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# Dancing the Night Away

## Preparing for Perfection

Orchestra members practice for upcoming spring concert



© Freshman Keegan Verschuere plays the violin in orchestra practice. "I enjoy high school orchestra because there is a lot more people than we had in middle school, and I like the music that we play a lot better than I did last year," said Verschuere.

Orchestra members, 31 members strong, have been preparing for their April 17 spring concert.

"To help prepare for the Tulip Time concert we, have been correcting all of our mistakes. I have been taking my time at home to practice my viola. I am really excited for the concert and I know we all will play our best," said freshman **Byranna Dawson**.

"We play a variety of music, which is what I really enjoy," said senior **Sydney De Nooy**. "It's been a really good year; the people who joined are a really fun group. They are all really dedicated to orchestra."

One orchestra member has taken orchestra farther than most members ever do. Freshman **Bellara Huang** has spent many years of hard work practicing the violin. **Huang** was awarded the Outstanding Performance award at the Solo and Ensemble contest in Grinnell March 29.

"Receiving the Outstanding Performance Award was definitely a really exciting moment in my life, and the performance was definitely one to remember. I can't wait to push myself to improve even more as I grow to love the instrument more and more," said **Huang**.

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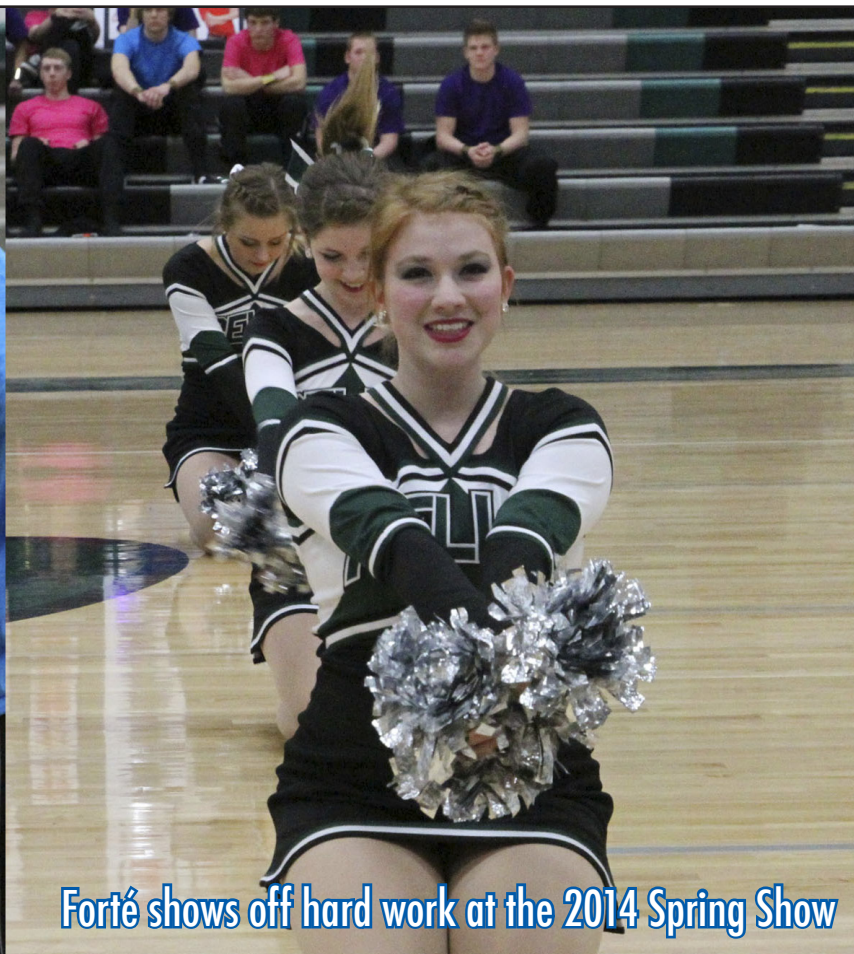
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Forté shows off hard work at the 2014 Spring Show

*"I really liked seeing the passion that everyone had for the last show of the year because it showed the full extent of all their hard work."*

-Sophomore  
**Brad Bortscheller**

*"I thought that the show went great. It wasn't a competition, so instead of getting nervous for our placements, we got a chance to have fun and perform for everyone."*

-Junior  
**Kaila Wimmer**

With the theme "Dance the Night Away," Forté hosted their annual spring show March 1.

The seniors performed their special senior dance, which even included black lights.

"The senior dance was definitely my favorite part of the night, especially with the black lights and white costumes! It was so fun and emotional," said senior **Larissa Michalek**.

The show also included performances from freshman **Ridge McGinley** and Oksaloosa dance team.

"I really liked watching the Oskey team and **Ridge** perform. I really appreciate they wanted to be in our show and perform for all of our friends and family," said freshman **Makenzie Becker**.

Senior's **Aaron VanMaanen, Alex Moore, Lukas Steenhoek, Grace Byram, Haley Chapman, Larissa Michalek** and sophomore **Josh Zemanek** perform in the co-ed dance.

Sophomore **Sarah Coppock** performs in the JV pom routine. "The best part was definitely getting to show everyone what we have been working on through the whole year," said **Coppock**.

# Battle of the Books

Six qualify for state competition



Sophomore **Sarah Van Weelden** absorbs "The Running Dream," her favorite book among those required for Battle of the Books. "The Running Dream is my favorite book because the girl goes through a lot. The book is powerful, and I feel like it tells you a lot about life," said **Van Weelden**.

Winning team members: **Victoria Karnes, Olivia Kane, Hannah Martin, Sarah Van Weelden**. Alternates: **Ridge McGinley, Madolin Holmes, Tatyana Khapokhina, Hannah Cutler, Liz Pettit**.

For some students, reading wasn't just for fun; it was a competition. Battle of the Books offered students a chance to read the Iowa Choice Award books in a competitive setting.

Two teams finished with top 16 scores and competed at Marshalltown High School April 29 where they will take another book test; the team who scores highest wins.

After students read the books, they were required to take a qualifying test, which determined if they made the team.

"Reading and memorizing all the books and authors was a challenge, but it was all worth it," said sophomore **Angelo Lemons**. His team did not qualify for state.

"We are preparing by reading some of the books that we haven't had time to go re-read on; other than that we are discussing the books and having fun with it," said junior **Olivia Kane**.

## News For You...

# Someone 2 Know

## Freshman Ridge McGinley

Freshman **Ridge McGinley** has devoted himself to dance for eight years. Since day one of dance class, **McGinley** has been more than passionate about dancing.

"Dance has always been a major part of me. Besides just striving to perfect my technique and be the best dancer I can possibly be, I can use dance to express myself without saying a single word," said **McGinley**.

**McGinley** has also been starting to travel around the country to strengthen his dancing skills.

"I am excited to be traveling to Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix in the next couple months to train and further my dance career," said **McGinley**.

**McGinley** has been attending dance classes at Becky Nalvanko's Dance and Tumbling Studio in Des Moines for about four years, but has been training in all styles of dance for eight years.

"I dance because it is truly one of my favorite things in life. A lot of times, every other aspect of my life has had to go on hold to allow me to chase my dreams in dance. I know I am just getting one step closer to achieving everything I have ever dreamt of," said **McGinley**.



Freshman **Ridge McGinley** dances to the song "All of Me" by **John Legend** in the Forté spring show. "I enjoyed performing in the spring show and sharing my talent with the community," said **McGinley**.

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