



The Cometary



Winter 2018

Volume 15 Issue 2

Neighbors helping neighbors

The man focuses intensely as he attempts to spell “February.” His citizenship test is next week, and he is practicing his writing skills during his study group time. Under his breath, he spells out the word: F-E-B-R-U-A-R-Y. He finishes writing the word and looks up at the face of Cameron High School senior, Jake Salm, a boy half his age, looking for reassurance. The boy nods his head yes. The man concentrates like his life depends on it. In many ways, it does.

This is a scene that takes place on Saturdays in Barron. With the guidance of the Citizen Partners coordinator, Nancy Pike, Jake has learned the valuable lessons that come along with volunteering one’s time. What started out as an opportunity to get service hours has become something much more for Jake. He has now spent multiple Saturdays helping Somali refugees practice for their Citizenship test, a test they are able to take after working and living in the United States for five years.

This opportunity was also extended to other Cameron High School students recently. For Jake’s National Honor Society (NHS) service project, he brought six classmates to listen to and record refugee stories. Hope Koepp, Zawadi Hester, Tori Gerber, Julia Murphy, Payton

Sevals, and Jake all did just that on a December Saturday. It was a nice surprise for the students to see Representative Romaine Quinn there that day—also listening to the stories of mothers and fathers who left family members in refugee camps in Uganda and Ethiopia to start a war-free life for their families. The plan for these student-written stories is to send them to local politicians to try to influence them to help reunite the refugees with their families. When some of these families came here, they were separated from their loved ones with promises of reunification within six months, but at most two years. Then, the travel ban was instituted and things changed.

Jake wants people to know how hard these families work to keep

themselves stable, independent citizens of the county. He said he feels that they are misjudged and misunderstood and wants people to hear their stories--right from the source.

Jake, who plans to attend UW-Milwaukee or UW-Madison for journalism, says the experience has piqued his interest in politics, the refugee crisis, social studies, and immigration law.

If the man Jake is working with can spell February, can name the “Father of Our Country,” can explain what the Constitution does, and much more, he will become a United States citizen. And if he does that, he will be able to fly to Uganda to see his children, children he hasn’t seen in years. And maybe one day his children will be able to join him in Barron, Wisconsin.



Caring writers. Zawadi Hester, Hope Koepp, Payton Sevals, Jake Salm, Tori Gerber, and Julia Murphy wrote the stories of immigrants in Barron to help them be reunited with their families.

Notes from Mr. Meznarich - principal

Winter break

The last day for students will be Friday, December 21. School will resume on Wednesday, January 2. Have a safe and happy holiday season.



2018-19 scheduling

Plans are underway for scheduling for the 2019-20 school year. Scheduling information will be given to students in the middle of January. High school teachers have created informational videos about their courses, and students will get a chance to meet with teachers to talk about their courses to help them make informed decisions with their course selections. More information about courses offered at the high school can be found on the High School link from the district webpage.

Report Cards

The second trimester began on

Monday, November 26. First trimester report cards are not mailed home, but they can be found through your Skyward family access under the Portfolio tab.

Skylert

The Cameron School District is utilizing the Skylert system to send out important district notifications - such as school closings or delays. You can select what phone number or email you would like to receive notifications from under the Skylert tab in your Skyward family access account. You are able to select to receive text messages only if that is a better form of communication for you.

Winter Activity Day

Plans are underway for Winter Activity Day. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for a number of different activities such as skiing or snowboarding at Christie Mountain, ice fishing,

cross country skiing, bowling in Rice Lake, or going to Action City in Eau Claire. Students are expected to attend school that day and participate in an activity unless they have a pre-arranged absence. Winter Activity Day is being planned for Wednesday, January 30.

Parent-teacher conferences

Parent/teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, January 31 from noon until 8 p.m. Conferences will be scheduled using Skyward like they were in the fall. As always, teachers are available for drop-in conferences if you did not have the opportunity to schedule a conference. Information on how to schedule conferences can be found under the Families tab on the district website. All parents are encouraged to come in and meet with their student's teachers.

Again this year each homeroom decorated their door for the holidays. Throughout this newspaper, some doors will be highlighted. The elementary school students were the judges this year.



