

Summer 2021



“ We all made it through to today, to graduation ”

GRADUATION DAY • MAY 30, 2021

Perseverance

Winskill Elementary School fifth graders persevered through drizzle to present an inspiring program on Friday, May 21.



Robert Callahan photo

Thank you Mrs. Zabel, for lessons that still endure

I learned many things as a fifth grader at Lancaster Middle School.

Mr. Dan Dunn taught my classmates and I how to make a wooden shelf. We read "Henry and Ribsy" with Mr. Jeff Pross.

Best of all, Mrs. Zabel taught me how to sew. Not with a sewing machine, mind you, the old-fashioned way!

If you are close to my age, you may have done the same: sew three

squares together six times, sew your squares together into a group of nine, sew your groups of nine together, leaving one edge open, stuff it, sew it up, and enjoy your pillow.

I searched my childhood bedroom earlier this week for my fifth grade pillow. I came up empty. While my pillow did not stand the test of time, my basic sewing skills have.

More than 30 years later I can still

sew buttons onto shirts and repair stuffed animals that have seen better days. My daughter appreciates my handiwork, and I appreciate keeping all my buttons on my shirts.

Thank you, Mrs. Zabel, for teaching my classmates and I the skills needed to become stuffed animal surgeons! Enjoy retirement!



Robert Callahan | Editor

LANCASTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



FLYING ARROW

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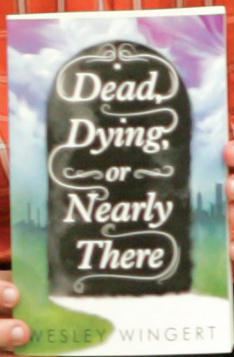
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Write now

LHS English teacher Wesley Wingert has hundreds of books in his classroom, including one of his own

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Bill Finger. Doug Moench. Dennis O’Neil. Scott Snyder. Wesley Wingert.

What do they all have in common? All are fans of Batman. All are published authors.

Wingert, a Lancaster High School English teacher, published *Dead, Dying, or Nearly There*. Work on the book began more than three years ago.

“I was in an English club at UW-Platteville, and we tried to do things big for National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo. One of the things you do during NaNoWriMo is sit down and just start writing,” Wingert recalled. “So I wrote a short story that had Death as the main character. All I really knew was I wanted to give him a personality and make him sassy. I kind of wanted him to be a jerk.

“The short story I wrote is the first chapter of the book. In NaNoWriMo, you’re supposed to write a book in a month. If you think about it, if you’re writing four pages a day and you write for a full month, you have the start of a book.”

A busy college student, Wingert couldn’t commit to writing four pages a day for a month. Instead, he wrote several short stories. Each story featured Death as the main character, but took the perspective of a new person. One commonality: each would die by the end of the story.

Wingert wrote a collection of stories he was proud of, but life got in the way and a year passed.

“I didn’t know where to go with it. I wanted to turn it into a cohesive story, but I couldn’t figure out what to do with it. I thought they were just short stories forever,” he explained. “My problem was I couldn’t tell an entire story where Death is the only main character because then you can’t form any lasting connections with anybody, because they’re all dying.

“I decided if I could introduce a coma patient into the story, the patient would be able to talk to Death even while he’s talking to other people who are dying. That

was my common thread.”

While student-teaching at Lancaster Middle School in spring 2018, Wingert set a goal to begin writing four pages a day again. Over the course of two months, he did just that: four pages a day each weekday.

“That’s where the bulk of my manuscript came from: those two months,” Wingert said. “That is why National Novel Writing Month is a thing, because actually sitting down and writing the book from start to finish is the easy part. That doesn’t mean it’s going to be good, but that’s the easy part.”

What is the hard part, you ask? Getting your book published.

“If you have written a book and you visit a website to learn how to publish it, every single one says, hold up. You think you’ve written your book, but you haven’t. You wrote the original manuscript,” Wingert said. “Now what you need to do is give it to 10 different people to beta-read, get feedback from friends and family (tell them to give you honest feedback), come up with five new drafts of your story, fix it up and then give it to more beta-readers.

“You go through that same process again. The second time around you find some people that you don’t know personally, that will give you even more brutal feedback. Then you hire an editor and have them look it over, give you feedback

and fix it up. Now you are done.”

Should you pitch your story to an agent, the agent will pitch it to a publishing house, Wingert explained. The publishing house will likely have its own editor, who will take the red pen to your previously-edited story.

Wingert revised several drafts of his manuscript over the course of a year before biting the bullet and hiring an editor for no small sum. The editor provided copy editing (a review of grammar, spelling, syntax,

Dead, Dying, or Nearly There

North America’s Death is a wisecracking entity whose life exists in that in-between—between life and death, that is. His job? Arrive on the scene of his assignment, assess the situation, following the directions on his device, and execute said target, be it heart attack or car accident or anything else that brings one to their end. After that, his only task is to get the recently departed through a door into a place that he neither knows nor cares very much about. Every once in a while, though, he takes his time and strikes up a conversation with them, because why not? Through both the eyes of the newly dead and his own, we learn more about who Death really is. And when he encounters an inquisitive coma patient, he develops a friendship the likes of which he has only ever had once before, and he soon finds himself both battling questions about his origin and challenging entities that simply cannot be challenged: those beings even more powerful than himself.

