We’ve Been
WAITING
For This

TOTEM POLE 2017
What have you been waiting for?

When you think about it, a good deal of your life is spent waiting. If you Google it, you’ll find that we spend five years waiting in lines and six months waiting at traffic lights alone. Imagine how much time we spend on everything else.

At school, the possibilities are endless. For starters, there’s the daily wait in the lunch line, which was supposed to become a straight line this year but never quite shaped up. And then there were the Chromebooks; we’d waited a long time for a one-to-one tech initiative. No one told us, however, about the printing details.

Sometimes the wait did not equal the payoff, like the annoying minutes spent waiting to get a document printed on the lone student printer in the media center or the clique that’s always clogging the freshman hallway. Fortunately, other moments were more than worth it, like the sigh of relief after you nailed your senior boards presentation or met early graduation requirements, that very first drive in your own car or the much-anticipated acceptance letter to the college of your dreams.

In some cases, you were not alone in your waiting. Maybe you practiced passionately with your peers until it was your time to shine on the athletic field or the stage. The countdown to prom, of course, was definitely a group activity, waiting for plans to fall together or to find the perfect dress.

All the while reinforcing the notion that we are all...
Senior Janaaya Walker tends to project details in her sculpture class.
so often better together. The members of the boys swim team showed this when they finally captured a 13-year-old swim record that had eluded them from day one.

So what was your big moment? Did it deliver? Did it disappoint? Did it make you better? Was it **WORTH** the wait?
Fun FACT

Before the current title of "Totem Pole" came to be in 1942, yearbooks went by the name "The Kaw" or simply "Bonner."

1938 1941

Celebrating 75 YEARS

Generations filled with tradition

Going into the process of creating the 75th edition of the Totem Pole, my co-editor and I were very conscious that we wanted to honor the books that have come before. With that in mind, we dove headfirst into the archives, eager to soak in as much knowledge of the years before us as possible.

The moment I held the first-ever volume of the Totem Pole was one that took my breath away. Flipping through the aged pages felt like stepping into a time machine. Images of young men and women in their outdated clothing and details of their teenage antics made me smile.

Some aspects of high school life at BSHS were very different back in 1942. For starters, the nation was at war. I learned that my own grandfather should have been pictured in the junior class section of the book, but he left early to fight after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. I wonder how much the specter of war weighed upon their hearts? Bonner and Edwardsville had two separate high schools and the Bonner high school at that time is now the 3rd Street Asylum. In the sports world, overtime didn’t exist, leaving games to end in the unsatisfying result of a tie.

Although so much has changed in the past 75 years, I was in awe of how much has stayed the same. We value the same clubs and sports, goof around with our friends and prophesy where our classmates will be in 20 years.

Creating Volume 75 has been a journey. I am truly honored to be one of the people tasked with documenting the 2017 school year at BSHS; I hope you enjoy looking through Volume 75 as much as we enjoyed creating it.

We hope it was worth the wait.

- Summer Ney

Turning back the clock: 1942

A bottle of Coke cost 5 cents

A gallon of gas cost 15 cents

The average wage per year was $1,880

The average cost of a new house was $3,770

6 ▶ Celebrating 75
Freshman Hannah Kraus listens to her options at freshman orientation.

Senior Peyton Capehart speaks at the Sept. 27 See You at the Pole event.

Senior Terry Bruce shares a tender Senior Night moment with his mom on Sept. 30.

Junior Blake Walker participates in a Photo Imaging shutter speed project.
Autumn was full of surprises, from the unseasonably warm weather that made it acceptable to wear shorts in November, to the sad realization that the Royals wouldn’t be making it to the World Series after two straight years. But old traditions – such as trekking to the Eudora sunflower fields for a photo opp, participating in Orange Crush shenanigans, and kicking up our heels on the packed commons dance floor for the Homecoming dance – still stood true and gave meaning to our days and nights.
Powder in the sky, seniors Paige Krone and Marissa Satterfield celebrate a Homecoming victory over Tonganoxie.
Once Upon A Homecoming

Monday Monster U
Tuesday Finding Dory
Wednesday Disney Day
Thursday Inside Out
Friday Forever Brave
Happily Ever

After

Whether it was supporting a favorite college team or mimicking a most beloved Disney character, students did it all during the Homecoming spirit week.

"We chose Disney because it was a fun theme that would appeal to everyone from freshmen to seniors to faculty and administration," senior student body president Sayra Serrano said.

Adding to the festivities, students came together to make floats and then rode them through the downtown area during the annual Homecoming parade.

The week also brought forth a new generation of royalty. Senior Homecoming King Eli VanWinkle and Queen Jordan Shiao were crowned at halftime of the football game against Tonganoxie.

"I was shocked when my name was called. I did not expect to get nominated, let alone win. Next year I am excited to come back and crown the next king," VanWinkle said.

Shiao was equally flattered by the honor. "It was definitely a surprise because I was up against a lot of people who are well-liked in the school," she said.

Students capped off an eventful week with the much anticipated evening of the dance. "The dance had great attendance this year and as always, Stuco members helped plan a wonderful week," Student Council sponsor Adie DeLeon said.

Waiting for the Perfect Dress

"On the day of Homecoming, my mom broke the zipper on my dress while she was helping me get ready. I had just come from a volleyball tournament so I was already running late. I hurried up and went to the Legends with my mom and my sister to find a new dress, and tried on multiple, but ended up not liking any of them. As we were walking out, I saw a dress that I really liked so I tried it on and it was perfect. I bought the dress, then left and realized there was only an hour left until the dance started. I got home and did my hair super fast, put on my lip gloss and headed to the dance. I learned from this to always have a backup dress."

- Jasmin Sins, 10

Enjoying the moment, sophomore Taylor Hervey dances at the tailgate in the parking lot immediately after the parade. "It felt good listening to music and it was exciting waiting for the game to start," Hervey said.

With a toss, sophomore Luke Bizzell fires the winning shot in a game of bean bag toss at the soccer team's first-ever Homecoming tailgate.

Volunteering her time, sophomore Kori Bechard helps a fan get ready for the game. "We were trying to raise money for the dance team, so we sprayed people's hair," Bechard said.

Entertaining his peers, senior Isaiah Singleton puts on a show at his final Homecoming dance. "Not caring about what other people think is the key to having fun," Singleton said. "Just dance and have fun."

Enjoying a slow dance, junior Lillian Kaus and senior Juan Vela (top right) smile at each other. Junior Brandon Pedroza (bottom right) dances inside a circle of his fellow students.
Homecoming King and Queen

Eli VanWinkle & Jordan Shiao

Underclassmen Royalty

Freshmen Reese Bacon and Jacob Farmer, sophomores Erin Freed and Kenny Couch, juniors Gracie Myers and Josiah Crowley.
A lively cast

Students form a lasting bond during show

The novel-inspired musical "Big Fish" produced a strong reaction from the audience during three memorable performances in November. "We wanted the audience to see, hear and feel the impact that music can have," director Brian White said.

The action focused on the difficult relationship between Will Bloom (Isaac Florez) and his 60-year-old father Edward Bloom (Michael Murphy), who has become ill.

White was very pleased with how this year’s musical went and felt it helped him connect to the cast.

"Out of all the musicals I have done here, this year’s show was overall the most enjoyable. The cast was fantastic, the script itself was deep, funny, and had a lot of substance to it," White said.

Near the end of the emotional and climactic funeral scene in the musical, junior Isaac Florez found himself overcome with emotion.

"I was happy and really sad at the same time," Florez said. "Happy because the thing that had taken so much of my free time was over, yet sad for the same reason."

After a successful production, the cast and crew were faced with the reality that life goes on.

"The show allowed the cast to connect with each other," White said. "I don’t think anyone wanted the experience to ever end."

- Ginny Hartley

Front Row: Jessica Willmon, Claire Gurley, Elizabeth Selleck, Isaac Florez, Michael Murphy, Jillian Kaus, Vanessa Roult, Rachel Mauck, Juan Vela Olavez, Brianna Rafols. Row 2: Chelsie Millsap, Sally Crabtree, Michael Urton, Chandler Crane, Alyssa McCasted, Isaac Bates, Alyssa Murphy, Angel Villareal, Destin Williams, Karissa Munoz, Caroline Mauck, Kameron Zimmerly, Kaspian Stogner, Jarad Mortenson, Madison Spraw. 

Bursting with excitement, sophomores Chelsie Millsap (Grandma) and Angel Villareal (townsperson) celebrate after catching a fish by using the Alabama Stomp in the first scene.

"There was no actual role for a grandma," Millsap said. "I was assigned to the chorus, but one day I gave the part an old lady’s accent and from that it kind of bloomed into me becoming the grandma for everyone."
Playing the ringmaster, senior Juan Vela (Amos Calloway) judges the Alabama Lambs in circus auditions while junior Michael Unson (Shaggy Tote) fights with an enemy in Act II. “The outfit was super cool, and I really liked the gold vest and bow tie,” Vela said. “The one thing I can say I didn’t like was how hot it was on stage.”

After great anticipation, senior Michael Murphy (Edward Bloom) finally meets his true love, junior Lillian Kaus (Sandra Bloom). “One of my favorite memories was when Michael started out rehearsal by sharing something really serious with us,” Kaus said. “After that point, everything kind of clicked into place.”

Perfectly in tune, junior Isaac Florez (Will Bloom) sings about his complicated relationship with his father Edward Bloom. “The musical went really well. I had a small role in the musical last year, so going from that role to this one was a huge difference,” Florez said.

Stealing the show, juniors Vanessa Koutl and Lillian Kaus and senior Rachel Mauk perform their special dance routine as the Alabama Lambs. “It was fun changing characters, getting to be different people and being in the show a lot,” said Mauk, who had multiple roles. “I had to make sure I knew my stuff.”

Sparking imagination, senior Michael Murphy (Edward Bloom) tells his young son (Will Bloom) and the audience one of his tall tales. “Becoming a lead role was a huge change for me,” Murphy said. “I went from being a member of the chorus in Annie to having over half of the lines.”

How did you learn to walk on stilts? I had never walked on stilts before the musical. I had the help of Claire Gurley, who had walked on stilts before.

What were some of the challenges of your costume? The hardest part about my costume was either keeping my mic out of my wig or changing between the saggy clothes to the really tight suit.

What was the purpose of the walking stick? The big walking stick originally was used to help me walk on the stilts. Around three days before the musical, I asked Mr. White if I could lose the stick for Act II since I was supposed to be the “Giant” of Wall Street.

-Dustin Williams

Musical 15
SEPT. 2
Camero Night
>>"I think Orange Crush is a great thing to be a part of and it is always a blast to be in."
- Josh Williams, 11

SEPT. 9
Merica Night
>>"Merica Night was a great theme and the whole Orange Crush was lit the entire night."
- Osvaldo Torres, 11

SEPT. 16
Braves Gone Wild
>>"I think the theme night was really successful and everyone had a good time dressing up and going to the zoo."
- Paige Krone, 12

Dec. 2
Too Frat
>>"It's been so incredible cheering on our sports teams through the good and the bad for the past four years."
- Trey Whelstone, 12

SEPT. 30
Hawaiian Night
>>"The vibe is always great in Orange Crush and it's so awesome to be a chief and to lead the cheers."
- Sabria Zlitni, 12

Jan. 10
Salad Dressing
>>"Being an Orange Crush Chief has been one of the greatest honors of my high school career. As the years have passed, I have gotten to watch some amazing athletes and leaders be in the same shoes I am in this year. I love being a Brave and it makes me really happy if I can get other Braves excited about school spirit and cheering on their team."
- Sayra Serrano, 12

With his hands in the air, junior Nick Passinini cheers on the Braves. "Out of all of the nights I dressed up for, Merica Night was my favorite because of all of the red, white, and blue in the stands," Passinini said.

Waving his sign in the air, junior Hunter Murphy tries to get the attention of the Piper student section during the Braves Gone Wild theme night. "It is always a good time to go out, dress up and support your team," Murphy said.

Supporting the Braves, seniors Sabria Zlitni, Kayla Willis and Sydney Sprague enjoy a home basketball game. "I love calling cheers and losing my voice over the weekend because of football and basketball games," Willis said.
Dressed as Iceman from Top Gun, junior Gunnar Islas encourages his team. "Lansing said they would win and I said, 'That's a negative ghost rider.' We shot them out of the sky," Islas said.
A Chromebook for EVERYONE

One-to-one initiative is a hit with students

Freshman Lacey Coffman walked into the media center before the school year started to a whole new technological ball game. Before her stood a gigantic wire rack filled with Chromebooks, ready for distribution to the Class of 2020.

"I actually didn't know how to work it at first, but it was nice when I first got it," Coffman said.

According to technology integration specialist Eric De La Rosa, the one-to-one distribution of 776 Chromebooks was a success.

"I wouldn't say it was difficult at all," De La Rosa said. "We actually had a plan and we had a couple of months of school prior to strategically come up with the best way to distribute them."

A former technology teacher at the middle school, De La Rosa now spends his day at BSHS where helps students and teachers make the most out of their Chromebooks.

De La Rosa also spends a portion of his day troubleshooting and fixing Chromebooks that are not working correctly.

In the first semester, De La Rosa said there were about 75 broken Chromebooks with an assortment of excuses and explanations.

"I get a lot of 'I don't know what happened,'" he said. "But the craziest excuse was probably the one where a student said his cousin's remote control car ran over his keyboard. It is what it is. We are here to fix them and we try to as soon as we can, usually in less than 24 hours."

De La Rosa thinks the Chromebooks have definitely enhanced learning.

"There are still a lot of things we need to work out and tweak, but I'm going to say that I hope our launch in August 2017 at the middle school is a 5 out of 5," De La Rosa said.

- Harland Zamora

Paper VS Electronic

"I prefer doing work electronically. I find it easier than writing because there are tools like spell check to catch my mistakes. I also don’t have to go through the trouble of erasing things on a paper, I can just backspace."

- Krane Green, 9

"Chromebooks are easier and more efficient, but using paper is nicer because sometimes you've got to get out of the habit of using technology."

- Abigail McLaughlin, 10

"Chromebooks have helped me to remember to do my assignments and to check up on my grades more often."

- Lauren Shumate, 11

► Writing his signature, freshman Evan Chladny signs his papers allowing him to use his Chromebook. "It makes my work a lot easier and it's a lot easier to take my work home with me instead of carrying around a bunch of folders and papers," Chladny said.

► Studying intensity, senior Deanna Isaacs works diligently on her assignment in her American Government class. "I like to use my Chromebook. It's really fun and is a great educational tool for schools," Isaacs said.

► Setting things up, freshman Jacob Peterson signs in and works to personalize his new Chromebook. "I use it for class or to play games and watch Netflix," Peterson said.

► Chromebook Catastrophe

What happened to your Chromebook? It got stolen out of the trunk of Makensie Frank's car within the first few weeks of getting them.

What did you do after you found out it was missing? Makensie called me to tell me what happened and we filed a police report.

How do you treat your Chromebook after what happened to you? I had day loaners for two months straight and then they finally gave me a new one. Now I make sure that the Chromebook is always at my side.

Did you have to pay for a replacement? They are still making me replace it for $250. I'm pretty mad about it.

- Emily Pugh, 10
A memorable game brings people together

Pokemon GO was a summer phenomenon that struck the world by surprise. At its core, the idea of it was simple, you walk around in real life to encounter Pokemon, digital creatures with their own unique look.

When you discover one, you swipe up to throw a "pokeball" and your goal is to "Catch ‘Em All." You can catch anything from the thousands of wild Pidgey to that one rare Dragonite you just can't manage to find.

Following this trend, teachers Billie Taylor and Terese Quenette formed a Pokemon GO club at the start of the year.

"It’s something I do with my kids at home," Taylor said. "We thought this was something the students would like and it’s definitely an activity that’s more fun in a big group.

Sophomore Hunter Bruce enjoys the game for the adventurous aspect.

"It’s really fun walking around school with the group catching Pokemon," Bruce said.

Oh, Snap!

This fall, Snapchat filters were all anyone could seem to talk about. Whether you were obsessed with the flower crowns and dog ears or traveling to new places just to find that artsy geofilter, Snapchat had a way to spice up your posts.

To make things even more interesting, Snapchat opened up the option to create your own geofilter and schools started making use of this. Our school geofilter was created on Sept. 9 for the first home game. Stuco suggested the idea and tech specialist Eric De La Rosa made it happen.

"I created my own through Canvas and then transferred it to Snapchat. It took me 10 times before they finally accepted it," De La Rosa said.

Totem POLL

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<td>Nine+ and extra windows 12.2%</td>
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Bonner Springs Braves

Bonner Springs Braves
Who did you support?

"I thought that people would pick the more skilled and experienced choice. I thought we would choose a role model for our kids. We had a choice to break the glass ceiling once again and we did not."

- Omari Brantley, 11

"I was initially happy with the results. However, as time progresses, I am neutral. I don't think either party is better than the other; my only concern is for America. I hope Trump will do his best to make our country great again."

- Graciela Lucie, 10

"The election turned out how I thought it would because there were more people who preferred Trump as the face of our country. We did not need another Clinton in office."

- Alan Callahan, 12

"I thought that the people of America would choose to invoke their right to vote. In Michigan, 70,000 Democrats chose not to vote and this put Clinton at a clear deficit. I am completely and utterly ashamed of the country I live in."

- Sabria Zitini, 12

"Everyone got all worked up and overreacted when their hopeful president-to-be lost. It was as if people didn’t understand basic politics and didn’t realize that the person elected doesn’t have absolute power."

- Brendon Lawrence, 12
Waiting for the RIGHT TO VOTE

Where and when did you vote?
I voted on election day at Stony Point Christian Church.
Did you have to wait?
Not very long. I went sort of late, so the line was fairly short.
What were you feeling after you cast your vote?
I was excited to finally partake in our democracy, but also nervous about what the night would bring.
How passionate were you about your candidate?
I wasn’t with her from the beginning, but I felt that Clinton would help shift the country towards the America I believe in.
Your thoughts the day after?
Disheartened, but not defeated.

Where and when did you vote?
I voted a week before the election at Lincoln Recreation Center in Kansas City, Mo.
Did you have to wait?
Since I voted early, there was not a line. I only waited for one to two minutes.
What were you feeling after you cast your vote?
I felt more mature and grown-up. I was excited to see what the ending result would be.
How passionate were you about your candidate?
I was not very fond of either candidate so it was a hard decision, but I felt the candidate I voted for was the best option.
Your thoughts the day after?
I was very surprised at who won.

Schoolwide Mock ELECTION

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<td>Third Party</td>
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Schoolwide vote of 344 students

Still in shock - 20%
Rage Tweeting - 25%
Crying - 13%
Cheering - 12%
Binge eating - 12%
Partying - 20%

What was your reaction after the results were in?

Studying THE ISSUES

* Presenting her project, freshman Peyton Young shows her campaign slogan to her sixth hour class while talking about her ideal presidential candidate. "My ideal candidate wanted equality and unity for everyone," Young said.
* Getting crafty, senior Government teacher Jenny Myers made a ballot box to use as part of a mock election. Since most of her students were 17 and couldn’t vote, Myers said she still wanted them to have that experience.

* Before their mock election, freshman Brianna Morris informs her class about her perfect presidential candidate in Terese Guenette’s sixth hour social studies class.
* With concentration, senior Devon Williams prepares to cast his vote in his first hour Government class. “The election ended the way I thought it would because he [Trump] is enthusiastic about his job and is ready to help our country,” Williams said.

