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The Cometary



Fall 2022

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Barron County Career Day

by Caitlin Quaders

Get a job! Go experience new things! Widen your skill set! That advice has good intention, but where do you start?

Cameron High School participated in the Barron County Career Day at the fairgrounds in Rice Lake on September 22. All the high school students were loaded onto buses and headed out to explore different potential career options. At the fairgrounds, there were many business representatives sharing information regarding their certain field. Various businesses distributed free merchandise repping their companies. Throughout the event, you could see students wearing caps from Rice Lake Weighing, drawstring bags by Push, Inc., water bottles were dispersed by Mosaic, and

there were many pairs of sunglasses from other businesses.

During the event, there were plenty of opportunities for students to interact with business representatives. Inside the community complex, you could find calculator races for full-size candy bars. There were multiple stations set up by Northwood Technical College giving students a wide array of educational paths to explore along with an outdoor booth where students competed to pound a nail into a slab of wood. They also had a trucking representative who was showing students inside his truck and cab. There was a fire simulator where students could go inside and get a feel for what being a firefighter was. The sheriff's department had displayed two different sets of bulletproof vests for students to try on not to mention the two excavators that students took turns operating!

Much of the high school staff also attended the event as supervisors. High school teacher Mr. Brent Whittenberger believes that the event was extremely beneficial for the students. He thinks back to his high school days and how limited his career options were. He really enjoys how many opportunities the students are given because it can help open their eyes to what may be in their future. Mr. Whitt, as he is known to the students,



Interactive stations. Senior Scott Dahle expertly demonstrated using an excavator to move a softball into a basket.

believes that goals are very important to have, but you always need to keep an open mind. There could be another passion out there that you simply haven't discovered yet.

The day was busy and full of opportunities for students. Every student went home with merchandise or candy given out by the different companies.

CHS is lucky enough to be able to participate in the Barron County Career Day along with other local school districts. We plan to continue partaking in the event, as it provides opportunities for our students to explore career and further education options.



Discussing careers. Cameron students Giuseppe Pica, Kierra Schuebel, and Jace Tolzman listen to the representative from DAC Manufacturing.

Blood Drive

Cameron FFA will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, November 16 in the high school gym. Make an appointment online at redcross.org or contact Mr. Ladd at jladd@cameron.k12.wi.us to make an appointment.



Remember Veterans' Day

The Veterans' Day program will be held on November 11 in the high school gym. The public is invited to attend. Veterans are invited to stay for coffee and snacks. Thank you, Veterans, for your service.



Notes from Mrs. Sanborn - school counselor

Attention Seniors

Get help paying for college! The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2023-24 school year became available October 1. Students should use 2021 tax year data to complete the forms. Once a student submits his/her FAFSA, financial aid estimates from campuses can be processed. The FAFSA application is available at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Information was shared with all seniors during their senior conferences with Mrs. Sanborn.



Notes from Mr. Meznarich - principal

End of first trimester

The final day of the first trimester is Friday, November 18. It is very important that students have all of their classwork completed by the end of the day on that day.

Second trimester

The second trimester will begin on Monday, November 28. Students should check their schedules over the break as everyone's schedule will change. This includes potentially your lunch time as well.

Thanksgiving Break

Students will not have school Monday, November 21 through Friday, November 25 for Thanksgiving Break. We hope everyone has a nice holiday and a safe hunt - for deer or Black Friday deals.



Veterans Day Ceremony

The high school and middle school will host a Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, November 11. More information will be posted on the District Facebook page. After the ceremony,

a small reception for veterans will be hosted by members of the Future Business Leaders of America chapter.

Academic and Career Planning (ACP)

The Department of Public Instruction requires all schools throughout the state of Wisconsin to work with students in grades 6-12 on Academic and Career Planning activities. Students at the high school did goal setting at the beginning of the school year and they will do a variety of other activities throughout the year, such as interest inventories, college and tech school visits, and career explorations. The complete Academic and Career plan can be found on the District website.

Class rings and graduation announcements

On Monday, October 3, members of the sophomore and senior classes met with a representative from Jostens to pick out and order class rings and graduation announcements. More ordering information can be found at [jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com)

Yearbook orders

To order this year's yearbook, there are two easy options.

