

# The Christmas Issue



At the Jazz band concert "Heat Seeker" is one of the favorite songs performed.

## Band gets into Christmas spirit

Mrs. Strand, along with the high school and junior high bands, got the community in the Holiday Spirit during the Dec. 6 Christmas concert.

The concert band members played favorite Christmas selections in keeping with the theme and the high school jazz band performed a number of seasonal tunes as well.

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# Daily life: the siblings scene

## Siblings and only children share how they really feel about family

by Katie E. and Breanna K.



Katie E.



Breanna K.

### How does being an only child compare to sharing high school with a sibling?

How would you feel if you were an only child? What would you do? How would your life be different?

Have you ever stopped and thought about this? For some students at CCS, this is all they have known.

Sophomore Tapainga K. is an only child who sometimes wonders what her life would be like if she had siblings.

"I would probably spend more time outside [with them] than I do now. I watch TV and am on the computer most of the time."

Tapainga wishes she had an older brother who could watch out for her, and a younger sister that could look up to her. She would want her brother to be two years older than her and her sister to be a second grader.

If you have ever been to a friends' house who has a lot of siblings, you know how different it is if you only had yourself at home.

"My friends' houses are a little more hectic, messier, and their houses are a lot bigger," Tapainga said.

Being an only child isn't always a bad thing, though; there are a lot of positive things about being an only child.

"It is quiet in my house, I get my own privacy, and there is not another child that gets more attention than me," Tapainga said.

Junior Sandra J. is an only child who wishes that she had someone younger to play with. She said she wants someone younger so she could boss them around.

Seriously, though, Sandra enjoys being an only child, though she admits there would be some advantages to having siblings. What does she feel she's missing?

"You don't have that bond with your siblings and you could tell them anything and when you're bored and it's just you and your parents," she said.

Whether you have siblings or not, think about how your life would be without them, and appreciate having them in your life.



Only child Tapainga K. and her dog?



Sandra J. is an only child who sometimes wishes for a sibling, but also likes her space at home.



Sisters Anna and Emma B.

### How does sharing the hallways work for brothers and sisters?

Siblings. Can't live with them, can't live without them.

The "sibling ratio" is high at CCS this year — many students have either a brother or sister with them in high school. As for the older siblings, they have mixed feelings about that. Do they like having a little brother or sister in school?

"Most of the time, but it really depends on the day," said Anna B., referring to her younger sister Emma.

"I have some body to pick on without getting in trouble. It's fun playing in sports together," said Adam D. about his younger brother Jeff.

"Sometimes," said Blair H., talking about her older brother, Spencer, and younger sister Jessica.

"I can keep tabs on him," said Trevor O., referring to his younger brother Tyler.

"It's a lot of responsibility; my brother isn't very responsible so I have to make sure he has his stuff and sometimes get it for him," said Adam M. about his little brother Ryan.

It's interesting to note that when younger siblings were asked how they feel about their older siblings, the answers were slightly different:

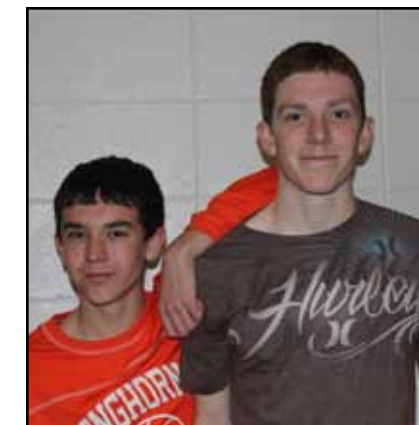
"He's someone to look up to," said Jeff D. about his brother Adam D.

"I have a ride to school every day and he makes sure that I'm not messing around in class, too much," replied Ryan M.

Even though siblings are known to have fights and not get along all the time, they also have fun together: from throwing things at their annoying younger sister, playing pranks on their parents, eating cookie dough without their mom knowing, to making snow forts out back in the trees. Siblings all know that there are those times shared that will be remembered forever.

Blair H. said, "I would be lonely with no one to fight with."

Referring to younger brother, Sheldon, Tyrell B. said, "I couldn't imagine life without him."



Adam and Ryan M.



Left to right below: Brothers Adam and Jeff D.



Blair, Jessica, Spencer H.

## Hunting Season comes again

### Chase County students take time out to hunt

by Emily O.

#### How small town students keep family hunting traditions

There are many students at Chase County Schools that have been very busy on the weekends lately. Not because of sports or work, but because hunting season has begun. Students hunt many different animals, including deer, pheasants and ducks.

Some students have started at a very young age and some are new to hunting. For junior Brett T., he started when he was only 5 years old.

