of what it means to be a great communicator.

Senior

This senior consistently demonstrates strong communication, leadership, and genuine care for others. Even when not required, he chooses to attend Monday homeroom so he can participate in discussions, help lead conversations, and engage respectfully with his peers. His empathy extends beyond the classroom, as he regularly checks in on others and makes them feel seen and heard. He brings positive energy to our school, whether in the classroom, hallways, or at sporting events, and sets a strong example on the basketball court by encouraging teammates through his actions. His ability to build authentic relationships and support his community makes him truly deserving of this recognition.

Senior

Our final Student of the Month shares his ideas thoughtfully while respectfully listening to others. His quiet kindness helps create a positive and welcoming classroom environment. He consistently demonstrates an exceptional ability to build strong relationships with his peers and serves as a positive role model who genuinely lifts others up. This is evident not only in the classroom, but also on the wrestling mat, where he continually encourages his teammates and treats everyone with respect. He works hard to build others up, offer help when needed, and check in on how others are doing. The habits he displays foster genuine relationships and contribute to a positive culture that impacts everyone around him.



The Storm Report

Dubai Chocolate



By: Dylan Quant



Dubai Chocolate, is it really worth it, or is it all hype? Dubai chocolate is a luxury chocolate bar. It was made by Sarah Hamouda. Obviously it's made in Dubai. It mixes some European flavors with some Middle Eastern flavors. The chocolate, usually high quality Belgian Dark or milk chocolate, is the european part of the bar. The filling is made with Middle Eastern type of ingredients.

I don't know about you but the first time I saw Dubai Chocolate, the thing that stuck out to me was the green filing. It made me curious, and I did some research. The most notable Ingredient of the the filling is a shredded pastry called kataifi. It is mixed with the creamy pistachio paste and tahini. Tahini is similar to peanut butter instead made with toasted sesame seeds. All of those combined make the green, creamy filling, with some crunch in it as well.

I tried some Dubai Chocolate, but it wasn't actually the original one from Dubai. It looked similar with green filling and thick chocolate. To be honest, it wasn't very good or bad. It was just not what I expected. The chocolate tasted fine and I could tell there was pistachio in the filling. Really nothing stood out in a big way.

I also think it's fair to say that since it wasn't the actual Dubai version, that might have made a difference. Maybe the real one has better ingredients or a stronger flavor or something. So even though it wasn't as good as I thought, I wouldn't judge the whole brand off that. I will probably still try the real one sometime.



Guess Who?

Elizabeth Schieler



In the article
Guess Who the
teacher in
question was
Virginia
Gramlow.

Answers

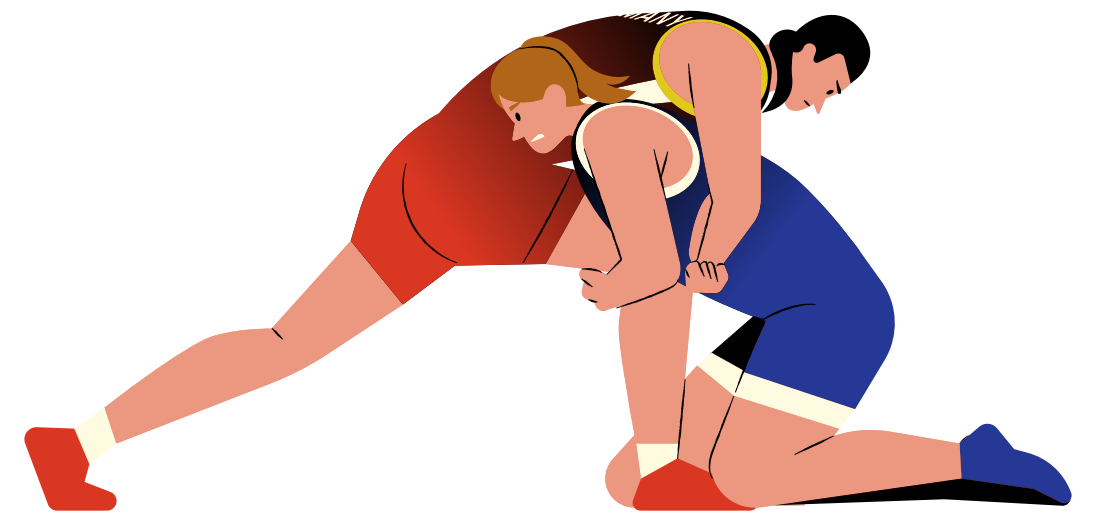


Becca Robert's



The Storm Report Boys Wrestling

By: Jyles Meier



Varsity wrestling is wrapping up the regular season, and they're above 500. This year the boys are 4-3 taking losses from Kindred, Lisbon, and EEK. With the regional tournament coming up to compete for a spot at state.

Wrestling takes a lot of grit and discipline to get better every day, but with that unwarranted injuries come. Coach Schall says they all need to stay healthy to be successful. With only having 18 kids, not having the full squad makes it harder to compete with teams that have a bunch.

Last weekend's recap at the East-West classic, Oakes had a few winners. Ben Wagner at 121 Placed 1st. Also, Jacob Ptacek placing 1st at 189. Both had to wrestle 4 matches to get their trophy.

I asked head Coach Schall what the teams goal was for the season. He responded saying, "Our goal is to make it to the dual state tournament again this year." Oakes has beaten the #2 team in the state and has taken three close dual losses to top 5 teams.

The next weekend is individuals qualifier for state in valley city. If the team doesn't qualify, individuals can still make it to the Fargo dome. The state tournament follows up the next weekend after the individual qualifier.

This weekend decides whether our team will make the dual state tournament. As the Boys head up to napoleon to compete against EEK to try and secure a spot in the tournament. "Do not focus on wins and losses, Just keep improving everyday," Schall says when I asked him what lesson he hopes his wrestlers take off the mat. So as our wrestlers take off to try and finalize their goal, support them and get them all the food they've been dreaming of.