

The Crown Prints



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OIDs earn hardware at the state *Oedipus* and *Macbeth* carry home silver and gold



RIGHT: *Lady Macbeth*, played by Sarah Juranek ridicules *Macbeth*, played by Will Yindrick, for his softness. Juranek also went to state in her second event, humorous interpretation, in which she placed fourth. *Macbeth* was chosen to perform on *Best of the Best*, a televised showcase of the best from each state speech event. *Best of the Best* will air on PBS Apr. 22. LEFT: The *Oedipus* chorus narrates the events of *Oedipus*' life. Head coach Matt Grady credits *Oedipus*' success to their hard work. "[*Oedipus*] had very hard blocking, but they did it very well." Photo by J. Brown

By Isaac Archuleta

Tap, tap, tap with three taps of a book, *Oedipus* begins his life journey. The Aquinas High School speech teams' Oral Interpretation of Drama used creative movements to relay both the life of *Oedipus* and the life of *Macbeth* throughout the season.

Oral Interpretation of Drama is one of the Nebraska School Activities Association speech events in which the Aquinas speech team competes. The team qualified two OID's for the state competition this season. According to head coach Mr. Matt Grady this event has three to five students competing at one given time. The competitors must have a script in their hands at all time, and they cannot touch at any time during the program.

OID groups have a 15 minute time limit with 30 seconds grace, and the groups will try to put as much content as possible within the time in order to get a higher score. According to Grady to properly create an OID, the group must

cut a script down to length and create an ensemble effect among the members.

Aquinas ran two OID programs throughout the 2018 season. One OID was *The Oedipus Cycle*. Senior "Oedipus" member Nathan Uhrmacher said, "This OID is based on *The Oedipus Cycle*, a Greek tragedy which we turned into a comedy." Uhrmacher competed with seniors Dawson Schawang, Cody Hein, Isaac Archuleta and junior Kael Jakub.

This group of performers has been competing in OID with each other since the beginning of their high school careers. Uhrmacher said, "In the past we have done OID's about Shakespeare, zombies, and pirates, all of which had very creative movements and stories."

The other competition OID was *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. Senior *Macbeth* group member Sarah Juranek said, "I chose to do this OID because I enjoy working with the group of people I am with. When Will Yindrick and I were looking

for a duet script we found *Macbeth* and thought it would go well as an OID instead."

Juranek competes in an OID with seniors Josh Roh, Madelaine Comte, Will Yindrick and sophomore Travis Roh. Juranek said they faced a few problems when creating this OID. "Some of the problems were getting everyone together, creating characters, and just getting the basics down since this was most of our member's first time doing this event."

"Ridiculously good," was Grady's description of this year's OID programs. *Macbeth* and *Oedipus* placed first and second, respectively, at district competition. Additionally at the NSAA State Speech competition, *Macbeth* and *Oedipus* took the top two spots in class C1, placing first and second, respectively.

The OID's found much success throughout their season. And both Uhrmacher and Juranek agree they would do it all over again if they could.



Trivia tests student knowledge Quiz Bowl heads to Central City



Seniors Caleb Brezina, Isaac Archuleta, Sarah Juranek, Jacob Kadlec, Josh Pandorf and Brandon Timoney compete at the Quiz Bowl tournament in Central City. They went 1-2 during the competition. Other competing students include senior Ryan Nemec and juniors Reilly Kahler, Luke Stara and Zach Zavodny. This group went 4-2 at David City High School. Photo courtesy of J. Timoney

By Faith Kozisek

What is the capitol of Kyrgyzstan? Several Aquinas High School students who excel in academics have an opportunity to compete in Quiz Bowl competitions this year.

Quiz Bowl is an extracurricular activity unlike any other. Senior Valeria Whitmore described Quiz Bowl as a “knowledge fest.” Similarly Quiz Bowl team member senior Josh Pandorf said, “Quiz Bowl is like jeopardy, but between two teams of students.”

