

Flying Arrow

Fall 2019

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

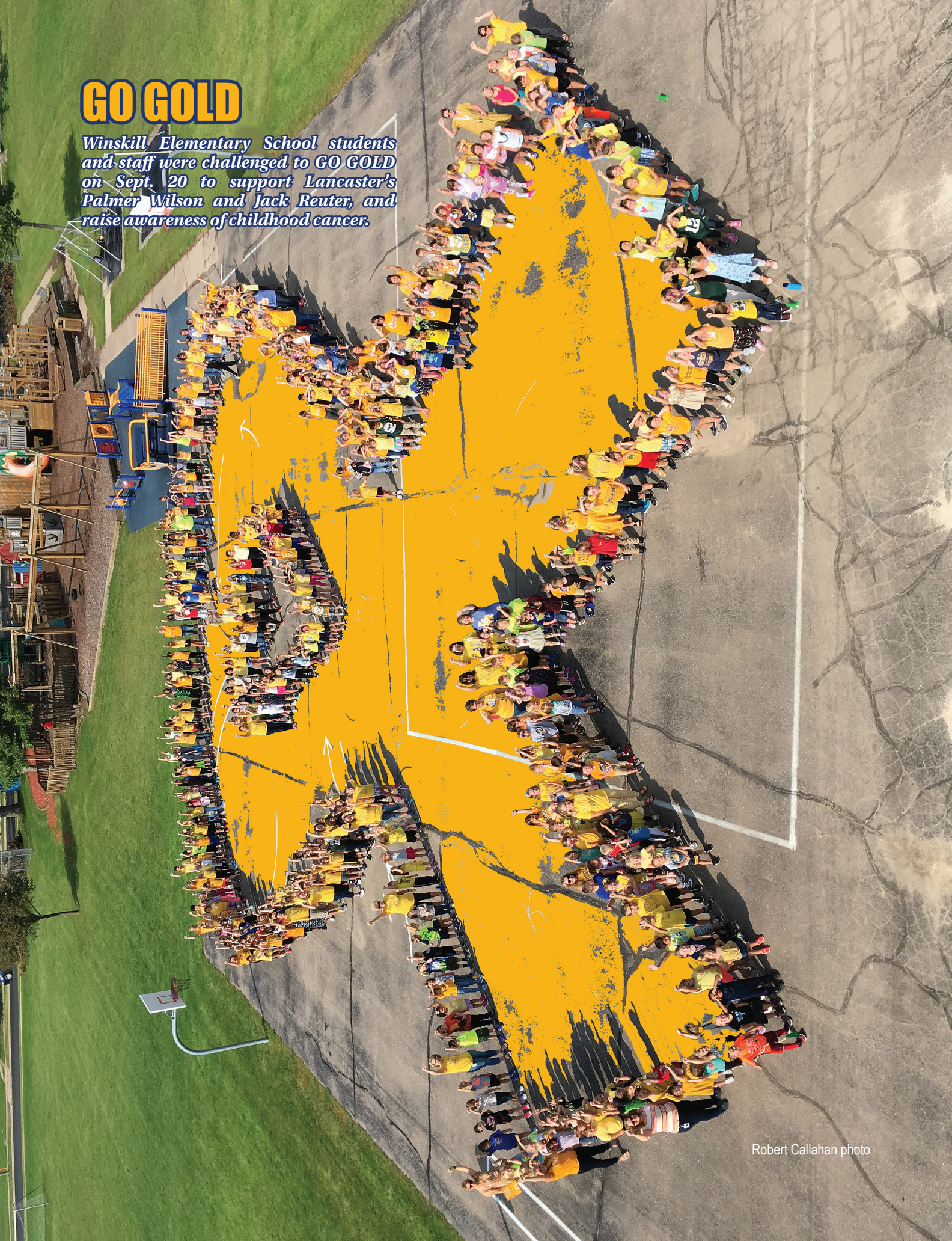
Mr. Place GOES TO Washington

From Ripon College to our nation's capital, Isaiah enjoyed a summer to remember



GO GOLD

Winskill Elementary School students and staff were challenged to GO GOLD on Sept. 20 to support Lancaster's Palmer Wilson and Jack Reuter, and raise awareness of childhood cancer.



Robert Callahan photo

About the time I crashed a drone and got a lift

Mrs. Sperle's idea was a great one: gather the Winskill Elementary Schools students in the shape of a yellow ribbon to support Palmer Wilson and Jack Reuter, and raise awareness of childhood cancer.

