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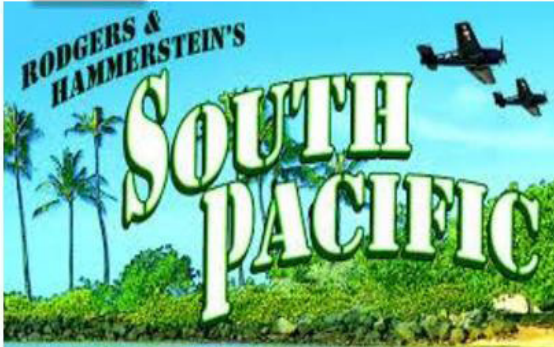
NORSE CODE



Volume 1 - Issue 1 - December 2016

West Theatre Arts Program

10AM MATINEE \$2 Ticket



Music by Rodgers, Richard | Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II | Book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan | Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning novel "Tales of the South Pacific" | By James Michener

February 10th

www.nbexcellence.org/community/westpac.cfm



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March 10th

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From the editors

Readers,

During last school year, we, as the Norse Code staff, felt like we weren't doing enough. We wanted to challenge ourselves to put out a product of higher quality, to form new ideas and create a fresh, modern Norse Code. We played with different layout patterns and brainstormed new articles and for a while we were satisfied with the changes. But, at the end of the year, we still felt like we had more to do. After careful consideration, the most popular idea among staff members was not to put a new section in the paper or change the way we lay out the front page; rather, the idea was to change everything. We decided to form a whole new identity--a personal brand--in the hopes that we could more fully and accurately capture our passions and connect with students and staff at NBW on a more complete level. This change comes now.

If you couldn't already tell, the Norse Code is a bit different this year, and we couldn't be happier about it. This first magazine is only the beginning of a long journey with the new Norse Code. We are working hard to not only put out quality content, but set the magazine up for a bright future. The staff has been working extremely hard to create our new style and has been doing a great job.

We've both had the privilege to witness the Norse Code grow for the last two years, and we are overjoyed to start our third and final year with a radical change. It's with great pride that we present this new-and-improved issue of the Norse Code--the first of many to come at New Berlin West.

Roxanne Panas and Abby Patterson
Co-editors in chief



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Frank Ocean goes Blonde

AFTER RELEASING HIS Gram my-winning Channel ORANGE and 2011's Nostalgia, Ultra, Frank Ocean was flooded with fame, a level of attention he avoided: dodging press, turning down guest verses, deleting his Twitter. The continuous teasing of a new record brought out outraged fans and explosions of angry Tweets and posts on social media.

Slowly, hope was being lost and sights of Ocean were little to none. No one thought we would hear from him again. But, after four years of patiently waiting, Ocean hits us. With another ingenious, storytelling album; naturally, this is what he does best.

Blonde, spelled "Blond" on the album cover, is full of emotion. The album flows out a story of sorrow and grief. These songs aren't meant for marching, they serve a purpose.

With more upbeat songs like "Nights" to the more mellow songs of "Nikes" and "White Ferrari". Ocean doesn't cease to fail when it comes to making beautiful and unique songs. Most would think that his album is just background noise until Ocean's voice comes out in a shining spotlight.

On Blonde, dizziness is a sen-

sation. The album is by turns oblique, smolderingly direct, forlorn, funny, dissonant and gorgeous; a vertiginous marvel of digital-age psychedelic pop.

Ocean's songs connect directly to ugly moments in recent American history. On the lead sin-

bubble up on "Nights" - but his main preoccupation is romance.

He approaches the subject from oblique angles, time-shifting the different phases of relationships like he's got them loaded on a DVR: skipping from the blossoming of love directly into its de-

mise, backing up a bit, leaving out big chunks.

"I broke your heart last week", he sings on "Ivy," "You'll probably feel better by the weekend." When the chorus comes, he spits "The start of nothing/ I could hate you now."