During competition an official reads a toss-up question any individual can answer. Whoever buzzes in first with the correct answer gains five points for their team and an opportunity to answer a bonus question. This question is worth ten points, and the team can collaborate for an answer. The Aquinas Quiz Bowl coach is social sciences teacher Mr. John Svec.

Students who excel in Quiz Bowl are “fearless” and “not afraid to get something wrong” according to Svec. Quiz Bowl team member senior Ryan Nemec added, “[Competitors] are students with confidence that can think on their feet.”

Preparing for competitions is a difficult task. “[Quiz Bowl] is not something you can prepare for the day before. [The com-

petition] requires more of what you have learned throughout many years,” Pandorf said. Svec feels students who have manage to learn the “little things” have an advantage in competition.

Quiz Bowl is an enjoyable activity for many reasons. “[Quiz Bowl] is fun to do with friends and a good activity if you are more academic than athletic,” Nemec said. According to Svec, the students that compete on the team varies from competition to competition. Seniors Brandon Timoney, Sarah Juranek, Jacob Kadlec, Josh Pandorf, and Isaac Archuleta won one round and lost two at the ESU 7 competition in Central City High School.

Ryan Nemec and juniors Reilly Kahler, Luke Stara, and Zach Zavodny also competed at David City High School’s competition on Mar. 17. This group went four and two at the competition. Josh Pandorf, Dawson Schawang, and Valeria Whitmore have gone two and one competed in radio Quiz Bowl competitions.

This year’s team gave advice to future competitors. Pandorf said, “Don’t be afraid to answer [questions] and compose a team with different areas of strength.”

Bridge builder cross the competition

Builders strive to create sturdy bridges

By Isaac Archuleta

Aquinas students recently put their minds to the test by building wooden bridges. Judges compared the bridges to those of other schools at the state competition in Aurora, NE.

Several Aquinas students competed in the thirty ninth Nebraska model bridge contest. A group of engineers sponsors this contest to promote interest in construction by competition. The winner of this contest received a \$500 scholarship to a Nebraska University for engineering, as well as other small prizes.

Building trades instructor Mr. Mark Masur was the moderator for this activity. The contest involved creating a bridge out of small wooden sticks and applying weight to the structure to see how much the bridge could hold.

The contest applies specific rules concerning the construction of the bridges. Masur said, “The bridge must not weigh more than 25 grams, and it must span the length of about 12 inches.” Competitors place the bridge on an elevated surface, and weight is applied to test the efficiency of the bridge.

Senior bridge builder Josh Pandorf said his interest in engineering was what got him involved. “I plan on studying engineering in college, so this looked like a cool opportunity.” According to Masur four students participated in this activity.

Senior Jacob Kadlec also participated because he wanted to see what he could do. “I thought it would be a nice little challenge to see if I could build a bridge.” Kadlec said the hardest part overall was all the intricate cutting and gluing in order to make the bridge.

At competition Pandorf’s bridge held the seventh highest amount of weight, ranking it high amongst the best designs. Kadlec’s bridge received the award for most unique design and he received a prize of \$25 and a trophy.

Masur says students can see how ingenuity can pay off in this activity. He also added the ingenuity he saw from other bridges was very surprising. Masur believes this activity will be offered again next year.



Students sing their hearts out

y Morgan Littlefield

That's a plenty for me! Twelve Aquinas singers attended Wayne State Honor Choir recently. Singing four pieces, the vocalists joined over fifty other students to show off their talents.

Wayne State Honor Choir is a great demanding event hosted to work on music, expand experiences and to grow as a group, according to the chorus teacher Mrs. Cathie Mimick. Schools send the top students who are strong vocally, can learn difficult music and are able to perform as a balanced quartet.

Aquinas had twelve students in attendance this year: seniors Will Yindrick, Julie Humlicek and Joshua Roh; juniors Jacqueline Drozda, Loren Hoelscher, Hannah Moravec, Katherine Slama and Logan Helgoth; sophomores Libby Aschoff and Wyatt Moravec; and freshman Rylan Chromy and Jude Yindrick.

