

# Music Moves From Dark To Light

By Lilianna Reynolds

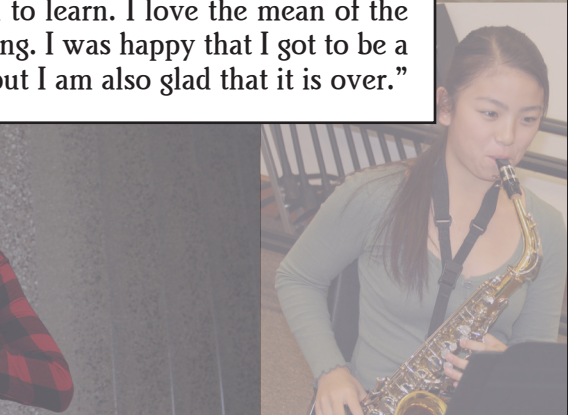
On Nov. 18, the high school choir performed their first concert of the year. The theme of the concert was "The Dark and the Light." They have been rehearsing and practicing since the beginning of the school year.

All State Members: James Pierce, Courtney Stoltenberg, Jeremiah Zellers, Natalie Janssen, TK Rainey, Delaney Johnston, Brandin Baumgartner, and Peyton Reller performed one their songs, *Sing My Child*. Along with the members of All State, the Vocal Jazz sang *Blackbird*, with Peyton Reller and Dominic Williams singing the chorus section of the song.

Following the two groups, the entire high school choir joined them on stage and started their performance with *Standing in the Shadow*. Courtney Stoltenberg and Cameran Stoflet sang the solo section of the song. Following this, the sopranos and altos sang *The Stars Tonight*.

After *The Stars Tonight*, the tenor and base sections returned to the stage and joined in performing the last two songs of the night, *Soon Ah Will Be Done* and *Sweetheart of the Sun*.

Many members of the choir were relieved that their performance was received so well after the difficulty it took to learn many of the songs for the night. Emily Brennan said, "*Sweetheart of the Sun* was a beautiful song but it was definitely very hard to learn. I love the mean of the song and how it sounded in our recording. I was happy that I got to be a part of such a beautiful/difficult piece but I am also glad that it is over."



*Willow Young uses the electric saw to cut a plank of wood into smaller pieces.*



*Kayd Varland drilling a hole into the outer wall.*



*Jaidon Press sets the planks of wood down to measure them.*

## Building Trade Constructs Buildings For Skills USA

By Jeremiah Fredericksen Jr.

Building Trades is taught by Mr. Jim Studioso. In this class, the students are taught how to build houses, sheds, and other structures. This class also offers students a chance to participate in skills USA competitions.

In order to build these houses for the class, they need to create the right type of cut, measurements

and use the correct type of tools to do the job correctly.

They build the structures completely from scratch. They do everything from putting together the frame, putting the metal shell on the outside, to installing insulation, windows, and doors. However, they do not install any wiring because it is not needed.

The houses and other structures, when built, are able to be put into the Skills USA competition.

Aaron Olinger is part of both Skills USA and Building Trades. His favorite part is the freedom to help build the structures. He also enjoys being able to work on personal projects when his other work is completed.

## Kiwanis Students Of The Month



*Rachel Janssen*



*Eli Heisinger*

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Postmaster: Please send the address changes to The LDHS Nugget, 320 South Main St. Lead South Dakota 57754. The LDHS Nugget is published monthly from September to May. A free publication for limited subscribers.

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# Drama Class Preps To Perform Their Upcoming Play

By Kadyn Hopkins

Drama class has been quite eventful this semester. The students in the class have not only been working on memorizing and performing plays, monologues and skits, but they have also had to create their own dance routines to teach to the rest of their classmates. The class is being taught by Ms. Shirlene Joseph. Joseph has integrated her own style of teaching in the classroom and many of her students seem to enjoy it. One student who is currently enrolled in the class is Senior Elora Enninga. When Enninga was asked what the best part of the class was, she responded, "Stepping out of my comfort zone, learning different parts of acting and theater along with meeting new people." She also stated, "The hardest thing was memorizing long monologues."

Throughout this semester, the Drama Class students have been working on their upcoming play, *Our Town*. The play is about the everyday life in a small town named Grover Corners located in New Hampshire. The class has began practicing lines and creating props in preparation for their anticipated performance, but there is not a date set for it quite yet. Although many students may be unsure or may even stray away from the class, Enninga said "It's a fun class and it will help you better your understanding of acting and being in a play." She also states that you should take the class, "If you are looking at doing this in the future."



