



THE BELLRINGER

Granite Falls School District News

Volume 26, Number 3

School • Community Newsletter

March/April 2009

Community forum set for March 24 on budget update

Schools in Washington State are facing difficult times ahead with proposed budget cuts. The state deficit is now at approximately 8 billion dollars, an increase of almost 2 billion since December. Due to the state revenue deficit, education, as well as all areas of government funding, will be reduced.

Over the past two months information has been gathered from staff meetings and community forums to determine budget priorities. All programs and services have been reviewed such as staffing at the administration office, transportation,

food services, all day/every other day kindergarten, energy savings, and athletics.

The January staff meetings and community forums provided an overview of the complexity of school budgets and the many formulas and stipulations on how funds are collected and allocated. The meetings also provided an opportunity for everyone to give input on the best way we can maintain our services and programs for students.

The District will hold a follow-up forum March 24th, 6:00 pm at

Mountain Way Elementary to review the priority reductions developed through the feedback gathered over the past two months.

The full extent of the budget cuts will not be known until the legislative session ends sometime in late spring or early summer. The March forum will provide the best information we have to date and outline our best and worst case scenarios.

Once the legislative budget is confirmed, the School Board will approve the reductions based on the input received and the level of reductions that need to be made.

Last edition of the Bellringer

This will be the last edition of the Bellringer. The savings for printing and postage of the Bellringer will be approximately \$5,000 per year, which will help with the budget reductions that need to be made (see article at left).

School news is always available on our website at www.gfalls.wednet.edu, or to receive a hard copy of the Superintendent's newsletter call Kathy Grant at 360.691.7717. All information on the website can be downloaded and printed if needed.

Parents and community members are also encouraged to join our email list for periodic school news and updates. It's quick and easy. Go to our website at www.gfalls.wednet.edu and click on the envelope on the left side of the page. You will receive email information including student and staff awards and announcements and can unsubscribe at anytime.

Knowledge Bowl qualifies for district; HI-Q team hosts home meet



Knowledge Bowl team members left to right (bottom row) Jeff Shoemaker, Chelaina Crews, (middle row) Jackson Phelps, Christian Arp, Brad Beard, and (top) advisor Adam Gessaman.

This Knowledge Bowl team qualified for the District tournament and finished the season in 12th place out of 22 teams.

Knowledge Bowl is comprised of schools from Edmonds to the Canadian border that compete to recognize academic achievement



HI-Q team members (left to right) Chelaina Crews, Kari Bray, Kevin Ahrens, and Christian Arp at the start the competition at the February 10th home match. Other team members (not shown) include Lindley Lee, Brinn Jones, and Kerry Wesala.

and sportsmanship. Each team plays four rounds, one written and three oral with 50 questions in each round. Subject areas include biology, current events, chemistry, physics, literature, and world history.

Granite Falls took second place in the HI-Q home match February

10th against Monroe and Mountlake Terrace.

HI-Q is the oldest academic quiz program in the country. Students compete in various topics including math, literature, and history. HI-Q matches are played in a Jeopardy game show style format.

Kindergarten registration begins March 23

Kindergarten registration for the 2009/2010 school year opens March 23rd for all students that will be five on or before August 31, 2009. Registration packets are available from Mountain Way or Monte Cristo Elementary.

A copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization are required for registration.

If you have any questions, contact Mountain Way Elementary at 360.691.7719 or Monte Cristo Elementary at 360.691.7718.

Due to snow, last day of school is June 16

Due to three missed days of school during the December snow storm, the last day of school is now set for June 16.

With the change to the last day of school, the Middle School eighth grade celebration has been changed to June 15. High School graduation has not changed and will be held as scheduled on June 5.

For verification of all school activities, contact your child's school or check the District website at www.gfalls.wednet.edu.

What's Inside:

• Hall of Fame Inductees

• Winter Sports Awards

• Success in Education Winners

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Middle School science: a matter of properties

Carla McCubbin's 8th grade science students pulled out the protective goggles and eye droppers and talked about reagents. A typical day in class, this lesson was designed to identify unknown substances using properties of a known substance.

Students mixed different "mystery" powders with vinegar, iodine, and water (reagents) to accurately

collect data. Graphs and charts were developed to track the appearance of the unknown substances and the results of adding the reagents.

What were the mystery powders? Salt, corn starch, baking soda, and Roloids.