"It runs in the family; everybody just does it," said Brett. A student who started a little later in life than Brett is junior Jordan G.

"I started around 10 or 12," she said. "My family does it so I did it with them."

Being young and hunting for the first time can be very scary, yet exciting.

"I was scared because I was really little, and it's spooky walking through tall grass," said sophomore Sam H.

Brian B. first experienced hunting over the holidays when he was younger.

"We were pheasant hunting, and it was after my first shotgun that I got for Christmas, and that was my first experience," he said.

Why does he enjoy hunting? "The exhilaration, and adrenaline when you're chasing what you're hunting for, and the challenge when you are trying to shoot them," he said.

Sophomore Khris K. likes hunting "because it's fun, and it's like getting a prize when you kill something."

Hunting can be a very thrilling activity. "My most exciting experience was when I shot my big white-tail that I got mounted," said Jordan G.

For Brian it was an adventure, but a little different story.

"Even though I didn't get the deer, this last hunting season it was dark out and I shot a buck

and it ran into the trees and I was in the dark woods by myself and I lost my sense of direction and was lost for awhile," he said. Hunters can have very rewarding and exciting moments while in the field and at other times those moments can be scary.

There are a few different things to do with the animals that students catch. Some mount them like Jordan, and others use the meat from them like Khris, who likes his deer made into jerky. Sam likes his pheasant fried before eating it.

What is Brian's favorite place to hunt?

"On the back side of the lake, because there are so many good spots," he said. During hunting season many out-of-town visitors come to Chase County to hunt. Some locals also travel to other places, like Khris, who goes to his uncle's house south of Omaha.

"There are lots of deer there," he said.

Hunters know when it is the right weather and time to go out hunting, and Jordan said the snow makes it ideal.

"You can see the deer better and they are out looking for shelter," she explained.

Sam H. said the best time to go hunting is "right when the sun comes up because it's when they are out feeding."

If Brian could go anywhere in the world to hunt, where would he choose?

"Africa, because all the game would be so challenging and give you such a thrill," he said.

Khris said he would like to go to "Alaska to shoot a bear."

If you are one who has never been hunting, Sam says, "It is exhilarating and when you get a bird, it tastes good."

Jordan, who has been hunting for quite awhile now, says, "It's fun, and rewarding once you get a deer."

## Movie Review

### "Courageous" inspires many

by Shannon L.



"Courageous," the latest faith-based drama created by Sherwood Pictures, was released to theaters on Sept. 30, 2011. The movie has a strong Christian message but is a movie for everyone. This movie is highly recommended and I think anyone who has not seen it should do so. The main focus is the relationship between a man and his family and the responsibility that comes along with that. This film will encourage and inspire you to be the best person you can be, for yourself and for the ones you love.

The film stars Alex Kendrick, Ken Bevel, Kevin Downes, Ben Davies and Robert Amaya, who are living and working in Albany, Ga. While four are police officers, another is fighting to keep his job and his home that he needs to shelter his family.

The film goes into each man's home and displays issues and struggles not known to the outside world, with faith and their roles as husbands and fathers being the main ones. When tragedy strikes Adam Mitchell (Alex Kendrick), his entire outlook on fatherhood changes. His actions and words encourage the other men to do

the same, and together they make a decision that will change all of their lives. It's a time for God's love and principles to win the day and make a few good fathers into great fathers.

This movie has many intense and passionate moments, ones that draw you to the screen and make you wish it would never end. There are a couple of scenes that come to mind when thinking about the best. The first comes when one of the men is tested at work for a promotion and stays true to his character, which ends up being a very good decision. This part has a strong teaching point everyone should take away from this movie: Stay true to yourself and your beliefs. The second scene that comes to mind is when a father finally sees his teenage daughter as a young woman and there is so much beauty in that.

Overall I think this movie is well-deserving of an A+. Even though the film was made by a church group, it has the makings of a Hollywood blockbuster. We can only hope that Sherwood Pictures will continue to devote their time to making more movies like "Courageous."

## What is your favorite Christmas present?

It is time for Christmas and Santa is working away on our presents. Now everyone wants to know: What Christmas present is your all-time favorite?

Mr. Al Zuege: "If I told you, you wouldn't be able to print it in the paper."

Mr. Carl Zuege: "When I was like 7, I got a Tony Dorset jersey. I wore it for three days straight. Then my mom said she had to wash it and when she did all the letters came off. It was my favorite present for three days."

Mrs. Bottom: "A toy iron and ironing boarding and the iron actually got hot. I loved to iron wash clothes. Mom would give me a whole stack and I would iron away. I was insane."

