



Vermillionaire

APRIL 2019

VERMILLION.K12.SD.US

VERMILLION HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Special Olympics Celebrates 50th Anniversary

BY MADDI KALLSEN

Special Olympics is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary. For fifty years, sportsmanship, friendship and overall support has been provided to the Olympians and their families. “The mission of Special Olympics South Dakota is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.” This quote, found on the South Dakota Special Olympics website, exemplifies the spirit and purpose of the competition.

Events range from basketball, track, and swimming to baseball, bowling and volleyball. The Vermillion Tanager team consists of twelve athletes. While interviewing one of the athletes, Robbie Cheeseman, it was clear how much of a positive impact participating has had on his life. He talked about how many friends

he’s made over the years and how much fun he’s had competing in the Olympic events. He has participated in track, baseball, basketball, swimming and bowling, all of which he loves. Robbie, along with his teammates, enjoy the challenge of competing and succeeding; it is truly inspiring to see such success.

Along with the Vermillion Tanagers, SESDAC also helps get adult athletes to participate.

The families and friends of the athletes all get to see how much they grow and thrive off of participating and competing in Special Olympics. Connections, support and empathy are all built together between families as the athletes build confidence, friendships and lifelong skills. Locally and across the nation, Special Olympics has helped build unity and support for kids, adults, and their families, which is a beautiful thing.

Many have dedicated so much to help keep the Tanager Special Olympics alive here in Vermillion. Mrs. Stone, the Special Education teacher at Vermillion High School, Gary Cheeseman, the Head of



Pictured Left to Right: Jaminson Campbell, Reegan France, Maya Chatman, Kyle Moser, James Solberg, and Robbie Johnson-Cheeseman. Submitted Photo.

Delegation, John Cole, board director, Susan Gapp, big supporter and family member of an athlete, along with Lori Jarred, who won South Dakota’s Coach of the Year, have all contributed time, energy and faith into Special Olympics. The support and dedication is so clear and vital to the organization. There are many ways to get involved and volunteer; go to sosd.org/become-a-volunteer.html for more in-

formation. “Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.”

NHS Inducts New Members

BY KEEGAN RETZLAFF

This years National Honor Society (NHS) Inductees officially joined the organization on March 28th, 2019. Selection for the club is based on four criteria: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. At Vermillion High School, there was a ceremony honoring those who joined. The joining juniors include Zadya Abbott, Victoria Andre, Brooke Assmus, Kaliyah Beacom, Ashlyn Bickett, Alex Carr, Jacob Chaussee, Camerin Davoux, Kate DeVelder, Nick Doty, Riley Gautier, Javin Gilaspie, Libby Gregg, Logan Gregg, Will Hackemer, Nicholas Harris, Katrina Heles, Morgan Kerkman, Mad-

dison Kranz, Ayden Lewison, Stephanie Magana, Brady Martinez, Brenna Mockler, McKenzie Mockler, Gracie Mollet, Jamie Moser, Jake Oehler,



Kennedy Pratt, Sarah Prescott, Evan Rasmussen, Camiryn Regnerus, Roger Rolfes, Evelyn Saltzgiver, Alexis Saunders, Emily Stockwell, Arsheen

Surani, Trevor Tarr, Brock Voss, Sam Ward, Elizabeth “Bizzy” Wood, and Zhengyang Xu. Inducted seniors include Parker Anderberg, Phillip Hauck, Keeley Passick, and Keegan Retzlaff.

Graduating senior members include Co-Presidents Fatima Alemam and Logan Wadley, Co-Vice-Presidents Shelby Husby and Kaya Lewis, Secretary Victoria Callegari, Treasurer Delaney Stapp, Parliamentarians Mason Schroeder and Macy Winslow, Historian Taylor Tarr. Other graduating members include Parker Anderberg, Rachel Brady, Kailee Brinkmann, Abigail Burbach, Rylan Craig, Tyler DeVelder, Makenna Druecker, Owen Dudley, Benjamin Fairholm, Ben-

jamin Finnegan, Harrison Freeman, Brooklyn Hansen, Nicole Hauck, Phillip Hauck, Regan Henie, Kasey Herbster, Natalie Kaufman, Andrew Kronaizl, Peyton Larson, Alisha Leber, Keeley Passick, Gray Peterson, Jacob Peterson, Madelyn Powell, Keegan Retzlaff, Justin Sorensen, Jane Ni Struckman-Johnson, Madison Treiber, Jenna Wilhelm, Carter Williams, and Isabel Young.

