



# THE BEAR

*Student Newspaper*

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## THE BEAR RECOGNIZED AS ALL-IOWA NEWS TEAM

*Publication competes with 3A, 4A schools to make top five across state*

Connor Davidson  
Journalism I Guest Writer

On October 19, students from the Journalism 1, newspaper, and yearbook classes went to the Iowa High School Press Association Fall Journalism Conference at the Iowa Memorial Union. During the conference, *The Bear* newspaper crew was awarded the #5 slot in the state of Iowa for All Iowa News Team 2023. They came in behind Iowa City High, Iowa City West, Waterloo East, and Pleasant Valley.

Newspaper Adviser Karina Krall said, "It was amazing! We were all kind of stunned. At the end of last year, we knew we had been selected as one of the top 15 newspapers in the state of Iowa. This included all classes of schools, and we were basically the smallest school on the list. When we found out that they were going to narrow it down to the top 5, we weren't sure if we had a chance. We were up against 3A and 4A schools. We're 1A."

She added, "We had to choose three more complete editions of *The Bear* to send in and be evaluated, and then all we could do was wait for about six months to find out if we made it. When we were called as #5, we were so excited and honored. I'm so proud of my staff! They have been working hard to make *The Bear* a newspaper to be proud of, and I'm very pleased that this hard work has been rewarded."

The newspaper team was awarded an All-Iowa news team banner to hang on display at their school. However, there was confusion about what was printed on it. Head editor-in-chief Olivia Naber said, "Our banner and name on the presentation when we were awarded the distinction of All Iowa News Team was incorrect, which was slightly frustrating. On the other hand, I get to keep our incorrect 'Warrior Watch' banner when we get the new one, so I can't complain too much."

The conference had a record-high attendance of 868 students from 44 different Iowa high schools, all there to learn how to better their own publications.

Yearbook teacher Rex Connor said, "At the IHSPA Conference, students have the opportunity to pursue their interests through breakout sessions with peers from all across the state. Several students mentioned that hearing fresh perspectives from people doing the same work inspired them to approach our publications in new ways."

The event started with keynote speaker Brandee Britt, who is the director



Feeling elated after a big win for the WBHS journalism program, *The Bear* Newspaper staff shows off its newly-earned (yet wrongly-printed) banner. The *Bear* student newspaper was named #5 in the top 5 student newspapers in the state of Iowa at the IHSPA Fall Conference on Oct. 19. *Back row:* Keaton Norfleet, Lauren Keeler, Caitlyn Harrison, Miley Shields, Maryam Martin, Kya Montgomery, Larkin Brown. *Front Row:* Brooklyn Nash, Peyton Braddock, Olivia Naber, Ashlynn Nash, Katey Noble, Claire Jarrett. *Not Pictured:* Rylee Shimon, Anna Waterman, Will Tidrick, Nora Ziehr. *Photo By Karina Krall.*

of social media and digital strategy for Hawkeye Athletics. Over the past few years, she has been instrumental in getting more media coverage for the Iowa women's basketball team, which has helped to increase attendance.

Connor said Britt "did an awesome job getting students engaged in the process of journalism. She connected with the audience by talking about something for which she has a passion, Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball, which has been such a source of inspiration to Iowans recently."

After the keynote speaker, students were able to go to a variety of sessions to learn skills and tools to help them enhance their journalism and yearbook programs back home. Some of the many session opportunities included: Covering the Election Primer, Video Storytelling 101, Sports Journalism and Politics, Publication Critique Session, and So You Want to Be in Broadcast? Studio Workshop.

Head Newspaper Editor-in-Chief Olivia Naber said, "I thought that



the breakout sessions were really interesting. I always enjoy the sessions because of the people I get to meet and the things I learn.

"I may be alone in saying this, but my only wish is that it was even longer! I really enjoyed the breakout sessions and would have loved to have been able to attend more of them and get more

valuable information."

Newspaper Photography Co-Editor-in-Chief Claire Jarrett said, "I enjoyed learning about how we can better our paper. It was also fun to see that we won All-Iowa News Team of the Year! It's a huge accomplishment for *The Bear*."

### The Bear Asks: What do you do on Black Friday?

"Stay home while my mom fights for her life at the mall."

"Stay home by the fire and decorate the house for Christmas!"

"Sleep."

"Go Shopping."

Lincoln Naber

Jessica Taylor

"Kiss my money goodbye."

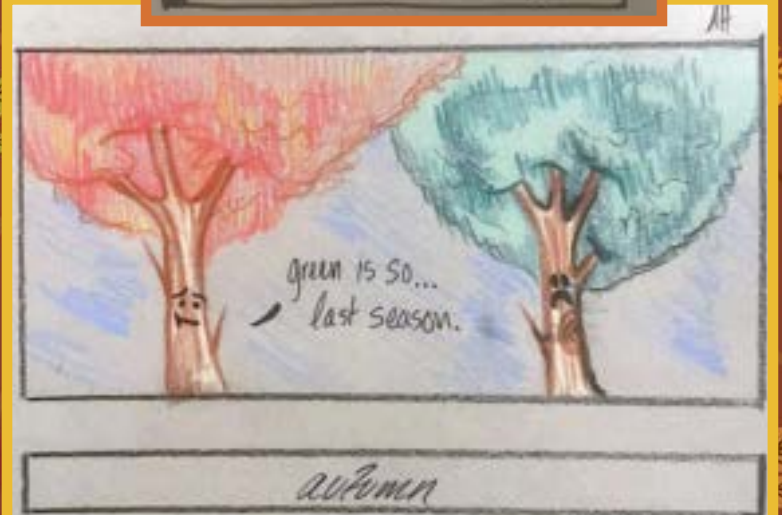
Cassie Swisher

Oliv Schlitz

Kiley Pierce

Poll by Larkin Brown  
Graphics by Olivia Naber

### THE BEAR COMIC CORNER



- By Art Editor Ava Hazelwood.