

# The

# Cougar's Tale

Vol. 3 Issue 4

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## Do You Have Spirit... Wear!?

By Rachel Mulder



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*The Cougar's Tale is a publication of Calvin Christian High School's journalism class. Students get the experience of interviewing people and writing articles for viewing by others.*

*Questions or comments should be directed to Mr. Vande Glind and will be relayed to the journalism class.*

Hopefully you have noticed the changes that have already been made to our school, like the awesome colors and studio-like pictures in the hallways, and of course, the bright blue letters that greet you with a big hello as you enter our school. They're hard to miss! And here is one more thing that will make our school more personal: a new logo and personalized spirit wear!

The Student Council has been discussing logos for a few weeks now and as of last week we have made our final decisions about them. The high school had decided the cougar that would be the new face of Calvin, but then had to wait for the ok from the Blaine faculty. The company we are working with, [schoolidentity.com](http://schoolidentity.com), is allowing us to have two or three different designs for sweatshirts; and two designs for t-shirts, polo shirts, hats, and bags. Along with these practical clothing items, drawing bags and blankets, also printed with these new designs, will be other options. The woman we have been meeting has set up our online store so they will be ready for orders by Christmas.




Because we are still "one" school we are going to share the same mascot with the

Blaine campus, but we will have Calvin Christian High School printed on our clothes along with the identical mascot. As a high school, we chose to be as different as we can from the other campuses, without going too far, because we are different! Hanna Marra comment-

## "Spirit wear is a lot of fun"

ed, "I think we should have spirit wear because it helps get our name out, and because a lot of other schools have it and it shows that we support our school."

Eleanor Staricka seems to agree, "First of all, spirit wear is a lot of fun.

But I think it can also bring us together. We can wear it at sports games or when we do something like the raking day and it shows ourselves and the people who see us that we are all together and we support each other. It can also be used for advertising, people are going to see what you are wearing, but I think it's mostly just for ourselves (but not in a selfish way...in a community building way!)" 



If you would like to see more or purchase any of these items go to...

## [www.schoolidentity.com](http://www.schoolidentity.com)

## Bountiful Blessings

By Vito Sauro

*May your stuffing be tasty  
May your turkey plump  
May your potatoes and  
gravy  
Have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
And your pies take the prize  
And may your Thanksgiving  
dinner  
Stay off your thighs!*

Anonymous

As Thanksgiving approaches I wonder if this is what the holiday has become. When Calvin students were interviewed on what they think of on Thanksgiving, their usual response was overwhelmingly food. Why is it on Thanksgiving that we think of food instead of what we say

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## Alumni Update

By Jordan Severin

Have you talked to any of our 2009 graduates lately? The journalism class thought it would be a good idea to update you all on what some of them are doing. I was able to contact a few of them. They told me all about school and how going to Calvin is really helping them now.

Brian Estrem attends Southwest Minnesota State University. He really enjoys the college life and freedom he has outside of home. Brian hasn't settled on a major yet, but really likes the school. He told me he really misses the people and "awesome teachers" at Calvin. One thing he added was Calvin really helped him in writing papers for his classes; he said they are much better quality than they would have been if he hadn't attended Calvin.

Hannah Brenton is attending Calvin College in Michigan. She told me, "I definitely wanted to attend a Christian college, preferably with a Reformed Worldview, and I knew that Calvin definitely fit that profile." Hannah had some opinions on how

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# NEWS: WORLD, COUNTRY, CALVIN

By Andrew Hansen and Eleanor Staricka

## World (CNN)

### **Korean Faceoff**

On November 10, 2009 there was a skirmish between North and South Korea.

The South Koreans fired a warning shot, but the North Korean ship continued south, because of that the South Koreans opened fire.

The North Koreans fire back before going away. Their ship was damaged in the fight.

The skirmish came a few days after North Korea asked to talk with the United States. They said they needed to settle their differences before nuclear discussions can go on. The South Koreans did not want them to do that so they tried to stop them.

### **Radovan Karadzic**

Radovan Karadzic has appeared in the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal's courtroom for the first time since his trial to argue for more time to prepare his defense.

Karadzic has avoided the first three days of his trial on eleven charges linked to his supposed role in planning the Serb killings throughout the Bosnian War.

Judges have warned Karadzic they may impose a defense lawyer on him if he continues his boycott. Karadzic is defending himself.

