

## Powerlifting

by: Abigail Altizer

As the 2023-2024 Cameron Powerlifting season is coming to an end, we have got to say that it was another successful year. The Powerlifting team, now in its sixth year, had 31 members compete in regional meets. Of these 31, 6 qualified for the Wisconsin High School Powerlifting Association's State Meet. One impressive young lady took home a medal.

The Cameron Powerlifting team competed in regional meets in Osceola, New Richmond, Elk Mound, and Cameron. The 2023-2024 team consisted of 31 members including 6 seniors (Sean Oliver, Dan Nichols, Westin Candler, Logan Simenson, Lucas Simenson, Jamyne Schofield, and Caden Daniells). Many athletes medaled at the regional meets.

Those athletes included Ava Lusson, Anna Baribeau, Taya Jossart, Kierra Scheubel, Alyssa Sagen, Garrik Block, Dan Nichols, Sean Oliver, John Raisch, Julien Foster, and Kyra Schofield.

The following competed at the state powerlifting competition: Anna Baribeau, Alyssa Sagen, Kierra Scheubel, Taya Jossart, Jacob Meznarich, and Garrik Block. They all performed very well. A new personal record was set by Jacob Meznarich, with a 275 pound deadlift. Alyssa also set new personal records in every lift. A new bench and squat personal record was set by Kierra. Anna moved up 13 spots from last year's placing. Garrik

moved to 6th and just missed the podium. Ending up on the podium, medaling in 4th place in the 114 pound weight class was Taya Jossart.

All 6 of the state qualifiers, along with other returning athletes, will carry on the successful tradition of the Cameron Powerlifting.



**Taking home the medal.** Elk Mound Regional meet: Jacob Meznarich, Kierra Scheubel, Julien Foster, Dan Nichols, John Raisch, Taya Jossart, Ava Lusson, Anna Baribeau.

## Notes from Mr. Rykal

It has been a very interesting winter, in a lot of different aspects. This weather has definitely defied the traditional idea of Wisconsin winters! Not shoveling snow from the driveway has been great, but I do miss the outdoor activities our area is known for. Maybe next year!

But this winter has also been interesting inside the high school building. As a new principal, I have stressed the importance of building relationships, taking care of each other, and exhibiting positive behaviors. And we are moving in the right direction!

We have had our struggles, but students are working toward a safe and positive environment. Staff members are addressing behavior issues and delivering rigorous instruction. And we are looking for support from parents as we continue to address behaviors, attendance issues, and keeping students on track academically.

As we approach spring and enjoy even more warm weather, we will continue to make changes and grow a positive and safe school climate. We hope you will help us keep students engaged and positive as we finish the year strong!

Financial Literacy is now a graduation requirement in Wisconsin.

Graduation requirements will be changing at Cameron High School and across the state. We are working to use classes we already offer, Personal Finance and Financial Algebra, to meet the state requirements.

"Democratic Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers signed a bill on Dec. 6 that mandates high schools teach at least one semester of financial literacy to every student in the state.

Starting with the class of 2028, the bill requires high school students earn at least one semester of personal financial literacy that includes financial mindset, education and employment, money management, saving and investing, credit and debt, risk management and insurance.

'It is impossible to win the money game if you don't know the rules,' said Patrick Kubeny, a recently retired personal finance teacher at Rhinelander High School in a press release. 'This bill will ensure, at the very least, that each and every Wisconsin student will be provided the chance to learn those vital money rules.'

Peter Cameron, The Badger Project.

For the 2024-25 school year, it will be recommended that all Seniors take Personal Finance or Financial Algebra. By 2025-26, we will look at making it a requirement and pos-

sibly revising or combining the above classes.

Additional Course Requirement, Civics, May Come Soon:

An additional course requirement of Civics will most likely be approved in the near future. "A statewide Civics curriculum would be created that all Wisconsin public and private schools would have to follow under a Republican-authored bill the State Assembly passed on Tuesday."

The measure would also require all public school students to take at least a half credit in Civics education in order to graduate...

... "Under the bill, the required civics curriculum would have to include teaching the history and context of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and 'a sense of civic pride and desire to participate regularly with government at all levels.'" AP Author: FOX6 Milwaukee.

