

Hallway Happenings



March 2025 Issue 28

Litchfield Public Schools - PO Box 167 Litchfield, NE 68852

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Spartan Buddies

By Gracie Reitz and Walker Skrdla

Spartan Buddies is a group activity where High School and Elementary students get together. High school students get paired up with one or more elementary students and do various activities such as walking and talking in the mornings, coloring, reading, and dancing.

“Students at Litchfield are making connections! No longer are our connections just across the curriculum. This year we are making connections across grade levels as well,” stated Mrs. Vega, the third and fourth-grade teacher. In the elementary building, on Mrs. Vega’s bulletin board, there’s a display of popular things across the elementary. This helps the kids find things that they have in common, which is bringing them together.

Spartan Buddies are a great way for all grades to connect and create new friendships. This gives teachers a new insight into how the Elementary kids view the High Schoolers, which as a result, is helping them learn more about what we could do better or differently in the future for Spartan Buddies. This is a great opportunity for teaching the younger students more social skills, as well as helping them set goals for what they want to do in the future when they’re in high school. If we continue Spartan Buddies, this could bring the whole school together!



Chance Evans (9th) reads along with Huntley Zulkoski and Riddick Boyles (5th)



Ida Gross (11th) and Addy Moser (5th) listen to Natalie Corbin (5th).

A Cold and Snowy Week

By Ethan Evans and Brooke Fecht

From February 18th to 20th, the students had late starts and snow days. With all that extra time, many may wonder what the kids did for fun during their snow days and late starts. Litchfield had a very cold week. The temperatures that we had were in the negatives. However, just the next week we were already enjoying the 60s again. The Nebraska weather is always amazing like that and works in very weird ways. Before it warmed back up, we went into the elementary building and asked the kids “What did you do on your snow day?”

Wyatt Fletcher - playing games all day

Ruby Slocum - that I don't have to go to school

Hope Reitz - make snow forts and snowmen.

I am hoping for another snow day

Jonathan LeFever - went jumping in the snow

Jasper Janssen - playing in the snow

Kesslyn Kusek - went snowmobiling. I am hoping for another snow day

Kenzie Moore - playing in the snow

Jayse Bennett - avoiding the cold

Koy Kusek - snowmobiling

Kenna Feldman - watching TV shows with my mom

Ira Ritchie - snowboarding in the snow

FKC Honors Instrumental

By Tessa Henry

On February 13, the bands from all 10 FKC schools were in Litchfield. They practiced from 10 am to 4 pm, then later at 5 pm had a gathering for families and friends to come watch. They played three different instrumental pieces from famous writers. Throughout the breaks that they were given, there was music and dancing. Litchfield has hosted the FKC twice this year, with the first time being the Choral Clinic back in November. Use the QR code or web address to watch!



<https://bit.ly/fkcinst25>

Clubs & Organizations

FFA Update

By James Fletcher, Litchfield FFA Vice President

The Litchfield FFA chapter had a busy and successful February, with members competing in district events and making strides toward state-level recognition.

A major highlight was Malynn Boyles, James Fletcher, and Lane Slocum interviewing for their State FFA Degree. Their applications have been forwarded for state review, marking a significant achievement in their FFA journey. Additionally, James Fletcher submitted a Proficiency Award application and has been named a state finalist. He will interview at the state convention to determine his final placement.

The district Career Development Events (CDE) competition brought outstanding results for Litchfield FFA. Rowdy LeFever secured first place in Agricultural Mechanics, with Lane Slocum earning third. The Agricultural Mechanics team claimed first place overall qualifying them for the state competition in April (Lane Slocum, Rowdy LeFever, Walker Skrdla, & Karson Moore), while the second team finished third (Cooper Fletcher, Dawson Skrdla, Wesley Fowler, & Jordyn Ellison). In Veterinary Science (Macie Slocum, Malynn Boyles, Ida Gross, James Fletcher), the team placed third which qualifies them for the state competition, with James Fletcher achieving third place individually. More results from the competition will be shared on the Litchfield FFA Facebook page.