Ocean has an extreme facility with off-beat love songs, and can distill complex emotions: "I'm not like him, but I'll mean something to you," he sings to a lover on "Nikes," diagramming an asymmetrical relationship in just ten words.

Listening closely, you can envision the moodiness and

simplicity of how these songs were recorded. In a room, sitting comfortably with a single microphone, spilling out lyrics as if they were the last he would ever perform. Maybe, they are the last he will ever perform? That is your typical Frank Ocean.

Jada Phelps, Staff Writer



gle "Nikes," Ocean wraps his voice in a woozy distortion and pivots in space of just two lines from blunt loverman braggadocio ("If you need d***, I got you") to mournfulness over Trayvon Martin's killing ("that n**** look just like me").

There are other moments where ugly American History crashes in - memories of how Hurricane Katrina uprooted Ocean's

There's an app for that: Stu

Free apps can be helpful study tools for high school students

WHEN YOU HAVE A TEST COMING UP IN ENGLISH, WHAT DO YOU DO TO PREPARE FOR IT? DO you play video games all night and just wing it the next day, or do you like to play video games that help you remember the information? Do you make flashcards and go through them a couple times? Whatever your studying habits are, you can always use apps to help you out.



Explain Everything

Want an app that lets you give a different and fun presentation? Explain Everything is an interactive whiteboard that allows you to animate, record, and collaborate. You can use text, video, audio, pictures, laser pointers, and drawings to animate your slides, so this app is perfect for presentations. You can also collaborate with your friends or teachers in real-time. If you don't have an iPad at home to do your project on, then you can go down to the library where you can check one out.

"We have some [iPads] to check out, and then we also have some for classroom use. So we have a cart of thirty that a teacher can check out to use with their class," explains our school's Library Media Specialist, Barb Uhen. The Explain Everything and Explain Everything Classic apps both received 4 stars on the App Store. Explain Everything is free for iOS, Android, Chrome OS, and Windows, but you can be a subscriber for \$2.67 per year. Explain Everything Classic is \$5.99 available only for iOS, and Explain Everything VPP is \$7.99 available only for iOS.



Green Screen

Have you heard of the "green screen" effect? Well, this effect lets actors look like they have landed on the moon or are walking with the dinosaurs. The "green screen" effect also allows weather men to do their weather reports. On the Green Screen app you can take or import videos, photos, and artwork to start your project. The app may seem like one for children, but it is a great alternative for those presentations you give to your class on a boring slide. You can also use

the crop and mask tools to remove any areas you don't want in your project. Then, when you finish, you can save your project to your camera roll, Dropbox, or Google Drive. Green Screen is \$2.99 and it's only available in the App Store. You can make your own movie with the Green Screen app.



Quizlet

Do you have a test coming up and you don't know how to study for it? Quizlet can help! Quizlet is an app and a website that helps you study for exams like the ACT or SAT, quizzes in a class, or help you with homework. Quizlet has 18 different languages to study including Spanish, French, German, Chinese, and more. You can study on flashcards, practice your spelling on those tricky Spanish words, or play addicting games and try to beat your high score. You can put images or audio on

Students use apps to study

your flashcards to help you remember your terms. You can also play Quizlet Live with your friends. Quizlet Live is where you and your friends are put into groups and you play a matching game to see which team can finish first! Quizlet is available for iOS, Google Play, and online at www.quizlet.com. The app received 5 stars on the App Store.



Kahoot!

Do you want to quiz your friends and see if they are smarter than you? Kahoot! is a website where you can play and create your own games to practice terms or questions for an upcoming test.

"I like the way that everybody can play at one time," says Freshman Mason Radish, "and it's very interactive." You can master your debating skills, or make a survey. You can play the quizzes on Kahoot! as an individual and go up against that A+ student, or you can play on a team with that A+ student.

"You get really competitive and it's hilarious," Freshman Shelby Galkowski says. You can make a free account to start making your quizzes, debates, or surveys. People that want to play your games will have to enter a game pin in order to play. Kahoot! is only available online. Go to www.kahoot.it to start playing.