Schoolwide vote of 344 students
Throughout all of my four years, my most memorable moment was the last show I ever did. I marched with tears streaming down my face. It was probably the most emotional moment of my life so far.

- Lacey Dean, 12

I had been watching seniors partake in Senior Night since I was little and the fact that it was finally me was so great. I'm glad my mom could be there next to me.

- Aleigha Simpson, 12

With a toss in the air, senior drum major Peyton Capehart (far left), shows her skills to open the show at K-State. "I took the baton to my backyard to practice. We have four dogs, so it's a mess," said Capehart. "I didn't want the baton to fall into anything, which made me catch it every time."

- Erin Freed, 10
On Oct. 15, in pursuit of expanding the program and gaining new skills, the band traveled to Kansas State University. They then competed in the Central States Marching Festival where each band participated in a clinic and then took the field at Bill Snyder Family Stadium to play in front of a crowd of people.

Junior Adam McClure said he benefited greatly from his time working with a member of the K-State band.

"The trip to K-State is very helpful because I've been given instruction from people who are more experienced than me," McClure said.

Waving Into Action

The Color Guard took a huge step in a positive direction this season, with the addition of three male members and a rapidly growing team.

The team improvement did not happen overnight. Hard work had to be done and longer practices began taking place.

"We practiced one hour every day and we had an extra hour practice on Monday nights," said senior Rachel Mauk, Color Guard captain.

The Color Guard is more than entertainment and Mauk learned valuable lessons while leading the team.

"I learned patience. It was hard to show everybody their part and make sure they fully understood," Mauk said.

Freshman team member Dylan Dock embraced his new opportunity.

"I plan on being on the team next year as well. I want to do Color Guard all four years," Dock said.
Shedd ing the block, junior safety Bryant Stimac looks to make a hit during the Braves’ 43-0 regional win over Lansing. “The season started off really well but our flaws showed more throughout the season,” Stimac said.

Teaming up, seniors Davon Williams and Dustin Hopkins bring down the Piper running back for a massive loss. “The team was in need of leadership and the upperclassmen and I stepped up,” Williams said.

Running up the field, junior Colin Henley secures the ball on his way to a substantial gain. “The highlight of my season was when I caught my first touchdown against Paola,” Henley said.

In stride, junior quarterback Coleton Oakes looks for the open receiver. “The season was a building block for the bright future ahead,” said Oakes, who finished with 1,337 yards passing and 10 touchdowns.

Off balance, senior Tanner Hitchcock looks to sprint past the Piper defenders. “We had great support from our coaching staff. It was a great year no matter what our record was,” Hitchcock said.

Returning the kick, sophomore Devante Washington alludes the DeSoto tackle on his way to a big gain. “It took a while to work together as a team but by the end of the season we became more of a unit,” Washington said.

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MY ROLE AS CAPTAIN

Coach Murrell had the captains carry certain objects during the run-out onto the field. I carried the chains, which symbolized everyone doing their part. I was glad to be a captain because everyone looked up to me.”

- Jacob Freese, 12

“All of those material things we used during pregame is just part of entertaining. That’s what football is about, entertainment for the fans. Being selected to be a captain is an important job because we are the ones who set the bar the team follows.”

- Sean Singleton, 12

“Strength and power is what the boom stick represented. I carried it out onto the field because the team, including myself, wanted to get into the heads of our opponents to set the tone of the game.”

- Charlie Gray, 12

“I was honored to be a captain even though I’m only a junior. I had the responsibility of carrying the American flag. The flag gave the team a sense of pride and honor.”

- Jordan Jackson, 11
Breaking the tackle, senior Tobias Womack heads up the field in a home win. “The coaching staff helped make the season successful and specifically helped me improve my vision out of the backfield,” Womack said.

Bringing the boom, senior linebacker and quarterback Charlie Gray leads his team onto the field for the Homecoming battle against Tonganoxie. “I enjoyed the challenges of the transition from linebacker to quarterback,” said Gray, who led the team in total sacks and touchdowns.

Fighting through the block, senior defensive end Solomon Young looks to seal the edge at home against Pittsburg. “Coach Murrell did a great job taking over for Lucas Aslin and my teammates made it a season that I will never forget,” Young said.

I can, WE WILL
New coach brings strong sense of pride

Starting in the early mornings of June and not concluding until the end of November, the football program works intensely to increase their performance in all phases of their lives. New head coach LaDrew Murrell stresses the importance of the team becoming great men off the field just as much as winning on it.

“We focused on collective responsibility. Collective responsibility means that we all must work extremely hard to be at our best, not only for ourselves but also to make sure that the people who are counting on us can trust that we will do our jobs to the best of our ability,” said Murrell, who took over for Lucas Aslin at the start of the summer.

Murrell was not new to the program, which made the transition easier. The Braves, who finished with an overall record of 4-6, set a goal of finishing atop the KVL but unfortunately fell short.

This, however, had no effect on the Braves heading into the postseason where they would defeat Lansing 43-0 to earn their first playoff win in eight seasons. Senior utility standout Charlie Gray led the way against the Lions with 86 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

The win meant a lot to the seniors who will leave with a playoff win as their legacy.

“The playoff win made us feel unstoppable and gave us a sense of pride,” said senior Trey Whetstone.

The ongoing improvement of the team happening on and off the field left the Braves feeling hopeful about the future.

-Worth the Wait

“This was my first year playing on the varsity team. The transition from JV to Varsity went smoothly and I didn’t feel nervous at all. The season started off well, but did not go the way we had hoped for. I expected to finish among the top for wide receivers in the KVL and I accomplished that by receiving second-team all-KVL honors along with the Braves Offensive Player of the Year. I was pleased to end the season as the top receiver with 32 receptions, 509 yards and five touchdowns.”

-Andrew Stephan, 12

First Team
Jacob Freese

Second Team
Charlie Gray
Dustin Hopkins
Andrew Stephan

Honorable Mention
Blaine Grimes
Caden Henley
Sean Singleton
Tobias Womack

Worth the Wait
The Perfect SERVE

"Getting an ace is one of the best feelings because you feel really powerful and it's an easy point for your team."
- Karly Brunardt, 11

"You get a really good feeling when you serve the 'perfect' serve. You just know when it leaves your hand that it's going to be good. It warms my heart knowing I did something to help out the team."
- Gracie Myers, 11

First Team
Paige Krone
Natalie Klotz

Eyes on the ball, junior Maryam Zilliri helps her defense in a lady braves home game. "I had a great time getting to know all my teammates. I'm looking forward to success next season," Zilliri said.

With great focus, junior Natalie Klotz bumps the ball to set up the offense against Lansing. "State is always a goal. We fell short this year, but every year I've been here we've gotten a little bit closer and I have high expectations for next year," Klotz said.

Up and over, freshman Kimberly Whentstone gets the ball over the net in a home match. "My goal is to keep improving," Whentstone said. "I want to be a D1 athlete by the end of my high school career."
Up for the block, junior setter Amaya Stice takes a leap against Olathe North. "Overall, we had a great season," Stice said. "All of us really improved as the season went on."

An opportunity for GROWTH

Young team brings new hope for next year

With just one veteran, the Lady Braves made steady improvement throughout the season and were competitive in all matches, even though that wasn't always reflected in their 13-25 record.

"When you're young, you make a lot of unforced errors and that's just the nature of how things work in sports," head coach Jan Madlock said.

The squad was led by captains Paige Krone, the lone senior, and junior Natalie Klotz.

"They led us emotionally and they led us with their play," Madlock said. "They accepted the leadership role and worked to be examples for younger players."

Madlock said one of the team's best efforts came in a match against Tonganoxie, where they were down two sets and came back to win the next three. Klotz had a great night with 33 kills and several aces.

Another top performance was against Piper where Krone had three blocks against a soon-to-be Division I player. The team finished strong, winning their first regional match against Spring Hill, and fighting hard in the second round before losing to Bishop Miege.

"I had an amazing group of young ladies, who are dedicated and committed to working hard every day," Madlock said.

A chance to be THE QUEEN

Beaming with joy, senior Paige Krone celebrates her final home game as a Brave in style. Although Senior Night is often a sad time full of tears, the team found a way to turn things around and make their only senior feel like a queen for the night. They presented her with many gifts, even a little cash for college. "On Senior Night, the whole thing kind of seemed unreal. It was bittersweet to have played my last home game as a Brave," Krone said.

Volleyball • 27
On the move, sophomore Garrett Stephan advances up the field against Bishop Ward. Stephan contributed a goal that would give the Braves a 2-1 win in a hard-fought home game.

Stepping up, sophomore Sammy Gonzalez settles the ball in a home game. "We did better working together. I got better as a team player," said Gonzalez, who scored five goals for the season.

In the Right Direction

Faster Each...

Cutting the ball back, junior Alex Schuler looks for an open teammate. "Our team grew in chemistry this year," Schuler said. "I think we'll be a lot better next year."

Advancing up the field, junior Mason Dobbs fights his way towards the goal. "This year was pretty challenging because it was my first season. I really had to work hard," Dobbs said.

Klayton Coffman, 10

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With focus, junior Kaleb Hightower moves the ball down the field before scoring an early goal against Lansing. "There was a lot of improvement this year," Hightower said. "The team grew stronger as a whole."

Looking ahead, utility player Lucas Bizzell maneuvers the ball. "The progress we made this year will carry into next year and make us better as a team and as individual players," Bizzell said.

A season for **BUILDING**

Foundation will pave the way for the future

First-year head coach Parker Ast led the boys soccer team to their first regional win in many years.

"It was our first regional playoff win in a long time," Ast said. "I thought it was great we got the opportunity to host a regional game and get the playoff win in front of a home crowd."

The boys team worked hard, despite a final record of 3-13.

"I don't think the record reflects on how well we did," junior forward Zach Nichols said. "I feel like we improved and I think we did well."

Ast pushed his team hard, with and without a ball, with the introduction of Fitness Friday where players were asked to run for their mistakes made during the week.

"We created it to hold students accountable for their behavior and responsibilities on the field and in the classroom," Ast said.

The team remained dedicated to Fitness Friday throughout their season.

"It [Fitness Friday] was very intense, but it helped build team chemistry," said junior goalie Nick Passinese.

The team improved steadily throughout the season. With only two seniors moving on, the program plans to build upon the foundation that was created this year.

But they will have to do so with a new leader.

"I have decided to step down as head coach to make way for someone else that can take these students to that dream," Ast said. "This is one of the most talented groups of young men that I have ever worked with and I wish them the best for the season next fall. Anything less than qualifying for state would be a shock to me."

- Bella Thomas

**WORTH THE WAIT**

"It was an emotional experience because it was my final season of soccer. I have been waiting for my team to improve and grow and we definitely accomplished that goal."

- Armando Miranda-Diaz, 12

"I think this season went well. We struggled at the beginning, but for the most part we really improved. I have been waiting to go to state and to show everyone that we actually can compete."

- Zach Nichols, 11

"We worked hard. Sometimes it didn't turn out how we wanted it, but we still worked our hardest. I have been waiting to make it further in regionals."

- James Rino, 10

Boys Soccer • 29
Eyes on the ball, senior Alayna Dooley hopes to serve an ace. “My coaches not only taught me how to play the game of tennis, but also how to be successful off the court as well,” Dooley said.

Returning a volley, sophomore Nicole Ashford scores a point during a home match on Sept. 12. “The great senior class helped make this season very enjoyable and exciting,” Ashford said.

Firing back, senior Sayra Serrano prepares to return a volley with a strong backhand to her opponent during a varsity match at Bishop Miege. “After playing various sports throughout my life, tennis has taught me to have fun and that hard work always pays off,” Serrano said.

Firing back, senior Sayra Serrano prepares to return a volley with a strong backhand to her opponent during a varsity match at Bishop Miege. “After playing various sports throughout my life, tennis has taught me to have fun and that hard work always pays off,” Serrano said.

Flying high, juniors Hope Seaton and Skyler Ochoa celebrate after scoring a point in a varsity doubles match at home. “Whoever called it tennis was wrong; all we did well was dance,” Seaton said.

TRADITIONS

After a dual with Lawrence, the team indulges in an annual pizza-eating contest at CiCi’s. The team indulges in an annual pizza-eating contest at CiCi’s where they battle it out in hopes of eating the most slices. Last year’s winner, senior Marissa Satterfield, faced a new and fierce competitor, sophomore Hallie Hoffine.

“Hallie and I tied with 24 slices and one bite,” Satterfield said. “I did it because I had to uphold my title, and I also wanted to redeem myself from all the L’s I took in my tennis matches that day. The bus ride home was fun, but I thought I was dying every time we hit a bump.”

The tradition looks to continue with many Lady Braves eyeing the title of “Pizza Eating Champ.”
The No. 1 varsity player, tumor S
yler Ochoa delivers a strong forehand during the Lawrence dual. "Playing No. 1 was tough, but it made me a better player," said Ochoa, who finished with 16 varsity wins.

Leading by
EXA\nM\nLE

The Lady Braves tennis season starts before the traditional fall sports calendar. Coaches Bill Scott and William Congleton stress the importance of playing during the summer to avoid a slow start to the season.

"We always play our best at the end of the season. The JV'ers start to figure it out and then their season is over," said Scott. "That is why it is important to play all summer heading into the season."

The unpredictability and personality of the players filled the season with excitement for Coach Scott in his 27th season of coaching both girls and boys.

The team greatly improved from last year's win total of 99, bumping it up to 137 match victories. Leadership from all grade levels was a key component in the Lady Braves' progress. The No. 1 and No. 2 junior duo of Skyler Ochoa and Hope Seaton combined for 33 wins during the season. The Lady Braves also took third as a team at the pivotal Bonner Invitational Tournament.

The achievements of the year and great examples set by the team's leaders have set up a great foundation for the program to continue their success for years to come.

"I always miss the seniors. This group of seniors was a great group to work with because they were fun and didn't cause drama," said Scott.

Waiting for VARSITY ACTION

"Being able to play varsity duals and matches was an amazing opportunity as a freshman. At first, I was scared to play girls at a higher level than me, but I'm glad I got the chance because it made me a better player. My doubles partner (Hallie Hoffine) and I ended up winning a spot to play in regionals. Even though we didn't win, it was still a great experience for both of us and I'm happy I got to end my season the way I did."

- Gabriella Chavez, 9
A team

**UNITED**

Teammates motivate each other to do better

The amount of runners is not the only thing that keeps growing for the Bonner Springs High School cross country team; bonds between athletes are also flourishing.

Ask anyone on the team what motivated them this season and they would all give you the same answer: their teammates.

The team bond could be seen not only at practices but when the racers took the course.

"The biggest motivation was my teammates who would be cheering me on from the sidelines," senior Gage Herron said. "They kept me running when I was ready to give up."

Head coach Jake Wike said that team unity really stood out.

"The culture was really good," Wike said. "Everyone enjoyed each other’s company and most of them became friends outside of practice."

A highlight of the season was defending the team titles at the WyCo Championships, where senior Alex White won the boys race. White then went on to become the top finisher in the KVL Championships, with a 12th-place effort, earning all-league second-team honors. Other all-KVL honors came from sophomore Kaleb Wilson, who was 20th, and sophomore Olivia Cavanaugh, who finished 14th.

Overall, the runners grew as a team and accomplished their goals.

"Every single runner had a personal best in their 5K distance throughout the year," Wike said. "Everyone got faster and that is the primary goal for cross country runners.

The team really bought into the philosophy of cross country, and you could see that when they raced."

- Kaitlyn Rose

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**Brother vs Brother**

Ask freshman Mykael White what his season goal was and you’ll get a quick answer: to beat his brother.

"It [the competition] started during track season," White said. "I would beat him and he would beat me. It was very back and forth."

Mykael achieved his goal at the Perry-Lecompton race on Sept. 9.

"I ran an 18:32," he said. "I ate half a Subway sandwich before I ran and threw it up the last 100 meters of the race and I still beat him."

The long-awaited victory was worth the wait.

"It felt amazing beating him," White said. "I’ve been trying to beat my brother for years, and I finally did it."

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**Finishing strong,**

sophomore Olivia Cavanaugh races at the WyCo Invitational on Sept. 17. "When I’m ready to give up, Coach Eddy’s voice comes into my head. My legs start moving faster and I just keep going," said Cavanaugh, who set a new school 5K girls record at 21:30.
Setting a pace, senior Brett McPherson finds the perfect speed while racing against an opponent at WyCo Park. "To prepare for a race, I listen to classical music; it calms me down," said McPherson, who achieved a personal best of 22:15 in his final season.

Giving it their all, sophomore Blake Best and senior Gage Herron push each other to finish the race strong. "The best part of cross country is the team," Herron said. "They are always cheering you on from the sidelines."

"Going through the puddles is what cross country is. You get the hard terrain instead of the track. If you’re going to get the experience, you have to go through the middle."

- Grace Izen, 10

"I was always in a group of runners and I never had a choice to go around the puddles, so I had to go through them."

- James Reno, 10

"It was really scary because I thought I was going to fall. We weren’t really allowed to go around the puddles, so on some I just went right through and embraced it, but when I did that I almost slipped and fell."

- Martina Glenn, 11

Cross Country ◄ 33
Freshman Anthony Willman receives a medal at the end of a United Basketball tournament on Nov. 5.

Senior Sean Singleton shares a moment with his mother and head coach Brandon Jobe at Senior Night for the wrestling team on Feb. 2.

Freshman Rylee Wacker performs with the pep band at the home basketball opener on Dec. 2.
Winter surprises included a snow day that really wasn’t a snow day, the emergence of a new powerlifting team and the best state finish by the wrestling team since 1973. In the classroom we studied Hamlet, duked it out in Cupcake Wars, and explored the complexities of a cat’s anatomy. For seniors, the end of December meant the long-awaited end of the research paper. Of course there were the normal winter doldrums, but we warmed our spirits with a good old Netflix binge, a couple of naps and a steaming cup of a favorite Starbucks drink.
A week in Paris

There was something for everyone during this year's Spirit Week. With "A Night in Paris" as the theme, students wore everything from their cozy pajamas on "Midnight Monday," to red, white and blue in honor of the French flag on "Team France Thursday."

The most popular day happened on "Tourist Tuesday," where students wore white socks with sandals and tacky fanny packs.

Friday brought the coronation of senior sweethearts Solomon Young and Paige Krone.

"When waiting for them to announce queen, I was still kind of focused on Solomon winning," Krone said. "I was really excited for him, and I was excited as well when I heard my name because I wanted to be crowned with Solomon, as I thought it would be a good memory to have with him."

Enjoying the coronation and a dominating first half by the Braves, fans were hopeful that the team could upend the top-ranked Piper Pirates. And up until the last second that victory looked secure. However, it all came crashing down when Piper's J.J. Letcher launched a Hail Mary shot from behind the half-court line, giving them a 74-73 win.

"It was just jaw-dropping, and I think I speak for everyone when I say our hearts dropped because it was such a good game," junior Kaleb Hightower said. "I'd never seen a buzzer-beater in person, and I give them credit for that, I just wish it could have been for us."

Senior Royalty

Jonathan Diaz and Anna Dutton
Brendon Lawrence and Paige Krone
JaDon Pouncil and Summer Ney
Eric Valenzuela and Sayra Serrano
Solomon Young and Sabria Zlitni
With a steady hand, former queen Tate Sites places the crown on Queen Paige Krone's head. "It felt so rewarding to win. It meant that a majority of the student body voted for me to be queen and that was a humbling feeling," Krone said.

