

The Storm Report

OAKES TORNADOES UPDATES

April 10th, 2026



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Library Corner

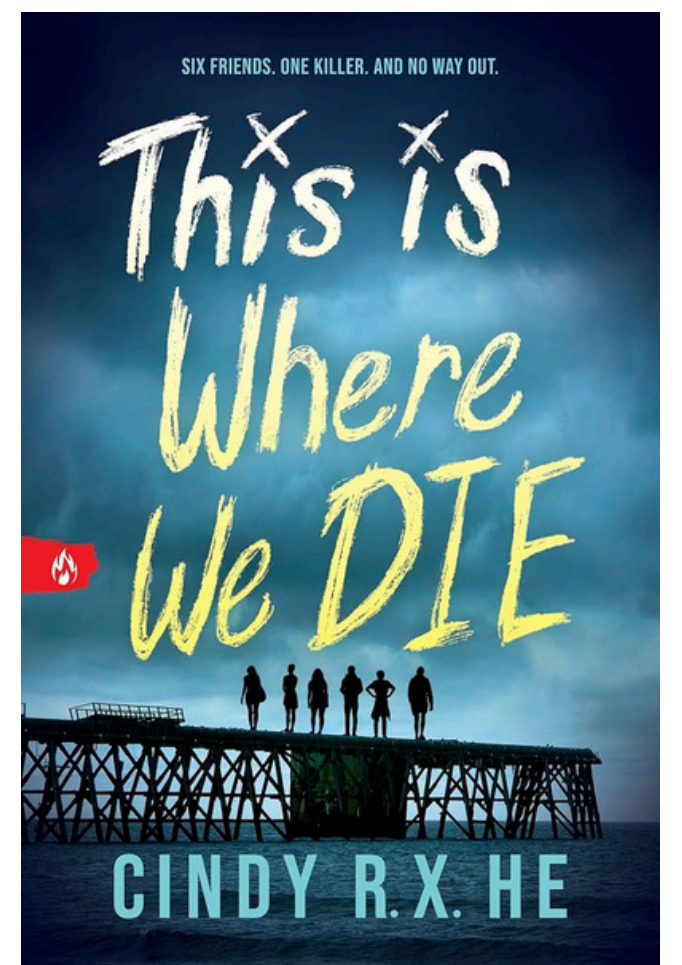
By: Krista Dobitz

This Is Where We Die by Cindy R. X. He

Genre: Suspense

AR Level: 4.9 / 10 points

Synopsis: A tense sci-fi thriller set on a desolate, island retreat; this novel follows a group of teens fighting to survive when everything – and everyone – turns deadly. With shifting alliances, high stakes, and nonstop twists, *This Is Where We Die* is a gripping read for fans of survival stories, mystery, and speculative worlds where trust can be the difference between life and death.

