Maple Valley-Anthon Oto's

Ram Write-Up

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Annual Pops Concert held at MVAO



Kylee McDermott and Tanya Hanks performed *Stay With Me* by Sam Smith.



Above, Maggie Rosburg sang Skinny Love by Birdy.

By Ali Boysen

This year the MVAO Choir sang a wide arrangement of songs; some recent and some brought back from the past. There are also solos, duets, and groups performing at the concert. All groups were phenomenal.

The Concert Choir sang *Free Ride, Counting Stars*, and *Treasure*. *Free Ride* is from the 70's, but the others songs could be recognized from listening to the radio. Chamber Choir sang *Radioactive* and *Seize the Day*. *Radioactive* is a song by Imagine Dragons, a popular indie rock band. *Seize the Day* is from the musical *Newsies*. Jazz Choir also performed a song, *Save the World/Don't You Worry Child*. All choirs performed their songs very well.

Soloists were Alexa Lloyd, who sang *All of Me* by John Legend, Kassity Perkins, who sang *Marry Me* by Jason Derulo, Ali Boysen, who sang *Wasted* by Carrie Underwood, Brett Weaver, who sang *Ain't No Rest for the Wicked* by Cage the Elephant, and Maggie Rosburg who sang *Skinny Love* by Birdy.

Duets were Ali Boysen and Alexa Lloyd who sang *Something Bad* by Miranda Lambert and Carrie Underwood, Summer Berry and Kassity Perkins who *sang All About That Bass* by Meghan Trainor, and Alexa Lloyd and Jaycee Prescott who sang *Royals* by Lorde. There were also two groups who sang songs. The first group was Tanya Hanks and Kylee McDermott, who sang *Stay With Me* by Sam Smith. The other sang *Breaking Free*, from High School Musical. The singers were the Jazz Choir seniors; Laura Perez, Hannah Sadler, Kendra Sexton, Maggie Rosburg, Alyssa Scott, Taylor Blume, Shawn Flanigan, Austin Hazard and Derik Via.

Thank you to Taylor Swearingen for the wonderful photos!

More pictures of the Pops Concert can be found on page 7!

Senior chosen as National Merit Semifinalist

By Riley Coleman

Senior Luke Whitney, the son of Steven and Julie Whitney from Castana, has achieved something that MVAO hasn't seen in the school for 29 years. Luke has advanced into the semi-finalist stage of the National Merit Scholarship competition. In 2010, Rebekah Sturgeon and Justin Buth received National Merit awards for MVAO.

The National Merit Scholarship Program gives students the chance to compete for over 7,600 scholarships totaling more than 33$ million dollars. Semifinalists need to complete a list of outlines to advance to the next stage of the competition. Almost 90% of the semifinalists chosen are assumed to attain finalist ranking; half, if not more, of the finalists will be given a National Merit Scholarship, and will be named the "Merit Scholar."

Luke and other competitors make up less than one percent of United State's seniors. After these competitors meet the required guidelines to move up in the competition, some will be chosen as the Finalists and they will be notified in February. The winners, who are chosen from the Finalists, are chosen based on everything they have achieved: their skills, talent, and possibility for success in many college tests.

Luke was chosen by taking the PSAT/NMSQT test and scoring high enough in the state of Iowa to become a semi-finalist. To meet the Finalist guidelines, he filled out an application and wrote an essay.

In 2015, the National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four news releases all over the nation starting in April and ending in July. The receivers of the scholarships will be added to the list of over 308,000 students who have received the Merit Scholar name.

Whitney was notified of the honor in early September. "It seems like the test was a long time ago, but I thought it was cool to be recognized," Luke said.



Four junior girls audition for All-State choir

By Ali Boysen

This year's All State participants Alexa Lloyd, Emily Johnson, Alicia Beem, and Ali Boysen are singing hard to be accepted into the most prestigious singing competitions in the state of Iowa.

These girls went to the Buena Vista Choral Camp in August to learn their music. The camp was very helpful because seven of the nine songs they hadn't learned before. They have practiced nine songs, but will only sing – for their audition. The songs are *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *The Heavens Are Telling*, *Alleluia*, *Ballade To The Moon*, *Noel, I Carry Your Heart*, *Way Over in Beulah Lan'*, *Der Gang Zum Liebchen (Journey To My Love)*, and finally *America, The Beautiful*. *Der Gang Zum Liebchen* is a German song written by Johannes Brahms.