Students in Drama Class preparing their play.

# Be Kind During This Holiday Season

By Daniel Egemo

What is the true meaning of the holiday season? While it may be fun to wake up on Christmas morning and tear into Christmas presents or sit down at the Thanksgiving table to eat too much food, these are not the true meanings of the holidays. The meaning goes far beyond this.

Thanksgiving and Christmas may seem like separate holidays that having nothing to do with one another. After all, Christmas is a religious based holiday that exists around the world, while Thanksgiving is a North American tradition. However, the general themes and ideas of the two holidays are similar.

Christmas and Thanksgiving teach us to be inclusive, kind, generous, and charitable. Above all, the two holidays promote togetherness, something that is lacking in society today. As a society, we need to return to the old meaning of the season. During the holiday season, instead of worrying about whether you will get a certain present or not, spread the message of the holiday season.

Do one kind thing per day. Offer a greeting to someone you usually don't communicate with, buy someone else a gift, send your friends and family a Christmas card, donate to a local food bank, or even do something as simple as smile. It doesn't take money, but it takes the attitude to want to do something positive for those around you.

We all have different reasons for celebrating or not celebrating certain holidays, but none of these reasons excuse not being kind. We all have the power to be kind, it doesn't cost us anything, and it makes us feel good. This holiday season, be inclusive, be kind, be charitable, and spread holiday cheer.



The Post Prom committee raises money for post prom through the holiday season.

# Speech Team Prepares To End The Oral Interp Season

By Lilianna Reynolds

Kiayah Clark and Josh Adkins answered a few questions about competitive Speech. Clark stated she enjoys speech, and she likes that you can meet new people. She also said her favorite part of speech was “Making new friends and hanging out with Dr. Oatman cause she’s an extremely amazing person and really fun to be around.” Although she does think is a cool activity, she thinks the most challenging part is timing. Clark said, “Right after a round, you have another one that starts right away.”

Clark explains what they do at the meets, “Once we get to our rooms, we get ready for our performance. After the round, we get a bit of free time, depends on how much time between rounds. There are three rounds total, and after those, we have a break and then come back out and awards are given.” Her favorite meet was the one on Saturday Nov. 16 cause she got to see friends and she was proud of josh Adkins who had won. Speech is good for social skills and helps you use your emotions more. Clark also plans to stay in speech the rest of her high school career.

Adkins said “Being in speech is pretty cool. Its’s interesting to see, hear all the different pieces, and travel all over state to compete.” His favorite thing about speech is seeing all the difference pieces and “People’s faces when you tell you drove a point home”. He doesn’t like the schedules and how they’ve been. Adkins said, “It gets stressful running from event to event, but I’ve heard it doesn’t stay like that.” Once Adkins gets to the place of the event, he usually drops off his bag, checks round time and starts practicing his piece.

He also stated he likes to go first to watch other performances or relax in between rounds. His favorite meet was also the event on Nov. 16 when he took first place in a humor event which was also his first-time trying humor. He thinks speech could also be academically helpful, but he hasn’t seen a change in his academic skills. He said, “I think that just as long as nothing bad happens, I’ll happily stay in speech.”



Senior Daniel Egemo is pictured with other recipients of the Best Chair Award.

## West River Congress Held At LDHS

By Zoe Bourgo

The annual West River Congress meet was held earlier in the season rather than later during the National Forensics League season. It was held earlier in order to allow novice students to test the waters before congress is introduced as a category. Local teams from Rapid City Central, Stevens, and Sturgis came up to participate in this event.

Like last year, the event started out with an ice breaker activity, so a more inviting environment could be created, to help put the novice at ease. There were two sessions, with a short break in between the rounds.

Daniel Egemo said “I think that our team rose to the occasion. We were led by Coach Bree Oatman and she included everyone and really wanted to prioritize learning instead of competition. She wanted students who had not been involved in Congress before to be able to learn how to do it. It was a really good start to the congress season.” Egemo placed best chair, which means he was able to run a fast and efficient chamber. To do that, the chair calls upon different spokespeople, makes sure everyone has equal opportunity to speak and ask questions.



Dr. Bree Oatman checks on students during break.



Daniel Egemo delivers a speech.