How to pull off the idea took some thought. I knew the photo would turn out best if I was as high above the students as possible. I offered to climb to the roof of Winskill, but that turned out to be more difficult

than it sounded.

Enter: the drone. Mr. Mumm provided me with instructions a day prior to the photo opportunity. I studied the instructions and studied them again. I was ready.

Or so I thought.

Upon arrival at Winskill and taking my place near the playground, I promptly crashed the drone twice. Any student on the playground would have fared better.

With the clock ticking, I approached Mr. Sturmer and asked if he had a tall ladder. He did one better: a lift our great maintenance crew uses to reach high places.

I grew up with Atari and Nintendo, but technology passed me by that day. Thank goodness for that lift!



Robert Callahan | Editor

LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE LANCASTER



FLYING ARROW

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Cover photo by Manish Raj, Boys Nation representative, Wisconsin.

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A young man and a woman are standing on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building. The man is wearing a red polo shirt with a logo and black pants. The woman is wearing a blue suit jacket over a white top. The Capitol building's dome and columns are visible in the background under a blue sky with clouds.

LIVING THE DREAM

After making an impression at Badger Boys State, the next stop for Lancaster's Isaiah Place was our nation's capital

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Isaiah Place's 2019 summer vacation was one to remember.

For starters, the Lancaster High School senior took part in Badger Boys State with classmate Mason Crooks. Badger Boys State, sponsored by the American Legion is a "week-long opportunity for you to learn about civic responsibility and leadership," notes badgerboysstate.org.

"I really didn't know what to expect. I knew I had buddies that had went in previous years, such as Evan Straka," Place said. "He told me, 'I know you're going to have a great time.' I knew it was governmental-based but I had no idea what was going to happen. I had like a slight idea, but nothing to the degree of what I experienced over that week."

By week's end, not only did Place have a better understanding of Badger Boys State, he had earned himself a visit to the nation's capital.

"Badger Boys State is a weeklong retreat at Ripon College where you learn the true ins and outs of how the U.S. governmental system works, from a city level all the way up to the state level," Place explained. "And one of the biggest things that Badger Boys State pushes is opportunity and brotherhood. Because when you go, they actually pair you by guys not necessarily in your area. My roommate was from New Holstein."

The 900 Badger Boys State attendees are divided amongst Ripon College's nine residential halls. Place shared each residence hall was home to a county of approximately 90 young men, and each county was home to three cities.

"So through elections, I was elected the City Judge of Taylor, the Doolittle Circuit County Judge and then through giving speeches and winning my party, I was elected one of seven Supreme Court justices," Place

said.

Place delivered six speeches total, to audiences ranging from 10 to 1,000 people. Place, a member of the Federalist Party, was opposite a member of the Nationalist Party in each election.

Each election you have to win your party's vote to put you up and you have to win your entire territory," Place said. "So my first big speech was in front of all the Federalists. There were like 450 of us and I had to give a speech about what I would do.

"That was kind of crazy because you know, in Lancaster High School we have 270 kids. I've never spoken in front of a crowd that big, but you get up there, take a deep breath and do it."

Place was one of 14 nominees for Supreme Court Justice. As a nominee, he was tasked with giving a speech to the full assembly.

"I kind of had to dig deep down because you know, that's 1,000 people," he said. "That's about five times the size of Lancaster High School, but it was a really cool experience that I'll never forget."

During the weeklong residency, Badger Boys State counselors conduct interviews to select two young men to represent Wisconsin at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.

Place, and Manish Raj of Neenah were selected and traveled to the nation's capital July 19-27. Marymount University

hosted 100 Boys Nation participants.

"At Boys Nation we had Senate meetings every single day. Some days we had all 100 of us," Place said. "It's a simulation of the real U.S. government, specifically the legislative branch, as you learn the process you have to introduce [a bill], then you have three readings, vote on it and pass it."

Place called the Boys Nation experience "intense." He estimated of the 120 bills submitted, 40 may have been heard and half of those passed.



Stacey Place photo

Lancaster High School's Mason Crooks (left) and Isaiah Place were selected to attend Badger Boys State at Ripon College.



Badger Boys State photo

Place (third from left) was one of seven young men elected a Supreme Court justice at Badger Boys State.