For some, the song in German might be the most difficult song because it is sung in a different language, but others may argue that the song *Alleluia* is most difficult because the tempo and rhythm is hard to keep up with. The songs selected for the All State choir are more difficult to sing and require more practice to be able to perform well.

One of the singers, Alexa Lloyd, described All State like this: "The music is hard, but with Smeltzer's help, I think that at least one of us can make it. It's a lot of time, but it's worth it."

The auditions were held in Harlan, on the 25th of October. Results will be posted throughout the day.

The Ram Review



The film posters promise "The Greatest Turkey Movie of All Time."

By Jaycee Prescott

This month I am doing a movie review on a cute and funny children's movie called *Free Birds*. This movie is about Thanksgiving and getting turkeys off of the Thanksgiving menu.

Reggie, the main character, is not only the Pardon Turkey, but he is also the Great Turkey, the greatest turkey of all turkeys; he just doesn't know it until later in the movie.

Jake, another turkey in the movie, believes that it is Reggie's and his destiny to go back in time to save all turkeys from the past, present, and future from being a part of Thanksgiving dinner. Jake truly believes this because he says the Great Turkey from the sky gave him the sacred time knob and told him that this is his destiny. So, Jake kidnaps Reggie and tells him their plan. Reggie thinks that Jake is crazy for believing and wanting to do this. If I were in Reggie's shoes, I too would think that Jake is a little crazy in the head.

After a failed attempt, Reggie and Jake found and hijacked the government's secret time machine. They successfully go back in time and are instantly running from the hunters, when Jenny, the chief of the flock's daughter and a few others, swoop and save them. As soon as Reggie laid eyes on Jenny he was already falling head over heels in love with her.

When trying to save the flock from the hunters, Jake gets and idea to destroy the hunters' weapons. Jake's idea worked to get rid of the weapons, but instead of keeping the hunters away, he led the hunters straight to the flock. Over half of the flock was captured, their home was burned down, and they lost the chief in the process.

Since the chief was gone, they needed to figure out the new chief: Jenny or her brother, Ranger. The shape of their shell necklaces determined who would be the next chief. Ranger's necklace did not match their father's necklace but Jenny's did; therefore, Jenny became the new chief.

After this happened the flock was infuriated with Jake and Reggie. I would be too if I were them. I think Jake could have been a lot more careful.

Even though that it is not necessarily historically correct, I think *Free Birds* is a great movie for kids to watch. I also think that it makes kids think, that they should be grateful for what they have, and appreciate what is given to them.



The four All-State auditioners are (from L to R): Emily Johnson, Alison Boysen, Alexa Lloyd, and Alicia Beem

A Chance for Change

Dennis Muckey's mission trip is continued from the last issue of The Ram Write-Up.

By Tessa Rayevich

When the missionary group arrived safely to Kapenguria, they settled into three guest houses at the Kapenguria Bible Centre. That's where they would be staying for the next six days. The next day, they would get to visit homes of nearby Kenyans to share the gospel, invite them to the Jesus film, and welcome them to the VBS offering on that Saturday. The next morning, they split up into groups of five with a translator in each group. One half went to Bandera and the other went to a small village nearby. The half that went to Bandera arrived to find children waiting near a well. As they walked through the village to the church on top of the hill, they visited homes and shared the Gospel. With each visit, the group walking with them grew bigger. Once they reached the top of the hill, there were already all kinds of people gathered there. They were waiting for Kenya's Assistant Deputy Chief's wife to come by and speak to them. While they waited, the audience grew fond of Pastor Dave Kuhnle and Pastor Scott Jensen. They were preaching to them.

The other half visited homes in a small village nearby. They were dropped off and told that the village on the horizon at the top of the hill, two valleys away, was the destination. When they pulled in most of them thought to themselves, where are all the houses? All they seen were mud sheds, later would they realize that those were the houses. As they started walking down the streets, children came running from all over once they seen that they were giving out cards with a picture of Jesus on it. They would get one and go back in line to try to get another card hiding the first one behind their backs. It was the little things like that, which meant so much to them. They stopped at many homes along the way, praying for families and sharing the reason that they had come so far. No one turned them away. At one home they stopped at lived a mother, a father, three of their children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren all lived in a once room shed. There was a blanket hung from one wall to the other, this made another room, but it was the size of a single car garage. A blanket hung in the doorway for a door. There were no such things as windows, it was just a small opening in the wall. This was their home but it was built on government land and the government was going to tear it down to build a school.