Post-It Plus

Looking for an app that organizes your notes? Look no further because Post-It Plus is an app that allows you to take pictures of up to 50 Post-It notes at a time and rearrange them. You can also add digital notes to the Post-Its and combine the Post-Its together. Post-It Plus lets you share your notes to PowerPoint, Excel, Dropbox, PDF, and more. This app has a 3.5 star rating. Post-It Plus is free and available only on iOS devices.



Lumosity

Do you enjoy playing games and learning at the same time? Lumosity is the app for you. Lumosity is an app where you play a variety of daily games to challenge your brain.

"I liked it when I used it because it did make you think logically," Uhen explains, "but I found that it repeated a lot of games." The Lumosity team has scientists and university researchers who help make this app better for the 70 million users around the world. If you're looking into challenging your brain, head over to the App Store, Google Play Store, or onto your laptop and download the app. Lumosity is free to download and play, and you can also become a subscriber! Lumosity received 4.5 stars on the App Store and 4 stars on Google Play.

With the help of these apps your tests won't be so difficult, your presentations won't be so stressful, and your knowledge will improve, all the while having fun.

Reanna Peterson, Staff Writer



Butterburgers and Bromances

Getting to know Dan Counsell, West's endearing psychology teacher

DAN COUNSELL'S QUIRKS ARE FAIRLY WELL known in our school, whether it be his affection for a Culver's Butterburger, or for his bromances with the teachers in the rooms next to his. Over in room 209, Counsell described how his 20 years of teaching have been, and what he has enjoyed about his time teaching so far.

He stated that his main focus was to "make a positive impact on the students and if possible, just make them laugh a little".

After explaining his main goal in teaching, Counsell was asked how he thought students here at the school viewed him, and he responded with, "I want them to see me as friendly and that there's a mutual

respect between me and all of my students, and I also really hope they find me at least a little humorous".

He chuckled as he gave an explanation as to why he got into teaching, as it was mostly because he really enjoyed reading textbooks and learning new information as a kid. Beyond his childhood, he began to realize that not a lot of careers needed any expertise in social studies, but that teaching was the best path for someone as interested in social studies as himself.

He even explained, "I honestly never thought that I would be teaching psychology, but here I am".

Next, Counsell expressed what his favorite thing about teaching is, and it took him a while to find his answer. "There really are a lot of things to enjoy



about teaching, but I think one of the most rewarding things to see, is when a student[s] becomes very passionate and enthusiastic about what you're up at the front of the class teaching".

He also mentioned that there was one thing that was very important about teach-

ing : "I can be true to myself while teaching. Some teachers will dress up for certain history lessons and stuff, but...

that's not me. I just get to crack a couple jokes, and I'm really glad that I get to stand up here and do that while teaching". He seems to be very glad to be teaching, and thinking about the fact he gets to do it everyday, even if his original plan wasn't to be a teacher.

After hearing that, and having some fairly basic questions asked, it was time to break out the questions that most people would really want to know about

Mr. Counsell.

The first hard hitting question was asking who his best friend in the building was, and he said, "I couldn't pick one person, but it's both Mr. Grabo and Mr. Johnston".

Counsell was then prompted to describe what sparked these specific "bromances" and if there were any other strong friendships the public should know about. He had no trouble saying, "There definitely aren't any other bromances going on," he snickered a little as he explained, "I'm a family man, I've got a wife, two kids, two dogs. Not a lot of time for more bromances".

As for what sparked these strong friendships, it was a combination of "sports talk, a love for history, and common interests in general".

Branching off from this, I thought it was time to bring up one of the school's favorite seasonal

traditions: Happy Holligrabes.

The school needed to hear Mr. Counsell's opinion on this beautiful winter occurrence, and he shared, "This past year was one of the most well done, and I'm very excited to see where it goes this year". It was exciting to finally hear his opinion on this recently made tradition, one that he took

part of in past years, as his and Mr. Grabo's face were printed and stuck all over the school.