Door winners. The winning doors were the Mrs. Pacholke's seniors, Mr. Haughian's juniors, Mr. Ladd's sophomores, and Mrs. Hagen-Salm's freshmen. It was a fun way to practice teamwork in homeroom.

Busy FBLA members



Cape Crusader. Batman came to visit Cameron's FBLA Superhero Smash event. He posed with three of the superheros who attended.

Cameron FBLA has been busy getting ready to be awesome leaders! Within the month of November, they hosted a snack break for Veterans after the Veterans' Day program on November 12, they hosted a "super" fun event for little boys, and they attended Business Club Day at the Target Center in Minneapolis.

Superheros unite! Cameron superheros came out in droves for FBLA's first Superhero Smash event on November 2 in the high school commons area. Superheros were treated to making Slime, masks, and having his face painted. Additionally, the CHS football team helped the heros participate in a punt, pass, and kick event! The masked men also were able to have his picture taken with Batman and Captain America (courtesy of local police departments). FBLA

provided some snacks and dancing. The event was a success!

From little superheros to learning about professional superheros, CHS FBLA members traveled Minneapolis for the Minnesota Timberwolves/Lynx organization's Busi-

ness Club Day on November 13. FBLA students attended the informational gathering where students learned about the many unique careers within the organization. Who knew there was such positions as Vice President of Fan Experiences, Vice President of Social Responsibility, and Vice President of Business Intelligence? Their main tip for students to be successful is to make contacts, ask questions, seek internships--get dream job!

Up next for FBLA is competition season! They travel to Superior in February to try to reach the first goal of State in Green Bay and ultimately Nationals in San Antonio, Texas this summer.



We appreciate Veterans. FBLA members served a breakfast snack and visited with some of our Vets after CHS's annual Veterans' Day program.



Business Club Day. Fifteen FBLA members attended the Timberwolves/Lynx Business Club Day event held at the Target Center on November 13. They learned about the many unique careers available within a professional sports organization.

FFA hits the freeway

by Jekiah Manor

In October, four Cameron students joined Mr. Jeff Ladd, the agriculture sciences and FFA adviser, on a trip to Indianapolis for the FFA National Convention. The four students from our small town of Cameron were introduced into huge crowds in Indianapolis. A whopping 69,944 people were in attendance. While in Indianapolis the students and Mr. Ladd participated in many beneficial activities.

The group traveled to Indiana on a coach bus. On the way to Indiana, they picked up other schools and their advisers. The convention was in Indianapolis, and the group stayed in rustic cabins that held between four and six students. The cabins did not have TVs, so the group spent the majority of the time outside, roasting smores on a campfire, and swimming.

Getting fit

Approximately 15 kids have taken charge of their wellness this winter by joining the new CHS Fitness Club. The club is run by Mr. Roherty, Mr. Ridout, and/or Mrs. Hagen-Salm and meets Monday-Thursday from 3:30-4:30 and is open to all CHS students.

Participants do a combination of cardio exercises, weight training,



Students take a seat. FFA members Brooke Hrabak, Remington Ladd, Brianna Croteau, and Anna Jaeger get seated at the Garth Brooks concert during their National trip.

The FFA students were able to do many different things while on their trip. They toured the Chicago O'Hare Airport, and even got to meet a dog that sought out illegal food coming in on peoples luggage by scent. FFA travelers were also able to see some of the foods airport security had confiscated. The group was also able to tour a

landmine near Indianapolis. It was tied into a golf course and many other businesses that helped maintain its cleanliness.

Some students on the trip enjoyed the Garth Brooks concert, while others enjoyed the tours. This FFA trip offered many new learning opportunities, it was an enthusiastic kick-start to this years happenings.

and games. Most days, the group ends with gaga ball. Brett Johnson, a senior, said he thinks the Fitness Club is awesome because he gets to "stay fit and hang out with a bunch of new people." Mrs. Hagen-Salm explained that attendance is optional, but added that the students are very loyal and tend to come four days per week.

Junior McKenzie Kohel exclaimed, "I love Fitness Club." So does senior Logan Severt, the self-declared club president, who leads the crew in the team huddle after each workout. Severt said, "I like the variety of workouts. It's a good way to get stronger."