They were still in awe about the peoples living conditions. Dennis Muckey said, "I couldn't live like that, my lawn mower has a better place than that." Yet, by god's providing, the group was able to move past their awe of the living conditions and provide to them the message that transcends the conditions of the world. The spirit was working powerfully among this group. Members often found themselves quoting scripture from memory as they spoke from their hearts to the families.

On May 3, 2014, the roosters started crowing at 3 A.M. At 9:00 they left to go to VBS at the Bandera Lutheran Church were they would expect 200 kids to be attending. The church was filled with patio chairs on a dirt floor. The altar was a little higher but also sat on a dirt floor. Their team was called to the front for introduction. The children from all four of their home congregations, wrote letters to the kids of Kenya. During the afternoon they played games, and the winners of each game won a wooden cross with a bible verse written on it.

On May 4, 2014 they went to Chapararia. They worshipped with 514 people from 7 congregations all I one sanctuary. The church service lasted 3 hours. The Pastors led the congregation out and shook hands with everyone and then they stood in line to shake everyone's hand until the last person came out.

As they said their goodbyes to their new friends of Kenya, they especially want to thank Jared and Jeffry from Nauru Media, for sharing their talents, language skills, and their love of god. The groups last day in Kenya they went on a safari ride.

As they look back on this trip they would be lying if they said they weren't nervous. Going to a foreign land and not knowing what to say when the time comes, but god was walking with them. Through this trip they have become closer to god. They encourage each of us to be a member of a future mission's team, whether it be to a foreign country life Africa or ever your own home town, and when he does they pray we will seriously think about it and that our answer to go be, "yes Lord I will go, send me."



Church children pose with their new crosses and new friend.



Two kids show their gratitude for Muckey's visit.



The mission group put on a show for the kids.



Muckey shares the pictures he has taken throughout the trip.

In this corner:



SNOWCOMING

By Riley Coleman

This month, the eighth hour journalism girls were sitting in Mrs. Moser's' room talking about topics for the next newspaper. As we were talking about homecoming and the homecoming dance, out of the blue, Kendra Sexton yelled, "We should have a snow coming in February! We can brighten up the school during those dreary months."

All of our eyes just lit up and we got so excited! However, the decision is left up to Mr. Dougherty. To have this dance, there are questions to ask the student body and answers to be received. What would the turnout be for this event? Could we sell enough tickets to raise enough money? How many chaperones could we get?

Currently we are trying to answer these questions and a lot more of them that people have given us. Our main questions are: would students take this seriously and actually buy tickets? Would students attend? We are still in the decision making stage with Mr. Dougherty, but fingers crossed!

Let us know what you think! Write a letter or send an email to The Ram Write-Up Staff over your thoughts on Snowcoming.

The changing ways of turkey traditions

By Ali Boysen

The original Thanksgiving was to give thanks to God for helping the Pilgrims survive in the New World, but now the original meaning is lost in today's chaotic society. Another name for Thanksgiving that is commonly used is "turkey day", because of the widely eaten bird. Thanksgiving can have different meanings to different people.

Many families eat turkey for their main course, but ham is also an option that is served. When thinking about Thanksgiving, people often think of stuffing. Pumpkin pie is another classic; along with cranberry sauce, are dishes that are associated with Thanksgiving. Although these foods may be favorites today, none of them were actually present in the first Thanksgiving.

To Maddy Hinkel, a junior at MVAO Thanksgiving means being with her family and being thankful for all that they have given her. She also stated that Thanksgiving is her favorite holiday.

One of Hinkel's family traditions is playing Pollock rummy, which is a card game. The whole family gathers around the table to play and watch.

On Thanksgiving, there are many things occurring that didn't happen on the original day, like the TV show competition, *Punkin' Chunkin'* on the Science Channel. What is probably the most watched event on television on turkey day is the NFL football game. The men of Hinkel's family watch the football game after lunch.

Turkey day is a well-loved holiday by many Americans. On this day many are thankful for different things, but one that is very important is family. All around the United States, people take part in this great tradition, as well as contributing some of their own.



