

School District of Cameron  
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# The Cometary



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## See you around, Class of 2023

by Sydney Leschisin

As the end of the school year soon approaches, the seniors are gearing up for graduation. Caps and gowns have been ordered. Parties are being planned. And speeches are being written. Throughout the 13 years of school together, this class of 56 students has grown personally, socially, athletically, and academically. As they leave behind Cameron High School, the seniors want to send out a few thank yous. To all the teachers, principals, and school staff, thank you for always being there for us. To our families, thank you for pushing us to do our best. To our coaches, thanks for showing us team work. To the club advisers, thank you for showing us hard work and leadership. To the community, thank you for coming to our events. And to fellow classmates, thanks for making our days more enjoyable.

Many seniors have reflected on their time at our school. Ella Randal exclaims, "Even though I'm not necessarily friends with everyone here, I'm still going to miss seeing all of the faces that I grew up with for 13 years." Another senior, Ethan Gifford, offers advice to underclassmen, "Work hard in school and sports. Get off the cell phones!"

Maycee Heggedahl comments, "Don't take it for granted. In the blink of an eye you'll be in my spot." I encourage everyone to take what they say to heart. After experiencing many new situations throughout high school, the seniors are sad to say goodbye, but they are excited for the future.

From meeting each other in kindergarten to planning get-togethers in our future, we have been through a lot as a class. State testing, the coronavirus, car crashes, school dances, break ups, first jobs, and college acceptances. The ups and downs of life.

Next year, our class is headed in many different directions. Some are going right into the workforce. A few are going to protect our country in the military. Others are taking a year off to have fun and save money. A couple are preparing for college sports. And the majority of graduates are packing for their respective universities. Either way, the Class of 2023 is ready to tackle their own versions of success. Send good wishes to the graduating class; I have no doubt that each one of them will carry out their lives with integrity and kindness.

Don't be afraid to chase your dreams. And, lastly, don't forget where you came from.



*Congratulations and  
Best Wishes,  
Class of 2023*

## From Mr. Meznarich - principal

### Graduation

The 2023 graduation ceremony will be on Friday, May 26th in the High School gym beginning at 7 pm. There will not be a limit to guests in attendance and we invite you to help us in celebrating this milestone achievement for our seniors.

### Summer school

Information has been mailed to students who will need to attend summer school to earn credit for a required class that they were not successful in during the school year. Summer school will run June 6 - June 23 from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. If you think you need summer school and did not get information, see Mr. Meznarich.

### Athletic code meeting

There will be no large group athletic code meeting for students interested in participating in athlet-

ics next school year. There will be an athletic code presentation at the pre-season meeting held by each sport. Reminder to all athletes that even though school is out for the summer, you are still expected to adhere to the athletic code expectations.

### Athlete registration

Students who are going to participate in athletics for the 2023-2024 school year need to register online to be eligible. The online registration can be found under the athletics tab on the district website. 2023-2024 School Year - Information regarding next school year will be mailed out to families in July. Student schedules will become available via Skyward on August 1. Freshman orientation will be Tuesday, August 29, and all students will report back on Wednesday, August 30.

### End of Year Info

The last student day is Friday, June 2. Students will have a full day of school. The morning will be spent returning materials, turning in computers, and cleaning lockers. After lunch, students will have a variety of activities that they can select to participate in. We hope everyone has a fun and safe summer vacation!

### Yearbook

It's not too late to order your yearbook. Yearbooks are delivered in September and they include all the events from the entire school year--including graduation! You may order at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com) or get an order form in the office and return it and your payment to Mrs. Hopkins. May 25 is the due date! Yearbooks are \$55 if you order by May 25.

Also, juniors should be thinking about having their senior pictures taken in the summer months in order to meet the November deadline.

