



THE BEAR

Student Newspaper

February 13, 2025 WBHS Volume 28 Issue 4
900 W. Main St., West Branch, IA 52358

ALL ABOARD! CJU45 HOSTS LARGEST SATURDAY NIGHT JIVE COMPETITION IN ITS HISTORY

Keaton Norfleet
Co-Editor-In-Chief

The 2025 Saturday Night Jive show choir competition held the most “bodies in the building” in the competition’s history.

On January 25, 2025, the West Branch High School’s show choir group, Christopher Jive and the Uptown 45 hosted their 11th annual Saturday Night Jive competition.

Sixteen groups from nine schools registered to perform at SNJ, with many schools bringing both varsity and prep groups. However, one school dropped removing two groups, leaving an approximate total of 1023 students in the school.

Christopher Reed, the West Branch choir director said, “The most we have ever had was seventeen groups, and that was back in our second year. That was when we were focused on just 2As and 3As, and we had a ton of 2As. Most of those 2As are no longer in existence, and the 1As that came are no longer in existence. That was 17, so I was super excited with 16 especially because they were 4As, so it’s way more people,”

“This year was not the largest in terms of number of entry groups, the most we ever had was in 2015 when we had 17 groups. This would have been the biggest attended in terms of bodies in the building. When we had the 1A, 2A, and 3A show choirs, they were choirs of around 20 people.”

CJU45 performs Happy Train
Photo contributed by Tracy Schutte



“We could fit them all in the high school, versus this year when we were using every classroom there was for a homeroom. We were maxed out in terms of people, but in entries, we were one shy of our best.”

The choir, band, crew, and many parents and adult volunteers took on dozens of jobs and responsibilities to keep the day running smoothly. Jobs ranged from competing school room hosts, professional assistants in the Performing Arts Center, supervisors, shuttle drivers, and on-scene medical services.

Freshman room host Emma Revis said, “It was tough. It involved patience and required a lot of running around.”

Junior room host Kellen Dykstra said, “Preparation depends on how big of a school you’ll be hosting. Depending on the size, you’ll get one to three rooms to decorate and organize for the students. You are also expected to greet and explain how the day will work to the director of your school.

You’ll then show the students where their rooms are and stay near your group in case they need any help.”

Reed said, “Last year was really smooth. We figured out the flow of how people were moving, and it worked really well last year so we just kept all of that this year.”

Each participating group performed during the daytime in front of a full audience and a set of nine judges.

To conclude the daytime performances, CJU45 took the stage to perform their train themed show. The show’s repertoire consisted of: Go Far, Happy Train, Crazy Train, Free Ride, and a mix of Enjoy the Ride and Put Your Hands Up.

The daytime awards named the six finalists, Marion High School’s “New Creation”, Bloomington Jefferson High School’s “Jefferson Connection”, Indianola High School’s “Side One”, Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School’s “West Side Delegation”, Des Moines Christian High School’s “Light, Inc.”, and Western Dubuque High School’s “5th Avenue”.

A repeat victor from last year, Indianola High School’s “Side One”, named grand champion, took home first place as well as five other awards including best vocals, best choreography, best show design, best visual effects, and best soloist.

Christopher Jive and the Uptown 45 started their competitive season at Anamosa’s “Sadie Street Showcase” on Feb. 1. The group did not make finals. On Feb. 3, the group performed at the State Show Choir contest at Keota High School, receiving a superior Division I rating.

“For the big picture, obviously I want the show to settle, and singers, band, and crew in sync so the show just feels good,” Reed said,

“That’s what I love, when it all falls into place and the band is nailing their stuff, singers are energized, the crew is working seamlessly, and I can just enjoy it. It will happen, just because we have good enough, talented enough, and smart enough students to help me get us there. You’ve got to make it better. If you don’t push yourself then you are going to get worse, that’s just how life is.”

In their remaining season, Christopher Jive and the Uptown 45 will attend three more competitions, with Mount Pleasant’s “Music InMotion” on Feb. 8, Pella’s “Dutch Masters” on Feb. 22, and Central Lee’s “Central Connections” on March 1. The group will close their season with two Swing Show performances on March 7 and 8.