Junior Maddy Hinkel lets us in on a typical Hinkel family Thanksgiving.

Area schools visit MVAO college fair

By: Jaycee Prescott

On Tuesday, October 14, in celebration of National College Application week, 220 juniors and seniors from six different high schools in the surrounding area got to enjoy visiting with 52 different college reps, a few military and air force reps, and a rep from the College Planning Center (ICAN), in the Mapleton High School gym.

"We inherited this College Fair from BCIG several years ago. They had hosted it for several years, but one year they had a scheduling conflict, so we hosted instead. It worked well here, and they didn't seem to want it back, so we kept it," quoted Mary Joan Dougherty, MVAO Guidance Counselor.

The college fair gave students a chance to talk to the reps about all of their different educational programs, what the student life is like on campus, etc. Getting to talk to the reps helped students wean out certain colleges that they know they don't like or won't work for them. It also let them decide what colleges they would like to consider and campuses they would maybe visit. "The college fair helped me broaden my knowledge of different colleges in the area, get different information about social aspects and academic aspects presented on campus," noted Emily Johnson, a junior at Maple Valley.

The College Fair gave the students a chance to widely broaden their options and get to know the different opportunities that could be offered to them, not only with college, but also with the military forces. It also gave the college reps the opportunity to talk to many, many students in a short period of time, in one location. "I am so thankful that we have been able to host the College Fair the last several years! We have a great facility for this type of event, and it provides a wonderful opportunity for our students (and our parents, if they want to attend) to speak to many different college reps, without even leaving town," stated Mrs. Dougherty.

"... it provides a wonderful opportunity for our students to speak to many different college reps, without even leaving town,"

-MVAO Counselor
Mary Joan Dougherty

Senior Spotlights



Sean Wilson

By Jaycee Prescott

Learning to Parkour is just one thing on this senior's bucket list. Sean Craig Wilson was born to Samantha Schroeder and Murrel Wilson on June 6th, 1997.

Later on, Sean not only gained a new step-mom and dad, but a step-sister and a step brother. His step -dad, Scott Schroeder, has two kids Ashleigh and Hunter Schroeder. Sean's dad remarried Tammy Wilson. Sean also has two half-brothers, Trace Schroeder and Tatum Wilson.

Although Sean doesn't get scared by many things, getting on a plane and then his plane crashing sure does.

"Sic Parvis Magna," which means, "Greatness from small beginnings" is Sean's favorite quote.

While completing his first front flip is Sean's favorite childhood memory, getting to meet the Marine recruiters at lunch time is Sean's favorite high school memory.

Even though Sean is a really quiet person in class, he is an altogether different person when he is with friends and family. Wild, crazy, and loud are just a few things that Sean's friends--Justin Aguirre, Jordan Gregory and many more--like to say about him.

Sean doesn't participate in many school activities, but he is a part of the track team.

Alexandria, Louisiana, Memphis, Tennessee, and Chicago, Illinois are all of the places that Sean has been to, he hopes to see more.

In the future Sean plans to go into the Marine Corps to get training for mechanical or electrical engineering, and then maybe make a career from his training in the Marines.

Senior Spotlights continued on page 4

Senior Spotlights

Continued from pg. 4

Morgan Ann Lewis



By Riley Coleman

Senior Cody McCormick fondly refers to his friend, Morgan Lewis, as "her own kind of special person." She is also known as a bit of a potty mouth, especially around her friends.

Morgan Ann Lewis, the daughter of Todd Lewis and the step-daughter of Penny Lewis, was born on February 17, 1997. Morgan has six siblings, 16-year-old Mckenzie, 14-year-old Briton, nine-year-olds Drew and Mason, seven-year-old Merrick and her one-year-old newest brother, Brody.

As a child, Morgan started her trouble making at a young age. She was placed in a cop car for running to her dad's. On a trip to Sioux City in the middle of winter with seniors Dustin Flammang and Christopher Flannery, their vehicle ended up going sideways on the road.

She is always described by her teachers as bubbly, cheerful and very short! Her parents would say she is obnoxious, and her friends second that, though they would add a few more things to the list. Loud is what her friends say; she is energetic, understanding, always there for someone, and there is never a dull moment while you're around her.