Mimick believes that the students were well prepared. "[Wayne State] sent us voice predominate recordings for us to work with, which made [the music] easy to learn," Mimick said. With voice predominate recordings, a choir instructor can select which part—soprano, alto, tenor, bass—is dominate in order to teach the music in advance to the singers.

This year the honor choir performed four pieces: "Take Me to the Water" by Rollo Dilworth, "Come, Let's Begin" arranged by Mat-

thew Armstrong, "Glow" by Eric Whitacre and "That's a Plenty" by Kirby Shaw. Sophomore alto Libby Aschoff and freshman tenor Rylan Chromy both agreed "That's a Plenty" was their favorite song to perform. "[That's a Plenty]" was different from your traditional music; it was very jazzy," Aschoff said.

The students had a seven hour day with the Wayne State Honor Choir, with the first rehearsal at 9 a.m. and the final concert at 4 p.m. "Meeting all of the other kids there was great; it was fun to make new friends with the same interests," Chromy said. Besides meeting new friends, Chromy learned that pronunciation while singing can change the overall sound of the choir. Aschoff said, "If you use facial expressions and more with the music as if it's your own, then the singing sounds better and stronger."

Two years ago Aquinas sent two of their students to attend Wayne State Honor Choir. Mimick said, "[The honor choir] was a good experience. [Wayne State] had college students mixed in with the group." Last year Mimick sent eight students to have a balanced group.

Mimick herself attended the South Dakota All State Choir when she was a student. She wants students to keep working for and show interest in the choir. Aschoff said, "It's an amazing experience. Bring a group of friends with you; you won't regret it!"

"Plowing" the way for future farmers

DCHS teams up with Aquinas to succeed in competition

By Madelaine Comte

The Aquinas/David City Public FFA team competed at the Career Development Events (CDE's) competition on Feb. 27. By preparing for their events, the team qualified seven events for the state competition in April.

The team qualified for state in vet science, livestock management, food science, biotechnology, floriculture, farm management, and nursery and landscape. Junior Miles Eggleston said, "Livestock management was the hardest event for me because you have to know facts about six different types of livestock." Eggleston also participates in the nursery and landscape event.

According to junior floriculture competitor Hayden Schawang, CDE's were challenging because of the information he had to memorize. "There were flowers to identify which we hadn't discussed, and I was confused by some of the tests," Schawang said. Schawang explained the floriculture competition entailed a thirty question test about identifying flowers and gardening tools that competitors took individually. Next, the students had to create a flower center piece as a team.

The state FFA competition is Apr. 4-6 at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Eggleston said he prepares for state by "reading textbooks, taking notes, watching webinars and discussing with teammates." Additionally, Schawang explained he gave up his state spot because of a three way individual tie in floriculture. "I gave up my CDE spot because I have an ag demo team that qualified for state in the LDE's (Leadership Development Event)," Schawang said.

Both Eggleston and Schawang agree FFA is an important program for all students. Schawang said, "FFA provides the opportunity to participate in a competition scenario of hobbies that many people share." Eggleston added, "FFA stresses networking and leadership through networking opportunities even for those not going into agriculture majors."



David City FFA Chapter Members from L to R, FRONT: Clare Fiala, Allie Frasher, Dulcie Archuleta. BACK: Brandon Soward, Valeria Whitmore, Miles Eggleston, Caleb Brezina, Kael Jakub, and Hannah Moravec. David City High School agriculture teacher Mrs. Jenny Kocian is the FFA moderator. Photo by J. Brown



“Well Well Well” look what we have here

By Hayden Schawang

“*I bless the rains down in Africa.*” The Senior Class hosted a burger bash during the basketball game against Lutheran High Northeast with the goal to help those in need in Nigeria.

The senior religion curriculum centers on “social justice and theology of the body,” according to senior Brandon Timoney. Senior religion teacher Fr. Ben Holdren added, “[The class] is a social justice class, which means that what we do for the poor, we in turn do for Jesus.” Holdren said the opportunity to see the needs of people helps the faithful recognize an individual can do something for those people in need.

