



News from the Nest



New Ulm High School
Home of the Eagles

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Spirited Tug-of-War Turns High Stakes Tie-Breaker Battle of the Classes 2012

By Abigail Matthews and Miranda Steinmetz

NEW ULM - "I think I would fall into a deep state of depression," said senior Ross Schneider. Many of New Ulm High School's students would feel the same way if Battle of the Classes ever stopped being such a main staple of the annual Homecoming festivities.

This year, all four classes put up a memorable fight, but the final points, and ultimately the win for the junior class of 2014, came down to an intense tug-of-war.

This final event was postponed until Friday's pepfest due to time constraints. However, the following day, member of the senior tug-of-war team David Keller requested to be replaced, because of his injured hand, by three-time arm-wrestling champion Mike Dickenson.

The crowds went wild with chants on the unfairness of replacing a player mid-game, and Principal Mr. Bergmann declared that the original team members must compete in this final event, in which the team winning the "best two

out of three" matches would earn this year's bragging rights. After a success for the juniors in the first round, however, Keller appeared to be even more hurt.

There are no alliances in Battle of the Classes, and the bleachers immediately thumped with opinions. Even so, junior Hannah Mangen nobly okayed the substitution of injured Keller for Dickenson. "It's supposed to be fun," said Mangen, "and if we're going to win, we should do it fairly."

Though she admitted it was "a lot harder with Mikey"

on the other end, Mangen was more than happy to correct the "negative direction" she saw the competition was taking.

Minutes later, the seniors reestablished their power with a win in the second round of three, but this proved not enough when the juniors saw victory in the third round and ended the 2012

games with the highest overall score.

Despite this seeming fluke in many seniors' minds, incoming freshman and Danceline member Cora Augustin said, "It was just as fun as I thought it would be." Even though the seniors didn't win by a landslide as they had expected, she admired their good sportsmanship with a "Let's Go, Eagles!" chant at the end of the games.

As usual, the seniors dominated in dodgeball and volleyball. However, the freshmen proved themselves worthy of a second glance with wins in Rubik's Cube solving, ping pong, and rubber band shooting, a new event this year.

The sophomores boldly announced their presence as well, showcasing ninja-like elusiveness in Battle of the Classes' first game of balloon stomp ever.

BOTC pg. 5



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Parking Pass or School Tax?

By Danny Cooper

NEW ULM - This year at New Ulm High School students have to pay a parking fee. The fee is \$25 per semester with other fees if he or she forgets to hang the parking pass in the front window of his or her car.

Starting this year yellow parking spaces require a parking permit, the red lines are free, and the white lines are teacher and staff parking only.

Naturally after years of free parking many students do not like the parking fee.

"I highly dislike the concept," said Brady Kraus, a junior.

"I do not really like it that much," Kelsey Miller, a senior, agreed.

The reason for paid parking this year is "just because of the failed referendum," said Officer Backer, the New Ulm High School Resource Officer.

Mr. Weber, assistant principal of New Ulm High School, added that the parking fee helps "to offset the deficit."

"The money from the parking pass goes to anything the district needs money for," said Mr. Weber. Additionally, "Many other schools do it too."

Is the \$25 worth paying? "No, 'cause of the fact of being able to park on the road and you can use the \$25 toward gas," said Alex Ahern, a senior.

Some students are upset teachers and staff don't

have to pay. "Yes, just to be fair," said Brady Kraus.

"I guess since the students pay too," said Miller.

Despite students grumblings about paid parking, there has been only 1 violation since the start of the year, and it was only a driving violation, and it had nothing to do with the actual parking rules.

"No student violations with students trying to park in the lot without a parking pass," said Backer. So far about 156 students have signed up for the parking pass.



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Party in the Parking Lot

By Brooke Dalueg

NEW ULM - The opening to the 2012-2013 school year at New Ulm High School brought many changes from the 6-period day to Resource Time. But perhaps no change was more anticipated or talked about by the juniors and seniors (and feared by others) as open campus. For the first time, this means they can leave school grounds during their one-hour lunch period.

Some students have wondered why we have an open lunch now. It's no secret that many students have wanted an open lunch before, but why now? "To have a six-hour day, we took away study halls and study time, so to respect the students we gave them an open lunch," said Mr. Bergmann, NUHS principal. The open lunch is like a replacement study hall for the upperclassman.

Many see several benefits to having an open lunch. Kids can do homework, go out to eat with friends, go home to grab a forgotten assignment, or run an errand. Some even hang out in the school parking lot. "I play Skyrim!" said Steven Bode, a junior at NUHS.

If a student doesn't want to leave that is okay, too. "You can go to lunch and then go the Lecture Theater, or go the Media Center and then go to lunch," said Bergmann.

Some students that don't leave and don't want to eat school lunch have come up with their own way of enjoying open lunch.

They set up tables in the parking lot or sit in the back of their trucks and eat. "As long as they clean up after themselves, I have no problem with that either," said Bergmann.

But with freedom comes responsibilities, too. Open lunch ends at 1:06 p.m., and if a student doesn't make it back in time to get to his 6th hour class, he will get a tardy. So far there hasn't really been any problems with tardies, though.

"So far the students are handling it great! We actually had more tardies when kids didn't have open lunch!" said Bergmann.

But like everything else in life, open lunch is not perfect.



While there are fewer tardies now, some students worry about what might happen once the snow arrives.

Right now making it back on time is not too hard, but some students admit, once winter comes, it could be worse.

Some are also wondering if everyone will even want to leave once the snow flies. "In the beginning most kids left, but once winter comes, I don't think as many will," said Mikyla Denney, a senior at NUHS.

So far there have been no negative issues with an open lunch. People are enjoying it and the students and teachers are working together to adjust to the open lunch concept.

The thing to remember is open lunch is a privilege, not a right.

"Open lunch is a privilege; it can be taken away," Bergmann said. So enjoy the open lunch and continue to be responsible so we can all enjoy it.

The 2012 Homecoming King and Queen Are...

By Kelsey Miller

NEW ULM - Coronation has come and gone once again. The graduating class of 2013 finally had their chance to be on the Homecoming Court.

It all started in 1980 when my uncle Paul (Skip) Radke was crowned the first Homecoming king, 32 years later the tradition of Homecoming Coronation is kept alive.

"Yes, I was surprised. I thought one of the cooler guys would get it," Radke admits.

This year's coronation was held on September 17 to kick off Homecoming Week. The night started with the band playing the school song. Then the choir sang the National Anthem followed by last year's royalty, Jill Gareis and Troy Altmann, arriving to pass on the football and crown.

The student skit was next. For the student skit, everybody on the Homecoming Court picked a peer to act like them for a little bit.

Megan Kral, a member of the Homecoming Court, said, "I picked someone that knows me."

"I just picked someone that knows me really well and gets my sense of humor," Guggisberg said.

There was acknowledgement of fall sports and the faculty skit. During the faculty skit teachers had to catch students that were not following some of the rules in the student handbook. It was a spoof in the spirit of the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Next was the court dance where the whole Homecoming Court danced to a medley of songs.

Liz Guggisberg, a member of the Homecoming Court said, "I liked the student skits and I liked doing the court dance."

The best part of Coronation for Kral was "the dance and spending time with the other seniors on court."

Homecoming king candidates included seniors Connor John-



son, Sam Miller, Mikey Dickinson, Riley Drahotka, Adolfo Lechuga, Josh Cooper, and Luke Cihak. Queen candidates included seniors Britta Babel, Bree Friedman, Clarissa Waibel, Ellen Wiederhoeft, Liz Guggisberg, Madison Kral, and Megan Kral.

