

Maple Valley-Anthon Oto's



Ram Write-Up

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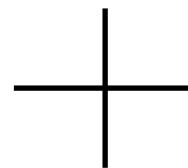
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MVAO, COU coming together

School boards vote unanimously to whole-grade share



By Karlee Wolf

On January 17, the Maple Valley- Anthon Oto and Charter Oak- Ute school boards unanimously voted to whole-grade share MVAO and COU. The idea of sharing has taken a long period of time to decide and has brought a lot of questions to students, faculty members, and even people outside of the school. Mr. Oberg, Superintendent, has answered some of the main questions people are asking about.

COU's superintendent, Mr. Wiebers, and Oberg came to the conclusion that the school will be called MVAO-COU. The board has discussed changing to a neutral name like Maple Valley, but hasn't completely pushed the issue yet. The school will continue to be called the RAMS with the Ram as the mascot. In sports, Oberg believes that boy's golf, track, and basketball will go up a class, while football will probably move from A to 1A. As for girl sports, he doesn't think there will be a change in classes.

Registration will occur the same as every year. Registering will determine how many sections of each class and how many teachers are needed for the year. When asked what will happen with all the teacher's jobs Oberg said, "Our teachers [MVAO] won't have any issues, but I don't know if we will gain any teachers depending on enrollment." The arrangement won't be without its obstacles, though. Oberg believes one of the biggest hurdles we are going to have to overcome would be organization of transportation. Because the distance from Charter Oak to Mapleton is the same distance from Anthon to Mapleton, transportation supervisors are going to know what to expect and how to transport kids the easiest way possible.

Overall, Oberg explained that sharing will benefit both MVAO and COU by allowing MVAO to offer advanced classes while increasing COU academics because of the amount of new students there will be. Due

to all of the students joining together, to make the transition easier, Oberg expects MVAO students to welcome the COU students when they come and be willing to make new friends.

The school boards are excited and have a positive outlook on combining. Oberg believes the consolidation will create a great district with elementary schools in each town, middle schools in two towns, and one main high school to bring us all together, while financially insuring our districts.

"...one main high school to bring us all together, while financially insuring our districts."

~ Mr. Oberg

Winter sports are heating up



Haylee Halbur dribbles by her opponent.

By Juan Delagarza



Jackson Krusen fights hard on top.



Ben Sadler about to shoot the ball down low.

Winter sports for the Rams are beginning to get intense as it is getting closer and closer to the end of the season.

For the boys' basketball team, they are sitting at a record of eight wins and five losses. Early in the season the team was ranked in the top ten in the state, but after a few tough losses they are trying to gain their way back.

Since winter break has ended, the boys have had six games. Throughout these games, they had a record of four losses and three wins. This isn't exactly the way that they wanted it to go, but Coach Brown says he has been very proud of their competitiveness and grit during this stretch of games.

There are multiple players that have been making an impact for the boy's team. Colby Seuntjens is leading the team in points and blocked shots with eighteen points per game and fifteen blocked shots on the year. Juan Delagarza has a team high in assists, steals, and rebounds with thirty-six, thirty, and eighty-seven on the year.

The team has the conference tournament coming up and is looking to repeat as champions for the fourth straight year.

On the girl's side, they are sitting at a record of one win and thirteen losses. They have played tough opponents all year long. They are continuing to give great effort in each of their games.

Even though the girls have not been able to get the wins they are wanting, the individual stats are progressing. Haylee Halbur is leading the team in points, rebounds, and assists averaging nine, six, and eleven per game. Jojo McKibben has a team high eighteen steals and Skyler McDermott is leading with four blocks.

The girls fell just short of making it into the conference tournament, so they are going to continue to prepare for districts. Coach Scholl has been happy with the hustle that the girls have given each game.

The wrestling team has been having some success lately. They just had the conference tournament and had two winners and a few

more come up just short.

Jacob Schaffer and Anavin Mounivong both were conference champions at their weight classes. Schaffer wrestles at 220 and Mounivong at 120. Bryce Kafton at 106 pounds and Cameron Boyle at 160 came up just short finishing in second place in their weight classes.