1. Go to www.jostensyearbooks.com and order online. You may pay with a credit card.
2. Fill out the form and bring it and your money to Mrs. Hopkins.

Order forms were distributed in homerooms and are available in the high school office. To order directly, go to www.jostensyearbooks.com. Cost at this time is \$55. Until October 28, four free icons are available with the purchase of a line of personalization. See Mrs. Hopkins with questions. Don't miss out!

Senior yearbook pics

Please bring two senior and two baby pictures to Mrs. Hopkins by November 18 to be included in the yearbook's special senior section. Pictures may either be emailed to Mrs. Hopkins at chopkins@cameron.k12.wi.us or you may bring them in to be scanned. Pictures will be returned.

Break the Glass

Break the Glass – this is the theme for the 2022 football season. What exactly does that mean? Cameron High School senior football player Julian Pense said, "We've struggled for so long that this is the year that we bust through and make it to the play-offs." And they did just that at the home game against Chetek-Weyerhaeuser on Friday, October 7. Under the senior leadership of Luke Salm, Dan Eichman, Logan Crawford, Devon Tasker, Julian Pence, Cayden Gifford, Leo Luckert, Kyle Nelson, Ethan Swan, Ethan Gifford, Vincent Gagner, Xander Williams, Alec Olson, and Hunter Rognholt, the Comets have crashed through that glass with their high-powered offense and stingy defense.

So, what is the difference this year? Coach Charlie Roherty said that the guys started to trust the process – last spring they started to work on agility and strength training each Friday. There were 26 guys consistently working to be better. Coach Roherty said,

"The games against Northwestern and St. Croix were turning points as they were ranked teams and we hung with them in the first half. And beating Spooner was a huge 'we can do this' moment for the team!" Senior Logan Crawford agreed with Coach Roherty and said, "Our team stopped arguing and finally got 'the team' mentality. This summer, we went to UM-D; it was hot but fun. We practiced and scrimmaged a group of Minnesota teams. This helped us a lot!"

Winning seems to be helping the players to have a lot of fun this year. Senior Luke Salm said that his favorite part of football this year is "proving that our team is good enough and we're not pushovers. We don't give up." Devon Tasker's favorite part of the season was going out and playing with his teammates.

Congrats, Comets! The glass is broken and the sky is the limit!



Tough team. The 2022 Comet football team broke the glass this year and made it to the play-offs.

Sports in Brief

Volleyball

Coach: Valerie Pumala
Seniors: Zoe Rubenzer, Khalia Evans, Carli Wilson, Maycee Heggedahl, Marion Van der linden, Jordyn Allen, Katelyn Kohel, and Jada Thompson



Dance

Coach: Melissa Longmire
Seniors: Ashaaylah Hill, Bailey Hauck, and Ashlea Bossany



Football

Coach: Dan Henken
Seniors: Cayden Gifford, Devon Tasker, Hunter Rognholt, Leo Luckert, Alec Olson, Kyle Nelson, Dan Eichman, Luke Salm, Vincent Gagner, Logan Crawford, Ethan Swan, Ethan Gifford, Julian Pense, and Xander Williams



Cross Country

Coach: Dave Gerber
Seniors: Sydney Leschisin, Alyssa Kuffel, and Jacob Pearson



Running wild

by Katie Shilts

Some people might tell you to “run like the wind!” However, the wind can’t run, but our cross country team can!

This year, the boys and girls teams are both very young. Three seniors and three juniors lead the team, and it is rounded out by eight sophomores and six freshmen. Not only that, but three of the upperclassmen are new to cross country this year. Even with the young team members and new upperclassmen, the expectations are still high, considering that the girls cross country team has qualified for state the past five years in a row and this year’s boys team is the best Coach Dave Gerber has seen in his coaching career. From last year’s girls state-qualifying team, four seniors graduated who had made it to State all four years of high school. They left big shoes to fill, because on this year’s team, only three of the ten girls have Sectionals or State experience.

The boys team has a lot of potential. Last year, they finished tenth at Sectionals. They only lost one senior to graduation and gained five new

runners. The teams also have very high goals. “I would like to see the girls team qualify for the State Tournament and the boys team place in the top six at Sectionals,” stated Mr. Gerber.

