

Vocal Director Encourages Students to Sing National Anthem

by Makayla Kopp

For ten years Autumn Shultz, the Avon Choir Director, has had volunteers in her class sing the National Anthem. During her class, students will come up with groups who would like to sing at home basketball and volleyball games when the band is not playing.

This year, as in past years, select students have tried out to sing at a state sporting event. Last year Sarah Swier, Kimberly Tolsma, and Makayla Kopp tried out but did not get in. This year they are trying again with an additional singer, Ashley Tolsma. This group consists of Swier (soprano one), A. Tolsma (soprano), K. Tolsma

(alto), Kopp (Tenor). Swier also sent in a solo video.

Swier said “I am so grateful that we have this opportunity to audition to sing the national anthem. The community gets to hear us at our home sporting events, but it is nice to get to sing for others, especially at a state event.”



Caption: Vocal director Autumn Schultz leads Sarah Swier, Ashley Tolsma, Kimmy Tolsma and Makayla Kopp in the National Anthem for Tuesday's volleyball matchup with Wagner.

Oral Interpreters Prep for 'Live' Season

by Gracie Small

Coach Sara Hento, Coach Carol Swier, and the Oral Interpretation team are looking forward to the upcoming "LIVE" season. Their season will consist of three regular season invites, districts, regions, and hopefully state.

The coaches are most excited that they have lots of returning students who are very excited to work hard. Hento said her expectations are for her students to work hard and practice at least twice a week, as well as qualify for state as many categories as last year...if not more.

The team's theme is talk the talk...to walk the walk. Parents and the public are invited to attend Avon's Oral Interp Invitational on October 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.... It's free!

Avon students will be competing as follows:

Duet: Makayla Kopp and Reese Powers; Kimmy Tolsma and Ashley Tolsma; Kley Heumiller and Jaden Stahl; [Yet to be partnered: John Fathke, Devin Rucktaeschel, Kaeli Wallinga, Kinley Doom, Megan Gretschmann, and Erica Cahoy.]

Reader's Theatre: Group 1) Sarah Swier, Gracie Small, McKenna Kocmich, and Reece Loewe; Group 2) Landon Thury, Reese Powers, Courtney Sees, and Madi Mudder

Humorous: Landon Thury, Ashley Tolsma

Non-Original Oratory: Caleb Wallinga

Serious: Erica Cahoy, Reece Loewe

Poetry: Reece Loewe

Storytelling: Sarah Swier



Members of a readers' theatre group are McKenna Kocmich, Reece Loewe, Courtney Sees, Sarah Swier, and Gracie Small.

Dual Credits Offer Post-Secondary Benefits to Juniors/Seniors

by Tiffany Pelton

Today's high school educational opportunities are expanding for juniors and seniors. At Avon High School, those students are able to take dual credit classes as college credits.

This year Avon has 13 students between juniors and seniors taking dual credits. Most of the students take their classes through USD, SDSU, STI and/or MTI. Student preferences vary when taking dual credits. Some may struggle, but others love the experience. Senior Reese Powers said, "Always look over the work before you submit it. College teachers are so much harder on you than high school. Be committed to your work."

From my personal experience, I am currently taking two dual credit classes through USD. I am taking Fundamentals of Speech, and English Composition I. My speech class is very easy. I have an easy-going professor and, overall, the class is easy to understand. On the other hand, my COMP I class takes more work, and my professor isn't as easy going. As a high school student, college level work takes more effort and time. College professors expect a good work ethic and all work handed in on time.

Junior Kimmy Tolsma said, "Dual credits help you prepare for college, and they really help you manage your time wisely."

Powers Crowned Labor Day Queen

by Makenzie Sassaman

Reese Powers was asked by many businesses if she would be willing to run for Labor Day Queen under their sponsorship, and she ended up getting sponsored by Midtowne Oil and Wash. In order to sign up for queen, she had to fill out an application that consisted of a questionnaire about herself. She ran against eight other contestants both from the Wagner and Avon communities.

On September 1, the queen candidates had supper at the Wagner Boys and Girls Club. After their supper, they each had a separate interview with four judges. Powers said, "The main question in my interview was, 'How could you promote unity within your community using your future career?'"

After being announced on September 4, Powers had to make an appearance at each Labor Day event throughout the weekend. At some events she just had to make an appearance. At others, she judged cars and ribs, or she had to say a few words and introduce herself.

Powers said, "My favorite part of being LDQ was being an inspiration. As a young girl, I was always fascinated by the LDQ and I always wanted to be 'her.' Well, I fulfilled that dream, and I had many young girls come up to me, and they were absolutely fascinated by me." According to Powers, "My other favorite part was being able not only to represent my hometown but also to represent a neighboring town, where I am also very involved."

Powers was very honored being crowned queen at a big event like Wagner Labor Day. She said, "It does not matter what your last name is, who your parents are, or if you're popular and have a ton of friends. All that matters is how you are as a person and how you represent yourself to the outside world."



Senior Reese Powers, seen here with her sponsors, was crowned Labor Day Queen in Wagner on September 4.