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‘A PROUD MOMENT’

‘like a proud older brother’

‘Extremely proud’

Lancaster High School’s Eric Mumm
is a 2021 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year
and we couldn’t be more proud

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Eric Mumm could not believe his ears.

Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction Carolyn Stanford Taylor informed Mumm, a Lancaster High School Technology Education teacher, he had been selected as one of five 2021-2022 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year recipients by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation during a Zoom call on May 6.

"I thought, that's not right," Mumm recalled. "What did she say?"

Mumm is just the second educator in CESA 3 to be named Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, joining North Crawford's Joni Peterson (2001). Wisconsin first participated in the Teacher of the Year program in 1956, according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Educators awarded a Herb Kohl Fellowship are considered for Wisconsin's Teacher of the Year honor (Mumm was named a Herb Kohl Teaching Fellow earlier this year). He was awarded a \$6,000 personal grant when named a Herb Kohl Teaching Fellow, and Lancaster High School received a matching grant of \$6,000. Mumm will receive an additional \$3,000 personal grant as a Teacher of the Year.

"I was surprised," Mumm said of his selection. "The next thought was, are you sure? Because I—and it's not me being modest—I really don't feel like the best teacher in this school district or building.

"I really think that there's a lot of great teachers that I'm surrounded by. I am really fortunate to be rewarded for something I love to do."

When asked by Stanford Taylor which educators helped him become the success he is today, Mumm cited David Gluch, his third and fourth grade teacher at Winskill Elementary School.

"I think he saw something in me that I didn't even know I had myself," Mumm shared. "He really just showed a lot of compassion."

An emotional Mumm recalled when Gluch gave him a book after school.

"He could have done it to anybody," Mumm told Stanford Taylor. "I think he knew what it meant just to give me a book from his classroom.

"That really meant a lot to me. I still think of that today."

Gluch now works for CESA 3 as an Inclusive Communities/EE Coordinator. He shared it was a humbling experience to be remembered fondly by Mumm.

"What I've tried to pass on as an administrator in schools and even now through my work at CESA, is kids may not remember that specific lesson that you put so much time into, but they're always going to remember

how you treat them," Gluch said. "I think to me, this is a good example of that, because I always tried to treat all my students with respect and tried to make their learning experience well-rounded.

"When you hear that from a kid like Eric—a man like Eric now—it is incredibly humbling."

Mumm also cited the influence of Dennis Schmidt, who he succeeded as technology education teacher at LHS.

"My senior year, I was in this area of the school all day. I loved it," Mumm recalled. "You could tell Dennis loved what he did and was passionate about it.

"When I graduated from high school I didn't know I wanted to be a teacher, but I changed my mind. What I kept coming back to was, Schmitty enjoyed his job. I want to enjoy my job. I enjoyed this department and area, so it seemed like a good fit."

When Mumm began his career at LHS nine years ago this September, he shared a classroom with a familiar face: Duane Leaser.

"This honor for Mr. Mumm was well-deserved," Leaser said. "He is very talented, creative, smart, and his expectations of his students are very high."

Leaser, who recently closed the book on a 20-year career at LHS, taught Mumm as well.

"It was a proud moment for me, as he was my student in high school and I encouraged him to become a tech ed teacher. As a colleague, Eric has helped me with new technology, such as Google Docs.

"I feel good about turning the department over to him, knowing our hard work over the last 20 years will be maintained."