Lastly, it was time to get a little more personal with Mr Counsell and ask him about something that he holds very dearly to his heart.

The school needed to know more about his love for Culver's.

A smile came across his face as he described to me "It's just really good, and made fresh. I've never been to a Culver's with bad staff, and it's just... so good".

To finish the interview, Counsell was asked

if he thought anyone loved Culver's more than him, and he laughed as he said, "I really hope so, I love Culver's, but I don't want to be remembered for being the biggest fan of Culver's". Although I believed him, it is a little hard to hear him say that, considering he can name every Culver's from here to Eau Claire.

Lastly, there's something that Counsell would like everyone to hear that he said in response to being asked what his favorite thing about teaching is.

"It's good to be you. I'm a bit of an introvert, so standing up here and teaching everyday, I never would have thought I'd be here. The reason I do this though, is because it is me now. Being you is good, but you can't get too far into your comfort zone, because it'll prevent you from growing as a person."

Riley Richards, staff writer



"I've never been to a Culver's with bad staff"



Pictured top left, right, and bottom: The three amigos.



Hometown History

A look at New Berlin's very own local Historical Park

NEW BERLIN BECAME A CITY IN 1959. THE first settlers came in the 1830s. For over a hundred years, New Berlin was an agriculture-based town with under 1,000 people. While many of these aspects have changed, the aim of the New Berlin Historical Society remains the same: to keep such historical truths alive.

This local Historical Park was first formed when an ordinary group of New Berliners got together with the idea in 1964. In 1965, these locals sought the approval from the state historical society to start the city's historical project. After the organization was cleared with the state, the New Berlin Historical Society became official in 1965 and is still in use today. In fact, the Society's 50th anniversary was just last year.

New Berlin's one and only Historical Park sits on a small plot of land on National Avenue and features six historical buildings. One of the buildings, the little red schoolhouse, is now used to show today's New Berlin students what it was like for kids from all over town in all different grades to be taught by the same teacher in the same classroom. Each of the buildings, like the schoolhouse, have withstood the test of time and are here to show how far New Berlin has come since its earliest settlements in the 1830s.

The Historical Society has really unique oppor-

tunities to get a first-hand feel of our town's history. However, the society doesn't teach history like you'd learn it in school. It houses real buildings from a long time ago, all of which are actually from New Berlin. Each building tells a little bit about the history of our town, and going through them is a really fun, hands-on way to learn about the early days.

The society features the old schoolhouse, two family homes and a barn built in the late 1800s, a log farmhouse, a former firehouse turned into a small museum, and a few other historical pieces. Across the street, there is also a barn and farmhouse still in use by Weston's Antique Apple Orchards, which has been in use since 1906, when it was built. Each one of these little buildings gives visitors a realistic look into New Berlin's past and informs the city's people about its history.

Some wonder how the Historical Park got where it is or where all the buildings came from. Around 1960, New Berlin was looking to start its Industrial Park, so the Historical Society acquired some land near that area, on Cleveland Avenue: the Miller Farm and the Miller House. The old Miller House was the first property the Society purchased, and city council members immediately took action to restore it and get it back in good condition. However, once the city got an offer for the Industrial Park property, they evict-



Historical Park, New Berlin, WI

ed, and the Historical Society had to burn the Miller House down. Fortunately, after this disappointment, the Sprengel property came on the market, which is where the New Berlin Historical Park stands today.

The Society purchased this property when it conveniently came on the market right when they needed it, in 1970. They started moving their buildings to this land, and almost all of them are still standing here today. The Meidenbauer Log House is one example. It was moved from a huge farm on Lawnsdale road and once housed twelve children, who eventually donated their former home to the Historical Society in 1986.

The Church-Winton-Martin House is another age-old property. It was the childhood home of Theodora Winton Youmans, a famous suffragist that led Wisconsin to be the first state to approve the 19th amendment.