## Getting into the swing of things

by Nicole Kargus

Giving it their best shot, the golf team members have to persevere through this year's challenges. Coach Brett Sauve and Assistant Coach Charlie Roherty continue to encourage the students to keep

*"They are inexperienced to start. It is about getting better throughout the experience."*

*~Assistant Coach Charlie Roherty*

practicing and not give up.

One of the biggest struggles that the golf team has faced this year is the weather. With all cold temperatures and bad weather this spring, the golf team hasn't



**Chipping away.** The golf team takes advantage of the good weather and goes outside on the practice football field behind the school.

been able to get out and practice on any driving ranges or golf courses. They've been confined to places like the high school library practicing putting, in the gym hitting birdie balls, or outside on the school's practice football field. This has limited the practice that the team has been able to get.

Mr. Charles Roherty, the assistant golf coach, states, "They are inex-

perienced to start. It is about getting better throughout the experience." Some of the students don't have parents who play golf and in turn don't have much experience before joining the golf team. They face a greater challenge to try to get more practice under their belt and get better.

The team continues to get better as they get more practice. According to Coach Sauve, the team has shaved 76 strokes off their early scores for the year!

Keep your heads high and continue to give it your best.



**Going golfing.** Tracy Jackson, Kyle Nelson, Sam Vogel, Zac Folz, Johnny Heil Wenzel, Jacob Meznarich, Giuseppe Pica, and Jack Griffin have a great time out on the golf course.

## Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Giese!

When Ron Giese of Rice Lake saw plans for a long-term building and equipment referendum for Cameron Schools in the local paper, he and his wife, Polly, decided to do their part. In fact they went well above the call, and donated a substantial sum to the school's Tech Ed department. Being a long time educator herself, Polly wanted to give back to the profession, and Ron liked the idea of donating to a very "tangible" cause. He wanted the department to purchase something that can

be put to use right away.

Working with district administrator Joe Leschisin, Cameron CTE teacher Jay Cornell made a list of needs. With the Giese's donation, the school was able to purchase several new machines for the woodworking/area, the welding area, and the drafting and design area. Then on a Wednesday morning in May, the Giese's were given a tour of the department and saw first-hand their money in use.

"I've been doing this a long time in several school districts but this is the first time I have seen a donation this substantial from a private citizen", said

Cornell. More surprising was the fact that the Giese's have no ties to Cameron or the school. They do now.

On behalf of Cameron students present and future, thank you.



**Great gift.** Mr. Cornell's ProductionTech class enjoys their new planer -- one of many new pieces of equipment they received with the Giese's generous gift.

### Golf Members

*Seniors:*  
Kyle Nelson

*Juniors:*  
Seppie Pica

*Sophomores:*  
James Brown  
Zac Folz  
Kyle Johnson  
Jacob Meznarich  
Jonny Heil Wenzel

*Freshmen:*  
Jackson Griffin  
Tracy Jackson  
JJ Martinson  
Sam Vogel

# Speedy students

by Katie Shilts

Although the Cameron track team is young and relatively inexperienced, they are led by four seniors (Sydney Leschisin, Leo Luckert, Cole Lundequam, and Jacob Pearson) and three sophomore former State qualifiers. Lexi Kuffel, Lauren Pearson, and Maddie Severt all qualified for State in the sprint relays -- 400 and 800 meters -- while Lauren also competed in the long jump in 2022.

Mr. David Martin, high school English teacher, is in his 20th year as head coach and helps with every event. Returning coaches are Tanner Drew -- who is the jumping coach -- and Andrea Pearson, who helps with jumps, hurdles, and relays. New this year is Mr. Jay Cornell to coach the throwers, sprinters, and distance runners.

The athletes have already enjoyed some success this season, highlighted by the strong, balanced

girls team winning Barron's

Heart of the North meet, and placing second at three other meets. The boys team has been improving over the course of the season, with their best finish of fourth place at both Chetek and Barron.

