FFA Member Night brings members together for some fun

By Nick Hohn and Kade Biales

The Parkston FFA chapter held a chapter fun night on November 14. The whole chapter got together at TNT Inflatables to get to know each other better.

The event started at 6 pm and ended around 8 pm. Officers showed up early to help set up. They ordered pizza from Casey’s and the members brought drinks and sides to go with it. The chapter held a short meeting to go over what has happened recently in FFA. They also talked about how the fruit sales went and District LDE’s. The members who went to national convention talked about their time in Indianapolis.

According to Ms. Ackerman, the purpose of the FFA Member Night is member bonding. This member night activity gives the chapter members a chance to get together and bond with each other, allowing the older members to get to know newer members. Juniors and seniors, for example, don’t even know the 8th and 9th graders, so the night helped members get to know each other.

The fun started after the meeting. If you have ever watched WWE—well, that is what the rest of the night was like. Riley Weber, Landon Sudbeck, and Sutton Hohn thought they could use a jousting inflatable for one big wrestling match. After a while everyone else joined in and it turned into one big battle royale.

PHS gets sign upgrade

By Spencer Albrecht

On Oct. 14 Parkston High School installed a new information sign on the front lawn. This was paid for and approved by the school board. This decision was approved after the computer elements in the old sign went out. Because the old sign was only single-toned and had very few capabilities for animation, the school board also decided to choose a sign that contains color and has more capabilities for animation.
The Veterans Day Program started off with a welcome from local VFW Post Commander Barbara McKean. Then Dar- rin Biggie, Chaplain of American Legion Post 194, led us in a prayer for the veterans, the veteran's families, students and staff, anyone that has lost a loved one or ones to the tragedy of war, or anyone who just wanted to be respectful and send a prayer to our veterans. The color guard posted the colors for everyone to say the Pledge of Allegiance and for the 7 – 12 band, directed by Kevin Kurtz, to play the National

After that, the guest speaker for this year’s ceremony, Stace Nelson, began his speech. The basis of his speech was on how we civilians are losing respect and the idea of how we're free and able to do pretty much whatever we want under the rule of the law is due to the veterans, including their willingness to give their lives for our freedom. The other guest speaker for this year was Mayor Dave Hoffman. He named off local families that had veterans in their family.

McKean brought the ceremony to an end with closing remarks. The High School band played the Armed Forces Tribute. And the retrieving of the colors closed the whole ceremony.

After the main speakers the band (grades 5-12) played the song “Call of Courage.” McK- ean then announced the Teacher of the Year awards. The three teachers who received the reward were Carrie Oakley (Elementary), Carmen Bartells (Jr. High), and Tony Kinneberg (High School). The Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen winners were announced and they read their essays. The fourth through eighth grade choir sang “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

The choir (grades 7-12), directed by Lyndsey Gerhart) sang the song “Unsung Hero.”

Top right: Commander McKean welcomes the crowd and introduces the speakers. Above: The various veterans in the audience are asked to stand and recognized for their service. Right: Carrie Oakley is introduced as the elementary Teacher of the Year.
Hanson student job shadows Mr. Hockett

Wednesday, Nov 20th, Mr. Hockett’s Business classes hosted a student from the Hanson School District job shadow. Andrea Thelen is a Junior at Hanson High School and has future goals of becoming a High School Business Ed Teacher. The Hanson Career’s class placed their students in job shadowing opportunities all over the area. Some students went to health care facilities, investment firms, and other schools. Andrea received four hours of experience on Wednesday. She watched the Accounting I class work through new material in creating Financial Statements. She also participated in an activity during Business Law. Andrea also picked a good day to go through our lunch line as it was the Thanksgiving Dinner!(thank you cooks). Mr. Hockett feels getting out and experiencing what a day looks like in a potential career field for you is very important. For Andrea, she got to see another teacher with different styles in a different school than hers. I encourage all students to begin looking into Job Shadowing/Internship experiences while still in high school.

Caleb Titze-Mr Hockett-Andrea Thelen-Hannah Braley

PHS students attend All-State Choir

By Summer Sloan

November first and second, six kids traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota for All State Choir, Nov. 2 & 3. Four out of the six were participants, and the other two were alternates. The four who participated were Hannah Braley (Alto), Madison Zwinger (Soprano), Josh Polreis (Tenor), and Reagan Monson (Bass). The alternates were Reese Reichert (Soprano) and Jackie Braley (Alto).

