

## High School One-Act Play Storms Competition

BY ALEX REED

Granger High School One-Act Play took the stage on Monday, March 22, to compete at the zone level.

"The day seemed extremely long as we waited to compete," said J.D. Vargas. "Everyone was really nervous and restless."

After performing their play, *Flowers for Algernon*, the cast's anticipation grew as the awards ceremony time came closer.

"I was so nervous while we were waiting," said Kirk Dunn. "It was nerve-wracking. I could barely stand it."

When the Honorable Mention Cast awards were announced, the Granger students were eager. Alex Reed was the only one from Granger to ascend the stage to accept this award.

"I felt ecstatic as we got our first award," said Charly Owen. "I was very proud of the team and of the individuals."

As the last picture was taken, the All-Star Cast awards were called out, and three of Granger's finest took the stage. Brianna Billingsley, Jessica Curtis and Nick Schwertner each earned medals for All-Star Cast.

"I was very surprised when they called my name," said Schwertner. "Jessica and Brianna deserved it."

With all of the Granger representatives yelling, the Best Actor

award was given. This award is given to the best male actor out of the whole competition. Granger students and fans erupted into cheers and shouts when Josh Dews was given this honor.

"I was honored," said Dews. "I was glad that I was part of a play that allowed it. And I never would have been able to have done it without my fellow cast members."

Granger continued its celebration when it was announced that they would be advancing to district competition.

"The true excitement never ends," said Curtis. "It continues with random bursts of thrill; it's the best feeling ever."

Granger's light man was Pedro Juarez, and he received a Best Crew award.

"I was very confident as we went into competition, even though the light board was much bigger than Granger's," said Juarez.

Out of the four teams in the zone, only the top two advance. Holland will be the other school to go with Granger to district.

"Every year, it's Holland that advances with us," said Billingsley. "We have befriended them in a way so that we can represent our zone in further competitions."

The Granger One-act Play cast and crew earned fourth place at district competition.

## Band Students Represent Well at Solo and Ensemble Contest

BY CHARLY OWEN

Every year, members of the Granger School Band are given the option to attend the Solo and Ensemble contest. To participate in this contest, one must learn and perform a musical piece in front of a judge.

This year, Nick Schwertner, Trevor Schwitzer and J.D. Vargas traveled to Elgin to be judged and rated on how well they performed each of their pieces.

"It was a bit nerve-wracking at first, but we settled down and were able to have fun," said Vargas.

In this contest, each individual is given a rating between 1 and 5, with 1 being the best and 5 being

the worst.

First year high school band member Trevor Schwitzer received a 1 after performing a snare drum solo.

"We had a lot of fun and tried our hardest. Our results were pretty awesome," said Schwitzer.

Drum Major Nick Schwertner received a 2 after performing a snare drum solo.

"We all worked really hard and got what we deserved," said Schwertner.

Sophomore J.D. Vargas received a 3 after performing a trumpet solo.

"Solo and Ensemble was a great experience for them. I'm very proud of all the effort and practice time they dedicated to their instruments," said Band Director Clayton Capps.



## District UIL Results

BY CHARLY OWEN

On Wednesday, March 24, Granger students competed in the writing events of the District UIL meet, which was held at Granger School. On Friday, March 26, Granger students competed in the District UIL meet at Blinn College in Brenham. The results for both days are as follows:

**Accounting**  
Team—3rd Place  
Elliott Moore—3rd Place (Regional qualifier)

Brianna Billingsley  
Pedro Juarez  
Maribel Lizardo

**Current Issues & Events**  
Team—2nd Place  
Daniel Graves—3rd Place (Regional qualifier)

Alex Reed—8th Place  
Charly Owen

**Computer Applications**  
Jake Miller—4th Place

**Editorial Writing**  
Amanda Allen—7th Place  
Daniel Graves

Alyssa Wade

**Feature Writing**  
Kirsten Messex—4th Place  
Brianna Billingsley  
Courtney Mattice

## Headline Writing

Alyssa Wade—5th Place  
Tyler Cantwell

Kirsten Messex  
**Number Sense**  
Pedro Juarez—10th Place

**News Writing**  
Daniel Graves—2nd Place (Regional qualifier)  
Alex Reed—5th Place

**Ready Writing**  
Trevor Schwitzer—2nd Place (Regional qualifier)

Samantha Peeples  
Ande Scott

**Science**  
Team—7th Place  
Tyler Cantwell

Alex Cruz  
Kirk Dunn

Cameron Schneider  
J.D. Vargas

Charly Owen  
**Social Studies**  
Team—3rd Place

Daniel Graves—1st Place (Regional qualifier)  
Courtney Mattice

Alex Reed

**Spelling and Vocabulary**  
Daniel Graves—1st Place (Regional qualifier)  
Alex Reed



## Skills USA Dominates State Competition

BY COURTNEY MATTICE

The Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Championships were held at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, this year. Four Granger students, Natalie Martinka, Lexi Garrick, Dustin Harper and Gunner Gardner, represented Skills USA



Chapter Number 1483 at the competition.