"The third building to be moved here was what we call the Winton-Martin House, which was the girlhood home of Theodora Youmans, who was a suffragette and well known in the community," said David Totten, President of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society. "That building was moved in 2002." Winton grew up in New Berlin and her childhood home, school, and church are all featured in the Historical Park.

The New Berlin Historical Society probably isn't the most well known place in New Berlin, nor is it the most obvious place to hang out with friends on the weekend. That said, the Historical Society has a lot of special events and features that could appeal to al-

most everyone in the city. For example, the Historical Park holds open house events on Sunday afternoons throughout certain times of the year. Totten clarified what else visitors can do when they come see the Park.

"We also have four open houses a year," he said, "which means that on a Sunday afternoon people can come and tour the homes, look at all the exhibits that we have."

He also explained how the Historical Society caters to children: "We try to engage children in activities, like, for example, Applefest was just completed, and we had them shell corn and press apples--activities like that."

Applefest, is one of the biggest events the Historical Society hosts. It is an annual occasion held each October. This year's Applefest was on October 2 and the Society invited people of all ages to come that Sunday afternoon. There were fun activities for kids and families, such as cranking the corn sheller, making

apple cider, and square dancing in the barn. People could also buy locally made products from Weston's Antique Apples, the age-old orchard across the street from the park. Exhibits in the recently-opened museum portion of the park, like military history and New Berlin's former police and fire department displays, were also opened to Applefest attendees.

This annual event has always been one of the Historical Society's most popular times of the year, and it's a great opportunity for families to go to a fun fall festival and learn about some of New Berlin's history. Another open house event the So-

”
Its mission is to inform New Berliners of New Berlin history, and provide as much information as well as retain information about the history of the city,



New Berlin Historical Society

The New Berlin Historical park hosts several events and activities over the year that are fun for everyone.

ciety holds includes Historic Day in September.

"We also usually have a good crowd for what we call Historic Day, which is in September. In that particular event, we actually close the road," Totten stated. "We have a little parade." Applefest and this event bring the majority of the Society's visitors throughout the year.

"[The Society's] mission is to inform New Berliners of New Berlin history, and provide as much information as well as retain information about the history of the city," Totten said, explaining the Society's mission. He also described what New Berliners use the Society for. For instance, Totten recalls a good number of elemen-

tary school field trips coming to learn more about their city. He went on to explain that they also give tours.

"Anyone can contact our tour director and arrange for a tour, which is one way we try to educate the public, and many of the tours are [for] school children, usually third and fourth graders," said Totten. The Historical Park is a great place for not only young children to get a hands-on feel for their city's history, but for people of all ages who are simply looking for something interesting to learn about nearby.

Totten also mentioned that the Society is always looking for people to help out.

"We're always looking for interested people to support our mission here. That could include teenagers, as well as older people," he said. In this day, most things are obviously technology based, yet not everyone knows how to use that technology. This can be an obstacle for some older members, according to Totten.

"People with computer skills are important, and many of our older members aren't necessarily computer literate. We need people to come along who are skilled in those areas, and that's very helpful," Totten pointed out.

After all, the New Berlin Historical Society is a really cool, informative place more people should check out. Whether you're going on a school field trip, or to a fall event like Applefest, you're guaranteed to learn a bunch about the history of New Berlin in a really fun way.

Alaina Ward, Staff Writer



New Berlin Historical Society

The Alice Westin Memorial Graden, located in Historical Park on the grounds of the historical society.

Robotics team gears up for new year

ROBOTS: YOU'VE SEEN them in movies, books, and just about any type of media you can imagine. They not only entertain us, but make our lives easier. Whether it's the Transformers saving the world from destruction, or the demon spawnings that are Furbies, robots are one of the largest aspects of our culture; and it's about to get so much bigger.