Guggisberg said, "It is pretty cool. It is an honor that you got chosen out of all your peers to be on it."

Kral said, "It was an honor that my classmates would pick me."

Some people may wonder what it would feel like after being chosen to be on the homecoming court. Guggisberg said, "It was a good feeling. It was pretty exciting."

Kral said, "I was excited for Homecoming week and thought all the events would be fun."

By the end of the night, Madison Kral was crowned queen and Luke Cihak was crowned king. The night ended with Kral and Cihak parading around the gym to the school song with the rest of the Homecoming Court following behind.

Now years later people also may wonder what memories Radke had of Homecoming Court. "It was cool and I felt honored and it felt kind of weird," he still admits.



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Dress to Impress!

By Danny Cooper and Jennifer Martens

NEW ULM - School dress up days are a tradition at NUHS during Homecoming Week. So what better to check up on how NUHS students dressed to impress this year?

Why do you dress up for dress up days?

“Because it shows school spirit!”

- Grace Nelson, 7th grade

If you could have a say in any dress up day you want, what would it be?

“I would want nerd day for everyone. Because then we can dress up weird.”

- Morgan Wilfahrt, 8th grade

If there were prizes for the dress up days, would you dress up even more?

“Yeah, ‘cause then you have a reason.”

- Hunter Ahlness, freshman

Do you think the school dress up days bring more spirit to our school?

“I would say yes. Well, getting to be pumped up and dressed up makes people more excited about the Homecoming game, or going to the school to show off your costume.”

- Emma Vranich, sophomore

What is your favorite dress up day, and why?

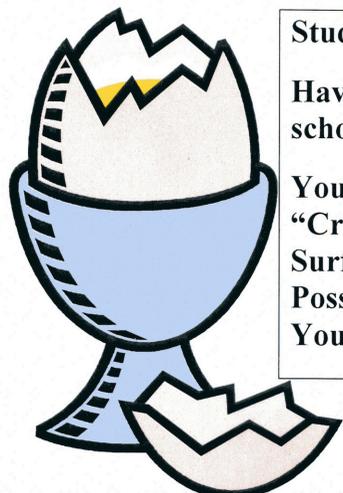
“My favorite dress up day of all time is Cozy Day. The reason for that is that I can wear my favorite pair of sweatpants and not give a hoooooot.”

- Brady Kraus, junior

Are you going to miss dressing up for Homecoming next year?

“Yes, they are the days where you can show your school spirit, but in a more goofy and original way.”

- Sydney Schuck, senior



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The Beginning of the Fight

By Colleen Taylor

NEW ULM - The roaring crowds of teenagers. The chants of competition. Intense battles between the grades. Of all things, people would think that this would be avoided in a school, but not here. It's the one day of the year when the students of New Ulm High School are allowed out of classes to aggressively face-off with each other. But how did all this start?

Battle of the Classes (BOTC) started in 2003-2004 when Mr. Bergmann first started as principal at New Ulm High School. There had been regular pepfests and dress-up days, but coronation was held on a Thursday. But that all changed when BOTC was introduced.

Mr. Bergmann brought the idea for Battle of the Classes from his home high school of Blaine, Minnesota, where he attended and graduated in 1980. He had thought it was enough of a memorable event to bring to his new job.

Mrs. Kirsch was the Student Council adviser then. She and Bergmann wanted to try something new to increase excitement about Homecoming Week. The faculty also used to participate by playing games such as dodgeball.

There had been some objections from one of the, now retired, teacher, whose identity is unknown. The unknown teacher said that some of the chug-a-lug games were bar-

related.

A while before Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Nelson, Miss Weiss, and Mrs. Longtin took over 6-7 years ago, BOTC had gotten a little out-of-hand, and faculty were concerned.

Since then there haven't been any real problems with the games except when some students have to be removed from the floor for trying to surround their players. A few years ago when powderpuff football was played, refs had to send some of the players to the hospital because of severe injuries, so it is no longer played.

"There is a fine line between cheering on your teammate and mob mentality," Mr. Bergmann said. "It is about keeping students safe."

"The seniors had been cheating," recalled Mrs. Gordon.

Rumors of BOTC being rigged have been going around, most likely, since it started. It seems at one time it might have been, but no more.

BOTC has changed over the years because of the Student Council. Every year they bring with them new event ideas, like rubber band shooting, while keeping alive the classics, like dodgeball and tug-of-war.

Regardless of whether one loves it or hates it, the benefits of BOTC are to see the unity and long-last-

ing, fond memories. There is great unity in the games and it gets greater and greater every year.

Additionally, the colors for Battle of the Classes were created by the Student Council three or four years ago. The colors helped provide an image for class unity.

"It had been encouraged that students wear class colors before until one year the students showed up with matching shirts. From then on the students have handled the shirts," said Gordon.

"Kids who are noticeably not a part of groups in school have a place," Bergmann added.

The cons of BOTC are that it takes away from educational time, and not everyone can participate because of not enough time and supplies.

"It's unfortunate that the excitement we see on that day doesn't last through the year," said Gordon.

BOTC from pg. 1

Musical chairs, lightning, and cake eating were only a few of the other events that brought every student to his or her feet that Thursday.

The scoreboard displayed a very close race throughout the event because every participant gave their event absolutely everything they had. "I practiced until my hands ached," said senior Rubik's Cube competitor Hannah Jakel.

Even though NUHS students welcome this friendly competition, Social Studies teacher Mr. Anderson acted as a reminder of what Homecoming is really supposed to be - not a clash among grades, but a coming together of the school as a whole.

Therefore, next year Anderson would like to see "a different ending," one in which the school unifies rather than just each class competing separately. After all, as Anderson said, "We're not supposed to be fighting each other; we're supposed to be fighting everyone else."

Win Chart - Battle of the Classes 2012

EVENT	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Dress Up Days				X
Volleyball				X
Arm Wrestling				X
Rubik's Cube	X			
Rubber Band Shooting	X			
Doughnut on a String			X	
Worm Hunt			X	
Cake Eating			X	
Pickle Chug			X	
Relay #1				X
Secret Path				X
Ping Pong	X			
Lightning		X		
Dodgeball				X
Balloon Tag		X		
Relay #2			X	
Cheese Ball Toss				X
Musical Chairs				X
Tug-of-War			X	
TOTAL	3	2	6	8

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Billy the Bard: Unmasking the Master

By Hannah Innvaer

NEW ULM - "He was an old, moldy guy," says Leah Innvaer, a freshman at New Ulm High School. "I hate him. [I'm] not a fan," says David Zimanski, a sophomore.

For many students, the announcement of a William Shakespeare unit in class leads to mixed emotions. While the plays can be fun, there are many reasons to dread the coming assignments. The language is tricky, the stanzas are different from typical formats, and the text itself often seems outdated. However, it is possible to unmask Shakespeare's works and make even the most complicated plays enjoyable.

Students struggle with Shakespearean works for many reasons. For one, the lines break awkwardly and students struggle with cadence. Teachers should explain that his style of blank-verse iambic pentameter is simply a heartbeat and that lines should be read in normal speech patterns when performing. Otherwise, the rambling speeches lack coherence and confuse many students.