All four students claimed first place with superior projects ribbons.

"These students worked long and hard to attain their goals, and we are very proud of them," said Skills USA Advisor Mike Juranek.

The Skills USA team thank the chaperoning parents, Dale and Laddie Martinka, John and Pamela Harper and Deana Garrick for their support during the trip.

## Young Poets' Voices Heard

### Granger Poetry Contest Winners Named

BY JESSICA CURTIS

Many Granger students participated in the Essence of Granger Poetry Contest. The winners were D.J. Stefek, a third grader in the second and third grade category; Mackenzie Towers, a fourth grader in the fourth and fifth grade category; and Quinlan Kubacak, a seventh grader in the junior high category. John Ortiz won in the high school category. Congratulations to all the first place winners who received a \$67 each. Granger staff member contributed the winnings.

### Category Winner

#### Second/Third Grade:

#### D.J. Stefek

### The Heart Remembers

By D.J. Stefek

Remember the time we shared.  
The loving moments, showed you cared.

Time in the backyard together  
Are special to me forever.

The smell of your cooking or  
The jokes you played on me.  
No one was laughing  
Only you and me.

Sitting on your lap,  
Or hiding your cap, and  
drawing a treasure map.  
Or when I tied you in a chair  
and I told you I cared.  
These are just a few stories  
I like to tell  
of the special place  
I know so well.

These are things  
my heart remembers.

### Category Winner

#### High School:

#### John Ortiz

### I Love You

BY JOHN ORTIZ

My heart is weak  
Your love, it burns  
No rest, no sleep  
My stomach churns  
My mouth is open  
I speak the few...  
words and say "I love you".  
My face is hot  
My feet are cold  
This anxiety is getting old  
I look at you  
To see what you do  
You open your mouth  
And say "I love you too!"

### Category Winner

#### Third/Fourth Grade:

#### Mackenzie Towers

### My Hamster Named Hammy

BY MACKENZIE TOWERS

My hamster is so furry,  
He really likes to scurry,  
He really eats a lot I think it's so his  
food won't rot  
He's a cute little boy,  
He has a wooden chew toy,  
Hammy is his name,  
But running on his wheel is his  
favorite game,  
I love this sweet boy,  
He's my fashion toy.

### Category Winner

#### Junior High:

#### Quinlan Kubacak

### Miracle of the Angels

BY QUINLAN KUBACAK

As a chilly day awoke me  
I knew someone said "God Bless thee"

On a day that was cool  
I left for school

On my pink bike I go  
Then I suffered a horrible blow

Being hit by a truck was no fun  
But my terrible tragedy had just begun

On my legs, all of the tires roll, left and right  
The angels tried to push the truck with all of their might

As my family and friends gather around  
There I lay on the ground

In the ambulance I left  
As students and teachers wept

When I woke up in the hospital bed  
I realized I had nothing to dread

As my family members and I talked  
I slowly began to walk

Every night, every day  
For God's protection, I still pray

I see this World differently now  
How did the angels save me, how?

## Granger School

### Organizations

MAINTAINED BY  
COURTNEY MATTICE

**FFA**, Future Farmers of America, is an agricultural-based organization concentrated on the importance of agriculture to real-life instances. Members must be in or have completed at least one Ag class.

Sponsor: Eloy Perez  
**Skills USA** is an organization made to unite in a common bond all students in trade, industrial, technical and technological careers. Students learn to foster a deep respect for the dignity of work, attain a purposeful life and create an enthusiasm for learning.

Sponsor: Mike Juranek  
The newspaper team combines their skills in journalism to construct *Paw Prints*, the Granger School newspaper, with the help of Mrs. Bassett. Paw Prints articles include activities at hand, some being UIL, sports, One-Act Play, Band, NHS, Cheerleading, FFA, FCCLA, FCA, BIMM, Yearbook, senior highlights, academic highlights and teacher highlights.

Sponsor: Michelle Bassett  
**Academic UIL** is a whole category of academic events available to students in grades 2-12 that are willing to apply themselves mentally to a certain event.

