

BIG BLUE NEWS



Voice of Democracy Speech Contest

HAILEY FORD

Voice of Democracy is an annual nationwide scholarship program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is an audio-essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. The program annually provides more than \$2.3 million in scholarships. The national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school.

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the opportunity to express themselves in reference to a democratic and patriotic-themed essay. Each year, 25,000 high school students from across the country enter to win more than \$2 million in scholarships awarded through the VOD program.

The theme for this year's Voice of Democracy is "Why is the Veteran Important"? The essay applications are due at Midnight on October 31st.

Winners of the Freeman V.O.D. were Rebecca Ford (1st); Faith Husband (2nd); and Thies Richardson (3rd). Rebecca's speech will move on to Districts in Pawnee City with the hope of making the State level in Lincoln.

Congratulations to all of the participants!



When Italy Meets Norway (in Nebraska)

REBECCA PELLEGRINI

I sat down with Magnus Skaarnes, our local Norwegian foreign exchange student, who is living with Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and Kellen. As a foreign exchange student myself, I thought it would be interesting to see how he sees things here at Freeman. Enjoy getting to know Magnus!

- 1. Why did you decide to become an exchange student?**
 - I decided to become an exchange student because I wanted to try all the popular fast food chains, and I also wanted to experience American high school. I wanted to figure out if it was similar to the American high school movies. I really just wanted to try something new and completely different from what I am used to back home.
- 2. What do you think about the state of Nebraska? Is it really different from your country? In what?**
 - I think the state of Nebraska is very flat and different than what I'm used to. I am definitely missing some hills and mountains, but I also love the people here. They are very nice and talkative. I would say strangers here are nicer than the ones in the streets of Oslo. Back home people usually mind their own business without caring about anybody else. But despite the flatness and the corn everywhere, I'm loving it.
- 3. How are high schools in Norway? What are the main differences between your school in Norway and Freeman?**
 - The main difference would probably be the fact that we don't have the same classes every day at my Norwegian school. School also starts at different times, it's not just 08.10 every morning. I miss that feeling of freedom, and being able to sleep on some days of the week. Another difference is the tests. Our Norwegian tests are usually way harder and longer, but we don't have them near as often as here. But I like the fact that I don't have to study that much for the tests here. Our school also does not have any sports teams. Sport happens outside of school, which makes it possible to be in the same team as students from other schools.
- 4. How is living with a couple of teachers?**
 - It is great. None of my parents back home are teachers, so it's cool to experience it. It's fun to hear about annoying 5th graders from a teacher's perspective.
- 5. What are you learning from this experience?**
 - I am learning to be grateful for the things I might not think about when I'm home, such as the landscape for example. I am also learning to adapt to new environments and situations that might differ from home. I'm learning about new cultures, habits and sports.

SCHOOL NEWS

Falcon Football Recap

BARON ROGMAN

With the end of Falcon Football, we wanted to get a brief synopsis of the season as a whole. We reached out to Coach Andreasen for a few words and here's what he had to say.

"Well...The team competed hard each game and though we constantly gave the opponent a head start, we always fought back and gave ourselves a chance to win in the end. Our seniors were great leaders and role models showing the younger players how to practice hard and never give up in a game. We were very close to having a better record, but we just couldn't finish off a couple of chances to win one or two more key games. Beating undefeated Thayer Central was the highlight of the year and showed everyone that we had enough talent to compete with the best teams in the state. We beat Crofton over the last 3 quarters, but we had another game where we fell behind 20 points quickly.



The coaches would like to thank the players and seniors for an amazing season that was fun to be a part of. We only wish we could have started off games a little better and who knows what might have been?"

I'm sure all of us wish we went all the way but nonetheless, it was one heck of a season. Make sure to give props to the players and coaches for the very hard work that they put into the sport. Let's wish them luck for the next season. And as always, GO FALCONS!!!

NATIONAL NEWS

Florida's Aftermath – Hurricane of Destruction

HAYLEIGH SHUBERT

As most of you know, there was a devastating hurricane that destroyed everything in its path. After Hurricane Ian made landfall in southwest Florida as a Category 4 Storm, about 2.5 million power outages were reported.

The worst-hit areas were Lee County, with 208,263 power outages, and Charlotte County, with 75,721 customers without power. There have been over 100 deceased and there are probably still more people they need to find in all the rubble and debris. Some news sources even say it could take up to six months to find almost 700 people.