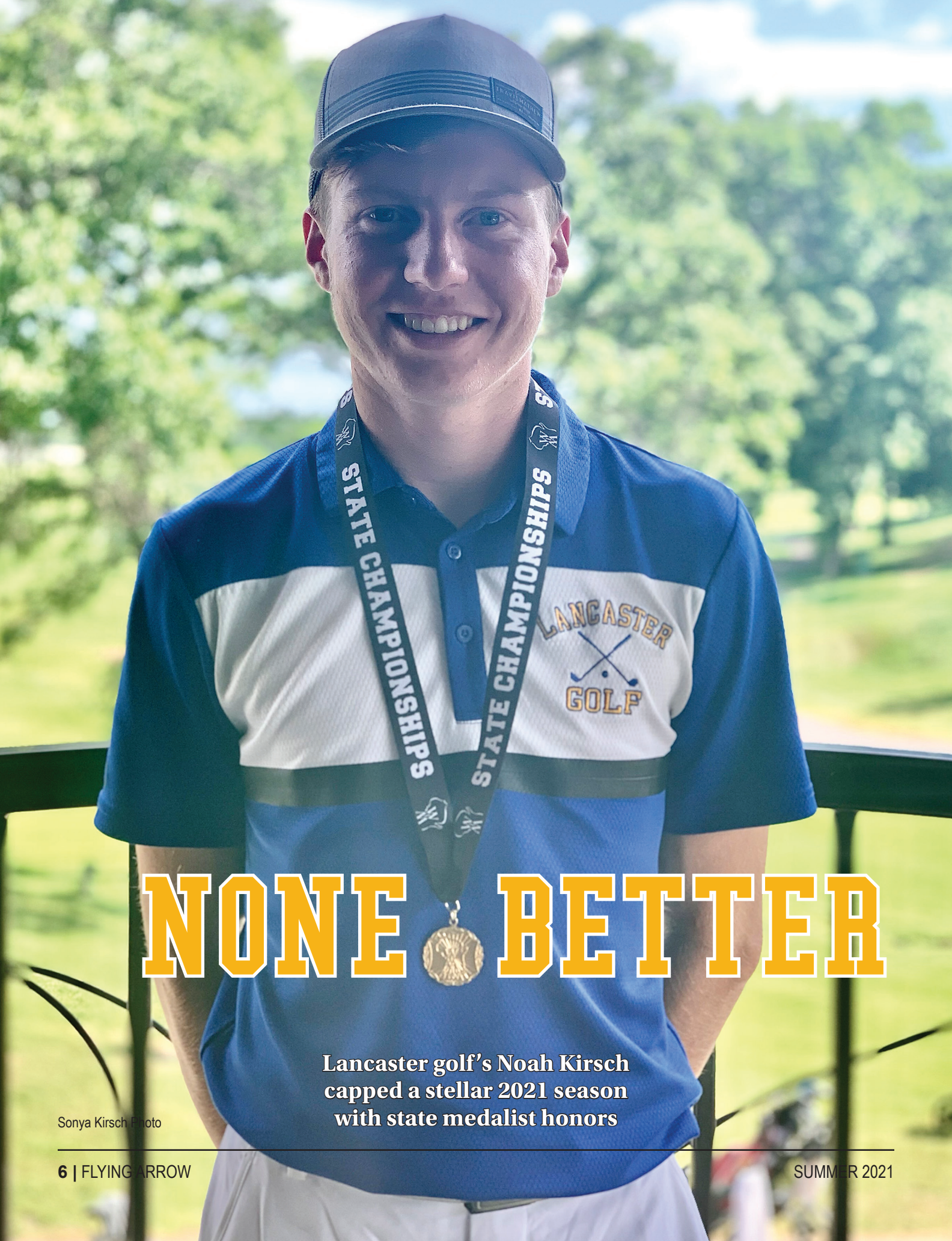
Lancaster Middle School history teacher Andrew Haas nominated Mumm for the Herb Kohl Fellowship.

"I don't know how he fits everything he does into his daily schedule. He has so much going on and he does everything," Haas said of Mumm. "He gives 110 percent to everything he does, whether it's teaching tech ed, blood drives, coaching football or coaching track and field. If there was someone who uses all 24 hours a day, it's that guy.

"He has so much passion for what he is doing and he's really just an inspiration for me. I know I'm older than him, but I kind of treat him like I'm the proud older brother. He's so humble, but if there is anyone deserving of praise, it's him, because of the passion he has not only for what he teaches, but for this community."

Lancaster High School Principal Mark Uppena and Lancaster Community Schools District Administrator Rob Wagner joined Mumm as he learned the good news.

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NONE BETTER

Lancaster golf's Noah Kirsch capped a stellar 2021 season with state medalist honors

Sonya Kirsch Photo

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Noah Kirsch knew exactly what he needed to do.

Trailing Orfordville-Parkview's Trey Oswald by two strokes entering the second and final round of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 3 boys golf championship, medalist honors were within reach of the Lancaster junior.

"I just wanted to get off to a hot start. I played with him before. I knew if I stayed consistent and didn't make mistakes, it would go my way," Kirsch said. "That is what I did: stayed consistent all day and that's all I needed to do."

Kirsch shot a 1-under-par 71 in the second round on the Arbor/Lakes Course at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells to earn state medalist honors. His 36-hole score (147) was 7 strokes better than Oswald and Nick Higley of Elva-Strum.

"Noah played great coming in," said Lancaster boys golf coach (and Noah's dad), Brian Kirsch. "He made it look easy and didn't have to work very hard for it, which is awesome."

After a bogey on the 10th hole, Noah parred the next six holes to separate himself from the rest of the field. He ended his second round with a birdie on the par-5 17th hole and the par-4 18th hole.

"We knew we had the tournament in control," Brian said. "So there was no reason to do anything but be smart: middle of the green, low side of the holes, easy putts, easy pars. If the birdie goes in, great. And Noah executed."

"I knew if I kept myself in it after the first day, I usually do better on the second day," Noah added. "When I birdied the sixth hole on the second day, I knew I had to keep it going from there."

Noah carded two birdies in his

first round en route to a 76, well within striking distance of Oswald.

Noah is the first golf state medalist in Lancaster High School history. He finished 20th at the WIAA Division 3 championship in 2019.

"Our goal entering high school was to win state all four years. That was a strong goal, but an achievable one," Brian explained. "We had a hiccup freshman year and last year didn't get a chance due to COVID-19. This year, Noah took care of business. We're back on track."

Noah competed 15 times during the 2021 season. He won 12 times and finished second three times. He won the WIAA Division 3 Barneveld regional at House on the Rock and won the WIAA Division 3 Mineral Point sectional at Dodge Point Country Club.

The Lancaster boys golf team finished third at the Barneveld regional and third at the Mineral Point sectional, missing out on a state berth by just 10 strokes.

All members of the boys golf team—juniors Isaac Dhyanchand, Matthew Hughey, Dan Kelley, Ian Klaas, freshman Findley Hoffman and Noah—will return in 2022.