Group members include Logan Severt, Hannah Gillett, Logan Baribeau, David Meznarich, Brett Johnson, McKenzie Kohel, Clayton Paul, Tyler Larson, Alexa Baribeau, Henry Pike, Erin Salm, Katelyn Dummer, Sydney Johnson, Elena Martenson, and Jasmine Gilles with guest appearances from other students when they're available.

The Fitness Club celebrated the end of their first session with a trip to Chetek Lanes. New members are always welcome.



Let's get physical. The fitness club members have a blast each night after school as they work out and get fit. The fun is open to all high school students. Join them.

Eat 'em up

Lets get creative! That's exactly what students in Mrs. Hopkins' Introduction to Business class did the last week of the trimester. Students hosted a Snack Convention where they were tasked with creating a unique snack and the promotional pieces to display during the convention. About 100 students were invited to the event where they were able to taste-test the snacks, evaluate the experience from each display, and vote for their favorites.

Snacks were presented by the companies Munchy Pals, Candy Connection, Pita Pan, Chocolate Graham Crackers, and Pickle Clowns. The fan favorite votewise was Pita Pan whose snack was a pickle, peanut butter sandwich. Munchy Pals shared celery filled with peanut butter, dipped in chocolate. Pickle Clowns had pickles, Chocolate Graham Crakers had chocolate covered graham crackers, and Candy Connection featured chocolate chewy treats.

The exhibitors also had to figure costs/profits for their product. It was a unique experience as an end-of-the-trimester assessment. Both snack makers and eaters enjoyed the opportunity.



Pickle clowns. Kyle Smith and Caleb Peet made unique pickles to share at the Snack Convention.



Pita Pan. Ethan Van Buskirk shared his peanut butter pickle sandwich. This was the fan favorite!



Chewy treats. Darin Lewallen sampled his chocolate chewy treats to the crowd.



Chocolate Graham Crackers. Koner Lamson shared his tasty treats.



Candy Connection. Drew Dunat explained his treat to the convention goers.



Munchy Pals. Lexi Kringle and Cayla Johnson explained why Munchy Pals were the snack to buy!

Thank you!



Thank you, basketball teams and coaches for bringing in cookies! Ian Payne's mom, Michelle, inspired the team to bring in cookies for her son-in-law and his entire platoon, who serve in Iraq. The cookies they donated will be shared with 347 men and women overseas.

Chaotic clubs

by Hope Koepf

Students at Cameron High are busy all year long, not only with their academic classes and sports, but also clubs. There are many clubs offered at CHS, something for everyone. So if you have some free time throughout the year and want to fill it with something fun and good for your community, think of joining one of the many clubs provided for us here at Cameron High.

FFA recently took a field trip to a local dairy farm and shrimp farm followed by apple picking. FFA also organized a pumpkin carving contest for Halloween. They hosted a blood drive, and another blood drive will be coming up in the near future. They also sold and delivered their fruit. FFA will also be organizing the annual Sadie Howkins Dance.

FCCLA (Family Community Consumer Leaders of America) is working on raising money and getting donations to adopt a family for Christmas. FCCLA also organized the yearly coat drive. Along with those two projects, the members of FCCLA will be making donation



Skull cookies. Spanish Club members Mckenzie Johnson, Sophia Griffin, and Abbey Smith spend their study hall decorating sugar skull cookies for Dia de los muertos (Day of the Dead). They were delivered to those who purchased them.

jars to put in every class room to raise money for a web organization for missing children, including Jayme Closs.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) has done an abundance of things and is preparing for more. Some of the activities they have done include hosting a breakfast event for veterans, writing thank you cards to veterans, sponsoring the Toys for Tots drive, ringing bells and raising money for the Salvation Army, and going to the elementary school and reading *The Gingerbread Man*, followed by decorating gingerbread men. Eight members also learned more about leadership while attending a leadership convention in Menomonie. FBLA has already done so much, but they aren't done. As the year goes on, the members of FBLA will be preparing for their yearly competition.

Spanish Club decorated and sold sugar skull cookies for Dia de los muertos, or Day of the Dead along with donating \$70 to Unicef, a hurricane relief organization. The Spanish club members also went to CES to educate the younger kids on different cultures.

Relay For Life sold smoothies, root beer floats, and did a bake sale to raise money for cancer research. Money raised throughout the school year for this organization is donated to Relay for Life towards the end of the year.