The outcome of the lesson? Students understanding how to use physical and chemical properties to sort and identify substances.

Bond, Welk-Dryden named to Hall of Fame

Cliff Bond (class of 1940) and Melissa Welk-Dryden (class of 1990) were named to the Granite Falls High School Alumni Hall of Fame at the girls basketball game held February 5th. The Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to honor past graduates that were active in school activities that have gone on to become positive role models and productive citizens.

Cliff Bond was a three-year letterman in baseball, basketball and football, representative to the Junior Advisory Council, and President of the Big G Club. Cliff is a World War II veteran, served on the Granite Falls City Council and School Board, and was a volunteer Little League Coach. Cliff was Vice-President of Calkins Equipment in Everett. Cliff's son, Scott, was the first recipient of

the Alumni Hall of Fame award in 1994.

Melissa Welk-Dryden was a four-year letterman in basketball and volleyball and two-year letterman in softball and track. She still holds the school record in the javelin. She received numerous athletic awards including first team All Conference. Melissa was active in student government and a member of the National Honor Society. Melissa has a computer drafting degree and works as an electrical installer for Boeing. She currently coaches youth basketball and baseball for her son Tanner who attends Monte Cristo Elementary.

A partial list of past winners includes Jody Byron Hillery, Rick Short, Judy Roche, Kathleen Winje, Chuck Curtis, Jackie Haverfield, Jim Maw, and Dean Steinke.

Community News

United Way of Snohomish County offers several resources for families in need of rent/utility assistance, unemployment information, credit counseling, medical assistance, Veteran's assistance, worker retraining, and much more. Go to www.uwsc.org/get_help.php for a full list of resources or call 425.258.4227.

The Granite Falls Public Library hosts preschool events, teen programs, guest authors, master gardeners, musical presentations, and book discussion groups. Call 360.691.6087 or visit the website sno-isle.org then click on Granite Falls on the map for a full list of dates.

The Washington State Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program allows parents to buy college tuition units now for use in the future. For more information, call 1.877.438.8848 or www.get.wa.gov.

FBLA students to state

High School students (pictured left to right) Jacob Brown, Chelaina Crews, Michael Fowler, Kati Reverman, and Nicole DePrey competed in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition and qualified for the state tournament that will be held in April.

Students competed in accounting, job interviews, and business communication at the West Central FBLA Winter Business Leadership Conference in Bellevue February 11th. High School Business Education teacher and FBLA advisor Sherry Lund entered 25 students into the competition. Lund stated, "Our students did an excellent job representing Granite Falls High School. We are very excited to have five of our students move forward to the state competition."

Cheerleaders take 9th place

The Granite Falls High School cheerleaders took 9th place at the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) state competition in the non-tumbling category January 24th. The girls are coached by Susan Black.

Pictured left to right, bottom row: Brinn Jones, Kelsey Loth, Destiny Mullins; middle row Destiny Briones and Keona Eadie; top row captains Karissa Zeno and Sarah Morin.

Picture by Mel Block.

Nelson, Romack, Arndt winners in essay contest

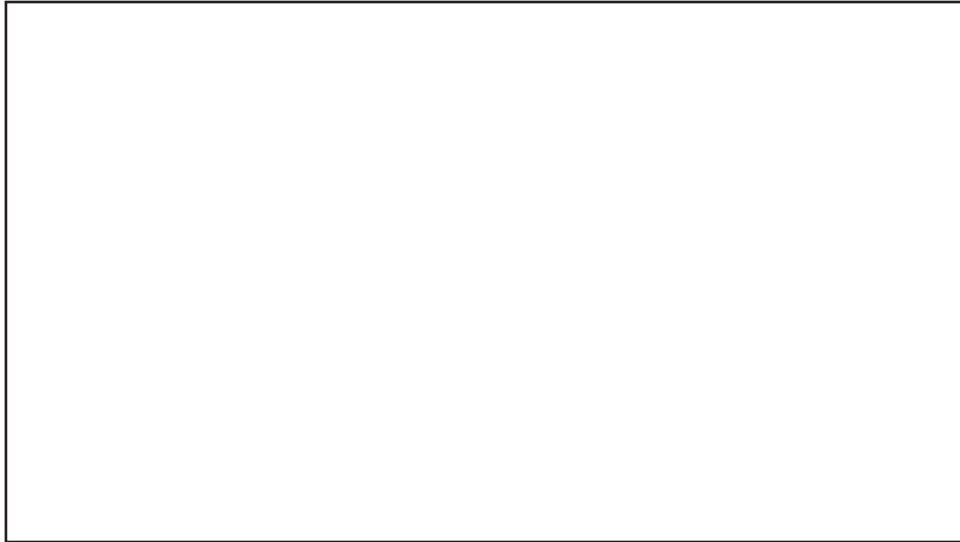
Monte Cristo multiage students Ben Nelson and Emmy Romack took first place and Taylor Arndt took second place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars regional essay contest for District 1. Ben won for the sixth grade division, Emmy for fifth grade, and Taylor for fourth grade.