"We went from shooting 400 strokes to 340 in six weeks," Brian noted. "It was amazing and a tribute to the boys giving effort. That's not just me helping them, they had to take the direction and use it. It was up to them, and they did it."

"It was a team effort. Noah probably did as much as I did helping because his teammates came darn near every night after practice and they would go out again on the course later in the evening and play."

What was it like for Brian to witness Noah's success as his coach?

"It was great," Brian replied. "It was so rewarding because we did it together. Being named coach this

year and being able to walk with him was awesome."

Noah cannot recall when he first picked up a golf club, but has a hunch it was "probably as soon as I could."

"When he was five or six, he started taking interest," Brian recalled. "We would get on the course and he and his sister would play in the sand traps, more than anything, just horsing around."

"Eventually they started taking interest and actually hitting balls. We didn't force it on them by any means."

Noah's sister, Brianna, finished tied for 10th at the WIAA Division 2 championship at Blackwolf Run - Meadow Valley as a freshman last fall.

"Early on, Noah started playing local small tournaments and liked it. He had real good success there and won all the local tours," Brian said. "Once you do that, you progress to another tour and another tour and another tour. We've had success in all those tours, so that's been pretty nice."

In the days following his championship win, Noah was back on the links, competing in tournaments on 13 of 14 days.

"When Noah won state, the fire trucks were waiting for us when we got back," Brian said. "Noah told me, I didn't think high school golf meant that much or was that important. He was very humble about it. The outpouring of support was great."

"Noah has played in so many tournaments, going to state is just another tournament."

In recognition of Noah's victory, the City of Lancaster deemed Friday, June 25, Noah Kirsch Day.

If earning state medalist honors and having a day named after you

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Truly amazing,

**Lancaster High School's
2021 graduating class led by example
during a memorable senior year**

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

Lancaster High School celebrated its 2021 graduating class during a commencement ceremony on Sunday afternoon, May 30. Seventy students joined the ranks of Flying Arrow alumni.

Student speaker Eleanor Riedl shared the virtue of hard work with her classmates.

"I know the idea of speaking about hard work may be a cliché, but it is what leads to success," she said. "One person who said it best was Vince Lombardi, Hall of Fame football coach: 'The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.'

"No matter what you do in life in order to be successful it is going to require hard work and determination."

Riedl noted hard work and determination will be required to overcome obstacles along the way. Obstacles such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which altered the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

"Not only did COVID take away the end of our junior year and many senior activities, it also changed all of our lives in unimaginable ways," she said. "However, look around. We all made it through to today, to graduation.

"Now this was no small feat. Many of us had to persevere through many obstacles to make through, but we still made it. It was dedication to graduating and moving forward that probably kept many of us from failing out, but we all still made it.

"The determination the Class of 2021 holds is going to lead to our success in the future. Class of 2021, as you start this next chapter in your life I want you to remember that being determined to achieve your goals will lead to your success eventually, even if it takes some time."

Riedl thanked the LHS teachers and staff for all they have done for the Class of 2021, friends and family, and the Lancaster community before offering a final take-away.

"As you leave today, one thing I'd like all of you to take away is that hard work and determination to achieve your goals will lead to your success," she said. "I also hope you remember that hard work is different for every person and that as long as you are giving everything you have, you will reach your goals."

Student speaker Kristin Muench stepped outside of

her comfort zone to address her audience.

"Take a moment to consider how different our lives would be if everyone stayed in their comfort zone," she said. "If people never took a chance to step out of their comfort zone, nothing would ever change.

"Change is uncomfortable, but necessary. If there was no change, there would be no progress."

Students have many comfort zones at LHS, Muench shared, from the music department to the art room to the athletic fields.

"Up until this moment, our lives have been planned out for us. But now, we can all choose our own paths," Muench said. "Class of 2021, as we move on to college or into the workforce, we will all have to leave our comfort zones at Lancaster High School behind. We will no longer have the activities and classes that we have been a part of for so long.

"I challenge you all to seek new comfort zones in the future. And once you have found new comfort zones, step outside of those once more. If you are always in a comfortable place, you will never grow to reach your full potential. You have to be willing to feel discomfort, or you will never know what you are truly capable of."

In closing, Muench expressed her gratitude to the Lancaster community.

"Stepping outside of your comfort zone is a lot less intimidating when there are so many supportive people around you, and I am extremely

grateful for the endless support that everyone in the Lancaster community has given me over the past four years," she said. "Take a minute to consider those in your life who support you and use that as motivation to step out of your comfort zone more often.

"You won't regret it."

Dr. Josh Wilson, a 1998 Lancaster High School graduate and owner of Wilson Chiropractic Wellness Center, provided a commencement address.

"Growing up in Lancaster, for me, was a picture-perfect childhood," Wilson shared. "I had the type of childhood where my parents would let me go out and play and tell me to come home when the street lights turned on.

"I have amazing parents. Both sets of my grandparents are from Lancaster, so I learned a lot growing up as a child that only a grandpa or grandma can teach you."

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FLYING HIGH



On its sport's biggest stage,
the Lancaster track and field team
saved its best for last

Photo courtesy of Shannon Marie Photography

BY ROBERT CALLAHAN

The 2021 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 3 track and field championships were all but over. Fans began to slowly file out of the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse's Veterans Memorial Stadium late Thursday afternoon, June 24.

