



South O'Brien High School

# The Wolverine Roar

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## Leaving a Legacy: Jazz I Returns to Ames

By Edie Oliver

After a triumphant first-place finish at the Northwest Iowa Band Association's (NWIBA) District Competition in Le Mars on February 19, South O'Brien Jazz I will be hitting the road to Ames to compete in the Iowa Jazz Championships on April 2. While at NWIBA, four musicians earned Outstanding Musicianship awards: senior Claire Wagner, junior Alex Grimm, junior Ashlynn Gunnerson, and sophomore Chloe Hustedt. The group, comprised of 7-12 musicians, has been rehearsing three pieces, Groove Blues, Midnight Freight, and Hit the Bricks since early November. Each tune explores different aspects of the jazz sound, such as blues, funk, or ballads, and features several soloists. Sophomore Chloe Hustedt, senior Claire Wagner, junior Alex Grimm, and sophomore

Asa Flinders are the Groove Blues soloists. Count Basie's Midnight Freight features junior Alex Grimm, senior Claire Wagner, and 7th grader Natalee Miller. Hit the Bricks by Gordon Goodwin features senior Edie Oliver, junior Brett Evans, sophomore Anessa Johnson, and junior Ashlynn Gunnerson. Each soloist uses elements of the piece, rhythms, notes, or stylistic aspects to create a unique and interesting solo. It's crunch time for the band. They will be buckling down and perfecting their music to perform in April. The group stopped by South O'Brien Elementary to perform their concert set for the students on February 28. The annual event has become popular with the students of the elementary. Starting in 2004, South O'Brien has attended IJC 15 times. This year's competition marks 20



### South O'Brien Jazz I

Front Row: 7th Graders Lilee and Natalee Miller, freshmen Amelie Wilson, Abby Woodall, sophomore Chloe Hustedt, seniors Claire Wagner and Edie Oliver, sophomore Anessa Johnson, and juniors Ashlynn Gunnerson and Alex Grimm. Middle: sophomore Asa Flinders, 8th Grader Karson Wetrich, sophomore Brennan Billick, seniors Aaron Funkhouser and Ian Oliver, and Director Becky Meyer. Back Row: 8th Grader Owen Oliver, junior Bensen Rower, senior Ben Woodall, and freshman Will Stout.

years of South O'Brien's rich musical history. The band will be selling State Jazz shirts through Keep Aim in Sutherland so keep an eye on

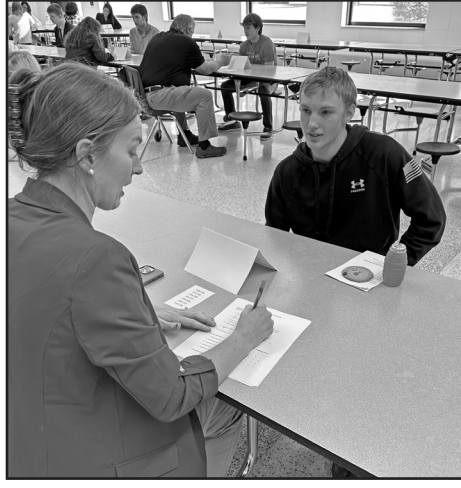
Wolverine social media for more information. For those who wish to attend IJC in Ames on April 2, a daytime wristband is available for \$10

at the door, providing admission to all daytime performances. The evening finals are free to the public. If you can't make it to Ames on April 2, tune

in on Facebook where the performance will be live-streamed and check the Wolverine social media pages for updates.



Freshmen Trayton Cobb, John Purhmann, and Corbin Warnke learn about opportunities offered at Morningside from the Morningside University representative.



Sophomore Dominic Rounds participates in a mock interview.