"[Iambic pentameter] is a heartbeat: dee dump dee dump dee dump dee dump dee dump," explains Ben Donenberg, Artistic Director of Shakespeare Festival/LA in the documentary *Why Shakespeare*. He adds, "If one can get past the language, it becomes obvious just how entertaining the plays are."

Second, his plays were meant to be heard and performed. The language flows more smoothly in a live performance than it does on the page. To get the most out of Shakespeare, his plays should be approached as scripts, not as novels. They are meant to be read aloud, not passively in one's head.

"His plays are meant to be heard and seen," says Mrs. Hansel, English teacher at New Ulm High School. "It is drama in its perfect element."



There are other difficulties for students as well. What was once common phrasing in Shakespeare's time is now outdated and confusing. Many phrases are unrecognizable and today's students struggle to understand their meaning. Teachers should translate the unfamiliar terms and also note that Shakespeare invented many of the most popular phrases, words, and grammatical structures in use today. These include "copy-cat," "all's well that ends well," and "eyeball."

"Shakespeare is the one that makes the language," says poet Donald Hall in the *Why Shakespeare* documentary. "That's where our language comes from, too, the American language."

A fourth reason students struggle with Shakespeare is because Shakespeare units often pass by too quickly for students to grasp the true genius of his writing. His plays were all written to convey a variety of deeper meanings and to resonate on a deeper level with the audience. He is comparable to today's finest filmmakers; he was a celebrity in his time. His storytelling is timeless and, surprisingly, students often find they can relate to his characters once they understand the plot.

"He makes you appreciate language in a way you never appreciated language before," says Julie Taymor, director of the Shakespeare Project, an organization dedicated to exposing young people to Shakespeare.

Shakespeare is not, however, so distant to high school students that they cannot connect with his writing outside of school. In fact, adaptations of his works are visible nearly everywhere.

Shakespearean plays are common inspirations for major Hollywood productions. Adaptations of his plays often take place in modernized, alternative settings than the originals, yet the plots remain the same. Students frequently do not realize that their favorite movies are actually Shakespearean plays.

She's the Man, for example, is based on *The Twelfth Night*. The first *Lion King* movie is actually *Hamlet*; the second is *Romeo and Juliet*. Although the stories are part of collective culture, their origin still surprises many.

Students at NUHS hold diverse opinions of Shakespeare. They vary by grade, but overall most feel that Shakespeare was a good writer and that his plays are important.

"He was a really good writer, and the play *Romeo and Juliet* was one of the best plays he wrote," says Nicole Campo, a senior at NUHS.

Sophomore Jesse Baumgartner agreed; "I think he was a great writer and a philosopher."

Conversely, Maddi Isenberg, a freshman at NUHS, simply asked, "Who the [heck] is Shakespeare?"

Clearly, Shakespeare remains a popular topic of debate for students.

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Does It Really Matter?

By Colleen Taylor

NEW ULM - The halls are filled with the slamming of lockers and the chatter of students heading to the next class. There is laughing and shouting from students and teachers alike. The school year has begun.

When six-period days first came up, not everyone was pleased, but the hope is that by implementing them test scores will rise. The reason the six period day came about initially was because of budget cuts. Over the last nine years \$9 million have been cut. Last year, for example, 5 teachers were cut, which means fifty sections of classes were cut which increased teacher contracts and made classes longer.

"Classes are easier because we have more time in class to work," said Katie Forst, junior. Many students seem to feel that classes are easier because they have more time in

class.

"The education wasn't taken, just the choices," said Mr. Bergmann, Principal of New Ulm High School.

While certain electives have been cut in school, options for online have increased. Nevertheless, the cuts and six-period day doesn't seem to have affected student choice too much; many students still have gotten the classes that they wanted.

"I got all the classes I wanted," said Destiny Ruling, senior.

Although whether the school day seems longer or shorter is an arguable question. To a few it goes slower because there are longer periods, but to others it's shorter because they have open lunch.

No other districts are known to be doing the six period days, according to Bergmann.

According to Bergmann, the six period days have been working fairly well so far.

"The teachers have done a fantastic job," Bergmann said.

Some benefits that have come about because of the six-hour day is more student-teacher contact to improve test scores.

But with benefits come drawbacks. The main one is no study hall time, so students have to come in before or after school to work.

At this time, it is not known what, if any, tweaks they will make next year.

Not Enough Sleep

By Miranda Sandberg

NEW ULM - What if we started school at 9 a.m? Would this help students get more sleep? Believe it or not, some studies show that starting school later would help high school students get more sleep and be more alert and attentive at school.

Judith Owens, director of the Pediatric Sleep Clinic at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence Rhode Island, explained in the *Wall Street Journal* the number of hours of sleep a teen should get and how other schools are benefiting.

Students should be getting slightly more than nine hours of sleep. The ideal wake up time for teens is about 8 a.m, said Owens.

For this reason St. George School in Rhode Island participated in a study. They started at a later time and got outstanding results. Two hundred students were involved in the study. The study showed 54.7% of students were getting more than eight hours of sleep, whereas before the study only 16.4% of students were getting at least eight hours of sleep. Also, the "day time" sleep or sleep during school was reduced to 20% whereas before the study, it was 49.1%.

Students do not usually get to bed early because of sports, jobs, homework, and family things going on. With that said, in or-



der for students to get the eight hours of sleep, some researchers have proposed that the school day should start later to benefit the students.

On the other hand, Mr. Bergmann, principal of New Ulm High School, said, "We should be starting school at 7:10 a.m. Students learn better in the morning."

"We don't have the travel issues like the metro schools have," Bergmann said regarding starting later. There is a requirement of minutes that students have to be at school. If we were to start later, we would have to go later, which would affect athletics."

Still, while many students do not get enough sleep usually, they find a way to catch up on the weekends or days off from school.

"It's up to the parents to help their children get enough sleep. We don't have nap time in high school," Bergmann said.

Grace Bode, a senior at New Ulm High School, is one of the many that gets almost enough sleep. "I get about seven hours of sleep a night. My cat usually keeps me up at night and the next day I am very tired at school," Bode said.

On the other hand, Lexi Moreno, senior at New Ulm High School, only gets about five to six hours of sleep. "I have an imagination that keeps me up during the night.

I never know where it is going to take me. Somehow I feel like I do better at school if I am a little tired. It makes me do better on my school work," Moreno said.

But Dr. Mary Carskadon, from *Psychology Today*, explained the benefits of starting school later at high schools. "This could help students get more sleep. Starting later would be closer to the biological clocks when most are ready to learn. You would be surprised with the difference in how much knowledge a teen acquired at school," Carskadon said just by starting later.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, about 28% of U.S. high schoolers report falling asleep at least once a week at school.

Knowing what we know now, would starting school later really be beneficial? Most students would say so.

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Romney vs. Obama: A Small Town Perspective

by Gabby Budenski

NEW ULM - A town with fewer than 14,000 residents, New Ulmers have big opinions on the upcoming 2012 elections. Whether it's Romney, Obama, or somewhere in between, this small town is ready for big changes.

"I want a President I can have faith in. I look to the issues that the candidates talk about," said Kris Wiley, an Iowa native. Wiley has been closely following the campaigns and is ready to make an educated decision come November.

Wiley plans on voting for Barack Obama, the Democratic party candidate. Obama's campaign focuses on the social issues that are important to Wiley. "[Obama] really has the ability, when he talks, to connect with me," Wiley said. Kris Wiley is not the only New Ulmer that favors Obama.