An excerpt from Ben's essay: Have you ever wondered if American veterans have been honored enough? Or why they should be honored? They have done a lot to keep this country together, and strong. My opinion is they can't get honored enough for all the things that veterans have done.

An excerpt from Emmy's essay: I am so thankful to all the United States veterans. These are the kind of men and women that will go out and risk their lives for others. That is what I consider a hero. I am so thankful to have you in our country and hope you realize how much of a difference you make in our world.

An excerpt from Taylor's essay: Thank you for fighting in the war. You did it all because of our freedom. We should salute the flag because when we salute the flag we are saying thank you to you and all of the other people in the war.

Read, read, read



Superintendent Karen Koschak has read Dr. Seuss' "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" to most kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students then turned the reading lesson into a science lesson.

The book is about a young boy named Bartholomew who must rescue his kingdom from a sticky substance called oobleck. In the book,

the King of Didd says he is bored with rain, snow, and hail and asks his magicians to have something new fall from the sky. Before long, green gooey oobleck falls from the sky covering everything and the King soon realizes his mistake. Bartholomew convinces the King to say he is sorry and the oobleck melts away.

After reading the story, Superintendent Karen Koschak passes out oobleck to all the students to touch and feel. Is it a solid? Is it a liquid? What happens when you pull it apart? The students take the oobleck home along with a new pencil and a note to parents on the importance of reading.

Experts agree reading aloud to children 20 minutes a day increases their language and vocabulary development, and helps them be ready to read when the time comes.

Reading is the most basic skill that sets the stage for later learning in all curriculum areas including math. Reading aloud to children stimulates cognitive skills, curiosity, and memory.

Reading tips to use with your child:

- Read to your child everyday.
- Follow the words with your fin-

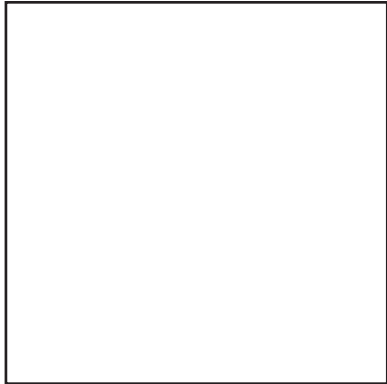
ger as you read to show reading goes left to right.

- Read your child's favorite book over and over.
- Read stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat.
- Discuss new words.
- Talk about the pictures in the story.
- Read from a variety of books including fairy tales, song books, poems, magazines, and information books.
- Sign your child up for a library card and visit the library often.
- Participate in reading programs at school or the public library.

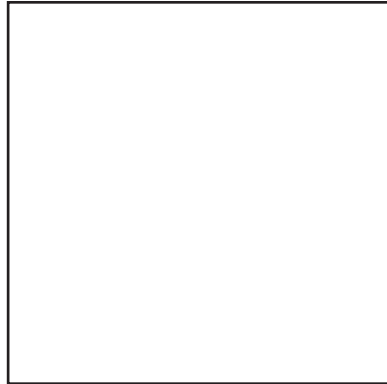
Reading with children spells success for early literacy and for all future learning and it only takes 20 minutes a day.

For more literacy help, contact your child's elementary school teacher or librarian.