We also would like to thank Dr. David Struckman-Johnson, Dr. Cindy Struckman-Johnson, Professor Scott Druecker, and Mrs. Gretchen Burbach for coming and sharing their knowledge. We are extremely proud of all the dedication and hard work NHS members have served our community with.

Historic Flooding Impacts Town

BY ZADYA ABBOTT & REY FELICIA

The recent Midwest flooding proved challenging to the many people residing in this region. Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri were all affected. The cause of the flood was from the mixture of melting snow and large amounts of rain. Evacuation was mandatory in some areas and hundreds of people had to leave their homes. In Nebraska, approximately 75 cities were forced to evacuate, and 4 people have died because of the flooding. The overwhelming water caused many damages. For instance, roads were closed off, many were told to limit their usage on water and Iowa crops took a unexpected

blow. It was estimated for the damages to cost up to around 1.3 billion dollars. In light of these unfortunate results of the flooding, many volunteers have risen to the occasion, from filling sandbags to collecting supplies.

In one instance, Lenni Billberg, who is part of the Social Science Department of Vermillion High School, partnered with friend Chris Doty to start up the Flood Victim Relief Drive. The drive’s purpose was to raise supplies for flood-ridden Nebraska. The process began when Doty got in contact with the mayor of Spencer, NE, to inquire after what the heavily flooded area needed. Billberg and Doty then created a Facebook post, detailing the needs of the flooded region. From there,

the movement spiraled. Within hours they had four material drop off units; “Within five days we filled a 16 foot enclosed trailer, an extended cab truck and a large SUV with supplies,” explained Mrs. Billberg. The halls of VHS were not immune to the desire to help. A fact demonstrated by the student brought supplies that filled Ms. Billberg classroom. The following weekend all the collected supplies were delivered to the Boyd County relief center in Spencer, NE. From there supplies are being distributed to the Knox County Area. Mrs. Billberg refers to this experience as an example of how, “Once more, the power of social medium is used to make a difference in people’s lives.”

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CALENDAR

APRIL	9
26	7pm 6th Grade Spring Concert @ VHS
4pm G Golf Quad: TBA	4pm G Golf: Dakota Valley (T)
12pm B/G 7th/8th Track: Yankton (T)	TBA - B/G Track Dakota XII Conference Meet @Tea Area
State Jazz Band @Brandon Valley	10
5:00pm Baseball Varsity @ Parkston	PLT-Early Dismissal- All Schools dismissed @1:30pm
7:30pm Baseball: JV Game @ Parkston	11
27	2:30pm Graduation @ Coyote Sports Center, USD Campus
Booster Club VHS Hall of Fame	
State Jazz Band @Brandon Valley	13
29	7pm 7th/8th Grade Spring Concert @VHS
10:30am B Tennis: Mitchell (T)	9am G Golf Invite @Home
5:00pm Baseball Varsity @ Beresford	7pm School Board Meeting @ Al Neuharth Media Center, USD Campus
7:00pm Baseball: JV Game @ Beresford	14
30	3pm JV G Golf Dakota XII Conference Track Meet @Lennox
9am G Golf Invite @Dell Rapids	16
May	2pm B/G Region Track @Lennox
3	State "B" Tennis @SF/Brandon
7:30pm (Show Time) Spring Play Performance @VHS	17
9am Howard Wood B/G Track Relays @SF O'Gorman	State "B" Tennis @SF/Brandon
4	State "B" Tennis @SF/Brandon
SAT Test- TBA	20
7:30 (Show Time) Spring Play Performance @VHS	9am G Golf Dakota XII Conference Meet @Home
Howard Wood B/G Track Relays	21
5	Last Day of School
2:30pm (Show Time) Spring Play Performance @VHS	End of 4th Quarter
6	23
9am Golf Invite @West Central	9am G Golf Regions @Home
4pm B Tennis: SF Roosevelt (T)	24
7	State "B/G" Track @ Sioux Falls
6pm-7:30pm VHS Music Awards & Finale Concert @VHS	25
3:30pm B/G 7th/8th Dakota XII Conference Track Meet @EPJ	State "B/G" Track @ Sioux Falls
	27
	Memorial Day