Showing support, senior Sabria Zilini congratulates fellow senior Solomon Young. Young's selection also pleased the Piper fan shown to Young's left. "It felt good to win King for one of the dances. I had been hoping to win one for awhile," Young said.

Dancing the Night Away

Having a blast, sophomore Kassondra Green dances with fellow sophomore Harland Zamora. "I had a great time at Courtwarming. I feel like a lot of people don't like the dance, but it is as much fun as you make it," Green said.

Singing to each other, junior Blake Wurtz and sophomore Shannon Stewart enjoy the dance. "The dance was a ton of fun. It was a night filled with laughter," Wurtz said.

Getting down, freshman Morgan Hudson does the stanky leg. "Courtwarming was a blast and I had a great night with my friends," Hudson said.

Midnight Monday

- Mackensi Freese, 10
- Lauren Gallagher, 11

Tacky Tourist Tuesday

"I really liked this year's spirit themes and had a lot of fun dressing up. Tacky Tourist Tuesday was by far my favorite day. I really enjoyed seeing everyone walk around in their funny packs and knee high white socks. I also realized just how useful a fanny pack is. It was very convenient to carry my phone and keys all day securely around my waist."  
- Cole Clifton, 11

Work It Wednesday

- Jovina Torres, 9
- Hope Seaton, 11

Team France Thursday

"I thought it was creative to have upperclassmen wearing blue, the underclassmen wearing red and the staff wearing white to represent the French flag. This was like the very first school Spirit Week day that I ever participated in."

- Ryan Villarreal, 11
Pumping up the crowd, senior Anna Dutton, freshman Addie Landers and sophomore Savana Sanchez perform for Orange Crush. Between each quarter, the team leads the student section in a cheer.

Moving to the music, junior Jasmin Ruiz dances at a combined cheer and dance performance on Feb. 3. "This year has been my best year. Cheer is life-changing, and I get to enjoy new experiences and meet so many great people," Ruiz said.

Facing the crowd, sophomores Savana Sanchez (right) and Kelsi Jeffries (center) do their best to encourage the Braves during football season. "My first year at BSHS was very exciting. I'm glad I got to make cheerleading a part of that journey," Sanchez said.

How did you feel going into the tryout? I was very nervous having to perform alone in front of a big crowd without the rest of my team.

How did you react when you made All-American? I was shocked, but excited. I wasn't expecting to make it.

What was your season highlight? When my stunt group hit everything in our winter pep assembly routine because we had a lot of trouble in the beginning of the season.

All-American CHEERLEADERS

Being an All-American is one of the highest awards an individual can achieve in cheerleading. Every summer at NCA camps, girls are nominated to tryout for the All-American title, but only 10 percent are chosen.

How did you feel going into the tryout? I tried not to stress about the tryout; I just winged it. I didn't think I was going to make it because I've never seen anyone from our school make it before.

How did you react when you made All-American? I was very surprised, but thrilled that I made it.

What will you miss most about high school cheer? I will miss flying and being in front of the crowd. I will also miss the bonds that I have formed throughout the years.

-Mackensi Freese, 10

-Anna Dutton, 12
This season was really fun. I got the chance to represent my school, cheer on the teams and connect with amazing people," Landers said.

Soaring for Success

New coach brings emphasis on tumbling

The cheer squad kicked off its season long before the first pep rally, attending a NCA summer camp in July at Shawnee Mission Northwest.

While there, they earned a team award and learned new routines to help them be the best they could be.

With the addition of new assistant coach Jill DeGraeve, the squad made a more specific effort to incorporate tumbling and more difficult stunts.

“At Jill’s private studio, I learned how to do an aerial. Jill always pushed me to face my tumbling fears, making me a better cheerleader,” said senior Anna Dutton.

Fellow senior Janaaya Walker also grew in her tumbling abilities.

“I never thought Peterson would actually convince me to flip on that gym floor,” Walker said. “Initially, I was terrified of breaking my neck and dying, but with the help of Peterson and a lot of practice I was able to increase my confidence and land my stunts.”

After a year full of intense spirit, the squad said their good-byes to sponsor Sarah Peterson, who accepted a position in the Olathe district.

“The girls and I worked hard to create a team that functioned more like a family,” Peterson said. “We all wanted our team to be the best it could and we were willing to make sacrifices if needed to make that a reality.”

—Eli VanWinkle
National Honor Society Inductees


National Honor Society Seniors


Spanish Honor Society Members

Helping the cause, juniors Olivia May (center) and Skyye Brown do their best to stay calm while donating at the Feb. 22 blood drive. "It feels pretty powerful giving life to another person, giving them another chance to live," Brown said. NHS collected 285 units during three drives, setting a school record.

Manning the snack station, junior Camden Mayfield, left, works with senior Eli VanWinkle to give food to people who have just donated blood at the third and final blood drive. "Volunteering all the time for me isn't work; it's kind of fun. I like it a lot," Mayfield said. "I get to be around others with the same mindset as me."

Leading in Blood Donations

As part of a field trip, NHS members went to the Community Blood Bank in Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 10 to learn about post-collection practices. They were able to observe how the blood is processed and evaluated for diseases and sicknesses. Many of the members donated blood while they were there too. "It's important to know that when you do finish high school that you can still continue to donate blood in college and when you're an adult," sponsor Heather Campbell said.

My Induction

"I joined NHS because I wanted to get more involved and I had already taken three years of Spanish. I'm looking forward to going on all the fun trips with everybody," - Louella Noeland, 10

"Being accepted into NHS was a big achievement for me. I enjoy helping people and the community and NHS is the best way for me to do those things." - Kristina Steinbacher, 11

"Spanish Honor Society was something that I saw my sister do and I was always excited to be a part of that. It made me feel proud of myself for earning that." - Makensie Frank, 11

Fiesta

Full of Fun

"Playing the accordion, senior Eric Valenzuela performs with his band, Los Amigos, at the Oct. 4 Spanish Club party. "Playing for the dance was one of the highlights of my high school days," Valenzuela said.

With a smile, senior Vanessa Calderon dances with sophomore Emma Tucker in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. "I like how it [the celebration] brings out our culture and people got to see what we do," Calderon said.

Feeling festive, senior Jonathan Diaz shares a dance with sophomore Isabel Herrera in the gym. "It was good to see everyone involved and spreading the heritage around," Diaz said.

Honor Societies
Bonding activities make a difference

If you asked a member of the Orange Dazzlers dance squad to describe their team, the word they would use is “family.” This year, the Dazzlers used team bonding as a way to improve their performances.

The team enjoyed many bonding activities, including a scavenger hunt at the Legends, ice skating at Crown Center and an end-of-the-year banquet to celebrate their successes.

“It is the key to a successful team,” second-year sponsor Angela Thomas said. “Team bonding does not mean that everyone is best friends, but it does mean that we support and encourage each other, no matter what.”

Thomas credited these connections with helping the squad achieve their goals.

“Our biggest goal was improving technique. To perform better, we really wanted to focus on building a solid base,” Thomas said.

Another goal was for the girls to really support the cheerleaders.

“They are always cheering for everyone else. I think the cheer and dance focus is supporting the athletes and promoting school spirit, so I think it is important that we support each other,” Thomas said.

Other highlights included a co-ed routine to a medley of music from “Grease” and a successful winter clinic for young dancers.

Sophomore Angel Villarreal was selected as an All-American UDA Dancer for a strong performance at the team’s summer camp in Salina.

- Kailene Hill
Leading the way, junior Montana Patch guides a Little Dazzler onto the gym floor on Jan. 31 during halftime. "Most of the Little Dazzlers were girly-girls and wanted to wear pink," said Patch. "They got excited over every little thing and it was fun to see that."

Lending support, sophomore Kelsey Campbell makes sure that the Little Dazzlers stay on track during their halftime performance. "The best part of helping the girls is watching their faces light up," Campbell said.

Setting things up, Louella Noland guides two young dancers to their spot. "I loved experiencing how much the little kids enjoyed learning how to dance," Noland said.

Waiting for TEAM CAPTAIN

"I joined the BSHS dance team mid-season my sophomore year. Ever since then, in hopes of becoming captain, I've shown leadership and organization, and I've helped out every chance I had. Having a strong connection with each and every girl was the thing I liked most about the position. My responsibilities included starting the warm-ups and practices and applying the rules: such as making sure everyone was on task – mainly making sure all of my little ducklings were in a row. At times being captain was slightly difficult, but overall it was amazing."

- Hayle Moeschler, 12
How well do you know the Class of 2017?

Lexi McCleary’s spot in the parking lot is the same one that her cousin, Bridger Rittinghouse, parked in two years before when she was a senior. “My family has a lot of different and weird traditions. This just so happens to be one of them now,” McCleary said.

Nathan Sprawl was hit by a car while riding his bike in eighth grade. “It wasn’t the worst experience in the world, but certainly not something I’d want to do again. My bike was pretty well destroyed and I had some scrapes and bruises, but I’d say I did pretty well considering the circumstances,” Sprawl said.

Alex White’s aunt is Hayli Spencer, even though Alex was born five months after Haley.

Bailey Testerman collects keychains from different places that she has visited. “It started when I went to Spain and France last year. I wanted to get souvenirs from all the cool places I went, but I didn’t have enough room in my luggage for big items. I currently have 36 keychains from different countries and states I’ve visited,” Testerman said.

Taylor Jordan started collecting passes from her last quarter of high school. She ended with 37 passes and put them with her diploma.

Hidden talents
And other fun facts

Jasmin Ruiz Rides Horses

When did you start to ride horses?
My dad started teaching me when I was about six or seven. It was very difficult the first time I ever rode. I got bucked off and I had scratches and marks all over my arms and legs. I got way better, but it took a lot of practice.

Do you have your own horse?
We own several horses, but I have my main horse and his name is Oreo. He is black-and-white and he kind of looks like an Oreo Blizzard, I guess. I ride him all the time. My family owns 30 horses, 10 here and 20 in Ottawa.

What is it like riding on your horse?
I ride Oreo almost every day. When I ride him, I feel like it’s just me and him and no one can bother us and we are free. Riding helps me think and it releases stress.

How many horses do you take care of?
I care for ten of them. I bathe them, I feed them and I brush them. It gets really messy.

How is your family involved in horse racing?
We go to Belton, Mo., to race our horses. We have been racing there since about 2007 and we have only lost about races five since then.

Cody Wilson is a Fire Spinner

What is fire spinning?
Fire spinning is a performance art. There’s more to fire performing than just spinning. It’s about creating a flow with the flame that is appealing to the eye.

When and how did you start this hobby?
I first started about two and a half years ago. My neighbor and I started practicing it together. I learned from her and then started practicing it myself.

Why do you like fire spinning so much?
The first time I saw it, I was amazed. I had never seen anything like it before. I just felt like I wanted to do it and it was something I knew I could do.

How much do you practice?
I had a lot of free time over the summer, so I practiced a lot then. Once I got a job, I couldn’t do it as much, but I spin fire once every few weeks.

Have you had any scary moments?
One time I did a trick where I singed all the hair off of my head. I was doing an over-the-head three beat weave and my hair caught on fire, but it’s all part of the process.
Tyrell Harris is an Awesome Tumbler

What is your most impressive skill?
I can do a double full twist. It is basically when you are in the air and you twist twice. It took me two years to perfect it.

Have you ever been injured?
All the time when I’m trying something new.

How did you get into tumbling?
When I started cheering my freshman year. At first I was self-taught, but I soon began getting instructions from my competitive cheer coaches.

How does tumbling play into cheerleading?
Tumbling is a part of the score sheet when you compete, so it can mean big points. It’s just as important as stunting and jumping.

How many hours of practice do you put in?
I practice two and a half hours twice a week at my gym in Lenexa, KC Cheer. I take tumbling classes there and help to teach cheer classes.

What’s your next new skill?
I am working on a standing handspring whip double. First you do a backflip with hands, then a second backflip without hands, followed by a third backflip with two twists.

Claire Gurley can Walk on Stilts

When did you learn to walk on stilts?
My father is part of a magic club and one of his friends built a pair of stilts for me. I was about seven years old when my dad put me up on them and off I went.

What do you use your talent for?
I found a talent agent who books me for a couple events a year. I will be walking on the Sprint Center track for one of their multiple sclerosis walks, and I have also walked for Big Brothers Big Sisters charity events.

Any scary moments or close calls?
My mother makes my pants because my legs are so long and one time one of the hems came out, so I stepped on it, and slid and basically did the splits in a parade in front of a bunch of people. That’s the only big downfall I have had.

Why do you enjoy this hobby?
It’s not something that everyone can do. It separates me from my family just enough to where I am my own person but also keeps me within the family enough that I can still be considered a part of them. It involves creativity and I’m always growing in some way.

Trevor Hand Races Cars

When did you get interested in racing cars?
I started racing when I was six because my dad used to race and he wanted to get me into it so he bought me a go-kart. I also race E-mod cars. An E-mod is a bunch of factory cars put into a race car.

What is it like racing on the track?
It is not like anything you’ve experienced. It is thrilling going into a corner at 80+ mph. Not everyone can do it.

What is the scariest moment you have had?
When I went into a corner and got t-boned and passed after I got my race car two years ago. The nerf bar, tire rod, spindle and wheel of the car were all bent. All of that cost about $700. Physically, I had bruised ribs but that’s about it.

Have you won anything while racing?
I once won $1,000 in a race called the Mega Maloofa in Emma, Mo. The track was in a smaller arena that was used for bull riding. It was a 50-lap race with go-karts and I lapped almost everyone. I’ve won four go-kart championship at Thunder Lake and two at other tracks.
Hustle for the MUSCLE

New powerlifting team a hit with students

After many years of wanting a powerlifting team and seeing surrounding districts adopt the sport and succeed, new weights coach Chad Eaddy put in the work and created our newest sport: powerlifting.

The team had an exceptional first year, competing in four regular season meets with a total of 87 athletes. Out of these lifters, 69 qualified to compete at the state meet in Wichita.

"The trip to State was great. We got to bond together a lot by spending the night in a hotel and demolishing a buffet together after a week of cutting weight," Eaddy said.

The team was projected to get first but fell short with the boys placing fifth and the girls placing fourth.

Athletes were excited about having a new winter sport and being able to compete against rival schools.

"Even though we lift by ourselves, we still train together as a team. It’s nice knowing your team is right behind you cheering you on," junior Basil Broome said. "I really enjoyed the camaraderie of the sport."

To keep their spot on the team and to stress the importance of giving back, Eaddy required every athlete to complete one community service project. As a result, athletes rang the bells for Salvation Army or packed boxes of food for Feed His Lambs.

"I felt good about the season," Eaddy said. "Everyone knows what it takes to be successful now. Everyone kept growing with each meet."

- Karly Brungerdt

"The best part of the season was competing against the other schools. It was interesting to see how strong we are compared to others." 

- Nosurudeen Pelcowo, 11

"My favorite part of the season was having great teammates there to hype me up. I improved my upper body strength a lot and my bench went up by almost 50 pounds."

- Blake Swan, 12
Getting low, junior Meliyah Venerable attempts to make her max on squat. “Squat was my favorite lift. Having Paris Forshey as my workout partner really pushed me to improve,” Venerable said.

Waiting to WEIGH IN

How much weight did you lose and how long did it take?
I lost a total of 12 pounds, and I did it over a course of four days.

What did you do to lose the weight?
I ate very little, ran a ton and didn’t drink a lot of water.

How did you feel when you finally made it?
It felt great. It felt like all the struggles of that week were worth it.

What did you do after your official weigh-in?
The team went to Cic’s Pizza and I ate everything I could.

- Devante Washington, 10

How much weight did you lose and how long did it take?
I lost 10 pounds and it took about a week.

What did you do to lose the weight?
I did a lot of running and worked out with my friends while wearing layers of clothes.

How did it feel when you finally made it?
I was relieved. I also ate a lot of food.

What did you do after your official weigh-in?
I went and ate with the team and iced. I was really sore.

- Kennedee Meier, 12

Catching the bar, sophomore Laurel Amego tries to hang clean 95 pounds at State. “This was my first time going to State in anything and it was a great experience,” Amego said.

Working hard, sophomore David Holt pushes himself to finish his squat. “Powerlifting was a great way to stay in shape and helped me improve for my other sports,” Holt said.

State PLACERS
Boys:
Daquan Burgin, 2nd
Krane Green, 6th
Johnathan Tapia, 6th
Brian Porter, 6th
Andrew Puckett, 2nd
Christian Kubas, 6th
Sean Singleton, 6th
Basil Broome, 4th

Girls:
Olivia Cavanaugh, 2nd
Grace Tsen, 5th
Montserrat Lopez, 5th
Hope Seaton, 3rd
Kennedee Meier, 6th
Aubrey VanWinkle, 4th
Karlo Brungardt, 4th
Amaya Stice, 3rd
Natalie Klitz, 3rd
Paris Forshey, 6th
Shelby Wesselmann, 5th
Showing school pride, French teacher Lorianne Neighbors gets sprayed alongside social studies teacher Tyler McMahon as part of the Polar Plunge assembly on Jan. 28 during seventh hour. BSHS students raised $495 for the chance to drench selected teachers and administrators.

Soaking the staff, senior Laura Gonzalez and junior Demetrius Palmer dump ice water on science teacher Jan Madlock. All proceeds from the official Polar Plunge event the next day at Schlitterbahn benefited Kansas Special Olympics. In total, the USD 204 team raised $7,290.46.

Mr. and Mrs. Bonner Springs

Tanner Hitchcock and Sayra Serrano

Having a blast, senior Tanner Hitchcock (center) uses his best persuasive skills to charm his peers and judge Jennie Stricherz (inset). Emceeing the competition, Thomas Fehlhafer (above) interviews contestant Ryan Stumbaugh. Making her entrance, Shaunie Lanning enjoys her time in the spotlight.
Celebrations

Speaking up, juniors Jasmin Sims and Omar Brantley discuss acceptance at the Black History Assembly on Feb. 27. "It was an honor to speak," Brantley said. "I was a little nervous, but it worked out."

Decorating a cookie, sophomore Payton Sprague enjoys the combined Stuco and Life Skills Valentine’s Day party. Participants enjoyed a variety of sweet treats and a variety of games and activities with peer buddies.

Winter Ow!

Epic fail at the Oscars
The 89th Annual Academy Awards had one of the most embarrassing moments in award show history when "La La Land" was announced the winner for Best Picture. Unfortunately, halfway through producer Marc Platt’s acceptance speech, it came to light that the award really should have gone to "Moonlight," the result of an "envelope error."

A not-so-super finish
With just 17 minutes to go and a 25-point lead, the Atlanta Falcons appeared to be well on their way to their first Super Bowl victory. However, what transpired represented one of the worst meltdowns in sports history as the New England Patriots would stage a dramatic 31-28 overtime win.

Winter Wow!

A sweet, sweet Snow Day
When the tweets began chipping, at first there was disbelief. A snow day on a Friday? It was too good to be true. Fearing there would be dangerous ice during dismissal times, many area superintendents opted for a snow day on Jan. 13. The ice never really materialized, allowing students to enjoy their day off.