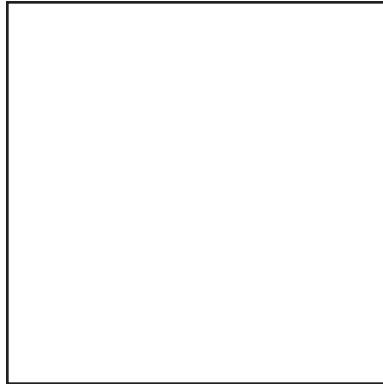
Thompson, Kawasaki Success in Education winners



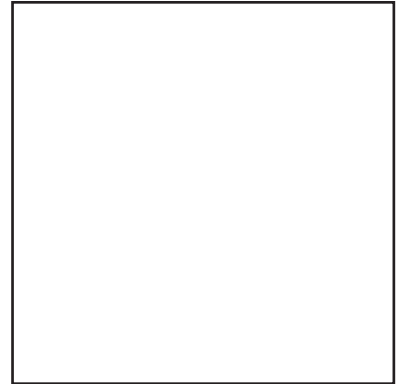
Leah Foster



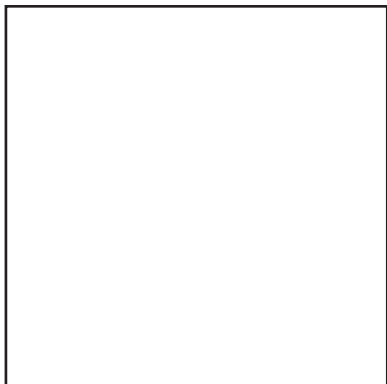
JJ Campbell



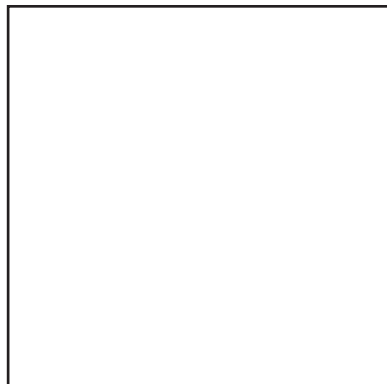
Katelyn Campbell



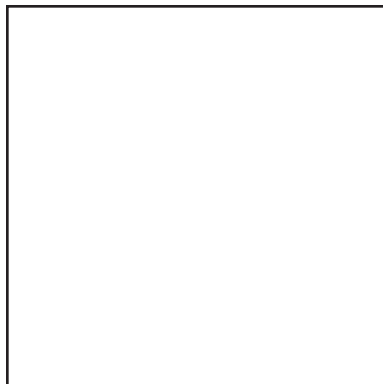
Emily Onderbeke



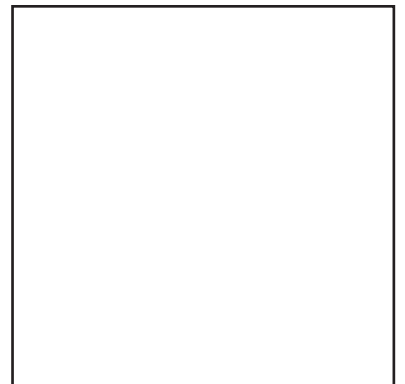
Matthew Hamilton



Allanna Olson



Donald Janda



Ben Nelson

Granite Falls School District Success in Education Awards are presented to staff members who provide a caring and understanding learning environment and to students who show an understanding of the importance of education and provide service to other students, staff, or the community. First semester/trimester recipients include:

Middle School English teacher Jon Thompson has worked for the District for 15 years. Jon's expertise in his field has helped align the writing curriculum across all academic levels. Jon started the Middle School cross country program that continues today.

Middle School paraprofessional Nancy Kawasaki has worked for the District for ten years. Nancy works in the Life Skills classroom helping students improve academi-

cally and socially and serves as a meaningful role model to all students.

High School senior Leah Foster has maintained a 3.6 grade point average while taking advanced classes such as calculus and AP literature. Leah is a LINK crew member, ASB treasurer, and member of the Spanish Club. Next fall, she will attend Eastern Washington University to study nursing.

High School junior JJ Campbell has a 3.9 GPA while taking AP English and pre-calculus. JJ is a three sport athlete in football, basketball, and track. He is a LINK crew member and plans to attend college at the University of Washington or Washington State University.

Eighth grade student Katelyn Campbell goes beyond expectations in her academic development.

She is a leader by example and a role model to her peers. Katelyn is a compassionate student who is always respectful towards fellow students and staff.

Seventh grade student Emily Onderbeke is a true life-long learner with interests ranging from academics to sports to choir. Emily maintains a 4.0 GPA while taking advanced reading, math, and choir classes. Emily has a positive attitude tackling everything with a smile.

Sixth grade student Matthew Hamilton is a quiet leader who displays exceptional citizenship in and out of the classroom. He shows responsibility and models excellent academic behaviors by studying and always turning in his work on time.