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April's **PAUSE** Diversity

BY ZADYA ABBOTT

Everyone is looking to achieve their own personal form of greatness. However, because of how society sees certain people, not everyone is given the opportunity to succeed. The saying is 'pull yourself up from your bootstraps,' but the problem becomes clear when the boots in question do not exist. The world runs on opportunity. In the United States of America one in every fifty-nine children is affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder

(ADS), and in the month of April organizations, like Autism Speaks and Autism Society, spread a national message of inclusion. ASD refers to four Autism Diagnoses: Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified, Asperger Syndrome, and Autistic Disorder. Those conditions are often identified at a young age, and indicated by struggles with social skills, speech and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors.

The month of April is dedicated to the awareness of ADS, and to the inclusion of people who are affected. Everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed in their own way.

BASEBALL SEASON BEGINS

BY MYA DEJONG

The Vermillion High School baseball season started on March 28, at Prentis Park against Tea. The season started with a win beating Tea 8-4. Their next game was also at home facing the Baltic Bulldogs. The Tanagers were defeated after a well-played game. This did not set the team back; they won their next game scoring 12 runs against Hanson's 7, once again at home. The baseball team's first away game was in Dakota Valley and they lost only by 1 run in the very end after a long battle. The Tanagers then picked up another solid win against Canton with 15 to 1. One of their recent games was April 15 at home against the number one team in the state, Bon Homme. They were winning the majority of the game until the last few innings when they lost 6 to 2.

Our team this year consists of 3 seniors: Grey Peterson, Jacob Peterson, and Rylan Craig. After an interview with Rylan, he said "We have a lot of guys coming back and a lot of young guys that can step up and play." We look forward to watching the team continue to improve, hopefully making it to state and do well after their success of the last season. Rylan believes "There isn't going to be one team we play that we won't be able to play with." We hope to see our team at state this year and all of you out there watching them play along the way. Their next home games are this Thursday and Friday starting at 5:30 at the Prentis Park field. We hope to see you there cheering them on!

Boys Tennis Serves Up A New Season

BY TYLER MANN

Boys tennis at Vermillion High School has started up once again for the spring 2019 season, and along with it, more months of dedicated practice and exciting matches. Their practice started on March 21, and have already competed numerous times against Brandon Valley, Lennox, Yankton, and others. I interviewed VHS junior Liam Mechling about his thoughts on his teammates, their performance so far, and the future. Liam has been on the tennis team since 7th grade, so he is not short on experi-

ence. With his experience, he is able to deal with his team's performance, which, according to him, has been below average thus far. However, he does think they will improve up to the state tournament. Liam is confident that he and the whole team can step up their level. He highlighted senior Ross Dahlhoff as someone he can learn from, as Ross always shows a positive attitude.

The whole tennis team is hoping to finish the season strong and perform well at state, which starts on May 16. Everyone at Vermillion High School is supporting them as they continue to grow as players and athletes.

Poetry Out Loud

BY STEPHANIE MAGANA

Poetry Out Loud is the melting pot of young minds in South Dakota with the common goal of appreciating poetry, be it their own poetry or someone else's. POL is a competition amongst young poets and performers. Held each year in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the students meet to either perform poetry or present their original poems. Nine South Dakotans performed and three poets met to compete.

This year, three of the nine ambitious students were from our local Vermillion High School. Anna Bottesini and Natalie Kaufman were awarded \$100 for their original poems along with a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card and a free poetry book. Our third student, Annika Holdhusen performed and also got a \$25 Barnes & Noble plus a free poetry book.