Awards and Honors
On Feb. 25, junior Mason Dobbs and senior Marissa Young became the first Science Olympians to advance to state since Katrina Martin took over as sponsor. Sophomore Mariah Duarte-Martinez became Dawn Sommers’ first state FCCLA officer on Feb. 11 while 19 newspaper and yearbook staff members placed in 24 contests in a dominant performance at KSPA regionals on Feb. 24.

Group spends break in Beijing
Under the direction of Spanish teacher Sarah Peterson and science teacher Jan Madlock, nine students ventured to Beijing, China, during their Spring Break.

Among other things, they saw the Great Wall, Tienamen Square, the Beijing Zoo, the 2008 Olympics complex and also visited a middle school where they exchanged cultural differences with Chinese students.

“I wanted to take a trip somewhere that was outside of people's comfort zones. I wanted our students to learn about a culture so different from ours that it might change how they think about the everyday comforts that they take for granted,” Peterson said. “I think the most memorable moments were climbing the Great Wall and watching Mason [Dobbs] eating fried scorpion.”

Spring Fling

BEIJING TRIP > Front Row: Jordan Thaxton, Mariah Duarte-Martinez, Peyton Capehart, Jordan Shiao, Sarah Peterson, Piper Swartz. Row 2: Jan Madlock, Cole Clifton, Michael Williams, Mason Dobbs, Olivia May, Mereiah McConico, Bob Swartz

The group visits with students at a Chinese middle school (top). Sophomore Mereiah McConico practices her Tai Chi skills.

Winter Mash-Up 49
Project Profiles

On March 19, the work of two Wood Tech students was featured in the Greater Kansas City Home Show. Junior Austin Bussell and senior Ryan Stumbaugh presented their projects and competed against students from other Kansas schools. Bussell’s project was awarded “Best Thought Out Plan” while Stumbaugh’s was honored as “Most Elaborate.”

Why did you choose to build a bed frame?
I just got a new bed, so I wanted a place to put it.

What was your biggest challenge on this project and what are you most proud of?
The hardest part was sanding the whole bed. I’m proud of the butterfly effect I did because it added symmetry.

What was your Home Show experience like?
It was complicated because we had to take apart the whole bed. It was exciting though, I liked meeting everybody.

- Austin Bussell

Why did you choose to build a guitar?
I play the bass and I wanted to play the guitar, so I thought that I might as well make one.

What was your biggest challenge on this project and what are you most proud of?
Building the neck was probably the hardest part. If you messed up a little bit, you had to remake the whole thing. I’m most proud of the award I won at the Home Show.

What was your Home Show experience like?
I thought the event was a lot of fun. There was a guy from HGTV which was really cool.

- Ryan Stumbaugh

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- Ryan Stumbaugh

Lighting it up, sophomore Mason Hallisyey checks to see if everything is placed correctly while junior building partner Osvaldo Torres looks on. “It was challenging to make sure you had the proper wire combinations,” Hallisyey said.

Setting it all up, sophomore Kamren Brown changes to a curved-edge blade to start his project during Carpentry Club open lab time. “I was creating a cutting board for my 4-H group as an award for a poultry show,” Brown said.
Every semester students in the wood technology classes dive head-first into a new project. Whether they are doing the required assignment or making their own creative design, there is always a lot to accomplish.

With the addition of the after-school Carpentry Club, students had more time and opportunity to experiment with the resources provided in the class.

These reasons are exactly what sponsor Ryan Mellick had in mind when creating this new club.

"I wanted to give students that didn’t have time to finish projects in class extra time outside of school," Mellick said. "I also wanted to invite those who could not take wood tech classes to the club so they could come in and learn how to use the tools they are not offered in other classrooms."

Students responded positively and every Wednesday after school there was someone in the shop benefiting from the additional opportunities.

Carpentry Club member senior Alan Callahan said he enjoyed the extra time and took away a lot from his visits.

"Much more help can be given here. Everything can be understood a little better. In a class of 20 people, you can’t always talk one-on-one with the teacher, but in here you can," said Callahan.

"If one student can benefit from the extra time and opportunities, then I feel that I have done my job as the club leader," Mellick said on the success of the club.

- Kenny Couch
What’s COOKIN’?

New baking class brings tasty rewards

A new Baking and Pastry II class was added to the curriculum in the spring semester for students who were looking for more experience in the kitchen.

According to instructor Dawn Sommers, the new course added on to the skills previously covered in Baking and Pastry I.

“We were in the kitchen at least three days a week, sometimes every day,” Sommers said. “We did very little actual book work. Most of the learning came from hands-on experience.

Class projects included making everything from croissants and pizza dough to character cakes, sweet breads and cake ball bouquets.

“Students learned how to bake a lot of different desserts, worked with different flours and sugars and learned how to decorate the pastries professionally,” Sommers said.

Students also explored options for those who had specific diets.

“We learned how to prepare foods for people with various dietary restrictions. I taught them about substitutes for sugars, dairy products, nuts and gluten,” Sommers said.

Sommers said the class also focused on the “real world” baking industry for students interested in pursuing baking as a career.

Sommers is hoping that this new class will spark the interest of students and get them to start baking their own creations outside of class.

“I had an absolute blast teaching this class,” Sommers said.

- Ginny Hartley

Icing on the Cake

“Decorating the character cake last, we learned how to bake cakes and the different ways to frost them. There are several different ways to frost cakes and there are different tools and skills you have to use for each frosting design. I am excited to show off my frosting skills the next time I bake with my family.”

- Shelby Cox, 10

“We learned about all the different ways to pipe frosting and then we decorated our cakes with the new skills we had learned. It was difficult at first, but I had help from my classmates and succeeded eventually.”

- Hannah Bullock, 12
Mixing the ingredients, senior Dakota McKeehan works on making his tasty creation. "The most valuable skill I learned was how to measure things properly. You have to measure cream and dry substances differently, which is something I never knew," McKeehan said.

Creaturely adding the final touches, senior Alivio Crouch tops off her campfire-themed cupcakes with frosting. "I never really took any action to improve my decorating and baking skills before this class," Crouch said. "I am glad I had the opportunity to further my skills."

Putting it down, sophomore Joe Tapia works his dough to perfection during a fourth-hour lab. "I learned not only how to make lots of baked goods, but also the steps that go into the process," Tapia said. "I really enjoyed the hands-on experience in the kitchen and learning new baking techniques to use at home."

Cupcake WARS

One of the most popular labs in the Baking and Pastry I class was the Cupcake Wars Lab. During this project, students put forth their best effort to create cupcakes from scratch that were baked and decorated to perfection around a theme. The students were judged on the taste, presentation and creativity of their cupcake along with the quality of their display boards.

Inspiration: I was looking online and I saw pictures of other desserts and thought they would look cool as cupcakes.
Recipe: The cake batter was red velvet with chocolate chips. I used fondant icing to decorate the cakes to look like other desserts. We made them look like pies, cookies and funnel cakes.
Trickiest part: We had to learn how to decorate with fondant. Fondant is normally white, so I had to learn how to how to mix the food coloring the correct way to get the colors right.
Final thoughts: Overall, I enjoyed the lab. It was a challenge, but it was an interesting challenge.

Kameron Zimmerly, 12

Inspiration: Our design was a rainbow and we chose that because we wanted to use sour candy to create the strangest flavor combination.
Recipe: Our cupcakes were chocolate with caramel filling and whipped icing and an Airheads rainbow decoration on top. We wanted a sour and sweet cupcake.
Trickiest part: The most challenging part was getting the Airhead Xtremes to stand up. The rainbows didn't stay standing, so we froze them overnight.
Final thoughts: People were really scared to try our cupcake because of the combination of the ingredients but those who did said they tasted good.

Caden Henley, 11
Freshman Ellie Hildobrand takes a sip of her coffee after school while Evan Chladny and Aja Hubbard converse over a smoothie at 3rd Space Coffee in downtown Bonner, which opened in April.

"I go to the coffee shop every Tuesday with my friends to hang out and study. We go here because the baristas are nice, the coffee is good and cheap, and it is a great place to study," Hildobrand said.

On the weekends you'll find me

"Working out to get in shape for soccer season. I usually go down to the field to practice my skills like passing, dribbling, and shooting. I love to challenge myself to see what my limits are and strive to be the best that I can."

- Luis Gomez-Acosta, 10

"Working at IHOP in Shawnee. I clean tables and run general maintenance for about eight hours on both Saturday and Sunday, which is not fun. After that, I go home and relax or go out whenever possible."

- Kevin Lawrence, 10

"You'll find me at Lake of the Forest when the weather is nice. We swim, fish, and ride golf carts around the lake."

- Basil Breene, 11

"On the weekends, I am usually with my family or hanging out with my friends. I really enjoy shopping at Forever 21 and Pink. On some weekends I babysit."

- Kaitlynn Bailey, 10

"A few of my friends will come over or I'll go over to their houses and we'll order a pizza and just hang out for a few hours, maybe watch a movie, go for a walk in the woods or to the local park."

- Angelina Willoughby, 9
On Friday nights in the fall and winter as soon as the game clock strikes 00:00, crowds of students pile into their cars and head to the after-game place to be: McDonald's. This tradition has gone on for more years than people can remember. Orange Crush members and players alike enjoy meeting up to celebrate a win or pick each other up after a loss.

**MY NEW FAVORITE HANGOUT**

My friends and I enjoy exploring downtown Kansas City to take pictures or to just hang out. We discovered First Fridays and it includes art, music and different cultures. We all find it very interesting. It is a good way to discover what the city is like and experience new things.

-Mary Sanchez, 10

"One night after we first started Captain Craig, a T-shirt company, my co-workers and I went out to eat at Knubs Pub, which is a great restaurant off of Johnson Drive. The portions are massive for a reasonable price and on Tuesdays there's a team pinball tournament, which is a really good time."

-Foster Hoch, 11

"Over the winter, my friends and I began hanging out on my friend's property in Bonner. We started with bonfires, but now that it's nice we go fishing and swimming. I just love being outdoors with friends. It's relaxing."

-Cheyenne Willson, 12

> Scrolling through social media, junior Piper Swartz keep tabs on who all will be coming to the after-game hangout while freshman Dylan Taylor looks on. "I go to McDonald's to show how proud I am of the team. It's nice to talk to the players and to tell them they did well," Swartz said.

> Enjoying a post-game meal, freshman Bryce Krone celebrates with his peers at McDonald's. "Even though it gets a little crowded, it's a nice, casual place to hang out with friends," Krone said.
KAYs host regional
CONFERENCE

Posting the colors, junior Andrew Christensen places the flag in the stand at the opening session in the auditorium. "I'm always trying to volunteer and help out wherever I'm needed," Christensen said.

Directing the games, junior Natalie Klotz gives instructions during the post-lunch activities in the gym. "It was exciting to meet everyone from different schools and have a great time," Klotz said.

Showing respect, senior Brendan Orahood prepares to lead the pledge of allegiance at the opening general session. "I led the pledge because I wanted to do my part in making the conference the best it could be," Orahood said.

Enjoying the day, seniors Lauren Herrera and Angelica Harding visit before the start of the KAY regional conference on Oct. 31. "I thought it was a major success and I think that all the KAYs who attended learned something about new service project ideas and how they could make a difference in their communities," said KAY's sponsor Jennifer Stricherz.

Doing his part, senior Dolan Kile carries Jacky Burnett's big teddy bear at the Oct. 29 lock-in to prepare for the conference. "My favorite part of the lock-in was hanging out with friends and having a great night with them," Kile said.

While at the lock-in, senior Logann Stites and sophomore Caroline Mauk use their time productively. "We prepared for the conference by folding pamphlets for our guests and also rehearsed for the conference," Mauk said.

Say Cheese

By the numbers

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<td>Schools in attendance</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Pizzas served during lunch</td>
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Making A DIFFERENCE

Stuco reaches out to the community

While it’s easy to think that Student Council is only about pep assemblies and dances, they do so much more to enhance the lives of people inside and outside of the school.

For example, the first Wednesday of each month the class boards a bus and heads to the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City, Mo., where they help out anywhere and everywhere needed.

“When we walk in, our volunteer coordinator meets with us and assigns jobs,” junior Maryam Zlitni said. “We do a lot of sanitizing, cooking and organizing.”

Students enjoy getting out of their normal school-day routine to help out the community and make a difference in the lives of Ronald McDonald house residents.

“I love going to the Ronald McDonald House because I meet amazing people that I wouldn’t normally meet and I get to volunteer for them,” said junior Sarah Hunt.

Stuco members also spread the love around BSHS by doing “Flash Fridays.” This weekly tradition entails plastering the door of a teacher with affirming and positive messages.

The group also made a difference during the February Parent-Teacher conferences where they worked with Principal Rick Moulin to add a “college fair” to the event.

From volunteering to spreading school spirit, Stuco members are always hard at work to leave the school and community better than they found it.

- Zach Nichols

WHY IT MATTERS

“Student Council has made me a better individual and I have learned lessons that will stick with me for the rest of my life. Mrs. DeLeon is an amazing sponsor and woman; she goes out of her way to make sure we reach our full potential, and become the best versions of ourselves.”

- Thomas Schiller, 12

“Student Council helps you get used to leading other people and working with a team rather than individually. Also, through volunteering, it shows us how beneficial you can be to the community through acts of just helping others.”

- Wyatt Hull, 11

“Student Council makes me a better leader and gives me a lot of volunteering opportunities. It also prepares me for the real world by helping me develop qualities that will allow me to contribute to my community.”

- Isabella Cavanaugh, 11
Believe in the PROCESS

Braves persevere to finish with 12-9 record

Continuing to follow the winning tradition set by the state-qualifying team the year before, the Braves opened the season with a 84-79 victory at home over Lansing.

"I thought we would end the regular season with about 15 wins and a chance of going back to State. My expectations are always high, based on talent and players with true knowledge of our system," head coach Dan Streit said.

The Braves' ability to push through adversity was tested when the team's only returning starter and leading scorer at the time, Jamison Jackson, suffered a torn ACL at Piper. Players such as Josh Williams, Jackson Poe and Nasjon Porter had to step up and produce immediately.

"The biggest thing that stood out to me is how the boys rallied after Jamison went down at Piper. Jamison put a wrinkle into what Piper wanted to do and when he got injured, all of the guys had to step up," Streit said. "We lost by three, 84-81, but what a hard-fought ball game."

The highly anticipated and locally televised Courtwarming rematch with the Pirates at home would leave everyone in the entire gym stunned. The Braves were up for most of the game until the Pirates made it a two-point nail-biter with just a few seconds remaining in the fourth quarter. Piper inbounded the ball to their point guard, J.J. Letcher, who would throw up a half-court three for the win as the buzzer went off.

"Shock, that is it. Shock. We had them. A few plays here, a few plays there, a timeout here versus a timeout there... we had the win. Shock," the emotional Streit said afterwards.

Behind their leading scorer, sophomore Keyon Thomas at 16.1 points per game, and strong play from the junior-led starting lineup, the battle-tested Braves finished the season with a respectable record of 12-9, along with a winning mentality that looks to continue for years to come.

- Nick Passinnes
Sizing up his defender, junior point guard Jackson Poe sets up the offense. "It was an honor to be surrounded by great players with so much passion for the game," said Poe, who constantly gained varsity minutes after the injury to Jamison Jackson.

Scanning the court, junior sharpshooter Coleton Oakes looks to get the ball into the paint at home against Lansing. "It was a successful season and I enjoyed competing with friends that I've played with since fourth grade along with my new teammates," said Oakes, who averaged 10.4 ppg while knocking down 33 three-pointers on the year.

Driving the ball, senior guard Isaiah Singleton looks to score a clutch basket down the stretch at Piper where he would finish with 11 points. "This season was a statement for next year's core squad. Losing Jamison struck fire into our hearts. These young cats will be looking to eat next year when I'm gone," Singleton said. "I wish them the best."

Fighting for the ball, junior forward Josh Williams hustles to make a steal during the televised matchup against the Piper Pirates. "The Piper game was the most emotional game that I have ever been a part of. I learned that it is never over until the buzzer goes off," Williams said.

All KVL
First Team
Jamison Jackson
Keyon Thomas

Strong chemistry paves the way for talented backcourt duo

The dynamic backcourt duo of senior JaDon Pouncil and sophomore Keyon Thomas was at the helm of the Braves versatile offense this season. The two guards together combined to average 22.4 points, 8.2 assists and 4.2 steals per game.

"JaDon started pushing me to get better coming into my freshman year. He and I are very emotional, which is why we play every game like it is our last," Thomas said. Great chemistry was definitely at the heart of the duo's success.

"Keyon knew where I was at all times. I think we're easily the best backcourt duo in the KVL," Pouncil said.
First Team
Shaunie Lanning
Kimberly Whetstone

Taking a leap, freshman Kimberly Whetstone goes up for the block in a tough battle against Piper. "Playing varsity was an eye-opening experience, and I look forward to helping build the program," Whetstone said.

Driving down, junior Skyler Ochoa pushes past the Turner defense. "One thing I definitely improved on was my shot," Ochoa said. "I had the highest three-point percentage on the team."

Zoned in, sophomore Shelby Cox plays defense in a home game against Tonganoxie on Jan. 10. "My goal was to improve my three-pointers and my ball handling," said Cox, who battled injuries throughout the season.

Q&A with Destiny Grier

What's your favorite part about being a team manager?
The players always make me feel like part of the team. We're all close and share a special bond; it's like a family.

What's your favorite memory this season?
When we had our first team bonding event and went to Panera. We all brought in gifts for a gift exchange.

What did you do as a manager? Do you manage any other sports?
As a manager, I get water and film games. I am also a manager for football and track.

What's the toughest part of your job?
What we do really goes unnoticed; people think we just get water, but there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

Destiny Grier, 11
Taking on a double-team, sophomore Hollie Hoffine dribbles forcefully down the court in the Tonganoxie Tournament. "My favorite memory was when we beat the coaches in a scrimmage," said Hoffine, a co-captain.

Focused on the FUTURE

Young team brings new hope for next year

With just one returning varsity starter and two returning letterwinners, the Lady Braves fought hard through a challenging season.

"The team worked hard every day in practice and eventually it paid off," said new head coach Nick Schuster.

Senior co-captain Shaunie Lanning led the team with a 7.5 points per game average while freshman Kim Whetstone was the top rebounder, averaging 7.6 boards per game.

Schuster said the team made steady improvements and looks forward to seeing more growth over the summer. The team will work on the individual aspects of their games and will host a camp to strengthen the foundation for the future.

Although the 3-18 record did not reflect on the hard work and dedication these young ladies put in, there were still many bright spots.

"What I'm going to miss about high school ball is the girls I played with and the practices we had," senior Hillary Trigg said. "The team made a lot of improvement and by the end of the year we learned how to communicate and work as a whole instead of as individuals."

Schuster is equally optimistic. "We went into the season with a young and inexperienced varsity team and we will go from that to a more experienced team with seven returning varsity letterwinners," Schuster said.

- Meliyah Venerable

A fearless LEADER

Giving every game her best, senior Shaunie Lanning fights hard for everything and leaves it all on the court. "When I got hurt, the team really stepped up, especially Hollie and Skyler. I was really proud of the whole team; they worked hard every day in practice and kept their heads up even after a tough loss," said Lanning, a three-year varsity player and co-captain. "I will miss high school basketball because it was my second family. It made me the person I am off the court."
For the second time in school history, the Braves' wrestling team returned home from the state meet with a second-place trophy, matching the efforts of the 1973 team.