Only one event remained, in which only one student-athlete had only one attempt remaining.

Lancaster's Preston Noethe made the most of it.

Noethe, a senior, soared 22' 6 1/2" in the final attempt of his prep career to win the long jump and punctuate a memorable day for Lancaster track and field. The Lancaster girls 4x200-meter relay team (Caitlynn Hahn, Bridee Burks, Eden Bowen and Lainee Burks) won gold earlier in the day.

"Preston's scenario was like Hollywood movie stuff," said Lancaster track and field head coach Kyle Stiklestad. "End of the state meet. End of his Lancaster career. It was like a walk-off home run in baseball, that was the equivalent.

"You can write storybook endings. That was one."

Noethe qualified for the championships in the high jump, triple jump and long jump. He was also a member of the Lancaster boys 4x100-meter relay team.

"I figured maybe I could sneak on the podium in the triple jump," Noethe said. "I thought I might have been able to win the high jump. Long jump is the last one I thought I was going to do anything with.

"According to the seedings going into the long jump there were nine people ahead of me, so I figured I wouldn't be able to do anything."

Noethe proved himself wrong when he leapt 21' 9 3/4" on his second jump of the competition to take the lead.

"It felt like any other normal jump but I guess I just landed different, or had a little bit more adrenaline," Noethe recalled.

Stiklestad knew Noethe had it in him.

"Preston and I had a meeting probably at the end of April. He was very frustrated at the time and wasn't jumping what he thought he was capable of jumping," Stiklestad said. "I told him it is a process. I told him at the end of the year he could jump 22 feet. To jump 19 feet in April is OK. Trust the process and you will get there.

"It was pretty cool to have that conversation two-and-a-half months ago and be able to revisit it after he jumped 22 feet to win state."

Noethe's 21' 9 3/4" jump was the top mark until Lourdes Academy's Gavin Gresser jumped 22' 1 1/2" in his final attempt, setting the stage for Noethe's heroics.

"My run up, it felt really good on the board. When I landed, I figured it was really far out there," Noethe said of his final attempt. "I kind of shot up right away and walked over to coach [Jordan] Rolland and we saw the number."

What will Noethe remember about his accomplishment?

"That last jump and getting to finally stand on top of that podium," he replied. "I'll remember my mom and dad—and all they did to help me along the way—and my grandpa and grandma, and my aunt Jodi. They were always there to support me."

The win by the girls 4x200-meter relay team avenged second place finish to Cashton at the WIAA Division 3 Boscobel sectional.

"Our 4x200 squad was very upset Cashton beat them at sectionals," Stiklestad said. "They had beaten Cashton earlier in the season and after losing to them, they were questioning themselves a little bit.

"I pulled them aside and told them after the sectional race, nobody remembers the sectional champion. You can do what you want to do at state, so go attack it. They went out and dominated at state, which was really cool."

Ladysmith held the lead as the race entered its final leg. Lancaster's anchor? Sophomore Lainee Burks.

"My leg of the race was tough. There was one team in front of us by about 20 feet," Lainee said. "They had the inside lane, so they had the advantage. I knew the only thing I could do was run as hard as I could. When I started to pass Ladysmith it was the best feeling in the world."

The best feeling in the world didn't come without some butterflies beforehand.

"I don't think I have ever been as nervous as I was going into that race," Lainee said. Being the fourth runner in the relay made it even worse because after the gun went off I still had a minute until I had to run."

Stiklestad had no doubt in the outcome when Lainee began her sprint to the finish line.

"I knew they were state champions well before Lainee passed the Ladysmith runner. There were 100 meters left in the race and I could see Lainee gaining," he explained. "Once Lainee gains on somebody, nobody is going to catch her again. She's going to pass them and keep gaining."

Lainee was handed the baton from a fellow sophomore, Bowen.

"I was nervous, but even more excited," Bowen said. "At this point in the season, I felt confident in our team and I knew I could rely on my teammates."

Bridee Burks, a junior, ran the second leg of the relay for the Flying Arrows.

"When Caitlynn was coming in I knew she was coming in fast, but

our handoff was really good,” Bridee said. “In my leg I knew I had to run into the wind, so I tried to run all the way through to Eden. Our handoff was good too, and then I just got to watch.

“By the time I caught my breath and got off the track, Lainee had the baton and was a little behind. I knew she had it in her to get that girl and she did.”

Hahn, a senior, shined in her first season as a full-time member of the track and field team. She also qualified for the state championships in the 100-meter dash, 4x100-meter relay and discus.

“I am so glad I was put on a team where all the girls were willing to lay it all on the line to win,” she said. “I know we couldn’t do it on our own.”

The two championships were Lancaster track and field’s first since Laura Massey won the last of her three straight pole vault titles in 2004. Lancaster also had several athletes end their season on the podium: the girls 4x400-meter relay team (Lainee Burks, senior Kiley Kelly, Bridee Burks and freshman Mallory Olmstead) finished fifth and the girls 4x800-meter relay (Bridee Burks, sophomore Mikayla Smith, senior Kristin Muench and Olmstead) finished third. The boys 4x400-meter relay team (senior Hayden Knapp, junior RJ Hutchcroft, senior Hayden Wagner and senior Isaac Oyen) finished third and junior Carter Vesperman finished fifth in the pole vault. Noethe just missed standing on the podium in the triple jump,



Photo Courtesy of Shannon Marie Photography

The Lancaster girls 4x200-meter relay team avenged a loss to Cashton a week prior to win the WIAA Division 3 crown. Pictured, from left: Bridee Burks, Eden Bowen, Lainee Burks and Caitlynn Hahn.

as he finished seventh. He earned a spot on the podium in the high jump, finishing sixth.

