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Yankton High School Students Fare Well At National History Day



BY
**JOHANNA
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Several YHS students had the chance to dip their toes in the vast ocean of academic research, thanks to their participation in National History Day.

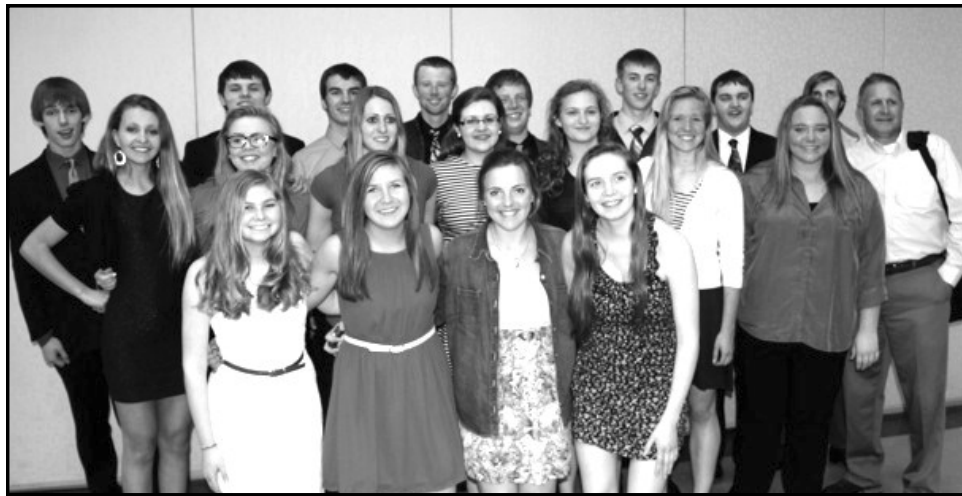
National History Day is a contest where students have the opportunity to pick a historical topic they would like to research, and then spend months gathering and analyzing information on the topic in the form of books, journals, interviews, government documents, newspapers, and photographs.

The students who participated this year were all members of Mr. Haar’s A.P. U.S. History class.

Julie DeWitt, YHS Junior, believes Mr. Haar was vital to the students’ success. She said, “None of this would have been possible if Mr. Haar hadn’t helped us along the way; he is truly amazing, and I can’t thank him enough.”

Mr. Haar’s students had the option to participate in National History Day to satisfy their research project requirement.

When creating their projects, students have the option to create an exhibit, a research paper, a website, a



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton High School National History Day participants shown after the competition.

Row one (L to R): Kim Cap, Julie DeWitt, Maggie Wallis, Alexa Bryan, **Row two (L to R):** Heather Hauer, Jaclyn Arens, Madison Dangler, Johanna Lippert, Aesley McNeill, Erica Westerman, Haylee Worm. **Row Three (L to R):** Zach Lattea, Patrick Binder, John Dannenbring, Adam Walter, Broc Mauch, Brad Ulmer, Garret Adam, David Barnes, and Mr. Doug Haar.

documentary, or a performance. All of the Yankton students chose to create an exhibit or write a paper.

The students’ process began by picking their topics and conducting preliminary research at school. Then, the students had the opportunity to visit the University of South Dakota to not only access materials there, but also to learn research skills. From there, students did the research necessary to put together their projects. Once the projects were completed, the students had the opportunity to travel to Sioux Falls to compete at the re-

gional competition. From there, six group exhibits, one individual exhibit, and two research papers advanced to the state competition at SDSU.

The Yankton students swept the categories in which they participated at state. Two group exhibits, one individual exhibit, and two research papers will be advancing to Nationals in June. This competition will take place at the University of Maryland in the Washington D.C. area.

Erica Westerman is one of the students advancing to Nationals. She is looking forward to the opportunities

she will have at Nationals. “I’m really looking forward to competing and meeting kids from other states.”

DeWitt will also be advancing to Nationals, and she has some interesting techniques to calm her pre-competition nerves, “I always have to eat a banana (or several) before a competition to calm my nerves. The D.C. area will be low on bananas that week.”

Even though it has pushed the students out of their comfort zones, it has taught them invaluable research skills they can use through their academic careers.

Y’s Words On Decisions As A Part Of Life: Always Be True To Yourself



BY
**ALEX
FIELDS**

They are everywhere. It’s kind of annoying. Decisions are something we can never avoid, no matter our age.

Decisions come in all varieties and sizes. What you should get on a pizza. Whether or not to wear shorts. Where to go to college. Whether or not to own a home or rent. If you should stay at the same job for decades or if you should try something new. If you should have a baby or not. Okay, maybe that last one is a bigger decision than usual, but it is a decision nonetheless.

I made what I thought was a small decision in late August of last year. It was to write for the school paper. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect, but the experience I gained was more than I could ever ask for. The feeling of people telling you that they actually like your writing is one of almost pure ecstasy. So I would like to personally thank Mrs. Mandel for the chance to help operate this paper.

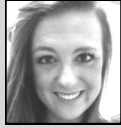
The whole senior class has a tough decision to figure out what they want to do with their lives, and the truth of the matter is most of us probably have no idea what we want to do.

We have to trust our decision-making in life. Not every choice we make will be the best one, but on the other hand, they won’t be the worst either. Maybe a bit of optimism is needed for such a tantalizing task as mapping out your future.

Some more words of advice when making decisions: never worry what the next person has. If you are going to be that materialistic, you should probably focus on yourself and the abandonment issues you might have because the love of your life left you, rather than if those \$200 jeans are a good investment, but I digress. Enough hypotheticals.

