

# WOKSAPE

“The Wise Book”

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## Yankton Students Make Music With The Army Field Band And Soldier Chorus



BY  
**ALLIE  
THIESSE**

For the past seventy years the Army Field Band and Solider Chorus has been performing all across the nation and world.

The band normally tours about one hundred days a year. On Mar. 12, 2015 at Mount Marty Cimpl Arena, three Yankton High School students were selected to play with the Army Field Band: Callie Pospishil, Allie Thiesse and Steven Bray.

Despite the band being fairly old, the band is always looking for fresh faces and placing new positions.

The newest member of the band this year also happens to be the commander as well, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene. LTC Keene has only been a part of the Army Band for fourteen days.

Despite this recent change, LTC Keene knows that the Army Field Band members adapt well.

“My favorite thing is that these are incredibly skilled musicians, so they can do anything you throw at them. It’s not like we have to think about what should we do—they can play practically anything. That is great, because it gives us a lot of places to go,” stated LTC Keene.

Throughout the night, the Army Field Band and Solider Chorus performed multiple songs.

Pospishil, Thiesse and Bray got to perform the song *Dogface Soldier* by Bert Gold and Ken Hart. During this experience, the students were surrounded by the Ar-



COURTESY PHOTO

Three Yankton High School students had the opportunity to play with the Army Field Band and Chorus.

my Field Band’s musicians and for a few moments got to be a part of a surreal experience.

“I was blessed with the honor to perform with the United States Army Field Band. It was an incredible opportunity getting play along side with truly the best band in the country,” stated Pospishil.

To join the Army Field Band, an Army solider has to pass many requirements. First is getting through basic training, and the next step is auditioning for an opening in the band.

This year LTC Keene has received eighty-eight audition tapes

from soldiers across the nation for only one spot. “This band is highly competitive,” LTC Keene said.

LTC Keene and other members didn’t always foresee themselves in the band.

Sergeant First Class John Blair has been with the band for the past nine years and always saw him self in an orchestra.

He had been preparing in college to fulfill this dream when an opening for the Army Field Band presented itself.

“I saw an audition for this band and took it. The people were really nice and audition went well. I got

the job and I am really happy I took the opportunity,” said SFC Blair.

Callie Pospishil, Allie Thiesse and Steven Bray are thankful to the Army Field Band for the opportunity that was presented to them. They are also grateful to the Army Field Band and Solider Chorus for their service to our country.

Performing with such an elite group was a once in a lifetime experience for these three Yankton High School Students—an experience Pospishil, Thiesse, and Bray claim they will not soon forget.

## Y’s Words On Equality



BY  
**ZACH  
LATTEA**

“Hey! You can’t come in here! We don’t allow your type! I hate people who wear socks with sandals.”

Though abstract and a bit goofy, being hated for your personal choices or natural qualities is wrong. People should not be treated differently just because they are different—they must be treated equally.

America’s struggle for equality stems back, far back, to the very roots of American culture. The documents that stand as the base of America’s ideology support the idea that all men are created equal, and that each person is endowed with certain unalienable rights. Through history, attempts to further equality can be seen; from the Emancipation Proclamation, to women’s suffrage, to the Civil Rights Acts, the U.S. pushes onward. Compared to those times, many would think today, the U.S. treats people entirely equal. That’s not the case.

Many hot-button issues of equality arise from the Deep South, which has been a hot-bed of racism for centuries. Ferguson, Missouri has recently drawn widespread national attention for their racist police system, specifically dealing with the shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer. Whether or not the officer was acting in self defense, the shooting put the spotlight on the various issues within the police system. Now, a new report from the Justice Department shows emails full of racist remarks and jokes sent during work hours on government accounts. Something must be done to change the status quo in this area and others like it. The hate must stop.

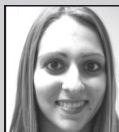
Still dealing with the South, SAE, a fraternity at the University of Oklahoma, has recently gotten itself into hot water over an extremely racist chant publicized by viral media. The chant was disrespectful, hateful, and extremely discriminatory toward people of color. The societal backlash has been immense. As a united people, we must stand against the actions of those who would perpetuate such hateful stigmas, and make a change for the better.

Even barring race-based discrimination, the U.S. has a long way to go to achieve equality for various groups. Take women for example; women still only earn \$.78 for a man’s \$1.00, doing the same job. This pay gap is inexplicable, and detrimental to the American ideal that all people are created equal.

Moreover, people with both physical and mental disabilities deserve equality as well. Using certain language, seemingly common in the teenage vernacular, is extremely deeming to these groups, and some may not even realize the offensive nature of their statements.