While the state title was won in 1:46.69, Lainee Burks, Bridee Burks, Bowen and Hahn have been left with memories that will endure.

“Overall, this has been by far the highlight of my high school sports career,” Lainee said. “I am so grateful for the amazing teammates and coaches that helped me achieve this accomplishment.”

“I was so emotional and beyond excited after we won,” Bowen said. “It was so cool to win, especially for Caitlynn, because it was her last meet.

“Achieving this goal will always be a special bond between us four and I will remember it forever.”

“When Lainee came through and gave me a fist bump and the biggest hug,” Bridee said. “That was a very special moment.

“Getting to win a state championship with my little sister was a moment I will never forget.”

“All of our teammates wanted us to win just as much as we did,” Hahn said. “All of those people made the feeling after the race a thousand times better.”

Hahn expressed her appreciation for Lancaster’s coaching staff.

“We couldn’t have done it without coach [Stiklestad] and [Jordan] Rolland making sure our handoffs were just right,” she said. “Coach [Smigielski] and coach [Nick] Hicks for making sure I didn’t miss any of my events, coaches [Taylor] Reynolds, [Kyle] Wickwire and [Stuart] Harper, and

coach [Eric] Rolland for getting us tape, timing our splits and especially cheering us on.”

For Stiklestad, the memories will endure as well.

“I remember all the state teams, little bits and pieces. I can’t put my finger on one thing this time around,” Stiklestad said. “I lost my voice during the four-by-two. I’ll remember that. I’ll remember P[reston]’s last jump.

“I’ll remember the sheer number of qualifiers we had. I’ll remember the send-off and the people who came out when we got back at eight at night. This one I’ll remember a little bit different than the other ones, I feel.”



**Lancaster High School
2020-2021 Forensics
State Medalists**

The Lancaster High School forensics team shined in the 2021 Wisconsin High School Forensic Association's State Speech Festival.

Thirty-nine Lancaster students earned medals (six gold, 26 silver and seven bronze). LHS was among the top five percent of medal-earning schools at the State Speech Festival and recognized with a WHSFA Excellence in Speech Award.

The LHS forensics team

is coached by Pam Curry, Torie Leslie and Wesley Wingert.

Gold

Group Interpretation - Zach Mendis, Kieran Jahnke, Isaac Oyen, Claudia Ingebritsen, Hailey Doyle

Solo Acting (Serious) - Abigail Hartline

Silver

Myles Bender - Demonstration

Group Interpretation - (Anna Murphy, Gracie Schaffer, Meg Walk-

er, Chloe Crapp), (Kate McWilliams, Evy Dhyanchand, Kendra Vesperman, Carolyn Recker, Madison Tracy), (Bridee Burks, Finley Knapp, Braeden Bausch, Michael Ihm)

Informative Speech - Ellie Riedel

Play Acting - Kylie Larson, Gabriella Dressler, Brady Sperle

Poetry - Mariah Trenkle, Owen Yoose, Kaden Crapp, Sadie Hollander

Prose - Emily Cummins,

MaKenna Breuer
Public Address - Paige Lolwing

Storytelling - Lydia Mack

Bronze

Play Acting - Brielle Bailey, Natalie Moore, Synger Runde

Poetry - Avery Crooks
Prose - Shelby Knoble
Solo Acting (Serious) - Gabriella Nalepinski
Special Occasion - Brayden Mahr

Write now

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

punctuation, and more), line editing (a line-by-line review of the manuscript), and even developmental editing.

“As a result of hiring the editor, I created four or five additional drafts of the story that took several months,” Wingert said. “The first revision was fixing all the punctuation errors, but after that, it was tougher stuff like figuring out tenses and all that.”

“Through the editing process I realized there were characters that weren’t developed as well as I wanted them to be. I had to go in and add additional chapters—and beef up some of the chapters—to make sure the character was developed more.”

Wingert finished his revised manuscript in December 2020 and began querying agents, each of which required their own cover letter.

“They each want to believe—even though they know this isn’t the case—that you specifically picked their agency for one reason,” Wingert explained. “Which is crazy, because on their websites they tell you they get thousands of queries a day. Thousands. So yours need to stand out.”

Each agent had their own set of rules, Wingert learned. Some agents requested the first five pages of the manuscript, while some requested 30 pages and some requested the first three chapters. After querying 10 agents he swapped two chapters of the manuscript to create a stronger hook.

Wingert queried approximately 75 agents in all, most during the summer of 2020. Some agents responded, many did not.

‘Extremely proud’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“I am extremely proud of Mr. Mumm. He obviously earned it and deserves all the accolades that he gets,” Uppena said. “It is cool to know our school, in general, is doing some really good things.”

“It is one of those things you can rally around, the pride in Mr. Mumm and our school. It ties right into our vision statement, celebrating our success.”