Many school records have fallen at the hands of the team, including four indoor and two outdoor records. During the indoor season, Tyler Phillips (shot put), Lauren



**MVP.** Lexi Kuffel, a sophomore, earned the Knicker Invite "Meet MVP" after her two 1st place and one 2nd place finishes at Chetek.



**2023 CHS track team.** Back row L to R: Coach Jay Cornell, Head Coach David Martin, Tyler Phillips, Coach Andrea Pearson, Coach Tanner Drew, Jayce Allen, Aiden Golat, Sean Oliver, Garrik Block, Christian Blood, Kallen Kennedy, Brandon Kearns, Gatlin Robel, Landon Burgess, Izzy Harder, Garrett Givens, Lauren Pearson, Katie Shilts, Jacob Pearson, Sydney Leschisin, Cole Lundequam, Anna Baribeau, Layla Gagner, Keara Butterfield, Jordyn Lundequam, Kierra Schuebel, Brett Mikolon, Westin Candler, Hailey Hince, Jami Folz, Lexi Kuffel, Chloe Wall, Maddie Severt, Kendal Robel, Colt Mikolon, Jaden Jackson, Julien Foster, Leo Luckert, Tristan Vincent, and Jady Siemers.

Pearson (55 meter hurdles, long jump), and Lexi Kuffel (200 meter dash) broke school records. So far this outdoor season, Jacob Pearson (pole vault) and Tyler Phillips (shot put) have earned the highest marks in program history and Lexi continues to break her own records in the 400 and 800.

Additionally, on April 25 at the Chetek meet, Lexi Kuffel was awarded the Knicker Invite "Meet MVP" award for helping her 800 meter relay place first, and placing first and second in the 200 and 400

meter dashes. Her relay, consisting of Lexi, Lauren, Maddie, and freshman Jordyn Lundequam, even had the fastest time in Division 3 in the state at one point.

The Comets wrapped up the regular season and now they look ahead to Conference, Regionals, and Sectionals. This year's Sectional track meet will be held at Cameron High School on Thursday, May 25. The Comets will look to qualify as many events as possible to the State Meet in La Crosse. Good luck, tracksters!



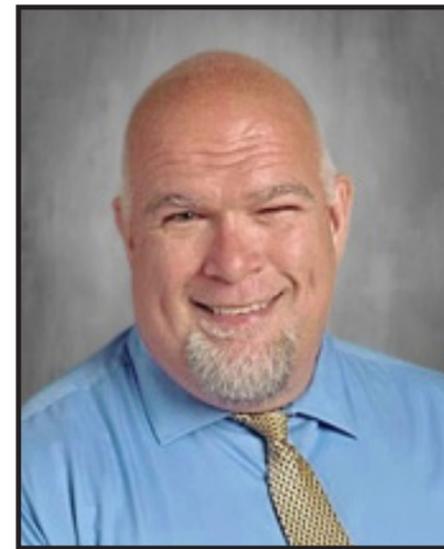
**Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Golat!** "We saw the kids didn't have a tent. They needed one. We got them one and printed it so they could be proud to have a nice tent just for them," said Mrs. Golat. Thanks so much!

# Hello, goodbye

by Ella Randall

A new principal is making his way to the high school this fall. Let us give a warm welcome to Mr. Mark Rykal!

Mr. Rykal will be joining us from Shell Lake,



**Welcome!** Mark Rykal will be taking over as the Cameron High School principal starting in the fall.

where he is currently the principal of the Shell Lake Middle and High schools. His wife, Madeline Liedl-Rykal, is a kindergarten teacher at Cameron Elementary School.

With Mr. Rykal becoming the high school principal, our current principal will be stepping down from his high school role. Mr. John Meznarich will be taking over as the K-12 principal for the Cameron Academy of Virtual Education, (CAVE) which works with students around the entire state of Wisconsin. Mr. Meznarich states, "I am looking forward to working with the staff, students, and families who are involved in the CAVE program. I am also looking forward to learning about how the program runs and continuing to grow the program's success."