Students United has been supplying the girls bathrooms at CHS with feminine products. Living in a low income society, it can be hard for people to buy certain necessities and the dedicated members of this club want to help make these



Officers cheese'n. FFA officers lead the chapter in a lot of interesting activities.

necessities available to females who need them.

Drama Club has yet to start a production, but they have started coming up with ideas for fundraisers and community activities, along with coming up with games and activities to play at club meetings to help strengthen their acting skills.

If you're looking for a fun and educational activity to use your time, think of joining a club. Not only are they fun, but they look amazing on future resumes. Along with helping your own future, you may also be helping others with all of the community service done within these chaotic clubs.



I am beautiful. Colorful, positive post-it notes cover the mirror in the girls restroom to promote positive self-image thanks to the Students United group.

Cameron gets a Kwik Trip!

by Bryce Dummer

Mr. John Meznarich, Cameron High School principal, went to the Cameron Kwik Trip on its grand opening as a representative of the Cameron School District and came back with more than a Big Buddy. Both the school and the Cameron Fire Department received checks for \$1,000. Mr. Meznarich said, "The check will help support the district. Kwik Trip is big into being an active member of the communi-



Ready for business. *The new Cameron Kwik Trip has had steady business since opening.*

ties they are in and this was one of the ways they like to show their involvement."

Senior Logan Baribeau started working for Kwik Trip in May, 2018 in the Rice Lake store and was transferred to the Cameron store upon its grand opening. Logan said, "I like working there because of the friendly environment; there is a big emphasis on customer service and this keeps the store a welcoming place to be." Ever since the store's opening, Logan said it has been very busy. It's nice for the Cameron residents because instead of driving all the way to Chetek or Rice Lake, they can make a "Kwik Trip" to Cameron. Other CHS students that work at Kwik Trip include Brianna Saffert and Emma Swan.

Kwik Trip also celebrated its opening in Cameron by having deals on different products in the store like a 99



Cashing out. *Principal John Meznarich and janitor Kenny Keef holds the check for the school.*

cent box of glazer donuts, which many Cameron students took advantage of, 99 cent subs, 50 cent smoothies, and many other deals! The first week they even gave out free coffee or hot cocoa, and free soft drinks their second week. So next time, make sure you swing by the Cameron Kwik Trip.

Waste water treatment trip

by Alethea Spiehs

CHS's environmental science teacher, Mr. Jon Haughian, took his environmental science students to the one-of-a-kind, environmentally-wise water treatment plant in Barron. The group experienced an awesome opportunity to learn about this fascinating place, which



Ponds everywhere. *The ponds do a lot of work to help clean waste water in our area. The plant presently treats a combined total of 500,000 gallons per day.*

is located south of the Yellow River on Barron's southeast side. Initially, the land was donated years ago by Jerome Foods to help treat their waste water. Currently, waste water from the cities of Cameron and Barron along with waste from Sweet Additions is treated at this facility. The area has several ponds that the waste water goes through where microbes, aeration, and agitation systems help clean the water before it heads to the next pond and check station. As it progresses, it gets cleaner and cleaner until it is pumped to either a forest to help the trees grow or to crops that are rented by area farmers. The DNR also checks the water and birds that live on the



Unique opportunity. *Environmental Science class members Dom Ottum, Leland Huffman, and Jonathen Odenbreit walk between the ponds that work to purify waste water from Cameron, Barron, and Sweet Additions.*

ponds.

The students were able to go into the labs run by two microbiologists. They learned a lot about the natural treatment of water.

Holiday happiness

by Kaitlyn Hubbard

In 1998, the first year of the program The Spirit of Christmas, the girls basketball team sponsored one family. This year they will sponsor 15 families within the Spirit of Christmas organization county-wide plus help out two families in our own District. Big changes have been happening since the year of '98.

For 21 years the Cameron girls basketball team has done a ton of community service including the Spirit of Christmas. The team has raised over \$65,000 to purchase presents for families-in-need around Barron County. The program is run by the Barron County Health Department and is organized by Sherry Shipman in Rice Lake. Families fill out forms with items they need such as boots, gloves, snow pants, hats, and clothing.

The Spirit of Christmas first started when Mr. Sauve and Mr. Moon discussed doing a Community Service Project. Mr. Moon continued to organize The Spirit of Christmas for a total of 19 years.