Looking ahead, March will be a quieter month for the chapter as members shift their focus toward preparing for the State FFA Convention in April. With momentum from their February successes, Litchfield FFA members are ready to showcase their skills on the state stage.

FBLA Update

By Ava Paitz, FBLA Reporter

As the FBLA State Leadership Conference approaches, students across the state are gearing up for one of the year's most important events. This annual competition showcases the knowledge, skills, and leadership abilities of high school students dedicated to their school, events, and career development.

The Litchfield FBLA chapter has been prepping by finishing up ribbon projects and completing pre-judged events. Another highlight of the preparation is James's campaign for a state leadership title. James will be campaigning for Vice President. Good luck at the State Leadership Conference, Litchfield FBLA!



FBLA 2025
WEEK

10 MAR	PJ DAY
11 MAR	BUSINESS ATTIRE DAY
12 MAR	NEON DAY BREAKFAST DAY!

Spartan Sports and Activities

Boys Basketball

By Rowdy LeFever

The boys basketball team has had an exciting second half of their season! The team finished 3rd place in the F.K.C. tournament. Chayton Jensen made a buzzer-beater to beat Pleasanton in the first round. The boys basketball team is currently 15-10 after their game against SEM. Coach Drew says “Luke Bailey has been our leading scorer, except for the Elba game, with Landon Schulte making a lot of shots. Lane Slocum has been anchoring our defense. Daevon Magner & Kolten Clay are giving us some energy off the bench. Owen Cunningham does whatever is asked of him and has played with tremendous effort and physicality”.



Litchfield won February 27 against SEM on a 9-1 run at the end of the game to win 54-51 and get to go to districts! We look forward to cheering them on against Silver Lake at districts.

Girls Basketball

By Jordan Ellison

The girls' basketball team has had a lot of close games this season. They have competed against some very good teams. Part of their struggle has come from them having a young team. This caused them to struggle at the start to pull through in a close game. After interviewing both Caydence Feldman and Coach Shields, they said the same thing: “Our team has had a lot of ups and downs, but we still kept going. No matter what issues stumbled into our way, we always tried to find a way around it.” Throughout the season, the girls have started to figure out how to play together. With them only losing one senior, I look forward to seeing what next year brings. As Caydence says, “We look forward to seeing how this same team can continue to improve.”

Wrestling Update

By Aliza Ellison

The girls wrestling team had a great season, with three girls going to state: Jaycee, Clysta, and Morgan. Districts was at Pierce, where Clysta brought home third for 130, Jaycee brought home fourth for 145, and Morgan brought home third for 235. At state, Morgan brought home third place for the 234 weight bracket.



For the boys, at districts Andy got third and Issac got fourth. At state Andy got third place. Coach Slogget says, “The Spartan wrestlers finished their season with 5 state qualifiers and 2 placers. Both the boys and girls will continue to grow to success.”

Litchfield Speech

By Jordyn Ellison

These fantastic students have competed at six competitions this year with districts still to go. All eight of these students have been trying hard and practicing for a long time to be able to go against their competitors. Jimmy and Malynn's duet got a medal in Elm Creek, and their OID performance with Caydence got one as well. Jimmy was able to get three medals in his POI entries and his extemporaneous got one. Caydence has also competed in extemporaneous getting one medal and her entertainment speech has earned her medals. At Elm Creek, Jori also earned a medal in her serious speech. At Burwell, our team earned 6th overall team. Words from their coach Mr. Moser are "For the first time in a while, we lost no seniors but still added 3 new students, which is great for the team's growth. We've had a few types of success we're also not used to: a first-place medal at our first meet of the year (Caydence!) and a finals medal in a new competitor's first-ever competition (Jori!).

Conference in Pleasanton saw the team get 4th overall. The OID (Caydence, Jimmy, and Malynn) placed 3rd. Jimmy and Malynn's duet came away with 2nd to the duet from Ansley. Jimmy's POI placed 2nd. Caydence was 1st place in Entertainment and Extemporaneous Speaking. Districts will be March 22 in Hampton.



Photo credit: Cassie Feldman



Litchfield Speech Team presents:

DESSERTS BEFORE DISTRICTS

Tuesday, March 18th

6:00 PM

Blue Building



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