Jack Hallock presents his bill.

# Robotics Gears Up For The Year

By Jeremiah Fredericksen Jr.

The Robotics Class is taught by Mr. Duane Cunningham. He started teaching the class five years ago. He was hired as a welding teacher and robotics came with the position.

Robotics is taught by using STEM Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. Robotics is a part of Skills USA and it is actually the biggest part as it has more members than

any category. At first, Mr. Cunningham was hesitant to teach robotics because he didn't know how now he enjoys teaching robotics. He said, "I welded so long it started to get boring robotics is always fresh and new."

When asked what his favorite part of robotics is Cunningham said it is seeing his students being successful and having fun.

There are two dif-

ferent Robotics Classes. In Robotics I they are programming movements; in Robotics II they are planning and designing competition robots.

Members of the class participate in competitions. The state finals are in March. Last year the World Finals in April in Indianapolis, Indiana they received third place and hope for a first place win this year.



Mason Weckstien works on his robot.



Aaron Olinger adjusts his robot.

# Honors Band Travels To Augustana

By Kiayah Clark

The Northern Hills Honor Band which took place the Nov. 8-9. Several students performed in Sioux Falls. They practiced for three hours at Augustana University.

Each specific section of an instrument was worked on with a professional. Once practice was over the student went to Washington Pavilion to perform.

Students were able to watch a large selection of concerts performed by college students at Augustana University, with different instruments such as bass flutes, clarinets, electric saxophone along with a Jazz Band. The students who attended were Rachel Janssen, Rebecca Groeger, Natalie Janssen, Colin Kennedy-Hyman, and Jared Harrison. Hyman really enjoyed it and he's attended for two years, and he hopes to attend again next year. He thinks it's a good experience for everyone in band to participate in.

# Job Fair Held At Terry Peak

By Isabel Ward

This past November ninth, Terry Peak had hosted a job fair for people who are looking for jobs in the community. The fair was held at Stewart Lodge from 9 am to 12 p.m. These jobs were available to anyone who was interested and there were plenty of booths filled with blank applications to fill out.

Owen Wisser had attended the fair and when asked on what the variety of jobs that were available replied, "There was a lot, like anything from dish washing to mechanics, fry cooks, ski instructors, and much more.". When asked on whether or not Wisser had applied for any of the occupations that were available, he replied saying

that he had applied to a few dish washing positions.

Working in high school can seem a bit daunting but is very possible with plenty of time management and determination. The important part of that balance is making sure that you are still invested in your academics, and the primary focus is always on making sure you receive your education.

However, there are some benefits from working in high school, for example, students who do decide to work while in school often have developed a great work ethic, time management skills, and have the opportunity to start building a resume early on.



# National Honors Society Halloween Costume Contest

By Madison Rystrom

The National Honors Society (NHS) carries on a tradition with their annual Halloween Costume Contest. Many people participated in the contest, and all students that participated got a piece of candy thanks to NHS, and the winners of each category got a gift card to either the Northern Hills Cinema in Spearfish or Lotus Up Coffee Shop in Lead.

Several categories of prizes the winners are as followed: Chad Buehler won \$10 to the Northern Hills Cinema for the scariest costume; Taylor Jankord and Winter Carl shared \$20 to the Northern Hills Cinema for best couple; Jagger Livengood won \$10 to Lotus Up for the most original costume; Logan Esiner was awarded \$10 to the Northern Hills Cinema for the funniest costume; and Natalia Alsup won \$10 to Lotus Up for the best teacher costume.





# LDHS Democrats Host Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Members who helped at the Thanksgiving dinner are pictured L-R: Daniel Egemo, Jagger Livengood, Casey Briscoe, Nate Diers, Kiale Rose, and Megan Bernal.

## By Daniel Egemo

The Lead Deadwood High School Young Democrats, led by President Daniel Egemo and Vice President Casey Briscoe, hosted a community Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 24 in the cafeteria at the high school.

The group held a meeting on Oct. 30. At the meeting, the group members decided that they wanted to do multiple events for the holiday season to give back to the community starting with the community Thanksgiving dinner.

This decision came after South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem proclaimed November to be the Month of Caring in South Dakota. Many members of the group wanted to do something for the occasion.

Treasurer Colie Corkins spoke about the decision to host the dinner by saying, "We wanted to have a dinner for the community so everyone could get together and enjoy the holidays."