“Personally, I thought I knew a lot about politics and that kind of stuff, but I was a novice or beginner level compared to a lot of those guys,” he said. “It was pretty amazing to see how smart and how deep guys really can get into politics, which was really, really cool.”

“At Badger Boys State they kind of try to keep it non-partisan, and everything in the middle. Boys Nation is not like that. It is full-on, politics—policies, presidential politics, Democratic or Republican beliefs—and that is evident between guy to guy. That’s realistic. To see all the different perspectives and insights from guys across the nation was really really cool.”

A tentative visit with President Donald Trump did not happen, as it was planned for the day Robert Muel-

ler testified before the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees. Place and his contemporaries did meet Vice President Mike Pence, however.

“Vice President Pence popped out from his motorcade and waved. I wasn’t sure if he would give us a motivational speech and then talk to the Girls Nation participants or what,” Place said. “He said, ‘Everyone gather ‘round, we’re going to visit and talk. We’re gonna open this thing up so you guys can talk to me.’ It was just so nice, a genuine conversation with all 100 of us.”

“A big takeaway was he said it’s actually pretty bipartisan up on Capitol Hill. As he said the media tries to—whether it’s right or left, it doesn’t matter—influence the reality. He said it really isn’t like that at all. He

“Personally, I thought I knew a lot about politics and that kind of stuff, but I was a novice or beginner level compared to a lot of those guys. It was pretty amazing to see how smart and how deep guys really can get into politics, which was really, really cool.”

said behind closed doors they do get stuff done.”

A tour of the White House followed, but not before a wait in the security clearance line. While waiting, Place struck up a lengthy conversation with a gentleman and later asked, “What do you do in the U.S. government?”

“He just kind of laughed and smiled, and said, ‘Son, let’s just say I’m a public servant,’” Place recalled. “I figured he’s pretty classified, you know? I didn’t think anything of it. The funny thing is, I checked Instagram the next day and on White House page was a photo of the gentleman I met the day before. It was Mark Esper, the newly-approved Secretary of Defense. I was like, ‘Oh my gosh.’”

“Hill Day,” an opportunity for the Boys Nation and Girls Nation participants to visit Capitol Hill, was the following day. Place met Wisconsin senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as Colorado Senator Michael Bennet, who is running for president.

Place also had an opportunity to visit several Washington, D.C. landmarks, including the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, World War 2 Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

While at the Lincoln Memorial, Place observed the spot where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” address on Aug. 28, 1963.

“Martin Luther King Jr. is my hero. He is someone I always look up, and I built my speeches at Badger Boys State around things he said,” Place explained. “I think that helped me solidify my spot to Boys Nation. Near the Lincoln Memorial they have an outline cutout and footprints of where Dr. King stood when he gave his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech in front of 250,000 people.

“I had the opportunity to stand in the same spot and you look out, and there were a lot of people there in that



Isaiah Place photo

The friendships Place made this summer have endured. “We have a group chat and it was booming every day this summer. Networking is something we are very much encouraged to do. I exchanged Snapchat or phone numbers or Instagram with basically all guys there and even some counselors because you never know. Down the road when you meet these people again.”

moment It makes you go, ‘Wow.’ Such a prominent African-American, an important figure, who gave one of the greatest speeches in U.S. history from that exact spot that was standing in. It was surreal.”

Place shared the most emotional visit was that to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

“We all know they’re not just names. These are real people that gave their life, the ultimate sacrifice, to defend this great nation,” he said. “That’s about as powerful as you can get. You don’t know the other people there with you, but you look around you see grandfathers pointing out names to their grandkids, and you know what it means. That war means so much more.”

What lessons did Place take away from his Badger Boys State and Boys Nation experiences?

“One of the biggest things I took away is how to value opinions from every side. Where you live kind of shapes your perspectives and how you see things. So that’s one big thing I’ll take away,” Place said. “Another big thing is the value of opportunity, and taking chances. You never know how well you can do something if you don’t try. Everyone has an opportunity, whether it be running for an elected office, pursuing a new job or trying a new hobby. If you never try, you will never know what your full potential is.

“It is how the American dream works.”

Might there be an opportunity for Place in politics?

“I think politics and public service is definitely something I’ll want to get into,” Place said. “I still would like to be an attorney, but I think that politics is also a calling for me as well. I hope I can meet the right people and get into it, because it is something I believe I can be successful in.”