From their strong finish at state to placing first the KVL championships and second at regionals, coach Brandon Jobe was proud of all that the team accomplished.

"It's unique that a whole group worked the way they did," Jobe said. "From our best guys to our least-experienced guys, they all worked the same and did what was expected of them."

The team sent nine state qualifiers to Salina and had three wrestlers who went into the championship matches. Senior Tanner Hitchcock and sophomore Caleb Willis brought home gold medals while senior Sean Singleton was a runner-up.

"I felt confident about the final match," said Hitchcock, who became the fifth wrestler in school history to win two individual championships. "I wasn't cocky. I knew I still had to wrestle the way I had been wrestling the whole year. I just wanted to come in and wrestle like it was a normal match."

Jobe felt that the team's success was a product of their work ethic.

"A lot of them went above and beyond," Jobe said. "You don't see that in too many teams anymore. That's why I wasn't surprised when we placed high in the state tournament."

- Bill Thomas
A season filled with champions

TANNER HITCHCOCK
126-pound Champion
Record: 39-1
Team Award: Most Outstanding Wrestler

What was it like winning your second state title?
It was exciting. It's what I have worked for since I was a little kid. I was happy I kept with the sport and kept with the hard work. It was a really happy moment.

How have you improved since last year?
I think that I'm maturing as a wrestler and as a person. My wrestling style is more offensive and I can get to my attacks better.

CALEB WILLIS
220-pound Champion
Record: 41-1
Team Award: Most Outstanding Wrestler

What was it like winning your first state title?
It was very exciting but not really surprising. I felt relieved because of all the hard work I put in.

How did you feel going into the finals?
I felt like I knew I was going to win.

What did you do during the season that put you ahead?
We had morning practice and practice after school almost every day. We also watched film.

SEAN SINGLETON
195-pound Runner-Up
Record: 38-4
Team Award: Hardest Worker

How did you feel going into the finals?
I felt confident and a little nervous at the same time. I was excited since it was the first time I had made it into the finals in all four years. I already knew I was going to place.

What did you do during the season that put you ahead?
I think my work ethic is pretty good. I don't think that there are very many people that work harder than I do.

State Qualifiers

Xavier Seaton
113 pounds
21-13
"Making it to State the first year I came to high school felt really nice. It felt really good as a freshman."

Michael Daniels
120 pounds
33-16
"I was so happy. I worked hard at practice, and I worked hard in and out of the weight room."

Joseph Tapia
132 pounds
29-15
"It was an honor to go to state my freshman and sophomore years. Not many people get to go to state."

Thomas Fehlhafer
138 pounds
35-13
"Things didn't come out the way I wanted, but as a team we finished really well."

Gage Herron
152 pounds
30-7
"I felt pretty good qualifying my senior year. I'm going to college for wrestling, so I hope I do well there."

Trai Warburton
170 pounds
25-18
"Qualifying for State is really nothing different for me. I worked hard every day at practice."

State Runner-Up Trophy

Finishing strong, sophomore Caleb Willis gets a congratulatory high-five from coach Brandon Jobe after his state victory. "I was very excited," said Willis. "I thought I broke Jobe's hand."
Taking a breath, freshman Mykoel White swims the 100-yard freestyle. "This was a memorable year," White said. "The team was so close and we always enjoyed competing against each other."

Pulling ahead, sophomore Gabe Ferris swims the 100 freestyle at the WyCo championships where he placed fifth. "My only goal for this season was to beat my past time every meet, and this year that is what I did," Ferris said.

Nearing the finish, senior Miles Sheldon swims at the home meet on Feb. 1. "I enjoy backstroke because it is a complicated stroke," Sheldon said. "I felt like I kept improving on my times."

Waiting for the last record to fall

"Knowing it was my last year was tough. I knew I had to try my hardest because I would never get a chance to do it again. Swim has taught me that hard work and determination does pay off."

- Delan Kile, 12

"My season was eventful. This was my first time making it to the finals at State and that was a great experience. Through swimming I have made friends that I may not have made otherwise."

- Preston Landers, 12

"Senior Night was kind of surreal because it finally sunk in that this was my last year in high school. Swimming taught me that you can get anywhere you want with a little hard work."

- Alex White, 12

With his best effort, freshman Jack Barger swims the 50-yard backstroke at the home WyCo meet. "The best memory I had was getting to swim against Ryan Stumbaugh and trying to beat him," Barger said.

Waiting for the last record to fall

During the past two years, the Bonner swim boys have worked hard to swipe all of the records set by past swimmers, yet there was one that eluded them. Set in 2004, the 200-yard freestyle relay record had not been touched for 13 years. However, Ryan Downing, Nick Possinese, Alex White and Preston Landers finally achieved their goal and set a new mark at the WyCo home meet with a time of 1:37:09.

"Preston and I knew we were going to break the record going into the race, so we planned out a very professional celebration. We acted like we were fixing our ties and shook each other's hands," Possinese said. "It made us feel accomplished."
Flying through the water, junior Nick Possinese pushes himself while competing in the butterfly. Possinese went on to beat the school’s 100-yard backstroke record with a time of 58.95. "My motivation was to be faster than I was when I swam year round. I also wanted to break my old school record, which I ended up doing by four seconds," Possinese said.

Taking a breath, senior Ryan Stumbaugh swims the breaststroke at the WyCo invitational. "My season lived up to my expectations. I beat my personal best in multiple races," Stumbaugh said.

A golden moment

Junior swimmer wins first state gold medal

After a disappointing performance at last year’s state meet where he battled a flu bug, junior Ryan Downing was hungry for a state win and a better experience.

That motivation drove Downing to really push himself and to capture the program’s first individual state title in the breaststroke.

Downing said that although he was confident going into State, he was still "really nervous" before the finals.

"I was not really thinking about the race too much," he said. "I didn’t overanalyze things. I knew I just had to go for it."

And go for it he did. With a blazing 26.53 split, Downing captured the gold medal with a time of 56.28, shattering the previous 17-year-old state record by two seconds, a record that was set before Downing was even born.

"Breaking the record was unexpected," Downing said. "I can’t wait to see someone else break my record."

Not only did Downing capture the gold medal, he placed third in the 200-yard individual medley and was chosen as "Athlete of the Meet," an honor based on coach’s votes. Downing also competed in two relays, but those teams were hampered by illness, this time with the flu hitting junior Nick Possinese.

"Ryan had a great swim and really stood up big at State," coach Preston Williams said. "I’m very proud of him."

Senior Preston Landers also qualified individually and competed in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races but did not place.

- Kailyn Rose
Waiting for the NEXT LEVEL

Turning the corner, junior Gavin Lindsay dodges the defense in a hard battle at home against Paola. "The season was good; we have a lot of talent for next year," Lindsay said.

With intensity, freshman Abigail Williams returns the ball in a home match. "My favorite memory was when we had an all-day match and my mom brought us McDonald's," Williams said.

Stepping up, freshman Natalie Gutierrez dribbles down the court in a hard-fought JV game against Paola. "It was really stressful because I played two games a night but it made me better," said Gutierrez, who played on both the freshman and JV teams.

The Road to the Future

"It was really easy for me to transition into the high school basketball team. I love all my teammates to death and I wouldn't trade this year's season for anything."

- Reese Bacon, 9

"I really worked hard on my hitting and blocking in volleyball. I did whatever the coaches told me, and I really honed in on the things that could help me improve."

- Taylor Harvey, 10

"I've gone to the soccer conditioning and I feel like it really works. In practice, I work on my passing and communicating with my team and it helps me get better."

- Luis Flores, 11

Pushing the ball upfield, freshman Kade Thomas makes his move while junior Demetrius Palmer looks on. "Playing JV was fun, but it was very intense sometimes," Thomas said.

With a sharp pass, sophomore Nasjon Porter looks to find an open teammate in an away game at Basehor. "When Jamison got hurt, everyone on the team stepped up," said Porter, who played on both the JV and varsity teams.

Returning the volley, sophomore Erin Freed sets up under the ball in a JV match against Lansing. "I am looking forward to seeing how the team progresses in the future," Freed said.
Pushing past, sophomore Chase Terrell dribbles through the Spring Hill defense in a home JV win. "It was good to see the progression of our team throughout the season," Terrell said.

Going strong, sophomore Joseph Kotosh runs in a home meet. "In the last race of the season I got a PR. It felt good because this was my first year of cross country," Kotosh said.

Q&A with Damian Streit

How did you like playing for your dad, who is the head boys' coach?
Playing for my dad makes the game ten times tougher. He's always pushing me to the best of my ability; he only wants me to succeed.

Does he push you harder?
He likes to get on me when I make a mistake because he knows I can do better. But I will always love to play for him.

How did your overall season go? What was your best game?
Our freshman team went 15-5, and we looked very good. Our victory over Piper was huge. We really wanted to win that game, and we did. We were the only team to beat them.

- Damian Streit, 9

Fighting for a win, sophomore Issac Isabell puts his opponent in a half-nelson in a home meet. "I always practiced with someone better because in the end it made me better," Isabell said.

WORTH THE WAIT

"Varsity wrestling has a lot tougher competition than junior varsity. You really have to prepare. The way I prepared was I got a new practice partner and started going to Kids Club practices. I really just started working harder. I never really put myself out there, like on Snapchat or gloating. I just let my work show for itself.

- Mason Halisey, 10
Seniors Charles Shively and Jordan Shiao accept their scholarships at Senior Awards night on April 19.

Freshman Jackson McArthur listens to coach Tyler Lare during their team huddle between innings at a "C" team home game.

Junior LeVoide Simpson congratulates principal Rick Moulin after a relay race between the administrators and throwers.
As the school year drew to a close, spring had many surprises in store for us. The classrooms were filled with sophomores designing their own semester mini-projects, juniors stepping back into the 1920s while reading *The Great Gatsby*, and seniors taking the stage to act out *Macbeth*. Upperclassmen and their dates headed to the Lake of the Forest to savor one last whirl on the dance floor at prom. Baseball kicked off the season with a sizzling 7-0 start, the best in years, while the newspaper and yearbook students captured their fourth state title in seven years. Senior boards came and went and the time to walk across the stage had finally come.
Juniors Sarah Hunt and Gunnar Ista

Senior Bailey Testerman and junior Camden Mayfield

Junior Ryan Villarreal and sophomore Nicole Ashford

Junior Alonzo Hokes and sophomore Caamiah Morris

Senior Chris Broome and junior Olivia May

Juniors Amaya Stice and Logan Clouse

Junior Deandre Jones and senior Brittany Cox

Seniors Baylie Hontz and Alex Torres

Senior Juan Vela and junior Lillian Kaus

Date Roma Delaughder and senior Nathan Sprowl

Juniors Coleton Oakes and Gracie Myers

Senior Marissa Satterfield and junior Coleton Nelson

70 Student Life
"I got my dress at Camille La Vie; it was $280. I’ve always been in love with the two-piece prom dresses. I liked this dress because the colors went with my skin tone really well."

- Ariah Hutton, 12

"I got my dress from Windsor at the mall; it was about $96. I really liked the color of my dress; it was a little different and fit really well."

- Aaliyah Love, 11

"My dress came from Macy’s at Oak Park Mall. I liked my dress because the top was unique and I had never had a two-piece dress so I wanted to try it and I ended up really liking it."

- Sydney Hunt, 11

"I bought my dress off of the Facebook swap and shop for $100. I am a big fan of lace and this dress really screams ‘lace.’ Plus, it was the perfect size and fit in all the right places."

- Kaitlyn Peres, 12

> Getting down, senior Judah Capolla and juniors Hunter Murphy, Kaleb Hightower and Gunnar Ista dance to the “Cha-Cha” Slide. “I like spending time with my friends and seeing them all dance,” Hightower said.
Feeling the music, juniors Rob Barrett and Coleton Nelson enjoy their time at prom. "Prom was a great experience because I got to dance the night away with my friends and awesome date," Barrett said.

Enjoying the evening, juniors Vanessa Routt and Caleb Knopp await the next song. "This was my third prom and it was the most fun out of all of them," Routt said.

Remembering a rustic NIGHT

Upon first glance, Prom sponsor Jennifer Stricherz decided to count the ballots one more time, hoping that there really wasn't a tie for Prom Queen. Just to make absolutely sure, she then had Spanish teacher Sarah Peterson count along with her two more times.

"We even went through all the other stacks to see if we had misplaced a ballot. Nope, it was an actual tie," Stricherz said.

In a panic about what to do, Stricherz called Stuco sponsor Adie DeLeon and asked how to handle things. DeLeon had dealt with a similar situation 10 years ago and advised Stricherz to honor both nominees.

With both ladies being announced as queen, Stricherz started to panic again because she only had one crown, one sash and only one bouquet.

"We split the bouquet in half and gave one the tiara and one the sash," Stricherz said.

Both queens eventually got their crowns. Mauk went home with hers and one was ordered for Holt and presented to her by Stricherz a few days later.

- Jenna McDonnell
A new "BEGINNING"

Spring play features a more serious show

For as long as anyone can remember, Bonner Springs High School has featured comedies or murder mysteries for the spring play, but director Chris Hotchkiss decided it was time for a change.

"In recent memory, we’ve not done a straight drama here," Hotchkiss said. "I wanted to do a straightforward drama, and ‘Anne Frank’ has always been a show that I kind of had in my back pocket."

The play is based on “The Diary of Anne Frank,” which chronicles Frank’s life from 1942 to 1944 while she was hiding with her family during the German occupation of the Netherlands. The diary eventually became a play and movie.

Hotchkiss said the play has a timeless appeal. "A lot of different people in a lot of different countries are currently going through similar circumstances that ultimately led to the Holocaust," Hotchkiss said. "I think it has a lot of information and themes that still resonate with us today."

With the help of Ryan Mellick’s Wood Tech students, the play featured a two-story set that allowed the actors to move from level to level.

"I decided to build a two-story set so that we could utilize our space more effectively. We also built it so we could section off our actors and make the set feel larger and claustrophobic at the same time," Hotchkiss said. "The overall production went very well and I couldn’t have been prouder of everyone involved."

-Zach Nichols


In a sweet moment, sophomore Caroline Mauk (Margot Frank) dances with her sister, Anne. "I loved getting to interact with everyone and see the cast transform into their new characters," Mauk said.

To make ends meet, sophomore Mikey Young (Mr. Van Daan) takes his wife’s beloved coat so he can sell it.
From her desk, senior Hannah Reno, in the lead role of Anne Frank, contemplates what to write about in her journal that day.

Taking a stand, senior Rachel Mauk (Edith Frank) argues with her daughter, Anne (Hannah Reno). "I loved the fighting and the yelling that I did with other characters during the play because I never do that and I knew I wouldn't get in trouble for it," Mauk said.

In shock, senior Kameron Zimmerly (Mr. Dussel) shares with the rest of the table the bad news of the Germans hunting Jews. "The hardest part for me was having to get into character because the character I played was the complete opposite of me," Zimmerly said.

Stopping by, sophomore Drew McGregor (Miep Gies) checks in on the guests housed in secret. "I prepared by rehearsing my lines almost every night," McGregor said.

In her first kiss, senior Hannah Reno (Anne Frank) shows her affection for Peter Van Daan (Jarod Mortensen). "I loved getting to practice and spend time with these people almost daily and getting to fall down for Mr. Hotchkiss' amusement," Mortensen said.

Checking out the hiding place, senior Jarod Mortensen (Peter Van Daan) looks apprehensive after meeting the Frank family for the first time.

To make the play more authentic, drama students created numbered Stars of David, which were given to the audience when they arrived. At intermission, audience members were asked to match the number on the star with the biography of an actual Holocaust victim.

Senior GOODBYE

"Throughout my time as stage manager, my most memorable moment was when the sound went out on the second night of the play. I panicked so much that night because the tech team couldn't fix it right away and I was trying to keep the actors calm so they would have a stunning performance."

- Marissa Young

"My most memorable moment was this year's spring play because it was the first time I've had a significant role in our plays. It was a big change for me to have to learn such a large amount of lines compared to past years."

- Hunter Amega

Spring Play • 75
“Some of my favorite places to shop are H&M and Forever 21. I have a diverse style and I wear a lot of different things, but I prefer a more urban look. I used to wear sweatpants every day, but now dressing up brightens my attitude and makes me feel good.”

- Kirsten Bizzell, 11

“Hippies are my inspiration. I wanted to change my style from sporty stuff to a Southern California look. I enjoy simple clothing colors and styles. In the winter, I wear simpler, trendy things, and in the summer I wear sandals and beachy outfits.”

- Hunter Murphy, 11

“I get a lot of my style inspirations from Pinterest. My two favorite beauty gurus are Desi Perkins and Katy DeGroot aka [lustrelux]. My favorite go-to outfit would definitely have to be a pair of light-washed, ripped jeans with a nice graphic tee and my nude huaraches.”

- Lauren Herrera, 12

“I would describe my style as thrifty and relaxed. I shop at outlet and thrift stores. I like edgy things, so I wear a lot of graphic, odd T-shirts and my circular specs. My shoes are always trashed because I'm hard on them, but I've grown to like how they look.”

- Kenny Couch, 10

“I get a lot of inspiration from the online store UNIF, but the clothes are really expensive so I like to find the same things at thrift stores and recreate the outfits. I have a 1980s and '90s-inspired look and my go-to outfit is a pair of high-waisted jeans and any long-sleeved shirt layered with a tank top or T-shirt.”

- Emma Malone, 9
We Wore

Converse
Open-Shoulder Shirts
Turtlenecks

Birks
Chacos
Crocs

Chokers
Bomber Jackets
Rompers

We Said...

"On Fleek" - Lisa Moser, 12
"Heat" - Olivia May, 11
"Lit" - Thomas Freeze, 10

Along with...
1. "Fam"
2. "Bae"
3. "Ratchet"
4. "Low-Key"
5. "Shook"
6. "Savage"
7. "Finesse"
8. "Snack"
9. "Snatched"
10. "Extra"

And we played with fidget spinners

Trends 77
Performing passionately, sophomore Alyssa McCasted and seniors Juan Vela, Sarah Brown and Lacey Dean sing with the A Cappella choir at the Black History Assembly on Feb. 27. "This performance, although it was short, was very important to me. A majority of the student body has never attended a choir concert, so it was nice to show them just how hard-working and dedicated we are," Brown said.

Fully focused, freshman Rachael Buck sings with the Mixed Chorus at the Christmas concert on Dec. 8. "This concert was really enjoyable for me because of the songs we got to sing. I thought we did really well," Buck said.

Singing a solo, junior Emily Rose performs at the first concert of the year. "For my solo, I sang the song "Masquerade." Although I was nervous, I liked getting to sing a solo because it gave me the opportunity to show off my voice," Rose said.

Caring and Sharing
This activity meant a lot to me because it was a time where everyone could open up and feel safe to say what we wanted and not be scared of feeling like others would judge us. I feel like it gave us a sense of closeness and understanding with one another."
- Jasmine Neu, 12

"I liked Caring and Sharing because it gave everyone a chance to really open up and brought everyone together as a choir family. This activity meant a lot to me because I have trouble opening up to people, so it meant so much that I could say my thoughts and not feel judged."
- Kelsey Dusell, 11

"I loved this activity; I think that it's all about trust and about learning from others. We all realized that everyone has things they struggled with but through sharing our fears and desires, we find peace."
- Madison Sprovel, 10

Savoring the moment, junior Elaina Cole smiles at instructor Brian White as he speaks about her character. To build stronger bonds, White (right) created Caring and Sharing time in his choir classes. At the start of class, White drew two names out of an envelope and then talked about the chosen student's positive traits and impact on the program.
More than

JUST MUSIC

Unity of choirs paves the way for success

To encourage his choir members to bond with each other, director Brian White created a daily Caring and Sharing time during the fall semester where two selected students would hear kind words about their character from White.