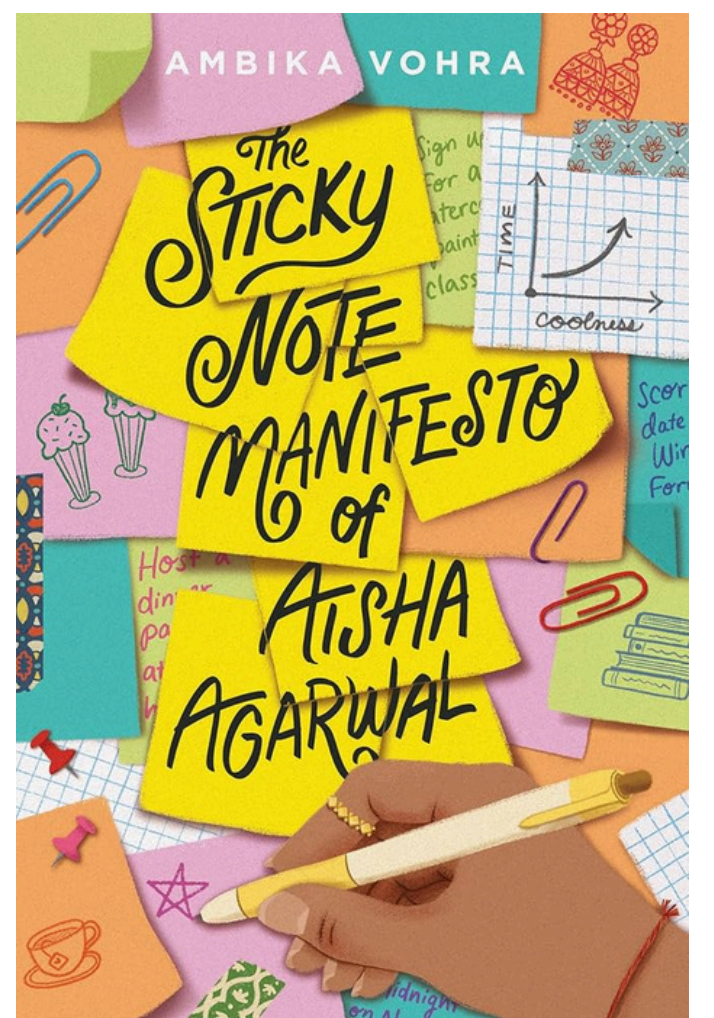


The Sticky Note Manifesto of Aisha Agarwal by Ambika Vohra

Genre: Realistic Fiction

AR Level: 5.0 / 14 points

Synopsis: Aisha Agarwal has plans for her future – and a whole lot of sticky notes to keep her life (and anxiety) under control. But when her carefully organized world starts to unravel, Aisha must figure out who she is beyond expectations from family, friends, and herself. This warm, reflective contemporary novel explores identity, mental health, and finding your voice with humor and heart.

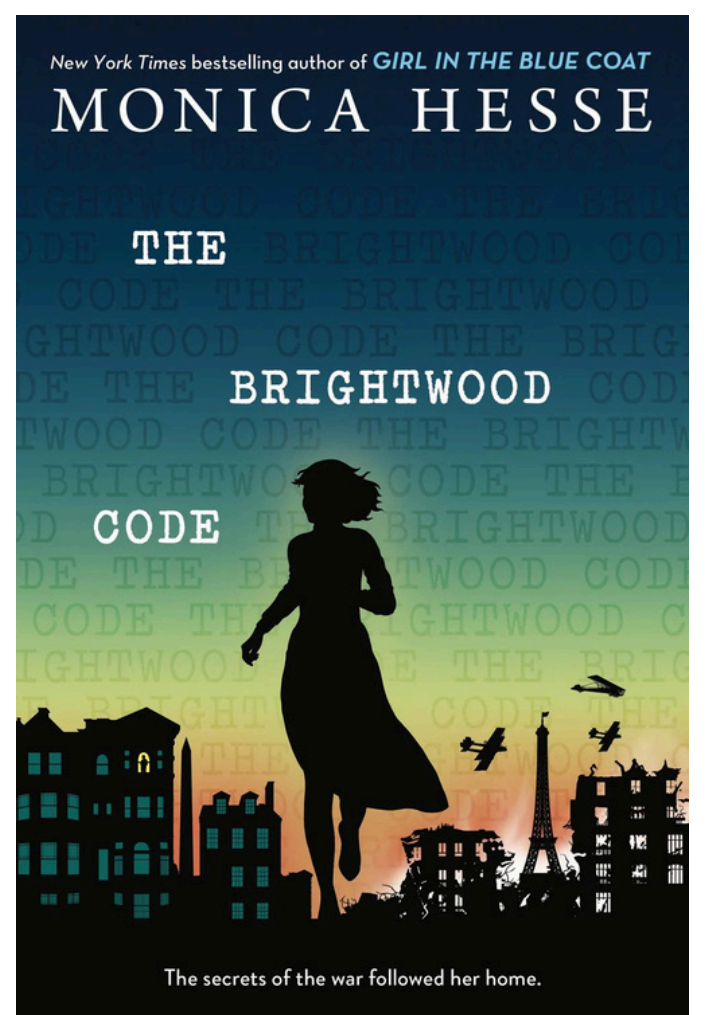


The Brightwood Code by Monica Hesse

Genre: Historical Fiction

AR Level: 5.6 / 11 points

Synopsis: A gripping historical mystery set during and just after World War I, *The Brightwood Code* follows Edda St. James, an eighteen-year-old “Hello Girl” who served as a U.S. Army telephone operator on the front lines in France, responsible for memorizing and using ever-changing military codes. Back home in Washington, D.C., Edda is struggling with the memories of the war when a mysterious phone call containing the code word “Brightwood” pulls her into an investigation that forces her to confront her past. Blending suspense with hidden history, the novel explores trauma, truth, and the crucial – but often overlooked – role women played in wartime communication.