## South O'Brien Hosts College Fair

By Alex Sage

South O'Brien hosted a College Fair on Thursday, February 29, organized by Instructional Coach Rebecca Miller and School Counselor Sofia Seliger. The event will alternate each spring with a Career Fair, which was held for the first time last year. At this year's event, all students gathered in the west gym to hear keynote speaker Mark Shea, a Future Ready Coordinator from the AEA, talk about

employability skills. Following Shea's presentation, students broke into groups and participated in the College Fair, mock job interviews, and trivia contests relating to post-secondary education. While circling through the College Fair in the east gym, students visited with representatives from private and public colleges and various branches of the military. In addition, volunteers from the community conducted mock

job interviews with 9-12 students in the commons. Students also broke into small groups to participate in trivia contests to learn more about paying for college and post-secondary opportunities. The afternoon concluded in the west gym where students had the opportunity to win door prizes. This is just one activity that South O'Brien offers to students to prepare them for opportunities beyond high school.

## Wolverine Fan Clan

By Avery Halverson, Lindsey Einck, &amp; Brooklyn Edwards

The South O'Brien student section made a name for themselves this basketball season. They followed the boys game to game to support the team and cheered loudly. The fan club could always be heard yelling to encourage the South O'Brien players. Favorite chants like, "Which way? That way" and "De-fense" and many other fun chants helped motivate players on the court. The student section made a big impact on the energy of the game and continued to encourage the boys. Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Kiley Yates said, "The fan club was fantastic. They had great school spirit, were enthusiastic, and kept it school-appropriate. The team appreciated the support all season."

Student fans dressed up for different themes throughout the season. Some favorites were Pink Out, Neon, and Hawaiian. Senior Mitchell Enger and junior Jayven Miller collaborated with Jamie Riedemann from Keep Aim Boutique in Sutherland, IA, to create T-shirts for playoff games. Nearly 100 fans ordered shirts, and they became a popular theme for the fan club. The front of the shirts said, "Wolverines vs Everybody" and "Expect Excessive Noise" on the back.

Although the winter sports season has concluded, the fans made memories supporting the Wolverines. Basketball player Derek Paulsen said, "It creates a positive atmosphere. It helps us play better and feel more comfortable. They get us fired up!"



The South O'Brien fan club shows off their new student section shirts.



# On Air with Williams

By Justice Frerk & Carter Halverson

During his 7th grade year, junior Bryce Williams found out that he could no longer play sports due to some injuries; however, he didn't stop from getting involved. Williams has become the voice of the Wolverines through sports announcing. Bryce started working with Fuller Digital Solutions for South O'Brien sporting events during his 8th-grade year during football season. For 2 months he helped out during the games by taking notes, running the camera, and attentively learning. After learning some tips, he started co-announcing high school sporting events. By the end of his freshman year, Bryce was asked to solo-announce a softball game against Harris-Lake Park (HLP). Since then he has solo-announced many football, basketball, and softball games. Bryce has also announced for HMS and Alta-Aurelia sporting events. When announcing for other schools his biggest challenge is having to learn two new rosters to be able to announce for them. He normally spends anywhere from 2-4 hours researching and preparing for each game. His favorite memory was during the South O'Brien vs HLP Softball game when Jinger Nieuwenhuis hit 2 home runs, and he did his first home run call. Softball is his favorite sport to announce.



Junior Bryce Williams announces during a Wolverine girls basketball game.

because of how fast-paced it is. While announcing, he enjoys pointing out details viewers may not notice, like colorful shoes and left-handed hitters. Bryce tries to model his announcing after Mike Breen's vibrant and energetic attitude. Some of his favorite announcing lines include "cash money," "bang," and "let the big man eat." Bryce's job with Fuller Digital Solutions has led to a radio host gig on Saturdays at KIWA in Sheldon. He loves sports and has said his dream job would be to end up on ESPN.