The girls basketball players are



Thoughtful ballers. The girls basketball team raised over \$5,700 for their annual Spirit of Christmas fundraiser. Giving back is great!

asked to each raise \$150 by asking for donations and then shooting 200 free throws. This money, along with other donations, has helped grow the amount of donations over the years.

Walmart has given the program a \$100 gift certificate to use. On shopping day, the 20+ girls showed up at WalMart with with lists of presents they need to purchase with the amount of money that they have been given. After picking up all of the presents, they have all players form a line and then check out. This year they spent \$4,613.73

at Walmart. The team works hard to be able to purchase items that the families need. It helps the players to see what can be done when they put their talents together for a good cause.

Current head coach Ms. Kim Weber continues the tradition and this year they collected \$5,798 to spend on the 17 total families. After shopping, students and many helpful parents wrapped and organized the gifts for delivery.

The Spirit of Christmas continues to thrive and help many families around Barron County.



Always prepared. Anna Jaeger and Brianna Crotteau wrap the gifts they bought.



Shop 'til you drop. Avery Krahenbuhl and Kylie Crotteau fill the cart, buying for their assigned family.



Make your list, check it twice. The team gets ready to hit the aisles.

Pin it to win it

by Hannah Richter

“Wrestling doesn’t get easier; you just get used to the pain,” said Remington Ladd, a junior at Cameron High School and a six-time state qualifier in middle school and two-time sectionals qualifier in high school.

Everyone on the team is excited about the season, especially Mr. Jeff Ladd, the wrestling coach. He said, “I believe this will be a great season, and we’re hoping to be Conference Champs!” Competitors such as Brianna Gensky and Derrick Huppert say they think it will be the best season yet.

The team has a lot of new wrestlers, including several freshmen. There are no seniors on the team



Like father, like son! Jeff and Remington Ladd are ready for one of their last seasons together.

Grateful Comets

What are you grateful for this holiday season? CHS students were asked the same question in their homeroom. They answered by writing down their blessings on a piece of our gratitude chain. The pieces were woven together and hung around the commons area. By the looks of the commons, our students are grateful for a lot of things! Many are grateful for their parents, siblings, sports, extended families, their teachers, and Cameron High School.



Ready, set, go! Here’s a sneak peek of a good portion of the team. From top left to right: Remington Ladd, Daylen Ludwig, Aiden Torok, Christopher Jones, Ashtyn Waite, Thomas Quinn, Caleb Gillett, Devan Swanson, and Cora Olson. From bottom left to right: Hannah Hellendrung, Jesus Gurrola, Blake Engelstad, Tanner Gerber, Derrick Huppert, Jonathen Odenbreit, and Brianna Gensky.

at this time, but Mr. Ladd hopes to recruit a few more. The coach gives some insight on the season, saying that they are going to push themselves very hard to get medals and be the Conference Champions. They even hope to get some kids to State this year!

And for the first time in Cameron Wrestling history, there is not only one, but two girls on the team competing as wrestlers. Their names are Cora Olson and Brianna Gensky. Some of the players offered their thoughts on the season. Cora Olson said, “It doesn’t end until you end

it.” Jonathen Odenbreit states, “You got to go out there and you got to fight, fight, and keep fighting. That is how I’m going to win.” And Jacob Gouine said, “Keep your head in the game and work hard; it will pay off in the end.”

Win, lose, tie, or struggle. No matter how the match goes, these Comets sure know how to keep their heads held high. Make sure you’re watching the team, because they’re going to earn lots of medals! It’s going to be a great season filled with confidence and high spirits and lots of wins!



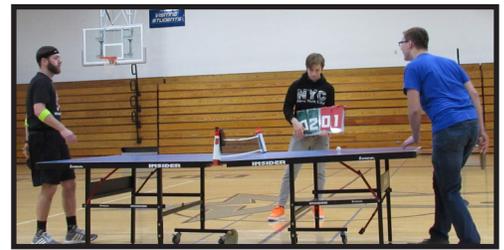
Grateful indeed. The gratitude chain was hung with care around the commons to remind students that they have a lot to be thankful for.