I guess we are just forced to realize that all kinds of decisions will plague us through the winding and terrible joke that is life, but it will give us okay material to work with for an article.

Pottery Classes Participate In Raku Firing



BY
**ALLIE
THIESSE**

Raku pottery originated in Japan around the 16th century during the Early Muromachi Period.

Yankton High School has had the opportunity to experience Raku firing four different times. Tom and Wanda Clarke, owners of West Sioux Ceramics, bring this extravagant process to YHS. They have been involved with ceramics for more than thirty years. The Clarkes have sold their pottery all over the United States, Canada and even Australia.

The Raku firing occurs immediately. First the pots are covered with a thin layer of Raku glaze. The glazes range in color from bright oranges and blues, to whites and grays.

Once the pottery is covered, it is then placed in a kiln at 1850° for thirty to forty-five minutes.

After the pots are fired, they are taken out of the kiln red hot and placed on combustible material, like saw dust and shredded paper, and put under metal buckets. Due to the oxygen reduction, the pieces turn charcoal black.

Once the pottery pieces have sat for a few minutes, the buckets are lifted and oxygen is let in to surround the pottery.

When oxygen hits the pottery, an array of colors emerges, and the ceramic instantaneously changes color to whatever glaze was placed on it.

Yankton High School students love getting to experience this new technique.

“You actually get to be a part of the firing process and get to see the pottery change when it is engulfed in flames,” said Morgan Tessier a senior at YHS.



PHOTO BY ALLIE THIESSE

A piece of Raku pottery is shown being uncovered.

The opportunity to experience this process gives students a hands-on approach. Many students learned from Wanda Clarke how to manipulate and style the clay and glazes to get the results they wanted.

Raku firing is different from the traditional firing the classes experience. The Raku firing process is immediate, unlike the traditional process where it takes a few days to fire and cool down.

Firing in this manner also leaves each piece with a varied result. You will never receive the same two pieces.

Brad Ulmer, a junior at Yankton said, “It was a great learning experience to know how other types of clay can be used and fired to get unique color combinations.”

In order to withstand the thermal shock of the heating and cooling process, sand is mixed in with the clay to make it very porous.

The finished products produce a shimmering or charcoal effect, different from modern pottery pieces.

“Because of the rapid firing involved in Raku, the different glazes had many unpredictable outcomes. After the firing of Raku, the unpainted areas turned black from the Carbon that was released from the fire and unlike the traditional method where the unpainted areas remained white,” commented Ulmer.

Students always enjoy watching and taking part in this process, since for many of them it is a once in a lifetime experience.

Yankton High School students are fortunate to have this opportunity. Raku firing functions as a unique way for distinctive pottery to be created. Every clay piece students walked away with reflected unique beauty—from the smooth brilliant dark and light colors to the rough charred black surfaces.

Science Olympiad Students Qualify For Nationals



BY
**JACLYN
ARENS**

The Yankton High School and Middle School Science Olympiad teams are preparing for the 30th annual National Science Olympiad tournament, and teams from Yankton have been competing all 30 years. The event will be held at the University of Central Florida in Orlando on May 16th and 17th. In these final weeks leading up to the tournament, every member of the team has been busy preparing. “You can never be too prepared for Nationals. The competition is tough and the tests are beyond difficult,” Callie Pospishil, a junior, describes.

This National tournament is host to over 2,000 students on 120 Science Olympiad teams from around the United States.

There are 23 events that require either individual or group participation. The format of many events is similar to popular board games, TV shows, and athletic games. The science subjects include: biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, mathematics, computers, and technology.

The events also require knowledge of science facts, concepts, processes, skills, building skills, and science applications. The students’ tasks involve test taking and building; the specific events range from MagLev to Water Quality.

For the high school team, 18 students are traveling to Florida; 15 are completing, and 3 are alternates. Of the 18 students on the 2014 team, 3 are seniors. The seniors include: Amber Livingston, Lane Droppers, and Alyssa Schild. These students are lucky to have four great coaches: Mr. Medeck, Mr. Schild, Mrs. Shafer, and Mr. Merrill.

On average, each Yankton student participates in 2-4 events. For example, junior Heather Hauer competes in MagLev, Elastic Launched Glider, and Bungee Drop. “Science Olympiad is about working hard to prepare for nationals in order to continue the Yankton tradition,” Hauer says.

All the competitors are looking forward to the trip. “For me, visiting the universities is the most memorable,” relates junior Broc Mauch.

For another junior team member, Story Leshar, “The ceremonies are great, and meeting students from other states is really interesting. And throughout the season I enjoy getting to know the other students and working together.”

Science Olympiad members have to work hard not only on their topics but also to fundraise. They raise funds by selling candy bars and receiving donations from Yankton Organizations and businesses.

High school team members include:

10th grade-Sam Gusso, Joseph Kelly, Mikayla Trenhaile, Ted Anders, Cody Perakslis

11th graders-Garrett Adam, Broc Mauch, Heather Hauer, Kim Cap, Story Leshar, Alexa Bryan, Jon Barkl

12th graders-Layne Droppers, Amber Livingston, Alyssa Schild,

Alternates: 9th grader: Sophie McKee; 10th graders: Kierra Schaffer; 11th grader: Callie Pospishil.



School & Sports Physicals

**Evening Clinic
Wednesday, May 21st
& Wednesday, May 28th
5:00-7:00pm**

Only \$15

No insurance will be billed for this exam. However, immunizations will be provided if needed, and will be billed to your insurance.

**CALL 260-2100
for details**

Sports physical forms need to be completed prior to your appointment. Contact your school for forms.

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