The teams have enjoyed success this season. At St. Croix Falls and the second Cameron meet, the girls won handily. The boys were victorious at Cameron, as well. In addition, the girls team finished in the top three four other times and the boys did this three times.

However, cross country is not all about winning. The team man-



Flying down the hill. Freshman Matthew Senneff races downhill at the Cameron meet on September 8.



Talented team. The 2022 Cameron cross country team ended great races at the Cameron meet on September 8. Both teams finished in 4th place at the 8-team invitational. Freshman Anna Baribeau led the team, earning a 12th place medal.

ages to fit in lots of fun in between runs. From bus ride sing-alongs to searching for golf balls, there is never a dull moment in cross country. A strong bond is formed from going through such a challenging sport together. Senior runner Alyssa Kuffel said, “I am definitely closer with my team in cross country compared to any other sport and I have gotten so close with every one of my teammates. We are one great big family.”

Best of luck as the Comets wrap up their season at Sectionals, which will take place on Saturday, October 22. The girls will run at 11:00 and the boys after at Whispering Pines Golf Course in Cadott. The top two teams and first four individuals of each gender advance to the State meet on October 27 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Loco Hoco

Cameron Homecoming 2022 was a crazy one for the books. The week started off with Dress Up Days. Monday was Neon Day, Tuesday was Frat vs. Sorority Day, Wednesday was Class Color Day, Thursday was Hawaiian Day, and Friday was Blue and White Day. The halls each day were peppered with fun styles!

Wednesday was the Powder Puff Day with guys playing volleyball and gals playing football. Alyssa Kuffel made it easy to follow the Class Color Day by selling shirts in each class’s color. Her funds went to a charitable cause as part of her NHS project. All decked out in their colors, the competition was fierce; in the final match, the juniors beat the seniors in volleyball, but the seniors took out the sophomores in the football championship games.

On Friday, everyone enjoyed the awesome pep assembly where

the school was entertained by the dance team, the senior football moms, the staff sing-along, games, and the coronation of the King Vincent Gagner and Queen Alyssa Kuffel.

Additionally, Joey Potvin raised money for a local family for his NHS project. He put out jars with teachers’ names on them to encourage people to donate money. The teacher who had the most money in his/her jar would get a pie in the face. The winner (loser) was Mr. Tyler Halverson. He took it like a champ and enjoyed the creamy pie when Donnic Schuebel won the right to throw the pie.

The football game was fantastic as the team beat Spooner and the band killed their half-time show. The dance was sweaty amazing with Mr. Ryan Mikula DJing!

The overall Spirit Stick winner for the week was the seniors by a very narrow margin!



Royalty. Queen Alyssa Kuffel and King Vincent Gagner were crowned during the homecoming pep assembly on Friday, September 30.



Packed stands. The homecoming game was packed with fans at Cameron’s home field on Friday, September 30. The Comets beat Spooner 36-34.

Welcome, Ms. Abbatacola

CHS’s biology classroom has a new look . . . highlighted by a new teacher. Ms. Madeline Abbatacola started this year as our new biology teacher. Ms. Abbatacola is from the Chicago area and went to school at UW-Stevens Point for biology. She graduated last year from UW-Madison and did her student teaching in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. This trimester, she is teaching all of the freshmen and one section of Advanced Biology. They are learning about being real scientists--posing questions and finding possible solutions. Ms. Abbatacola said, “So far, I have really enjoyed teaching at Cameron. I really like the low

numbers of students because it allows me to get to know every one of my students. My previous school had 1,800 students and I often felt disconnected from the school. Seeing how involved the staff are here is a wonderful experience! Everyday, I see how deeply our staff care for students and this provides such a supportive environment to be a new teacher. I look forward to getting to know more students and helping with the FFA program.”

Ms. Abbatacola is married to her husband, Brendan and has a dog named Hank. So far, they are enjoying their “up north” living. Welcome, Ms. Abbatacola!



Newbie! Ms. Madeline Abbatacola is our new science teacher. So far, she is enjoying the staff and students at CHS.