Yes, equality has progressed in America, but it still hasn’t been achieved. The disparities of treatment continue on, and we as Americans must come together to end it. Nobody deserves to be hated for their race, religion, gender, identity, or personal choices. Even people who wear socks with sandals.

## Thiesse Earns HOBY Scholarship



BY  
**MADISON  
DANGLER**

Yankton High School Senior, Allie Thiesse, has dedicated a huge part of her life to helping individuals in need. She is now being recognized nationally for her achievements. Thiesse is one of three students nationally to be awarded the \$1,000 Hugh O’Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Scholarship.

This scholarship recognizes Thiesse for her hundreds of hours of volunteering. Thiesse’s volunteer experiences vary immensely, but she says that “the volunteer experience that has had the most impact on me is the campaigns I have participated in dealing with pediatric cancer. When attending HOBY my sophomore year, we did a national campaign called Alex’s Lemonade Stand where all proceeds were donated to pediatric cancer research.” Through this campaign, Thiesse found that she had a great “love for children with pediatric cancer.”

Interested in continuing her volunteering within the realm of pediatric cancer, Allie looked for local opportunities to help the youth. Within the past several years, she has designed T-shirts and Facebook pages for several local youth with cancer, including, Adam Walter, Tom Rokahr, and Quinn Pesicka. Through these efforts, Thiesse has been able to raise money for each cause.

Thiesse’s volunteering does not stop here, though. She is a part of the Yankton High School National Honor Society (NHS) and is consistently offering her time and talent with various volunteer projects organized by NHS. She says, “My drive has always been seeing a need in my community and wanting to fulfill it. I believe it is my duty and God’s gift to me to be able to help people who are less fortunate.”

As Thiesse moves on to college with the assistance of the HOBY Leadership Scholarship, she has an interest in continuing her volunteer activities. Thiesse has chosen to attend the University of Sioux Falls. She says, “Their campus is immensely based on mission work and giving back. Being a part of this campus lifestyle will help me continue to serve others in the future.”

She intends to achieve a double major in elementary education and special education; with these majors, she will have the opportunity to continue her passion for assisting youth for years to come. Thiesse has impacted the lives of many individuals throughout the years and hopes to continue to do so.



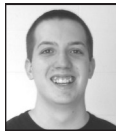
Allie Thiesse

## Debate Students Experience Success At Recent Contests



COURTESY PHOTO OF MR. MATT TERMENSEN

(L to R): Assistant coach Bo Pons, assistant coach Jalatama Omar, Patrick Binder, Tyler Wenande, Jacob Selgestad, and assistant coach Matt Termansen.



BY  
**JACOB  
SELGESTAD**

Yankton debate coach Leo Kallis summarizes his team’s ideology when he states that “Winning feels better in February.”

What he means by this is that winning is great through the whole season, but it really matters at the year-end National Qualifying and State Debate tournaments.

The National Qualifying Tournament is the biggest tournament of the year for Yankton debaters, as it determines who gets to advance out of the Rushmore District to compete at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Dallas, TX this summer. Yankton qualified three students to compete in Dallas.

Senior Patrick Binder qualified for Nationals in Lincoln-Douglas debate and was also a finalist in International Extemporaneous speaking.

Lincoln-Douglas debate is a debate events centered

around morals and values. The topic he debated was, Resolved: Just governments ought to require that employers pay a living wage.

International Extemp is an event where competitors are given thirty minutes to write and memorize a speech over a question that has to do with a foreign nation.

The senior team of Tyler Wenande and Jacob Selgestad qualified for the national tournament in Public Forum Debate.

Selgestad also placed high enough in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking to qualify for Nationals, but competitors are only able to attend Nationals for one event.

Public Forum is an event where teams debate on current issues, both domestic and foreign. The topic they debated was, Resolved: On balance, economic globalization benefits worldwide poverty reduction.

Domestic Extemp is the exact same as International Extemp, except the ques-

tions are focused on United States politics.

Students will be given one more chance to qualify for Nationals at the State Student Congress Tournament in Pierre on April 10.

Yankton also performed well at the State Debate Tournament in Harrisburg.

Wenande and Selgestad advanced out of preliminary rounds and into elimination rounds of Public Forum Debate.

In Lincoln-Douglas debate, junior Parker James reached quarter-finals and Senior Zach Lattea reached the semi-final round.

Yankton found success in debate the entire season with accomplishments such as placing a variety of events and winning the conference.

However, competitors from Yankton can find special solace in the fact that they were able to execute when it meant the most at the end of the season.

The National Speech and Debate Tournament in Dallas will be held this summer, June 14-20.

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