Mr. Munger: "My wife, because that has been most endearing over time."

Mrs. Stand: "My guitar. My sister made it for me and I had been asking Santa for one for two Christmases."



Brett T.



Jordan G.



Brian B.



Khris K.



Sam H.

## Editorial

### Anniversary of Pearl Harbor's attack

by Devon V. and Shannon L.



Devon V.



Shannon L.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

These words were spoken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after Pearl Harbor was attacked, starting the United States' involvement in World War II.

It was a Sunday morning when 353 Japanese fighters launched bombs and torpedos from six aircraft carriers. All of the United States' eight Navy battleships were damaged, and four were sunk. One hundred and eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,402 Americans were killed and 1,282 wounded. It was only the beginning of a devastating loss to the United States and the rest of the world.

December 7, 2011, marked the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On *YourNewsNow.com*, Syl Puccio, a survivor, said, "You don't forget a day like December 7."

But is it remembered by all, or just by the people who lived it? Each year the anniversary of the attack is becoming more unnoticed. The generation of people who can give a firsthand account of the event is disappearing.

These people died for our freedom. They are our nation's heroes, and they cannot be forgotten.

As a whole country, we need to acknowledge and thank the veterans while we can. Whether it is by a simple thank you or a ceremony, our heroes need to be recognized.

## Music Review

### Origins of a favorite Christmas song



Kacia S.

Christmas is almost here and there's no better place to be than at home sitting with your family, drinking hot chocolate and listening to Christmas music. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be with their loved ones for Christmas, but they can still feel as though they're with their family while listening to "I'll Be Home for Christmas." The original lyrics to "I'll Be Home for Christmas" were written by a 16-year-old homesick college student in 1943. After "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was published, it became the most requested song on the radio.

The song immediately gained popularity because of all the American soldiers who weren't able to make it home for Christmas because of World War II. Since 1943, "I'll Be Home for

Christmas" has remained a popular song and has been recorded by more than 110 artists.

My personal favorite version of this song is sung by Rascal Flatts. Their amazing intertwined chords form great harmonies that make their version of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" truly unique. Their complex version of the song is completely a cappella and beautifully sung with the intent to remind listeners of the importance of being home for Christmas.

If you love Christmas music, this song will be a wonderful addition to your collection! Next time you get on YouTube, check out the Rascal Flatts version of "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and it will remind you that on Christmas, there is no better place to be than home.

## Band holiday concert a success

Band students work hard for December performance



by Kacia S.

Christmas spirits were high in band and jazz band as students played for their Christmas concert on Dec. 6. Their hard work finally paid off when the auditorium was filled with the applause of many proud parents. Little do the parents know exactly how much effort their band and jazz band kids put into their work.

Band and jazz band are not classes to "get by" in. Band students are required to work just as hard as any athlete or student who is not in band.

These band students couldn't get very far without a prestigious band director. Chase County Schools is fortunate to have a leader with the ability to push the students to be their best.

"I think that it is required of me to draw them [the students] to greater heights," said director Mrs. Strand.

Both band and jazz band classes require positive at-

titudes and great work ethics. They are challenging and thought-provoking classes.

"That's what brings me to band. I like to be challenged," sophomore Korey K. said.

Some kids are involved in band and jazz band specifically for the challenge of it, but others are involved for other reasons.

"I enjoy music," said senior Taylor G. His reason is the same for many other fellow band students.

Working hard, challenging themselves, and even enjoying music can be difficult at times for band and jazz band students, but they are rewarded for their efforts in many different ways.

"It just feels incredible when you hear that sound and know you're a part of that," said Mrs. Strand.

"My reward for playing [songs] well is to entertain people," said Korey K.

Some rewards are obtained outside of the auditorium during a performance and inside the classroom during practice time.

"I like to be in band class so

I can be with my friends," said Taylor G.

Friendships are made, parents are proud, and the satisfaction of knowing that people are entertained are just a few of the many rewards these students receive from band and jazz band.

The work and effort put into band and jazz band to be ready for this year's Christmas concert was extremely high, and their classes were both challenging and thought-provoking, but the positive attitudes of the students and their director got them prepared to perform their best for their audience at the Dec. 6 concert.



Korey K.



Taylor G.



Mrs. Strand



Big Finish: The band plays to a packed auditorium at the holiday concert.

# Longhorn Winter Pep Rally

Korey K. smiles after receiving an award for wearing flip-flops.



Cheerleaders reading an "audience involvement" question.



Brady M. shows off his skill at hula hooping.



Michaela S. dribbles for her junior team.



You did what? Participants were challenged with some embarrassing questions while playing the circle game.