The team has been working hard to prepare for the end of their season. They have just a few meets left before the big tournaments such as sectionals, districts, and state.

As the season continues for each of these teams, they will continue to have success on the court and on the mat.

Speech season begins at MVAO

By JoHannah McKibben

On January 21 The Large Group Speech will travel to Denison to compete in the district contest. The district contest is a wide variety of events full of competition.

This year there are five events gong on the 21 of January. The events are choral reading, mime, radio, and two improv groups.

The performers for choral reading are Arissa Gunlogson, Bekah Schram, Danielle Yockey, and Brooke Boyle. Their performance is called "Somewhere in America." Together the students will be reading this.

The first improv group consist of Cameron Brenner, Sydney Fundermann, Shelby Davis, Abbi Boysen, and JoHannah McKibben. The second group of improv consist of Devon Schwarz, Nick Kennedy, and Jenny Frank. Both teams are bringing in great new qualities.

McKibben and Jenna Mounivong are bringing something new to district competition by performing their mime skit.



The improv girls are Sydney Fundermann, Jojo McKibben, Shelby Davis, Abbi Boysen, and Cameron Brenner

This is new for both girls and speech coach Lori Berning.

A group of freshmen will be presenting a radio broadcast. Fundermann, Davis, and Maria Swanson may be new to speech but are ready to compete.

Berning is excited for the competition season. "We have a young and enthusiastic group this year. We enjoyed the improv training session at Menville and look forward to presenting five exciting entries at the district contest," says Berning.



The radio group consists of Maria Swanson, Shelby Davis, and Sydney Fundermann.

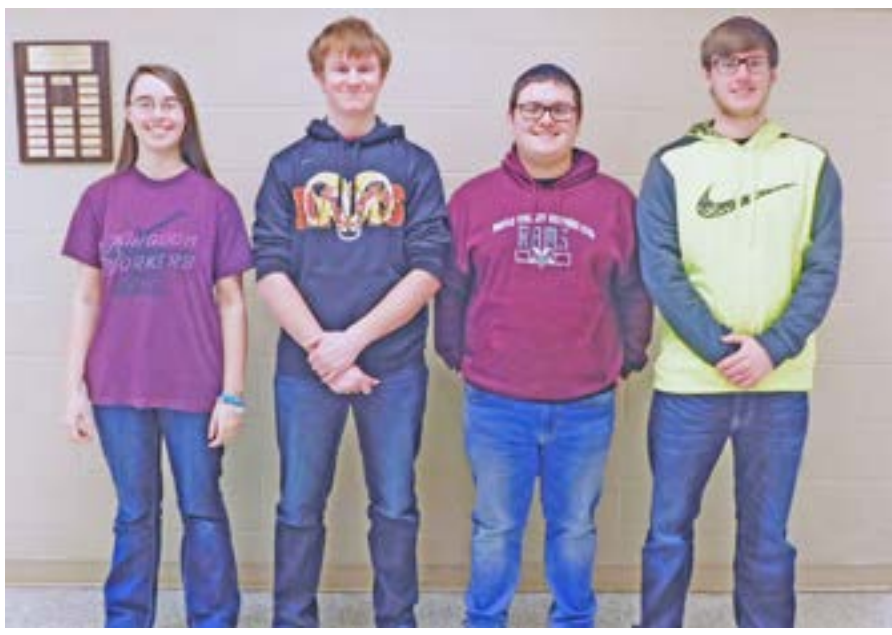
Quiz Bowl comes up short at Morningside

By Joseph Kovarna

Being on television is something that most people want to do at some point in their lives. The MVAO Quiz Bowl team competed for such an opportunity.

So far this year, the Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Quiz Bowl team has competed in two tournaments. The Varsity Quiz Bowl team consists of all seniors: Jacob Schaffer, mathematics and sports expert, Rebecca Whitney, Team Captain and religious specialist, Brett Weaver, world history and music master, and Joseph Kovarna, astronomy and random knowledge consultant. The substitutes for Varsity are Adam Ehlers and Anavin Mounivong, who both specialize in sports and general knowledge. The Varsity team members present for the Morningside tournament were Rebecca Whitney, Adam Ehlers, Brett Weaver and Joseph Kovarna. No members of the JV team were present for this tournament.

