

Burwell Students
Attend Mullen Art Show

Submitted by Emily Hitchcock

On Tuesday, April 15th, four Burwell students attended the Mullen Art Show with Mrs. Hitchcock. Those attending included: Shaylee Hulinsky, Kelli Brownell, Boston Klanecky, and Alex Gregorski. The students helped display over 90 pieces of artwork in the junior high and senior high division.

Some of the different categories Burwell artwork competed in were: pencil, colored drawings, printmaking, collage, mixed media, hand-built pottery, thrown pottery, photography, mixed media, 3D sculptures, black and white drawings, acrylic and watercolor paintings. Eight schools attended the art show including: Paxton, Sandhills, Mullen, Wallace, Arnold, Thedford, and Stapleton.

While the artwork was being judged in the morning, students participated in the activity the host school created. Each student worked as a team in an activity called "Maori Madness." Students were randomly given an animal, artistic style, and color palette. For example, Shaylee and Kelli



TAPS

BY REA PETERSEN

Across the country, a quiet problem is unfolding. As thousands of veterans are laid to rest each week, there aren't enough performers to offer the salute of "Taps" — the solemn, 24-note tribute that marks their final farewell.

Many funerals now rely on recordings or digital bugles, but veterans' groups

means everything to a grieving family," said Tom Day, founder of the nonprofit.

If you can play, your gift can give honor. One trumpet or another instrument. One song. One last salute.

For the past 40 years, the Burwell community has been fortunate to have high school students step forward to perform "Taps" at local events and ceremonies. However, as these students graduate, many believe their

MEMORIAL DAY
REFLECTIONS

say nothing compares to the emotion of a live performance. Taps isn't just music, it's a final thank you.

Organizations like Taps Across America are urgently seeking volunteers who can play Taps, even just a few times a year. Musicians of all ages are encouraged to step forward.

"It's a small act, but it

role ends with high school. In reality, anyone—regardless of age—can continue to honor this tradition by playing "Taps" on any suitable instrument. Our community relies on dedicated individuals to keep this meaningful tradition alive, and we encourage more people to step up and participate.



NHS
Members
Welcome
Class of
2031

By Regan Smith
Staff Writer

Burwell High School, May 15, 2025 — Transitioning into a new phase of high school can be an overwhelming experience: new faces, a larger campus, and the pressure of new expectations. But at Burwell High, one student-led initiative is working hard to make sure no future seventh grader feels lost or alone.

Enter the Burwell High School National Honors Society, a group of dedicated

upperclassmen whose mission is to guide and support incoming students during their first year. Chartered in the 1950's, the club has grown into a cornerstone of the school's welcoming culture, hosting orientation events, leading school tours, and even matching each seventh grade student with a friendly mentor.

"We want these kids to feel like they belong here from day one," said club president Ericka Larsen, a 2025-26 senior who joined the club as a sophomore. "High school can be intimidating, and just having someone to answer questions or say hello in the hallway makes a huge difference."

Each fall and spring, the National Honors Society

hosts a special initiation tour and schedule orientation complete with campus scavenger hunts, icebreaker games, and Q&A panels.



New students are introduced to school resources, clubs, and traditions in a way that's fun and engaging.

The club meets monthly to plan events and train members in communication and leadership. Faculty advisor Mrs. Melissa Konicek says the group has had a noticeable impact. "We've seen a drop in disciplinary issues and a rise in student involvement among freshmen. It's clear that the members of the National Honor Society here at Burwell are building a stronger, more connected school community."

Looking ahead, the club plans to expand its efforts with monthly check-ins and a monthly letter to the students from each of the members. "We're always looking

Burwell High School Educator
Honored with National Award

Burwell, NE—Candace Cain, an educator from Burwell High School, has been recognized for her exceptional contributions to the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) with the distinguished Don Crabtree Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to coaches who go above and beyond in serving the Association.

Coaches earn service citations for their efforts, with milestones marked by significant awards: a gold key for 20 citations and a bronze plaque for an additional 50 citations. Cain was honored for her third citation since starting as a coach in 2020.

Named after Don Crabtree, a revered former NSDA Board of Directors president, Hall of Fame member, and record-holding nine-diamond coach, the award recognizes individuals who embody the spirit of service and dedication to speech and debate.

Cain's commitment to fostering excellence in speech and debate has made



a lasting impact on her students and the broader educational community. Her recognition underscores the

prepares to step through Burwell's doors next fall, they can rest assured that a friendly face will be waiting for them—thanks to the smiling faces of the Burwell

importance of mentorship and leadership in shaping future generations of critical thinkers and communicators.

High School National Honor Society.

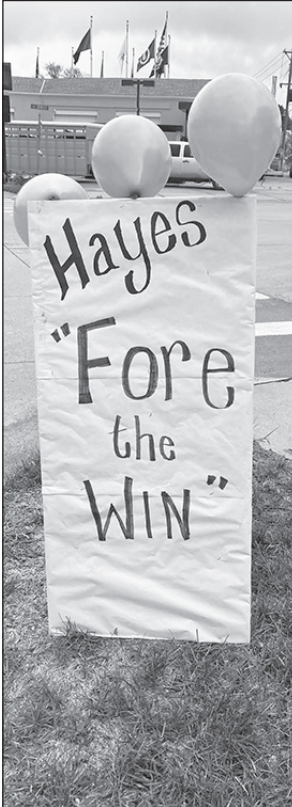


Photos Submitted



Mister
Longhorn
Goes To
State Golf
Tourney

LEFT: Hayes Plugge in Columbus with BHS Coaches Lisa Petersen and Eric Dobbins.



NO MORE! By Marsha Handley

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48	S	I	R	T	H	O	M	A	S	L	E	S
56	E	C	L	A	T	P	I	N	K	57	T	A
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62	S	N	E	E	R	D	I	E	T	64	N	A