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Travel Smart: How to Explore the World on a Budget

By: Breann Young

Traveling on a budget might seem hard, but it is totally possible and can still be fun. You don't need a lot of money to explore new places you just need to plan smart and make good choices. A lot of people think traveling is only for people with money, but that's not always the case. There are many ways to save money while still having a great experience and making memories.

One of the biggest ways to save money is by planning ahead and being flexible. Flights and hotels are usually cheaper if you book early or go during less busy times of the year. Instead of staying at expensive hotels, you can stay in cheaper places like hostels, budget hotels, or even with friends or family. Also, using apps and websites to find deals can help you save a lot. If you're flexible with your travel dates, you can usually find better prices.

Food is another thing that can get expensive quickly. Instead of eating out all the time, you can buy groceries and make some of your own meals. This saves a lot of money, especially if you're traveling for a few days or longer. You can also try local street food, which is usually cheaper and lets you try new things. Bringing snacks and a water bottle can also help you avoid spending extra money during the day.

Transportation is another way to save. Instead of taking taxis or renting a car, you can use buses, trains, or even just walk. A lot of places have cheap public transportation passes that make it easy to get around. Walking is also a great option because you get to see more and explore at your own pace. It might take longer, but it's worth it.

Overall, traveling on a budget is all about being smart with your money. You don't have to spend a lot to have a good time. With some planning and creativity, you can go to new places, try new things, and still stay within your budget. It just takes a little effort, and the experience is totally worth it.



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Senior Spotlight

By: Kalyn Haafke



Meet this dedicated and well-rounded senior who has made the most of her high school experience. Throughout her time in high school, she has been actively involved in basketball, volleyball, honor society, and youth group, balancing both academics and athletics with determination and resilience.

One of her favorite classes has been EMT, where she enjoys the engaging environment and fun teaching style. She also shared that her favorite teacher is Mrs. Haafke, someone she has grown close to through youth group. From that relationship, she has learned the importance of keeping her faith strong and encouraging younger students to get involved in church.

When it comes to school traditions, she especially loves the excitement of homecoming week, from the dress-up days to being crowned homecoming queen, a moment she considers her favorite high school memory. Another standout moment was being crowned prom queen, an accomplishment she is especially proud of. Inspired by role models like Ann Muggli, she values kindness and hopes others see her in the same light.

She is very family-oriented and truly values time spent with those closest to her. Outside of school, she enjoys spending her summers at the lake with her family, jet skiing, and shopping. When reflecting on her high school journey, she describes it as a “learning experience.” One of her biggest challenges was balancing the demands of being a student-athlete. While she always maintained strong grades, the mental challenge of staying motivated was real. She overcame this by shifting her mindset, learning to appreciate the experience and not take her time as an athlete for granted.

Over the years, she has grown in confidence and self-awareness, learning that it is okay to distance herself from people who do not better her as a person and not to revolve her entire life around sports. Her faith has also played a significant role in shaping who she is today, and she hopes to continue staying involved in a church community after graduation.

She credits much of her growth to the Lovelace and Haafke families. As she shared, “Throughout my years at OCN, our families have all grown close. They’ve always felt like another family to me by the kindness they’ve showed me and the way they care for my future.” Their support has helped her learn to be proud of the gifts God has blessed her with and to use them.

Looking ahead, she plans to attend North Dakota State College of Science to pursue a career in dental hygiene. Over the past year, she has gained valuable hands-on experience by job shadowing at Cotter Dental, further fueling her passion for the field.

After graduation, her goals are simple but meaningful: to build a family and a home while pursuing a career she loves. Her advice to her freshman self? “Dress better... and don’t worry too much.”