The guest conductor was Dr. Andrew Last. Last is an Associate Professor of Music at Luther College where he conducts the Nordic Choir and teaches conducting. Other then his job at Luther College, Last also is the Director of Choral Activities at Luther and is Director of Dorian Summer Camps. The participants and their vocal teacher Miss Gerhart all enjoyed Dr. Last's conducting.

They sang seven pieces of music. The songs “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” by Dan Forrest, “Antiphon” Ralph Von Williams, “Great God Almighty” Stacey V. Gibbs, “Portones Abiertos Y Rostros Brillantes” by Paul Basler, “Sing, My Child” by Sarah Quartel, “The Creation” by G.F. Handle, “The Pasture” by Z. Randall Stroope. The participants’ favorite song to sing was “The Pasture.” The alternates also enjoyed the trip. They observed rehearsals and learned what they may do as future participants of the All State Choir. Overall, each of the six students who went to All State Choir had a great experience.
FBLA begins year with membership boom

By: Quinn Bormann

FBLA or Future Business Leaders of America experienced a 400 percent growth in membership, from seven members to 28 members. FBLA had its first meeting on Nov. 9. During this meeting the organization elected its officers. The officers include Cordell Murtha(12th) as President, Quinn Bormann(10th) as Vice President, Cole VanZee(12th) as Treasurer, Braden Bruening(12th) as Secretary, and Austin Bartelt(12th) as Parliamentarian.

When asked about what he expected this year Parkston FBLA Advisor, Tyler Hockett responded, “We are getting towards the end of our annual World’s Finest Chocolate sales. There is still time to grab a bar or box of whirls. This fund-raiser allows us to send students to the State Leadership Conference (which is in Pierre this year) to compete against other schools in a wide variety of business activities. I hope students learn more about networking skills, leadership characteristics, and etiquette this year.”

December Coming Events

By Lindsey Roth

2 Girls Basketball starts
Boys Basketball starts
JV wrestling @ Winner (4 pm)
Gymnastics Triangular @ Mega (5pm)
JH Girls BB @ Bon Homme (4pm)
3 Music Concert 7-12 (7 pm)
5 Music Concert BK-3 (7pm)
6 JH Girls Basketball @ Hanson (5:45 pm)
7 Wrestling @ KWl (Kimball)
8 State FFA Convention
9 State FFA Convention
JH/JV Wrestling Tournament @ Parkston (4 pm)
10 State FFA Convention
JH Girls Basketball @ MCM (Salem) (4 pm)
14 Gymnastics @ Wagner
Wrestling Tournament @ Howard
Commercial Club Santa Day (9 am- 1pm)
Boys Basketball @ Avon (5:15 pm)
16 JH/JV Wrestling @ Beresford (4 pm)
JH Girls Basketball @ Freeman (4 pm)
17 JH Honor Choir @ Rapid City
JH Girls Basketball vs TDA (4 pm)
Basketball Double Header vs TDA (5 pm)
19 Wrestling Triangular vs B/G, KWLPg (4 pm)
JH Girls Basketball vs Wagner(4:15 pm)
20 Basketball Double Header @ Chamberlain (5 pm)
Gymnastics @ Mitchell (6 pm)
School Dismissal @ 1:30pm
21 Wrestling Tournament @ Epj
23 Christmas Break Begins

Volleyball season wraps up

By Payton Albrecht

The Parkston Trojans girl’s volleyball team went 17-17 for their season this year. The last game of the year ended against Madison, the first set we lost 9-25 in the second set 16-25 and in the final set we battled but the Madison Bulldogs came victorious 22-25. Parkston Trojans volleyball ranked 57th in the state. With the end of the season comes the time when the seniors have to turn in their jerseys. The retiring seniors from this year will be Sydney Wickersham, Izzy Hohn, Amber Albrecht, and Ellie Weidenbach.
Back on the Mat: Wrestlers prepare for season

By Sutton Hohn & Landon Sudbeck

The preseason potluck was held at 6 pm Nov. 18, followed by the first day of practice that Tuesday. Parkston wrestlers are anxious to lace up the shoes once again this year, and make another trip to the Denny Sanford Premier Center. Two-time state placer and returning state champion, Riley Weber, is looking to lead the team along with other seniors Cordell Murtha, a two time state qualifier, and the newly recruited Coleten Shedeed.