Emma B. dribbles the beach ball down the court to score two points for her class team in the relay.

Mr. Lenner and Mrs. Saltz get cozy during the circle game.



Michaela K. tells the crowd to get loud for the spirit stick!



Emily O. gets the crowd going.



Bonnie C. swings her hips to compete in the contest.



Ethan H. gets low during the limbo challenge.





Jared K.

**Future plans?**

I'll be at horse-shoeing school in Texas or Crawford. I'll be at Chadron State or UNL in the fall of 2012.

**Grade school memory?****Halloween.**

We would stay out late and end up at somebody's house. There was always drama involved; our class was filled with drama; that's memorable.

**Advice for freshmen?**

Set goals that you want to achieve and do it. Write that stuff down. Look at it every day. Don't settle for anything less than your own highest standard.

**What do you wish you'd known as a freshman?**

Nothing. If I'd have known what I know now as a freshman, high school wouldn't have been an experience.

**Name a hidden talent.**

I'm a brilliant social worker.

**How far east can you go before you're heading west?**

5,809 miles



Mollie R.

**What are your plans after graduating high school?**

Attend either Fort Hays State University or University of Wyoming and major in Farm and Ranch Management.

**What is the one memory that sticks out the most from grade school?**

All of Mrs. Pribbeno's different costumes ... they were great!

**What advice would you give to underclassmen?**

Actually try; it makes a bigger difference than you might think.

**What is one thing you wish you would have known as a freshman?**

That you should almost always have fun, no matter the situation.

**Name a hidden talent you have.**

I am a master puddle-jumper!

**How far east can you go before you're heading west?**

Pretty sure if you start going east you will always be going east, unless you turn around.



Perry V.

**What are your plans after graduating high school?**

I plan to attend Colby Community College to study Farm and Ranch Management.

**Grade school memory?**

I think all of the "parties" we used to have where everybody would just hang out and have a good time.

**What advice would you give underclassmen?**

Pay attention in class; don't just slide through.

**What is one thing you wish you would have known as a freshman?**

I wish I would have put more into class and cared about my grades.

**Name a hidden talent you have.**

I don't really have a hidden talent that I can think of.

**How far east can you go before you're heading west?**

I don't think there is a point where you start going west if you're headed east.



Steven F.

**Future plans?**

After high school I plan to attend the UNL and major in Agribusiness, Agronomy and Animal Science.

**Grade school memory?**

We used to have parties in fifth grade and we always went crazy to the song "Yeah" by Usher. Then we would try to dunk a basketball while jumping off of a trampoline.

**Advice for freshmen?**

Do everything you can with extracurricular activities. Remember, though, you will only get out what you put into something.

**What do you wish you'd known as a freshman?**

High school goes by so fast. Have fun while you're here, but don't do anything you will regret later in life.

**Hidden talent?**

I am very good at impersonating other people.

**How far east can you go before you're heading west?**

When you get to the North Pole.



Trevor O.

**What are your plans after graduating high school?**

Attend Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and major in Agribusiness Management.

**What is the one memory that sticks out the most from grade school?**

When Travis got sick on the way home from the 6th grade trip from eating too much junk food!

**What advice would you give to underclassmen?**

Study, get involved and have fun!

**What is one thing you wish you would have known as a freshman?**

How fast high school really does go!

**Name a hidden talent you have.**

Memorize movie lines/quotes.

**How far east can you go before you're heading west?**

As far as you want.



Bonnie C.

**What are your plans after graduating high school?**

Move to Colorado and join the work force.

**What is the one memory that sticks out the most from grade school?**

Playing kickball out on the playground.

**What advice would you give to underclassmen?**

Get to know the counselor really well so he can get to know you and he'll be able to help you a lot your senior year.

**What is one thing you wish you would have known as a freshman?**

Not to take every single little thing to heart. You have to tell yourself every once in a while to be crazy and just have fun with life!

**Name a hidden talent you have.**

I can make some pretty darn good brownies.

**How far east can you go before you're heading west?**

Exactly 73 miles.

## Clubs

by Emily O.

**FBLA**

The FBLA had their annual Veterans Day Program on Nov. 11. "It went quite well; we had many responses from people saying it was the best one they had seen yet," said sponsor Mrs. O'Neil. FBLA sold Tupperware for a fundraiser that started Nov. 23 and ended on Nov. 30. Several FBLA members are working on Business Achievement Awards. Each person who wants to do this has to complete several different activities, and will be rewarded with a medal at state FBLA in March. Members are selling candy canes you can send to your friends for 50 cents. They will be delivering the candy canes on Dec. 22. They also have a new project they are working on called Lunch Buddies. The members that participate in this will have the chance to eat lunch with the elementary students, and then go to recess with them. Those who were interested had to write an essay and 10 FBLA members will be chosen. FBLA will start selling stadium seats and apparel at home basketball games and will work at the movie theater in January.