Part of social justice is to not expect anything in return but a better relationship with those being helped. Timoney said, “I do not want anything back. If we do anything for someone and expect something in return, then you are doing it for the wrong reason.” Holdren added he does want anything back but to enjoy the relationship that forms between the people of Nigeria and the Senior Class.

The Senior Class hosted the burger bash in January in order to raise funds for a water purification system to be installed in March to help the people in Nigeria. Holdren said, “We are building a water purification sys-

tem in a temporary hospital in Nigeria. They have the highest infant mortality rate and young mother mortality rate in the world.”

Holdren’s friend Mr. Joseph Williams told Holdren about the condition of the Nigerian people, and the interaction led to the idea of a fund raiser to support the cause. Williams is a member of the International Missionary Foundation.

The Senior Class did most of the preparations by themselves. Timoney said, “Sarah Juranek went to Sam’s Club and bought all the different condiments. Anthony Buresh and his parents provided the meat. Kelsey Baer drove back to the grocery store for more meat. Several of us were in charge of the grill.”

The class started planning for the burger bash two weeks in advance. The grill was provided by the Booster Club, and the Buresh family donated enough meat for 250, however the Senior Class sold twice as many meals by the end of the night.

The dignity of an individual needs to be recognized regardless of circumstances according to Holdren. Timoney said, “These people have just as much dignity as we do. We all have an unalienable right to life. We are better off than others, so we should help them.”

National Honor Society inducts new members

By Faith Kozisek

Scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Recently the Aquinas chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) gained twenty-five juniors and seniors who embrace the four pillars of NHS.

According to the Aquinas NHS moderator Mr. John Svec, a total of forty-four students currently are in the Aquinas chapter of NHS. These students are “academically eligible with a 3.0 GPA and were voted in by teachers.”

To qualify for NHS, a student must exemplify the four pillars of NHS. According to senior NHS chapter president Rebekah Roh the four pillars are “the qualities of a well-rounded student.” Junior inductee Katie Brezina added, “The four pillars represent all the qualities that are in the person I want to be.”

The NHS induction ceremony took place on Jan. 31 in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. According to Svec, the event includes Mass, speeches, and a reception. Svec said, “The best part [of the ceremony] is hearing the student’s speeches about the pillars [of NHS].”

Members of NHS often look towards saints as examples of the NHS pledge. “The Pope is the best example of leadership, and Mother Teresa is a great example of service,” Roh said. “I view St. Thomas Aquinas as an example of scholarship, and all saints show character,” Svec added.

Students embrace the NHS pledge in their day-to-day lives. Brezina said, “I live out the pledge by helping others and working hard.” Roh said, “By doing my best and giving myself to the needs of others, I follow the pledge.”

NHS duties continue long after high school. “[Members] continue their desire for learning, their requirement of service and charity, and their opportunity for leadership in their everyday character and lifestyle,” Svec said.

NHS members encourage other students to strive to become members of NHS. Roh said, “Always be courageous and do the right thing, even when it is hard.”

LEFT: Seniors Jenna Kobza, Ashley Eller, Cassie Sellers, and Regan Pelan help with the halftime free throw contest during the senior class sponsored fundraiser. The class made \$3,000 Photo by S. Burwell





Soldiers ride for freedom

New movie explores the military aftermath of 9/11

By Ryan Nemece

12 Strong: The Declassified Story of the Horse Soldiers [R]

Director: Nicolai Fuglsig

Cast: Chris Hemsworth, Elsa Pataky, Rob Riggle, Michael Peña, William Fichtner, Trevante Rhodes, Ben O'Toole, Thad Luckinbill, Navid Negahban

Synopsis: In the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. in 2001, the United States sent troops to Afghanistan in order to combat its new enemy.

12 Strong tells the story of the first group of soldiers on the ground in the Middle East after this attack. Undersupplied and outmanned, this group of Green Berets must find a way to overcome these obstacles and successfully carry out their mission of taking control of a city in Northern Afghanistan.