Mountain Way fifth grade

student Allanna Olson is a dedicated, hardworking student. She finishes her work promptly, does a quality job and has raised the bar academically for her peers. Allanna is a talented artist and enjoys Taekwondo.

Multiage student Donald Janda is willing to do the extra effort that makes his work stand out from his peers. He is a leader in the classroom and for his Boy Scout Troop. He volunteers as a Reading Buddy and always sets a good example for other students.

Multiage student Ben Nelson won first place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars essay contest and is a leader in and outside of the classroom both academically and socially. Ben volunteers every day in the lunch room and is on the set up crew for music performances.

Middle School Students of the Quarter

Tyler Bassett, Jasmine Bates, Sairah Best, Jennifer Blackie, Cady Brown, Angie Camacho, Kaytie Campbell, Tysen Campbell, Ryan Chabot, Holly Chapman, Kaitlyn Connolly, Brandon Cooper, Casey Cross, Liberty Davis, Cynthia Drudge, Thomas Eadie, Taylor Fahrenkrug, Lauren Ginter, Kaila Green, Elizabeth Hargraves, Jacob Hargraves, Cody Harris, Devon Head, Jarek Hitchcock, Nicholas Jackson, Nicholas Jarman, Lindsey Johnsen, Christian

Krischano, Kailey Larsen, Cortney Manimtim, Makenzie McLaughlin, Jonathan Montesinos, Tessa Montgomery, Katielynn Moore, Caitlyn Munce, Alicia Nelson, Quinn Nelson, Maya Norton, Anthony Phillips, Devin Pierce, Teo Reyes, Jose Reynoso, Shelby Schuman, Ciera Scown, Joshua Sheppard, Matt Simonson, Michael Smith, Anna Street, Alberto Torres, Jolene Villines, Madelyn Winter, Ariana Wyatt.

Community invited to drama performance and art show

The community is invited to the first annual Senior Art Show March 26th, 12:00 - 7:00 pm at the High School. The art will showcase 2D and 3D art from the Class of 2009.

The community is also invited to attend a new work by High School senior Kari Bray entitled Million Dollar Haunted House*. Kari has become something of a playwright in residence, as she also adapted last winter's production of The Odyssey, along with student Amanda Brittain.

Performance dates are Friday, April 24th, Thursday, April 30th, and Friday, May 1st all at 6:30 pm and a Saturday matinee on April 25th at 2:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students, \$2.00 for students with ASB card and \$1.00 for children under 12.

*The play is suitable for children age 8 and older.

Spring Sports Schedules

NOTE: Due to weather conditions, verify all dates/times with school.

TRACK

DATE	OPPONENT
3/19	Jamboree HOME
3/26	@Sultan
4/16	@Coupeville
4/23	@Lakewood
4/30	HOME
5/7	HOME
5/15	League @Cedarcrest TBA
5/22	District @Bellingham TBA

All meets begin 4:00 pm

BOYS SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT
3/14	Jamboree @Everett**
3/16	Interlake
3/17	@Blaine****
3/24	Archbishop Murphy
3/26	@Coupeville
3/31	Lakewood
4/2	@Cedarcrest
4/4	@South Whidbey*
4/7	King's***
4/9	@Sultan
4/14	@Archbishop Murphy
4/16	Coupeville***
4/21	@Lakewood
4/23	Cedarcrest***
4/28	South Whidbey***
4/30	@King's
5/2	Sultan*

*Game time 12:00 pm
 ** Game time 2:00 pm
 ***Game time 3:00 pm
 ****Game time 4:30 pm
 All other games 4:00 pm

VARSITY FASTPITCH

3/16	@Interlake
3/18	@Cedar Park
3/23	Cedarcrest
3/25	@Lakewood
3/27	Coupeville
3/30	@Archbishop Murphy
4/6	Sultan
4/8	@South Whidbey
4/13	@Cedarcrest
4/15	Lakewood

4/17	@Coupeville
4/20	Archbishop
4/24	@Sultan
4/27	South Whidbey
4/29	Cedarcrest
5/1	@Lakewood
5/4	Coupeville
5/6	@Archbishop Murphy
5/11	Sultan
5/13	@South Whidbey