A group of students is seen from behind, walking across a green suspension bridge that stretches across a dense, lush jungle. The bridge is made of green ropes and a green mesh floor. The surrounding forest is thick with various green plants and trees. In the background, a hilly landscape is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, capturing a moment of outdoor adventure.

'The simple life'

Lancaster High School students
let life come to them
during a journey to Costa Rica

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

If he weren't teaching Spanish at Lancaster Middle School and Lancaster High School, and living in the City of the Dome, it is possible Jimmy Howard would be living in Costa Rica.

"In my view it's like the perfect place," he said. "I would move there in a second."

Who better to champion a trip to Costa Rica than Howard? Sixteen students and four chaperones (including Lancaster Community Schools nurse Laurie Walker, who handled everything from insect bites and motion sickness to jellyfish stings) traveled to Costa Rica in June.

"Costa Rica is relatively small. It's about the size of West Virginia," Howard noted. "So it's not big. That is actually part of why in my opinion it's one of the best places to travel because you can see so much in a small geographical area.

"Argentina is awesome as well. Argentina is huge. So if you go there you have three or four flights. It would be like if you were visiting the U.S. You wouldn't drive from New York to Los Angeles. Costa Rica, being the size of one of our smaller states, it really allows for us to see the most."

Students were offered a choice of traveling to Costa Rica, Peru or Spain.

LHS Spanish and science students, as well as Potosi High School students, made the 11-day journey.

"Costa Rica has five percent of the world's biodiversity. So of all the living things on the entire planet, five percent of them are present in Costa Rica, which again, is really small and it's very eco-driven," Howard explained. "Mrs. [Christine] Corell helped me plan the trip, so we really put an ecology and science spin on it."

Costa Rica abolished its military in 1948, Howard shared.

"The president of Costa Rica said, we don't have oil so we don't need a military, and he's right," Howard said. "They've never been involved in outside conflicts. They're widely known as the Switzerland of Central America. When everything's going to heck all around them, they're fine because they don't get involved. They worry about themselves."

Costa Rica received a 2019 Champions of the Earth award, the United Nations' highest environmental honor.

"The environment is number one to them. So again, that fits in perfect with the science and some of the activities we did this year," Howard said. "Costa Rica was also ranked number one on the Happy Planet Index and it has been for a number of years.

"I speak very highly of it, but it's like utopia. Like, this is a great place, I want to live here."

The travelers spent their first and 10th nights in San Jose, with stops in Sarapiquí, La Fortuna, Monteverde and Manuel Antonio in-between.

"The people of Costa Rica are so kind and welcoming to us, which gives students an excellent opportunity to practice and improve their Spanish skills. The cities we visit—small and rural, some more tourist-driven, others not—are not unlike Lancaster in many ways," Howard said. "Students get the chance to venture out, visit grocery stores, restaurants, shops, and cafés, and navigate the towns on their own.

"It's a great chance to use their Spanish, learn new vocabulary, and most importantly, gain confidence and independence. Staying in groups of three or more,

students get 'free time' to explore our various host cities for a few hours every couple of days."

Students enjoyed a rainforest planting project in Sarapiquí, as well as cooking lessons, dancing lessons and whitewater rafting.

"We went rafting two years ago and the rapids on the river were Class 2

and Class 3," Howard recalled. "But it had poured about five or six inches the morning we went. So our guide had to call to see if the river wasn't too dangerous.

"With that extra rain, it was so much higher and crazier and faster than two years ago. Half the kids are like, 'Let's go!' and the other half were like 'Okay?' Then you do it, and you just have this huge rush afterward and that's awesome to see with the kids."

Students traversed a 700-foot descent to the base of a waterfall near La Fortuna.

"I'm from Wisconsin and all these kids are from Grant County. A trip like this opens your eyes, and that is part of the reason I think this international travel is so important," Howard said. "I studied Spanish and Latin American Studies because I wanted to get out and see the world.

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WISH YOU WERE HERE...

With a powerful digital camera in the hands of each traveler in the form of their smart phone, there was no shortage of stunning imagery from the Costa Rica trip.



Students braved raging rapids near Sarapiquí. Several inches of rain the night before made for a thrilling ride.



Students and chaperones enjoyed zip-lining near Monteverde.



A rainforest project provided students an opportunity to plant tropical almond trees (different than commercial almonds). "They are slow-growing, but substantial trees - much like our oaks," Howard explained. "They will provide both shelter and food for years to come as well as cleaning the air and providing oxygen."