Review: Entering spring means the "off-season" for new movie releases. *12 Strong* is an exception any movie enthusiasts, especially those that are fans of action, are sure to enjoy.

12 Strong is based on the United States' initial response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. Because of these attacks, the United States soon decided to send soldiers into the Middle East to combat these new and uprising threats.

The soldiers did not realize how outmatched they were until they landed in the Middle East. Not only were these sol-

diers without the basic supplies they were used to, but the enemy also outnumbered them exponentially.



To better their chances, the U.S. soldiers teamed up with some local rebels also fighting against the terrorist groups. This group not only gave the U.S. soldiers more men, but gave them a mode of transportation as well. HORSES! These horses were great for the job because they were already well trained in combat and desert terrain.

The use of horses by the soldiers in this movie is what attracted so many viewers. One example of this interesting theatrical staging is a fight scene when U.S. soldiers are riding horses while being attacked by enemy tanks. While some of this movie is likely exaggerated, the basis for the scenes in the movie are true.

This editor would recommend this movie to any movie enthusiasts, especially those who like action. While some parts of this movie do get intense, this movie is a great representation of the difficulties soldiers face and the odds they must often overcome to fulfill their duties.

Monarchs shed some light Daylight Saving Time

By Jill Witter

An hour less of sleep!? Sounds like Daylight Saving Time! Thanks to New Zealand scientist Mr. George Hudson, day time recently got longer, and the fun in the sun can begin.

Daylight Savings Time is the time adjusted to achieve longer evening daylight, especially in summer, by setting clocks an hour ahead of the standard time. According to Time and Date.com, "Contrary to popular belief, Benjamin Franklin was not the founder, but it was actually a New Zealand scientist, Mr. George Hudson in 1909." Mr. Hudson wanted to set clocks forward an hour in order to save candle use at night and conserve energy. This year Daylight Savings Time began on Mar. 11.

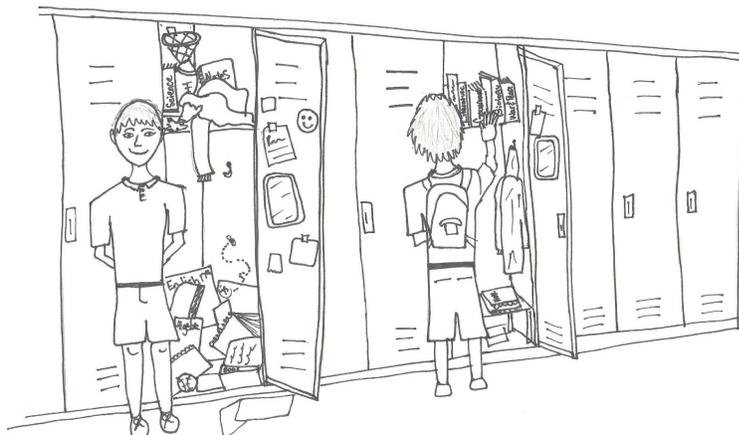
Time and Date.com states that "Hudson's dreams finally came true in 1916, when Germany agreed to daylight saving to conserve energy." The United Kingdom followed a few weeks after and introduced "summer time." America applied the time change in 1918 as a wartime measure, although not all states in America spring forward or fall back during time changes.

One state out of fifty does not participate in the changing of clocks. History.com states that Arizona does not observe daylight saving time. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave each state the right to choose whether they wanted to participate in the changing of times each spring and fall. Arizona chose not to be a part of Daylight Savings Time due to being able to work in cooler climates in the evenings without it.

Many people can find the advantages and disadvantages of having to set their clocks forward an hour. Junior Jacob Cech says he enjoys Daylight Savings Time because "the sun is out for longer, and I get to catch some rays." He also dislikes the change at the same time. Cech said, "I always forget about it, so when I stay up till one in the morning watching "Drake and Josh," I end up getting only four hours of sleep instead of five which really throws off my day."