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WE LOVE CHANGE! HOW CJU45 IS PREPARING FOR THEIR COMPETITION SEASON

Miley Shields
Head Editor-In-Chief

Christopher Jive and The Uptown 45 is shifting for the better. This year Chris Reed made many changes to help improve the show choir’s success. Some of the changes are with activities, competitions, band, clinicians, and more for the 2025 show choir season.

Before the show choir season started, Reed practiced with the show choir band and used separate periods for choir and show band giving them more time to improve and perfect each song.

While the band worked on show choir music the choir students practiced choral music to improve their singing technique. Having extra work ahead of time with the band allows Reed to focus on the singers and how to help them improve.

Once the second semester arrived the show band and show choir combined into one period giving them time to work together. Many clinicians came to assist the West Branch show choir, clinicians include Ben Schrank, a choreographer who created the dances for the show, along with Lynn and Vicky Jacobson, a duo for theatrical design, Bob Anderson, a retired director from Linn Mar high school who specializes in vocals.

Bob Anderson is a new addition to the clinicians this year. With these clinics, the students improved overall skills needed for show choir and to make a couple of changes to the overall show. “That’s what I love about show choir, it’s always changing, so it never gets boring,” said Reed.

Another way Reed shifted this year’s show choir program by having the show choir attend the Linn Mar show choir competition to watch the top six groups perform.

This was in hopes for students to gain knowledge of how competitions work and give the students a chance to witness impressive shows and to see talented groups. Going to the Linn Mar competition also helped to prepare students for Saturday Night Jive, the show choir competition hosted by West Branch. Going to Linn Mar was also used for preparing students to know what to expect when competing. This year CJU45 competes at Anamosa, Mount Pleasant, Pella, and Central Lee.

The largest shift from this year versus previous years is the number of underclassmen. The West Branch show choir consists of one third freshman with only six seniors on stage. “It’s not that we can’t achieve the same, it might just take more time.” Reed said when talking about how the large number of underclassmen and how that will affect the show this year.





Community

February 13, 2025

2

MEET THE WEST BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TEACHERS

Mr. Cuevas - History

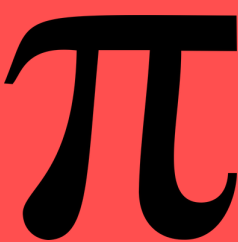


Q. What about the student teacher process has been the most surprising?
A. How much work goes into designing lessons. I didn't realize how much teachers have on their plate.

Q. What is your favorite season and why?
A. Summer because I like going outside and going on runs and walks.

Q. Why do you want to teach this subject?
A. I want to have the same impact on kids my teacher had on me, and I'm a history nerd, so it's awesome!

Mr. Mack - Math



Q. What is your favorite fast food place and why?
A. Raising Canes because of the Canes sauce, it's unbelievable.

Q. What inspired you to become a teacher?
A. Being able to help others with something they're struggling with and my passion for mathematics.

Q. What about the student teacher process has been the most surprising?
A. Probably the excitement and eventfulness of each day

Senorita Rivera - Spanish



Q. What has been your favorite part of student teaching?
A. Really getting to know the students and the school. The community is different from other places and it's just fun to be in!

Q. What is your favorite animal and why?
A. A manatee! They are so cute and have great personalities.

Q. Why do you want to teach this subject?
A. I like that everyday is different and that no student is the same. It's fun to meet and teach different kinds of people.

WEST BRANCH'S STUDENT BODY FACES A VIRUS

Evan Highly
Staff Writer

WBHS students are facing a sickness that recently impacted the student body. Students were asked if they ever got sick. Twelve people responded with the majority saying they experienced a runny nose, sore throat, and/or nausea.

Cassie Swisher said her symptoms included a migraine, sore throat, tummy ache, nausea, runny nose, cough, sinus issues, and chills.

Freshman Katlynn Waite said she caught something that left her with fatigue, headaches, loss of appetite, sore throat, cough, and a very runny nose.