**FCCLA**

Twenty-one FCCLA members went to McCook on Nov. 9 for districts. They had several speakers and mini sessions. On Nov. 11 and 12, 15 members went to National Cluster Meeting in Denver, where they also had several speakers and workshops to attend. FCCLA helped with the March of Dimes on Nov. 15 for World Prematurity Day. They sold suckers to raise money for the March of Dimes. FCCLA will be teaming up with FBLA to work on the Just Drive Campaign. This campaign encourages students and adults to buckle up while driving. Members sold butter braids that were due on Nov. 30. They will have another fundraiser coming up in January. FCCLA will be working on Power Of One Award and Star Projects for Star Competition. At their December meeting they will be making gingerbread houses as their fun activity. The junior high kids will also be having a dance.

**FFA**

FFA members volunteered at the movie in the past month. They also helped set up and take down the blood drive that was held on Nov. 10. FFA had the District Leadership Skills event on Nov. 7. They had four district teams and 17 students qualify for state FFA. Members recently finished fruit sales. Their goal this year was to sell \$28,500 in fruit, and they exceeded the goal with \$38,579. Not only did they break their record, but they sold the highest amount of money in fruit sales in the history of the FFA chapter. Some things the FFA has coming up are the Career Development events in February that they will be preparing for; also, their State Degree applications and Proficiency applications will be due in the near future. FFA members will start getting ready for the Pink Out game soon. They are also planning on volunteering at the movie theater again.

## Boys basketball returns

### Longhorn boys start the season strong

by Devon V.

Fall has ended, bringing in another year of Longhorn basketball. The 2011 basketball season started on Nov. 14, and with a younger team this year, the boys are looking at a new starting lineup.

Head coach Carl Zuege said, "The three seniors, Adam D., Adam M. and Steven F., have

game in Cozad gave them another win of 48-37.

The coaches have implemented a new zone offense and defense, but have kept the man-to-man the same. The new offense and defense were created because the coaches felt the new ones fit the players better.

"We have the personnel this year to have a new offense and defense because we have a new team this year," Zuege said.

Adam D., one of the three seniors and a four-year Longhorn player, agrees with Zuege's opinion of leadership.

"I have more responsibility this year, because I have to take the leadership role and everybody follows what I do," Adam said.

Adam plays center, and says his role is to "hold the middle fort and score points." He has taken leadership by running, shooting and getting in shape before basketball season started.

Adam M., the point guard, is looking forward to "striving every day to get better in practice and competing at practice so we are more prepared to challenge our opponents."

Steven F., a guard, said he has been preparing for this season for 18 years.

"I have been looking forward to my senior season of basketball since I was little." He prepares for his games with a specific routine.

"I pop my neck, knuckles, and then pray and play," he said.

The three seniors agreed their goals this year are mainly to win, and make it to state. Coach Zuege said the challenge of this year's team is to "ignore scores, get better, and improve."

With the loss at the McCook game, the boys have to do just that, and keep their sights focused forward as the season continues.

As they go deeper into the season the Longhorns have played well as a team, with positive attitudes, which enabled them to win against Ogallala, Yuma and Garden County. Here's hoping they keep up the good work.



The boys gather for a prayer before the McCook game.

taken on leadership roles and have done a nice job of playing and helping each other out."

With the loss of eight seniors from last year, the 2011 team has had to step it up. They put in a lot of hours over the summer and coming into practice they have shown a lot of excitement and enthusiasm every day.

"It's a long season so you have to be enthusiastic in order to improve," said Coach Zuege.

This is Zuege's fifth year as head coach; he was the JV coach for nine years before that.

The Longhorn boys' first game was the exhibition game in Hitchcock County, and they showed that the hard work paid off by winning the game with a score of 57 to 46. Their second

## Girls basketball has begun

### Lady Longhorns work hard for wins

by Shannon L.

Once again winter has come and it is time for another team to take the court. This team is the Chase County Longhorn girls basketball team. The girls didn't waste any time getting into shape. Head girls basketball coach Nancy Sorensen said the main way of getting the girls ready for the season was to condition. The girls started conditioning a week before practice could legally start.

"We are quicker now and we want to utilize that," said Sorensen.

This team does not have much for height but quickness is something that can counteract that. The girls were not the only ones working hard to prepare for the season.