As her teacher, I have had the privilege of watching her grow not only as a student but as a person. Through youth group and in school, I’ve seen her lead with kindness, stay grounded in her faith, and encourage those around her. She truly cares about others and has a way of making people feel welcomed and supported. With her strong desire to love and care for others, her faith, and her dedication to making a difference, I am incredibly proud of the young woman she has become and excited to see the positive impact she will continue to have on everyone around her.

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Drama Performance

By: Dylan Quandt

On March 26th, the drama crew had the 4th - 12th graders in the south gym. They did a performance that that we were not expecting for a school play. A couple people even asked if it would be okay for young kids to watch. But the kids absolutely loved it.

This play was an experiment about base behavior, to see if the way you act is based upon genetics or because of what you have learned. 5 people woke up in a room with no memory, and they were all wearing character traits on their shirt. The names of them were Courageous, Compassionate, Orderly, Impulsive, and last but not least Devious. With a Doctor who came in and roughly explained what the experiment was about and put them to sleep. They all woke up in their chair, and were guided with a note that said "Five minutes for each state you have, and now a decision must be made, one must die or all will die. That is the way this game is played."

Courageous wasted no time to choke out Orderly. Then, the lights went out, the body was gone and the 4 remaining contestants woke up when the lights come back on. Another note was read "a knife you see, but should you touch? It is there under the chair whoever touched it must use it swift because now that is their burden to bear." After that, Compassionate could not bear killing anyone to win, so she killed herself. Then the lights went out again.

Then the 3 remaining contestants woke up the note read, "And three remain with swords to slay before the stages through so guard yourself and perhaps, you'll be among the final two." After a minute of arguing, Impulsive attempts to kill Courageous, and it was not looking good for Courageous at all until Devious came from behind and killed Impulsive.

Then there was two. Courage and Devious went on and on fighting about whether or not they could both make it out the experiment alive. Devious pretends there is a clue on the floor. While Courageous was looking at the floor, Devious comes up behind him and stabs him in the back of the neck. When the lights did there thing devious was in his chair and the doctors came out and revealed that this was the 8th time devious had been in the experiment and he won every time. They are still trying to figure out how to stack the odds against him.

With the great acting, blood affects, and interesting storyline, this was a play nobody will forget. I got to interview the man Devious himself. I asked him about his favorite part of drama this year, he said, "Using props like the blood really adds to the performance and makes it more exciting!" I also asked him about the hardest part of preparing for the play, Devious replied "Getting up in the morning for 6:30 practice might sound tough, but it's totally worth it." He also wanted to say that Mrs. Neer is super flexible and great with working around schedules. So if you're interested in drama, talk to her. Finally, I want to thank Devious for answering my questions and huge thanks to Impulsive for giving me a ton of information about the play which made writing more enjoyable.

A Journey as an Ag Ambassador

By: Lila Iverson

Not too long ago an OHS junior embarked on a new journey, being an Ag Ambassador. On this journey she went to Washington, D.C. for a 4H Conference. This event was called, “ignite.”

She landed a day early so she could sign in and enjoy the day. Then the next day she listened to different speakers and was placed into different breakout sessions for the distinct roles they took part in. Everyone had their role, and the states had their representatives for the different parties.



This event also featured activities that they got to take part in. However, the speakers and small groups time took up most of her time in DC. They were given food and breaks during the event so they could refuel their minds. With all the speakers, breakout sessions, and activities she felt that it was very structured and went well. The only thing that was not well planned was the layout but there were advisers that helped people get to where they needed to be.

In all she enjoyed the whole experience and liked how smoothly everything ran.



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Boys Prom Preparation

By: Ava Thompson

Prom is a really fun night, but you have to plan ahead so everything goes smoothly. Here's an easy guide to help you get ready without stress.

2 Weeks Before Prom:

Start getting things ready early

Get your outfit/hair cut

- Rent or buy a suit or tux.
- Get dress shoes.
- Make sure it fits properly.
- Know when to pick it up.
- Get a haircut 1-2 weeks before prom so it looks natural.