If you want to make some money and are into poetry, don't be afraid to submit your poems to Mrs. Begley. You can talk to or email Mrs. Begley at Mary.Begley@k12.sd.us.

ART TEAM TAKES FOURTH STRAIGHT RUNNER-UP

BY KEEGAN RETZLAFF AND NATALIE KAUFMAN



The Vermillion High School State Art Team poses with their trophy. From Left to Right: Macy Winslow, Keegan Retzlaff, Ayanna Jones, Caroline Horton, Natalie Kaufman, Gracie Mollet, & Jake Oehler. Photo by Justin Brunick.

Students from Vermillion High School competed in the 5th Annual SDHSAA State Art Competition in Rapid City, March 14-16, at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Vermillion's team once again brought home the State Runner-Up Trophy with six of the twelve pieces entered earning a placement medal.

Members of the 2018 VHS Art Team are Senior Macy Winslow (Functional Ceramics), Junior Gracie Mollet (1st Place in Drawing Colored & 3rd Place in Printmaking), Senior Natalie Kaufman (1st Place in 3-Dimensional & 2nd Place in Crafts), Junior Jake Oehler (3rd Place in Graphic Design, Photography, & Mixed Media), Senior Ayanna Jones (Painting Acrylic & Traditional Culture Art), Senior Keegan Retzlaff (Watercolor), and Senior Caroline Horton (1st Place in Drawing). The students were coached by VHS Art Teacher, Justin Brunick.

This is the fourth year in a row the VHS Art Team has brought home the overall team State Runner-Up Trophy. The trophy and the student's art can be viewed in the Vermillion High School Commons through the end of April.

Keegan's Reflection:

This was my first time turning anything into State art. I was asked by my teacher Mr. Bru-

nick if I would submit a watercolor picture. I hesitated at first because watercolor isn't my first or favorite but I decided I'd enter anyway. Once I decided what picture I'd enter, I tried to forget I entered anything. This way I wasn't anxious waiting for the results. When my teacher finally gave me the results I was very excited. Having forgotten about it, I was extremely proud of placing 6th. I am thankful for the opportunity to show my work.

Nat's Reflection:

I've competed in the State Art competition for three years now. I push myself every year to at least submit one piece in State Art, and this year I submitted two. Because it's my last year in high school, I hoped to finally win first place with one of my sculptural pieces. To my surprise and delight, one of my pieces won first place in three-dimensional and my other piece won second place in crafts.

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THE SPIDERLAND

BY TYLER MANN

How is success defined in music? Is it being known and popular while still releasing music, or being remembered more over time? If it's the former, Slint was definitely not a successful band. The Louisville group released two albums while they were together, and a double-sided single was also put out after they broke up. None of those were met with fanfare on release. Their second album, *Spiderland*, released in 1991, however, would end up playing a pivotal role in the changing face of rock music in the 90s and beyond.

The album opens up with "Breadcrumb Trail", its narrative revolving around a person who goes on a roller coaster with a girl, with the roller coaster acting as a metaphor for sex. The clean guitars give way to piercing, distorted harmonics in the chorus section, and the vocals switch from spoken to distantly yelled in these parts. The following track, "Nosferatu Man", follows a similar structure, with heavy drums and clean guitars locking in an oddly-timed groove with spoken word vocals, before switching to distorted, metal riffs and more yelling. The lyrics on this song detail a vampire figure who lives with a queen, whom he ultimately ends up killing. Both of these first two songs rock hard in their own odd way, and descriptive lyrics paint a picture in the listener's mind. "Don, Aman" helps to paint a picture of what the bulk of the album is like. The song is highly repetitive, largely featuring a two measure guitar line repeated over and over. This does not get boring however, as with each rep-