“It was a cool moment to be able to be there and to see Mr. Mumm’s reaction, and how humble, yet grateful, he was as he was acknowledged,” Wagner said. “Watching it, you realize how important education is to him and also, how important it is for him to pass that on to other

“Every writer’s goal is to have their manuscript picked up by a publisher, but I didn’t want to sit on this novel for another year,” Wingert said. “Many consider self-publishing as give up, but ultimately what I wanted was to have a copy on my shelf for students to read.”

Wingert self-published *Dead, Dying, or Nearly There* on Amazon. Amazon prints copies of the book as they are purchased. Wingert set the price for his book (\$12) and Amazon subtracts the cost of printing each copy sold. Wingert receives 60 to 70 percent of the royalties.

“Self-publishing has been bittersweet,” Wingert shared. “In the three months since it has been published, I’ve sold about 50 copies. It’s not about the money, I just want more people to read it.”

“In the grand scheme of things, if you could guarantee me 1,000 people would read my book and that I would get no money out of it, I would take that hands down.”

Realizing it had been a while since he wrote creatively, Wingert began tapping away on the keyboard this spring, writing two pages minimum each weekday. His graduate coursework and teaching summer school at LHS keep him busy, but he hopes to have 200 pages of a new manuscript completed by the end of summer.

While he would have preferred his book caught the eye of a publisher, Wingert is confident his story is not a cautionary tale.

“I’m proud of the fact I published my book,” he said. “At the end of the day, I have a story that people can read and be entertained by, and I had to put a lot of work into it to make it happen.”

Need a copy of your own? Visit Amazon.com and search Wesley Wingert to order your copy of Dead, Dying, or Nearly There.

people, not just students, but staff as well.”

As a Teacher of the Year, Mumm will serve on the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year Council for the next five years. The Council allows for two-way communication and collaboration between the Department of Public Instruction and educators.

“I think it will be great for me externally, to get better as an educator,” Mumm said. “I also hope to bring that here and help lead this building, this school district, wherever I can. I’m sure this opportunity is going to open a lot of doors for me I didn’t necessarily see before.”

“I’m excited with what I can do and how I can help others through this. It is going to be great for me, but I don’t want it to be just that. I want it to be great for everybody.”

None better

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

were not enough, Noah won't soon forget the 2021 season for another reason: a hole-in-one.

Noah aced the first hole (par-3, 186 yards) at the Lancaster Country Club during a Southwest Wisconsin

Conference Meet on May 13. The feat came on his first swing of the day.

"I saw the ball hit the pin, but I didn't see it drop. I thought it bounced off the stick and was right in front of the hole," Noah recalled. "When I got to the hole, I saw the ball was in the cup, pinched against the pin. I thought, holy cow, it's in."

While his 2021 season will be tough to top, Noah's best may be to come.

"Our goal next year is to shoot red numbers and win every event," Brian said. "I'm not speaking out of turn, am I, Noah?"

"No," Noah replied. "That's the goal."

'Truly amazing'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Wilson told graduates he knew from a young age he wanted to raise his family in a place like Lancaster.

"When I got to be about your age, my friends and I would see people leave Lancaster," he said. "They would come back, and we would say, obviously they couldn't make it in the real world because they came back to their hometown.

"We thought in order to be a big deal you had to leave, raise your family and have a career somewhere else."

Wilson enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he "played a little football, went to a little class, and met my wife."

"So all in all, it was a pretty good trip," he summarized.

Wilson later attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, before returning with his wife, Megan, to Stevens Point. He started a practice in Stevens Point, while Megan became an assistant women's basketball coach at UW-Stevens Point.

Josh and Megan welcomed twin boys, Aidan and Brody, in 2008.

"It is a small miracle they are now 13 and going into eighth grade, because I had absolutely no idea what I was doing," Wilson said. "Out of that chaos of having the twins, came the realization to me that I wanted to give my boys the type of childhood I had.

"Even though Stevens Point was a great community, it wasn't mine. I started looking for places like Lancaster, and as luck would have it, there was an opportunity right here in town."

Josh started his practice in Lancaster and Megan later became head women's basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. In 2012, daughter Palmer Rae was born.

Doctors diagnosed Palmer with Stage 3 cancer in 2018. She continues to win the fight against cancer to-

day.

"Out of the tragedy of that diagnosis came the most unbelievable support from this community," Wilson said. "I will never be able to thank enough people or repay everyone. I'll never be able to show this community how much it meant to me, everything it has done for my family and myself.

"So for me, my boys were the reason why I came back to town and my little girl is the reason I will never leave."

Wilson told graduates success is not dependent on one's location.

"You don't have to move away to be a big deal," he said. "Whatever communities you end up in, they will be better off for it.

"Please know that we will be here, ready to welcome back any or all of you to make this already great place even better."

Lancaster Community Schools District Administrator Rob Wagner praised seniors prior to presenting the class for graduation.

"This year as seniors, you have had to hurdle many obstacles to walk across the stage today: social distancing, face masks, quarantining, Zooming, hand sanitizer, not to mention all the safety protocols needed to participate in school events," he said. "You had to endure more than any other class before you. You could have complained, given up, or felt sorry for yourself. But you didn't.

"Instead, you took advantage of the opportunities you were given, excelled as a class, and most importantly, you led the rest of the student body by example."

In closing, Wagner saluted a "truly amazing" group of graduates.