The teams from Iowa at Morningside for the tournament were Bishop Heelan, Boyer Valley, East Sac County, Emmetsburg, Gehlen Catholic, Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn, IKM-Manning, Lawton-Bronson, Le Mars, Logan-Magnolia, Maple Valley-Anthon Oto, OABCIG, Ridge View, Sergeant Bluff-Luton,



The team participating at Morningside was Rebecca Whitney, Joe Kovarna, Brett Weaver, and Adam Ehlers.

Sheldon, Sioux City East, Sioux City West, Spirit Lake, Unity Christian, Westwood, and Woodbury Central. The teams from Nebraska were Emmerson-Hubbard, Estherville Lincoln Central, Lutheran High Northeast, Lyons-Decatur, Oakland-Craig, South Sioux City, and Winside.

Each game at the Morningside tournament consisted of four rounds. First is five minutes of ten-point toss-up questions. Next is six minutes of ten-point toss-up questions, with correct answers being followed by ten-point bonus questions. Third is a lightning round; each team is asked a series of ten questions

worth ten points for every question, and are given sixty seconds to answer. Any questions answered incorrectly by one team can be answered by the other team for full points, but in only thirty seconds. The final round is three minutes of twenty-point toss-up questions.

Teams arrived at Morningside College for an introduction to the people running the tournament and a quick run-down of the rules. A member of each team drew a random number and had their schedule and matchups generated. Every team played a total of five games: four before lunch, and a seeded match after. At the end of the day, rankings are determined by win-loss record. If two or more teams are tied by their record, then they're ranked by number of points.

The team from MVAO placed 21 out of 30, finishing with a W-L record of 1-4. The teams that beat them placed first, sixth, twelfth, and sixteenth, all of whom will appear on television.

"They had a bad draw," said Mrs. Cox, when asked about the team's performance, "as they lost to four high ranking teams and still had more points than two of the teams that made it into the televised rounds."

Heap of the Month

By Dalton Kollbaum

If you are ever driving around rural Danbury and see a blue pickup sitting on the side of the road, chances are it is sophomore Cameron Boyle after he has ran out of gas. Boyle's vehicle is a regular cab 2000 Ford Ranger.

Boyle's pickup comes with a few flaws. Some of the problems include no air bags, the speakers are blown, the tires have no tread left on them, the gas gauge doesn't work, the steering is loose, the pickup pulls to the left very bad, and numerous dents.

One of the biggest problems with the pickup is that the gas gauge doesn't work. Boyle has to keep track of the miles he has put on since he filled up last so that he doesn't run out of gas. He has forgotten to keep track before and ran out of fuel. When his vehicle died he was worried that something else went wrong until he remembered that he forgot to keep track of fuel.

Something you might not know about Boyle's Ranger is that it has a manual transmission. This limits the number of people that know how to drive it. He always gets a good laugh when people tell him they know how to drive it, but once they try it



Above is Cameron Boyle and his 2000 Ford Ranger.

they end up killing it because they don't know how to. Boyle is never concerned about people stealing his truck because, "Nobody would want to steal it or they wouldn't know how to drive it."

This spring after bringing animals to the FFA petting zoo, Boyle left his pickup sitting by the shop behind the school. Many people came over and talked to Boyle about his pickup, and some even got in it. Tristan Petersen, a fellow classmate of Boyle, went to start the truck but was unaware that it was still in gear. The truck then leaped forward

jumping the curb and hitting a post. The aftermath of this event was a dent in the front bumper and many laughs.

One of the things Boyle is most proud of about his truck was that he was able to fit five people in the small cab at once. He also enjoys fish-tailing on ice and drifting around corners on gravel roads.

Boyle has made many great memories in his truck and has learned to get use to the flaws that it has. If you ever see him on the side of the road out of gas feel free to give him a helping hand!

