

PRESS RELEASE

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Speech Team Brings Home 2 Individual Champions at First Tournament of the Year!

The Jackson Hole High School Speech and Debate Team found incredible success at their first official tournament of the season held at Rock Springs High School, November 3-4 where they took a fourth place team sweepstakes finish along with thirteen individual awards. The Jackson team, coached by Londe and Peggy Gagnon, brought home two individual event championships as well.

Freshman Alex Chambers led the way for the team by securing the championship spot in Novice Poetry. He was followed closely by teammates, sophomores Shakynah Mach, who placed second, and Lizzie Jones, who placed third in the same event.

Senior and team captain, Jackson Neishabouri also had an impressive weekend, securing the championship in Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking. He went on to join fellow team captain, and senior Lauren Guh-Siesel in Public Forum Debate where they placed second. Guh-Siesel also secured a second place finish in Varsity Congressional Debate.

Sophomore Cameron Marlowe impressed in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate where she finished in second place. She spent the weekend arguing whether or not the United States ought to prohibit the extraction of fossil fuels from federal public lands and waters.

The Jackson squad showed incredible strength in Novice Congressional Debate. Freshman Lizzy Benedict placed seventh while fellow freshman Maleah McCune placed 6th. Sophomore Ash Stam placed fifth in the event with freshman Lillyke Martinek placing third.

Sophomore Martin Contreras partnered with junior Ashly Hernandez in Varsity Duet where they placed fifth with their performance of "Help Desk." Sophomore Maddie Earl had an impressive second place finish in Varsity Humorous Interpretation.

The Jackson Hole High School Speech and Debate team is excited to have so many up and coming competitors. Gagnon remarked, "Varsity and Novice worked together in seamless fashion to bring home numerous top awards. We are excited for an amazing year." Jackson competes again this weekend in Cody.