Waite actively tries to avoid germs. She said, "I make sure to wash my hands often and sanitize things such as my phone, desk, chair, etc."

The website, Mass.gov, recommends for respiratory viruses that people wash their hands when feeling under the weather. Waite follows this to keep herself from getting sick.

Keeping hands clean helps get rid of germs and stop the spread of disease. The next best thing to do is isolate oneself from others. Doing this can prevent the sickness from spreading.

Lastly, if still feeling unwell, a visit to the doctor might be needed to get professional help fighting off the sickness. They can test and treat patients for a potential virus or disease. To continue to prevent spread of viruses and disease getting flu shots and wearing a mask can help.



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HOOVER MUSEUM SET TO UNDERGO 20 MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION

Anthony Heitzman
Staff Writer

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum and Library recently closed on Jan 20, 2025 to begin a new renovation project designed to boost community engagement, improve accessibility, and build a new narrative around the story of Lou and Herbert Hoover.

The renovation is estimated to last 18 months and the museum is set to reopen in the summer of 2026.

The renovation includes expanding the main lobby by 2200 square feet and moving the gift shop and admissions desk to the front of the building, allowing the remaining space to be added to the exhibit gallery. It will also add features to address accessibility concerns for different audiences.

This includes allowing the lights to be dimmed and sound can be reduced to accommodate individuals with sensory difficulties as well as working with education experts to improve accessibility for people with mild to moderate memory loss.

The goal of the renovation is to create a more immersive experience for guests.



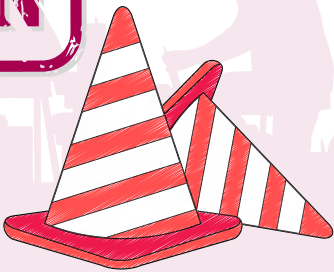
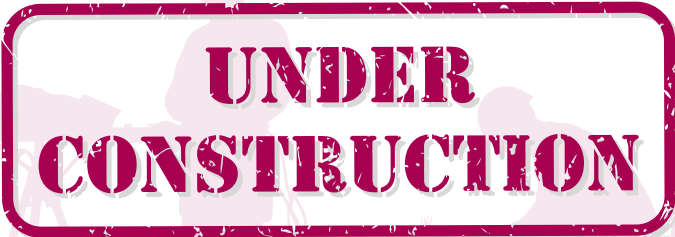
Herbert Hoover Museum prepares for renovations. Signs warn citizens for restoration preparation. *Photo contributed by Alison Gade*

They plan to do this by incorporating lifelike figures and scenes as part of the galleries such as recreating a mine that Herbert Hoover managed before he got involved in politics.

Another way they plan to get people interested is by building a new narrative that engages both visitors intellectually as well as emotionally to make them feel part of the Hoover story. The renovation wasn’t just designed to increase attendance from West Branch, but also people from the rest of Iowa and even from other countries that the Hoover family was involved in such as Belgium, Poland, and China.

Museum Director Tom Schwartz said, “The Hoover story is a global story, and we do get a global audience, especially from those countries where he was heavily involved with humanitarian and food relief like Belgium, Poland. There’s even a heightened interest from visitors from China.”

Shwartz hopes the Hoover story reminds people that presidents can come from anywhere and that you also don’t have to be a president or first lady to make a difference.



JESSI SIMON CELEBRATES GROWTH IN VOLUNTEERISM

Cassie Swisher
Staff Writer

West Branch finds a new appreciation for community and giving back as Jessi Simon and the Main Street Foundation lead the charge for volunteer recognition.

Within the last few years, community volunteering opportunities in West Branch have increased as a way to improve multiple aspects of the town.

As a way to recognize all of the help given to the community, Main Street plans to hold an appreciation night in the spirit of giving back. It will honor those who have shown dedication and spirit towards volunteering as they hand out multiple awards for work done in the last year.

Jessi Simon, Executive Director for Main Street West Branch, provides insight into her daily work and mission of volunteerism.

Simon said, “Community building is one of the things that is most important to me personally, which is what drew me into a career like this.”