There will be some hardships from stepping down from princi-



**See you around!** John Meznarich will be stepping down from being Cameron High School principal, and will be taking over as the principal of CAVE.

pal, a role that he has fulfilled for eight years. Mr. Meznarich states, "I am going to miss working with the students and staff and the high school the most. When I go to different conferences or meetings, I love hearing about how great our students are here at Cameron, and I can definitely agree with those sentiments."

We are all looking forward to meeting Mr. Rykal, and Mr. Meznarich will be missed!

# Solo/ensemble greats!



**Playing your hearts out.** Some of the Cameron High School Band members qualified for and performed at the WSMA State Solo and Ensemble festival at the UW-Eau Claire campus. The CHS Jazz Ensemble, Maddie Gilles and Katie Shilts' trumpet duet, Aiden Hawkins' snare drum solo, and Jamyne Schofield's alto saxophone solo earned a 1 rating. The CHS Saxophone Choir, Ellie Gerber's piano solo, Cole Lundequam and Jordyn Lundequam's trumpet duet, J.J. Martinson's marimba solo, and Sam Bryngelson and Kaylynn Ewalds' clarinet duet earned a 2 rating. Well done, Comets!

# Dressed to impress

by Caitlin Quarders

Dance the night away! Cameron High School's Prom was held at The Mill in Chetek on April 15. Freshmen through seniors got all dressed up to take pictures, go out to eat, and dance to music played by DJ Mr. Brett Ridout.

King and queen voting differed this year - only students who actually attended prom could vote. Every attendee chose a king and a queen from the junior's court. Each pairing wrote an introduction for each other and they did a skit before walking to the back of the dance floor. Everyone's walk-ups were so creative and entertaining for everyone!

Finally, the anticipation was over, and the votes were counted. The 2021-22 King Julian Pense and Queen Sydney Leschisin crowned the two new monarchs: Queen Chloe Wall and King Caden Anderson! Following the crowning, students danced or hung out in the lounge area. Prom committee had gatorades, water, goldfish, and pretzels out for students to have during the night.

Memories were made and fun was had! Special thanks to Mr. Brett Whittenburger for taking

Prom Court Pairings	
<i>Evelyn Martinson</i>	<i>Inigo Caballero Valle</i>
<i>Madalyn Gilles</i>	<i>Kory Murray</i>
<i>Chloe Wall</i>	<i>Caden Anderson</i>
<i>Emma Anderson</i>	<i>Micheal Kuchera Jr.</i>
<i>Jami Folz</i>	<i>Kobe Sevals</i>
<i>Jamyne Schofield</i>	<i>Tyson Lucas</i>
<i>Briana Kisling</i>	<i>Tanner Saffert</i>

pictures the whole night, which you can find at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/y9ftoLH47Gbftjpv6>.



# Scoring runs

by Kennedy Ladehoff

Cameron High School softball is hitting it out of the park this year. The team is doing well despite having faced weeks with six games. This left little time to practice during the season, but the team is performing with tempo and speed great. There might not be much time for practice, but they're still working together well as a team.

Senior Ashlie Falstad stated that she felt the team was doing well and working together. Ashlie is one of eight seniors this year. The other seniors include Maycee Sarah Rubenzer, Linden, Gretta Hall, Home run. Katie Larson hits the softball during a game. They will be missed by the rest of the team. Ashlie states that she loves pitching along with being outside



Pep talk. Cora Romsos talks with her fellow teammates in the dugout during a game.

and having fun with the team. She has played since kindergarten and still enjoys contributing to the team. She, along with the other seniors are going to miss the team members they've bonded with. Ashlie is going to miss sing-alongs after games and playing in general.

This year has been rough on

the team, but they've been persevering despite the busy schedule. The team works well together no matter how rough an inning might get. The seniors are part of this teamwork and they will enjoy their last moments. However many tough things may be thrown at the team, they're sure to hit it out of the park.



Working as a team. The Cameron High School softball team gathers around after playing a game indoors.