In the spring, White mixed things up a bit and the two selected students would hear White’s comments and then would say something nice about each other as well as sharing their musical goals for the semester.

This unity carried the choirs to one of their most dominant performances ever during the State Large Group Contest on April 12 at Spring Hill. BSHS was the only school to have all three groups earn “I” ratings. This was the third time in four years that the groups had achieved this.

However, in a historic twist, the choirs accumulated what is known as “straight ones,” meaning that they went 9-for-9 on their performance rubrics.

White was particularly pleased with the Project X achievements. The group returned home with the highest scores in school history. Out of 240 potential points, they had 236 or 98 percent.

From a sentimental standpoint, White said the most meaningful rating came from the Women’s Ensemble. “These ladies have been on a journey the last two years and made an effort to be the best they could be,” White said. “They started off at a low level, raised their standards, worked for them and were relentless in their approach to be the best. Their fairy tale ending was achieved instead of falling just short.”

It was a year to remember, one that was definitely worth the wait. “Our successes are a result of our collective determination and unity developed through our daily routine,” White said.

- Stephanie Best

Spreading the LOVE

- At the end of the fall concert, the combined choirs performed “Don’t You Worry ‘Bout a Thing” and “Happy Together” for director Brian White and his soon-to-be bride, Kelly. White had the choirs prepare the songs to surprise Kelly before their wedding, which was two days away. White called Kelly to the stage and then said kind words about her before they listened to the choirs. “It was uplifting to see their facial expressions while enjoying us and enjoying each other,” said senior Destin Williams.

- Owning his solo, senior Isaiah Jeffries performs “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” with the A Cappella choir on Dec. 8.

- Enjoying the activity, sophomore Mackayla Merei responds to a comment during Caring and Sharing time in her fourth-hour class. “I didn’t really feel relevant until I joined choir, so this helped me branch out and feel more comfortable,” Merei said.
ALEX EICKHOFF
For her senior project, Alex Eickhoff trained her dog, Rocky, to become a certified therapy dog and took him to visit residents in nursing homes around Bonner Springs. "My mentor had trained service dogs before, so that was a huge help," Eickhoff said. Eickhoff spent a full summer training Rocky, despite various obstacles. "Rocky is 10 years old, and it is harder to teach an older dog new habits," Eickhoff said. However, the project was filled with several rewarding moments. "The reactions of the people in the nursing homes made me realize that all of my hard work was worth it," Eickhoff said. "The best part of my project was that I got to complete it with my best friend. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience."

BLAKE SWAN
Blake Swan’s project was all about living one of his childhood dreams. "I have known that I wanted to become a firefighter from a very young age; this project just helped me make sure it was the right career path for me," said Swan, who spent 34 hours working with the KCK fire department. Swan afterward said his best experience was his ride-along with the department where he was able to go on a medical call to an alleged drug house where he got to experience feeling like a hero to the children there who needed help. "I loved being around the firefighters, talking to victims when we ran calls, and just the idea of being a firefighter for a day was amazing," said Swan, who began his EMT training in July at KCKCC.

MARIAH CHAVEZ
Mariah Chavez chose to volunteer at The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City for her project and did everything from grooming the cats to disinfecting their rooms. On top of that, she raised $500 for the shelter by creating a GoFundMe page. She also collected needed supplies, such as pet beds made from recycled tires, which were a part of fellow senior Alysa Carpenter’s project. Chavez had to handle the extra stress of completing her project in December in order to graduate early. "I did most of my project in the summer, but it was still stressful to complete it all in time. Overall, I had a great experience learning about shelters and what I could do to help," she said.

How did you stay calm?
"I went over my speech and presentation with people I wasn’t comfortable with in order to make the actual presentation not so bad."
- Kegan Young

"I mainly just played games on my phone. At first, I was really stressed out. The closer it came to my turn, the less nervous I became."
- Terry Bruce

"I brought food to eat while I waited for my turn to present. Presenting wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be. I was pretty confident in my project."
- Alyssa Bland
Proud of his efforts, Brendan Orahood shows off the truck he restored in honor of his grandfather. Orahood spent over 125 hours working on his project over the summer. "My grandfather and I talked about fixing it up for a long time when I was younger," Orahood said. "He passed away before we could; I completed this project in memory of him."

Giving back, Kayla Willis (far right with the flowers) is surrounded by students in the Life Skills program after she presented them with a check for just over $4,000, the proceeds of her senior project efforts. Willis raised the money by participating in a 70.3-mile Iron Man Triathlon event. "I trained daily according to the workouts my trainer gave me," Willis said. "They ranged anywhere from doing weights, going on a 40-mile bike ride or just a short sprint run." Willis decided to donate to the Life Skills classroom because of the "close bonds" she shares with most of the students. The money will be used to provide a large greenhouse on school grounds where students can grow flowers and vegetables that can be sold to the community. "I gained a lot of confidence from this project. I had never participated in a triathlon before so crossing the finish line felt good," Willis said. "I'm glad I got to do something to impact the community."

My worst-case scenario

"Weeks before my final hours were due for my senior project, I got a text saying that my mentor was in the hospital on life support. It was later brought to my attention that he had been living with an inoperable brain tumor for 21 years, which eventually led him to go into cardiac arrest. A few days later, he was taken off of life support and he soon passed away. This was a very hard experience for me since I had grown so close to him. I ended up having to find a new mentor who could sign off on all of my hours with him. All things considered, the rest of my project seemed to fall into place."

- Lexi McLeary

Award winners

What did you do? I helped out at the Bonner Springs EMS department.
What did you gain? This project helped me come to the decision that I want to go into the medical field.
What would you have done different? I would have made more hours. I completed 64 hours, but I still wanted to learn more at the end of the project.
How did you feel when you received your award? I felt really accomplished and was happy that all my hard work had paid off.

- Ashley Worley

What did you do? I shadowed a neurosurgeon at KU Medical Center.
What did you gain? This project helped me come to the decision that I want to go into the medical field. I really enjoyed the whole experience.
What was the most difficult part? It was difficult to witness the surgeries. I had never seen the brain in person before, so I was obviously a little uneasy the first couple surgeries.
How did you feel when you received your silver award? I felt really accomplished and was happy that all my hard work had paid off.

- Vanessa Calderon

Senior Projects 81
Students in Jason Romanishin’s drawing classes were challenged to use lines and dots to create self-portraits.

“I had a hard time trying to make the value scale look realistic, but in the end, I was really proud of my work.”
- Amanda Mason, 9

“I wasn’t so sure about it in the beginning, but I pulled through and it turned out to be one of my best works.”
- Emma Prentice, 9

WHY WE LOVE ART

“I was making a clay pot for the slip trail project. I had difficulties with making the coils to form the pot itself, but I overcame the struggles and loved how it turned out.”
- Alyssa Murphy, 11

“I was working on a surrealism project. The hardest part was figuring out what to draw. When I finally found something it was hard and I didn’t think I would be able to finish it.”
- Addie Gibson, 10

“I like art because I’m Spencer Watson’s aide second hour. My job is to help him out with any project that I can. It starts my day and makes me happy.”
- Madysen Mance, 11

> Throwing clay, sophomore Jasmine Elmore adds water to her bowl during her second hour pottery class. “I struggled with keeping the clay from drying up, cracking and peeling off the plate,” Elmore said. “It definitely got a little dirty, but my mission was accomplished.”

> Working carefully, sophomore Christina Mauk sands a piece of copper while creating a bracelet in her fifth-hour jewelry class. “I enjoyed the fact that we were able to take our time on the project to do it right and to make it neat,” Mauk said. “I was pleased with how my bracelet turned out and gave it to my mom as a Christmas gift. I learned how to use a press drill as part of the process.”
Using watercolors, sophomore Sarah Martinez works on finishing a LGBT flag. "It was hard to keep the watercolors on. Martinez said. "It was a very messy project, but I really enjoyed it."

Working with clay, sophomore Enrique Anderson sculpts an animal. "I struggled with keeping the arms on; they were constantly falling off," Anderson said.

When did you first discover your passion for art?
I honestly can’t remember the time I started considering myself an artist. When I was little, I spent a lot of time attempting to draw cartoon characters or anything that came to my mind.

What is your favorite creation?
As of yet, I'd have to say my favorite piece is my portrait of James Dean from the movie "Giant." To me, art is a lot more fun when I'm drawing someone I love. A lot of my artworks are portraits of musicians and actors I admire.

What does art mean to you?
Art is my favorite form of escapism. It's about having a focus but being open-ended on your way of reaching it. Or having no focus at all, relying simply on instinct and learning more about yourself with the end result.

- Jordan Thaelen, 12

When did you first discover your passion for art?
Art has grown up with me and will continue to as well; I can’t remember a time I didn’t have a passion for art.

What's your favorite creation?
It's hard to choose just one when they are all so different and hard to compare, but the picture at the right, which I titled "Suffocating," is one of my favorites. It's composed with a No. 2 pencil and a fine point Sharpie. Most of my favorite creations involve surrealism or a black Sharpie.

What does art mean to you?
To me, art is therapeutic. When I get into it, my mind zones out and I don't think of anything outside of it. One of my favorite things about art is that the possibilities are unlimited; you can draw anything that stems from your mind and always add to it.

- Jacky Burnett, 12
Throwing STRIKES

“I’ve been pitching for about ten years and my favorite part about it would be just being in charge; nothing would happen without a pitcher.”

- Cameron Bellm, 11

“The pitches I worked on the most this year would be my curveball and my change-up.”

- Josiah Crowley, 11

“My favorite part about pitching is that you always get a new batter. I enjoy changing up my pitches and being unpredictable on the mound.”

- Eric Valenzuela, 12

After fielding the ball cleanly, sophomore Coby Henley makes a strong throw while playing third base. “I played for a different high school team last year,” Henley said. “I like the Braves baseball team more. There’s better coaching and overall it’s a better team.”

Taking aim, sophomore infielder Chase Terrell looks to throw out the runner in a home game against Tonganoxie. Defensively, Terrell had a .917 fielding average with 27 putouts. Terrell and senior Solomon Young were named to the Butch Foster all-tournament team for their outstanding play.

Dropping the bat, senior Brendan Mathia tries to bunt his way to first base while playing at home. “In my first three years, the varsity team’s record was 10-50,” Mathia said. “The history of the program isn’t the greatest, but I believe the program has a bright future.”
After taking a big lead, sophomore Garrett Stephan dives back to first base during a game against Piper on April 21 at Community America Ballpark.

Making the play, sophomore Garret Henley looks to throw the runner out at first at home against Tonganoxie on April 11. Henley had a .842 fielding average and was a part of three double plays.

Swinging with power, junior Rob Barrett locks in on the pitch while playing at Community America Ballpark. Barrett finished the season with a .322 batting average and scored 18 runs.

A brand new

BALLGAME

Braves finish the season with a 14-7 record

After struggling for years, the Braves baseball team finally turned the corner and put together a winning record.

Coaching in his fourth season, Adam Loeccker said this year’s team was “senior led” and that there were significant improvements from the previous year.

“I knew from the very beginning that we had a special group because we had every starter from last year except one returning,” Loeccker said. “I knew they had the experience to do well.”

The five seniors on the team represented the first group Loeccker has coached for all four years. Three of those seniors earned all-KVL honors along with two underclassmen.

“They’re my first class,” Loeccker said. “It was just a special group of guys. They were fun to coach. They liked playing together and wanted more out of their senior year.”

The team reeled off seven straight wins to start the season and went 10-2 in league play, finishing second behind Lansing.

Offensively, the team was led by senior Andrew Stephan with a .383 batting average and three home runs and senior Solomon Young, who contributed a .380 batting average and 71 hits.

The top pitchers were juniors Russell Simmons and Cameron Bellm. Simmons had 1.19 ERA and a team-leading 48 strikeouts while Bellm had 21 strikeouts in 15 innings.

In regional play, the Braves faced a tough first-round draw in Bishop Miege and lost 9-2.

“We fell short of some of our goals, but at the end of the day, I feel really good about the program and where it’s going,” Loeccker said.

- Karlene Hill

Memorable COMEBACK

In dramatic fashion, the Braves staged a major comeback at home against Tonganoxie on April 11. After being down nine runs in the second game, they rallied to win 10-9.

Junior Russell Simmons (bottom left) played a huge role in this victory, hitting two home runs and getting five RBIs. “After I realized I hit a home run, I felt a massive sense of pride; it’s thrilling to see the ball go to the other side of the fence,” Simmons said. Seniors Solomon Young and Andrew Stephan (left) had home runs in the first game.
More than just

ATHLETICS

New coach strives to build relationships

Starting the season with a new head coach and only two returning seniors, the Lady Braves still managed to be competitive and ended their season with eight wins under their belt, just one shy of the pre-season goal.

The young squad was tested mightily by a staggering amount of injuries, but the girls stepped up and pushed through the season.

“Our biggest obstacles were injury-related. We had quite a few players out at any given time due to injury, which is a difficult obstacle for any team to overcome,” said new head coach Lindsay McCracken, who took over for Mike Moulin.

McCracken came into the season with the goal of building a solid foundation for the program, which included an emphasis on relationship-building and developing players on and off the field.

“My goal was to develop a cohesive soccer program that girls want to join and that was a success,” McCracken said.

The young squad played its best game in the first round of regionals where they defeated Basehor, 7-0.

“We finally came together as a team,” sophomore Trinity Jones said. “We flowed well together. We used the things that we had learned in practice and applied them to the game. We weren’t selfish.”

However, they came up short in their next round against Louisburg.

McCracken said the team’s goal next year is to go improve their record and make it to State.

“I want to continue building relationships with my players and helping them develop personally and athletically,” McCracken said.

— Melyah Venerable

Lady Braves pass on their talent

As part of their youth camp program, sophomore Alexis Coler (left) and freshman Maria Gonzazelz share their love of soccer with younger players. There were more than 215 elementary students enrolled in the two camps which were held at the end of March. “The youth camp was awesome,” coach Lindsay McCracken said. “It helped us to form important K-12 bonds.”

Sending the ball, junior Megan Nolan helps her teammates. “Having a new coach was a huge change for the team, but it really brought us together and made us closer,” said Nolan, who was named the varsity MVP.

Working hard, junior team captain Hope Seaton drives the ball down the field in a win over Ward. “My favorite memory was when we were treated with snow cones after our first round at regionals against Basehor,” Seaton said.
Showing school spirit, junior goalie Martina Glenn and her teammates finish the national anthem before competing on April 3 against Shawnee Heights.

Taking on two, junior Kirsten Bizzell squeezes past members of the Tonganoxie defense in an exciting 3-2 away victory. "Beating Tongie in overtime was my favorite season memory," said Bizzell, who was named the varsity squad’s outstanding offensive player.

With skill, sophomore Shelby Cox tries to settle the ball on April 13 against Bishop Seabury. "My favorite memory was when we beat Basehor in the first round of regionals," Cox said.

Savoring the moment, seniors Paige Krone and Kaitlyn Rose receive a hug from junior Hope Seaton during Senior Night festivities on May 9. "We have both been playing soccer with Hope since sixth grade," Rose said. "It was hard to say goodbye."

Fancy Footwork

"I love soccer as a sport, but my team is also my family and I love that the most. When you’re a part of a team, you have such an amazing support system, which is crucial during high school."

- Madison Frank, 11

"What I like about soccer is that it gives you a way to express yourself through the moves you make. My favorite move is the rainbow, where the ball goes over your head like a rainbow."

- Trinity Jones, 10

Girls Soccer ▸ 87
Small but Mighty

Team qualifies eight athletes for State

The track team overcame many obstacles this year in order to have a successful season. Despite the challenge of having a young team and having a boy-to-girl ratio of 2:1, the team finished the season with seven regional medals, three state medals and one shattered school record.

“One thing that stands out to me is how our young athletes stepped up and became valuable members of our varsity team,” head boys coach Kyle Razak said. “The season had its ups and downs. Luckily, we finished strong with positive meets at both league and regionals.”

Both teams placed fifth at league. At regionals, the boys were ninth while the girls were 13th. One of the seven medalists included sophomore Olivia Cavanaugh, who broke the school record in the 3200 meters by ten seconds with a time of 12:47.84.

“The season as a whole took me by surprise,” Cavanaugh said. “At the beginning, I was being lapped and by halfway through the season I was getting medals.”

At the state track meet in Wichita, the Braves had eight athletes competing in six individual events and one relay.

In the end, freshman Kim Whetstone finished fourth in long jump with a leap of 17 feet while sophomore Nasjon Porter took fifth in triple jump at 44 feet and .25 inches.

The 4x100 relay of Chris Broome, Devante Washington, Alonzo Hokes, and JaDon Pouncil took eighth with a time of 44.31. Cavanaugh and junior Camden Mayfield also competed.

“The expectation is to continue growing the program and to add additional student-athletes who need a place to call home,” coach Jake Wike said.

— Bella Thomas

Teachers VS Students

Coach Jake Wike decided it was time to prove who was the best once and for all. He proposed the coaches race the runners and the throwers race the administrators.

“The purpose was to have fun, generate school pride and show support for our track athletes and program,” principal Rick Moulin said. “We want a culture where the students and staff support each other.”

The track coaches took the lead and beat the runners while administrators also defeated the throwers despite Moulin’s worries.

“I was really concerned about Mr. Hilliard and Mr. Dunning slowing us down,” Moulin said with a smile.

— Bounding forward, sophomore Nasjon Porter competes in the long jump at Baselhor on April 7. Porter finished seventh with a leap of 19 feet and 7.5 inches.
Setting the pace, sophomore Kaleb Wilson competes in the 1600 meters at Basehor where he placed eighth with a time of 5:11.07. "My best meet was at Wellsville where I broke the five-minute mark in the mile," Wilson said.

Running the 100 meters, freshman Kim Whetstone gives it her all at regionals on May 19 at Baker University. In her first season, Whetstone qualified for two state events. "It means a lot to qualify as a freshman," Whetstone said. "It gives me the drive to be a better athlete."

Clutching the baton, junior Camden Mayfield runs his leg of the 4x800 relay at Basehor. Mayfield and seniors Brendan Lawrence and Alex White and sophomore Mykeal White finished third at 8:49.79.

Pushing ahead, junior Alonzo Hokes finishes out the 4x100 relay at regionals with a time of 43.83. This time was good for third place, which qualified the relay team for the state meet in Wichita.

"Throwing was more about the lessons learned rather than the battles won. I learned more through practice, being with my track family and growing together."

- William Bowles, 12

"I usually do 50 throws a week. Technique is hard and that is why I have mastered the spin to better my chances to go to State."

- Damian Amayo, 11

"It's all about the legs and hips. To prepare for a meet, we would do a lot of footwork and try to focus on what we struggled with."

- Reyven McDonald, 9
Ams wide, junior Isabella Cavanaugh swims the butterfly during her leg of the 200-yard individual medley relay at the last meet of the season on May 10. Cavanaugh, Brenna Holt, Sabria Zlitni and Jayden Ziegler combined to place fifth with a time of 2:47:55.