Birthdays

By Joseph Kovarna

Daniel Fueston	2
Danielle Yockey	2
Alvin Pegram	3
Alyssa Thies	3
Brenna Lansink	4
Zakary Scott	4
Katelyn Trucke	6
Emily Gosch	7
Brody Berkenpas	9
Logan Blume	9
Calvin Ferris	9
Dakota Fisher	9
Brooke Boyle	10
Michael Aaron	14
Ryan Paulsrud	17
Thomas Steltenpohl	18
Dylan Lewis	21
Kassidee Allen	23
Taylor Swearingen	24
Nicholas Kennedy	26
Justin Allen	27
Dolly Krohn	27

Senior Spotlights

Morgan



By Karlee Wolf

Morgan Roberta Todd was born on April 2, 1999. Her parents are Kevin and Brenda Todd of Anthon. She has three brothers, Riley her older brother, and Brandon and Loren who are the other 2 of the Todd triplets.

One of Todd's favorite childhood memories was going boating on her uncle's boat with her family in Yankton. Her favorite high school memory is winning the distance medley at the state track meet along with her good friends, JoHannah McKibben, Karlee Wolf, and Emalee Fundermann.

Todd has traveled to San Antonio, Las Vegas, Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon,

and Yellowstone with her family. One of the coolest places she traveled was to Costa Rica. She went with some peers and her Spanish teacher, Mrs. Maynard, for a Spanish trip. While in Costa Rica Todd enjoyed kayaking, seeing the waterfalls, and laying out on the beach. One of the things Todd didn't enjoy in Costa Rica was seeing the snakes because she is very scared of any kind of snake.

Some of Todd's closest friends are Wolf, Shaylee Ames, McKibben, Fundermann, and Jordyn Pester because they are all super cool and fun to be with. A big part of their friendship came from participating in sports

together. Todd is a very active student and athlete as she is involved in cross country, track, volleyball, National Honor Society, Gold Club, BPA, and Student Council. She was also a part of the homecoming court her junior and senior year.

Todd's future plans include attending Morningside College and double majoring in accounting and education, while also minoring in Spanish. She has committed and plans to run track for Morningside while continuing her education. Good luck Todd!

Jada

By Danielle Yockey

Jada Dean-Byes was born April 19, 1999. Her parents are Shana Dean and Troy Byes. She has two sisters; Sydnee and Myice and her brother is Jerrell. Her favorite childhood memory was going to Adventureland for the very first time. She has also traveled to Texas and other places around Iowa.

Both her friends and parents would say that she is caring. Her parents would say that she has a beautiful smile and a caring heart. They say that she is always willing to help those in need. Her friends would say that she is very caring and has a good heart. Her closest friends are Ale and Tasia, because they have been friends since they were little. Her biggest fear is losing the people that she loves.

Her very favorite high school memory is prom. She said that she had the best time at prom. One of her favorite free time activities that she enjoys is coloring in adult coloring



books. A cute saying that she likes is, "Being happy never goes out of style". Throughout high school she has been involved in choir. Her future plans are to go to college and become a nurse.

Who will be your Valentine?

By JoHannah McKibben

How did Valentine's day start you may wonder or why is it even associated with love? Most of Valentine's Day history is a mystery. This holiday is associated with both Christian and Ancient Roman traditions.

The Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus who were all martyrs. These saints have legends behind them. One legend is that the emperor decided that single men made better soldiers. The emperor then outlawed marriage for young men. This was an outrage to Valentine so he started marrying people in secret. This upset the emperor so he had Valentine sentenced to death.

Another legend says that Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons. The legend is where the first Valentine Day card came about. Valentine was imprisoned in one of these harsh camps when he wrote his lover a letter that signed "from your Valentine." This expression is still used today. The legends seem a bit untrue but Valentine was a sympathetic, heroic, and most importantly a romantic figure.

Valentine's Day was then celebrated across

the globe by honoring the death of the saint. It was placed during the middle of February because some believe that is around the time that he died. Another reason it might be placed in the middle of February is because that is when the birds start to mate. This holiday is mainly associated with love because the saint was a romantic.

In America cards and gifts were most likely given during the early 1700s. One billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year thus making Valentine's Day the second largest card sending holiday of the year.