Staff at New Ulm High School also have strong opinions on the 2012 elections. Mr. Anderson, a social studies teacher, is looking for a president that is responsive to the

electorate and one that does not have a personal agenda. Anderson made up his mind four years ago, and he sees nothing in the Republican candidate that would make him change his mind. Anderson plans on voting for the Democratic party. "If Democrats make mistakes, they tend to make them on the side for people," Anderson said.

But Obama isn't the only candidate that's receiving positive feedback. Republican party candidate Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts Governor, has also sparked interest in students at NUHS.

Sophomore Alex Schaefer feels that Romney represents his preferences for the economy. "I would like more control over what we spend our money on rather than having the government spend our money for us," Schaefer said.

Senior Javier Cortes shares the same thoughts as Schaefer. "[Romney] knows that you have to work for your life. The United States has to stay strong," Cortes said. In fact, Romney encourages trade and commerce with Asian

countries saying that it will only strengthen the U.S. economy and lead to further growth.

Students at NUHS are not only concerned with the economy, but are taking a closer look at the social issues that the candidates are taking a stand on. Junior Chris Huber agrees with Romney too. "His ideas on social issues are more conservative, which is what I'm looking for," said Huber. "We live in a very liberal state, but in a very conservative town."

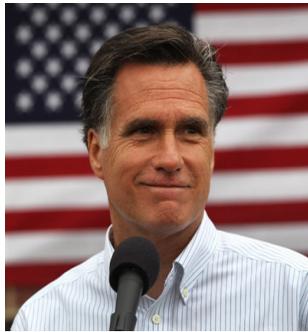
The conservative town of New Ulm gives a small town perspective on the upcoming 2012 Presidential elections. Though we live in a town that appreciates old customs, residents appear ready for change. Whether it's Romney, Obama, or somewhere in between, voting polls will be open November 6.

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Bullying: Not Just a Topic at NUHS

By Emily Portner

NEW ULM - A teen is insulted online. Kids are cursing at each other in the hallways. People are pushing and shoving their way to class. There are various forms of bullying such as cyber, physical, and verbal. Bullying can happen anywhere, even at New Ulm High School.

Bullying doesn't discriminate, but it can be more prevalent in certain environments with diverse people.

"I think it's more of the boys that get bullied, but I haven't seen it," said Isabel Ubl-Correa, a senior at New Ulm High School.

"I've noticed it to be more common in the younger grades and with each other," said David Stuk, a junior at NUHS.

In schools, there can be both physical and verbal forms of bullying.

"It's primarily verbal, but occasionally it does get physical," said Stuk.

Even though bullying can make a person feel like an outcast, students have had the opportunity to get involved in Character Counts, a student organization at NUHS that promotes ethical actions based on respect.

"It teaches you about what character you should be, not bullying people," said Ubl-Correa.

"It would be helpful for students to know what they can do when they witness it," said Mrs. Hansel, Character Counts Advisor.

Mr. Ziemer, a guidance counselor at NUHS, further added that if someone is being bullied, "They should find an adult. It could be anybody; it could be a teacher, counselor, principal, para, custodian, cook--really just any adult--and they'll make sure that the situations is addressed."

"The first step is to recognize an act of bullying. The second step is to acknowledge that it is happening, and the third step is if the student feels safe, they should ask for the bullying to stop," Hansel said.

Bullying doesn't just happen somewhere else. Some startling informa-



tion was collected from the student body recently. According to the student body survey that was taken in spring 2011, 79 percent of New Ulm High School students reported that they do not do anything when they see bullying happen.

But Character Counts is working to address the issue by having some of its members sponsor service learning projects--research projects that focus on a certain topic--for the 2012-2013 year.

The group is going to seek a classroom teacher and their students that will take on a project.

One of the topics for the projects is bullying.

According to Hansel, the goal of these projects is to match a class with a project topic, learn more about it, find a community expert to partner with, and then create an action plan to address the issue in our school.

In addition, some Character Counts members attended a bullying research and intervention workshop last spring.

"We are able to apply it when planning events and the topics throughout the year," said Levi Wick, a sophomore member of Character Counts that attended the workshop.

Genna Sellner, another sophomore student that attended the workshop added, "It inspires me to be louder and speak up more when kids are being bullied."

But bullying is not just limited to NUHS. Currently, Minnesota's bullying law does not have a list of prohibited behaviors or legal remedies. According to experts, Minnesota has one of the weakest anti-bullying laws in the nation. Our state laws leave individual districts mainly in charge of enforcing their own bullying prevention measures.

But Governor Dayton has created a task force charged with proposing new measures to address bullying. The task force is examining current

trends in bullying, intimidation, and harassment in Minnesota schools.

The task force is also looking at the existing laws and will provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

Recent Minnesota Department of Education statistics show that "bullying occurs every seven minutes" and that "eighty-eight percent of bullying incidents happen when peers are present."

Character Counts is working hard so that our school is not a part of these statistics.

Their first event is on October 10 and is called the Day of Unity. It is sponsored by PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center. Participants are asked to wear orange in support of students being bullied everywhere.

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Stress and Depression: A Rising Problem Amongst Teens

By Caitlin Harrington

NEW ULM - With hormones racing, lives changing, and suicide on the rise, avoiding depression in today's society is much harder than in years past. Teenagers everywhere are subject to depression.

Stress is definitely a leading factor to mild depression. "If kids have a job, they're occupied with that and are less likely to finish their homework," said Laura Stovall, a junior at NUHS. "It's stressful trying to squeeze everything into such a small amount of time."

However, stress can be caused by more than just daily work. "You never know what a person could be going through," said Stovall. With such a large variety of personalities at NUHS, one could be dealing with more on his or her plate than a passerby might expect.

Depression is widely noticed among children ages 12-19. Nevertheless, a diagnosis isn't given to everyone. "Many people have it and haven't been diagnosed yet," added Stovall. David Zimanski, another junior at NUHS, said, "You can see in many peoples' faces when something out of the normal happens."

Should teachers be more concerned about depression in students? Zimanski thinks so. "Teachers should be more concerned about kids' mental health because in the teenage

years, we have a more delicate mental stability," he said.

Many students at NUHS believe that homework levels are a main contributor to stress. "Homework and work contribute greatly to high school and college students," said Zimanski. "And, you know, some things just happen in life that you can't control."



"Life for many young people is a painful tug of war filled with mixed messages and conflicting demands from parents, teachers, coaches, employers, friends, and oneself," said Joyce Walker, leader of the 4-H youth development. "Growing up--negotiating a path between independence and reliance on others--is a tough business." This being said, it's common to have feelings of stress or depression

during one's teen years

There are signs to look for among your friends that can point to stress and depression. "I notice that when people get depressed, they just stop talking," said Brooke Daleug, a senior at NUHS. "Even if they're my friends, they just seem to shut down."

More signals of depression may include, but are not limited to, impulsive behaviors, obsessions and unreal fears, aggressive and antisocial behavior, withdrawal and isolation, detachment, poor social skills resulting in feelings of humiliation, poor self-worth, blame and feeling "ugly", over-achieving and extreme pressure to perform, and problems with sleeping and/or eating.

If you feel that a friend of yours is in need of help or assistance, there are most definitely places to turn to. Toll-free suicide prevention hotlines in Minnesota include 1-800-SUICIDE and 1-800-273-TALK. Online crisis networks include CrisisChat.org and ImAlive.org. Contacting a school counselor or a professional psychiatrist would also be a great option.

Since depression and stress is abundant among teenagers, it may take a massive amount of time and effort to reduce.