The group intends to participate further into the holiday season during the month of December. Another member of the group, Cristian Fierro, spoke about the holiday season, "I'm glad that we live in a community that gives back and helps those who are in need. Our group has benefitted from the kindness of many members of the Lead-Deadwood community."

During the Christmas season, Egemo hopes that the group will continue to spread holiday cheer by supporting a local angel tree.

The group hopes to increase attendance at its meetings and events. President Daniel Egemo spoke about the groups volunteer efforts, "It's a great way to engage in volunteer hours and to participate in the community. Anyone in the high school or middle school can attend our meetings and events regardless of personal beliefs."



Community members serve themselves at the dinner.



Attendees enjoy themselves at the social gathering.



# Stoltenberg Writes Her Own Music

By Daniel Egemo

While in high school, many students discover hobbies and skills that interest them. Courtney Stoltenberg, sophomore, could be described as just that. Courtney writes and plays her own music at home in her spare time. Courtney described her talent by saying, "It's a hobby. It's one thing that I do to get things off my mind," she continued, "When I'm writing my songs, I think about things that are on my mind and go from there."

Along with writing and performing her own music, Courtney is also talented in playing instruments. She plays the guitar, saxophone, piano, and is currently learning the violin. Courtney spoke about starting her music journey, "It's a difficult thing to do. I don't know many people my age who write songs and can play as many instruments as I can."

Courtney learned to play the guitar in seventh grade. It was in that same year that Courtney began to write her own music and to begin to perform it. She had always wanted to be a singer and a performer.

When reflecting on her accomplishments in her young career, she said, "Writing 24 songs is one of my achievements that I am most proud of." She hopes to continue her passion for music throughout high school. "I have posted some of my music on Facebook and I am planning on making a YouTube channel. I want to play around the community and really get my name out there."

# Interested Seniors Take The ASVAB

By Isabel Ward

Each year a select amount of students decided to take the ASVAB. The ASVAB is a test that those who are interested in going into the military take to see which jobs would be a good fit for each individual. The ASVAB stands for The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This test is multiple choice and has several different categories for the applicant to be tested on, and usually takes about three hours to complete. These were the nine categories that the test consisted of: Arithmetic Reasoning (AR), Assembling Objects (AO), Auto and Shop Information (AS), Electronics Information (EI), General Science (GS), Mathematics Knowledge (MK), Mechanical Comprehension (MC), Paragraph Comprehension (PC), and Word Knowledge (WK). These categories will help the armed forces see what potential occupations would be best for every applicant.

When talking to Robbie Lester, who took the test last week, he was asked if he had found the test particularly difficult. He replied saying, "Kind of, some parts were harder than others. The math portion was the hardest out of the nine". Lester says it was a good experience if you are thinking of going into the military after high school.

If you take the ASVAB you should receive your results relatively quickly, within 2-3 weeks. The score will tell you whether or not you are qualified for each branch of the military. Each branch requires a different minimum score out of 99 to enter into the armed forces. The Air Force requires a score of 36, the Army requires a 31, the Marine Corps requires a score of 32, the Navy requires a 35 and the Coast Guard requires a score of 40. If you are interested in going into the armed forces in the coming years, make sure that you talk to Ms. Britzman about the ASVAB next year!



Senior Daniel Egemo recycles his bottle.

# Recycling Project Begins

By Kadyn Hopkins

Throughout this past month, there have been several recycling boxes placed in various teacher's rooms in the high school. Dr. Bree Oatman and Mrs. Natalia Alsup have been working together alongside a few other participating teachers in order to create their new recycling project. The two began this project when they realized that LDHS did not have any place to recycle plastic bottles. Oatman has wanted to try and get recycling going since she began working at the high school and she has now taken action. Oatman and Alsup are devoting their time in order to reduce the amount of waste that is being created from plastic. Oatman claims that reason she wanted to begin this project was because, "Plastic is a persistent problem in our environment and takes forever to biodegrade. Bottles also have a high volume and take up a lot of space along with being made from fossil fuels, so if we can keep reusing those items versus processing new ones, it's better for the environment."