Plan Your Prom-posal:

- This is how you ask your date.
- It can be simple or creative – just make it fun.

Buy your tickets:

- Sign up in the office for grand march. (\$10 fee)
- Sign up for post prom. (no fee)

Make transportation plans:

- Decide if you plan on riding with someone.

Know the schedule:

- Seniors and juniors will have food together.
- There is no sign up yet; a schedule will likely be sent out a week before prom.

Important Deadlines:

- April 10th sign up due.

Match your outfit with your date:

- Your tie or vest should match the dress color.

Order flowers:

- Don't forget to order a corsage for your date.
- Also order a boutonniere for yourself.

Days Before Prom:

- Try on your full outfit to make sure everything looks good.
- Make sure things are planned and you won't be running around stressed out the day of.
- If you have questions, ask older classmates or people in your class who have went.

Day of Prom:

Get ready and look your best:

- Wake up early
- Take a shower
- Shave, if needed
- Fix your hair
- Brush your teeth

Important tips:

Talk about money:

- Discuss costs with your parents or your date.
- You can split the money if you choose to, but don't make your date feel like they have to.

Get good sleep:

- Rest well the night before so you're ready for a long day and night.

Final Thoughts:

- Plan ahead.
- Stay organized.
- Don't stress- ask older students who have already gone to prom if you need help.
- Most importantly, have fun and enjoy prom with your friends!

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Teacher Spotlight

By: Nadysen McKay

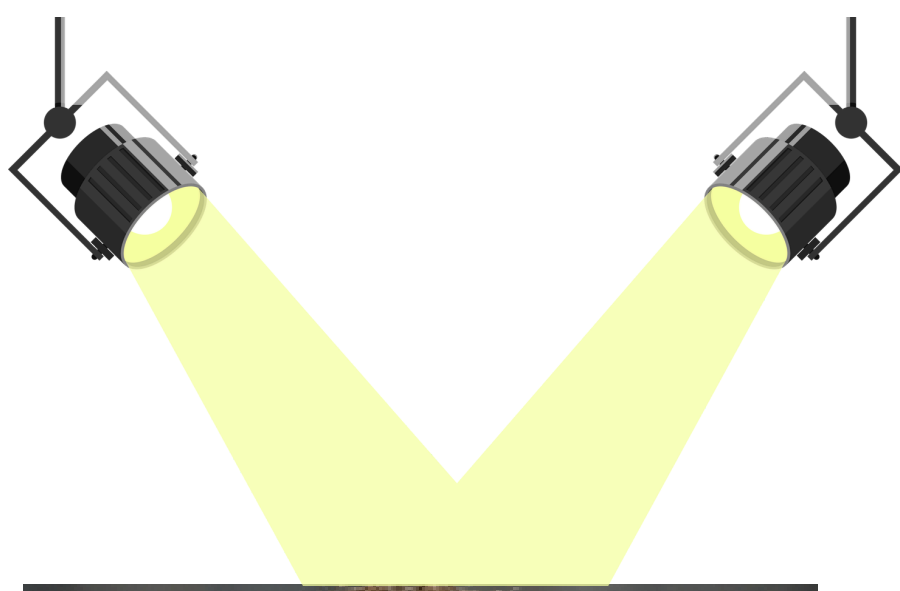
Imagine walking into a classroom every day and knowing you have the power to shape someone's future with just a lesson, a conversation, or a little encouragement. Teaching is more than just a job, it's a responsibility that can impact students for the rest of their lives. Teachers spend years dedicating their time and energy to helping students learn, grow, and believe in themselves, often without getting enough credit for everything they do. Over time, their influence goes far beyond the classroom, creating memories and lessons that students carry with them long after the school year ends. Eventually, every teacher reaches the point where they retire, closing out a career filled with hard work, challenges, and success. Retiring from teaching isn't just an ending it's a celebration of all the lives they've touched and the difference they've made.