Coast to coast

by Emma Somerville

Coast to coast, from the Pacific to the Caribbean is the Spanish club’s next adventure. Last year’s Spanish trip went to the Dominican Republic. In June 2024 they will be heading to Costa Rica for 10 days with a packed schedule. They will be visiting Tortuguero National Park and sea turtle conservation,

and they will also be going to Arenal Volcano National Park. White water rafting, ziplining, a river kayaking tour, and horseback riding are also on the itinerary, and, of course, a beach day. They will be led by a tour guide while they are in Costa Rica who is a native speaker and they will also



Colorful costumes. The Dominican Republic group dressed in vibrant costumes and learned to dance.

be accompanied by a bus driver. While Mrs. Tammy Pacholke is excited for all the activities they plan on doing, she is most looking forward to experiencing the culture more through people watching, food, music, and dancing. Mrs. Sheri Hagen-Salm also went on the trip to the Dominican Republic. Mrs. Hagen-Salm said, "I know it sounds cliché, but the trip to the Dominican Republic was life-changing. Our students had to overcome challenges--from converting money to homesickness. They also met some inspiring people, such as our tour guide, who reminded them to understand their privilege. And best of all, many of the CHS travelers learned just how strong they are." Traveling is an awesome way to bring out the best in people. Check with Mrs. Pacholke if you are interested in the next fun excursion to Costa Rica.

Playing through adversity

by Kennedy Ladehoff

Not every team can get along. However, Cameron High School’s varsity volleyball team overcomes adversity as a team. The varsity team demonstrates that the team comes first. Their positive mindsets have made them closer over the course of the season. The attitudes of the players made getting through the injuries of the season easier. Carli Wilson, a senior, chased after a ball and hit her shin on the bleacher, ending up with nine stitches. Another senior, Khalia Evans, sprained her ankle. These injuries were amongst others throughout the season, but the girls on the team adapted to the line-up changes well.

Despite the injuries, the team is doing well during their tough schedule playing D1 and D2 teams. This season has differences from past seasons; the biggest one being that the teams switch sides again, as they hadn’t for the past



Practice makes perfect. The junior varsity and varsity volleyball teams practice after school for upcoming games.



Victory! The varsity volleyball team celebrates together after scoring a hard-earned point during a home game.

two seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Varsity coach Mrs. Valerie Pumala noted that there was a different feel when they played in front of the other team’s crowd, and that the only varsity player who experienced being on one side was Khalia Evans. In reference to the current season, Pumala also stated that athletics is like life in the sense that it doesn’t always go as

planned. Adjusting happened often this season, but the players didn’t take out their frustration on the team, which helped them grow closer and support one another. Pumala mentioned that she was proud of who they are and how they handled the challenges thrown at them this season. Despite the difficulty throughout the season, it’s been fun for the girls.



Senior night. The seniors show off how much they’ve grown as a person and on the court! They are Zoe Rubenzer, Marion Van der linden, Carli Wilson, Maycee Heggedahl, Khalia Evans, Jada Thompson, Jordyn Allen, and Katie Kohel.

Future leaders

by Sydney Leschisin

At 5:30 in the morning on June 29, Henry Pike, Sydney Leschisin, Jami Folz, and Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins boarded a plane to fly from Eau Claire to Chicago, Illinois. Jami later exclaimed, "It was the first time I got to ride on a plane, and it was awesome to look at the world from such a high point of view!" They were headed to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

In order to qualify for this conference, these students first competed at the regional level. All three placed first in their events, qualifying them for the State Leadership Conference. At State, they joined around 2,000 students trying to qualify for Nationals. Henry spent most of his time at State working as the Parliamentarian for the State Officer Team, and Sydney was elected as State Reporter for the 2022-23 team. At the closing ceremony, Henry placed 1st in Banking and Financial Systems, Sydney placed 3rd in Publications Design, and Jami placed 4th in Word Processing. The three of them qualified for Nationals!

Before coming to Chicago, Mrs. Hopkins put aside time on their trip to be able to explore the city. They walked around Navy Pier, saw the Bean in Millennium Park, took pictures of the city from the top of the Willis Tower, explored the Shedd Aquarium, went to the Field Museum, and saw many famous art pieces at The Art Institute of Chicago. Another highlight from the trip was a Chicago River boat tour at sunset. The 2022-23 State Office Team planned this excursion, so Sydney went with Mrs.



Charming Chicago. Henry, Sydney, Jami, and Mrs. Hopkins had to capture this beautiful sunset.

Hopkins, Henry, and Jami tagging along. The skyline was stunning, and the sunset added to the view tremendously.

