



South O'Brien High School

The Wolverine Roar

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Students Celebrate Christmas with Door Decorating Competition

By Kelsee Warnke and Shayli Johnson

This year the high school held another Christmas door decorating contest. The idea was brought up by the Climate and Culture Committee. Principal Denise Phillips discussed the idea with student council members and they agreed it would be a great idea to do it again this year. Mrs. Phillips sent out a Google spreadsheet to all the students where they could sign up in teams of two or three to decorate a door. There were a total of seven teams. Member of the Climate and Culture Committee Mrs. Courtney Roskamp met up with the seven teams and assigned them each a door to decorate. The seven teams came up with a plan for their doors and gathered all the supplies they needed. Each team got two days to work on their assigned doors. Once they were done decorating, three staff members picked their top three favorite doors and submitted them to Mrs. Phillips. The top three doors each received a bag of Christmas goodies. Julia Ball and Xochil Araiza were the first-place winners.



The first-place winners sophomores Julia Ball and Xochil Araiza show off their decorated door.

National Honor Society Adopts a Family for Christmas

By Aedan Guinn

The National Honor Society (NHS) has a mission to serve others in the community to help when they can. This year isn't any different. South O'Brien NHS members took some time before the holidays to Adopt-A-Family for Christmas. NHS's advisor, Michelle Abernethy, who has served as the NHS advisor for ten years, says, "Our goal is to adopt a family and deliver a gift for the holidays." NHS did their annual Christmas shopping on Monday, December 11, to pick out the gift. After the club purchased and wrapped their gift, they brought it to Upper Des Moines in Primghar to be delivered to the family for Christmas.



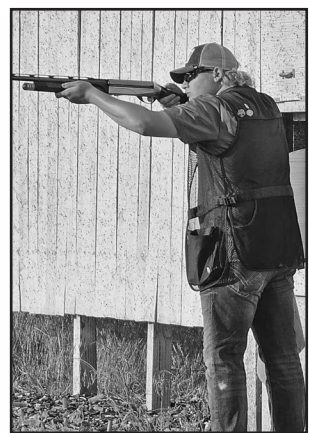
Seniors Claire Wagner and Elodie Wilson join junior Ashlynn Gunnerson to do some Christmas shopping for the NHS adopt-a-family project.

Sophomore Conley Ginger Competes in Trap Shooting

By Mitchell Enger and Cole Cox

Sophomore Conley Ginger is part of a competitive trap shooting team through an organization called Cherokee County Youth Shooting Sports (CCYSS). Conley has been involved in the competitive sport for six years. Through his years as a competitor, he has earned many honors and awards, including first place at the state competition in 2019. Conley is part of a team that has nearly 30 members, ranging in age from 5th to 12th grade.

Conley's inspiration to get involved came from his father Travis Ginger, who introduced him to hunting and got him involved in trap shooting. Conley said he enjoys the feeling of achievement he gets from competing. "I feel proud because I see all the hard work and practice pay off," he remarked. He practices in the summer every Sunday for meets that are held periodically through May, June, and July. To im-



Sophomore Conley Ginger aims for a clay pigeon at a competition.

prove his trap shooting skills, Conley said he also practices in the off season.

Students interested in competitive trap shooting should check out the Cherokee County Youth Shooting Sports Facebook page or contact Chris Van Gorp (Chris.VanGorp@dnr.iowa.gov), the shooting and range coordinator for the Iowa Scholastic Clay Target Program through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

CAPS Celebrates a Busy Semester

By Averie Logan

As the semester ends, so do the pop tab donations the CAPS program has run since September. Amy Schmidt took two of her students, Seniors Edie Oliver and Jordan Wulf to drop off the gathered tabs at the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux City. Altogether they collected over twenty pounds of pop tabs. Paullina, Primghar,

and Sutherland communities did a wonderful job of contributing to the cause. Not to mention the associates of the South O'Brien CAPS class put in the work of collecting tabs from pop cans, spending hours to collect a large portion.

To celebrate the conclusion of the pop tab donations, an innovation showcase was held at Northwestern College in

Orange City on December 18. Multiple schools came together to learn that their efforts collected 1,542 pounds of pop tabs. The value of \$138,780 in total. Afterwards, each group had time to present their innovation posters which described each member's experience with CAPS. Students chatted amongst themselves while Siouxland CAPS provided snacks

and beverages during the showcase. To say this project has ended on a good note would be an understatement. "I think we could have done a lot better and I think it's something worthwhile and easy, maybe on our part we could have got out there and participated, and I would like to continue," Amy Schmidt said.

Senior Denae Warnke Places in Track Competition for the Blind in Tennessee

By Brooklyn Edwards



South O'Brien senior Denae Warnke competed in the Nashville, Tennessee, track meet for blind or visually impaired students last fall.