In order for the project to work, Oatman and Alsup have asked some teachers to put a cardboard box with a special recycling emblem, designed by Mr. Oliver Burgoyne, in their rooms. Alsup then goes to the rooms with a bag and picks up the plastic bottles. Oatman would like high schoolers to get involved in this subject because, "You are the ones left with the mess and are the future innovators, engineers and creators that are going to come up with ideas of extracting these resources out of landfills in an economical way so we can continue to use them." When asked what advice she would give to someone wanting to be less wasteful, but isn't quite sure how she replied, "Start with one thing at a time, don't try to do it all at once. You can collect plastic water bottles first and then maybe add in paper or compost your food waste at home. You can also try to buy less plastic in the first place in order to put less plastic out into the environment. It's just simple things like that that you can do to help reduce your footprint."



Back Row pictured L-R: Eugene Claymore, Cy Quenzer, Bryce Mitchell, Adrien Lyon, Gage Ogle, Carlota Gandia, Justice Scherer, Jenna Hanson, Chad Buehler, Braden Ziegler and Alexandria Valenzuela. Front Row L-R: Neveah Foster, Janie Fredericksen, Lilianna Reynolds, Brooklyn DeNeui and Brianna Benfield.

## Seventeen New and Returning Students Join The District

By Colie Corkins

LDHS's student population has reached a higher number. The high school welcomes 17 newcomers! There are nine new freshmen, four new sophomores, and four new juniors.

They come from across the United states, and there is even one from Spain. A few are from South Dakota,

you probably recognize some of these kids from school a couple years ago who have returned to the district.

The freshmen are Brooklyn DeNeui, Neveah Foster, Jenna Hanson, Adrien Lyon, Gage Ogle, Mariea Saivong, Justice Scherer, Braden Ziegler, Bryce Mitchell. New soph-

omores are Brianna Benfield, Janie Fredericksen, Carlota Gandia, Lilianna Reynolds. The juniors are Eugene Claymore, Taylor Jankord, Cy Quenzer, Alexandria Valenzuela, welcome all of the new and returning students, because being the new student isn't always easy.

## Conferences Provide Parents/Students With Helpful Information

By Luke Weisenberg

Parent teacher conferences were on Thursday, Nov. 7 between 1-7 p.m. Parent teacher conferences are when parents and teachers have a meeting to discuss how their student is doing in school and what they need to improve. It is usually held in Gym Two.

Parent teacher conferences are one of the ways where teachers can tell students what they are doing good at and what they can improve at.

One of the students who went to the parent teacher conferences was Sara Edgier. Edgier said that most

of what the teachers said about her was positive. Elliot Wehner said that most of what the teachers said to improve was very helpful and necessary.

One of the teachers who was at conferences was Mr. Matt Campbell.

Campbell said "I like to

meet parents and talk about how good their kid is going in class. "Ninety-five percent of things I have to say about students are positive."

Ms. Shaley Lensegrav said that her favorite thing about parent teacher conferences is getting a new perspective on her students.

## Boys Basketball Team Starts Preparing for The Season

By Taya Bureson

Discussing the start of basketball season, Coach Travis Rogers said, "I think this season will be fun, I have a good group of 20-25 boys." So far this season, the team has prepared by playing in team camps and leagues. They played 22 games which is equivalent to another season. They have also had open gyms four nights a week.

During open gym they are practicing fundamentals and getting into basketball shape. Their main goal this season is to win. Along the way the team wants to learn life lessons to be better prepared for the future.

The team is very athletic and quick and will be working hard on the defensive end. Rogers said, "We need to push the ball on offense and pressure the ball on defense." Rogers is looking forward to playing every team. The team has a different strategy for every team they play. He enjoys deciding game plans for each team. Jordy Stulken and Payton Grodzin are the team captains. They will provide leadership and be good role models for other players. Mr. Gabe Dirksen, a 2013 alumnus will be the assistant coach for the season.



File Photo from 2018

## Open Gym And Camps Ready Girls Basketball For A New Season

By Madi Rystrom

Tim Hansen is in his fourth year of coaching the girls' basketball team. So far there are 17 girls out for the team,

"There are not many new players out this year," Hansen said. He hopes "The youth programs in the area grow and get more organized, in hopes to grow the girls' basketball organization.

It's a chain reaction, if the youth programs grow, then the junior high program will grow, leading to growth in the high school program."

To prepare for the season Hansen said that the team went to "camps this summer and had open gyms, in addition in the preseason the girls are

having player led open gyms." Hansen said, "I enjoy watching my team compete and grow," when asked about what his favorite thing about coaching is.

The first practice for the Lady Diggers is Dec. 2, and their first game is on Dec. 14 in Harding County.