# A swing and a hit

Baseball is in full swing, finally! After a few delays and cold/rainy games, the Comet ballers have had some better luck with good weather and bats connecting. However, the double headers get to be long and stressful!

With a huge number of freshmen joining the team this year, the Junior Varsity team has gone 3 - 5 to date with some heaving hitters and good field players.

At the Varsity level, only one senior, Logan Crawford, leads the team even though he is coming off an injury. Junior pitchers Hayden Hince, Tyson Lucas, Brady Quinn, Gannon Ebert, Kory Murray, and sophomores Ryker Ebert and Mike Reynolds have been "pitching" up some success. Junior Hayden Hince said, "The best part of this year has been hanging out and having fun with the boys."

Good luck as the "ducks on the pond" race in and score!



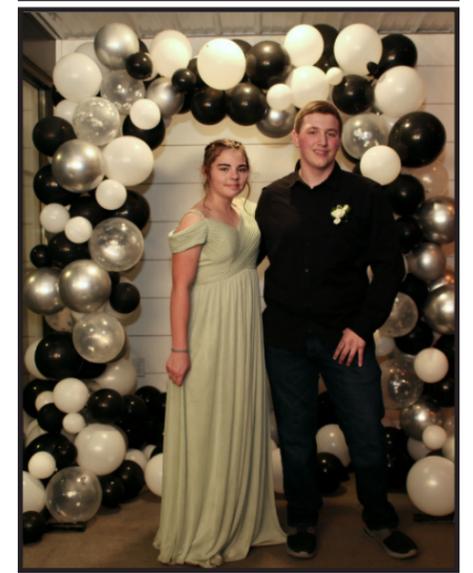
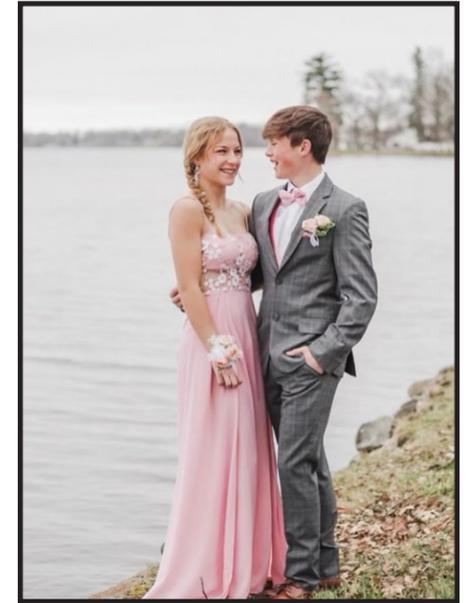
**Comet Baseball, Varsity, 2023.** Coach Ben Larson and Coach Tom Daniels, Mike Reynolds, Brady Quinn, Logan Crawford, Carter Cherney, Gannon Ebert, Tyson Lucas, Ryker Ebert, Hayden Hince, Chase Hauck, Kory Murray, Ethan Frampton, Colton Kunert, Kobe Sevals, Anthony Demulling, Mason Becker-Olson, Wyatt Halverson, and Ryder Buzek.



**Comet Baseball 2023.** Coach Jordan Clark, Coach Ben Larson, Coach Tom Daniels, and Coach Josh Halverson, Ryker Ebert, Brady Gronski, Carter Cherney, Treye Zimmerman, Chase Hauck, Anthony Demulling, Gavin Harshman, Anthony Hairston, Mason Becker-Olson, Jayton Silvernail, Myles Grassman, Ethan Frampton, Wyatt Nassest, Xander Williams, Colton Kunert, Logan Simenson, Nathaniel Fawley, and Parker Humphrey.



**Winding up.** Pitcher Tyson Lucas burns the ball into the strike zone and strikes out the batter!



# Leading the State

by Emma Somerville

Twelve Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students competed at the State Conference in Green Bay. The conference was held April 16 - 18. While the FBLA team was in Green Bay, they were able to attend workshops, tours and compete.