Sponsor: Jimmie Baker  
**One-Act Play** is a club for those who like to act or to be in theater. Acting, staging, lighting, and hair or make up are some of the available positions for interested members.

Sponsor: Amy Vargas - Junior High

Jimmie Baker - High School  
**Band** is a music-centered organization open to students who are interested in playing instruments and reading music. Members of the band can be seen performing during halftime at football games, competing in UIL contests, participating in All-Region/All-State Band and taking part in solo and ensemble contests.

Sponsor: Clayton Capps  
**Student Council** is a group of student leaders that meet

throughout the year to carry out service projects and exchange ideas that will benefit the high school. Students in this organization are usually elected or appointed to their positions.

Sponsor: Ernie Laurence  
**NHS**, the National Honor Society, consists of students in grades 11 and 12 who show their honorable qualities through service work and maintained GPAs. Requirements for NHS are GPAs of 3.0 or higher and at least 15 hours of service work per semester. Inductees are accepted into the society at the end of the 10th grade.

Sponsor: Jimmie Baker  
**FCCLA**, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, is a family-centered organization that focuses on students and their development into career leaders. Students in grades 7-12 that have taken at least one family and consumer science class are able to join. Community service projects are constantly being formed, so students that are interested in participating are encouraged to see Mrs. Huebner. Dues are \$25.00.

Sponsor: Linda Huebner  
**FCA**, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a group open to everyone that is willing to express the Christian faith in school. Participating in service projects is one way that members express their faith. Dues are \$10.00.

Sponsor: Kelli Hood  
**BIMM**, Business Image Management and Multimedia, is an opportunity for students to apply imaging, graphic design and computing skills in businesslike environments. Students learn technical skills as well as how to deal with an evolving business.

Sponsor: Chuck Bassett  
The *Lion's Paw* yearbook committee captures moments occurring around the school at various school events in the form of photography. They then design a yearbook with all the photos taken and publish it for students.

Sponsor: Chuck Bassett

## Paws For Poetry

### Bartering

BY ALEX REED

I would like to make an exchange  
Your heart for mine  
My heart is broken, abused, and crushed  
Yours is alive and thriving, divine  
So however unfair this trade might be  
I hope you'll be willing  
To take that chance with me

For me the standard  
"You break it, you buy it"  
Does not apply  
A complete transaction  
Is what should occur  
And if, in the end  
Our hearts don't match,  
Then a new swap will happen  
And the trading goes on

I would like to make an exchange...



### The Ashes Tumble Out

BY COURTNEY MATTICE

Devastation devours the landscape in a dense blanket of black ash that suffocates the remaining life from the once majestic forest. A blaze has stripped the trees of their beautiful emerald attire, leaving their now blistered skin exposed to the bitter elements. Some naked trunks twist towards the ground, humiliated by their condition. The once gentle breeze that used to frolic amongst the evergreen royalty, pulling lovingly at their glittering green accessories, has now become an angry, bitter howl that drags at them in an attempt to snap the now brittle beings. The dying trunks sorrowfully groan in the harsh attack, moaning and crying for the fallen comrades that were not strong enough to deflect the vicious embers.

Rising from beneath the cinders, a charred green sprig begins to rise. Its single small leaf bears deep black scars along its tender surface. The ripping wind tears at its tender, young trunk, and it bends and sways, calling out with the pain of the stretching torture. The boldness of this tree, despite its infancy, is admired by its blistered elders, and as their roots dry out, leaving the life to leak from their mangled branches, a new hope blooms around them.

### Thing of the Month

BY BRIANNA BILLINGSLEY

Quote of the Month – "Sometimes it's easier to say you don't care... than to explain all the reasons why you do." – *Sex and the City*

The perfect explanation to why people sometimes walk away from confrontation rather than face the music.

Candy of the Month – Bit-O-Honey

This candy, by Nestle, is one of the oldest sweets still on the market, debut 1924.

Mythological Creature of the Month – Hecatonchires

This Greek creature was a giant with fifty heads and one hundred arms. He was the son of Uranus, Greek god of the skies.

Vaguely Known Holiday of the Month: Administrative Professionals Day – April 21

This holiday leaves one to wonder, "Huh, who knew?"

Unwelcome Pest of the Month – Mosquitoes

Mosquito season is here. They have slowly begun to descend upon us, anticipating the breaking of skin and the consumption of blood. Buy some Off.