Monarchs spring with kindness

by Sarah Burwell



Be Kind to Your Neighbor: Give the Gift of Spring Cleaning!



Musicians sought "II" find excellence

By Emily Dalton

"Let's start with the B flat scale." After two months of practice, the Aquinas middle-school band and seventeen solos and ensembles performed at the Malcolm Music festival.

The band performed two songs in front of judges and received a II rating for their performance. The band was judged on tone, intonation, technique, balance, interpretation and musical effect. The director of the middle school band Mrs. Helen Ostdiek said, "The music was really hard; the kids did the best they could at that moment in time."

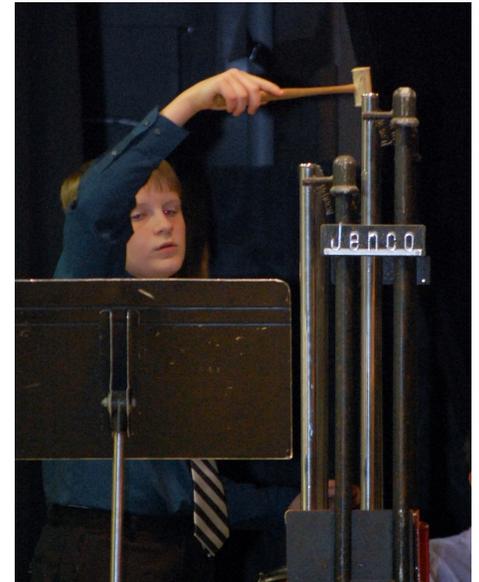
Eighth grade trumpet player Meredith Dalton was pleased with her band's performance. Dalton said, "We have come a very long way with our band music from just a few weeks ago." However, Ostdiek and Dalton agreed the balance of the band could improve, with some instrumental sections sometimes overpowering others.

Along with the performance as a whole band, the students were given the option to also perform in a solo or ensemble. Dalton

chose to perform a solo, "I thought it would help me become a better player, and it would boost my confidence." Dalton received a I+ for her solo, which is the best possible ranking.

The solos and ensembles are often more difficult for students than performing with the whole band. Seventh grade clarinet player Lacie Hartman who performed in a clarinet quartet said, "You don't have the base drum to keep the beat, and you have to listen to the other parts [of the ensemble] to make sure you stay together." Ostdiek added this was the first time many of the students performed by themselves in front of an audience.

Ostdiek's favorite part of the day was "seeing the success on the students' faces at the end of the day, knowing they feel successful and accomplished." Now the band will take the criticism from the judges and work to improve their weaker areas for their performances at the fine arts salad luncheon and the middle school's spring program.



Eighth grade band member Hunter Stutzman plays the chimes during the Advent concert in December. The middle school band will have its next public performance at the middle school spring concert on May 14. Photo by J. Brown

Malcolm Middle School Contest Results

Grace Reiter	Alto Sax Solo	I-
Grace Reiter	Vocal Solo	I
Meredith Dalton	Trumpet Solo	I+
Noah Grady	Baritone Solo	II-
Simon Kelly and Hannah Woolsey	Percussion Duet	II+
Matthew Vrbka and Hunter Stuzman	Percussion Duet	II
Simon Kelly	Snare Drum Solo	I-
Hailey Woolsey	Bells Solo	I
Aletha Breiner	Flute Solo	II
Aletha Breiner and Natalie Kovar	Flute Duet	II
Jayden Bollig	Flute Solo	I-
Grace Reiter and Ella Moravec	Alto Sax Duet	I
Maggie Svec	Clarinet Solo	I
Clare Wisnieski and Joshua Palik	Sax Duet	II+
Lacie Hartman, Gretchen Kozisek, Aubrey Novacek, and Mallori Kucera	Clarinet Quartet	I-
Mara Yindrick, Ava Hilger, Meghan Burwell, and Carter Meysenburg	Trumpet Quartet	II+
Grace Reiter, Aubrey Novacek, Gretchen Kozisek, and Mallori Kucera	Woodwind Quartet	II+



Lego Leaguers build success

By Emily Dalton

Forward three rotations, turn 90 degrees, then lower the arm 75 degrees. Students in 4-H can participate in Lego League, a group that builds and programs robots made out of legos.