So who will be your Valentine?
(Information from History.com)



Rebecca



By Brad Ortner

Senior Rebecca Lynne Whitney was welcomed to the world on August 27, 1999 by her parents Steven and Julie Whitney along with her brother Luke. Whitney's parents describe her as being sweet yet sassy and lazy but a good worker when she puts her mind to it.

Whitney's favorite childhood memory was making rosy applesauce in head start. Her favorite high school memory was the Quiz Bowl trip when the group stopped at Dollar

Tree to buy an assortment of accessories to wear for their group photo. Whitney's closest friends are Nikayla, Kendra, Dani, Joe, and Brett because they share the same sense of humor and interests as her. Whitney's friends describe her as being lazy and "definitely not sarcastic."

In high school Whitney was involved in Quiz Bowl and Jazz Band. Her teachers describe her as being very argumentative. A few things that she says include, "Was that

due today?" and "Why put off until tomorrow what you can do today? Because maybe tomorrow I'll be dead and won't have to do it" Something unique that people might not know about her is that she was in gymnastics for many years as a child. Her biggest fear is losing others in her life that she is closest to.

Whitney has traveled to San Francisco, California and Texas. In the future she plans to attend college and get a good job but hasn't decided what college she will attend.

Senior Spotlights

By Danielle Yockey

Jeremy and Paula Schram welcomed their baby girl, Rebekah Lee Schram into the world on December 15, 1998. Her older siblings are Kelli and James Schram; she also has one younger brother, Ben Schram. Teachers would describe her as quiet and hardworking. Her parents say that she is sassy, expensive, and according to Schram, "Also their favorite child."

Schram has a huge fear of being buried alive. Her favorite quote is, "Life is short. Time is fast. No replay. No rewind. So enjoy every moment as it comes." She tries her hardest to live out this quote by being very involved in activities. Throughout high school Schram has been involved in volleyball, basketball, golf, band, jazz band, choir, FFA, BPA, and Gold Club. Being in all those activities has given her a better opportunity to add onto the list of places that she's traveled to. These include Kentucky, Indiana, Florida, Louisiana, and Colorado.

One of those places just so happens to be her favorite high school memory. This past summer she was able to go with her church youth group to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. Around 25,000 kids from around the country gathered for 5 days to praise the Lord.

Schram's closest friends are Michaela Bremer, Danielle Yockey, and Allison Hoy.



She became friends with Bremer through her youth group. In high school she got close with Yockey because she was there for her and they had some of the same interests. Her friend Hoy is also her cousin so they have always been close and think of each other as sisters. Hoy even shares her favorite childhood memory. Both of them had sippy cups that they named Bluey and Greeny. The girls took the cups with them everywhere.

After high school Schram plans on attending Iowa State and going into Animal Science.

Rebekah



By Juan Delagarza

On October 5, 1998, Jacob Daniel Schaffer was brought into this world by parents Dan and Nikay Schaffer.

Schaffer is a unique person and has a lot of interesting things about him. One thing that you may not know is that he and Mr. Walsh are continually coming up with cool ideas for a food truck that they dream about owning together.

Schaffer is a person that does not have many

Jacob

fears; however, there is one thing that he does not like. He is very afraid of spiders. It is not the really big spiders that he is afraid of the most, but the smaller ones that you don't see until they are right by you. He has also been a big traveler during his life. He has been to a total of fifteen different states.

As a child, Schaffer lived an exciting life. His favorite memory is having Nerf gun wars with his brother Zach and his friends Jojo and Mollie McKibben. His favorite high school memory came this year when the football team beat Westwood in a nail biter. This is his favorite memory because Westwood has been the rival school for football and it was a big win for the team.

There are a variety of different characteristics that Schaffer has. Mrs. Moser would describe him as being inquisitive, conscientious, responsible, and dedicated. His friends say he is very loud and is fun to be around. Schaffer has many close friends but the two that he hangs out with the most are Nick Hollingshead and Adam Ehlers because they are fun and live close to him.