This blue sided Leaf frog (also known as a Golden-eyed Tree Frog) was spotted during a pitch-dark night hike through the lowland tropical rainforest. The frog is endangered and a native species to Costa Rica and Panama.



Five percent of the world's biodiversity is present in Costa Rica.



The journey to the bottom of this waterfall near La Fortuna was a descent of 700 feet.



Playa Manuel Antonio is one of Costa Rica's most popular beaches.



The Arenal Volcano was Costa Rica's most active volcano until 2010. The volcano is 1,633 meters (5,357 feet) high. The volcano is slightly less than 60 miles from San José, in the district of La Fortuna.



Costa Rica is home to two sloth species - the two-toed (pictured) and three-toed. The common rainforest mammal spends 90% of its time upside down



Potosi High School students made the journey to Costa Rica as well.



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‘One of a kind’

**Jeremiah Ihm’s years of hard work
were rewarded with a
State FFA Proficiency Award**

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BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Organic agriculture is in Jeremiah Ihm's blood. His lifeblood has earned him the Wisconsin FFA Organic Agriculture Award.

Jeremiah has carried his weight on his family farm since he was a kindergartener.

"We moved here in 2007, so I was in kindergarten," he recalled. "I started off with just helping with bottles, feeding the calves bottles. Now I am helping with bottles, I tag the calves, I make sure they are treated properly—I ask my dad first, of course, to make sure I am doing it properly—I milk when my dad is in the fields, I help with field work when he needs it, I do a little of everything now.

The Ihm's 700-acre farm—home to 1,000 milking Holsteins and 3,500 laying hens—was certified organic 13 years ago.

"My grandpa certified it. He never liked using pesticides because he didn't like having to deal with all that," Jeremiah explained. "He thought, 'If I am not going to use it I might as well certify it organic because it is going to be a normal day for me anyway.' So, that is what they did and that is what we have been doing."

Jeremiah began growing his own herd three years ago. He owns three heifers he has traded his time and labor for. He is in charge of detecting sickness within the herd and can begin treatment programs. With the help from his dad, Jeremiah has learned how to properly vaccinate and medicate animals when necessary.

The work is not easy, nor is the State FFA Proficiency contest itself.

"I had to fill out the state application, which is like a 20-page application, that asks what my jobs are, my responsibilities, the goals I have, my accomplishments, and chal-

lenges, how I have overcome them and how they have helped me," Jeremiah explained. "The process has also helped with college applications. They are asking about this specifically. 'What are some details in your daily life or some difficulties that will help you in the future in your career?' Time management, that is a big thing."

Jeremiah plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and major in agriculture education. He hopes to follow in the footsteps of his Lancaster FFA advisors, Jessica Schaefer and David Wright.

"They are very supportive," Jeremiah said. "They help me with a lot of my stuff, making sure I am getting stuff in on time. They know their stuff, so if I have questions I can ask them anything, they will help me out."

It is fun to teach a student such as Jeremiah, Schaefer said.

"He keeps things fresh and challenging," she said. "Usually he ends up being a student assistant in the class and makes me keep on track too."

What makes Jeremiah successful?

"Jeremiah has that certain drive," Schaefer said. "He sets his priorities, sets his goals and establishes how he is going to chase after those goals. He is very thorough and he makes sure that he sees ahead of himself and then that way he knows how to plan."

There is plenty of planning to do. Not only is Jeremiah an active member of the FFA, he is also part of the Lancaster High School band, plays football and wrestles, is a 4-H member and a member of the National Honor Society.

"With having all the farm chores and stuff on top of the activities, extra-curriculars, homework, it has really helped me with time management. I know how to be involved in lots of activities and not overwhelm

myself. I stay busy," Jeremiah said. "There is not much free time, but the little free time I do have I take advantage of it. That will help with college. I will have to do a lot of that stuff on my own. I will be away from the farm, I will have my own job, but I can also incorporate making sure I am busy all the time, so I don't get overwhelmed."

Without hesitation, Jeremiah recommends FFA to any LHS student.

"FFA has so many different career opportunities. You have the CDE judging, which is your career development events. You have livestock judging, I did soil judging—I made it to nationals in that and we went to Oklahoma—you have dairy judging, where you are judging dairy cows, I have done that twice maybe. There are several different competitions you can partake in," he said. "If you don't enjoy the whole judging animals or that aspect of things, there are leadership development events. There are several different speaking contests.