The 4-H Club Lego League is a group that teaches America's next generation about engineering. Participants build a robot as a team, then program it to perform different tasks laid out on a map. Aquinas seventh grader Carter Meysenburg competes with the team. Meysenburg said, "Usually we put on attachments [to perform the different tasks] but this time we had them all on the robot at once."

The team takes the completed robot to competition, where it must perform as many tasks as possible in a limited time period, each one completed earning them

points. The team with the highest score wins. Other events in the competition contribute to the score of the team as well, testing the team's problem solving skills. This year the Lego League participated at the regional competition in Columbus but unfortunately did not score high enough to continue on to state.

Each year the group has a theme around which all of the tasks on the map are centered. This year's theme was hydrodynamics. Meysenburg said, "We have a conveyor belt that will take balls of water and hit a plant or flower." The team must also prepare a presentation and a poster that involves the theme, then present the poster to a judge.

Meysenburg encourages other 4-Hers to join Lego League. "[You] learn a lot about programming, using computers and iPads."

Lego League also stresses social skills like teamwork and meeting new people. The third part of the competition puts their teamwork to the test by having the team complete a challenge given by the judge. This year the group had to work together to construct a bridge out of popsicle sticks and close pins. The presentation and the challenge contribute to the team's overall score.

Lego League is open to any member of 4-H ages 8-14 years old. Even if someone is too old to officially join, they do not necessarily need to be left out of the fun. Meysenburg said, "You can still come and help, but can't compete."

The group usually meets at the courthouse, and those interested in Lego League can talk to Katie Pleskac, the Butler County extension educator.

Middle schoolers compete for science

By Hayden Schawang

The middle school Science Olympiad team has experimented in the science labs since the fall. The members have gone through much trial-and-error in order to compete with their knowledge of science.

The young scientists were influenced to join the team by upperclassmen and teachers. Eighth grader Ethan Schmidt said, "Sr. Karen Marie [Wilson] influenced me to join because I was interested in doing science projects." Sr. Karen Marie taught middle school science at Aquinas from 2013 to 2016.

The members participate in hopes they will eventually earn a job in a scientific field of study. Eighth grader Grace Reiter said, "I am interested in anatomy more than any other events offered, and I have considered taking a career in that area." Schmidt added he hopes to gain a scientific job because he is "good at [science] already."

The scientific neophyte's reasons are the same reasons why middle school science teacher Mrs. Shelly Mayo wants to instruct the members. Mayo said, "The students show curiosity, are hardworking, and are independent because a lot of what they do is on their own. I'm still curious about [science], and I like it." Mayo plans to learn more about the earth sciences over the sum-

mer by reading more into the material.

Having a deeper knowledge of science helps in more ways than just competition. Schmidt said, "Science is important to me because it helps me get good grades in school and hopefully a good job in the fu-

ture." Reiter added learning about science makes an individual have to talk to new people.

On the day of competition, competitors begin by preparing and presenting a visual aid. One or two judges judge the work and effort put into the project by asking questions about it. After the project has been judged, the general public and other competitors may ask questions about the project.

The young scientists have studied and experimented with their material to prepare for competition. "Science is life. If students understand science, they will understand what they will go through in life," Mayo said. Mayo added the members have done research in their competitions and have experimented with trial-and-error many times, which is an efficient way to learn.

There are 15 competitors on Aquinas' Science Olympiad team. Their events include Herpetology, Roller Coasters, Solar Systems, Micro-Mission, Write-it/Do-it, Anatomy, Crime Busters, and many more. The scientists have two competitions at Bellevue Middle School and their state competition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on East Campus.