Cameron High School already offers a Civics class, and we would review the course structure to make sure it meets the required curriculum. It would then be required for all Seniors to take the course before graduation. We will update Cameron students if and when this bill is passed.

# Club Updates

by Caitlin Quarders

Cameron High School was full of holiday spirit in the months of November and December. Our clubs were out in the community, spreading holiday cheer!

Almost every club, high school and middle school, help pack Comet Care Packs throughout the whole year. The packages go to local families who may be going through a tough time and need some help. Especially during the holiday season, it is helpful for club members to give time out of their day to help pack these kits.

FCCLA did their annual "Adopt-a-Family" event. The club "adopts" a family through the Spirit of Christmas, a non-profit business dedicated to bringing holiday joy to local families in need. The



**Adopt-a-Family.** FCCLA bought two carts full of goodies to donate.

to share for lunch in Mrs. Adams' room.

FBLA went to the elementary school to make gingerbread cookies with the 1st graders. Every

read "The Gingerbread Man" by Miriam Latimer and Mara Alperin. Once students were done decorating their cookies, the class played Holiday themed educational games. Back at the high school, FBLA had a tree in the commons with paper ornaments on them. On each ornament was an item that people could buy and wrap up to be sent to a local family in need. That tree was a hit, and there were only a few ornaments left. For the ornaments that were leftover, Mrs. Hopkins and some students went to Walmart and paid for them using Cameron's FBLA fund. How generous of them!

Spanish Club also traveled to the elementary school! The high schoolers shared slideshows they made about the holidays in other countries. The 3rd and 4th grade students rotated through 3-4 presentations—learning about other countries in each classroom. Some of the high schoolers provided treats and played games to go with their presentations. It was so interesting for the students to see the differences between other countries

classroom had 4-5 high school students that helped to distribute and decorate gingerbread cookies using colored frosting and fun sprinkles. While the students were decorating their cookies, they were



**Christmas potluck!** Students brought in a wide variety of meals, including: sloppy joes, pulled pork, macaroni, vegetables, meat, fruit, many desserts, and a cheese ball.

club went to Walmart and bought enough gifts for the two families they adopted this year. As well as their community event, FCCLA also had a Christmas potluck where students each brought in a snack

# The Tradition Continues

by Keara Butterfield and Abby Altizer

Emma Anderson, Keara Butterfield, Katie Larson, Sommer Pittman, Jamyne Schofield, Grace Dexter, Keirra Schuebel, Taya Josart, Reyana Ladd, Alyssa Sagen, Kyra Schofield, and Madison Huffman, took a bold move and joined the Girls Wrestling team coached by Mr. Jeff Ladd. They started in November learning all new moves. Moves that none of them had done before or had even heard of before this point.

On December 3 they traveled to Antigo and stayed overnight to wrestle in the first tournament of the season. With only a few weeks of practice under their belt they still came back with some medals. Throughout the season the girls wracked up team awards and many personal awards. The girls had some amazing leadership, and some of them will never get to come back but will miss their time spent in the wrestling room.

Because of the low number of female wrestlers they didn't participate in regionals, however they get to go straight to sectionals, which was held in Edger.



**Teary Night.** These five seniors, Jamyne Schofield, Keara Butterfield, Emma Anderson, Sommer Pittman, and Katie Larson, stand with Coach Ladd on senior night.



**Cameron's First.** Junior Keirra Schuebel comes off the mat happy after her 4th place finish

Advancing from sectionals to state in the Kohls Center in Madison was Keara Butterfield, Grace Dexter, Keirra Schuebel, Reyana Ladd and Alyssa Sagen. The entire team went down to support the girls. They left Wednesday night and stayed until Sunday. Cameron had one girl make it to Saturday, Keirra Schuebel, for the first time in Cameron history medalled in state with a fourth place finish. The girls team was filled with joy and laughter, but they worked their butts off to get where they are now. Many of the athletes have said how this sport has become their favorite, and some of the seniors are wanting to come back and coach or even take it a step further to the college level.