Riley Weber looks to maintain his supremacy and hold his state title. Murtha looks to finish his career strong by having a promising season that ends with his name on the wall of fame. Coleten Shedeed will be riding the learning curve early, but look for him to make an impact as the season goes on. Landon Sudbeck--a two-time state placer--looks to dominate his opponents going into his junior season, and finish higher up on the podium than in the past. Another junior, Logan Heidinger, looks to have his first winning season of his career and prove that he can compete with the best.

Other returning under-classman varsity wrestlers from last year include Jerry Kohler, Noah Mahoney, and Porter Neugebauer. All of these wrestlers have an opportunity to shine and make a run come postseason. This team is obviously a young one with a majority of it only in junior high. There are even some new members to the team. This young influx of wrestlers looks to have a successful future. These wrestlers cannot look ahead to the future without putting in the time now and building back up a tradition.

The Trojans will look to compete this year, and make the best of what they have. This team might not have a well-rounded, flashy roster, but it has grit and proven talent that can do damage throughout the year.

As the grind of a wrestling season starts, make sure to catch these athletes in Parkston on Dec. 19 (Tri-Burke/Gregory, KWLPG), Jan. 25 (Little “B” Tournament), and Feb. 11 (Tri-Wagner, Canton).

Art Night welcomes families

By Cody Van Zee

On November 14, the Parkston School’s Art Department hosted a “Family Art Night” with more than 160 people with all age groups attending. The event took place from 6 pm to around 8:30 pm. They had walking tacos and treats. Mrs. Mette was assisted by local artist Kim Tiede who showed everyone how to paint a windy, snowy day with a snowman. Attendees could paint whatever they wanted, but Tiede showed how to paint the snowman for anyone who wanted to try a challenge. Student helpers, Logan Seppala, Keelie Konfrst, Ava Reiner, and Deanna Luikens, kept everyone supplied with paint, and they also walked around and gave help to anyone who was struggling with their painting or had any questions about it.

The event was funded by a grand From the Parkston Area Foundation which supplied money for paint and canvas for this event, and another held later that week at the local nursing home.

The Family Art night was a great success with many local families participation. Both school families, and community members joined the fun, making the whole event a satisfying family event.
The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America are officially off to a great start with the theme of “Disney.” The Parkston FCCLA Chapter has 32 members and is led by the new advisor, Carrie Kafka, and chapter President, Madison Zwinger. FCCLA started off by fundraising with Little Caesars Pizzas and recognizing the top sellers, including the top seller Jericho Jones who sold 41 items. She was named the outstanding member of the month of October. On Nov. 11, the November outstanding member was awarded to Keelie Konfrst who did an amazing job at stepping up and being a leader.

Some future events for FCCLA include a Christmas party for all members on Dec. 12, at 6:30 pm. It will start with a meeting and then there will be caroling, games, and a gift exchange. Each member is expected to bring a $10 to $15 gift for the gift exchange. During caroling, members will be going to the nursing home and to the Thuringer household. The region meeting will be held in Mitchell on Jan. 22 where some members will be competing. You can also see FCCLA members helping in the concession stands during the wrestling season.

The FCCLA Chapter also celebrated important events such as Drive Safe Week and American Education Week. Drive Safe Week was lead by Keelie Konfrst, Ava Reiner, Jericho Jones, and Colton Lentsch. They made a poster for the hallway with some driving statistics on it and stood outside handing out lifesavers to those wearing seat belts. American Education Week was Nov. 18 - 22. Rachel Mahoney, Madison Zwinger, Katie Thuringer, Austin Bartelt, and Sutton Hohn were in charge of this event. To recognize American Education, students wore their favorite college apparel on Thursday and blue and orange on Friday. Nov. 25 to 29 will be National Family Week. Members running this event are Hannah Braley, Tawni Griebel, Maci DeGeest, and Hanna Jackson.