



# THE BEAR

## Student Newspaper

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### THE BEAR'S NORFLEET IN THE RUNNING FOR STATE-WIDE NEWS PHOTO AWARD

#### The Bear Staff Members

The Bear staff would like to congratulate its very own Keaton Norfleet for his current standing in the Iowa Better Newspaper Contest. The junior snapped a stellar news photo after a big storm in May, which was then published in the WB Times. His photo was sent into a statewide photography competition sponsored by the Iowa Newspaper Foundation. Norfleet is guaranteed to earn 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in the Best News Photo

Category. Results will be delivered in February 2024.

The modest Norfleet said, "The shot was nothing special. After the worst of the storm had passed, my dad [Gregory Norfleet] and I ran to his office to grab his camera. We were driving up to the Co-op when we looked into the sky. My dad described it as 'standing in a painting.' We were driving back, and my dad handed me his phone, rolled down my window, and said, 'Start snapping.'" The Bear staff would also like

to salute Gregory Norfleet and his WB Times staff members. K. Norfleet isn't the only one up for awards. The following people are guaranteed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in these categories: G. Norfleet - Best Front Page, Best Coverage of Education, Best Use of Graphics, Excellence in Editorial Writing (weekly), and Master Columnist (weekly); Annie Schroder and G. Norfleet - Total Newspaper Design; G. Norfleet and Matthew Dickinson - Best Use of Social Media; and Dickinson - Best Sports Story (weekly).

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Keaton Norfleet's award-winning photo, taken after an Iowa storm, features the natural phenomenon of mammatus clouds above a picturesque Iowa landscape. Photo By Keaton Norfleet.

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### SKILLSUSA WELDERS COMPETE IN ABC WELDING CONTEST

#### Olivia Naber Head Editor-in-Chief

ACE students and the WBHS SkillsUSA chapter took the trek up to the Iowa State Fairgrounds December 1 to attend the 2023 High School Craft Championship, where several of their own had the opportunity to compete. Five students entered into the ABC welding competition, which was split into a beginner level and advanced level. Of the two classifications, Garrett Spevacek and Drew Wilcox entered



into the advanced competition, while Reese Trepanier, Julian Garcia, and Heather Powers entered the beginners category. Each category took on 50 stu-

dents to compete against each other.

Last year, graduates Nick Hein and Kyle Harold took part in the contest, taking home the top two prizes. Having students who had gone through the process of preparing for and competing in the competition gave advisor Randy Robertson an idea of what might be in store for his students.

"I just tried to prepare them to work with the stick welding part of it because I knew that's what they were going to do," said Robertson. "So we worked all nine weeks pretty much on stick welding... When they went up there, I think they were a little nervous about it, but they ended up coming out of there okay I think."

Unfortunately, only the top two ranked welders are listed, so the WBHS welders didn't know how they compared with those from other schools.

What makes the ABC competition unique is that students competing against each other hail from all sizes of schools, regardless of class, as well as competing with students from trade schools. Being able to compete with students from such larger schools was an impressive feat by the five Bear welders. Although seniors Trepanier and Wilcox won't have any more opportunities to enter the ABC competition, Robertson hopes that his younger competitors will try their hand again next year.

While the five students competed, other students on the trip had the opportunity to check out several other careers in the trades.

"The ABC Competition was a great way for students to learn different skilled trades," beamed Robertson. "I have had many students mention that they are interested in doing one or two of the careers. This is a great way to open the eyes of students to get ideas for the future. Students are finding out the advantages of being in the trades: good money, starting right out of high school, benefits, and feeling you are in a field to grow in a career."



Drew Wilcox. Photo Contributed by Randy Robertson.



Garrett Spevacek. Photo Contributed by Randy Robertson.



SkillsUSA chapter members. Front row: Dilan Kazlauskas, Reece Gingerich, Alison Gade, Garrett Spevacek, Dylan Schiele, Paxton Tisinger, Heather Powers. Middle Row: Porter Steele, Draven Ladehoff, Jay Cantrell, Kaylynn Stein, Alison Tygrett, Advisor Randy Robertson. Back Row: Jaimy Sanchez, Cooper Exline, Connor Sexton, Robby Boaz, Preston Mayhew, Albert Moss. Not pictured: Jeremy Budreau, Melayna Burmeister, Grace Hamann, Jackson Marcy, Ellie Olmstead, Mason Pedersen, Rowdy Rood, Jayden Schaffer, Garrett Sotzen, Alissa Van Hall, Hunter Vanderhorst. Photo by Larkin Brown.

### THE BEAR COMIC CORNER: WINTER ADDITION



### THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES OF ALL TIME (AS TOLD BY WBHS)



Graphic by Olivia Naber