### Lamb Chops, Part 6

BY KIRSTEN MESSEX

The farmer, with the last of the sheep done, emerged into the sunlight just in time to see Frank charge forward, head butting Gabe almost straight on, hitting him with a thud in the chest.

Gabe staggered back into William, looking dazed as Frank backed up, ready to charge again.

"Frank," Gerard put in, trying to step in, but Frank still had his head down, staring at Gabe.

"Frank," Gerard murmured

again, edging between him and Gabe, nudging him away. By now, Pete was up, trotting over to check it out.

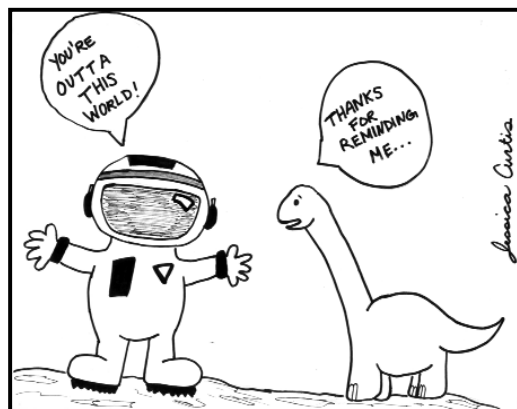
The lambs crowded around Patrick as he rose, and they followed obediently as he led them back to the far corner.

"That little ram's kind of aggressive, huh?" the farmer asked his wife as Frank tried to kick Gabe on his way past.

His wife sighed, placing a hand on his shoulder. "But they're our flock," she said simply. "And I think the little black sheep might be sad if we took him away."

### Comic

BY JESSICA CURTIS



## Letters Let Love Go

### Review of *Dear John*

BY KIRSTEN MESSEX

The newest adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' novels, *Dear John*, has found an enthusiastic audience with romantics everywhere.

Like many Sparks novels, the movie focuses on a lost love that resurfaces time and time again. While this plot has worked well for movies like *The Notebook*, it has become over marketed and boring. Without a witty dialogue and intense acting, these movies will surely sink.

Dear John tells the story of what happens to young lovers when time and distance from each other begins to test their true love.

When special ops soldier John Tyree, played by Channing Tatum, goes home on leave, he falls into a whirlwind romance with a college student on break, played by Amanda Seyfried.

What set the movie apart from other romantic dramas is that the two do not fall into a typical pattern of courtship. Tatum leaves and they begin conversing through letters, which are often extremely romantic. The letters are actually some of the few well done pieces of the movie.

Named after the Dear John letters men in combat often receive, the movie captures the characters' emotion extremely well. The chemistry between the main characters is tangible and always buzzing in the background.

However, the movie plays with the heartstrings so often to hide the fact that the dialogue and storyline are severely lacking.

The plot meanders, and development stagnates where it should've been moving forward. As for the ending, it almost felt as if they had run out of ideas and suddenly thought, hey, let's just film a last scene really quickly, put some sentimental string soundtrack over it, and end it that way.

Even Amanda Seyfried's beauty could not save this. Channing Tatum also gave a good performance, but could only do so much with a flawed script.

While *Dear John* isn't a top-notch movie, it does invoke a lot of emotion from the audience. Fluff movies aren't necessarily bad. They just don't need undue praise.

## And the Cow Jumps Over the Moon

BY JESSICA CURTIS

Aries (March 21 - April 19) – The London Bridge is not falling down. This means that your world isn't going to crumble before your eyes. There is a lot of unneeded stress upon you. Now is the time to take a breath and straighten out the drama in your life. Lucky days: 6 and 18

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) – You seem to be acting like one of the three blind mice. It is as if you are there, though not connecting with what's in front of you. Open your eyes and let out your feelings and opinions. Your voice will be heard. Lucky days: 14 and 22

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) – Row, row, row your boat, or in other words, keep doing what you're doing. You are happy and floating merrily down the stream. Be careful though. There may be rough rapids ahead. Lucky days: 13 and 25

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) – Twinkle twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are. Your curiosity is shining brightly this month. This is a great time to discover a new hobby or explore a new interest. Lucky days: 9 and 21

Leo (July 23 - August 22) – Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall, and this month, just like Humpty, you may fall. Also, like Humpty, your friends won't be able to put you together again. However, you will be able to put yourself back into place. Lucky days: 5 and 19

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) – Pop goes the weasel! A surprise is awaiting you this month. Surprises are great most of the time, but some can be deceiving, so be aware that things aren't always as they seem. Lucky days: 6 and 27