He was the driving force behind all the murders and killings in the Bosnian War. He has killed over 6,000 Muslim men and boys.

The Srebrenica massacre and the Sarajevo siege were some of the things that he is being tried for.

## Country (CNN)

### **Health Reform Bill**

As many of you know there is bill in the house trying to be passed. That is the Health Reform Bill. House Democrats passed historic legislation on November 14 to expand the nation's health-care system.



One of our student groups raking leaves

### **San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge**

Joe Marshall was cruising across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge when a piece of steel and a giant cable crashed down. He was only 50 yards away from the site. The reporter was just far enough away that he didn't see the junk as it fell, but he did see cars quickly move to the right to avoid the stuff.

Over Labor Day weekend, crews worked to repair a damaged steel beam. "The bridge has been inspected, and it is now

safer than when we closed it," Randell Iwasaki said.

According to the people who are in charge of the bridges it is said that most of the bridges are either weak or they are not completely strong.

The Bay Bridge opened in 1936 and spans 8.4 miles. It was the largest and most expensive bridge -- \$77 million -- of its time.

## Calvin

### **Leaves, Leaves, Leaves, and More Leaves...**

The students had a real good time raking. One of the houses students raked at had a really big yard and they had to rake up at least 30 bags worth of leaves!

We had fun helping and having fun. We jumped in the leaf pile and we cleaned it up. This project was not just helping the community; it helped us grow closer together in friendship and being able to work together.

### **Fridays at Calvin**

During the month of November, CCHS students have been welcoming prospective students into their Friday activities. As the 8th grade students came in, they were

greeted by their high school hosts and swept off to chapel. Throughout the morning, the visitors participated in classes and got to know students that could potentially become their classmates. The 8th grade visit wrapped up with a student panel where they could ask questions about the school and what CCHS is all about. Hopefully these prospective students got a good idea of what goes on at CCHS and will be coming to join us here next year! 🐾

## **Bountiful Blessings**

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we are thankful for.

When Calvin students were asked what they are the most thankful for the results were much different than the answers they gave for what they think of on Thanksgiving. Ben Stephens said he was thankful his brother was not injured during the Fort Hood shooting. Alli Livingston is thankful for the gift



"...we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks."

of life, and quite a few are people are thankful for Jesus, family, and friends.

When Thanksgiving was initialized by President George Washington in 1789 he said it was to be "to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the People of this Country"

So as we head into Thanksgiving, let us not forget its true meaning. Let us enjoy the modern festivities and enjoy our long weekend, but when all is done, to look past them and thank God for what he has given us. 🐾

## **Alumni Update**

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Calvin helped her prepare for college, "CCHS really helped me discover how to reflect on the world and on myself. I've discovered in college that this ability to interact with, reflect on, and evaluate information is vital, especially when writing extensive papers. Socially, I know that Calvin's close community helped me place value on relationships." Hannah is really enjoying her ministry-based improve team. She loves spending time with other students who she can connect with; "students passionate living Christ like." She is majoring in English with a minor in teaching ESL.

Jemma Storbakken is attending Dordt College in Iowa. Why did she decide to go there? "I felt that God was calling me to go to a school that was going to continue to challenge my faith and allow it the nourishment and growth it needed." She isn't able to participate in choir at Dordt (which is what she misses most at Calvin),

because she is double majoring in Psychology and Spanish. Since starting college Jemma has "enjoyed growing in [her] faith and becoming more and more what God created [her] to be."

Josh Silker is attending the YWAM school in Lakeside, Montana. When I asked him why he decided to go there he said, "I wanted

"God was calling me to go to a school that was going to continue to challenge my faith"

to wait a year and work on my relationship with God, get a better picture of what I want to do after YWAM, continue to cultivate talents like music and find new ones." He told me that he really misses doing praise team, sports, and all the people here, but at YWAM he still gets to participate in leading worship, writing and recording music, and playing basketball. "But going to college (or YWAM) is like leaving a good thing for something better."