"I have been doing homework, going to boys camps, learning from other coaches, and re-looking at each team," said Sorensen.

This is Sorensen's second year of coaching basketball and her expectations for this team are much higher than last year's.

"[I expect the girls] to improve, to know the game of basketball, to be able to play the game with a flow, to be successful, to win, to be fundamentally sound, to minimize turnovers and gain confidence to score," said Sorensen, "but more than anything I want character. I want the girls to win with character and lose with dignity."

This season has come with many challenges, but the positives outweigh the negatives.

"I have some great coachable kids who work hard as athletes and are willing to learn," said Sorensen, and her assistant coach agrees

with her.

Chris Sander began his assistant coaching duties with the girls basketball team last year; as well as being accountable to Sorensen, she said he brings a lot to the program.

"He offers a sense of humor, and a second set of eyes to see everything. He also handles all the inbounds plays and substitutions," said Sorensen. "In the words of Mr. Sander, I am the mother of the team and he is the bad uncle."



Kristen J. gets an open look during the McCook varsity game.

The girls basketball team only lost two seniors last year and another two seniors have stepped up to lead this young team. Chantal H. and Shannon L. have been out for basketball all four years of their high school career and leading a team is nothing new for these girls.

"I plan to lead by giving my all in every single practice and being a good role model for the girls," said Chantal.

The team's season has started off a little rocky with weak points exposed, but none that can't be fixed. With some early losses the team is more focused than ever. They will be working hard to earn their wins, but no matter what happens they have the support of the fans behind them.



Paige S. takes the ball to the hole.

# Duct Tape Roses

The Horticulture class, under the guidance of Mr. Speck, created duct tape roses for a project.



Raw materials in a variety of colors.



Two roses under construction.



Mr. Speck, the source of the duct tape creations, arranges a bouquet.



Final Rose



Leslie A. works on her pink rose.

Cody C. starts to make a rose.



Students select duct tape colors with the help of Mr. Speck.



Trevor O. and Mollie R. work away.



Michaela K. concentrates while making a duct tape rose.

A bouquet of duct tape roses.

## Wrestling team takes the mat



By Michaela K.

### Small Team, Big Dreams

This year the Chase County wrestling team will be faced with a big challenge: They only have five wrestlers out for the season.

The team includes: freshmen Jake Lueth, Jonathon Fegley and Andrew Schilke, and sophomore Luis Rodriquez.

Although to most this may come as a challenge, to CCS wrestlers the low participation is only motivation.

"I consider myself a motivator of the team. We all work together to improve one's self," Jake said about finding motivation with no senior leadership.

Who does Jake look to get encouragement?

"My dad. He has coached me basically since I started at 3 years old.

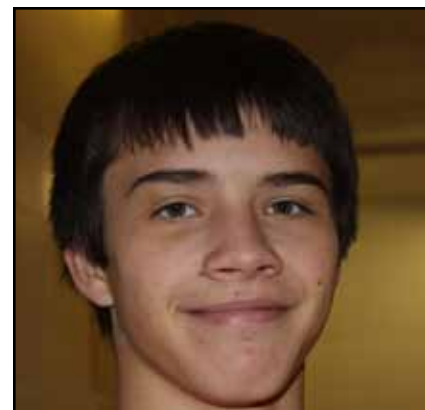
"I also look up to my brothers, Justin and Jeremiah. There has always been competition between us and I like to challenge myself to do better than them," Jake explained.

Growing up in a "wrestling" family and knowing the sport is Jake's inspiration for becoming a team member on this year's squad. He believes that helps him be a team leader and to step-up on the mat as there are only the five members to make everything work.

One may ask, how does this small team of five practice?

"People with better experience come in to help us," Jake L. mentioned.

Keithan Cochran, Nathan Hinojosa, Andrei Rodriquez, Justin Lueth and Jeremiah Lueth are some who volunteer their time to better the CCS wrestlers' skills. They also serve as role



Freshman Jake L.

models for the young wrestlers just starting their high school careers.

Although the wrestlers are getting help during practice, it is obvious that they are unable to get help when it comes to getting points for tournaments and duals.

With being short on team members, the Longhorn wrestlers will be faced with not being able to fill weight-classes in order to gain more points.

As in most sports you want to win and losing is not fun; it all comes down to the character you become, whether it means a take-down for two points or being pinned by your opponent.

The 2011-12 wrestling season kicked off on Dec. 1 with a dual against Garden County. The team had a good showing, but unfortunately wasn't able to get a team win. Individually, Jake, Johnathon, Andrew and Makayla all left the dual with one win and one loss.

After meets at Broken Bow, Holdrege and Sidney, the wrestlers will compete next in Ogalala after Christmas break.