The only question now is, who is willing to step up and make those changes?

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Only Two? The Reason Behind Having Just Two Foreign Exchange Students

By Katie Ringle

NEW ULM - This year there are only two foreign exchange students at New Ulm Senior High instead of the typical 12-15. These students are Teeraporn "Tawan" Meechumnarn from Thailand and Christine Olson from Denmark.

These students are here as part of the Student Exchange Program, which decides where the student will be staying and where they will be going to school. This decision helps to prevent problems with host families.

"It's weird, we had way more [exchange students] last year," said junior Kali Gulden.

Mr. Bergmann, principal at New Ulm High School, said that there were fewer exchange applications this year. Moreover, the number of exchange students were limited because of already large class sizes after the school board had to trim budgets last year.

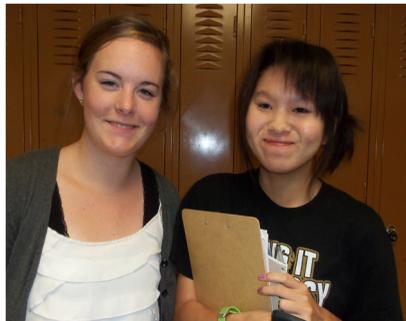
Many students are bummed and disappointed that there are fewer exchange students this year.

Student body president Britta Babel said that having only two exchange students "really limits the amount of diversity we get."

Many students this year echo Babel's assessment saying they would like to have more exchange students, and in-turn, more diversity and global connections in our school.

"Students like that interaction with foreign exchange students," said Bergmann.

Although Christine Olson was unavailable to discuss her student exchange program to a detailed extent, she was still able to share her basic information.



Our foreign exchange students this year are Christine Olson (on the left) and Teeraporn "Tawan" Meechumnarn (on the right)

Christine Olson is from Baaring, Denmark. She will be at New Ulm High School for two semesters.

Olson commented that she likes it here, and she hopes to return to the U.S. in the future. There are still several things she would like to do before she leaves.

"I've been to Florida, so I want to go to California next," said Olson.

Tawan, on the other hand, was able to tell more about her stay here and her life back home in more detail.

Teeraporn "Tawan" Meechumnarn is from Roi-Et, Thailand. She will be here for two semesters and is staying in the Ayer household in New Ulm.

Tawan was in the United States three years ago with family. She liked the people here and thought the culture was "cool and really different."

"I like the people here. It's a different experience," said Tawan.

Tawan also commented that the school here is really different from her school in Thailand, but the difficulty level in the classes is about the same.

"It's hard to read English," a laughing Tawan replied, "but it's very useful."

Back in Thailand, Tawan has a family of seven. Her parents are pharmacists, which is also what she wants to pursue in college.

Tawan wants to do many things in the United States before she leaves. Two of the most important are she wants to visit Disney World and dye her hair.

"I want to dye my hair blue, pink, and many other colors," said Tawan.

After leaving in June, Teeraporn Meechumnarn already says she hopes to return to the United States in the future to revisit friends and the culture.

Although there are only two exchange students this year, it is truly better than having none at all.

You Cheer, They Cheer, There Ain't No Cheer Here

By Miranda Steinmetz

NEW ULM - Adrenaline rushing through the bodies of young New Ulm High School students. The deafening roar of a cheering crowd. Legs flying into the air. What do all of these things have in common?

This was a typical night for the Danceline ladies at New Ulm High School until it was cut this year. There are some of the elements involved in Danceline and the excitement of being able to do something for the spirit of the school. I asked some of the Fall Color Guard dancers if not having a Fall Danceline this year reduces the amount of the school spirit in our school. Rayn Nachreiner, a freshman at New Ulm High School, said, "Yes, because there is just no school spirit and no one to lead any cheers."

How do the girls that contributed to being in Danceline feel about there not being Fall Danceline due to the budget cuts? Well, they are really upset about it because they have fun pumping up all of the students before the Homecoming football game and during pepfests. I asked Jenny Marten's,

the captain for the homecoming Color Guard, about how she feels about there not being Danceline at all after Homecoming is all over. Jenny Martens said, "I feel upset about it because I love to dance."

Additionally, Nachreiner said that the thing she will miss the most about being part of the Color Guard dancers "is being able to leave school and skip class to go to a pepfest and to attend the football games."

So, what could students or teachers have done to try to

save danceline from the budget cuts? Jenny Martens said, "This would have been hard to do because the budget cuts affected everything and everyone at New Ulm High School."



Since budget cuts had Fall Danceline removed, what could students have done to have more school spirit? Students could go out and rally up the classes. They could come up with their own ideas to get the students involved. Also, a few students from each grade could go out in the middle of the gymnasium during a pepfest to rally up their own grade. Each grade could come up with their own cheers and use those to

pump up everyone for Homecoming events in the future.

New Ulm Softball - 2012 State Champs

By Jake Gieseke & Andrew Forstner

NEW ULM - Last spring was a historic season for New Ulm Eagles softball winning the class AA state title at Caswell Park in North Mankato.

This was the first softball title in school history for the Eagles. It was their first trip to state since 1997 when the team was the state runner up, and it is the first state title by an Eagles sports team since the baseball team in 2002.

The Eagles started their state run by beating Kasson-Mantorville by a score of 3-2. New Ulm continued their run by beating Maple River 4-3 to advance to the state championship game against St. Anthony Village only to beat them 9-5.

Heading into State the Eagles were confident that they would do well in the tournament.

"I knew we only lost one starter from the previous year, so I thought it was possible. I was really excited for what was to come at State," said New Ulm senior right-fielder Megan Kral about the Eagles' chances.

New Ulm senior left fielder Liz Guggisberg said, "We were pretty confident in ourselves. We knew we had a chance. It was really, really exciting."

In the quarterfinal, the first game of the day, New Ulm was losing 2-0 to Kasson-Mantorville in the bottom of the seventh, and



they were down to their final out. However, clutch hitting prevailed, and New Ulm tied the game and sent it into extra innings.

Then in the eighth inning, New Ulm was able to put the all-important winning run on the board, as they were able to shut down Kasson-Mantorville in the bottom half of the frame and win the game.

In the semifinal, game two of the day, the Eagles got out to a 3-0 lead over Maple River after two innings. However, Maple River hung around and eventually tied the game in the sixth inning. But the tie was short lived as New Ulm got yet another late inning, two out hit, and they went on to win the game 4-3 advancing themselves to the State Championship game.

New Ulm senior shortstop Brittany Hoffmann said, "We never gave up. We were behind in the first two games, and we still managed to come back."

The State Championship game took place the next day against St. Anthony Village. The Eagles jumped out to an early 4-0 lead in the first inning, but in the third inning St. Anthony Village made a game of it again by bringing around three runners to score, making the game sit at 4-3.

St. Anthony Village then tacked on another run in the fourth and fifth inning each, giving them the lead at 5-4.

The Eagles headed to the seventh inning down to their last three outs and trailing by one run, but this story has been written before and clutch hitting again allowed the Eagles to tie the game

progress as well. "I'm making progress. My backhand and serving have gotten a lot better," said first-year tennis player Jane Arnoldt. "I love tennis!"

To the future varsity, the seniors would like to leave the junior varsity with a few tips. "Focus on what you're doing and you can have fun while you're doing it," said Jakel.

"Learn to serve," said senior Marissa Johnson. "And get along with each other."