## Students Prepare For History Day Competition

By Derek Paulsen & Alex Griebel

Juniors must complete a historical research project for the National History Day Competition during January, February, and March in Mr. Hanlin's American History class. The project's topics are chosen based on the annual History Day theme. This year's 2024 theme is "Turning Points in History." Students have their choice to create a paper, website, or exhibit. However, if students choose to work on a paper they must work solo. On the other hand, if they choose an exhibit or website, they are allowed to work with a group of their choice. The project must have a minimum of 15 sources, including 5 primary sources. Other requirements are writing an annotated bibliography and a process paper. Junior projects range from historical events to sports legends and common interests. Junior Bensen Rohwer created a website for his project on the development of car safety. Juniors Teagen Bahrenfuss and Jace Kleinwolterink put together an exhibit on Tiger Woods and his impact on the golf world. Juniors Shayli Johnson, Alexandra Grimm, and Iverson Harms created an exhibit on how Barbie impacted feminism. Mr. Hanlin stated, "For groups to be successful, they must cooperate and learn to communicate." Hanlin added, "I recommend groups work on paperwork first and collaborate on the exhibit later." Websites and papers were due March 4. However, students who chose to create exhibits had until March 12 to complete them. All juniors attended the Regional History Day Competition on March 12 at Northwestern College.

## Dance Team Showcase

By Maecci Stevens, Chloe Cox, & Grace Keen



South O'Brien dance team after a successful State Dance performance in Des Moines on November 30.

Come to the west gym at South O'Brien High School in Paullina for the dance team showcase on Friday, March 22, at 7:00 pm. Admission is free-will donation. The 11-member squad will perform several routines: novelty, pom, lights, and hip hop. South O'Brien's featured soloists are Tawni Wulf and Ryleigh Gimer and will include a trio performance by Ella Friedrichsen, Kelsee Warnke, and Grace Keen. Junior Ella Friedrichsen said, "We've been working hard on our five dances this season and can't wait to show everyone." Two soloists from the Sheldon High School Dance Team, Jordyn Freymann, and Keesha Lindemann, will also perform. Dance Team Coach Jessica Watkins said her favorite part of the season was coming up with ideas as a team our dances and costumes.

## National FFA Week Festivities

By Luis Salazar

February 19-23 was this year's National FFA Week. The students involved in FFA showed their pride and participated in activities planned for the week. Some of the activities included dress-up: Blue and Gold Day, FFA Jacket Day, and Favorite Tractor Day. The FFA members prepared breakfast and the FFA lunch.



Sophomore Austin Negus, junior Caden Wittrock, and sophomores Gabe Moermund, Brody Van Beek, and Alex Griebel scramble eggs for the FFA Teacher Breakfast during National FFA Week.

## Musicians Attend International Honor Band at Dordt University

By Edie Oliver

Seven South O'Brien musicians lived on Dordt University's campus to attend the 3rd Annual Dordt Honor Band from February 15-February 17. Seniors Claire Wagner, Luis Salazar, and Edie Oliver, sophomores Asa Flinders and Anessa Johnson, and juniors Alex Grimm and Ashlynn Gunnerson all participated in 1 of 3 concert bands: the Honors Concert Band, the Honors Wind Symphony, and the Honors Symphonic Band. The bands rehearsed Thursday evening, all day Friday, and Saturday morning to prepare for a 3-hour concert Saturday afternoon. Dordt's Honor Band has become an international as well as national event with students coming from Canada, as well as the east and west coasts to prepare and perform together.



Dordt Honor Band attendees: juniors Alex Grimm and Ashlynn Gunnerson, sophomores Asa Flinders and Anessa Johnson, and senior Edie Oliver (Not pictured: seniors Claire Wagner and Luis Salazar)

## What are you most looking forward to as the weather gets warmer?



**Freshman**  
**Nickolas Sage**  
"Sports and being outside in the sun."



**Sophomore**  
**Kelsee Warnke**  
"Being outside and swimming with friends."



**Junior**  
**Reese Lundquist**  
"Playing golf for Mrs. Faust and with friends."



**Senior**  
**Juliana Foxhoven**  
"Taking my dogs on a walk."



**Staff**  
**Mr. Eric Kumm**  
"Grilling."