"You, the Class of 2021, are the class none of us will ever forget. So thank you for everything you have done, and I wish you all nothing but the best, because that is what you gave to us."

FLYING ARROW SCOREBOARD

The Platteville/Lancaster girls soccer team won its fifth straight SWC title in 2021. The Hillmen finished 9-2-1 overall and 7-0-1 in conference play. The Hillmen defeated Cambridge/Deerfield, 2-0, in a WIAA Division 3 regional semifinal before falling to Evansville, 2-1, in a regional final match. Lancaster junior **Anna Murphy**, a midfielder, was named to the All-Conference first team. She scored six goals and added five assists. Lancaster senior **Madilynn Bainbridge**, a forward, was an All-Conference second team choice. A co-captain, she scored eight goals and assisted on four more. Platteville/Lancaster head coach **Brandon Pink** was named SWC Coach of the Year for the fourth time in his career. He has led the Hillmen to a 55-27-10 mark in six seasons.

The Lancaster softball team played a 4-6 mark in the Southwest Wisconsin Conference (SWC) in 2021. The Flying Arrows fell to Brodhead, 10-0, in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 3 regional semifinal game. Lancaster right fielder **Rianna Straka**, a junior, earned SWC All-Conference first team honors. Straka batted .370 in conference play (10-for-27) and led the Flying Arrows

with 10 RBIs in nine conference contests. Lancaster pitcher **Abigail Mergen**, a freshman, earned All-Conference first team honors as well. Mergen pitched to a 4-3 mark in the SWC and an ERA of 4.844. She struck out 25 batters while walking 18. Mergen led the Flying Arrows with a .455 batting average (10-for-22). Lancaster second baseman **Mya Ploessl**, a senior, earned All-Conference honorable mention accolades. She batted .219 in conference play (7-for-32) and boasted a fielding percentage of .900.

The Lancaster boys golf team finished second at the SWC Conference Meet held at Viroqua Hills Golf Club. Lancaster junior **Noah Kirsch** finished first and was named SWC Most Valuable Golfer. He also earned All-Conference first team honors. Lancaster juniors **Ian Klaas**, **Dan Kelley** and **Matthew Hughey** earned All-Conference honorable mention accolades. The Flying Arrows finished third at the WIAA Division 3 Barneveld regional (where Kirsch topped all golfers), and third at the Mineral Point sectional (where Kirsch finished atop the standings). Kirsch earned state medalist honors at the Division 3 boys golf championship, becoming the first

Flying Arrow to do so.

The Lancaster baseball team was 5-12 overall and 4-6 in SWC action in 2021. The Flying Arrows fell to Fennimore, 10-0, in a WIAA Division 3 regional quarterfinal game. Lancaster senior **Logan Smith** earned All-Conference first team honors. Smith batted .438 in 10 conference games (7-of-16). He drove in three runs, scored four times and drew a team-high nine walks. Lancaster senior **Hayden Knapp** earned All-Conference first team honors as well. Knapp batted .320 in SWC play (8-for-25) and scored a team-high nine runs. He appeared in nine conference games on the mound, pitching a team-high 33 innings. He struck out 34 and had a 2.545 ERA. Lancaster senior **Hayden Wagner** earned All-Conference second team accolades. Wagner batted .370 (10-for-27) in conference games. He tallied a team-high nine RBIs. Lancaster sophomore **Mitchel Wolf** earned All-Conference honorable mention status. He batted .462 (12-for-26) to lead the Flying Arrows in SWC action. He drove in eight runs.

The Lancaster girls track and field team won the 2021 SWC Conference Meet, followed by the

WIAA Division 3 Lancaster regional. The Flying Arrows finished second at the WIAA Division 3 Boscobel sectional. The Lancaster boys finished third at the SWC Conference Meet, second at the Lancaster regional and second at the Boscobel sectional. Qualifying for the Division 3 championships were the boys 4x100-meter relay (**Logan Smith**, **RJ Hutchcroft**, **Hayden Wagner**, **Preston Noethe**), boys 4x200-meter relay (Smith, **Isaac Oyen**, Wagner, Hutchcroft), boys 4x400-meter relay (**Hayden Knapp**, Hutchcroft, Wagner, Oyen), **Carter Vesperman** (pole vault), Noethe (high jump, long jump, triple jump), **Cole Raisbeck** (shot put), **Caitlyn Hahn** (100-meter dash, discus), **Mallory Olmstead** (800-meter run), girls 4x100-meter relay (Hahn, **Abigail Burr**, **Tatiana Place**, **Lainee Burks**), girls 4x200-meter relay (Hahn, **Bridee Burks**, **Eden Bowen**, Lainee Burks), girls 4x400-meter relay (Lainee Burks, **Kiley Kelly**, **Bridee Burks**, **Olmstead**), girls 4x800-meter relay (Bridee Burks, **Mikayla Smith**, **Kristin Muench**, **Olmstead**), Burr (high jump), Lainee Burks (long jump), **Bridee Burks** (triple jump).



Let's Celebrate!

Lancaster Middle School's eighth graders enjoyed their eighth grade banquet on May 14. Students enjoyed a meal including chicken, roast beef and mashed potatoes. Cake and several flavors of ice cream were offered for dessert. Congratulations to the Lancaster High School Class of 2025!