Along with seeing the city came the main point of the trip--competing. Henry had his preliminary competition right away on the first day. On day two, Sydney and Jami competed in their events. At the conference center, the group walked around and got to meet people



FBLA fun. Jami, Sydney, and Henry loved being able to walk around and explore the conference center.

everywhere from New York to California along with students from other countries. Later that night, the group found out that Henry made finals. The following day, he competed in finals and proceeded to place 8th in the nation. It is truly such an amazing accomplishment to make it to nationals, and Henry went above and beyond to place at the conference.

Over the five day trip, Mrs. Hopkins, Henry, Jami, and Sydney had so much fun. FBLA has provided students with so many opportunities, and Mr. Hopkins never fails to help her students reach their full potential. Chicago was such an amazing experience for these students. They got to explore the city, meet people from all over the world, and get to know each other better.

CHS foreign exchange students

by Caitlin Quarders

CHS has gained two foreign exchange students this year. Meet Marion Van der linden and Inigo Cabellero-Valle!

Marion is from Brabant Wallon, Belgium. She lives with her family in a primarily French-speaking region. In the United States, she is hosted by Sarah Weber's family (Sarah is a senior at CHS). Having already graduated in her country, Marion wanted a different educational experience. She is a senior at CHS, and she has joined volleyball, softball, powerlifting, and Spanish Club.

Inigo is from Biscay, Spain. His family lives close to the Bay of Biscay, and they enjoy visiting the beach. In the United States, he is staying with Nathaniel Gardner's family (Nate is a sophomore at CHS). He is a junior at CHS, and he plans to participate in powerlift-

ing.

Both students are extremely passionate about learning languages. Marion can speak French, Dutch, Spanish, and English; Inigo can speak Spanish, Basque, and English. They both agree that the foreign exchange program is a great way to immerse themselves into not only a different language, but a different culture. Having a passion for trying new things has opened up a world of opportunities for these students.

Whether you are traveling to a new country or simply reading a news article, culture shocks are everywhere. Marion and Inigo have both had similar culture shocks when asked about differences in their home country in comparison to the U.S. In our area, there is not much public transportation; most people are driving by the time they



Exchange brothers. Inigo and Nate are enjoying learning the others' culture.

are 16. In both Belgium and Spain, the legal driving age is 18 and up. Even if you have a license in those countries, public transportation is the norm.

Education systems vary across states; the difference is even greater across countries! CHS offers a variety of classes to fit every student, and we all take that for granted. Inigo and Marion were baffled that students get to choose classes in the United States. CHS is fortunate enough to offer ag, business, tech-ed, physical education, and FACS classes.

Cameron High School is one of the very lucky school districts in the area that is able to accept foreign exchange students. CHS has been accepting foreign exchange students for more than ten years. If your family is interested in hosting a foreign exchange student in coming years visit www.academicyear.org or contact our local coordinator Steve Eichman at (715)541-2456.



Can't wait to arrive! Marion flew a total of nine hours to the United States.

Food and exploration

by Emma Somerville

Who's hungry? Well, Mrs. Laurie Adams' food classes are eager to learn and create tasty dishes. Students in Foods are learning all about nutrition, kitchen math, safety and sanitation, and understanding recipes. They are also

making dishes they would be able to make at home. The labs include making nutritious snacks, breakfast, lunch, and dinner options, and meal planning. During the labs, students are assigned a kitchen with a group, so not only are

students learning to cook and prepare meals, they are also learning how to work together as a team in the kitchen. Mrs. Adams says she hopes what her students take away from her food classes is to



Perfect pancakes. Aiden Litwiller and Wyatt Naseth make pancakes as their first breakfast unit lab.

Cycling for a cause

by Katie Shilts

When you like something as much as Garrik Block likes biking, why not do it for a good cause? According to Garrik, "I decided to do this because I like biking, and it is doing a good thing for people." That is what went through his head when he decided to raise money for cancer through his hobby. Garrik, a sophomore at Cameron High School, is raising money through The Great Cycle Challenge.

The Great Cycle Challenge is an organization that challenges people across the United States to set a goal of the number of miles they aim to ride. Then, they raise money by collecting donations on the Great Cycle Challenge's website. Donors can give anywhere from \$0.20 to \$20 per mile ridden; all the money raised is donated to the Children's Cancer Research

Fund (CCRF).

