

# SHS revives literary magazine

By Ceili Cornelius  
Correspondent

In 2008, Samra Spear, an English teacher at Sisters High School, started a literary magazine. The literary magazine is called *Verbatim* (student-titled in its first year). The last published issue was in 2011 and one hadn't been created due to lack of student interest.

This year, senior Johanna Geisen decided to take on the task of reviving the publication.

"I needed a first period and had already taken creative writing once so I decided [on] advanced creative writing as an independent study, and was figuring out projects to work on. I mentioned to Mrs. Spear that I wanted to be an editor, so she suggested that I do the literary magazine" said Geisen.

"I had wanted to start it up again but I needed to find student interest, and I look for people that have an interest in a future of editing and writing," said Spear.

The literary magazine is a collection of student-written pieces of poetry and stories. Students write their pieces and then submit them to be reviewed. The 2017 edition contains nature photos all taken by Will Werts, a senior



PHOTO BY CEILI CORNELIUS

Johanna Geisen and Samra Spear are proud of *Verbatim*.

at SHS. The magazine mostly ended up containing submissions from Spear's AP English class. Students could submit anonymously or with a byline.

Spear gave Geisen full rein over the magazine in design and finding out what to do to get it produced. Johanna chose the publishing company and explored and researched all she would need to know about publishing it.

"She was in contact with whoever she needed to be in contact with to get it produced" said Spear. "Johanna

just ran with it."

"My favorite part of doing the literary magazine was getting to choose and read all of the students' submissions," Geisen said. "It was really hard to pick because there was so many good ones."

She has been working on the literary magazine all semester.

"It was really great to see the final product," she said.

There are a limited number of magazines; they can be purchased in Spear's classroom for \$10.

# Sisters choir program serves up concert

The choir program in Sisters schools is thriving under the guidance of Choir Director Rick Johnson — as evidenced by last week's pop show, the traditional closing show of the school year.

Singers from sixth grade to graduating seniors performed at the Sisters High School Auditorium on Wednesday, May 24.

Julie Cash accompanied the singers on piano as 6th-graders sang "Yellow

Submarine," "When You Wish Upon A Star," and "Jailhouse Rock."

The 7th/8th-grade choir followed with "That Thing You Do," "Moon River," and "Lean On Me."

The SHS Jazz Choir offered stunning renditions of "Lullabye" and "Breaths," and the Concert Choir closed out the evening's music with a rousing renditions of "We Are Family" and "A Tribute to Ray Charles."



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

The Sisters High School Jazz Choir delivered note-perfect performances at the annual Pop show last week.

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