Reaching back, junior Karly Brungardt swims the backstroke during the 200-yard medley at home during the KVL Championships where she finished fourth. "I've always competed in the IM at the KVL meet," Brungardt said. "It was great to finish in the top four."

Helping her team, senior Sabria Zlitni swims her leg of the 200-yard freestyle relay during the second meet of the season on April 11. Zlitni, Breckin Blantis, Hadley Russell and Brenna Holt combined to place fifth. "This team was really special because we were all good friends and got along well. We could push each other yet still make each other laugh at the end of the day," Zlitni said.

High School vs Club Swimming

Which do you like better: club or school swimming?
I like both because my club team is more competitive and helps me a lot for high school swimming but I like the high school team because I like being with people that I go to school with. Overall, though, I like my club team a little more because of the competitiveness.

What was your season highlight on your school team?
Placing first in the 100 breaststroke at the KVL meet and beating my old previous best time.

What was your season highlight on your club team?
My highlight of club was just working hard in every practice and then seeing the results of that work in the preparation for our meets.

-- Nicole Ashford, 10

A senior moment

Cutting loose, departing coach Preston Williams enjoys some silliness with seniors Brenna Holt and Alayna Dooley during Senior Night. "I'm not sure what we were laughing about, but I appreciated that Preston made me enjoy swim practices every single day when we had to do sprints," Dooley said.
Among his claims to fame, Williams had a remarkable record in the WyCo Championships where his teams finished in first place every time but one. "He was like a friend to us. I always had fun with him and my other teammates. The program is going to miss him," senior Brenna Holt added.
"In stride, senior Brenna Holt swims her best freestyle during the first home meet of the season. "Swimming introduced me to a lot of new people and I will miss competing with my friends," Holt said.

A sendoff with

Squad says farewell to head coach

The small but mighty Lady Braves swim team used their lower-than-normal numbers to grow closer together while still achieving best times by rallying around head coach Preston Williams’ final season.

They opened the season at the Topeka Invitational where sophomore Nicole Ashford hit state consideration times in the 100 breaststroke and in the 50 freestyle. Unfortunately, both events were filled with full qualification times at the state meet.

"I was really mad at myself for not getting it, but I know God has a plan for me in swimming and has bigger things in the future," Ashford said.

In the second meet of the season at Lansing, the entire team posted personal bests. The team’s success would carry over to the highly awaited Wyco home meet on May 10, where they placed second overall with the top six individuals and top four relays earning medals.

"My favorite moments were sharing the excitement and satisfaction of a personal best time," said Williams, who is departing after five years.

The squad finished the year by saying a fond farewell to Williams with a pair of goggles because they always borrowed his and a signed "floatie."

"The relationships will be what I miss the most; the relationships with athletes, administration, parents, teachers and other coaches. There are some outstanding people involved with high school swimming in Kansas," Williams said.

"Being a part of the team was the biggest thing for me. I enjoyed the instruction I received from my coaches and peers at practice."

- Aeriana Ortiz, 9

"My most memorable moment was seconds before our relay team was supposed to swim and we made everyone wait because we were the only ones not ready."

- Hadley Russell, 9

"I swam the 500 because I was one of the only ones that could. It felt great to have that skill and be able to swim a different kind of race."

- Jenna McDonnell, 11

I enjoyed being able to grow with the team as well as on my own and it’s taught me to put my all in what I do.

- Hayli Spencer, 12
Ending the year with just 14 players did not stop the tennis team from achieving big goals.

"It was the smallest team we have had in years, but they really improved and were a lot of fun to work with every day," head coach Bill Scott said.

The hard work from this small team could be seen when they finished third overall in their own invitational tournament on April 11.

The team also placed second at the Leavenworth Invitational and claimed their first dual win over Lawrence High School in 39 years.

"It was so satisfying to win those close matches at Lawrence that we usually don't pull out," Scott said.

During the off season, the No. 1 doubles team of juniors Foster Hoch and Coleton Nelson made it their goal to return to the state meet, a goal they accomplished through hard work and dedication.

"Throughout the year they [Hoch and Nelson] became an even better doubles team, learning how to attack the net and return serves," Scott said.

After compiling a 13-4 regular-season record, the duo went 3-1 at regionals, punching their ticket for the state meet at Harmon Park.

The boys opened play with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Larned High School. They lost in the second round to McPherson, the eventual champions, and then defeated both Chanute teams. On day two, they lost to Wichita Trinity and Buhler but defeated Scott City, 9-7.

"We kept our heads up and beat the teams we needed to beat to make it into the medal round," Hoch said.

And the boys did just that, going 4-3 and earning 11th-place medals, the first for the program since 2005.

"Making it to the second day was a big deal," Hoch said. "It was a baby step towards our ultimate goal of winning State. We were really happy with our performance."

- Kailyn Rose
Anticipating the ball, junior Mason Dobbs prepares to return a shot with a two-fisted backhand at a home dual against Bishop Miege on March 28. Dobbs won his match 8-5 and finished the season with a combined singles and doubles record of 7-17.

One of two seniors, Noah Wyant watches the ball intently while competing at home. Wyant finished the season with a 2-4 singles record and a 2-1 doubles record.

With concentration, junior Luis Flores returns a volley during the April 3 dual against Maranatha Academy. Flores lost his match 6-1 but would go on to finish the season with a 4-5 singles record.

Powerfully and precisely, junior Foster Hoch serves during the Bonner Springs Invitational on April 11. Hoch placed second in the tournament in No. 1 singles.

"The biggest difference in playing varsity was that I had to play against tougher players. I also had to hit the ball correctly in order to get it in. My hardest match was at an all-day tournament where I finished third."

- Samuel Harris, 11

"Going into the season I thought I was going to be the worst on the team because it was my first year. But after the first week, I was ranked No. 7. Once I made varsity, I started to practice with the varsity players, and they gave me a lot of trouble and a lot of help. Going to regionals was a good learning experience. I learned how important it is to know your opponent and how they play."

- Jack Stanley, 9
Senior

ADVICE

"Always go as hard as you can in practice and never give up. You practice how you play."
- Ashley Crigger

"Don’t let small mistakes get into your head. Shake them off, relax and play the game. Don’t let the game play you."
- Kaylie Gibson

Winding up, starting junior pitcher Meliyah Venerable sends a curveball to home during a complete game shutout against De Soto. "Even though it was a tough season for us, we came together and became closer as a team," said Venerable, who totalled eight strikeouts in the 13-0 win.

Arm loaded back, junior catcher Halie Thompson looks to throw a runner out at third at a home game against Lansing. "I like catching because I am the leader of the team on the field and I get a lot of action," said Thompson, who led the team in extra-base hits with 11.

A game of EMOTIONS

After her first career grand slam, sophomore Addie Gibson rounds the bases with mixed emotions. "My grandpa passed away in October and he was my biggest fan. He couldn’t wait to hear about my games and always wanted to know how I did and how many hits I got. After I hit my grand slam, I called my mom first and she didn’t pick up, so I called my grandma. When I called her to tell her she said ‘You know grandpa is proud’ and then I lost it," Gibson said.

Slopping the ball, senior lead-off hitter Kennedee Meier looks to get on base. "I am going to miss all of the girls; I would not have wanted to play my last season with any other group," said Meier, who led the team with 25 stolen bases.

Second Team
Kennedee Meier
Meliyah Venerable

Honorable Mention
Lacey Coffman
Paris Forshey
Working to change the 
CULTURE

Lady Braves put up impressive numbers

Despite a tough year based on participation numbers and injuries, the senior led Lady Braves pulled together to capture six wins.

"I am proud of all the girls for pushing through the season and helping fill in spots they do not necessarily play in order to compete with the strong group of league teams we had this year," said second-year head coach Mindy Valdivia.

The pitching staff was anchored by junior Melyah Venerable, who tossed two shutouts.

"The shutout against De Soto in the season opener really made me feel good because they killed us last year, and we knew that would happen again if we weren’t prepared," Venerable said. "We worked really hard to keep that from happening.

Valdivia said one of the team’s best efforts came in the first round of regionals with an impressive 10-0 win over Bishop Meige.

"They really stepped up together and played through their errors to get the win," Valdivia said.

Offensively the team was led by Venerable, who hit a team-leading .455, with 21 RBIs. Junior Hallie Thompson wasn’t far behind with a .443 average and a team-leading nine doubles. SeniorPairs Forshey hit .417 and led the team in home runs with three.

Valdivia is optimistic about the future of the program.

"We plan to continue to change the culture to develop our student athletes into well-rounded accountable individuals that pursue excellence both on and off the field," Valdivia said.

- Nick Passinesi

WORTH THE WAIT

"Playing on varsity was a lot of fun and it was exciting to be part of a high level team. I was a little nervous at first because I wasn’t sure what to expect. I was not used to playing against so many older girls but the upperclassmen on my team made the transition a lot easier. I was awarded Honorable Mention for the KVL. It felt really good to know that even though the season didn’t go how we wanted it to, coaches were still seeing the hard work that I was putting in."

- Lacey Coffman, 9
Reading the green on hole 18, junior Josh Williams looks to sink his putt for birdie. "Staying longer and working after practice helped improve my overall game and working on my short game helped me shave strokes off," Williams said.

Concentrating on his next shot, sophomore Andrew VanWinkle prepares for his next putt in a junior varsity tournament at Sunflower Hills on April 17. VanWinkle shot a 94 to capture first place.

At the season opener, junior Gunnar Islas looks to chip the ball onto the green for a birdie. "I started to focus more at practice and I took my time on every shot to improve my level of play from JV to varsity. I enjoyed playing on varsity more than JV because my friends pushed me to accomplish my goals," Islas said.

Q&A with Logan Clouse

What were your goals heading into the season?
To medal in a varsity tournament and to shoot in the 80s. I achieved both of those goals at the league meet at Falcon Lakes. Next year, I hope to go to State and to average in the low 80s.

What was the highlight of your season?
Shooting a personal-best 89 at the league meet, which led me to the all-KVL first team.

What was your favorite course to play on?
Falcon Lakes is my favorite because it just feels like something that I can handle. I also like the Sycamore Ridge course because the sand is white like you'll find in Destin, Florida.

What advice would you give to younger golfers?
I know it is hard not to get mad but in the long run it helps if you don't. Take your time and you'll have a better shot.

- Logan Clouse, 11
The Braves golf team accomplished many goals this season with all of the golfers shooting a personal best and the team posting a 361 at the league meet, their best score in two years.

Head coach David Walker's team goal was being more competitive in all of the team's tournaments, especially at league.

"I think we accomplished our goal. We were in the top half of most of our tournaments and finished fourth in league, just a few strokes from second place," Walker said.

The Braves were led by junior Michael Williams, who finished the year with a tour average of 91.4, with his season-best score of 84 coming at the Atchison Invitational.

"The season was a roller coaster in terms of my scores," Williams said. "I had some pretty good days, but I also had some not-so-good ones. My season highlight was recording my first Eagle on a par 5 at Atchison."

With five of the six varsity spots being filled by juniors who are all good friends, the friendly inner competition of the team helped push every golfer's game to new levels.

Junior Logan Clouse saw the effects of this rivalry after his success at the KVL Championships where he finished ninth.

"When I placed at league, I had a target on my back. The rest of the team started to push themselves to beat me," Clouse said.

Williams was named the team's "Golfer of the Year" while sophomore Zane DeLeon was the given the "Most Improved" award for improving his stroke average the most.

- Nick Passinesco

WORTH THE WAIT

"My favorite memory this season was probably our Lansing tournament because we finished fourth as a team overall and because I had my season best score of 87 to place fifth. My goal was to improve from last year, which I did by practicing a lot more and by staying more focused during those practices. I would have to say my favorite course is Sycamore Hills in Spring Hill. It's beautiful and extremely well-maintained."

- Chris Delinar, 11
From your Creators

2017 Totem Pole Staff

Front Row: Kenny Couch, Karly Brungardt, Bella Thomas, Maryam Zlitni, Harland Zamora.
Row 2: Ginny Harlcy, Stephanie Best, Kaitlyn Rose, Jenna McDonnell, Anna Dutton, Isabel Herrera, adviser Jill Holder.

Business: Jenna McDonnell and Alyssa Carpenter

Student Life: Eli VanWinkle, Zach Nichols and Maryam Zlitni

Panels: Kailene Hill, Stephanie Best, Lexi McCleary and Isabel Herrera

Editors-in-Chief: Anna Dutton, adviser Jill Holder and Summer Ney

Academics: Ginny Harlcy, Harland Zamora, Kenny Couch and Karly Brungardt

Sports: Melyiah Venerable, Bella Thomas, Kaitlyn Rose and Nick Passinesi

98 ▶ Student Life
Dear Yerds,

What a journey it has been. From our first days of team-building activities to our last sundae goodbye, it has been our pleasure to be able to get to know and work with each of you. Thanks for putting up with our "feels" music and deadline season mood swings. We know you will continue to use the skills we taught you to make next year's baby just as adorable as the years before.

Nick and Karly: We feel confident in your abilities to lead a staff, design a book and take care of Mama Holder. Nick, you've gone from being the kid who slid into our chairs every day to someone who constantly surprised us by cracking up spreads and handling everything we threw your way. Karly, your radiant personality and eye for design are irreplaceable. We couldn't be more excited to turn over the reins to you both (but never forget whose stools you're actually sitting on). "Next year will be a Nasty year."

Maryam and Jenna: Your photog abilities and leadership qualities will make you great role models for next year's staff. Keep the passion for photography alive for us, make sure to get excited to show your amazing pics to Mama and wow everyone else with "the shot." Jen, keep up the great work on business ads and persevere through the beast of senior ads. We will miss both of your warm, daily hugs. Keep the party going!

Meliah and Bella: Our sports goddesses, you two took this role and ran with it. Meliah, thanks for putting up with all of your janky computer stuff. . . sorry 'bout that. You always came to your work sessions with Mama dedicated to finishing your spread, and you helped us out a lot. Bella, you came to dominate on your spreads as well as at KSPA. We appreciated all your hard work and dedication to making the sports section great.

Harland and Kenny: The boys who always kept us on our toes and rolling on the floor laughing while giving us a few grey hairs along the way. Harland, your unexpected Christmas gift to Anna is still her favorite . . . although she did not appreciate all the threats of being pushed into the trash can. Kenny, even though Sum had to use her "veto" power on your spreads sometimes, you were a strong asset to the team. No one else would've had the dedication to learn Anna's tumbling trick. Stay winilid, you two.

Alysa: You left us far too soon. A lot of your work was "under cover" but don't think we didn't notice what a work of art your senior ads were. You are definitely the life of the party and our 10:15s were never the same without you. Great work this year, and thanks for everything.

Ginny and Zach: Ginny, you are a ray of sunshine who always turned a bad day around. You doubted yourself a little in the beginning, but we never did. Thanks for all your unique ideas and out-of-the-box thinking. Zach, you were a little late to the party, but what you lacked in time you made up for in talent. We knew that you would make a great addition and you didn't disappoint. Good luck to you both next year.

Kailene and Isabel: Our new panels babies! You two really put in the work this year. Not only did you make the panels look spicy but you even learned how to make a beautiful traditional spread. Kailene, thanks for always being eager to shoot when no one else was. Keep up the good work next year girliess!

Eli and Stephanie: Eli, bless your heart for dealing with cards even when things got hectic. You were such a great addition to the staff, but above all else, thanks for being a great friend. Steph, you are the spellcheck queen! We could always count on you to catch any slip-ups made and that helped us out so much. It has been so great working with you both. Thanks for the positivity!

Lexi and Kadyn: You two have been a great leadership team, always in sync. Lexi, there are no words for how thankful we are for all the magic you worked. We really couldn't have done this without you. Kadyn, thanks for taking on the challenge of the sports group pages as well as managing your section. You are a rock star. We've all survived this journey that is yearbook together and had a blast along the way.

Mama Holder: To try to sum up everything we want to say to you in one small paragraph is next to impossible. You've been more to us than just an adviser. You made Room 101 a second home for long worknights and early Saturday mornings. You were a second mom to us, which stood true while you listened to all of our boy problems, college fears and anything else in our lives. Without you, we wouldn't be the editors we are now or have developed our most important love of photography. The bond the three of us made is irreplaceable, and we can't wait to continue it for years to come. It was our honor to make so many memories with you and make baby Jack together.

Each and every one of you were vital to this book. We had so much fun along the way and made lifelong friendships and memories. This book truly was what we've been waiting for.

-Sanna
With a look of gratitude, Jacky Burnett turns to applaud her family before the end of the ceremony. This year’s significantly revamped ceremony was finished in just under an hour.

In the moment, Cody Wilson enjoys a tender embrace from his sister and nephew immediately after commencement.

After receiving her diploma, Lisa Moser gets a hug from English teacher Allen Holder. The senior class chose Holder and Science teacher Jan Madlock to hand out diplomas.

A LETTER FROM THE PAST

Looking back on memories, Sarah Brown and Stephanie Best enjoy seeing the letters they created when they were in the eighth grade at Clark Middle School. After checking in their Chromebooks and getting their caps and gowns, seniors lingered in the cafeteria to enjoy what they had written several years ago.
At the end of the ceremony, Summer Ney celebrates her last moments as a Bonner Brave. "The entire night was so surreal," said Ney. "I had been anticipating graduation for 13 years and I couldn't believe it was time."

The last senior to walk, Sabria Zlini is all smiles. "I was nervous because everyone was watching me," Zlini said. "I was looking forward to hugging Mr. Holder and Mrs. Madlock."

In his U.S. Army sash, Nathan Sprawl awaits his diploma. "I decided to join the Army because it was the right thing to do and because it will help me in my future," Sprawl said.

HONOR GRADUATES
Front Row: Valedictorian Sydney Sprague, Salutatorian Jessica Willmon, Valedictorian Peyton Capehart, Valedictorian Anna Dutton.

Addressing the crowd, featured speaker Jennifer Stricherz offers advice to the senior class. Stricherz made a dramatic entrance by having Wood Tech instructor Ryan Mellick bring her a "soap box" to speak from. Half of the class had Stricherz for two years as their English tribe teacher.
Seniors

2017
Most likely to be on **BROADWAY**

Jordan Shiao, Michael Murphy, Rachel Mauk

Most **ADVENTUROUS**

Eric Valenzuela & Kayla Willis

Partners in **CRIME**

Brenna Holt & Alayna Daoley

Born in the wrong **DECADE**

Jordan Thaxton & Brendon Lawrence

Always **SMILING**

Summer Ney & Jarod Mortensen

Whenever I see someone with a smile on their face and a bright attitude it projects to me and automatically turns my mood around. I hope to be that person who always radiates a positive energy and turns someone’s day around. Plus I don’t want those unattractive frown lines when I age.

- Summer Ney

*Being nominated by my classmates for always smiling certainly does make me smile, but then I’m always smiling about everything. I’m just happy all the time. I was raised to be happy. My parents taught me to always be happy with what you have and what you’re given.*

- Jarod Mortensen
Most likely to be a MILLIONAIRE

I don't think I'll ever be a millionaire. None of the fields making that kind of money interest me. I've always wished I could donate more, so most of it would be donated. If I were a millionaire, my house would be pretty small, but it would have an amazing library. I have a lot of plans for money, but no plans to be a millionaire. I might be putting the cart before the horse here.