Over the last few years, a new colorful cord program opened up for West Branch students to promote youth helping their community. Simon also hinted at another new way for students to get involved in the coming months, so stay tuned.

Feb. 28th at 6:30 pm, the volunteer appreciation night will occur at the high school celebrating all of the hard work done by members and students of the community through the awards ceremony.

The night will start with a social hour open only to volunteers who RSVP.

Volunteers and other attendees will be guided into the high school auditorium to observe an awards ceremony for recipients whose hard work and dedication shaped the program over the previous year.

Main Street hopes to make this an annual celebration for volunteers big and small. Whether it was watering the flower beds in town or taking a shift at Hoover Hometown Days all are invited to RSVP for the event. Scan the QR code to be taken to the link to RSVP for the social hour portion of the event.



Photo contributed by Jessi Simon.

RSVP for
volunteer
appreciation
night here!





Sports



February 13, 2025

SENIOR FOCUSES ON ENDURANCE, FITNESS, AND SPEED AS NEW GIRLS TRACK COACH

Cameron Waters
Staff Writer

West Branch announced Tony Senio as the new head coach for the girl's high school track team. Senio did a lot of coaching and assisting for both youth and high school sports.

For two years he's been an assistant HS track and field coach at West Branch. Senio also coached youth softball, high school soccer, and worked for YSF. Senio worked as a head JV and assistant varsity baseball coach for four years at West Branch. He also coached youth volleyball and eight years of youth basketball.

Before track season starts, Senio wants the girl's track and field team to build general endurance, overall fitness, and speed.

Senio said, "I wholeheartedly believe that the movements trained (running, jumping, throwing) as well as the other areas we will

emphasize in our track and field program (fueling and hydration, proper breathing, sleep, and mental preparation) will make you better in whatever sport you go out for."

They are having field event-specific sessions for high jump, shot put, and discus. Hurdle technique open gyms are also being offered for athletes to improve their form. Senio will also host open gyms for functional fitness and general endurance as the season approaches.

Grace Hamann, is a sophomore at West Branch. Hamann said, "Tony has been really great at developing workouts and exercises that get us ready to race rather than just concentrating on the running aspect of track." This is helpful for all of the girls on the track team to have to develop these running skills to improve their running.

This year, the girls captains are Amber Wolf and Alyssa Pierce.

Wolf said, "I think Tony has a lot of great ideas and has brought a lot of valuable things to the team in the past as an assistant coach so I am very excited to see what he has planned for the team this year. I think he will help us be stronger, faster, and better all around this year. It will be nice to have a head coach that shows that he cares about the whole team."

Senio mentioned that he has one main goal for this track season. He cares that the athletes have a lot of other sports and activities happening during school and works to accommodate for their busy schedules. He wants all athletes to feel like they matter.

Senio said, "Obviously, there are the familiar goals of conference championships and state qualifiers, but that's not what I set out for. My main goal will always be to create an environment where the female athletes at our school feel as valued and supported as the males."



Photo contributed by Tony Senio.

WINTER SPORT ATHLETES CAPTURED IN ACTION





Attention High School Juniors: Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award program, which is a \$10,000 scholarship program for Iowa High School juniors. Selected participants will receive \$1,500 toward their secondary education with four receiving a \$10,000 award. Grades, test scores, essays, and financial need are not evaluated.

Learn more at UncommonStudent.org.

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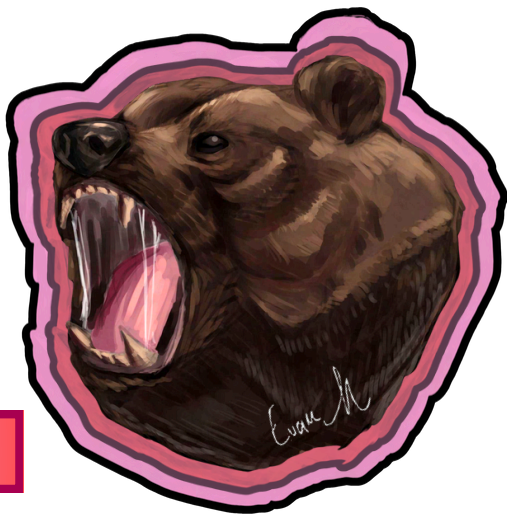
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Spotlights

February 13, 2025



JOSH KROEMER - NHS



Q: What is your main role in the NHS?