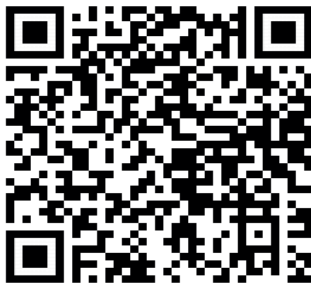
etition the underlying sense of dread gets greater and greater. The end of the build up, when the guitars distort for a short amount of time, is less grand than the previous tracks, but nonetheless effective. The story of this track is one of a man with crippling social anxiety, for which he even-



petitive piece that serve as a nice calm moment before the album's apocalyptic finale. That finale is "Good Morning, Captain", which retains much of the factors of the previously songs. A slightly off sounding bass rhythm, clean repeated guitars, pounding drums, and a few distorted sections all play into this escalation. Meanwhile, the lyrics focus on a ship captain who has lost all his men and is going insane. This ending is much better heard than described, so I won't. But I will say, the vocalist reportedly checked into the hospital after recording it.

What isn't amazing on *Spiderland*? One factor I didn't mention is the production and mixing, which is superb. Each instrument fits into its natural place in the song, and the drum sound is my favorite of all time. Even though it wasn't well-known in its time, *Spiderland* would become an important album. It had a large influence on bands in post-rock most prominently, as this album's trademarks of long buildups and huge dynamic shifts later became the genre's cliches. So next time you're listening to a rock album released after *Spiderland*, consider what influence it might've had.

Listen on YouTube!



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STATE STUDCO

BY LILLY MOCKLER

Vermillion High School Student Council is finishing up yet another school year of student-involved government. This school year student council planned many fundraisers and school spirit activities. One of the major fundraising opportunities for Student Council is the Children's Miracle Network; every student-run government participates in this awesome fundraising opportunity. Our student council also plans a few spirit week events throughout the year. They plan Homecoming, Snowcoming and, new this year, they planned events for National Counseling Week.

Every year all of the student councils around the state go to State Student Council; a large convention with guest speakers and workshops about leadership and other various government-related topics. This year it was held in Sioux Falls on April 7th-8th.

The first day featured a speaker, Matt Belace. He spoke about leadership and working together. During the state convention the students elect a

CONTINUED ON "STUDCO" PAGE 4

i2i Competition Success

BY LILLY MOCKLER

The freshman class at Vermillion High School took part in the shark tank project under instruction of Teramie Hill, the freshman English class teacher, for the fifth year this year. This project includes public speaking and research about inventions and products. The students came up with an invention and then researched how to make it. At the end of the unit, they presented to their class. The students were then judged by a panel of well informed individuals. A select few of the freshman class were invited to the Invent to Innovate (i2i) competition.

Mrs. Hill loves teaching this unit. When asked what she likes most about the Shark Tank unit, she said, "I like that students get a chance to be creative and actually create something of their own rather than researching other things that people have created." When asked what her favorite invention she's seen over the years, she could not pick one because they are all unique. She says the hardest part about this unit is the collaboration and teamwork. "They have issues

collaborating with each other, which is good because they learn from it. It's always tough to get all the community members to be able to work it into their schedule."

During the i2i competition, the students presented their inventions and were judged by a panel of industry professionals. The whole participating class had a chance to win up to 1,000 dollars. There were three schools that had teams there. Third place was given to a group from Vermillion, winning 500 dollars. Their invention was called Amario Plus. The team of four was comprised of Will Fairholm, Quinton Herrera, Hari Kadarkaraisamy, and Kaleb Preister. The first place team was also from Vermillion. They won 1000 dollars. Their invention was called Sweet Souls, this group included Mckenzie Kerkman, Carter Mart, and Mackenzie Brady. The winner of The Crowd Favorite was Avery Johnson. She won 250 dollars. The i2i competition was extremely fun and everyone can not wait for the years to come.

German Come to South Dakota!

BY MYA DEJONG AND NOAM GORNOWICZ (German Student)

The German American Partnership Program (GAPP) has been a program for six years at the Vermillion High School. The program sends students from both countries to each other's schools to experience their respective cultures and language. The sixteen German exchange students arrived on Friday, April 5th at the Sioux Falls Airport. The students were housed with sixteen American host students from the Vermillion High School German classes.