Ping pong pride

Lunch is more than just lunch lately thanks to Mr. Cornell. He held a staff/student pong pong tourney recently. The staff started with eight participants and was whittled down to two when Mr. Martin fell to Mr. Roherty in the teacher finale.

The students started with 22 and it was narrowed down to the finals with winners of each bracket. Austin Schoenecker and Johnny Getchel, played for the student crown. Johnny was a come-from-behind three seed that took the overall favorite, Logan Baribeau, to the wire. In the West Regional, Johnny prevailed in a squeaker over the favored Lexi Kringle. Meanwhile, Baribeau had no problem in the East winning in straight sets over the scrappy Brandon Groskopf in that semi-final. "The Greatest Date on HWY 8" was played before an excited

crowd of 300 during our Monday homeroom time. The show down between Johnny and the always-humble Sir Charles Roherty was a barn burner, but Sir Charles won the Golden Paddle award in two games. What a great way to spend your lunch!



Battle it out. Mr. Roherty and Johnny Getchell play for bragging rights. Mr. R. won the match.



Turf wars. During lunch, the ping pong tournament was a huge hit. Thanks, Mr. Cornell, for getting it going. Ping pong participants included Anna Jaeger, Mr. Roherty, Richie Murphy, Austin Schonecker, Blake Englestad, Ian Payne, Brandon Groskopf, David Mezarnich, Nathan Getchell, Johnny Getchell, Logan Baribeau, Sierra Tatroe, Ethan Komp, Nick Schuman, and Alex Peterson.

Hustle and heart

by Brett Johnson

"Hustle and heart." This is what the 2018-19 CHS girls basketball team will live by every time they take the court. The Cameron Comets girls basketball team have lost some senior leaders, but have

the following seniors returning to help the team compete: Hannah Zimmerman, Tori Gerber, Sydney Lucas, Brianna Crotteau, Kylie Crotteau, Anna Jaeger, and Payton Sevals.

The team this year has about twenty girls out and are ready for the season. The team's first practice was November 5, and they are ready to have a successful season. The team has a number of activities planned including Spirit of Christmas, spaghetti dinners, and youth night. All the girls are excited and looking forward to the upcoming season. The Regional Championship is on February 19, with Sectionals following on February 28. And last but not least, the State Championship is on March 7. They believe with hustle and heart, they can get to their ultimate goal.



Go get'em girls. The Comet girls varsity team includes Maddie Wall, Izzy Thompson, Payton Sevals, Hannah Zimmerman, Anna Jaeger, Tori Gerber, Kylie Crotteau, Sydney Lucas, Brianna Crotteau, Kennady Sevals, and Avery Krahenbuhl. Coaches include Tim Wall, Kim Weber, and Carla Kuffel.

Shooting for the stars

by Jake Salm

The Cameron Comets boys basketball team began EATING (Effort, Attitude, Team) on November 12. After having just two seniors graduate last year, the Comets have gained experience and are hungry for a successful season.

Last year, the boys were eliminated in the Regional Final by Clear Lake and are looking to redeem themselves after the early end to their 2017-18 season. "We have been motivated by the loss to work even harder through lifting, training, and getting in the gym," said sophomore Austin Weis on the loss.

The Comets officially began their season in Barron on Tuesday, November 27. The team opened the season with 7 straight away games and their first home game is on December 20 against Shell Lake. They are currently 7 - 0.

Returning four seniors and a plethora of players with Varsity experience, the Comets have a promising season ahead. Weis



Smooth layup. Sophomore Austin Weis goes up for a quick two points. The Comets beat Clayton 60-43.

went on to say, "I believe this team could go all the way."

To date, the Comets are undefeated and are EATING in the right direction. Go, Comets.

Sports in brief

Boys basketball

Coach: Troy LaVallie

Seniors: McCormick Davison, Derek Gifford, and Jake Salm



Girls basketball

Coach: Kim Weber

Seniors: Brianna Crotteau, Kylie Crotteau, Tori Gerber, Anna Jaeger, Sydney Lucas, Payton Sevals, Hannah Zimmerman



pictures courtesy of Taylor Good Photography

Winners. The Comet boys congratulate each other after a nice win in Clayton.

Winner. Mrs. Bell's homeroom decorated her door honoring The Voice's star Chris Kroeze.

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Merry Christmas from the Publications staff.