I asked Mrs. Kelly the following questions about her teaching career and retirement, and she shared her experiences and reflections. She currently teaches 4-6 English Language Arts, and throughout her career she has taught Kindergarten, Gifted & Talented, and Speech Pathology, with ELA being the subject she has taught the longest. Mrs. Kelly has been teaching for over 40 years. When she graduated from high school, she originally planned to pursue Social Work, but after taking a Social Work class as a freshman, she realized it wasn't the right path for her. She then transferred to Mayville State College, switched to Early Childhood, and earned a bachelor's in education.

When asked what advice she would give to students, Mrs. Kelly emphasized the importance of being kind to everyone and setting high goals while staying determined to achieve them, even if it takes time. She also encouraged students to create a bucket list and work toward their goals, reminding them that giving to others is more important than receiving and will benefit them in the long run. She stressed the importance of respecting yourself, your peers, your environment, and the adults who care about you. One of the people who influenced her the most when she first started teaching was her co-worker, Caroline Crane. They taught Kindergarten together, and Caroline's experience helped Mrs. Kelly learn valuable skills like classroom management, engaging activities, and many effective teaching strategies.

As she moves into retirement, Mrs. Kelly explained that the biggest change will simply be no longer teaching. She shared that she is not someone who enjoys sitting around, watching TV, or crafting for long periods of time, so she plans to work part-time in different places where she can stay active. When asked what she will miss most, Mrs. Kelly said she will miss her students the most. She loves hearing their conversations, seeing their creativity, and listening to their unique answers during class.

Overall, Mrs. Kelly expressed that she is most grateful for all the opportunities she has had over her 40+ year career, along with the many memories, laughter, and experiences she has shared with both students and colleagues. She said that while she is retiring because it is time, she is not quitting she is simply closing a meaningful chapter in her life.



Advice From Seniors

By: McKenna Allston

Walking into high school for the first time can feel both exciting and intimidating. Incoming 7th graders need advice from seniors because they are about to face new expectations, different teachers, and a more independent excitement. Seniors have already experienced those changes, so they can offer helpful tips on staying organized, managing homework, and making good choices.

Their advice can help younger students feel less nervous and more confident about what is ahead. With guidance from those who have been through it, 7th graders can start their journey feeling prepared and supported. I talked to a few seniors and asked what advice they would give 7th graders or lower-class men.

Shanna Buttke- “Prioritize participating in class by asking and answering questions.”

Jackson Sorum- “Put in the work, keep trying, but don’t expect the results to be immediate.”

Isabelle Friedt- “Try your hardest at all times because it will help you in the long run.”

Jack Thorpe- “Show up and do your job.”

In reality, high school isn’t much different than upper elementary. Except for the expectations, teachers, hallways, and the opportunity to use the vending machines.

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Business Spotlight

By: Addie Umbreit

The town of Oakes North Dakota is a business-filled community that works to support each other by giving back. One of these businesses is The Legion Sportsbar, run by Jessica Quandt. This is a newer business that was purchased in February 2025 and later opened at the end of April that year, so they are approaching their one-year anniversary.

Jessica's favorite part of owning this business is serving her customers and giving them a place to come together. She says, "I love seeing friends and families out enjoying time together, laughing, having fun, and making memories. It is special to even be a small part of that." She loves the people; the staff, customers, and local organizations they work with-relationships are what make it meaningful. "It is rewarding to see an idea come to life, a packed room enjoying an event, or a fundraiser making a difference for someone in need."

Furthermore, what inspired her to start this was the fact that every business matters, she explained, "When we saw that the Legion Club had closed its doors, it hit us hard. In a small town like ours, every business matters- not just for convenience, but for the community. We hated seeing a place with so much history and heart disappear." However, this isn't just a place to eat or have a drink, it's always played a meaningful role in supporting the Legion Baseball, veterans' program, and countless youth and community initiatives. The Quandts knew if The Legion stayed closed, the community of Oakes would not only lose a watering hole but lose a hub for connection and a major source of local charitable giving.

To further explain, their goal with The Legion Sportsbar was simple: to create a welcoming place where the community can gather, while continuing to support the causes and people, which matter most, our Veterans. What makes this business different from others is their unique honor of recognizing and remembering our veterans and service men and women every single day. Jessica says, "We get to live that out in this building, and it creates so many meaningful conversations when newcomers stop in and take it all in. Hearing the stories, memories, and connections people share is truly an honor." Not only this but they have guest chef nights and fun little events and ideas to keep things exciting while also giving back to the community, as it's a big part of who they are.