"I participate in the prepared speech, which is a six to eight-minute speech memorized. You have to turn in a script ahead of time and the judges follow it word-for-word. You want to get it as close as you can to word-for-word. I have enjoyed that. I have done creed speaking, where you recite the FFA creed, memorized as five paragraphs. We have to learn that one in the Plants, Animals and You class, so it is like, 'OK, since we have to learn it, might as well go compete in it too.' And I am hoping to compete in the job interview category also."

Jeremiah is grateful for the support of his parents, Deb and John Ihm.

"My mom has looked over all my applications," he said. "Every time I write a paragraph she will look over

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Kabuki syndrome Awareness Night a winner

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

The Lancaster Middle School volleyball teams hosted their second annual Kabuki syndrome Awareness Night on Oct. 17.

Lancaster's seventh and eighth grade volleyball teams wore green Kabuki T-shirts, and many fans in attendance were clad in green as well.

Kabuki syndrome is a rare, multi-system disorder characterized by multiple abnormalities including distinctive facial features, growth delays, varying degrees of intellectual disability, skeletal abnormalities, and short stature, explains the National Organization for Rare Disorders. A wide variety of additional symptoms affecting multiple different organ systems can potentially occur. The specific symptoms associated with Kabuki syndrome can vary greatly from one person to another.

Winskill Elementary School student Blake Roesch is a "Kabuki kid." Blake is the daughter of Flow and Austin Roesch.

"Winskill has been an amazing home for Blake," Flow said. "Everybody supports her, everybody wants to learn about Kabuki syndrome, everybody asks me 'How can I teach her better? What should I do? What should I not do? How can make



Robert Callahan photo

The crowd and student-athletes were clad in green at Lancaster Middle School volleyball's Kabuki syndrome Awareness Night on Oct. 17.

her day better?"

What makes events like October's Kabuki syndrome Awareness Night important?

"With Kabuki syndrome being so rare—one in 32,000 affected worldwide—not many people know about it. If we as parents don't advocate and raise awareness, nobody will ever know about it," Flow explained. "Kabuki syndrome is known as an orphan disease. An orphan disease means that physicians tend to neglect the symptoms because they don't know what the full condition is.

"If I can raise awareness through parents who talk about it with their physicians for their kids, I am spreading awareness

through many different spider webs. If I do that, maybe one day it won't be an orphan disease and everybody will know about it and we can treat them properly from day one."

Flow, who coaches Lancaster's seventh grade volleyball team, addressed the crowd prior to the matches.

"You guys wearing green, coming out tonight and helping us raise awareness, it helps our battle get easier," she said.

The event is admittedly an emotional one for Flow.

"I was fighting back tears," she said. "I was just overwhelmed that so many people wanted to come out and support Blake and support us and

help raise awareness.

"When the Darlington team presented Blake with the green ribbons that they all made and were all wearing, I did cry a little bit."

Plans are already underway for next year's third annual event.

What is Flow's favorite part of the event?

"Just seeing everybody wear green," she said. "Blake is always excited when she sees people in green, and then when she realizes the Kabuki symbol, the K, is on the T-shirts, that just really makes her day.

"She lights up and she knows everybody is there to support her and that is the best feeling for us."

Magnificent Seven: Flying Arrows selected for WSMA State Honors Project

BY DAVID MURPHY

Lancaster Community Schools was well-represented at the Wisconsin School Music Association's (WSMA) State Honors Project in late October.

Seven Lancaster students traveled to Sun Prairie and Middleton to perform a live audition for a judge earlier this year, earning their spot in the WSMA State Honors Project. Abby Hartline played Eb, alto saxophone in the High School Honors Band. Anna Murphy sang soprano in the High School Treble Honors Choir and Rianna Straka sang alto in the Mixed Honors Choir. The students were notified of their selection in April, attended 3 - 1/2 day camps at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in June, and performed in a concert in Madison's Overture Center on Oct. 24.

Evyn Dhyanchand, Ayden Ingebritsen and Maddy Tracy auditioned in April and were selected to perform with the



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster High School students chosen to participate in the WSMA State Honors Project were, front row from left: Ayden Ingebritsen and Evyn Dhyanchand; middle row: Anna Murphy, Madison Tracy and Abby Hartline; back row: Rianna Straka and Natalie Moore.