All game times 4:00 pm

VARSITY BASEBALL

3/16	Cedarcrest
3/18	@Cedarcrest
3/20	Cedarcrest
3/23	@Lakewood
3/25	Lakewood
3/27	@Lakewood
3/30	Coupeville
4/1	@Coupeville
4/3	Coupeville
4/6	@Archbishop Murphy
4/8	Archbishop Murphy
4/9	@Archbishop Murphy
4/20	Sultan
4/22	@Sultan
4/24	Sultan
4/27	@South Whidbey
4/29	South Whidbey
5/1	@South Whidbey

All game times 4:00 pm

GIRLS TENNIS

3/14	Jamboree @Cavelero*
3/18	South Whidbey
3/20	@Lakewood
3/21	Tournament HOME**
3/23	@Cavelero*
3/30	@South Whidbey
4/2	@Friday Harbor****
4/6	Cavelero*
4/24	Friday Harbor***
4/27	Lakewood
4/30	Darrington

*Match time TBA
 **Match time 10:00 am
 ***Match time 2:45 pm
 ****Match time 4:15 pm
 All other match times 3:45 pm

Jump rope champ

Mountain Way Elementary fifth grade student Hailey Murphy set an incredible school record in jump-rope. PE teacher Jim Dockery holds a series of timed jump-rope contests to see how long students can jump without a mistake or stopping. Last year Hailey set the all time school record of 28:22 and shattered that record this year with a new time of 37:42. This takes amazing endurance, concentration, skill, and determination. Mr. Dockery encourages everyone, adults included, to try their luck!

Winter Sports Awards

Murphy named WIAA State Player of the Week; two teams receive WIAA academic award; McKibben, Jones place at state wrestling

The winter sports season was full of notable accomplishments by our student-athletes including:

- The girls varsity and JV teams earned the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Distinguished Academic Award with a team GPA over 3.0.
- Audrey Murphy set the school record for rebounds with 744, named to the Cascade Conference first team, named Everett Herald Athlete of the Week, and WIAA State Player of the Week.
- Clinton Jenkins, Brycn Lopez, Zach Jones, and Andrew McKibben qualified for the state wrestling tournament - McKibben took 4th place and Jones 7th place. Jones was also named Everett Herald Athlete of the Week.
- Tony Helgeson was named the 2009 Cascade Conference Wrestling Coach of the Year.

Individual awards were presented to:

Girls Basketball - Coaches Award Audrey Murphy and (JV) Marissa Ogren; Inspirational Kirsten Kramer and (JV) Marissa Ogren; Captains Audrey Murphy and Kirsten Kramer; Most Improved Ericka Smith and (JV) Elizabeth Matalomani; Four Year Letterman Audrey Murphy; Lettermen Shelby Spencer, Anna Jensen, Peyton Spencer, Ericka Smith, Kirsten Kramer, Jamie Alexander, Kerry Wesala, Sarah Hensley; Certificates of Participation Breanna

White, Marissa Ogren, Amanda Peters, Hannah Schneiders, Molly Perry, Bailey Green, Sam Street, Amberly Drudge, Alyssa Arndt, Paige Barger, Elizabeth Matalomani; Manager Leah Foster.

Boys Basketball - Coaches Award Casey McConaghy; Inspirational Max Whitt; Top Rebounder Brad Beard; Captain Jacob Howard; Most Improved JJ Campbell; Most Assists Jacob Howard; Lettermen Ryan Hillery, Jacob Howard, Brad Beard, Thomas Knudson, Erik Redman, Max Whitt, Paul Gumke, JJ Campbell, Alex Cashman, Garrett Hansen; Certificates of Participation Casey McConaghy, Maika Matalomani, David Lund, Daniel Lund, Zach Hereth, Trevor Loucks, Dietrich Fenske, Jackson Phelps, Mike Feaster, Matt Henry, Jeff Benson, Trey Hitchcock; Manager Sam Knudson.

Wrestling - Most Inspirational Andrew McKibben; Rookie of the Year Patrick Aguilar; Captains Andrew McKibben and Zach Jones; Most Improved James Poyner; Lettermen Patrick Aguilar, Brandon Gilbertson, Andrew Jackson, Chris Jenkins, Clinton Jenkins, Zach Jones, David Laplante, Mike Lemke, Brycn Lopez, Andrew McKibben, James Poyner, Jon Poyner, Ryan Teter, Zack Teter, Ryan Wilson; Certificates of Participation Dean Bolyard, Octavio Miranda, Arm Tantawee, Levi Whittaker, Benn Jackson, Gerin Wilson, Josh Short; Managers Olivia Flores and Chelsea Alexander.