Libra (September 23 - October 22) – In the old tale, "The Farmer in the Dell," the cheese stands alone at the end. Luckily this month, you won't have this problem. You will be surrounded by good company. Lucky days: 2 and 25



Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) – This little piggy is going to be busy this month. You are going to have to take over some other piggy's jobs. Your schedule will be completely full, so get ready for a hectic month. Lucky days: 13 and 24

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) – This month, you will lose something, just as the three little kittens did. Hold tight because soon after you lose something, you will either find it or an even better substitute. Lucky days: 15 and 30

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) – Jack Sprat found his true love, and you too shall find a romantic prospect. That person may not be your soul mate, but he/she will bring you great joy. Keep an eye out for this new love that is in the air. Lucky days: 17 and 29

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) – The itty bitsy spider should have checked the weather before climbing the water spout. In your case, you should check how others are feeling around you. A close friend is going through a tough time, so you should lend a hand. Lucky days: 11 and 20

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) – Little boy blue slept through his job, and this month, you have been a little lazy. Now is the time to get the job done and stay on top of all of your work. Lucky days: 7 and 19

## Check out the Granger Website:

Game highlight videos:  
volleyball and football.

Created by the BIMM Class with Mr. Bassett.

Click on the Video tab in the tabs list at the top.



## Easter Bunny

Where Are You From?  
BY COURTNEY MATTICE

It's a bright and sunny morning, and children all around the world are waking to find lots of brightly colored, hard-boiled eggs and sweet, delicious candies hidden all around their homes. But who hides these wondrous treats? This is the job of the legendary Easter Bunny.

The Easter Bunny has origins in Pre-Christian myth. The Pre-Christian myth shows the hare as a symbol of fertility. The egg is also a Pre-Christian symbol of fertility. Therefore, it accompanies the hare during the Easter holiday season.

Although the Christians are noted for pairing the hare to the egg, it was the Germans who connected these symbols to the actual holiday.

The Easter Bunny made his first appearance in the German literature of the 1500s. It was German bakers who began the traditions of making edible bunnies in the 1800s. The Easter tradition arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch area of America in the 1700s.

When the tradition was new, children would make brightly colored nests out of bonnets, caps, baskets and other household objects and hide them around their property for the Easter Hare, or the Oschter Haws, to leave their gifts in.

The meanings of these traditions have slowly dwindled away, but the traditions have continued. On Easter morning, children awake and begin their search around their homes to find the brightly-dyed eggs that they decorated earlier in the week, various candies and other sweet treats and carefully designed baskets with other presents.

There are even Easter egg hunting contests in which neighborhoods and other organizations put together large scale hunts. The lucky person who collects the most eggs wins a prize, along with the prizes already collected.

This Easter, when Oschter Haws hops into houses and leaves his presents for everybody, remember the lore he originated from and wish for another fertile year.

Source:  
"Easter Bunny History."  
*EasterBunny's.Net. Australian Media Pty Ltd, 2008. Web. 8 Mar. 2010.*  
<<http://www.easterbunnys.net/easterbunnyhistory.htm>>.

## April Calendar

- April 1—JV/Varsity baseball game vs. Holland, away  
Softball game vs. Holland, away
- April 2—No school
- April 4—Happy Easter!
- April 5—No school
- April 6—Varsity baseball game vs. Bartlett, away  
Math TAKS testing for 5th-8th grade  
Softball game (double-header) vs. Bartlett, away
- April 7—Reading TAKS for 5th-8th grade  
Cheerleading parent meeting at 6 PM
- April 9—JV/Varsity baseball game vs. Milano, away  
Softball game vs. Milano, away  
TAKS make-up tests for 5th-8th
- April 10—JV baseball game vs. Hyde Park, home
- April 12—Tennis tournament in Somerville
- April 13—JV/Varsity baseball vs. Thrall, home  
Softball game vs. Thrall, home
- April 15—Project celebration parent meeting at 6:30 PM  
Area track meet  
PTO bake sale after school  
Softball game vs. Bartlett, home
- April 16—JV/Varsity baseball game vs. Thorndale, away  
Softball game vs. Thorndale, away
- April 17—JV baseball game vs. Milano, home
- April 19—NHS banquet in the student center, 7-9 PM
- April 20—JV/Varsity baseball game vs. Holland, home  
Softball game vs. Holland, home
- April 23—Softball game vs. Bartlett, home
- April 26—Softball game vs. Milano, home
- April 27-30—TAKS retest

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Pictures provided by Zen Oz will be marked by ZO on the picture. They can be found on his website for purchase.

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