A: I was a member of the NHS last year and this year I am the president.

Q: What interested you about the NHS?

A: Being able to help and give back to the community.

Q: What was the hardest part about the application process?

A: I didn't keep good track of my volunteer hours so I had to find all the things I volunteered for.

Q: What is your favorite memory you made within the NHS?

A: Working with Cole Crosthwaite to lead our group for Service Day last year.



DAWN JOHNSON - YEARBOOK

Q: How does Yearbook work?

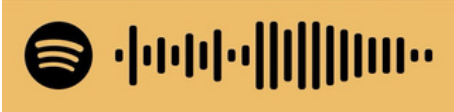
A: We use a software called Johnston, and we work on it. We work with partners on a page or spread, once done it goes in the book.

Q: Can anyone be in Yearbook?

A: Yes, anyone can be in it.

Q: What is your role in Yearbook?

A: Head Editor



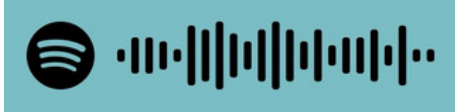
KEEGAN HANSEN - STUDENT GOV.

Q: What's your role & what does it entail?

A: I am the treasurer for the student government officer team.

Q: What's your biggest challenge with your role/Student Gov.?

A: Sometimes it can be hard to follow through with the things that you plan. Some ideas are hard to accomplish.



TATE LYNCH - SHOW CREW

Q: What's something funny that has happened while practicing?

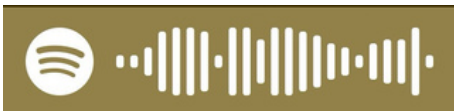
A: I spent around 2 weeks trying to get lights hooked up only to learn they needed to be plugged in first.

Q: What are you looking forward to this season?

A: I'm looking forward to hanging out with the crew and choir members during shows

Q: What is your job to do during the performance?

A: I work the lights by turning them to the right color and on and off at the right time.



SAYLEE GINGERICH - FFA

Q: What is your role in FFA?

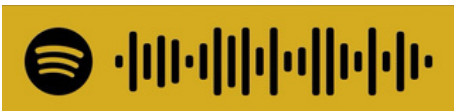
A: I am the president of the West Branch FFA chapter.

Q: Are there any upcoming events that you're excited about?

A: Yes! In a couple of weeks I will be interviewing for the Northeast Subdistrict Vice-President and hoping to get balloted and have the opportunity to lead my district this next year.

Q: What is your favorite event that your FFA chapter puts on and why?

A: I really like National FFA week.





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Entertainment

February 13, 2025

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Did You Know?

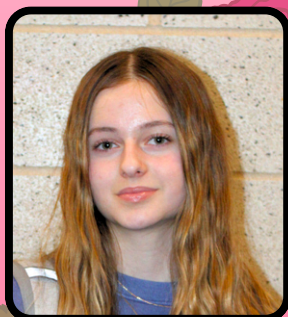
Consumers buy over 58 million pounds of chocolate and candy for Valentine's Day.

About 25% of pet owners get Valentine's Day gifts for their pets.

Teachers get more Valentines than anyone else.

The first Valentine's Day celebration took place in France.

The first valentine was sent from prison.



Q: What does Valentine's Day mean to you?

A: When I think of Valentine's Day, I think it's the day of love. You spend time with a loved one watching a movie like "A Charlie Brown Valentine" and gift them something like flowers, chocolate, or a stuffed bear.

-Katlynn Waite



Q: Why is Valentine's Day so special?

A: For many people, it's a day to celebrate love. If you love someone a lot, it's a day to show that person how much you care for them.

