

# Hudson's prima ballerina

by sophomore Payton Sherwood.

Zero empty seats and hundreds of rolling cameras. Normally this would be a lot for a 4 year old to handle, but that wasn't the case for now freshman Kacie Herring.

At a young age, Herring already knew she wanted to be a dancer someday so when her mom brought up the idea of dance classes, Herring couldn't refuse.

Herring began taking ballet classes at the age of 4 at Heins Academy.

"I remember dancing around my house and getting so excited the night before my first dance class," admits Herring.

But in 2011, Miss Debra, one of Herring's favorite dance teachers at Heins, moved to Fusion Dance and Fitness in Waterloo. Herring followed.

**"But once you're out on stage, you never want to get off."**

"Miss Debra is amazing, and she is a great teacher," explains Herring. "She sets the

bar really high so that you can do your best to improve."

At Fusion, Herring's repertoire rapidly grew. By the age of 10, Herring was involved in ballet, tap and jazz. A year later she added modern dance. Now at the age of 15 Herring is in seven classes a week: lyrical, tap, ballet, jazz, hip hop, theatre and pointe.

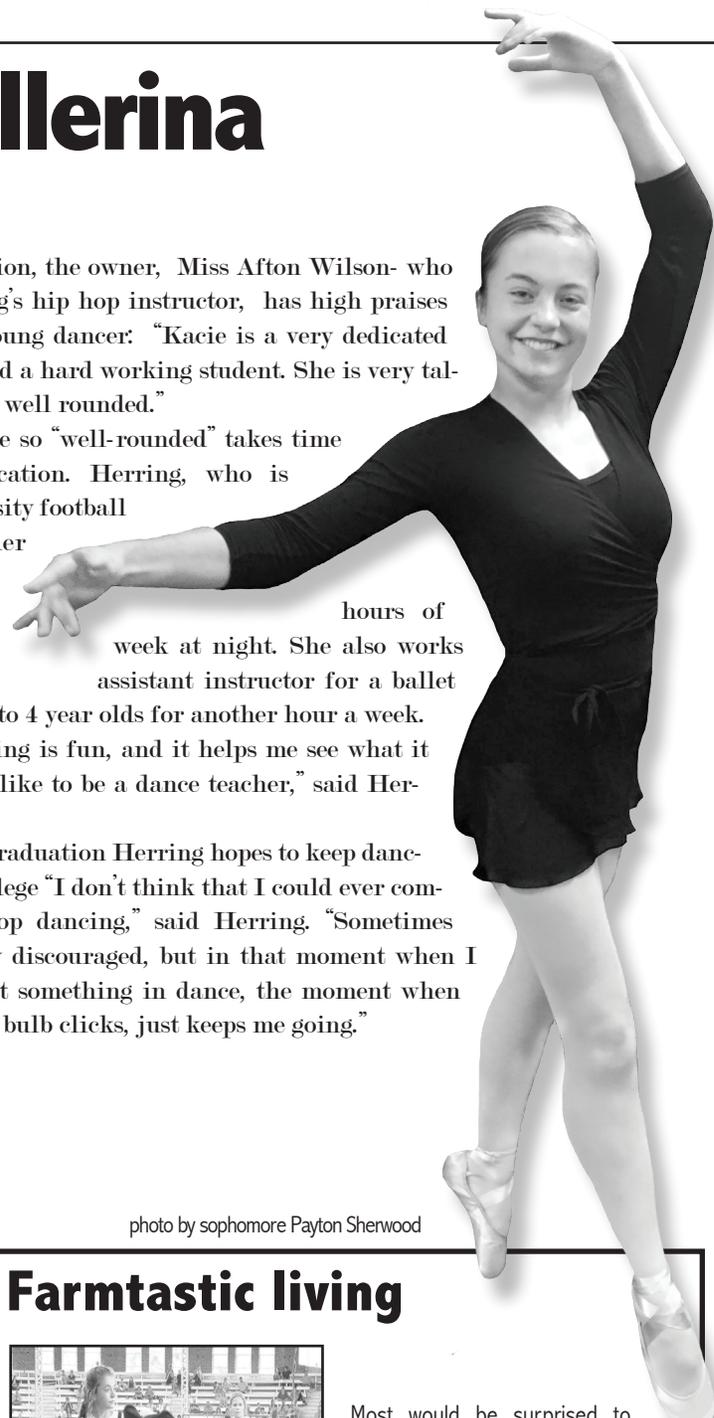
At Fusion, the owner, Miss Afton Wilson- who is Herring's hip hop instructor, has high praises for the young dancer: "Kacie is a very dedicated dancer and a hard working student. She is very talented and well rounded."

To be so "well-rounded" takes time and dedication. Herring, who is also a varsity football cheerleader at HHS, takes 8 hours of classes a week at night. She also works as a paid assistant instructor for a ballet class of 3 to 4 year olds for another hour a week.

"Teaching is fun, and it helps me see what it would be like to be a dance teacher," said Herring.

After graduation Herring hopes to keep dancing in college "I don't think that I could ever completely stop dancing," said Herring. "Sometimes I'm really discouraged, but in that moment when I finally get something in dance, the moment when that light bulb clicks, just keeps me going."

photo by sophomore Payton Sherwood



## From home to public school



photo by freshman Morgan Hansen

After being home schooled up to freshman year, Herring is now an HHS student for 6 out of the 8 periods during the normal school day, and there are a lot of notable differences.

- "There are actually snow days, I don't have to go to school everyday."
- "I get done a lot later. At home I could work on everything at once."
- "The computers are different too, the only thing I did on the computer at home was my math."
- "A schedule was hard to adjust to, as I was late to all my classes on the first day."

## Farmtastic living



photo courtesy of Paul Herring

Most would be surprised to know that this graceful ballerina is not afraid to get down and dirty on the farm.

- Raises six hogs and two black Angus Heifers.
- Has shown animals at county fair for five years.
- Spends an hour with her animals every day.
- Spends her summer at monthly 4H meetings and competitions.
- Splits chores with her brother. She does morning and brother does night because of her dance classes

## Q&A:

Former Hudson alum Sarah Koch and Sara Cartney, graduating in 2010 and 2011 respectively, return home, and now the students are the teachers.



**Q:** What has been the best part about teaching at Hudson?

The best part about teaching at Hudson is being so familiar with all the stuff and getting to reconnect on a professional level. I feel welcomed and comfortable at Hudson and being close to home and family is an added bonus.



**Q:** Why did you choose to teach at Hudson?

I loved having the opportunity to come back to Hudson. This community has a special place in my heart and Hudson is a great school. I like the feeling of a small town school as everyone knows everyone so there is a sense of belonging for every person who walks into Hudson schools. Once a pirate always a pirate!

photo by junior Aubrey Gronoski