

STORM

warming



Juniors Smeet Mistery and Nikash Pradhan run into the high school during the torrential down pour occurring outside. On Sept. 19 a severe thunderstorm passed through Johnston snapping trees in half, causing a blackout and flooding the high school parking lot.
Photo by Tyler Fenton

Storm hits while cross country teams practice

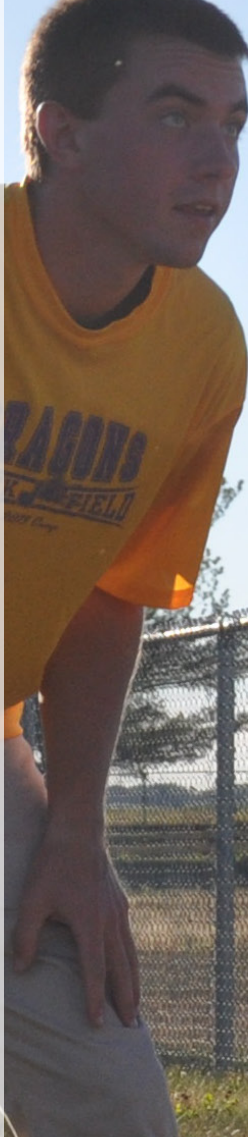
The sky turned dark and within seconds the thunder rolled in during the girls' cross country practice. Juniors Megan Buckallew and Ruchi Shekar ran as fast as they could. With lightning cracking around them they sprinted toward the high school. As the wind began to blow harder and the rain started to fall Buckallew lost sight of Shekar, falling behind. "I honestly lost sight of Ruchi and it wasn't even like she was 100 feet away, she was literally five feet away," Buckallew said.

A severe storm ripped through the Des Moines metro area on Sept. 19 uprooting trees and causing blackouts. The storm produced seventy-mile-an-hour wind gusts. School had just gotten out and all of the fall sports were practicing when it rolled through. The girls' cross country team was doing a Seven-Sister's Hill's practice a mile away from the school and got caught in the storm.

Before the weather hit, their coach, Chris Siewert, told the team that practice was still on so the whole team headed toward Seven-Sisters for a tough workout. "When we started doing the hills, we all noticed that the sky was getting pretty dark, but instead of turning around we continued to do two more hills," Shekar said. Eventually, the team started to hear thunder and the wind began to pick up. Siewert decided that the storm was getting dangerous and told the team to start heading back to the school.

Buckallew and Shekar were trailing the pack. They reached the ditch behind Walgreen's and had to jump over it. "I was so out of breath I could barely jump over the ditch, it had so much water in it for the fact that it had only been raining for two minutes, it was crazy," Buckallew said. As Buckallew jumped the ditch she lost sight of her friend. "I could hear Megan yelling my name but she was wearing white that day and the rain was literally so hard that I couldn't see anything and everything looked white," Shekar said.

Buckallew and Shekar made it to the front of the middle school both teary eyed and hyperventilating. They were soaked, they were scared, but they had made it. But that wasn't the end, they still had to make it to the high school. The rain was still pounding the pavement as Buckallew and Shekar looked at each other, grabbed each others' hands, opened the door and ran through the flooded parking lot to the high school. "The entire time I couldn't breath, that was by far the most traumatizing experience of my life," Buckallew said.



background

1. Junior Luke Davis intently watches the bottle fall off the pole as his partner senior Ryan Rubin catches the frisbee. The two were playing Frisbee Horseshoes at the tailgate before the home football game Sept. 13. Davis was in charge of catching the bottle if it fell and Rubin was responsible for catching the frisbee to avoid letting their opponents score.
Photo by Katrina Fey



22 september

9

22

Even Page

Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

Special Instructions

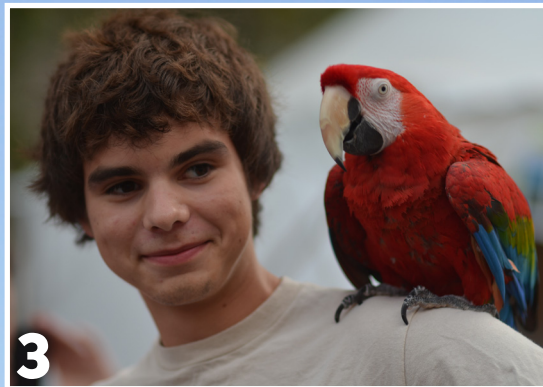
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3



4



5

1. Senior Zach Lamberty fills out a "mock" parking ticket for fellow senior Katie Landy to ask her to homecoming. Landy said yes and the two attended the homecoming dance Sept. 28 at Summit Middle School and also went bowling with friends afterwards.

Photo by Joe Sprunger

2. Shreiking in disgust, junior Keely Larkin shivers in anticipation for junior Allison Klien to smash mash potatoes over her head. Johnston E-Free Church decided to have a food fight to recruit students to attend their church's youth group.

Photo by Laura Schwartz

3. Junior Elliot Suitor observes the parrot resting on his shoulder.

Suitor and his friends went downtown to the Spanish Festival Sept. 7 as required by their Spanish class.

Photo by Tyler Fenton

4. Enjoying her cup of fro-yo at Orange Leaf, senior Ann Robinson savors every bite. "It was a spontaneous decision to go to Orange Leaf, I was just craving it," Robinson said.

Photo by Katrina Fey

5. Chilling in senior Taylor Hiet-camps pool that he built in the back of his truck, senior Konnor Gifford enjoys an afternoon swim. Gifford and senior Alex Clark enjoyed the pool before the homecoming parade and powder puff game.

Photo by Katrina Fey

fall Fridays

14



"Friday nights in the fall are the best Friday nights of the year. After putting on our drum-line show, I watch the rest of the football game. Then I go to Village Inn to hang out with my band friends. It's like socializing from 5 to 11."

-Joe Seda

15



"On Fridays my friends and I like to have bonfires after the football game. Of course we make s'mores and sometimes we will lay out in the grass and star gaze. We usually just end up talking about life for awhile. It gets deep."

-Ellie Marckmann

16



"My favorite thing to do on Friday nights is probably hang out with my friends after school. We all get ready together and then we go to the tailgate before the game in the parking lot. Friday nights are just a full-filled night."

-Aubrey Seesker

Spread by Katrina Fey