On Sunday, the German students and their hosts took a trip to Rapid City. The first day the students visited the Dignity Statue in Chamberlain and the Badlands. Later that day, they arrived in the Black Hills to continue the tour of western South Dakota. On Monday, they started the day at Mount Rushmore and ended the day at the Crazy Horse Memorial. The students also took in some American cuisine at Pizza Works in Custer. The next day, they left the cabins for Deadwood. On the way to Deadwood, they stopped in Lead at the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, where each of the students were allowed to hit a golf ball into the gold mine. In Deadwood, they shopped, ate at Mustang Sally's, and participated in a tour of The Bullock Hotel, which is thought to be haunted.

The trip to the Black Hills was a great cultural experience for all the students. One German student said, "It was amazing to see the landscape because it is so different than in Germany." The students arrived back in Vermillion Tuesday night and went to their first day of school on Wednesday. On the first day, the American students showed the German students around the campus. The German students were interested to see how American high schools differed from their German high school counterparts. To cap off their American high school cultural experience, the Germans exchange students attended prom on Saturday, April 13th and had a wonderful time. They left on April 20th after a farewell party for them on the 19th.

We love hosting the German students and look forward to hosting them again in two years.



Vermillion High School and GAPP Exchange Students gather under Mouth Rushmore. Be sure to follow "Vermillion Ratingen GAPP" on Facebook! Submitted photo.



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VERMILLION HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

VERMILLION: BEACOM HUMAN

BY: 01001110 01001011 00100000 00100110 00100000 01010011 01001101 0001010 0001010

We never believed the rumors about Mr. Beacom, until now. Students have whispered in the halls about the odd behavior of our computer science and personal finance teacher. We’ve heard about how he likes to talk to his computer when he thinks he’s alone, calling it his “little buddy.” We’ve heard about how students swear they saw his eyes glow red for a split second.

“It’s super freaky, ya know?” High school senior Alison Hough reported. “One time, when he bent his elbow to pick up a marker, I heard his joints squeak like an old door.”

But we wanted to know the truth, and nothing but the truth, so we dug deeper. We interviewed Mr. Beacom himself to find the answers to our many questions.

“That’s just nothing but rumors,” he replied when confronted with these various accusations. “Beep-boop, uhhh, I mean, hasta la vista.” When we closed the door, we looked back through the window and saw that the lights had been turned off. Mr. Beacom stood in the middle of his classroom, eyes alight with a blue glow, his “face” splitting into sections and peeling back to reveal (in high resolution) his metallic endoskeleton. When he noticed us, he went into low power mode and bathed the room in darkness once more. We were able to capture the picture before he shut down.

So, is Mr. Beacom an android? The answer is a resounding maybe. Beware the Beacom-Bot, only you can decide if he remains fact or fiction.

Happy (LATE) April Fools!



STUDCO

WORDFIND

BY LILLIAN MOCKLER

April

SEE “STUDCO” PAGE 3

...new state board. There is campaign meeting during the convention. To end the first day there was a dance and other activities including laser tag and karaoke. On the second day there was workshops on public speaking and different ways to improve your student council. The final event was a banquet where awards were presented.

There are two main awards that are presented to different student councils. The first award is the Cashie Cup. This is given to the student council that raises the most money for CMN. The next award is the Capi Cup, this is given to the school who raised the most money per capita. The vermillion student council won the outstanding student council award along with a few other schools.

The new executive board for vermillion includes McKenzie Mockler and Lexi Saunders as co-presidents. Taryn Whisler is the new Vice President The new secretary is Brook Assmus, Sara Prescott is the new parliamentarian. The new treasurer is Brenna Mockler and the new reporter is Kennedy Pratt. Vermillion High School cannot wait to see what comes in the new year.

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WEATHER
SPRING

OVERHEARDS

These are some of the crazy things heard in the halls of VHS and their locations.

“This water taste like butt”
-Water Fountain

“I drew on her face and she went sicko mode!”
-Art Room

“As long as you don’t approach them, they are quite social”
-Freshman Hallway

“points at speaker” “That stuff is global warming”
-Choir Room

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WITH NATE BOHNSACK

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COMIC RELIEF

BY JUSTIN BRUNICK



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