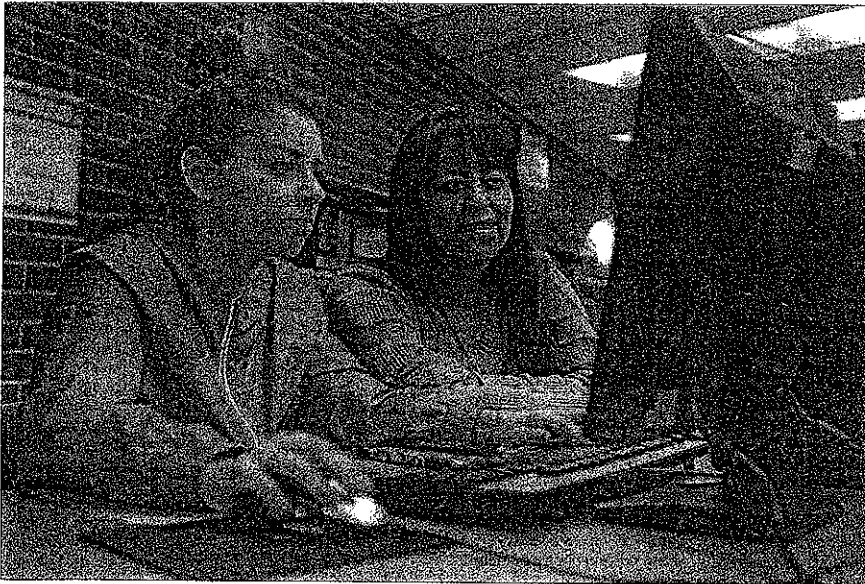




TALKING COLLEGE

Nampa High School hosts career fair, FAFSA workshop for students



CHRIS BRONSON/IPT

Nampa senior Athena White fills out FAFSA with her mother, Ida, at the FAFSA workshop at Nampa High School on Wednesday.

By SEAN BUNCE
sbunce@idahopress.com

NAMPA — For the second straight year, Nampa High School has teamed up with local colleges to help start a conversation with students about a secondary education and the best strategies for saving and paying for it.

On Wednesday, more than 1,600 students from NHS attended an all-day College Fair and FAFSA workshop. More than 20 agencies participated in the event, from local colleges and universities to Army recruiters. Even a few Boise State University football players showed up to help draw interest.

"Our biggest thing is we really want to highlight that we have awesome students here who deserve all the opportunity in the world," said Stephanie Parsons, head counselor at Nampa High School. "We're just working day-to-day to continue to supply that for them."

Throughout the day,



CHRIS BRONSON/IPT

Nampa senior Noah Bermudez, center, poses for a photograph with Boise State football players (from left to right) Sam Whitney, Gabriel Perez, Derriyon Shaw and Evan Tyler at Nampa High School on Wednesday.

students took turns with their respective classes going to the event. While freshman and sophomores are a few years from making decisions about secondary education, Parsons believes it's never too early to begin thinking about the next level of schooling.

"For our freshman and sophomores it's really just about exposing them to the vocabulary, getting them thinking about post high school," Parsons

works great to show them it's never too early to start planning," Johnson said.

Johnson believes the college fair is especially important to younger students who aren't yet sure of their future. By attending these events and talking with colleges, students can explore different degrees and begin working toward them in high school where college credit is offered at less of a cost than attending a university.

During the College Fair, students were able to attend a FAFSA workshop, which provided information about saving and the different options for paying tuition. Assistance was also provided to students in completing their FAFSA application.

Megan Simila, an education specialist at Boise State, helped with the FAFSA workshop. Normally, she runs a grant program out of BSU called TRIO, which helps first generation students get into college.

More FAFSA | A9

FAFSA/ from A1

"My kids call me their TRIO mom," Simila said. "That kind of explains the emotional and practical support that we provide for these kids, because it's not an easy process. There are a lot of details where if you get

just one little detail wrong the whole thing doesn't work. I have a class here, and I'll be helping these kids out the next month because this isn't the last step."

Although she often hears from students concerned about the affordability of college tuition, Simila says there are many options if

students are willing to do some research. The first step, she says, is getting prospective students to pay her a visit and fill out paperwork.

"Do your FAFSA. Even if you don't think you want to go to college," Simila said. "The maximum Pell-Grant this year is \$5,800 dollars,

which is enough to cover your tuition at CWI. So even if you just want to get a certificate in something you can get it for free if you just fill out this one document."

Sean Bunce is the digital first reporter. Contact him at 465-8172 or sbunce@idahopress.com. Follow @Seanbunce22.

Nampa High takes top marching band prize at state championship

Bulldogs hope to continue marching success throughout school year

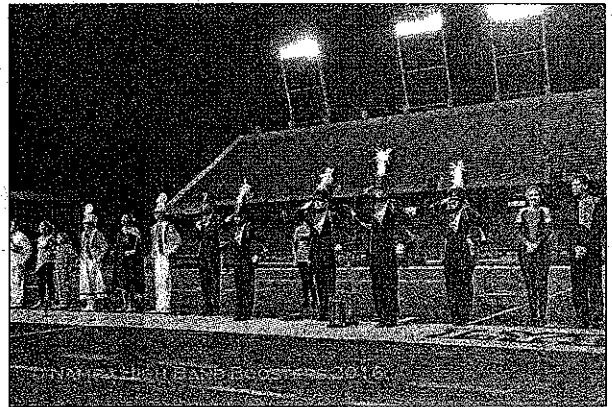
By SEAN BUNCE
sbunce@idahopress.com

Last weekend marked the culmination of a long season for high school marching bands across the state.

Of the 27 teams competing this Saturday in the annual Mel Shelton District III Marching Band Championship, performances by Canyon County schools Vallivue, Nampa, Middleton and Caldwell all earned accolades. Each of the four schools took home trophies for placing at the top of their divisions.

But only one school can win sweepstakes and claim the overall championship. This year, Nampa High School claimed the honor.

"I'm extremely proud of the Marching Dogs' performance Saturday night at a festival where all of the bands really brought their A-game," Nampa Band Director Phillip Hoelsing said. "It was one of the highest quality festivals across the



COURTESY STACEY GOOCH

Nampa High School marching band took home several place and other awards at Saturday's competition.

board that has happened at District III since I've been here, and our students worked really hard to achieve that. They were super dedicated."

The Nampa Marching Band placed first for 5A overall large band performance, and received awards for 5A large band best percussion, best visual performance, best musical performance and best general effect.

"They played with a beautiful quality of sound, and it lined up well with the music and time," Hoelsing said. "Their marching and their music together was very in-sync and produced a great effect."

Although marching band is over, it's only the

MORE INFORMATION

To view the results from the competition go to idahopress.com.

beginning of a long band season that continues throughout the school year with other competitions. With a win in this competition, Hoelsing is confident the right tone is set for his band to continue to succeed.

"Our students are extremely excited and the kind of energy that's generated from performance like that is memorable forever," Hoelsing said. "That type of performance sends them into the rest of the year with a great feeling, and they aren't going to stop working hard now."