## Christmas Traditions

Callin L.- "We usually go on a trip somewhere."

Suzy K.- "Every Christmas Eve my Mom makes chili and my oldest brother makes cinnamon rolls. Every other year cinnamon rolls switch from red rolls with green icing to green rolls with red icing. We also get a new pair of pajamas Christmas Eve to wear Christmas morning."

Brian B.- "We set up the tree together and decorate it."

Sam C.- "We either make coconut date balls or make sour cream sugar cookies."

## One Act: 'Property Rites'



By Taylor S.

This year's one act cast performed "Property Rites," written by Alan Haehnel. They presented a unique story that can be interpreted in different ways.

With minimal props and some serious acting, this year's play left the audience with chills.

"Property Rites" is a story about a "unit" of mechanical bots that can do a variety of actions, such as speaking, moving or singing. The owner wants to get rid of this expensive piece of artwork, but comes across some problems.

Devon V. plays Kristy, the owner of the unit. She said that with "memorizing, going in after school and help from Mrs. Bauerle, Mrs. Fort-

kamp and Mr. Hansen," she became the character she portrayed.

"More than last year you have to pay attention," Devon added, explaining how the cast members had to be aware of one other and focused in order to perform such a detailed production.

During much of the play, the figures had to be frozen, remaining perfectly still and not reacting to all



Mike (Tyler J.) checks out a "bot" (Aubrey F.).

Figure 3 (Tapainga K.) tries to wake up the other figures.



The cast is all smiles after a performance.

that was going on around them.

This year's story is much different from previous years, with more a serious and thoughtful tone.

"The judges always like a serious, or sad, or gruesome story, and it's harder to do serious, because if you mess up you can't laugh it off," Devon said.

The judges did approve of the change, and the one act won first place at conference in North Platte. After that came districts in Bayard, where they came home with second place.

Mrs. B had high expectations for the play.

"I thought we would do well. We did as well as I thought we could — I thought we would win."

This year's one act came out to be successful, and with good reason. The cast had the determination to win, by going to practices and furthering their characters' development.



## 9th Street Singers sing to

by Breanna K.

"We welcome to the stage the 9th Street Singers!"

When walking down the hallway in CCS schools this name and the invitation to take the stage and perform is very familiar.

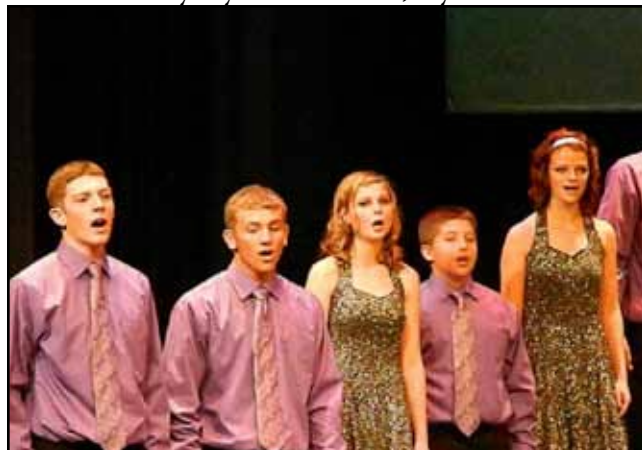
This year the 9th Street Singers consists of 27 members, freshmen through seniors. The group has eight seniors this year: Breanna K., Chantal H., Kacia S., Shannon L., Mollie R., Bonnie C., Taylor G. and Adam M.

Senior Chantal H. is looking forward to learning new songs and dances, and hanging out with her friends. She has some advice for prospective 9th Street Singers: Take a chance.

"Even if you don't know, you never know unless you try; you will really surprise yourself by how you do," she said.

Senior Bonnie C. is looking forward most to the group's new costume change which will be revealed soon. Bonnie's most memorable show choir experience is getting to see Mr. Hayes smile when the group is done performing. Bonnie's advice for future 9th Street Singers is similar to Chantal's.

"Definitely try it. Of course, try out. I didn't



The singers during their performance of "Living on a Prayer."

make it my freshman year, but I tried it again and I made it. It has been a life experience."

The group performed at Old West Weekend in Scottsbluff a few weeks ago. The singers received a gold trophy and were invited back to the stage for the final concert. Singing for the finals "is an honor," said Mr. Hayes.

The 9th Street Singers will be performing at the NCDCA show choir festival on Feb. 6 and at the GISH competition in Grand Island on Feb. 25. Mr. Hayes ultimately wants the group to have a unified choral sound, have a strong balance, and achieve a strong alto and soprano sound.