Middle-Level State Honors Choir this fall. Natalie Moore also auditioned in April and was selected to

play clarinet in the Middle-Level State Honors Orchestra.

Being chosen for one of

these coveted positions is truly an honor worthy of applause.

One of a kind

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

it, revise it, and I will write it again. She revises everything. My dad, he allows me to help with all those activities on the farm, the fields. Teaches me how to

do all of them. Both are very supportive."

Is there a secret to Jeremiah's success?

"There are quite a few factors there. First of all, Jeremiah is a very motivated young man," Wright said. "His drive and passion for the FFA and agri-

culture issues in general is incredible. All you have to do is walk up and ask him, and he will talk to you about just about any topic you want related to agriculture and FFA.

"He has a great support system at home, mom and dad and the rest of

the family, grandpa and grandmas, and they are more than willing to help. They are very knowledgeable, they are farmers and they have a lot of resources there that he can participate in. He is kind of a one of a kind."

FRIGHT NIGHT

The Lancaster Middle School and Lancaster High School marching bands joined to present their annual Marching Band Concert on Oct. 29. The talented musicians celebrated Halloween week with their finest seasonal attire.



Robert Callahan photos

Lancaster Community Schools earn their highest grade on DPI report card

Lancaster Middle School “significantly exceeds expectations”

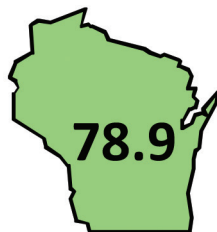
Lancaster Community Schools, as a whole, scored higher on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction report card in 2018-2019 than ever before.

The school district’s overall score of 78.9 signifies Lancaster Community Schools “exceeds expectations,” per the DPI’s overall accountability ratings.

Winskill Elementary School’s overall score of 68 is three points high-

er than a year ago. The school “meets expectations,” according to the overall accountability ratings.

Overall Score



Exceeds Expectations

84.3 a year ago.

Lancaster High School saw a five point increase in its score compared to a year ago. The high school’s 2018-2019 score was 75.3, which “exceeds expectations,” according to the overall accountability ratings. The school scored 70.2 a year ago.

The DPI instituted its school report cards beginning in 2011-2012.

Lancaster Middle School “significantly exceeds expectations,” with an overall score of 84.5. The middle school scored

The simple life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“Being able to do these kind of trips with the students allows me to share that with them and really push the benefits of getting outside your comfort zone. Before we left, there were students that were freaking out. I mean, many of them had never gone on a vacation outside of the Midwest. So they’d never flown, they had never been to an ocean, and they had certainly never been outside of the country.”

An earthquake rattled Costa Rica in the early morning hours of June 26. The epicenter was a few hundred miles south of where the travelers were staying for the evening, Quepos.

“We felt a few seconds of mild rocking and swaying,” Howard reported that day. “We’re OK and this is semi-common in the region. It’s no different than the ‘risk’ the West Coast of the U.S. deals with each day. Most of the kids slept right through it.”

Plans are already underway for the 2021 trip. Fundraising efforts began this fall and Howard will share plans with the Board of Education in March.

Although he likened choosing his favorite part of the journey to comparing children, Howard gave the nod to Monteverde.

“When you picture Central America, you picture jungles and you picture rainforest. I feel like Monteverde is where you get that experience,” he said. “That’s where

you have the canopy bridges where you’re one hundred and fifty feet above the rain forest floor and there are bugs everywhere. I read that one square mile of the rainforest in Monteverde has as many tree species in that one square mile as the entire U.S.

“You feel like you’re walking in a National Geographic magazine. I try to point that out to the kids too, because I remember being young and you don’t always appreciate and enjoy what’s happening when it’s happening. A lot of times it’s retrospective.”

The 11-day journey was one Lancaster’s Haley Timmerman won’t soon forget.

“To say these past 11 days in Costa Rica were life-changing would be an understatement. We traveled to five different cities, exploring their culture and the beauty of this country. We explored the vast jungle, planted 130 trees, drove through the cloud forest, whitewater rafted, climbed volcano Arenal, swam beneath the waterfall, swam in the hot springs, zip lined, parasailed, snorkeled and experienced an earthquake,” she said. “I not only had the chance to experience all these wonderful things, but I also gained a new appreciation for our world and how important it is that we conserve as much as we can.”