Despite being a one-year business, The Legion has continued to grow and evolve. They pay attention to the little things people really love and want to see more often. For example, new guest chefs, more events, and are always working on updating and improving the space to make it a beautiful, welcoming place for people to enjoy.

The Legion Sportsbar hosts fundraisers, partners with local organizations, supports causes, and families in need, and creates events that bring people together. For example, one way to fundraise is having burger nights.

Overall, this business is a way to bring people together and support each other in Oakes, while also having fun and building connections. "We believe a business should be part of the community it serves, and we are proud to use The Legion Sportsbar as a place to encourage connection, support, and local pride." Jessica Quandt had made the decision to step in and bring The Legion back to life.



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Art Update

By: Isaac Bjornstad

Art is a beautiful form of creation that's as old as time. I'm sure at least a few of you have at least glanced over at the art on display in the halls. For those interested in a little preview for what's on display next, I interviewed Mrs. Gramlow so we could get a peek. So, without further ado, let's see what this class has been crafting for us.

First, I asked if student were experimenting with any new styles. While Mrs. Gramlow said they weren't experimenting with any particular style, they're currently "Engaged in the best techniques and methods for media they have chosen." The mediums appear to be quite varied, from pencil sketches to sewing. If you want to get a peek, check the high school facebook page for the sculpting class's current progress.

Second, I asked how they would apply these techniques into their projects. While new techniques aren't being applied in the traditional way, it still has a round-a-bout way of applying to the whole class and then some. Mrs. Gramlow said, "As they experiment with their chosen medium and share ideas, they are also developing their creative problem-solving skills." Just goes to show art is a universal language.

Lastly, I asked if there was any consistent theme among projects. While there are no thematic ties between the projects, personal expression is definitely a relevant subject among projects. With Mrs. Gramlow saying the art class is a "Marvelous place for personalized learning" seems like a fitting consistency. With so many ways to convey personal expression, it gets you wondering how all of it can fit in the classroom.

April 10th is the deadline for all projects. With an array of sculptures, sketches, paintings, and even 3D printings, this seems to be a gallery of creativity that'll pique at least one of your interests. If any art does interest you, I'm sure the students who made it would be happy to explain their process. Creation is an arduous process, but it's what makes art, art. Hopefully you find something you like, and if not, draw/craft it yourself!

Oakes Baseball Faces Some unexpected changes

By: Jyles Meier



Oakes' baseball season has officially launched, and it looks a little different. With new changes to our co-op, the team has faced some new changes. With only 12 players now after losing some players from the co-op change, the team is ready and prepared to conquer the season ahead with an already good start at 1-0.

I asked Head Coach Kourajian about how he feels about the co-op change, and he said, "It definitely was a shock right away. We had a great relationship and bond with SC, and it was hard seeing half of our team go". Which is something that has mixed opinions on, but I think this is a good start, a new beginning.

I also asked Kourajian about goals they have in mind going into the season, and he said, "Finish .500 or above, Less than 7 K's per game, Win one or more playoff games, Holding teammates and coaches accountable, Positive dugout energy --no bad body language". These are all valuable and great goals to set in order to have a great season not only to get better at baseball but to become better humans as well.

The Oakes baseball team is already 1-0, taking down Sargent County on the 30th. The score was 6-5 with Oakes coming out on top. The player of the game was Zade Heier, with his 9-strikeout performance, he was the trump card. But it was a team effort on the mound with Joseph Dobitz also having three strikeouts. Jaxon Gebhardt had one strikeout in the final inning to close out the game. These strikeouts were of utmost importance to the team, not only for winning, but also for fundraising. Raising up to \$1300 with their effort makes for quite the reward for a win.

Overall, I'm really excited to see how the season unfolds and how the team develops over time. It's shaping up to be an exciting and hopeful season, and I'm looking forward to watching them work toward their goals. With all the dedication and effort they've put in, it has the potential to be a truly rewarding and memorable season for the players and their supporters.