The group added 11 new faces to replace last year's graduating seniors.

"The new singers are doing well; at the same time they are learning that this is a new level of competition than the past. They are doing a great job of balancing the total sound of the group," said Mr. Hayes.

Mr. Hayes was very pleased with the group's performance at Scottsbluff. The choral sound of both men and women was pleasing and the choreography was sharp.

He was concerned about the group projecting their voices on the big stage but it came out really well. At the Old West Weekend competition, during finals only a first-place trophy is given. Mr. Hayes' ultimate goal for his group is to "perform at the very best level that we can."

The 9th Street Singers have been performing under the direction of Mr. Randy Hayes for 20 years. He has taught music education at CCS for 29 years.

The group has been a competitive show choir since 1991. The 9th Street Singers have been invited back for finals at Scottsbluff for 11 years. The CCS choir has earned Best of Class SPVA for 15 consecutive years, gold trophies at the NCDCA Festival for 16 years, superiors at District Music contest for 17 consecutive years, and placed in GISH in the top three for three years.

## Old West gold

The 9th Street Singers have traveled to Branson, Miss., for six years — 1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011. This past summer the group traveled to Branson to perform their show and to earn a fun music experience.

The group was able to perform on a professional stage opening for the Haygoods. The Haygoods are a performing group that live in Branson, with seven brothers and 1 sister. They play many instruments and also sing. They got to personally meet them. The singers performed at Silver Dollar City in the Open Air Theater and attended several professional shows.

The group has quite a few freshmen, who have quickly learned that being in the 9th Street Singers is a different level of performance.

"The experience of being a 9th Street Singers is better; you get to go more places and interact with people all around the state," said freshman Travis L.

Freshman Emma B said, "Being in the 9th Street Singers is a higher level of competition and it motivates me because I know it's different, more important."

This year, District Music Contest in going to be held here in Imperial. In the past it has been held in McCook, Ne. It will be held in April, and there will be no school on that day. Preparations for District's have already started taking place.

The 9th Street Singers have just kicked off their year, and are adding more songs and new choreography in preparation for upcoming competition. The singers have recently preparing for their upcoming Christmas Concert. The group will be having a new costume change in their new show.

The Show Choir poses for a group photo.



## All-State

### Breanna K. participates in All-State Chorus



By Kacia S.

You're sitting in a large auditorium as you watch more than 400 students march onto stage and fill 12 risers.

You aren't sure exactly what to expect, but the minute they begin to sing, your jaw drops. It sends chills down your spine when you hear the Nebraska All-State Choir students come together to sing advanced eight-part chords perfectly in tune.

Breanna K. was one of the selected individuals who was honored to be a part of the Nebraska All State Choir weekend, which took place in Lincoln on Nov. 16-18.

The audition process to get into this prestigious group is a rather difficult one.

After singing two scales, two arpeggios, and three excerpts from different songs, Breanna had to wait at least a week before the selected group was posted on the Nebraska Music Educators Association (host of Nebraska All-State Choir) website.

Being selected for this group is one of the highest levels of recognition a high school singer can receive.

"I was really excited for the opportunity because I worked really hard to get there," she said.

She proudly represented CCS at the 75th All-State Choir Concert as she sang her Alto 2 part.

# Giving back to others

## 5 years of successful blood drives at CCS

by Devon V.



Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood, and every blood drive and donor help supply this much-needed resource.

The Chase County Student Council has been hosting blood drives through the American Red Cross three times a year since 2006. On Nov. 10, the first blood drive of the 2011-2012 school year was held, and Shannon L., a senior student council member, said she thinks it went pretty well.

"We had quite a few walk-ins and had appointments, and we had to turn some people

away because the staff couldn't take that many."

The blood drive lasted all day, and 58 units were filled. With a goal of 60 units, the team was a little disappointed but pointed out the fact that staff was short.

The next blood drive will be in January, so those who wish to participate listen for the date to be a blood donor and save three lives!



Mason H., Dan S., and Chantal H. smile for the camera at the Blood Drive



Under Pressure: Steven F. prepares to give blood

# Musical Performance

## 'Cinderella'



The Evil Step Family, Shannon L., Bonnie C., and Kacia S., sing their lament.

The King and Queen (Adam M. and Anna B.) sing their duet together.



Cinderella (Breanna K.) and the Prince (Justin G.) dance the night away.



Fairy Godmother (Mollie R.) makes wishes come true.



Cinderella (Breanna K.) sings about her dream prince.



The stepsisters and stepmother relax after an exhausting day, while Cinderella cleans up.

# The Longhorn Scene

# The Longhorn Scene