Seventh graders Samuel Hilger and Joshua Palik work on on their Science Olympiad project. The boys created a hoverboard for the competitor. They used various household products in order to make their project *Photo by J. Brown*



Tide Pods: the "forbidden fruit" of the twenty-first century

By Hayden Schawang

Twenty years ago, having one's mouth washed out with soap was a punishment, but in 2018, it is considered a challenge. Recently, the "Tide Pod Challenge" has impacted American teenagers, sometimes fatally.

The Tide Pod Challenge began in order to gain internet fame, but "the challenge" has backfired on participants by bringing infamy and shame. *Time Magazine* reported, "The social media phenomenon that has inspired countless memes and tweets about snacking on the colorful detergent capsules have reportedly caused teenagers to eat them for bragging rights." Many teenagers call Tide Pods the "forbidden fruit."

Employees of Procter and Gamble Company, Tide's parent company, have been working with social media sites to remove videos of the "explicit" content. *YouTube* spokeswoman Jessica Mason said, "[We will] work to quickly remove flagged videos that violate our policies." *Facebook* and *Instagram* have removed posts from their networks.

Laundry detergent pods are dangerous due to the chemicals they contain. *Time*

Magazine said, "[Tide Pods] are potentially toxic because they often contain ethanol, hydrogen peroxide, and long-chain polymers which can burn the mouth and digestive system." The thin membrane around the detergent (which is designed to melt in water) disintegrates in a matter of seconds when exposed to water or saliva, which allows the chemicals to enter the body or washing machine quickly.

Time Magazine said, "There were thirty-nine cases of intentional misuse of these pods among teenagers in all of 2016, and fifty-three in 2017." Thirty-nine cases of Tide Pod misuse were fatally reported in the first fifteen days of January, 2018.

The *YouTube* community made an action to prohibit all videos of those who attempted the challenge. A *YouTube* spokesperson said, "[We] will work to quickly remove flagged videos that violate our policies."

Those who have been exposed to Tide Pods had extreme consequences. *The Washington Post* said, "Children who have been exposed to the capsules have been hospitalized with vomiting, breathing difficulties, and loss of consciousness." Other symp-

CrownPrints

The *Crown Prints* is published eight times a year to inform, educate, and entertain the Aquinas community. We urge letters to the editor. Letters should be given to Ms. Jean A. Brown in Room 16. Letters must be signed; however, anonymity, if requested, will be granted if deemed necessary.

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toms include a change in blood pressure and heart rate or having seizures.

College costs are through the roof

By Ryan Nemec

One of the most daunting aspects of college is the cost. By earning scholarships and choosing the right program, students can make the cost less painful.

A college education is one of the largest expenses in many people's lifetime. According to CNBC the average cost of college is \$20,090 per year. In the past 30 years, college costs have risen by 230% while the average income has risen by only 82%. Because of this, many students are now left with massive debt after college.

People find many ways to combat the high cost of college. While the average cost of college is very high, numerous schools are well below this number in Nebraska. Many of these include small state and community colleges which cost less than \$10,000 per year. By choosing a smaller local college,

students are able to cut their education costs in half.

Another important aspect of fighting college costs is making sure students study in a field where jobs are available. *US Daily News* stated the best place to find majors with the largest number of lucrative jobs available are in the business and engineering departments of a college. By picking the right program and a well-paying job, graduated students will be able to pay off students loans more quickly.

To help alleviate the costs of education, colleges will offer scholarships to incoming students. According the University of Nebraska Financial Aid Department, the University of Nebraska system offers over twenty scholarships possible for students to earn.

On top of these college offered scholarships, private organizations offer countless other scholarships. According to the US Department of Education, these scholarships reached 3.3 billion dollars in the past year. With so many different types of scholarships available, students are sure to find one for which they are a perfect candidate.

If college is still too expensive after utilizing all of the possible financial aid options, students can still follow many paths that can lead to well-paying jobs. Forbes stated that three of the best options besides college are vocational schools, enlisting in the military, or finding an entry level job in order to move up in that company's ranks. By following these career paths, students are able to make a good living with a well-paying job.