**Bold Move.** Sophomore Connor Carlson lifts his opponent over his shoulders.

This year the boys team got to share the room with the girls, but that didn't stop them from putting in their all this season. Led by five seniors, Westen Candler, Caden Daniels, Anthony Demulling, Ethan Frampton, Lukas Simenson, and Zach Zappa the boys wrestled hard. The boys started their season with the same big event in Antigo as the girls. Battling through knee injuries, concussions, and shoulder injuries, the boys pulled through and advanced 7 to sectionals. Those 7 were Sawyer Ebner, Ethan Frampton, Lukas Simenson, Westin Candler, Colt Mickolon, Garrik Block, and Connor Carlson. Sadly, no boys advanced on, and the coaches are sad to see that their season is over. The coaches would like to thank the seniors on an amazing season, and wish them well in their future. And thank you to the following coaches Mitch Breed, Brent Scoles, and Tony Nord!



# Dance

by: Emma Somerville

The dance team this year consisted of 9 dancers including Aubrie Valdez, Janelle Barnes, Kia Plucar, Sofia Diana, Audrey Grady, Arabella Kringle, Amelia Guider, Elizabeth Gerber, and Alyseia Loew.

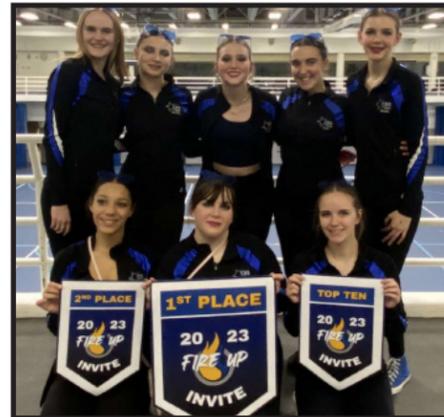
They danced at 5 competitions and did 12 performances for our school football and basketball

games. Their first competition was at Menomonie Holiday Classic, then they went to Prairie Farm where they placed 1st in Kick, 2nd in Hip Hop, 4th in Pom. The lead team consisting of Aubrie, Janelle, Kia, and Arabella also performed in Prairie Farm and placed 1st for their jazz routine. At the UW-Eau Claire competition they placed

1st in Kick and 3rd place in Hip Hop. For their last competition the team danced at WACPC where they placed 6th in Kick. Unfortunately the team missed going to state by seven points, but they had a great season at competitions and performing routines at school games.



**Kick line.** The Cameron Dance Team performed their kick line routine at the UW-Eau Claire competition.



**Awards.** The dance team celebrates their placements at the Prairie Farm Competition.

# Frozen Fun

by Jacob Meznarich

The Northwest Icemen are a Division 1 co-op between Barron, Cumberland, Chetek, Cameron, Bloomer, Shell Lake, and Boyceville. The Icemen have played hard this season, with lots of ups and downs. Ten of their games were within three goals and three of those games were decided in double overtime.

They have four seniors, two from Barron, one from Boyceville, and one from Cameron. Hayden Hince, senior from Cameron, has 14 goals and 15 assists adding up for a season record 29 points. In their game against Chequamegon, Hayden Hince scored a hat trick and had an assist in the 7:0 victory. In their second game against Som-



**Time Out.** Goaltender Jacob Meznarich talks with forward Garret Givens before overtime.

erset, Hayden Hince scored a goal and goaltender Jacob Meznarich had a career high 50 saves in the loss. Freshman Sanden Kunkel scored his first high school goal

in a game against Amery. Sophomore Garret Givens had a personal best seven points. The Icemen's season ended with their loss to the Eau Claire Memorial Old Abes.

and their own.

The National Honor Society participated in the Salvation Army bell-ringing at Marketplace. They also adopted a local family for Christmas. Along with Mrs. Kuffel, three NHS members spent an afternoon shopping at Walmart to help provide some holiday cheer for a local family going through a tough time.

FFA held a club-wide white elephant, secret Santa, and Christmas potluck party. Club members could participate in any or all of the events, but the potluck was most popular by far. For secret Santa, students would buy 4-5 gifts for their partner and stealthily deliver them without the recipient knowing who it was. At the potluck, everyone revealed who they thought was their secret Santa, and the people who were right in guessing got bragging rights. Everyone brought a dish for the potluck and



two gifts for the white elephant dice game. Every student there left with something new!

Student Council ran the annual door-decorating contest. Student Council members created a prompt for every homeroom by pulling a random Christmas-themed word and non-holiday themed word (ex. ice-skating/birthday, ladder/chimney, snowflake/tennis, etc). Every homeroom in the school took around three days to create their perfect holiday door based on the random prompts that student council gave.