The Lady Eagles had a record of 1-16. Though the Eagles struggled, they made up for it having fun at practice and working hard to get better. Again, the team is very young and growing stronger everyday. "There is always next year," said Varsity Coach Kevin Maudal. "I feel good about the future." We are sad to see our seniors go but also welcome new interested athletes.

5-5.

The Eagles held St. Anthony Village scoreless in the bottom of the seventh. Then in the top of the eighth the Eagles were able to hammer out four runs.

St. Anthony Village could not respond and the New Ulm Eagles won the Class 2AA State Championship.

"Our rally was nothing but resilience," said New Ulm center-fielder Maddie Kral.

The celebration ensued.

"It was unbelievable. I just kept saying 'Do you realize we just won state?!' It didn't feel real," Maddie Kral said.

"It was relieving and so exciting," said New Ulm senior left-fielder Ellen Wiederhoft.

"It was an awesome feeling. It seemed more like a dream than anything else," said Guggisberg.

The Eagles were the toast of the town, and many people were very proud.

"I just remember being happy but crying because I could not believe what we had done...the feelings I had can't even be described...I will never forget it," said Hoffmann.

State Championships do not come around very often, and it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to achieve the status of State Champions. And none of the players took that for granted.

"Every player worked to take the next step to be the State Champs," said Megan Kral.

Next year's Eagles are looking forward to getting back on the field and building toward another State Championship season.

Look for "another good team that will have to work hard again," said Wiederhoft.

For now, however, the Eagles softball team served their school and town proud.

"It was the school's first state title, so we are very proud to be part of that. New Ulm finally made headlines for something positive, so we had reason to be proud of that as well," said Guggisberg.

For this, the school heartily congratulates the Eagles Softball team. Well done, girls!

The future players are sure to impress us. Good Luck, seniors. Go, Eagles!

Servin' It Up

By Alyssa Hessel

NEW ULM - The New Ulm girl's tennis team has nearly finished their season this year. This year there are a total of four seniors, no juniors, two sophomores, two freshmen, and two eighth graders that rotate starting on varsity this year.

"It was a good season," said senior captain Hannah Jakel. "It was a lot of fun, and I expected it to go pretty much how it has."

At the start of the season, the team received a great amount of beginners, and a lack of last year's players. "We lack experience, so when we play teams with a lot of experience, it's hard for us to compete as well as we'd like to," said Junior Varsity Coach Matthew Dick.

With more youth added to the team, the Lady Eagles struggled compared to last season. "It's a building process," said Dick.

The newest members of the tennis team seem to be making

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Eagles Stunned After Section Loss

2012 Eagle Baseball Season Review

By Jake Gieseke & Andrew Forstner

NEW ULM - Last spring the New Ulm Eagles baseball team lost their section final game to Fairmont in Marshall. That was an elimination game for the Cardinals and the Eagles only had to win one game to reach their ultimate goal of getting to state. The scores were 3-2 in the first game and 8-3 in the second game.

The Eagles baseball team lost the first game to the Cardinals 3-2 in a stunner. Fairmont jumped out with the early lead 1-0 in the fifth inning on a sacrifice fly, then the Eagles tied the game in the bottom half of the inning on an RBI single.

Fairmont scored again in the top of the seventh inning to lead 2-1. The Eagles answered again and tied the game on an RBI double.

Fairmont scored the winning run in the top of the eighth on an RBI single, and the Eagles threatened but stranded a runner on second base.

After losing the first game, New Ulm and Fairmont played a second game, and it was win-or-go-home for both teams.



The Eagles jumped out to any early 1-0 lead in the first inning on an unearned run. New Ulm would add two more runs before Fairmont's bats finally came alive in the sixth inning. Fairmont got to a 4-3 lead and never looked back and would later win the game 8-3 to go to State again.

The Eagle players and coaches were very disappointed in the outcome of the section final games.

"Awful! To be that close to the ultimate goal of participating in the State Tournament and not reaching it was a very tough pill to swallow. To have your entire pitching staff rested and needing to be beaten twice, things seemed to have fallen into place this past year, but for the fifth straight time, we walked away from Legion Field as section runner up," said Coach Backer.

New Ulm senior starting left fielder Jim Holstein said, "I was disappointed. I feel in the second game we got an early lead and shut down. When we play a team like Fairmont, we have to play all seven innings or more."

The Eagles had many memorable moments during the season. One of those games for Backer was the Eagles win in Fairmont to share the South Central Conference title.

New Ulm senior pitcher Dominic Camacho said his most memorable moment was "when we won against Pipestone in extra innings to advance to playoffs." The sub-section win against Pipestone was an extra inning thriller to advance in the section tournament.

Another big memorable moment, according to Backer, was "the playoff win against Marshall."

But the season's best moment for Jim Holstein was "Timmy Kerhen hitting the go ahead home run to beat Marshall."

The Eagles are looking to build off their successful 19-7 season this spring. According to the returning team batting average leader Luke Cihak, "We need to improve hitting and fielding."

According to Holstein, "Weight lift, stay[ing] healthy, and put[ting] in the extra hours to be a better individual player" are the keys to successful season.

"We need to practice better and bring more intensity to practice," said Backer.

All in all, the season was considered a great success by players and coaches because of the improvement. "Yes, ... we improved a lot and we beat some good teams," said Cihak.

"Yes, I felt we exceeded expectations. Going into the season, I did not think we were a team that would reach the section finals and tie for the conference," said Backer.

Yes indeed, New Ulm Eagles baseball is looking forward to their upcoming season and to build off last season's success.

Drop the Bass Down Low

Choir and Band Playing Our Favorite Hits

By Joshua Dunton

NEW ULM - Many students at NUHS have been participating in two groups that always get people applauding, win many great awards, and let students have fun doing them. Many of these students have been participating for their whole high school careers. Nick Schisel, a senior bass in choir, and Chris Huber, a junior tenor II in choir, have been in choir ever since 7th grade.

A choir is a group of people that sing songs, and the people are placed in a certain area depending on the tone of their singing voice. The NUHS choir is led by Mr. Maki and has numerous students participating with vocal ranges from low bass to soprano. Band uses just instruments and the majority of them are powered by the human lungs. The bands are led by Mrs. P. Nelson and have a vast array of instruments, including saxophones, clarinets, flutes, trumpets, drums, and many more.

The songs that both groups choose are both fun to listen to and win them awards like the ones standing in both the choir and band room. Some of the songs that the band plays at sporting events and other school activities are music from today. "I think 'Crazy Train' would be a cool song to practice," said Schisel.

Both teachers appear to be very proud of their students from this year and past years.

"The only thing I can think that will improve the band is to have more members," said Mrs. P. Nelson. She expects nothing but the best from the band and they have showed it looking at the many trophies that are in their practice room. "Last year the 8th grade band won 'superior' and the high school band received 'excellence.'"

"Mr. Maki knows what songs we need to learn," said Chris Huber.

But it doesn't matter what song the band or choir chooses to perform because they will surely have crowds cheering and wanting more. This year's choir and band members look to be the students that give it their all and are determined to make NUHS proud.

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A Young But Willing Team

By Matthew Penkert

NEW ULM - A new season, a new year, a new coach, and a young team. A new set of ideas and problems arise as any team tries to come together to become one.

Not only is the team a young team this year, but they also have a new coach, Coach Ortmann. Ortmann stepped in after Coach Bute stepped down at the end of last season. Ortmann said, "I like being the new coach. I want to change New Ulm's mentality on football."