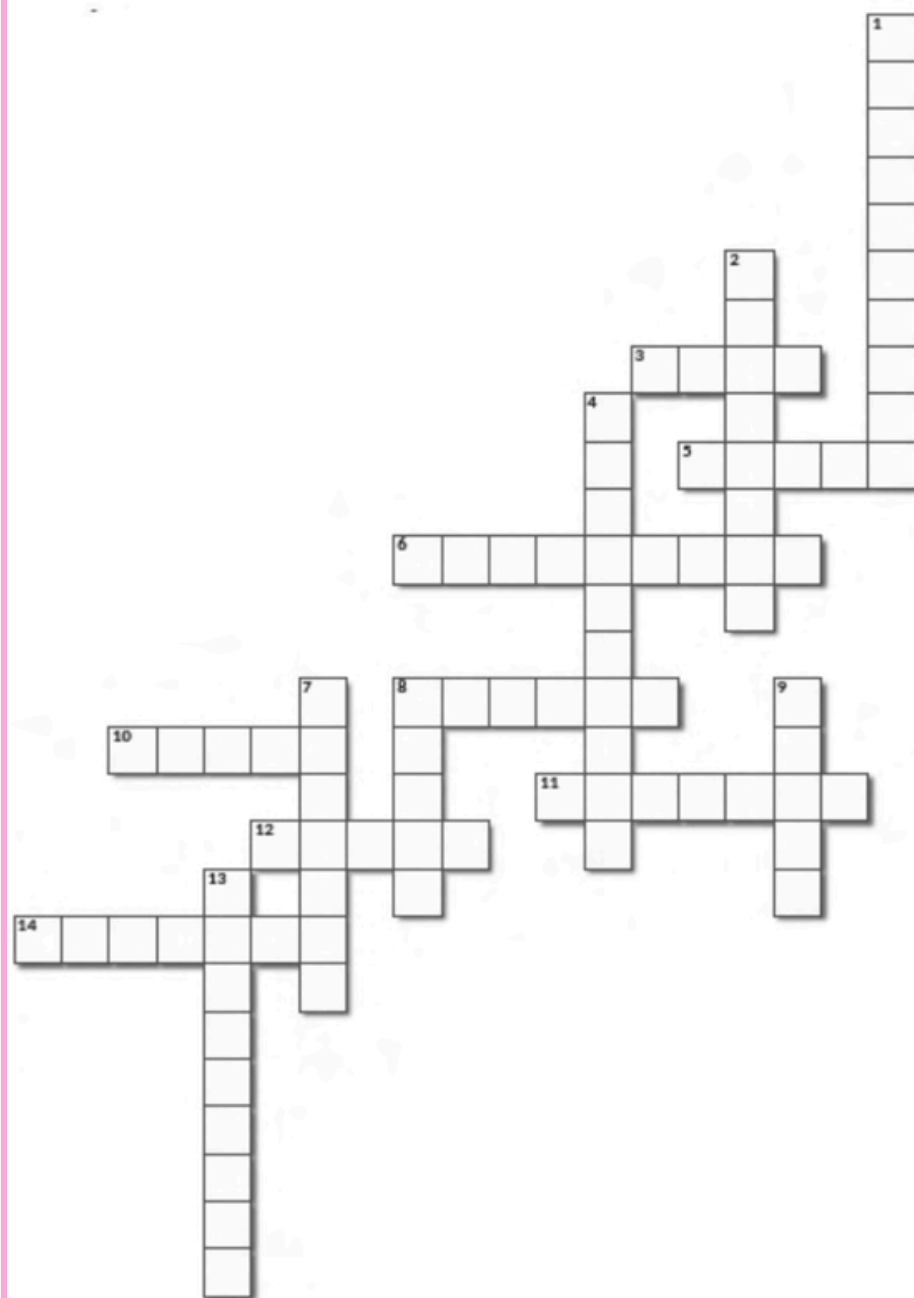
-Kellen Dykstra

Across

3. President who succeeded Nixon
5. Resigned due to Watergate Scandal
6. Author of the Declaration of Independence
8. President who was a military leader
10. First African American President
11. Youngest elected President
12. Second President of the United States
14. President during the Civil War

Down

1. First President of the United States
2. President who served the shortest term
4. Supreme Commander during WWII
7. President known for the Teapot Dome Scandal
8. Businessman turned President
9. Current President in 2023
13. President known for the New Deal



Down: 1: Washington, 2: Harrison, 4: Eisenhower, 7: Harding, 8: Trump, 9: Biden, 13: Roosevelt.