# Ms. Wanink Notes

My first year as the Cameron High School Counselor has been going great! The staff and community have been nothing but supportive and encouraging of my role here in Cameron. I've loved the job and everything that comes with it. Currently, my focus has been directed toward assisting next year's juniors and seniors in applying for college courses. We utilize two great programs: Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP). These two programs allow high school students to earn college credits while still in high school. It's been great to see so many students take advantage of this opportunity. In addition,

we have also been working hard to help the current 8th graders transition smoothly into high school next year. We will help them schedule their freshman-year classes in the upcoming weeks. Recently, we had 12 high school students answer questions from



the 8th grade class. It was a good opportunity for the 8th-grade class to get some answers to any fears or concerns they may have upon entering high school next year. Self Care Tips for the Upcoming Break:

- Get Outside! Exposure to natural sunlight increases levels of vitamin D and serotonin, which are known to boost your mood.
- Enjoy your vacation time and make time to read.
- Practice mindful, healthy eating habits.
- Maintain a decent sleep schedule.
- Stay hydrated (H<sub>2</sub>O) and be active!

# FFA National Convention

by Keara Butterfield

This year five Cameron FFA members got up at two in the morning to get on a bus and make a trip down to Indianapolis, Indiana on October 31. Those five individuals were Keara Butterfield, Alex Miller, Lorelei and Izzy Schieffer, and Danica Lee. The bus made other stops along the way to pick up different schools.



**Good Looking Gang.** The FFA members stand for a picture during their time in Indianapolis.

On their way they stopped at a pheasant farm where they had a bus tour through the farm, learning about the different breeds of birds. Once they arrived at the hotel, they had just enough time to play a few rounds of cards. Keara recalls playing cards with a guy from Florida, and he didn't even know that Wisconsin was a real place.

At the convention the group got the chance to walk around and talk to different ag businesses. Tractor Supply even had a dance floor reserved for line dancing and karaoke. Some of the members took a trip to the Army booth to try out some of their fun events they had throughout the day. Culvers,

being the main sponsor of the FFA National Convention, had a booth where they gave out unlimited custard, along with other booths that had fun games to win some prizes. Such as Ariat, they had a deal that if you post a picture with the tag line #AriatFFA you could win a free hat. One day they had a tour at Home Growers, the business that grows the plants at many of the Home Depots and Ikeas in the surrounding areas. They got to walk through the green houses and see the many different types of poinsettias for the winter season.

The group hung out at Dave and Busters where they got to eat with the friends they made on the bus, then got to play around in the arcade. Mr. Ladd had fun playing racing games while the rest played away their points to win a microphone which they used later on the bus for a fun karaoke session.

The FFA members got a chance to walk in the same dirt the rodeo riders use before the big show. They had the chance to enter in a drawing, sit on top of Silver Dollar the bull, and even learn to rope with some of the cowboys. Then they sat in the seats for the big event where they watched bareback riders, bull riders, and the saddle-broke riders. The intermission entertainment of the night was an amazing show from Dusti Crain where she rode two horses at a time by standing on their backs!

On Friday, November 3 the group packed up and headed home. They traveled back up the Mississippi and finally back to Cameron. They had a blast and are grateful for



**Ready...Set...GO!** Mr. Ladd enjoyed playing a motorcycle racing game and he won!

the experience that FFA let them have. They had fun making friends along the way, learning about the different businesses and colleges at convention, and the time they had together.



**Rodeo Fun.** Lorile, Danica, Izzy, Keara, and Alex walked on the floor for pictures.



**Goofing Off.** The group can't stand still and keep laughing while taking pictures.

# Lock In

by Katie Shilts

A momentous season for the Cameron girls basketball team ended in a 79-73 loss to Phillips in the regional final game. Despite being a young team, with no seniors and starting three juniors and two freshmen, they ended the season with a record of 20-6, the most wins since 2017-18. The team finished in a three-way tie for second in the Heart of the North Conference, with Barron and Hayward. Each had a conference record of 15-4, trailing only St. Croix Falls.

After losing 3 of their first 4 games and 4 of the first 7, the girls were winners of 11 straight. They received a three seed and a first round bye in the Division 4 playoffs. Hosting the Cadott Hornets in the second round, Cameron pulled away for a 15-point win.