Ortmann stepped in with a simple game plan for the football team. "I do not have any specific goals for the team, but I do believe that if we



Coach Ortmann in front of New Ulm High School.

out hustle, out block, out hit, and out tackle, we have a chance to win," Ortmann said.

The team is working hard to become that solid team. The only difficulty is there is a small group of seniors for the younger ones to follow. Team co-captain Mike Dickinson said, "We are a very young team but trying to come together and get better every day."

The seniors consist of Aaron Stark, Sam Miller, Blake Neumann, MacKenze Vogel, Chris Mulder, Isaiah Johnson, Michael Nosek, Andrew Bregel, and Michael Dickinson.

"The seniors on the team are living up to what I expected of them. They are a great group to lead this team," Ortmann

said.

Even though the team is young, they practice hard and work together well.

"I am proud of our younger members for the fact that even though they are younger, they are taking on the responsibility. They are keeping up the expectations of playing on varsity," Ortmann said.

The team consists of 15 sophomores, 15 juniors, and seven seniors. Even though it is a young team, they still like playing together. "The best part about the team is the experience because of the young team. It is fun to watch them improve," Dickinson said.

"We do have a struggling record, but we are having great progress. We are also working with a new system and I am happy with the way we are progressing," Ortmann said.

The team has a record of 0-4 as of September 27.

Inside the FFA

By Alex Ahern

NEW ULM - On the third Tuesday of each month, a certain group of students meet at the high school at 7:30 p.m. to discuss their plans and goals for the next month. This group is called the FFA, formerly the Future Farmers of America.

FFA is an organization intended to help students learn about things like agriculture and to help prepare them for their potential future in the fields of study they're learning

about.

NUHS offers several classes that the FFA is associated with. Classes such as Natural Resources, Welding, Animal and Plant Science, Agricultural Economics, Food, Land, and People, shop classes, and Horticulture.

FFA meets to discuss any upcoming events and their plans for them. "Every meeting is different," said senior Jake Gieseke, treasurer of the FFA.

Additionally, the FFA organizes events to help the students or the community. Recently, they just completed a corn drive to raise money to help

fund Camp Courage.

On October 16, the FFA will be doing a fruit sale event, and later this month on Oct. 26, there will be an FFA sponsored blood drive.

FFA is always willing to accept new members. "Everyone should join. It's easy and fun," said senior FFA member Amanda Calvert.

A few outside students, not affiliated with the FFA, were asked what they thought about the organization.

"It's good for the environment and students and it helps build character," said junior Danny Cooper.

However, some students have barely even heard of the organization and only know it by name. "I don't know enough about the FFA to really give much of an opinion about it," said senior Abigail Matthews.

In order to join, all you have to do is simply sign up

for an agriculture-based class, such as the ones previously listed, and attend the monthly meetings.

"It gave me a good opportunity to learn about the environment and for me to get involved with the community," said senior FFA member Miranda Steinmetz.

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New Ulm FFA Chapter Holds Annual Corn Drive

By Andrew Hartley

NEW ULM - At the beginning of each year, students are highly motivated to join FFA. FFA was established in 1928 and exists in all 50 states of the United States. FFA is a way to keep kids together and form strong leadership skills, and many other skills used in everyday life. One event they hold is the Corn Drive, which started in Freeborn County, Minnesota in 1953. It is apparent that this has been a long-lasting tradition that has been very beneficial to many individuals.

Each and every year an annual Corn Drive is held to raise money for Camp Courage. Camp Courage is located by Maple Lake, Minnesota, and it lies on 305 acres of lake-shore, woods, and fields. Other locations are Lake George and around the Twin Cities. The camp is for children and adults who have disabilities. The proceeds of the Corn Drive help cover costs for the individuals who attend Camp Courage.

Although this year may have been a bit of a struggle for area farmers due to drought and hail damage, this did not stop them from being generous and kind to the students. Ac-

ording to Mr. Stuckey, an FFA Advisor at New Ulm High School, 75 to 100 students participate each year. In the future for the New Ulm FFA Corn Drive Stuckey would like to see "a 'normal' harvest year for farmers and FFA members."

On a yearly average, New Ulm FFA Members raise between \$8,000 to \$10,000 for Camp Courage, according to Stuckey. Students go to area farmers and businesses and ask for donations of either cash or crop. The donations of each are widely received, but is all based on what farmers and businesses feel comfortable with donating. "Students enjoy going out into the public, mainly for the freedom, but also keeping the mind set that they are raising money for a great cause," according to Liz Guggisberg, a senior, and also the Sentinel of the New Ulm FFA Chapter. "My favorite part of the Corn Drive is going out with my friends and raising money for a great camp that serves many kids."

Even students who do not participate in the Corn Drive and who are not current FFA Members have something positive to say about the Corn Drive. According to Alex King, a

junior at New Ulm High School, "The Corn Drive is a great way to give back to the community. It benefits those who are disabled, and I really like that concept of the Corn Drive."

For many people, it was their first time participating in the Corn Drive. Miranda Sandberg, a senior at New Ulm High School and also an FFA member, said, "This was my first year participating in the Corn Drive, and I had a really great time!" Gabby Budenski, a senior at New Ulm High School said, "I think the FFA Corn Drive is a fantastic way to raise money for a great camp. I feel this really get's the students involved with the community."

At the time of publishing the total has for the year's Corn Drive has not been calculated since donations are still coming in. Even though it was a rough year on crops, everyone can rest assured that this will be another successful year for the New Ulm FFA Corn Drive and Camp Courage.

What Makes the School Go 'Round

By Matthew Penkert

NEW ULM - Why do they do what they do? All year they work hard to make sure our school has fun events for the student body. They don't do it for something good to put on a college application or just to look good in front of other people. They simply "do it because [they] love it," said Mrs. Gordon, a Student Council advisor and social studies teacher.

Every year the Student Council has multiple meetings per month to plan and organize the events we have at our school. They do it despite the fact that they do not get to enjoy the events as much as the regular student body.

They spend most of their time on Homecoming Week 2012. Student Council President Britta Babel said, "Planning Homecoming is a lot of work and stressful, but it is fun and totally worth it."

Take, for example, Battle of the Classes, which is one of the biggest events for Student Council. They plan all of the events and make sure it runs smoothly. Making sure it runs smoothly involves planning the events, attending them, setting them up, and then cleaning up afterwards.

"I am proud of the kids for cleaning and doing stuff for the events because it limits their enjoyment during the events," Gordon said

Not only do they do the Homecoming Week, but they sponsor events called intramurals. Intramurals sponsored include chess and volleyball tournaments.

Additionally, they organize things such as the Spring Fling, Turkey Bingo, and a charity fundraiser every year

The Student Council does a lot of the planning on their

own, but the feedback and ideas from the student body are what supports them the most. Student Council Vice President Connor Johnson said, "We can do a lot of events that we think everyone will like, but we cannot know for sure unless we get feedback and ideas."

"If people do not like the events we are making, we will not know unless the students tells us," Gordon said. Sometimes an event they spend all the time planning for falls through because people are not interested in joining them.

Johnson said, "We are trying to get activities that the student body has an interest in and increase the student involvement in school."

Even though Student Council seems like it is all about the fun and games, they just want to make sure we have school pride. "We are trying to get activities that increase student involvement but also increase school pride," Gordon said.

To increase school pride Stud. Co. helps out at pep-fests and most are a part of

many extracurricular activities. The Student Council members do not let all the planning and their lack of being able to participate in certain events bring them down. "I like to be able to sit back and enjoy watching my hard work in action and people actually enjoying it," Johnson said.