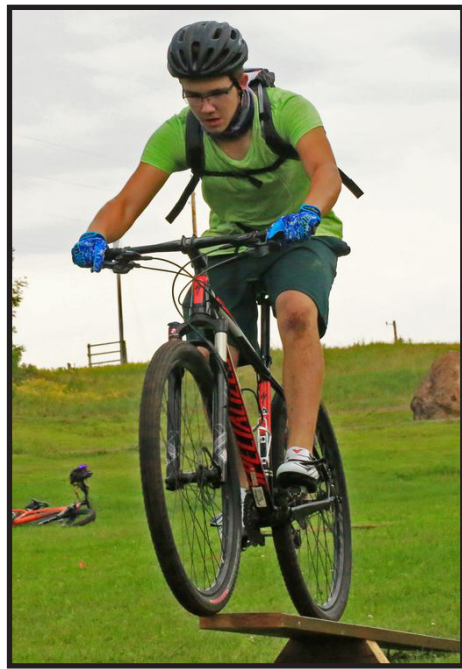
This year, the challenge took place in the month of September, which is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Garrik's goals for September were to ride 100 miles and raise \$500 for children's cancer. He ended up completing both: at the time of publication, he has biked 108 miles and collected \$636.18.

When he was five years old, he started biking, and he started doing races in sixth grade. At the beginning of seventh grade, he decided to start raising money through his biking. His favorite place to bike is just around town, but there is a trail in Eau Claire that he also likes to ride on. In addition to biking, Garrik also likes weightlifting and playing football.

If you are interested in helping this young man positively contribute to our society, you can donate

learn to make good food choices and nutritious meals.

The sixth grade exploratory class is essentially an intro to the classes Mrs. Adams offers, except for Fabric and Design and Foods. They cover child development, family communication, money management, and career clusters. A guest speaker is arranged to come in a few times a year to talk to the students and give more perspective on the topic they are learning about. The speaker talks about responsibility and hard versus soft skills. Soft skills relate to behavioral skills and hard skills are what you learn from taking a class. Sixth grade is also the starting point for career planning.



Confident cyclist. Garrrik Block, a CHS sophomore, was practicing his bike balancing skills using a teeter-totter.

at GreatCycleChallenge.com/Riders/GarrikBlock.

Boating blunder

by Kennedy Ladehoff

Occasionally, things will go a bit differently than planned. Some Cameron High School students in the Natural Resources class experienced this during a boating trip. Two canoes tipped over, but only one was purposeful. The canoes were supposed to be purposefully tipped to help students practice safely getting to shore and protect their belongings, such as a phone. However, the accidentally-tipped canoe was flipped due to the two students inside leaning different directions.

Canoeing was just one part of the trip. DNR boats, a Sheriff's boat, and a pontoon were also present during the trip. Students rotated between the boats and



Patrolling police. Cameron High School students ride on a police boat with the local police officers.

gained experience driving. Driving experience wasn't the only thing that students gained, as 20 students got their boating safety certification.

The organizer of the trip, Cameron High School teacher Mr.

Jeff Ladd, noted that he thought the boating trip went great, but the canoeing part of it went "okay" rather than great. Mr. Ladd also stated that the planning took lots of help from the community. Some of the people involved included wardens from the DNR and Deputy Krahenbuhl.

Besides boating, other things students do in Natural Resources involve fishing, identifying fish, measuring antlers, checking water quality, identifying animals and their tracks, and more. Mr. Ladd explained that the point of Natural Resources is to get kids outside, and he certainly accomplished that.



Canoeing catastrophe. Students Zachary Folz and Trent Raven get out of the water after their canoe tipped over.

Chainsaw fun

The Forestry Class had a (BORING) contest involving techniques of a chainsaw. All the students in the class participated and were very accurate with the bore/plunge cut of chainsaw use. These techniques will be used in the next level of Forestry. During the competition the students had to use all safety measures to accomplish the expected technique or risked a DQ and not a Dairy Queen.



Chainsaw champions. Winning the chainsaw competition was 1st place Caden Anderson, 2nd place Emma Anderson, 3rd place Kyle Nelson, 4th place Mason Becker-Olson, and 5th place Dan Nichols.