Four players were recognized for All-Conference Honors: Bailey Olson earned First Team, Lexi Kuffel received Second Team, and Olivia Leschisin and Inez Schmidt earned Honorable Mention.



**She's a freshman.** Freshman Bailey Olson earned First Team All Conference honors after leading the team with 15.2 points per game.



**2023-24 Girls Basketball Team.** This year's girls basketball team ended the season with a record of 20-6 and made it to the regional final playoff game. They finished tied for second place in the Heart of the North Conference.

This season's motto was "Lock In." Head Coach Chloe Wanink said, "This group of girls enjoyed having fun but they did a great job of recognizing when to 'lock in' and focus. The girls took that in stride and it definitely showed in our success on the court."

In addition to being a young team, it was Coach Wanink's first year coaching the Cameron Comets. A 2015 graduate and Cameron's all-time leading scorer, she drastically improved the program in just her first year. Junior Maddie Severt commented, "Chloe has changed our girls basketball program. She is absolutely amazing. I look up to her as an individual and a coach. I can speak for the whole team to say that we are all very grateful to have her as our coach!"

The Cameron girls basketball team now looks ahead to next season. They graduated no seniors this sea-

son and are ready to build off of this season's success. They are "locked in" and ready to accomplish even more.



**Laying it in.** Junior Cora Romsos shoots a floater over a Northwestern defender during the Comets' 61-51 home win.

# A Successful Season

by Katie Shilts

Head Coach Troy LaVallie emphasizes the same core covenants each year he coaches-- FACT, or Fun, Attitude, Compete, and Team. These mottos served the Cameron boys basketball team well this season both on and off the court. Finishing the regular season with a record of 22-2, they also won the Heart of the North Conference, only losing one conference game.

The team was led by a strong group of five seniors: Tyson Lucas, Brady Quinn, Kory Murray, Kobe Sevals, and Tyrise Brooks. Additionally, five juniors, Treye Zimmerman, Carter Cherney, Bennett Moravitz, Chase Hauck, and Parker Davis, and sophomore Scott Butterfield also stepped into their varsity roles to contribute to the team. Coach LaVallie said about his team, "We had a great group of seniors who set the tone for the season, and our juniors really stepped up as well. It was a fun



**2023-24 Varsity Boys Basketball Team.** The varsity team was made up of Kory Murray, Brady Quinn, Carter Cherney, Scott Butterfield, Treye Zimmerman, Bennett Moravitz, Tyrise Brooks, Tyson Lucas, Parker Davis, Kobe Sevals, and Chase Hauck. They won the Heart of the North Conference with a regular season record of 22-2.

season and a great group of kids to coach. They work hard and have fun on the court."

Four Comets earned Heart of the North All-Conference honors: Tyson Lucas and Brady Quinn were named First Team, and Tyson was voted as the Conference Player of the Year. Second Team recognition



**Highest scorer.** Tyson Lucas scored more than 1,480 points in his high school career, breaking the previous Cameron Boys Basketball all-time scoring record in their home game against Ashland.



**Future stars.** The varsity players sign posters and jerseys for the youth after their game on February 2 against Hayward.

went to Kory Murray and Carter Cherney. Tyson Lucas also broke the program's scoring record of 1,480 points in their home game against Ashland.

In addition to a strong varsity program, the JV and C-Team squads also had successful seasons. The JV went 19-3 and the C-Team was 14-7 on the year.

# Band and Choir Concert

by Caitlin Quaders

Cameron High School's band and choir were busy learning new songs and rehearsing for their February concerts all throughout winter.

Cameron School District's music department held their Midwinter Band Concert on Monday, February 26th. The concert included performances from fifth graders up to the high school band. One of Mr. Halverson's student aides, Jacob Lembke (senior), conducted the fifth grade band during the concert.

The high school portion of the concert was especially important because the songs were in tribute to our community service members. Among the service mem-

bers celebrated were firefighters, EMS, Healthcare Professionals, Law Enforcement, and all of our Armed Forces. Before the band started playing, Mr. Halverson asked people in those careers to stand up in the audience and be recognized. Following their "Suite for Heroes Among Us" portion, the band played every United States' Armed Forces branch's song. As the branch's songs played, service members of those branches in the audience would stand up for a round of applause. The community showed great appreciation for our servicemen and women.