## Wrestling Team Takes On A New Exciting Season

By Colie Corkins

The lead wrestling team is starting their exciting new season, practice started November 18th, as they start preparing for their first match on December 6th which will be held in Custer, at the Custer high school.

This year a senior on the team who's been wrestling all four years of high school says, "I'm super excited to see how far our team will go this year, although we have a small team, we are tough!" says Robbie Lester, there's four seniors this year on the team, Max Johnson, Robbie Lester, Kadden Dillman, Pratt Williams. We asked a couple of them what they look forward to this season, Robbie stated

that "I really want to get further in state this year, last year I placed fifth in state.

And I would really like to go finals." Kadden Dillman says, "I'm hoping to have a winning record and become a state placer", we also asked him what he was most excited about this year, and Kadden says, "I'm most excited to go to the tournaments and watch all my friends succeed and myself as well."

This should be a pretty good season, if you could stop by and watch a couple of matches support our team, show school spirit.

# Volleyball Team Wraps Up the Season

By McKinly Kyte

Playing together in the home tournament was the turning point for the Digger volleyball team. Even losing games right after the home tournament made no difference, the tournament was a time for the team to connect and play as a team. "Playing well in the tournament gave us confidence to play at a higher level, for we proved it to ourselves that we could," said Coach Kim Hansen. The one thing Hansen taught her team was the value in being resilient. The team had many games where they were down and looked like they could lose, but then the team stepped up, changed their fate, and that was the most enjoyable thing for Hansen to watch.

The team won first round regions against Custer and advanced to play Hill City for second round. The team played a hard-final game that night and left all they had out on the court. Hansen was super proud of the team for winning the first round. But to pass second round the team knew they had to play a perfect game, which the team couldn't do. The team finished 18-12 this season and beat Spearfish for the first time in four years.

Awards were given out at the end of the year volleyball party. Seven players lettered in volleyball which included all six seniors, and setter, Kailee Bertrand. The Defensive Award went to Blake Mehlberg, Offensive Award to Anna Campbell, Seaton & Hustle Award to Hannah Campbell and Most Improved to Rebecca Groeger and Raygan Mattson. These girls deserved every award they were given in their years of playing. Hansen is looking for younger classmen to fill those starting positions for next year and hopes to have a strong summer program.



Kailee Bertrand serves the ball over to Custer.



Kailee Bertrand and Natalie Janssen block the ball.

## Recognizing The Seniors

By McKinly Kyte

Senior Night is when each senior athlete gets recognized. But for the starters on the volleyball team it was very important. Honoring the seniors in a sport is a tradition most high schools participate in, including LDHS. Seniors enjoyed their last night on the home court and were recognized for their hard work before the game was started. Making memories with each senior was a huge part of the season. Being together was a big memory but for Seniors Hannah Campbell and Anna Campbell beating Spearfish was their best memory of the year.

Giving advice to the younger players is a part of being a senior, along with helping the younger players out. Raygan Mattson tells the younger players "It is worth the ups and downs and the girls on the team become your second family. That hard work helps you improve." Rebecca Groeger says "It goes by fast, enjoy it while you can. For the memories will last forever."

One huge part of senior night is letting everyone know where they intend to make their next step after high school. For Groeger it is to major in biology at the University of South Dakota and become an Ophthalmologist. But for Anna Campbell she plans to play basketball, and Hannah Campbell to pursue a degree in nursing. Making every part of high school count for the future of the seniors.



Anna Campbell spikes the ball down.



Team celebrates.

## Reaching A Milestone Of 1,000 Digs

By McKinly Kyte

Reaching the milestone of 1,000 digs in her volleyball career was a huge achievement for volleyball player Blake Mehlberg. Mehlberg has been the Libero (is someone who specializes in passing and is the only player who can play in two different positions or plays for two different people when in the back row) since her sophomore year and has focused on becoming better. Getting better over time was just the beginning for Mehlberg, hustle was the next step. Hustling to every ball and giving all your effort to touching it was the next step for Mehlberg. Getting the pass to be good was the last step, making the jobs for everyone else on the team easier. Achieving this goal was special for Mehlberg, making her the first volleyball player in four years to get 1,000 digs. Mehlberg achieved her goal on senior night, making the occasion more special. Mehlberg reminds every athlete to never give up on yourself and to push yourself and your abilities to be the best you can.