The New Berlin Blitz robotics team is a part of FIRST, the organization responsible for running robotics and lego league competitions across the country. Every year, FIRST designs a game to challenge the teams during the competitions. Each team has to design and build a robot that they believe will be able to complete the objective and earn them the most points. Past years' games have included getting balls through goals a certain height off the ground, "recycling" by stacking boxes, and ambushing medieval-style castles. The game for this year has not been announced yet.

Besides building the robot, the team also spends time to learn and practice new skills.

"Every meeting that we have is essentially a new opportunity to learn something," says junior Zach Godec, the team captain. "We have mentors that come in, like GE Healthcare, Joy Global, and Rockwell Animation that come and use their real-world experience and what they've learned in the fields...and we can apply that to our robot."

Because of the influx of mentors and training opportunities, everyone on the team becomes very well-rounded. Although each



Emily Hoefer

Blitz team member Andrew Hintzman demonstrates to a prospective student how to drive the team's robot at the 2016 STEM Fair.

member generally works with one aspect of the robot, it is required that each member learns parts of the other disciplines as well.

"I joined expecting to learn more programming...but I ended up learning a lot more of the electrical than I expected," says sophomore Sam Ferguson.

Learning the different disciplines, he continued, made communication much easier between the groups. "[For example], if you're on the programming team, you're supposed to know at least some basic wiring so you can let the electrical know what you need."

But, the members of the team learn much more than just mechanics, wiring, and programming. Although robotics is primarily STEM-based, it houses

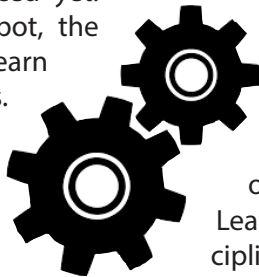
opportunities for every area of interest. A business and marketing discipline is also available to manage the team's fundraising, marketing, and sponsorships.

The team is also one of the school's more notable groups to join because it partners with New Berlin Eisenhower. Many of the teammates enjoy the merge because it provides them with opportunities that they wouldn't otherwise have had.

"Having two schools together combines your ideas and makes it easier to utilize your resources instead of dividing it between the two schools," says Jacob Korducki, a senior at Eisenhower who has been on the team since his freshmen year.

Any interested parties should check the school calendar for Robotics meetings.

Olivia Nyman, Staff Writer



The progression of hearing

IN THE HALLWAYS OF NEW Berlin West Middle/High school, all kinds of students make their way through the crowds as they try to get to class. One group in particular includes the students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

These students have many resources available to them, such as hearing aids, FM systems, cochlear implants, and iSenses. Deaf and hard of hearing students also have access to interpreters, technology programs, closed captions, and teachers who help them get through public schooling successfully.

That's what life is like for a deaf or hard of hearing student attending public school nowadays, but what was life for a hearing im-

paired students in earlier times?

Limited Resources in the Past

Unfortunately, deaf and hard of hearing students back in prior decades didn't have accessibility to the resources available nowadays. While some of devices used currently were available back then, they weren't the best of their models or commonly used.

"Hearing aids looked very different a few decades ago," Stephanie Krellwitz, a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing at West and Eisenhower, explained. "Kids back then had to wear

little boxes around their neck and chest with wires that went into the ears, like earbuds. And there was this dial you'd have to use to adjust the volume."

According to Krellwitz, although FM systems seen in the classrooms today were available in previous decades at public schools, they weren't the most adequate devices to use or commonly used by the deaf and hard of hearing students.

"There were more problems with the systems because the technology wasn't as advanced, such as radio interference," she commented. "They also weren't as small as

they are now. The students would have to wear a big neckloop to access FM and the teacher microphone was much larger as well."



Pictured left: A hearing device used in the past.
Pictured right: Devices used by deaf and hard of hearing students in modern times.

aring loss: now vs. then

Deaf/Hard Of Hearing Student In Public Schools and Oral Schools

In the past, it was very rare for a deaf or hard of hearing student to be attending a public school.

