



BLUE JAY CORNER

FBLA Sends Four Performance Events To Districts

By Ashley Cue

On Thursday, February 8, the Rock Port FBLA chapter went to the annual District Leadership Conference at Northwest Missouri State University. At this conference, they listened to a speaker, participated in workshops, and competed in a performance event if they advanced from regionals.

Rock Port advanced in four events. Darius Skillen participated in help desk. Beth Davis read a speech for introduction to public speaking. Ashley Christian and Ashley Cue made a video presentation for public service announcement. Preston Jones,

Hallee Bradley, and Josie Watkins did a presentation for business ethics. Kelcie Gaines and Gabe Minter made a news broadcast for broadcast journalism.

No one advanced to state for a performance event, but three students advanced to state after taking an online test. Darius Skillen placed fifth in introduction to business communication. Hallee Bradley placed second in accounting. Kelcie Gaines placed first in business communications. Those three students will go to the State Leadership Conference in Springfield in April.



FCCLA members Kelcie Gaines and Preston Jones dress up in fancy clothing for FCCLA/FBLA week. The theme for this day was "Dress to the Nines." This was just one of the five dress up days. On Valentine's Day, members of the two organizations wore "hush hearts." Hush hearts are heart necklaces that prevent the person wearing it from talking to a member of the opposite gender. If they talk, they lose their heart! FCCLA/FBLA week is an entertaining time to encourage people to join these organizations.

By Riley Vogler; Photo by Hannah Miller



Members of the Rock Port High School Girls' Basketball Team enjoyed their annual bowling party on Friday, February 16 at River Rock Lanes. Teams were drafted by the seniors and juniors. The winning team consisted of Kelcie Gaines, Rachel Vogler, Sophie Brumbaugh, and Katie Meinecke. Their combined score was 394.

Wood takes fifth at state

By Ashley Christian

District Wrestling was held at Plattsburg, Mo., this year. The competition was very stiff because only one wrestler made it on to state.

Ethan Wood, a junior, wrestles the 106 weight class and put in a lot of preparation for the district tournament in hopes to make it on to state. With his determination, he placed third at districts which qualified him for state wrestling.

Ethan has been wrestling since he was three years old but he didn't start competing until he was five years old. Ethan's wrestling skills have grown every year since then. He made it to state last year; however, he did not place.

Along with putting in hard work during the regular season, Ethan also wrestles during the off season. He frequently attended

practices in St. Joe with an instructor named Tony Purler. Tony also held camps that Ethan enjoyed attending to better his skills. He also went to tournaments in the Lake of the Ozarks, Kansas City, and Omaha. He has plans to attend more camps in the future to better his chances at becoming a state champion.

"I put in the work for this moment, now it's time to show it," Ethan said.

Many of Ethan's classmates enjoyed watching him compete at the State Wrestling Tournament via a streaming website. Projectors in the high school computer lab and high school library allowed Rock Port students to cheer Ethan on to his fifth place finish, even if they weren't able to be with him in Columbia.

Good job, Ethan!



Sophomores Fischer Tharp and Cody Davis compete in the scooter relay for the FFA team during the 2018 RPHS Organization Olympics. The FFA team won the overall competition between the six teams.

CHAPTER SEVEN OF EIGHT

KALI: A Polar Bear's Tale

AUTHOR: CAROLYN MUELLER | ILLUSTRATOR: JEREMY PATTON & JAYNE BALLEW



Chapter Seven:

The cubs circled around, sniffing the air and then running off into their own corners. But Luna was brave. She circled around Kali and then pounced on the little bear. Kali fell flat on his back, but he knew that Luna was only playing. Soon the baby bears were tumbling all around their room, happy to have a polar bear playmate to wrestle with.

After that, Kali and Luna became the best of friends. The two played hard each and every day. For enrichment, Caitlyn put an empty turtle sandbox in their room. Every evening, when the keepers were headed home, Kali and Luna could be found curled up together in their sandbox, exhausted from playing, nose to nose, belly to belly, dreaming sweet polar bear dreams together.

Soon the cubs outgrew their original enclosure and were moved to a larger yard. This yard had a pool in it, where the cubs could splash and play.

Caitlyn was always surprised by the cubs' energy. Even when there was a -30-degree wind chill outside, the first thing Kali did each morning was sprint to the pool and jump right in. Caitlyn would call to him to come and get his breakfast, and in his brief run from the pool to his bedroom, his fur would freeze, covered in balls of ice. Kali didn't seem to mind, though. He was a true Alaskan polar bear, never bothered by the cold.

All too soon, though, Kali was no longer a "little" bear. When he arrived at the Buffalo Zoo, he was only 65 pounds. Two years later, he weighed in at 850 pounds! The shy baby floun in from Alaska had gained almost 800 pounds in two years! If Kali were still living with his mother in Alaska, he would be preparing to leave her at the age of two, to begin his life as a solitary, male bear.

Kali needed to leave Luna and head out on his own. He was quickly on his way to becoming a full-grown bear, and the Buffalo Zoo did not have enough room to keep both him and Luna as they grew into adulthood.

It was time for Kali to move to a new home.



Photo Credit: Buffalo Zoo



Photo Credit: Buffalo Zoo

Ask Zoo Keeper Julie

How big are polar bears?

Male polar bears can measure up to 10 feet when standing on their hind legs. Female polar bears usually only weigh about half as much as males.

Fun Fact:

Scientists believe that the polar bear evolved from a common brown bear ancestor about 200,000 years ago.

Newspaper Connections

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