An excerpt from Mr. Scott Jensen, Cameron School District's Choir teacher:

Special thank you to all of our community members who help keep Cameron safe, healthy, and happy!

On Monday evening, February 19th, the Cameron Middle School and High School vocal music department presented their 2024 Mid-Winter Concert. The concert included the 5th Grade Choir, 6th Grade Choir, 7th and 8th Grade Choir, and High School Concert Choir. The women of the high school choir were also featured on one song. The concert choir sang six songs ranging from a celebration song sung in Swahili to a Scottish folk song, to the spiritual entitled "Witness." We were assisted by Nicole Kargus who played flute on the Scottish folk song. One defining aspect of the concert for the High School choir is that four of the six selections had texts written by such distinguished authors and poets as Emily Dickenson, Langston Hughes and Robert Frost. All of our Cameron singers performed extremely well and the concert was a great success.



**Work those vocals!** Cameron High School's Choir has worked tirelessly to make sure their voices are performance ready.



**Suite for the Heroes Among Us.** The high school band played a series of three songs, each dedicated to a different type of service in our community.

# Abundant Activities

by Nicole Kargus

Despite the name of the day, this year's Winter Carnival was sunny and warm! On January 31, all high school students were given the opportunity to attend one of seven fun activities instead of a regular school day. The available activities were bowling, touring college campuses, ice skating, roller skating, going to Action City, or going to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

Bowling at Rands Lanes in Rice Lake provided three games, pizza, and pop for the students. Ice skating at the Barron Ice Arena also provided free pizza for students. Students who prefer roller skates could instead go to Skate City if they wished. If students chose to go with Ms. Abbatacola and Mrs. Hagen-Salm, they had the chance to visit the UW Eau Claire campus and Chippewa Valley Technical



**College tours.** Braxtyn Engen and Garrik Block tour the UW-Eau Claire college with a tour guide.



**Rock and roll.** Seniors Conner Vincent, Emma Somerville, Keara Butterfield, Tanner Saffert, Caitlin Quaders, Kayla Schullo, Katie Larson, and junior Quentin Saffert enjoy the fun opportunity to skate at Skate City.

College. Ice fishing brought along the chance of winning a prize in addition to the free lunch. Action City provided lots of fun opportunities including the fun center, trampoline park, and all-you-can-eat pizza and pop for lunch. For the second year now, choir and band students could also attend the Chanhassen Dinner Theaters where they could enjoy a meal and watch a live performance of Jersey Boys.

As Cameron continues to pro-



**Game time.** Teacher, Mr. Mikula, and senior Anthony Hairston, play a videogame together at Action City.

vide this fun day in the coming years, we hope that students will be able to have an enjoyable time and take the given opportunity to make new memories with friends that will last a lifetime.



**Lacing up.** The high schoolers are getting their ice skates on before they start heading out to the ice rink.



**Starstruck.** Five of the band members and band director, Mr. Halverson, get to meet one of the actors of Jersey Boys after the show.

# Talking About Trapping

by Kennedy Ladehoff

Sporadic decisions can be some of the best or worst decisions of your life. For Isabella Harder, making one of these choices has helped her set a path for her future. The Barron County Land and Water Conservation group held a speech contest, which Isabella decided to enter on a whim. Despite just giving it a go, she still did well in the contest.

Isabella decided to join this contest after her teacher, Jon Haughian, brought it up and mentioned trapping. She then knew it would be a good way to make a name for herself for trapping again. She saw this as an opportunity to help her out in the future. So, Isabella set out to write a speech that would help her.

Her speech was titled, "Trapping Regulations and Protocols." The speech talks about how trapping has changed and its safeguards. Regulations help trapping, which was what Isabella spoke about. Despite being the only one in Barron County to give a speech,



**Gaining recognition.** Isabella holds the certificate she was awarded by the judges.



**First place.** Isabella Harder holds a first place trophy and books as prizes from the county speaking contest.

she still did well and advanced to the competition for our area. This speech won her second place, a certificate, and recognition. Trapping is an important part of Isabella's life and has even granted her opportunities like this.

Isabella wasn't always passion-

ate about trapping. However, after she took a class, she started to love trapping. Now, it is a part of her and her lifestyle. She loves trapping and it shows. This love for trapping has granted her great opportunities that she will continue to take on.