Some of her closest friends that have stuck with her during her high school journey have been seniors Jaedyn Dannenberg, Dustin Flammang and Chris Flannery. This foursome can be seen together at school all the time in between classes and even in some classes. Morgan describes her friends as always there for her, very goofy, and never the cause of a dull moment.

She has been all over the place in the U.S.; Las Vegas, California, Texas, Montana, and Wyoming, to name a few. She talks about wanting to travel again and even farther, in the future; maybe somewhere tropical next time.

Throughout high school, Morgan has been involved in choir, chamber choir, and volleyball. She is also a firm believer of the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you want done unto you."

She plans on furthering her education after high school by going to Iowa Central to become a dental hygienist. It's a good thing she isn't scared of teeth! However, she *is* terrified of clowns and you will probably never see her on the Seattle space needle; heights are another major fear.

"Do unto others as you want done unto you."

Kendra Leigh Sexton

By: Jordan Trucke

This senior was born during a snow storm, which could explain why her favorite season is winter. On April 11, 1997, Karre and Jay Sexton gained a beautiful daughter, Kendra Leigh Sexton. Kendra has one brother older than her, Cameron, and one younger, Kyle.

Kendra went to Danbury Catholic for elementary school; she liked to cause trouble for the teachers. One of her favorite memories is when she learned that Chris Flannery was afraid of E.T, so she brought an E.T doll to school to traumatize him. This ordeal ended with Chris crying.

Her behavior could explain why her parents describe her as uncontrollable, wild, and funny. They also say she is independent and competitive. Her teachers say Kendra is fun, hardworking, a little crazy, a leader in class, and a cheerful and fun person to have in class.

Hannah Sadler, Kayla Morgan, Laura Perez, Marina Lacey, and Korey Kuhlman are Kendra's best friends. They would all agree that Kendra is funny, outgoing, goofy, and a little crazy. Kendra has done many activities with her friends throughout high school. Some of the things she is in love with are softball, volleyball, basketball, track, drill team, jazz choir, and National Honor Society.

Kendra's favorite high school memories come from the sports she has been in. She recalls when the high school softball team spent the night in the school. The team played hide-and-go-seek and Kendra says, " Emalee, Sam, and I totally won." Another one of her favorite memories is when she dyed Mr. Breyfogle and Ethan Heinze's hair pink for state track. Kendra has been to state track three times and has helped break the school record for the 4x800 all three times.

Kendra has traveled near and far. She has been to the Bahamas, Florida, California, South Dakota, and Chicago.

If you don't know Kendra you probably don't know that she loves to read, her favorite food is spaghetti, and she likes to snowmobile. Kendra's biggest fear is the dark. She also fears being murdered in the dark.

Kendra plans to continue her education after high school and would like to remind everyone that, like the superstar Hannah Montana said, "Everybody makes mistakes, everybody has those days."

"Everybody makes mistakes, everybody has those days," -Hannah Montana



Image from Google.com



November Birthdays

Drake Ruchti-Nov.	2	Cole Jensen	13
NiKayla Aguirre	5	Maddy Hinkel	16
Skyler McDermott	10	Hannah Sadler	20
Marah Lugsch-Long	11	Derik Via	22
Austin Petersen	11	Suey Wyatt	23
Zack Paulsen	12	Tunney Merrill	25
Emalee Fundermann	13		





Mitchell Woltermann helps his friend splash some color on his project.

On Wednesday, October 29, PALS got together to celebrate Halloween by sprucing up little pumpkins!



Below: Ali Boysen, Jackie Krusen, and Michael Jones help their pals decorate pumpkins.



Shailynn Capron and Camryn Fitch are under Mr. Riffle's sharp supervision as they paint pumpkins with the kindergarteners.

Pops Concert



Some Jazz Choir girls *Save the World* **at the Pops Concert: Hannah Sadler, Kendra Sexton, Alicia Beem, Laura Perez, and Alexa Lloyd**



On the right: Brett Weaver croons *Ain't No Rest for the Wicked.*



Left: Kassity Perkins hits the high notes of *Marry Me.*



On the right, Kendra Sexton and Laura Perez are throwing it back to *High School Musical* **with the Jazz Choir seniors' rendition of** *Breaking Free.*



Below: Alexa Lloyd dedicated her solo, All of Me, to her parents, who were celebrating their anniversary.



The choir girls sing vocal backup as the boys carry the melody of *Treasure.*

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