If you would like to know anything more, shoot them an email, or just give them a call. I'm sure they would love and appreciate talking to you all. 🐾

# Student Activities

## Dodgeball Tournament

By Austin Bartz

You are out; balls flying everywhere. This year there was a dodge ball tournament on November 14, 2009 at the River Center. It was at the fourth annual Christian Community Fair which is an event where churches and Christian schools can come together. However, this was the first time a dodgeball tournament took place. There were 26 teams in all with twelve players on each of the teams, which meant there were seven players on the court and five on the bench at a time. Each team played at least six games. To win the tournament teams needed to win two of the three rounds in each game.

Keith Te Haar coached the Calvin team. The CCHS team both won two games and lost two games. In Calvin's first game they lost all three of the rounds. In the second match, they won all three. Since two teams from each group advanced Calvin was able to move on. Unfortunately, the team lost two out of the three rounds which ended the tournament for Calvin. The CCHS team ended up taking second place in the end.

Coach Te Haar said, "We played much better than I expected. The team played very good, even though we didn't have any practices. Next year I would like to have some practices so we can get better as a team."



## Captains in Command

By Eleanor Staricka

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus...everything needs a firm foundation, including basketball! This year's basketball captains are working hard to ensure that the teams are ready for the start of the season, and in the midst of all the numerous drills that have been going on, Dani always asks, "Can we run stairs?!"

In the first captain's practices in CCHS history, captains Ben Silker and Max Severin, and Liz Johnson and Eleanor Staricka are working their teams hard. Max said, "I want the team to build and become a stronger team," and Ben adds that they need to work on "everything except talking, they've got that one down goooooood." As for the girls' team, Liz said "We have worked a lot on covering all the basics... our passing could be stronger and our defense and offense need to up the aggressiveness."

The captains have many hopes for their teams this year. These players are all hoping for the best season yet, but in the words of Ben, "Winning's not everything, I hope that at the very least we can build a strong foundation so that the basketball program can really start to take off." All of them would like to see players grow both individually and as a team, both on and off the court. Liz said, "I hope that we become closer as the team this year, maybe even have some team parties and such and of course win some games!"

As the teams get to know each other, they will continue working towards the best season yet. Keep up the Cougar spirit! 🐾



## Student Council Update

By Liz Johnson

Student Council has been very busy this year with things such as meeting with clubs, deciding on a school logo, and working with the Social Planning Committee to plan the Masquerade. There has been a lot of excitement encircling this up-and-coming dance: what to wear? Who to go with? Why can't we bring dates from outside Calvin? The last question is a big one, we have heard a lot of your comments and we are listening. In years past only

Calvin students have been allowed at our formals, until last year's formal, that is.

We gave the Masquerade to the Social Planning Committee as a fun event to plan and something we thought most students would enjoy. It is not as big of an event as the formal, no full meal or extravagant dresses. Students will be allowed to bring a guest to the formal, so don't worry if they can't come to the Masquerade.

The Social Planning Committee has purchased masks for students to decorate on December 4th. This should be a fun event for all, and I can't wait to see how it turns out!

One more little heads-up from the Student Council: we would like to have more variety in our concession stands for basketball season. Do you have any suggestions? Any favorite snack that you would like to see sold? Drop us a line at cchscouncil@gmail.com! 🐾

## A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words...



# EXTRAS

## Black Friday

By Josiah Wicklund

Black Friday is the Friday after thanksgiving and often times the beginning of Christmas shopping. It is when most things go on sale in every store attracting a lot of customers for Christmas shopping. Many of retailers open super early in the morning to get as much business as they can in

a day. Quite a few open around 5am, but some are open at midnight on black Friday, and they will stay open for 24 hours until midnight on Saturday. This seems kind of

“People will camp out or wake up at 3am.”

crazy, but in order to get enough business to make money these stores need to put on sales.

People go insane to get as much stuff as they can while its cheap and on sale. People will camp out or wake up at 3am or so to try to get into the store first, some people think that’s not a good idea and will just go later, and still there are people that don’t even go at all. Buy nothing day started in

1992 to examine the issue of over-consumption and go against buying as much as you can on black Friday. Buy nothing day(aka Black Friday) traffic went up 4.8% and consumers spent \$347.44. That’s down 3.5% from the previous year, but it also went up to an impressive 14.8% in 2005. 14.3% of consumers went out to wait for stores to open before 4am, compared to the 12.4% just last year. 🐾

## Advice Column

By Liz Johnson

“Is it okay to lie when you are trying not to hurt someone’s feelings?”