While in high school Schaffer has been involved in football, wrestling, student council, choir, tag, and quiz bowl. After high school he is not completely sure where he will attend college, but he will major in criminal justice.

Prom season begins

Students ask one another to prom in creative ways



(Left) Katelynn Mullin asked Kolby Nutt "Kolby... will you take a shot with me at prom?" with a basketball theme.



(Right) Alyssa Thies asked Tristan Petersen "So I've been huntin for a way to ask... Prom?"



(Left) Jennalie Mounivong asked Michael Swanson "Soccer has a goalie but i'm still tryna score a date to prom."



(Right) Jojo McKibben surprised Blake Paulsen in a squirrel outfit and said, "It would be nuts if you didn't go to prom with me." with a nut theme.

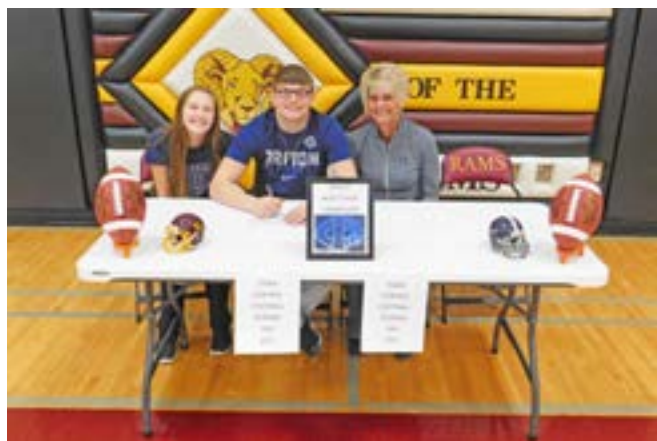


(Left) Dani Steffes asked Nick Hollingshead to prom with an army theme. "You AR-MY guy so will you DEW me the honor and go to prom with me?"



(Right) Haylee Halbur asked Aaron Michael, "Can I steal you 4 prom?" with a baseball theme.

MVAO athletes sign to play college sports



Bailey Boettcher, surrounded by family, signed to play football at Iowa Central.



Morgan Todd signed to run track at Morningside. Next to her were her parents and her fellow triplets.

Ram Walking: Presidents

By Brad Ortner

The month of January marked the inauguration of America's next president Donald Trump. This month's Ram Walking quizzed students and staff over previous presidents who served. Each person was given a picture of the previous president and for the first picture they were given a hint.

The correct order of answers was; Ulysses S. Grant (with a hint that he is on the fifty dollar bill), Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and John F. Kennedy.

First up was our high school secretary Mrs. Mcgrain. Her first answer was, "Is that

Grant or Taft? That's Grant." She quickly answered Nixon correctly as well as Ronald Reagan saying, "There's Ronald Reagan!" She also answered the last two presidents quickly, saying, "That's Bush, young Bush" and "That's Kennedy!"

Next up was senior Rachael Swearingen. Rachael thought about the first picture of Grant for a while but said, "I can't think of that one but I am sure I will think of him later!" Swearingen was quick to answer, "Nixon." She also finished strong on the next two photos correctly answering, "This one is

Bush" and "That's Kennedy!"

Junior Tyler Gunlogson breezed through the Presidents. Without a moment of hesitation he said, "Grant, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and JFK." The only comment he made was when he saw George W. Bush saying, "I don't think this one is the older one."

Sophomore Aaron Michael was up next. Michael thought about the first president for a while but after the hint he knew it was Grant. Aaron went on to answer all of the other four presidents correctly with, "Richard Nixon,

Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and JFK.

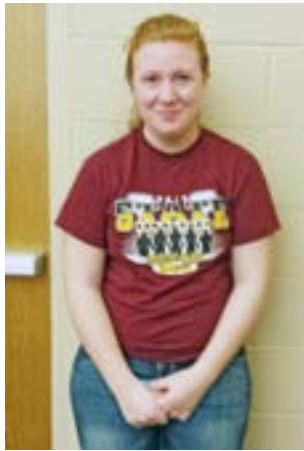
Freshman Sydney Fundermann was up last. She was unsure about Grant and said, "I don't know him" when it came to Nixon she also commented "or him!" Fundermann finished strong with, "Reagan, Bush, George and JFK" and commented, "Oh he was killed in Texas."