Across: 3: Ford, 5: Nixon, 6: Jefferson, 8: Taylor, 10: Obama, 11: Kennedy, 12: Adams, 14: Lincoln.



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Dance Marathon behind the scenes: How Student Government plans events

Anthony Heitzman
Staff Writer

WBHS Student Government is hosting the annual Dance Marathon on Feb. 28, 2025. Many people enjoy attending events like Dance Marathon that Student Government hosts. However, many people attending these events don't think about the effort and planning that goes into them.

The process of planning starts with signing up for committees. Usually, the committees are created via precedent, although sometimes new committees will be created after being proposed by members of Student Government or are formed unilaterally by the officer team and/or the Student Government advisor Abby Noelck. After committees are determined, members will sign up for what committee they want to be on; if they want to, they can choose to be appointed as a committee head. Normally committee assignments take a week to decide and are announced during the next meeting.

Depending on the project or event committees are in charge of, they can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months to plan. For example, Dance Marathon usually is given three to four months to plan.

Once committee assignments are received, students break off into groups and get to work. Before anything can be planned committee members need to sort out basics like establishing a group chat via platforms such as Snapchat, GroupMe, or SMS.

The next step is to figure out the very basic details of the event such as dates, locations, and any adult or community contacts. In the case of Dance Marathon, sample contacts include school administrators for access to facilities and businesses such as Subway or The Honey Den for donations.

After the basics are sorted out, the next step is to brainstorm ideas for the main parts of the event or project. With Dance Marathon, it's usually pretty consistent from year to year but new ideas do get added from time to time.

The next step is fundraising for your project or event. This year Student Government created two separate Dance Marathon committees, one for planning the event and another for fundraising. Event committees are responsible for their own fundraising efforts and said efforts usually aren't as intensive since most projects aren't as financially strenuous.

This year Student Government also set up an online fundraising portal with the help of WBHS alum Andee Atkins.

Once the main ideas are set in stone the next thing to do is make a task list. Sometimes the tasks can be for the entirety of Student Government or for just the committee members depending on how big the event is. In the case of Dance Marathon, most tasks are open to all members while some more specific tasks are reserved for committee members. Tasks can include things like creating flyers, contacting stakeholders, or decorating.

After most things have been arranged, the next step is to promote the event. This often includes fliers, emails, schoolwide announcements, and online posts by Social Media Chair Caitlyn Harrison.

Sometimes different committees will have to work together if their events take place near each other or are related to one another.

This year the Dance Marathon fundraising committee will be partnering with the Trivia Night committee since it will be taking place the Wednesday of Dance Marathon Week and will be raising money for the event.

While committees often have to work with one another, sometimes Student Government will collaborate with other student organizations throughout the school. This year the Robotics team will be providing students with snacks during Dance Marathon in the form of a concession stand to raise money for both the team and Dance Marathon. The team decided to set up a concession stand for the second time this year after they raised a total of 200 dollars last year split between the two.

After everything gets planned out it's time for the event itself. For large events like Dance Marathon, all members of Student Government members are required to help set up the decorations and equipment. If members are not available to set up beforehand they also have the option to help clean up afterward.

Finally, after the event is done the committee heads are responsible for creating a write-up of the event. Committee heads usually have one to two weeks to create a write-up for their event. The purpose of write ups is to provide the next year's committee with a template to go off of when planning said event and start the process over.