Warnke is on the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESVBI) Rams Track Team. She traveled to Tennessee School for the Deaf with 10 other teammates from Iowa in late September.

The competition involved schools for the blind in the North Central Association for Schools for the Blind Conference. The road trip is as much about navigating new environments and meeting peers as it is about athletic competition.

At the event, Warnke competed in three events, including the long jump, the 60-yard dash, and the shot put. She placed 7th with a distance of 7'8" in the girls' long jump. She placed 13th in the 60-yard dash at a time of 11.80 seconds.

Students were offered the option to use a guidewire if they wanted. Many students benefited from the lanes being brightly marked as well. Warnke said, "I loved spending time with my friends, the amazing staff, and eating the food!"

Warnke also competes in other athletic events for blind and visually impaired students, such as swimming.

She will graduate in May from South O'Brien and plans to attend UNI and possibly majoring in elementary education.

Senior Denae Warnke competes in shot put at the Nashville Tennessee track meet.

Paraprofessionals DJ Lode

By Avery Halverson and Brielle Tewes
Paraprofessionals help K-12 students during and after school. Their responsibilities include assisting teachers, working with students one-on-one and in small groups to complete work, and supporting students as needed. South O'Brien High School has four paras who have a huge impact on the school day by helping students, keeping things organized, and aiding teachers.

DJ Lode has worked at South O'Brien for 6 years and has worked as a paraprofessional for 5 years. DJ is an assistant coach for the high school football team and is the head coach for the high school baseball team. He enjoys playing, coaching, and watching sports. When he's not working or coaching, he enjoys playing cards, hanging out with friends, and playing video games.



Paraprofessional DJ Lode

Q: What made you decide to be a para?

A: After graduation I was unsure of my future plans. I tried out a few different jobs but didn't enjoy them. Growing up, I was always told I would make a good teacher, so I decided to become a para. I have enjoyed being a para, and I am currently working towards my teaching degree in Elementary Special Ed.

Q: What other jobs have you had before becoming a para?

A: I worked at Dyno's at Sanborn. After that I became a cook at the Sanborn Golf and Country Club. I also worked at Jay's restaurant before being a para.

Q: What roles do you have here as a para?

A: As a para, I work with kids one on one and in groups to help give them the best opportunities to learn.

Q: What are some challenges you face being a para?

A: The biggest struggle I face is the lack of downtime I get due to my busy schedule. Although, it helps make the day go faster.

Q: What are some things you enjoy about being a para?

A: I enjoy working with the students and the relationships that stem from it. I also enjoy being able to help students learn and being there to help when they need it.



2024 South O'Brien High School Wrestlers

Five South O'Brien students are members of the Sheldon-South O'Brien Wrestling Team. Sophomore Dominic Rounds, seniors Cole Cox and Luis Salazar, and freshman Marshal Warnke. (Not Pictured Alena Villarreal)
Upcoming meets for the team are on Thursday, January 18, at West Sioux and Sergeant-Bluff on Saturday, January 20.

Festive Fun to Celebrate Christmas

By Justice Frerk and Jayven Miller

The members of the student council, with the help of Principal Denise Phillips, put together a festive week for the high school students before Christmas break. The fun-filled week consisted of 5 dress-up days and a Christmas movie on Friday. Monday's

dress-up theme was Red and Green, Tuesday's was Winter White out, Wednesday's was Ugly Sweater, Thursday's was Christmas Character, and Friday's was Pajama day, which paired perfectly with the movie day. Students and staff watched National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation in the west gym on Friday be-

fore the early dismissal. Student Council members made and handed out bags of popcorn, pretzels, and M&M's to students watching the movie. Senior Alex Sage said, "The dress-up days were fun, but ending the week with a movie and snacks was perfect."



Juniors Abby Nelson and Ashlynn Gunnerson and seniors Brooklyn Joines and Kylee Lepley get comfy in their lounge chairs while watching the movie.



Junior Jayven Miller and seniors Luis Salazar and Justice Frerk pose in their favorite Christmas sweaters.

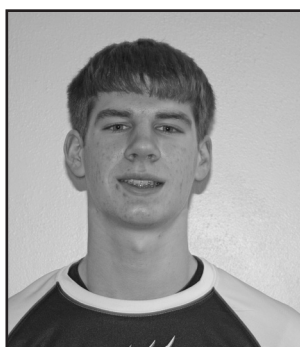
What are you looking forward to most in 2024?



Freshman

Raegan Plagge

"Playing AAU volleyball in the spring."



Sophomore

Jaden Kreber

"Having a successful basketball season because basketball is my favorite sport."



Junior

Hailei Wallinga

"Attending church camp in the summer so I can be with my friends."



Senior

Aaron Funkhouser

"Graduating high school to make some money."



Staff

Mrs. Melanie Yates

"Enjoying the vacations that Mr. Yates and I have planned."