This month's winners answering five out of five correctly were Mrs. Mcgrain, Gunlogson, and Michael. Swearingen and Fundermann both answered three out of five correctly!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this month's Ram Walking!



Mrs. Mcgrain



Rachael Swearingen



Tyler Gunlogson



Aaron Michael



Sydney Fundermann

Book Review: *We Were Liars*

By Danielle Yockey

I recently read the book, "We Were Liars". In this book the narrator is Cadence Sinclair Eastman. She has amnesia due to a traumatic head injury. She is trying very hard to get her memories back from the night of the accident. The accident gave her amnesia and makes her have horrible headaches every single day. But she must act like everything is okay, because she is a member of the "Sinclair" family. The family is known throughout all of Vermont and they are thought of very highly. However, people don't know everything; they don't know all of the family's secrets.

It's now two summers later and Cadence and her mother are going to the island that their entire Sinclair family comes to every year. It's not just her family that she gets to spend time with every summer. Gat is also there; Gat is a friend and one of the Liars. Cadence, two of her cousins, and Gat are all part of the Liars. They have spent every summer together for many years, and have made many great memories. Cadence and Gat were more than friends though; they were in love with each other. But Gat was different than them, he wasn't rich and he was Indian.

This book talks about Cadence's struggle and the frustration that she has because she can't remember the accident and that her family isn't allowed to talk about it or tell her what happened that night. It shows a young love that takes off every summer. It also mentions big issues that people have to deal with. One of those is trying to meet people's expectations for you. Another is racial issues.

I felt that this book was very captivating. It kept me wanting to read more. The characters are all very unique. The entire story was very enticing and it definitely has a twist. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone who would want to read a book with love, summer fun, and an unpredictable ending.

Another story I recently read was, "Crazy Dangerous". This book was definitely intense. There was so much action happening at all times, it's very hard to put down.

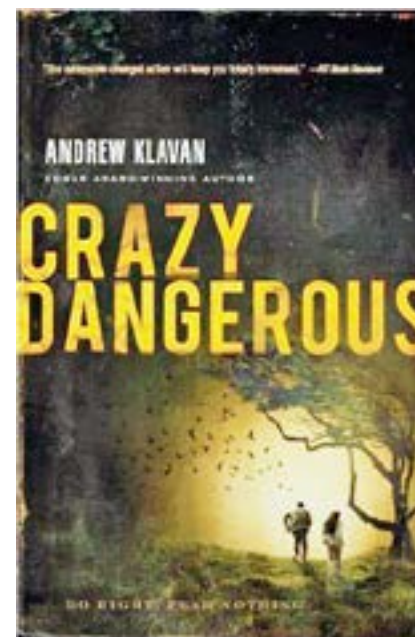
It all starts with a preacher's son, Sam Hopkins. Sam is a good kid, and never really does anything wrong. That is until something happens on one of his daily runs that changes him.

The other key character in this book is Jennifer. Jennifer is different and a lot of kids are mean to her and make fun of her. That's where Sam comes in, Sam is never mean to Jennifer and he always stands up for her. She calls him her "Magic Friend" because nothing bad happens when Sam's there, he protects her.

After Sam sticks up for Jennifer her brother is very friendly with him. Her brother is the most popular guy in the school and the track star. He and his friends let Sam hang out with them and he even is involved with the track team. This is at the same time that Jennifer is in a hospital for her mental condition. While she is there she sees visions of bad things happening and many people dying so she calls Sam. Sam knows that it might seem crazy but he kind of feels as if she may be right. He goes to the hospital and gets details from Jennifer then sets off to look for clues to try to see if it is going to happen and if so, to stop it.

There were so many twists in this book, it was very eventful. I liked that Sam was so kind to Jennifer even though others were not.

This was a very good book and I definitely recommend it.



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Maier Family Pharmacy
Pepsi Cola of Siouxland
Valley Lodge Assisted Living, Correctionville