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February 13, 2025

10

Jazz Ensemble receives professional opportunity to record for Corridor Jazz Project

Keaton Norfleet
Co-Editor-In-Chief

For the fourth consecutive year, students in the West Branch Jazz Ensemble receive invaluable experiences through professional recording and mentorship opportunities. Participating in the Corridor Jazz Project since 2021, the West Branch Jazz Ensemble for its fourth year in a row traveled to the Opus Concert Café in Cedar Rapids to record Nueva Vida, a jazz piece by composer Steve Shanley with professional jazz musician Farren Johnson. The piece will be featured on the Corridor Jazz Project album along with the recordings of other schools in the corridor area. The recording session took place on Tuesday, January 28. The Corridor Jazz Project, hosted by the jazz radio station 88.3 KCKK,

is a program that provides high school students in the corridor area with the opportunity to perform a jazz piece in a professional setting including a recording studio, an accompanying guest jazz musician, and a final mass concert showcasing live performances of each participating school. West Branch Jazz Ensemble director Samuel Ogilvie said, “It is such an amazing opportunity that only schools in our area get to have. I haven’t heard about an opportunity like this anywhere for a high school to be able to go into a professional recording studio, be part of an album, work for amazing guest artists that are paid for, and then celebrate it all together in this massive concert.”

It brings so many different valuable experiences for our program and I’m very grateful that KCKK included us in their corridor because it’s only Cedar Rapids and Iowa City area schools that are a part of this.” Ogilvie chose Farren Johnson, an elementary school art teacher at all three elementary schools in Grinnell, Iowa. The lifetime musician is the drummer for the Iowa Women’s Jazz Orchestra, a jazz big band made up of women musicians from across the state of Iowa. “I was looking for someone that met certain qualifications,” Ogilvie said, “I knew that I either wanted a trombonist or a rhythm section member since I’ve had a trumpet player and a saxophone player recently, and I personally wanted to see if I could find somebody that wasn’t in the regular rotation,”

“I also knew I wanted a female artist because I’ve had three male artists in the past, and when I got to West Branch our band was a majority female, so I was missing a whole population that hasn’t been represented so I think it was important for me to diversify a little bit.” The final performance will be in early March at the Paramount theater in Cedar Rapids. On a date to be determined in April, three members of the West Branch Jazz Ensemble will be live on air on the Jazz 88.3 KCKK radio station. Seniors Nora Ziehr and Keaton Norfleet and junior Kellen Dykstra will select a number of their favorite jazz pieces to be played on the radio, and will engage in a brief interview with Dennis Green, the manager of KCKK.



PHOTO TAKEN BY RUBICON

Jazz Season is off and running with the Lisbon Jazz Festival

Wyatt Chapman
Staff Writer

The West Branch Jazz Band hit the ground running at the Lisbon Jazz Festival, Thursday January 23, by performing alongside 13 other schools and 20 different bands. Lisbon’s Jazz Festival focuses on jazz bands from smaller schools and is where jazz bands from all over Iowa go to perform and then receive a clinic from judges. The West Branch Jazz Band ran late due to traffic but bounced back well with a strong performance. Jazz Band showed a lot of confidence when it came to their entrances and rhythm.

Jazz Band produced more sound than in past performances including the soloists. The soloists played with confidence and performed with good ideas. Jazz Band played Jumpin’ Jack Jive and Two-Lip blues for a panel of judges and received critiques of their performance. Clinicians then recommended ways the band could improve. “I’m most excited to get feedback so we can be better,” said junior Aizlyn Marsh. The clinicians helped Jazz Band lock in with each other in order to blend their sound so they sound as one coherent band.

The soloists were given ideas on how to start, end, and improve their solos. In past years, the high school Jazz Band did not receive the same opportunities as Jazz Ensemble to perform outside of school, so for the 2024-2025 season, high school band director Samuel Ogilvie wanted to give Jazz Band their own jazz event. Ogilvie really enjoyed the festival because it was a nice time to spend with just Jazz Band. “Trips like these are really nice for them to academically improve their music, listen to other groups, and bond with their group,” Ogilvie said.

The Lisbon Jazz Festival is the earliest jazz performance of the season, which can be both positive and negative. It is sometimes tough to get music down in time but there is more time to take the clinician's feedback and apply it to their music to make their performances stronger. “The thing that worries me the most is doing a solo,” said sophomore Hunter Christoffel. Soloing can be scary at times. It’s only one person playing so the spotlight is on them. These nerves can be overcome with the more soloing someone does the more fun they have with it and the less scary it becomes.