This was one of the worst hurricanes to hit Florida in the past twenty years. Unfortunately, this is a problem that all Floridians will have to deal with for the rest of their lives.



TECH NEWS:

Elon Musk Buys Twitter, Begins Stalking Users "Let Them Live in Fear"

REBECCA FORD



Last week, Elon Musk bought Twitter in his bid to "legalize comedy"; a move that has left users of the platform shocked. After months of debate, the deal has been finalized, and Musk has already made moves to assert his authority, firing several top executives of the company just days into his ownership of the company.

However, it's not the only move Elon has made that's disturbed users. Starting Monday, Elon Musk will begin personally stalking Twitter users who attempt to compromise free speech on the platform, taking pictures of their houses, publically posting their addresses, prank calling them, and eating their pets in front of them.

"It's a move to show the people I'm serious. I'm legalizing comedy on Twitter, but this isn't a joke. I'm for realies. I'll do whatever it takes to make sure the first amendment is secure on Twitter. If that means unbanning President Donald Trump, I'll do it. If it means stalking users, I'll do it. If it means eating their pets, then by God, I won't hesitate. I'll do whatever it takes. Whatever. Anything," says Elon Musk.

Users have already been cowered. There have been multiple reports of a 51-year-old man in a nearby tree with binoculars, phone calls advertising Tesla, and, in one case, a man sitting across the street with a fork, knife, and a napkin tucked into his collar, eyeing down a chihuahua.

"I can't stand the thought of Elon getting his hands on Stinky Dumpster Fire. He's just so little, he doesn't have the strength to fight back. I think my baby would actually welcome death," says Bella Hadid, after her dog, Stinky Dumpster Fire was confronted by Musk.

Terror is running rampant on Twitter, free speech is too free, users are killing each other and themselves, and Elon is watching it all with a creepy little handlebar mustache, a red velvet trench coat, and fingers tapping creepily in a pyramid.

Momo's: Nebraska's answer to Italian cuisine

REBECCA PELLEGRINI



Some people say that the first rule for an Italian person in the United States is not to try Italian restaurants. Is that really true??

Last week I had the honor to try one of the most famous and fancy Italian restaurants in Lincoln (NE). Everyone was super excited and they were all waiting for my comments about it.

When I came inside I was really surprised: the design of the place is very chic and everyone inside is super nice, but when I saw the menu for the first time I started to be confused.

You can actually find a lot of Italian products imported from the country and all the Italian words on the menu made me feel, for a second, back to my home... vines like the "Barolo" from Piedmont, (where I actually live) or the "Tignanello" from Tuscany.

At the same time a lot of recipes have some ingredients that are not supposed to be there at all, like the Carbonara pasta with cream sauce or the Lobster and shrimp hollandaise pizza.

I like to think about myself as an open-minded Italian: I don't want to just judge but at first I want to taste it because maybe the original recipe is not followed but the taste of it is good anyway.

The name of the restaurant is also "pizzeria" so I decided to try one of their pizzas, the queen of all pizzas: the Margherita, with just tomato sauce and mozzarella. I was not very impressed by it, the flavor was not that strong and it was very thin.

I also tried other dishes that were really good, like some macaroni pastas (that is not an Italian recipe) and some fish dishes.

My final comment is, obviously to try it, it's an elegant restaurant and it's also pretty expensive but you can find real ingredients from Europe and especially from Italy. The recipes are revisited and it's not a REAL Italian restaurant but the flavor of them is good, and that's the real thing that really counts!!



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS KANYE (YE) LOSES HIMSELF

OLIVIA GOULDIE



Since Kanye (or Ye) started to go off the deep end, people with his massive fan base are wondering if he's starting to say all this crazy stuff to attract negative attention.

He's been all over the media lately with his anti-semitic and racist comments affecting many people. No company supports him now. He's lost brand deals, his music is being taken off of platforms and he won't be able to speak on Instagram or Twitter possibly again. Kanye has been banned off most platforms as companies are showing him that actions of his words have consequences.

Lots of people have come forward to speak about how his words affected them personally. Most are wondering where it will go from here. He's already lost his label on the billionaire charts.

I think this whole situation goes to show we do have freedom of speech but to a certain extent. Kanye even has a school which is named "Donda" after his mother. The school has since been closed for the rest of the year due to staff leaving under duress. Students are now transferring to other public or private schools to continue their education.

Where does he go from here? Only Ye knows.