**State trip.** FBLA members visit Lambeau Field for state.

Five will be advancing to Nationals June 27 - 30, in Atlanta, Georgia. The members going are Sydney Leschisin, Evelyn Martinson, Chloe Wall, Abigail Salmonson, and Jami Folz. Jami placed 4th in Word Processing, Sydney Leschisin placed 1st in Publication Design, and Evelyn, Chloe, and Abigail placed 1st in Broadcast Journalism.

Other members who competed include Katelyn Kohel in Health Care Administration, Elisabeth Gerber in Intro to Event Planning, Audry Grady

**FBLA leaders.** Both Sydney Leschisin and Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins ended their term on the State Executive Board.



in Cyber Security, Ryan Hodge in Job Interview, and competing as a group Donara Bjugstad, Savannah Sadowski, and Laila Guerra in Intro to Social Media Strategies.

Sydney also closed her position as a State Reporter at the State conference. As the State Reporter, she was responsible for writing press material and promoting FBLA. Sydney was awarded a Who's Who FBLA award. Who's Who is a special recognition given to those with outstanding contributions to their local and State FBLA chapter.

FBLA members did an amazing job at State this year and will continue to do great at Nationals.



**Future business leaders.** Cameron's FBLA chapter sent twelve members to the State Leadership Conference April 16 - 18, and returned with several trophies. Sydney Leschisin also ended her time as the State Reporter.

# Speaking at the Capitol

by Emma Somerville

Cameron's Forensics team went to Madison, WI on Friday April 21 and Saturday April 22 to compete at state. Thirty-five students attended and all did amazing jobs. Students competed individually and in groups, and competed in different categories such as poetry, acting, prose, and impromptu.

The Forensics team did such an outstanding job this year at the State tournament, that they were in the top ten percent out of 304 schools. They were awarded the WISDAA Distinction in Speech Award.

Mrs. Sheri Hagen-Salm says "When kids dedicate their winter to Forensics, they have to get up early on cold winter mornings to public speak in front of their peers, but the state trip to Madison makes it all worth it. Kids are able to walk into the Capitol, bond with their classmates, and compete at a high level."

The Forensics team worked hard this year, and all that hard work paid off.



**Take on the Capitol.** Cameron's Forensics team went to Madison to compete at the Forensics State Tournament.

## Individual Categories

Katie Kohel, Solo Acting, Gold  
 Khalia Evans, Farrago, Gold  
 Christian Blood, Prose, Silver  
 Madeline Buckwheat, Prose, Silver  
 Ella Randall, Poetry, Silver  
 Sarah Weber, Solo Acting, Silver  
 Jacob Lembke, Prose, Silver  
 Seppie Pica, Solo Acting, Silver  
 Colton Melton, Prose, Silver  
 Ashaaylah Hill, Oratory, Bronze  
 Cole Lundequam, Impromptu, Bronze  
 Ellie Gerber, Solo Acting, Bronze

## Group Categories

Anthony Demulling, Aryn Olson, and Sean Oliver, Group Interpretation, Gold  
 Abby Kuchera, Kia Plucar, and Audrey Grady, Group Interpretation, Gold  
 Michael Kuchera, Ethan Gifford, and Luke Salm, Group Interpretation, Gold  
 Ryan Hodge, Abigail Salmonson, Madalyn Gilles, Chloe Wall, Evelyn Martinson, Play Acting, Silver  
 Zoe Rubenzer, Garin Melton, Jordyn Allen, and Sydney Leschisin, Play Acting, Silver



**Off to Madison.** The Cameron Forensics seniors ended their high school speaking careers with a trip to our state capitol.



**Forensics freshmen.** Abby Kuchera, Ellie Gerber, Audrey Grady, Kia Plucar, and Colton Melton enjoyed their first year in Forensics, culminating with the trip to Madison.