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Frankly Speaking

By Miranda Sandberg

Dear Frank,

So there is this one boy in my math class. He talks to me all the time during class and helps me on my problems, but he won't talk to me outside of that class. I kinda like him, but not if he can only talk to me in secret. I'm not sure if it's because of his friends or am I just not that cool? We make eye contact in the halls, but I'm not sure if that means anything these days. Please tell me what to do.

Sincerely,

Not Cool Enough

Dear Not Cool Enough,

Obviously he is good at math. Maybe when you see him in the hall, stop him and ask him to help you and start talking to him. If he rejects you, then you're not cool enough. Maybe he is just scared and not sure of himself. Just take it slow and go from there. You could also ask him to tutor you, that way you also get time alone and you can ask him questions that you are curious about. Otherwise, just assume he thinks you're weird and doesn't want to be seen with you.

Sincerely,

Frank

Sudoku

5	7	3	9		8		4	
	6						3	7
						8		
	8	9	5				7	
			4		3			
	3				9	6	5	
		5						
2	1						8	
	4		6		5	7	9	1

Dear Frank,

Science is my favorite subject and I feel like I'm really good at it, but somehow I always manage to fail the test. I always pay attention and take as many notes as I can, but it just doesn't help. I don't really have much time to study since I'm on the football team, I have a job, and I'm a kid. I need a social life. I'm really stuck on what to do. Why do tests have to be so hard? I don't like asking for help because I don't want to look like a stupid kid that needs help. I just want to pass my tests and get a good grade.

Sincerely,

Can't Pass a Test

Dear Can't Pass a Test,

STUDY! I know studying isn't fun and it's very time consuming. Either you're going to have to study or ask for help. Maybe instead of asking a teacher for help, you could ask one of your peers to help you. That way you would be more comfortable. If studying for ten minutes before bed doesn't work and not a single person in your grade will help you, then we really have a problem. If worst comes to worst, your parents would be more than willing to help you. In the end, if nothing helps then I guess you will be failing science.

Sincerely,

Frank

Horoscopes

By Jennifer Martens

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

You're going to have a horrible week. Depressing? Yes, yes it is, but on Thursday things will start to look up. Whether it be by getting an A on your test or getting a free cookie from a restaurant. Either way good luck.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

This month is going to be great. Only a few bumps in the road ahead for you. You're going to find \$5.00, your car might get pooped on by a bird, and your science homework might disappear. Even through all of this it's going to be a good month.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

It's going to be a very musical day for you. Don't go around yelling out your favorite songs from the *Lion King* or *Wicked* though. You might get smacked by an upperclassmen or your own peers.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

It seems that you're being too antisocial right now. You need to get out with your friends and do something, either by going to play football while it's still nice out or by going to the movies with your family.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Your week is going to be amazing, until Wednesday that is. You're going to lose your homework and stub your pinky toe on a chair. After that things will start to look up again, thankfully.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

You need some time to yourself this week because lately you've been irritated by everything it seems. Take a day to just do your homework, then relax and watch some old Disney movies or some TV by yourself, maybe even read a book.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

It's time to do something new. Learn Russian, play the harmonica, or even go to synchronized swimming lessons. Just go out and do something new, because your life needs a new routine.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

It's time to focus more on school and less on what the newest drama is in your grade. You're getting too obsessed with your grade's drama, so you need to take a step back and realize it's time to worry about more important things.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You need to expand your social group, just a little bit. Find someone new to talk to in one of your classes because sooner or later you're going to get tired of talking to the same people. So go make some new friends.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

It's time to get in touch with your creative side because you need a new outlet in life. Whether it be by doing arts and crafts, making a quilt, or doodling in your notebook, just find something creative to do.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Your procrastinating and luck with teacher avoidance is coming to an end because you have a giant group project coming up. If you don't pull your weight, someone is bound to step in and tell the teacher, which means no points for you.

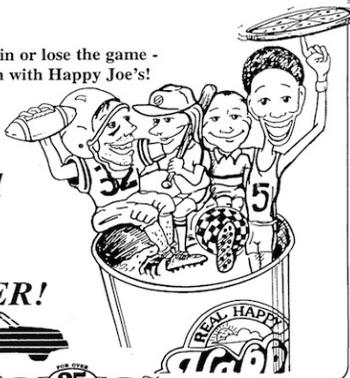
Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You need some down time, with or without friends. Right now you're so wound up with tension that you just need to relax and get away from all the stress around school, work, or your family.



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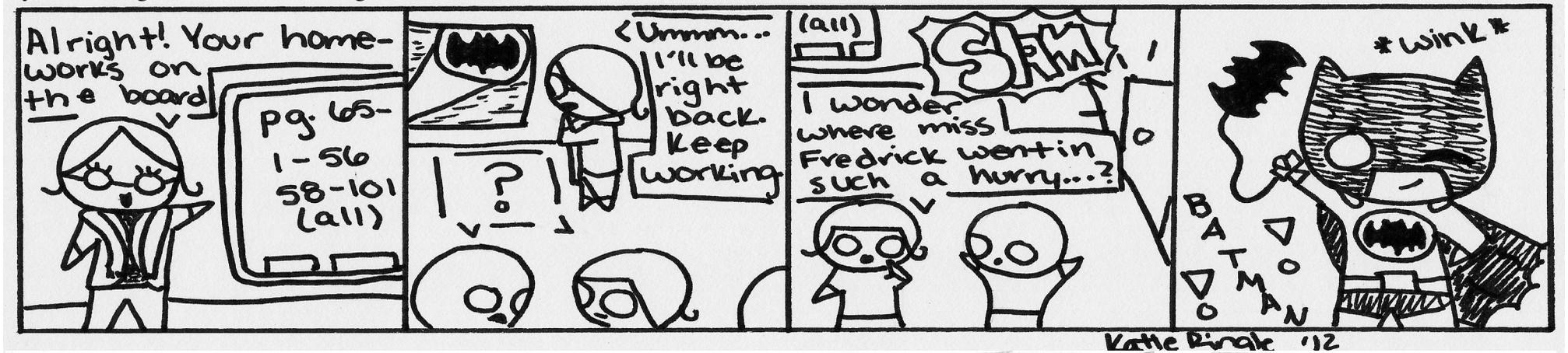
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Comics

By Katie Ringle and Caitlin Harrington



Sudoku Answers (from pg. 14)

5	7	3	9	1	8	2	4	6
8	6	1	2	5	4	9	3	7
9	2	4	7	3	6	8	1	5
1	8	9	5	6	2	4	7	3
6	5	7	4	8	3	1	2	9
4	3	2	1	7	9	6	5	8
7	9	5	8	4	1	3	6	2
2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8	4
3	4	8	6	2	5	7	9	1



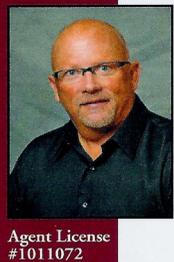
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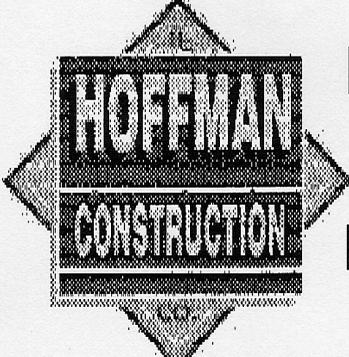
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