As Krellwitz described, "There were less students mainstreamed into general education. They either went to schools specifically for deaf and hard of hearing students or were put into special programs within their schools."

The way students who were deaf or hard of hearing were treated in public schools in the past wasn't the best, as confirmed by Mrs. Krellwitz. Deaf and hard of hearing students were forbidden to use sign language in their classes. This was due to the fact that being deaf or hard of hearing was seen as a "disability." Many people believed that if they never learned to speak, they'd never be able to fit in with what they called the "normal" world. They proceeded to forbid deaf and hard of hearing students from using sign language and forced them to learn how to speak.

If they used sign language, they'd be punished; however, outside of the classroom, deaf and hard of hearing students would get together in secret and communicate with each other through sign language.

Today, in deaf culture, those schools are referred to as oral schools - a school where a majority of the students know how to speak.

How Things Have Changed Since Then

Since then, there have been many changes for the deaf and hard of hearing community, both in the context of technology advancement and the development of social acceptance.

Krellwitz said that more deaf and hard of hearing students have started attending public school.

And although the amount of deaf and hard of hearing students attending public schools has risen since prior decades, there are still more deaf and hard of hearing students that prefer special schools over public schools.

Hopes for the Future

As for the future of deaf and hard of hearing, it can only be predicted. A hearing loss student who wishes to remain anonymous shared their thoughts on how deaf/hard of hearing students and education will have changed

in the future: "I would

think that 99% of the students will have IEPs, hearing aids and specials teacher."

"I think in the future services for deaf/hard of hearing students will look similar to what they are today," Krellwitz shared her thoughts on the same matter.

"Some students will have IEPs, some won't. Technology will improve, but many kids will still need help. But what I think will change is that more and more students with hearing loss will start attending public schools in a mainstreamed program and that schools for the deaf will have lower attendance."

Teagan Guimina, Staff Writer



For more information, visit these sources:

<http://signlanguageco.com/deaf-culture-timeline/>

http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/education_deaf_01.htm

New Berlin West alumni Brett Connors starting on the Wisconsin Badgers

"READY, GO!" yells Wisconsin Badgers quarterback Alex Hornibrook. Brett Connors, at 6'6" and 306 pounds, hears the call, and flings the football back from the line of scrimmage into Hornibrook's waiting hands. Connors explodes into action. He sees who he needs to block and he does his job. The Wisconsin running back flies through a big hole that Connors created. The play results in a first down for Wisconsin. Connors is currently starting center for the Wisconsin Badgers. Number 64 on the back of his jersey, Connors graduated from New Berlin West in 2014.

Connors's 2014 season on the Badgers wasn't very eventful for him, as he was a redshirt freshman. In his 2015 season, things changed. Brett earned his first letter and saw action on the field. He played in two games, his first one against Miami on Sept. 12th, his second at Nebraska on Oct. 10th. He also was an academic all-big ten honoree in 2015.

His 2016 season was when things really started



Hudl.com

Connors stares down his opponent while playing on the New Berlin West Vikings in high school.

to pick up. His first start for the 2016 season was at Michigan State. Connors started in place of left guards Micah Kapoi and Jon Dietzen who were both fighting through in-

juries at the time. It appears his coaches were impressed by his performance, as he remained at his place on the starting lineup for the next game against Michigan. Con-

nors's 2016 season is still unfolding. Only time will tell what kind of force the New Berlin West alumni will be on Badgers.

An article from the Milwaukee Journal Senti-

nel stated that Connors doesn't just play center, he is sort of a jack-of-all-trades on the O-line. He has taken many reps at all spots there.

After walking away from spring practice believing he had earned the trust of the coaches, Connors said, "I know the offense. I'm here to play. I want to do what is best for the team. That is when I felt really confident in myself to let it go and just play." This quote was also also featured in the Journal Sentinel.

A quote from head coach Paul Chryst, also featured in the Journal, said, "He is a guy that knows what to do. He is accountable. Guys trust him."