I’m not sure if it is ever okay to lie, but I understand why you would do that. I would advise you to try and find a way to nicely tell them the truth. You could also tell them that if you were to be honest with them it might be hard for them to hear, that way they know where you are coming from and realize you are trying to be kind about it, trying not to hurt their feelings.

I would say if you lied to protect someone’s feelings and they find out later that you did so, you would both feel bad and they would have lost their trust in you. From a biblical perspective, lying is something you should not do. “Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.”—Leviticus 19:11. This passage

includes “do not deceive one another” and even if you are lying about something as simple as if you like their clothes or not, if you don’t like their clothes, but tell them that it looks ok, you are deceiving them. Hope this helps!

“A friend of mine hasn’t been to church in a long time and had some “bad experiences”I’ve been trying to get this person to my youth group for quite some time and they refuse...what should I do? Do I keep asking or is that being overbearing?”

I would continue inviting this person to your youth group. I don’t think it would be overbearing, as long as you ask in a loving and caring way. You may want to share this Bible passage with them... “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”—Hebrews 10:24-25

A great speaker, Greg Speck put it like this, “by going to church or reading your Bible, God will not love you more; by not going to church or reading your Bible, God will not love you less, but you should go to church to show your love and obedience to God, it is what He has called us to do.”

“What should I do if someone is making inappropriate comments about someone?”

Confront them in love. Part of our student vision is to keep each other accountable We need to be willing to tell someone if they are not walking in the way that God desires and also willing to listen to others when they point out certain comments and actions. Realize that by making inappropriate comments you may be causing a fellow brother or sister in Christ to stumble. “Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.”—1 Corinthians 8:9 🐾

## Abby Nyberg

**Birth date:** August 5th, 1995

**Movie:** *The Secret Life of Bees*

**Music Artist:** Barlow Girl

**Biggest Fear:** Fire

**What are you looking forward to at CCHS?** How everybody fits in into the community.

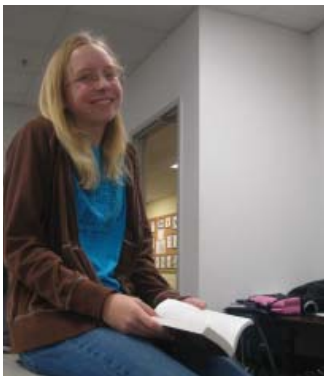
**What is your worst injury or accident?** When I cut my chin open when I was five, tripping down the stairs.

**Favorite Bible Verse:** Joshua 1:9, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

**If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want with you?** My cat, all my books, and my laptop.

**What super power would you like to have and why?** I would have moving things with my mind.

**If there was a movie about you, what genre would it be?** Documentary, because it would be a very, very boring movie. 🐾



# S T U D E N T

## Nathaniel Koppendrayer

**Birth date:** April 12th, 1995

**Movie:** *The Dark Night*

**Favorite Music Artist:** Three Days Grace

**Biggest Fear:** Clowns

**What are you looking forward to at CCHS?** Arkansas trip. I love canoeing

**What is your worst injury or accident?** I was playing basket ball and flew into a wall with sharp ridges and pierced my back.

**What is your favorite quote?** “If life gives you lemons, make grape juice. Then sit back and watch the world wonder how you did it.”

**If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want with you?** A boat, food, and water.

**What super power would you like to have and why?** To fly, because it looks fun.

**If there was a movie about you, what genre would it be, and who would play you?** Documentary, because my life is pretty boring. 🐾



# H I G H L I G H T S

## Wesley Porter

**Birth date:** January 20th, 1995

**Movie:** *Lord of the Rings*.

**Music Artist:** Toby Mac.

**Biggest Fear:** Having a really long Language Arts class.

**What are you looking forward to at CCHS?** Being able to learn new things and not having to worry about the environment that I’m in, because it’s a Christian environment.

**What is your worst injury or accident?** When 2 mud bricks

**What is your favorite quote?** “Who is more foolish; the fool or the fool

that follows him.” – Obi Wan Kenobi



**If you were stranded on an island, what three things would you want with you?**A ship able to reach any part of the world, enough gas for 12 years, and enough food to last 12 years.

**What super power would you like to have and why?** The power to possess any other power.

**If there was a movie about you, what genre would it be, and who would play you?** Mystery/ Action / Science fiction. Because those are the type of movies and books I enjoy. 🐾