“One of the first things we were told when we arrived is to forget the concept of time, and let life come to us. That was very hard at first because our everyday lives revolve around time. Coming here we learned that time isn’t always everything and sometimes you just have to say, ‘pura vida’ and ‘forget about it.’”

FLYING ARROW SCOREBOARD

The Platteville/Lancaster boys soccer team won its third straight Southwest Wisconsin Conference (SWC) title with an 8-0 mark. The Hillmen finished 16-2-1 overall en route to a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 3 regional title. Platteville/Lancaster defeated Edgerton, 4-2, to win its second regional championship in four seasons before falling to McFarland in a sectional semifinal. Midfielder **Aaron Murphy** was named to the SWC All-Conference first team, along with defender **Ryder Ariens**. Lancaster's **Sam Schaffer**, a forward, earned honorable mention accolades.

The Lancaster girls golf team finished second at the SWC Conference meet to Wisconsin Dells. Lancaster's **Morgan Cooley** won the meet and earned medalist honors with a score of 88. Cooley and **Sarah Farrey** were named to the All-Conference second team, while Claire Schmidt earned honorable mention status. The Flying Arrows finished seventh at the WIAA Division 2 Edgewood regional. Cooley finished 18th and advanced to the Prairie du Chien sectional. The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin named Cooley to its Academic All-State team at the season's end.



Robert Callahan photo

Lancaster's **Caden Straka** was named SWAL Defensive Player of the Year.

The Lancaster football team finished second in the Southwest Wisconsin Activities League with a 6-1 record and entered the postseason with an 8-1 mark overall. The Flying Arrows downed Osseo-Fairchild, 56-12, in a Level 1 game before falling to Mineral Point, 35-28, in Level 2. **Caden Straka** was named the SWAL Defensive Player of the Year. He was also named co-Lineman of the Year. Running back **Corey Hahn** and offensive lineman **Cole Raisbeck** earned spots on the All-Conference first team offense. Straka, defensive tackle **Logan Schneider**, inside linebacker **Ian Martin**, outside linebacker **Isaiah Place** and defensive back **Dawson Bowen** were named to the All-Conference first team defense. Hahn was picked as a first team specialist, as was kicker **Isaac Oyen**. Offensive linemen

Myles Bender and **Adam Hale** earned spots on the All-Conference second team offense. Defensive tackle **Lukas Howard** and defensive back **Hayden Wagner** were named to the second team defense. **Ryan Gallinger** earned honorable mention accolades. Bowen, Place and **Mason Crooks** earned Academic All-State honors from the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association (WFCA). Hahn and Straka earned WFCA All-Region recognition, as well as WFCA All-State honors. Straka was named to the All-State first team and Hahn earned honorable mention status.

The Lancaster girls cross country team won its third straight SWC championship meet. **Bridee Burks** won the individual title and was named to the All-Conference first team roster. **Kristen Muench** and **Anna Murphy** also finished in the

top 10 to earn first team honors. The Lancaster boys finished fourth at the SWC championship meet. **Hunter Moore** and **R.J. Hutchcroft** raced to top-15 finishes and earned spots on the All-Conference second team. The Lancaster girls won their third straight WIAA Division 3 sectional and finished fifth at the WIAA championships.

The Platteville/Lancaster girls swim team finished seventh at the Southern Lakes championship meet. The Hillmen's 108 points at the conference meet allowed them to leapfrog Delavan-Darien in the final standings. The final standings were determined by combining regular season dual results and conference championship results. Platteville/Lancaster finished 1-10 overall and 1-7 in SLC duals.

The Lancaster volleyball team finished 0-10 in SWC play and 10-27 overall this season. The Flying Arrows saw their season come to a close with a 25-13, 25-18, 25-20 loss to Belleville in a WIAA Division 3 regional quarterfinal. Outside hitter **Brooklyn Connelly**, middle hitter **Morgan DeBuhr** and setter **Abbi Martin** all earned All-Conference honorable mention status.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!

The Platteville/Lancaster boys soccer team defeated Evansville, 4-2, to win a WIAA Division 3 regional championship on Oct. 26.



Lancaster Community Schools
925 West Maple Street
Lancaster, WI 53813



Robert Callahan photos

Lancaster High School's Class of 2021 ran away with the Spirit Stick competition during Homecoming 2019. It was the second consecutive victory for the group.