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SPORTS NEWS:

Cross Country – An Interview with a Runner

HAYLEIGH SHUBERT

I had the opportunity to sit down with one of the senior cross-country runners, Summer Buss. She was gracious in sitting down with me to answer a few questions about a sport most don't know anything about.

What was the most enjoyable memory from the season?

Summer: When we went to the trail for practice and Coach almost tipped the van over. We had to call parents and neighbors to pull us out of the ditch.

What was your best PR or the team's best PR?

Summer: I think it was 27:30.

What did a typical practice look like?

Summer: We would run some miles around town or on the trail on Wednesdays. Girls ran three to four, boys ran four to six. Each day was a different route so we didn't end up doing the same thing repeatedly

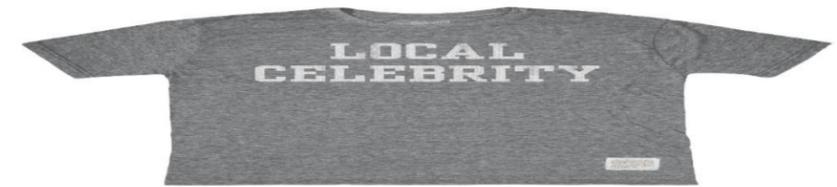
How long does the average meet last?

Summer: A few hours. Each race is only about 30 minutes and there are usually four races. Sometimes there's another if the junior high was split.

Why did you decide to join cross country?

Summer: I enjoy running and I wanted to experience cross country. Also, I have some friends that have done it before and they said meets were really fun, and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I hope that you got a better understanding about cross-country. Thank you Summer for taking the time to answer some questions about the sport. Also, congratulations to Job and Wes for qualifying for state this year!



SATIRE

JUST IN: Popular Celebrity Turns Out Not To Be A Good Person

“Who could have expected this?”

REBECCA FORD

Looking at the Twitter trending page, we can see the dumpster fire that is humanity. Just last week, it was reported, #1 on the trending tab, that everyone's favorite homegrown unproblematic celeb, Average Andy, turned out to be a horrible, awful, no-good, very bad person. Fans have taken to calling Average Andy Below Average Andy in light of telling new information, which reveals Andy to be a..... jaywalker. "I gave my life away to Average Andy," said one fan. "He was my favorite unremarkable guy. I can't believe he would do this." "I think they're all making this worse than it is," said another fan, while watching an accredited professional explain why their favorite Guy is bad. "He didn't actually do all that, and if he did, he didn't mean it. Everyone's just trying to cancel him. This is peak cancel culture. Everyone's just too easily offended. If he did something wrong, that's on everyone else. If he killed someone, that's on them for standing in the way. He hasn't done anything wrong. Hashtag free Average Andy!" "This affects me more than anyone else," said a third fan, who was not directly affected by anything that happened. "I care about my blorbo so much. I was chronically online for him. I gave up years of my life to pour over his every single action. You can't trust anyone anymore." As a result, Average Andy has deleted all of his social media accounts and issued the following apology.

“MY B, FELLAS.”

A representative issued a statement as well, describing the apology as “an act of public pressure; purely performative and without intention,” and that there was “no real sincerity in it,” and that “he doesn't think he did anything wrong, and, frankly, he didn't.”

Furthermore, law enforcement has decided to give him a tender, gentle, loving tap on the wrist and a smooch on the cheek to compensate for the poor baby's troubles.

“You know, when they get like this, you have to understand how much more difficult their lives are than ours. I mean, they're a whole different level. They have it rough and the victims- hell, society, for that matter- could try to be a little more understanding. Poor guy's struggling,” says involved law enforcement official, Good Cop.

So true, Good Cop. Can't we all just get along? I'm so tired of the drama.

BUSINESS

Suzy's Sweets – Amazing Food & Amazing People

HAILEY FORD



Suzy's Sweets is a small independently-owned business that opened on 6th St in Adams, NE, on July 14th. Suzy's Sweets is a small eatery featuring sweets such as rolls, cookies, and brownies, as well as breakfast burritos and deli sandwiches for lunch, and also iced coffee made with coffee ice cubes. There have been a wide variety of positive responses to the goods Suzy sells. One anonymous review says, “Loved their strawberry swirl roll! It was a great twist on a classic cinnamon roll! Perfect strawberry to bread to icing ratio!” Suzy's Sweets is very popular among the junior high and high school students from Freeman, as well as the community!