Former New Berlin West Football coach Patrick Detmer, who worked with Connors from his freshman

year in 2010 to his senior year in 2013, had many positive things to say about Connors.

"We knew that he was a special player from freshman year," said Detmer. "We knew from the outset he could play D1 football. It's one thing to have the opportunity to play, it's another to have the drive and work ethic to want to go and earn that. He had that passion."

Detmer also said, "[Brett] is a lot of fun. Great sense of humor. He always enjoyed being out on the field. He had sheer fun playing, [which] I enjoyed. He would get vocal, he would rally the guys. He would get them fired up to play."

Wes Evans, Staff Writer

“I’m here to play. I want to do what is best for the team.”



Badger Nation

Connors gets ready to snap the ball against Michigan State.

United boys dig their way to Sta

NEW BERLIN UNITED had another victorious season this year, finishing with a record of 25-12 and falling just short of the state championship game. It was the team's third straight trip to state in the last three years. In the state semifinal match against Catholic Memorial, United lost in a hard-fought battle to conclude their season.

United lost their last match at state 1-3 to Catholic Memorial. After losing the first two sets 17-25 and 20-25, United gained some momentum and took back the third set by winning 25-23. Memorial came back and won 25-19 in the fourth set. Memorial

al then moved on to the championship game to beat Marquette and win the state championship.

Although they didn't pull off the win, United didn't perform poorly, according to head coach Nick Maske. "Our semifinal match against Catholic Memorial was another great game for us, despite the loss. It was the best we blocked all season," said Maske. "Our passing and hitting weren't as strong as they were on Friday night, so if we were to pass and hit better on Saturday morning we could have definitely have pulled off another upset."

Before their loss to Memorial, United was going strong and obtained a victory over Kaukauna in the state quarterfinal. They



United huddles together after they win a point defending state champs in three sets.



Senior middle hitter Matt Obradovich hits the ball against Kaukauna's defense in the state quarterfinal match on Friday November 11.

won in three sets 25-21, 25-18, and 25-23 in a very close third set to move on to the semifinals.

United's juniors Zach Just and Kyle Kraninger (IKE) both helped the team out with 13 kills each. Maske seemed incredibly proud of how the team played in this match. "The match against Kaukauna was our best overall match of the entire season," he said. "I wouldn't have changed anything; if we played like we did on Friday the entire season, we would have won many tournaments and lost very few matches." United did a lot of work in practice that week to prepare for Kaukauna. According to coach Maske, the

State for third consecutive year



point against Kaukauna. They beat the

boys studied how Kaukauna played to create defensive and offensive strategies to win the match, and they stuck with that plan. "It also helped that we were the underdogs, and our boys felt no pressure going into the match," Maske added. This was United's fifth time going to state and they've made 3 straight trips to state in the last couple years. All the state tournament games were played at Wisconsin Lutheran College. The energy was high in the gym and there was a huge fan turnout on both sides. Coach Maske points out, "On Friday, our boys came out of the locker room with tons

of energy [fed by the United fans]."

Despite having some ups and downs this season, the team won eight of their nine conference matches in the regular season. They finished the season with a record of 25-12. United finished in the top half of all their tournaments too. They have again received the titles of Woodland Conference regular season champions and the Woodland Conference tournament champions. According to LaMora, the boys struggled a little bit at the beginning of the season but quickly recovered by the conference tournament where they showed they were a team to beat.

"We turned it around by giving all of our time and devotion to the

game and making sure none of our teammates felt like they weren't a part of the team," said LaMora. United reflects positively on their season and looks forward to their future.

"The end of the season [finished] with New Berlin United returning to state for the fifth time in our short 11 year program history and our third trip to state in three years," Maske said. "We are losing some amazing seniors, but this trip to state is setting us up for a great season next year."

Alaina Ward, Staff Writer

For full article see mynorsecode.com



Junior outside hitter Zach Just goes up for the kill against Kaukauna in United's quarterfinal win.

Photos by Alaina Ward