- Peyton Capehart

"I think I could be a millionaire. I want to be a sports agent, so it will be hit or miss. If I became a millionaire, I would buy a boat and live my entire life on the ocean and eventually buy a big plot of land with animals. It's an honor and I will try to make everyone proud."

- Parker Capehart

Sayra Serrano & Eli VanWinkle

Most SPIRITED

Parker Capehart & Peyton Capehart

Biggest BROMANCE

Best to bring HOME TO MOM

Should've been a COUPLE

Thomas Fehlhafer & Tanner Hitchcock

Caleb Brungardt & Anna Dutton

Marissa Satterfield & Brett McPherson

Senior Favorites • 105
WORDs OF WISDOM

"Stay focused on your goals and don't let anyone hinder them no matter what. Always be yourself and don't pay attention to the haters of the world."

- Cauvier Ford

"As stupid as it sounds, do your work. If your work is done, then you won't have to catch up and life will be easier. These years are supposed to be the greatest, but not every day will be the best. You've just got to stay positive."

- Alex Broderick

"Don't procrastinate; plain and simple. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Have you somewhat to do tomorrow, do it today.""

- Hunter Amego

Keion Bradley  Alex Broderick  Chris Broome  Sarah Brown  Terry Bruce

Caleb Brungardt  Cameron Buck  Jay'on Burgin  Jacky Burnett  Hannah Buttaccio

Vanessa Calderon  Alan Callahan  Judah Capalla  Parker Capehart  Peyton Capehart
My Biggest Influence

"My biggest influences in high school have been Ms. Martin and Mrs. Stricherz. Last year in Chemistry I struggled a lot, but going in after school helped immensely. Ms. Martin was always willing to help when I needed it. Mrs. Stricherz was my English teacher for two years and she helped me learn a lot about writing. She was also my KAY sponsor for three years and has made the club a lot of fun. What I like most about Mrs. Stricherz is that she is easy to get along with and she always gives good advice."

- Stephanie Best

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Seniors 107
BATTLING SENIORITIS

"I didn’t have a full week of school all first semester. I either texted my parents to call me out or I begged them the night before not to make me go. I waited to do all of my assignments until the night before and if that isn’t stress, I don’t know what is."

- Alysa Carpenter

"I try to do all of my homework in one night, so I don’t have to worry about it for the rest of the week. No matter how much sleep I get, I’m never not tired. I’m basically a walking zombie nowadays."

- Lacey Dean

"Senioritis is something you can’t really avoid and the stress will always be a factor. It’s hard to stay motivated when you’re really close to the end. But working through it will build character, creating opportunities for your own success."

- Diamond Carroll

108 > Seniors
"My dream school is American University of Paris. I applied in September and found out that I was accepted in November. I freaked out when I got the acceptance letter. Yet after considering AUP's acceptance, I decided not to attend and will instead attend Kansas State University. I had found that staying in Kansas was more beneficial to me in the long run. I also felt as though I could always study abroad if I really wanted to. Currently, I have a full ride to KSU and I plan to double major in biology and psychology with a minor in music."

- Megan Willmen
At the end of freshman year, Ricky Skaggs gave me a parking spot that he said was mine and no one else could park there. Once I became a senior, I parked there and I have parked there ever since and nobody has tried to take it. I feel like that is a sign of good luck.  
- Delan Kite

I was driving out of the parking lot, and I wasn’t really paying attention but all of the sudden my truck jerked forward. I looked behind me to see a frightened junior, who had just hit me. My radio fell out because of the impact, but it was easily fixed. No harm, no foul.  
- Haley Lohmann

Noah Wyatt once rammed his car into the back of mine while I was pulling out of the parking lot. He gave me a bowl of cereal for the damages.  
- Kiara Diaz
"Just as you start to think senior year is going to be smooth and easy, you get smacked in the face with a research paper; a research paper that requires many hours of blood, sweat and tears. And at this moment, you start contemplating your very existence. To top it off, this is only during first semester. Second semester was better because you didn’t have to write the paper; second semester was more about refining it. Overall, I did pretty well on the paper."

- Brendan Orahood
Anjelina Davidson
Seth Davidson
Hannah Davis
KeAndre Davis

Samantha Davis
Tyra Davis
Sheila Deal
Alyssa Deeter

Shelby Denning
Mason Dobbs
Christopher Dolinar
Ryan Downing

Kelsey Driskill
Katelynn Drydale
Anna Eddy
Jack Faggsworth

Luis Flores Duarte
Isaac Florez
Madison Frank
Makensie Frank

Samantha Franz
Dakota Gibson
Emmalouise Givens
Martina Glenn

Laura Gonzales
Taylor Gray
Nicolas Gregg
Destiny Grier

"I was tired and playing 10/10 at about 10:30 at night and went into the other lane while a car was coming."
- Trae Waskul

"I was out with a couple of my friends and we went to a house that we'd never been to before. I was backing out of the driveway and I hit a fire hydrant. I ended up ripping off my mom's bumper, so that was tough."
- Camden Mayfield

"My worst driving experience was when I backed into a dumpster at Dairy Queen because I had just gotten the car the weekend before."
- Mallory Williams
Hunter McKinzie
Groce Myers
Chasity McKeen
Andrea McMillan
Alexander Mejia
Clair Menthusen
Nicklaus Mock
Isaiah Moeschler
Juan Monroy Carbajal
Alyssa Murphy
Hunter Murphy
Gracie Myers
Hailey Nagorney
Coleton Nelson
Jada Neu
Zachary Nichols
Megan Nolan
Coleton Oakes
Skyler Ochoa
Emily Ordoz-Espinosa
Demetrious Palmer
Arica Parks
Kassandra Pasquale
Nickolas Passinise
Montana Patch
Savanna Patch

"Inception describes my life because I'm living the dream. Or Titanic because my life is a wreck."
- Madison Frank

"Titanic describes my life. My life is sinking because of junior year, wonder how much harder senior year will be."
- Andrew Christensen

"The One Direction movie because I'm heading in one direction and that direction is up."
- Lauren Cannon-Gallagher

"Ratatouille, because I look like a rat and I want to be a chef."
- Juan Serrano
Where did you go?
I went to China.

How long were you there?
We were there for two weeks.

Who did you go with?
We met a few people there, but it was mainly my dad and this guy named Tim.

Why did you go?
It was for a mission trip; my dad was talking to international students.

What were some of the coolest things you saw there?
The Beijing airport, the Great Wall of China and the bullet train we went on. We saw a lot of open land with people farming on it.

- Chris Delinar

Where did you go?
Over the summer, I went to Utah and Cancun with friends and family.

How long were you there?
I was in Utah for a week and I went to Cancun for another full week.

Why did you go?
Just for fun. My cousin wanted to spend her birthday in Mexico, so we went and celebrated it there.

What were some of the most amazing things you saw?
In Utah, we walked around and saw all the mountains. The view was perfect.
In Cancun, we toured a huge outdoor aquatic attraction where we got to go scuba diving and see dolphins. We also took a tour of an ancient pyramid in the city of Chichen Itza. That was an amazing experience.

- Montserrat Lopez
Waiting for my QUINCEANERA

"Waiting for my quinceanera on Sept. 3 was probably one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Having a quinceanera is an amazing opportunity but all of the planning and decision-making was extremely stressful. The hardest part was getting a group of friends and family together to dedicate their time to dance the waltz and the surprise dance was harder than I thought. The outcome was amazing. If I had the opportunity to do it again, I would keep everything the same."

- Isabel Herrera
Upperclassmen

Crushes

Taylor Collins
Breeanna Culum
Raymond Cook
Riley Cook

Kenneth Couch
Shelby Cox
Allie Craig
Amber Curtis

Jazmine Curtis
Michael Daniels
Zane DeLeon
Tanya Diaz

Allison Dill
Alyssa Dominguez
Kameron Drydale
Mariah Duarte-Martínez

Abigail Dunn
Tristan Eddy
Jasmine Elmore
Kaleb Erloee

Jacob Ewell
Tatum Fagan
Dalton Felix
Gabriel Ferris

Valerie Flores-Espino
Carrah Fraker
Crystal Fraker
Erin Freed

Mackensi Freese
Thomas Freeze
Jacob Fritz
Cylusce Garcia

Ginny Hartley with
Zach Nichols
"My favorite thing about him is that he
knows exactly how to make me laugh."

Alexandra Bautista with
Trey Whistle
"He is really cute and it seems like he
has a great personality. I really like his
smile and his dimples.

Kassandra Green with
Gunnar Iles
"I have a crush on him because he's hot
inside and out. #Kunnar2k17"
Waiting for my **PET DOVES**

"I really enjoy owning pet doves. I got my first dove about two years ago. I wasn’t really looking to get a pet dove, but one day when I was taking my dogs out I found a dove on my porch. She was already hand-tamed, and we decided to keep her. In August, I got the second dove that I had been waiting for. I take them out of their cages to hold them and I let them fly around several times a week. They eat a bird seed mix made for doves."

- Michayla Alder
Name: Cylsce Garcia
Pet peeve: When people decide to crack their knuckles and then decide to start cracking every bone in their body. It cringes.
Favorite food: All the carbs.
Hidden talent: Don't have one that is hidden.
Favorite show on Netflix: "The Fosters" and "Baby Daddy."
Nobody knows that... I love to write, things like poems or stories.

Name: Julian Romo
Pet peeve: Lending something to someone, but not getting it back.
Favorite food: Pizza.
Hidden talent: None.
Favorite show on Netflix: "Parks and Recreation."
Nobody knows that... I have a younger sister.
"Mr. Schlitz’s hall pass broke, so I asked him if he wanted me to make him a new one. I drew something up over the weekend and he loved it. I couldn’t decide if I should make him pay for it, so I asked Mr. Mellick. He said he usually charges a couple of doughnuts or a soda. I wasn’t doing very well in Mr. Schlitz’s class, so I asked for extra credit in exchange. I was thinking about asking for 40 extra credit points, but he said he would only give me 20. It was one of the best extra credit projects I’ve ever done and brought my grade to a "B."

- Zane DeLeon
Behind the WHEEL

"One time, I was driving down a very narrow exit, and I didn't know where I was but my dad was in the passenger seat. There was a truck parked on the shoulder of the road and he suddenly merged left where I was. I wasn't paying attention and my dad grabbed the wheel from the passenger seat and swerved left away from the truck and we passed it without crashing."

- Isaac Morris

"Last August, I was trying to pass a bus but there was a dead deer in my lane. I couldn't switch lanes because I would have run into the side of the bus, so I just pressed on my brakes and ran over it. My mom said I handled the situation perfectly."

- Chelsie Millsap

"One driving rule I never forget is that you're not supposed to pass a railroad track when the lights are flashing. I was doing driver's ed with Mr. White and we had to get done early, but ended up impatiently waiting on this train. It stopped next to the road, so there was room to go but the bars were down. It was like this for a while and we both thought about driving through."

- Mason Hadley
Paradee Alongkornvilai
Jordan Anders
Isabel Atteberry
Seth Bachman
Reese Bacon

Destiny Baker
Jack Barger
Hannah Bartholome-Kraus
Savannah Beach
Reagan Bell

Cole Bellm
Hunter Bender
Kaleigh Benefield
Jason Blanton
Samantha Bradley

Rachael Buck
Nicholas Buie
Ethan Byers
Catherine Calderon
Kelsey Callahan

**Nicknames**

Emma Malone AKA Peachy Meme

"This nickname was given to me by my buddies Jill and Lance. Peachy comes from my Instagram username @peachy.emma and my love for memes. I've had the nickname for a month or two. I like this nickname and I think it represents me well."

Kelsey Callahan AKA Miss Piggy

"I don't know how I do it, but I make this weird noise whenever I get bored and it makes people laugh. My best friend [Kathleen Peaks] started calling me Miss Piggy."

Cathy Calderon AKA Belle

"My best friends and I were giving each other nicknames from Disney movies, and they immediately said 'Belle' for me because they always see me with a book or giving references from a book."

Sherwin Carroll
Gabriella Chavez

Evan Chladny
Autumn Clark

Jadyn Clark
Katelyn Calen
Lacey Coffman
Carly Coleman
Dustin Cox
Chandler Crane

Nadine Daniels
Ethan Davila
Asia Davis
Savannah Davis

Daniel Deal
Sabrina Denning
Jose Devault
Alejandra Diaz

Dylan Dock
Blake Dotson
Brock Duckworth
Shelby Dutton

Justice Eckstein
Camden Eckstrom
Jacob Farmer
Imir Fernandez

Derrick Ferris
Lillian Frokes
Madison Gilmore
Noah Gilwen

Kendrik Gonzalez
Maria Gonzalez
Alexander Grecco
Krane Green

Alexis McGee with
Thomas Feilker
"I have a crush on him because I think
he seems like a very sweet person and I
think he is cute too."

Cyrus Shaw with
Aubrey VanWinkle & Kennedy Meier
"I think they're both really cute, really
nice and just all-around great people."

Carmelle Welrhaehn with
Karly Brennillard
"Karly's very pretty and athletic, and she
has a nice smile."
What’s in your **MAKEUP BAG?**

"Lots of makeup. Last winter, I spent a little over $400 on makeup so I’ve been resisting the temptation to purchase any more. I never leave the store without spending at least $40, which is ridiculous, but I love makeup. Each day I spend an overwhelming amount of time doing my makeup, which takes anywhere from 40 minutes to almost two hours. Many people think I wear it for attention, but I don’t. Doing my makeup is not a must for me, but I like feeling confident about my appearance. I don’t have anyone to impress, even when I’m at home with my family and friends, but will still do my makeup. I feel comfortable without it, but I enjoy having it on."

*Gabbie Chavez*
My First DETENTION

“I got my first detention with Mr. Jackson for asking why the school couldn’t afford to spend thousands of dollars on books but couldn’t afford good food. I deserved it because it was the wrong time to make that comment. I would say it again because it’s true.”

- Dominic Jacobs

“I haven’t had a detention at the high school, but I did get one with Mrs. Wiley at the middle school for hitting a classmate with a pair of tongs.”

- Brianna Refols

“I got my first detention for hallway surfing. I can’t remember who gave me the detention, but I don’t think I deserved it because I was just having fun.”

- Bryce Krone
Preston Syndor
Johnathan Tapia
Dylan Taylor
Nathaniel Taylor

Alexandra Thaxton
Kade Thomas
Jewlia Torres
Jacob Trout

Abigail Tucker
Donald Van Dyken
Abigail VanWinkle
Mackenzie Vasquez

Mary Vaughn
Genna Wacker
David Ward
Sierra Ward

Adriana Washington
Armani Washington
Carnelle Wehrhahn
Kimberly Wheatstone

Mykael White
Abigail Williams
Anthony Willmon
Brittany Willmon

Angelina Willoughby
Dylan Woods
Thaddeus Xiong
Peyton Young

Cameron and Caleb Bellon
“One way having an older sibling in the same school affects me is the teachers call me by the wrong name, but it only really happens at the beginning of the year.”
- Caleb Bellon

Lacey and Klayton Coffman
“The worst part about having an older sibling in the same school is that sometimes people don’t know my name and just call me ‘Klayton’s little sister. Sometimes it makes me mad, but I’m used to it by now.”
- Lacey Coffman

Abigail, Andrew, Aubrey and Eli VanWinkle
“People are surprised to find out there is a VanWinkle sibling in each grade. It can be hard having the same teachers because they expect you to be just like them. Mr. Johnson calls me Aubrey sometimes, but in the end it’s fun.”
- Abigail VanWinkle
Cinda Arnett, Paraprofessional
Tina Ashford, Paraprofessional
Parker Ast, Special Education
Nancy Baker, English
Allison Bertels, Social Studies
Maria Betzen, Paraprofessional

Stephanie Billet, Guidance Counselor
Colleen Boerner, Cafeteria
Kim Bolewski, Nurse
Miranda Bradshaw, Special Education
Dan Burns, Industrial Technology
Heather Campbell, Mathematics

Denise Chowning, Social Worker
Crystal Coleman-Richardson, PE
Jessica Conner, Fine Arts
Spencer Davidson, Special Education
Anthony Davis, School Resource Officer
Eric De La Rosa, Technology Integration Specialist

Debbie Dearth, Paraprofessional
Julie Deason, Paraprofessional
Adie DeLeon, Business
Matt Dow, Business
Bill Downing, English
Matt Dunning, Vice Principal

Trisha Elder, Science
Josh Fahlgren, Social Studies
Jeffrey Gibbens, ISS Supervisor
Sherry Graf, Cafeteria
Nicole Hand, Cafeteria
Jarrett Hernandez, Paraprofessional

Michelle Hickey, Science
Don Hilliard, Vice Principal
Samantha Hinkle, Cafeteria
Doug Hitchcock, Athletic Director
Allen Holder, English
Jill Holder, Journalism

Anne Holt, Secretary
Kelly Hoopes, Foreign Language
Jacquelyn Houghton, Special Education
Clint Jackson, Mathematics
Brandon Jobe, PE
Jacob Johnson, Mathematics  
Lewis Kasselman, Paraprofessional  
Eric Kinney, PE  
Sarah Kalte, Mathematics  
Adam Loecker, Mathematics  
Lisa Lugar, English  

Katrina Martin, Science  
Lindsay McCracken, English  
Judie McDonnell, Paraprofessional  
Tyler McManus, Social Studies  
Ryan Mellick, Industrial Technology  
Rick Moulin, Principal  

LaDrew Murrell, PE  
Jenny Myers, Social Studies  
Loriann Neighbors, Foreign Language  
Clay Oakes, Science  
Linda Orangkhadi, Special Education  
Beth Otto, FACS  

Karen Parsons, Paraprofessional  
Sarah Peterson, Foreign Language  
Iva Powers, Media Center Manager  
Terese Quenette, Social Studies  
Anita Randall, Registrar  
Herman Randall, Paraprofessional  

Samantha Rodman, Counselor  
Jason Romanishin, Fine Arts  
Tamara Root, Cafeteria  
Mark Schiltz, Social Studies  
Dawn Sommers, FACS  
Tim Sostarich, Journalism  

Renee Stanley, Bookkeeper  
Cindy Stephens, Secretary  
Shawna Stevenson, Special Education  
Jennifer Strichars, Success Center  
Billie Taylor, Science  
Jimmy Taylor, Custodian  

Lisa Terrell, Counselor  
Bill Turley, Instrumental Music  
Kerry Wixon, Instrumental Music  
Virginia Yewell, English  
Jennifer Ziller, Cafeteria  

Staff
FOOTBALL
Tanner W. 92:13
DeSoto W. 0:06
Piper L. 20:33
Tonganoxie W. 21:12
Basehor-Linwood L. 16:45
Prairiefire W. 53:33
Pittsburg L. 14:35
Lansing W. 21:7
Lansing W. 43:10
St. Thomas Aquinas L. 14:42
Record: 5-3

VARSITY SOCCER
Shawnee Heights L. 5-1
Tonganoxie N. 2-7
Leavenworth L. 1-5
Bishop Seabury W. 5-3
Lansing L. 2-5
Shawnee Mission North L. 4-3
Louisburg L. 0-4
Baldwin L. 0-5
Spring Hill L. 0-3
Topeka Seaman L. 0-10
Ottawa L. 2-4
Fort Scott W. 4-0
Piper L. 0-0
Bishop Ward W. 2-2
Turner L. 1-2
Basehor-Linwood L. 0-6
Archdson W. 3-1
Bishop Miege L. 0-10
Record: 4-14

CROSS COUNTRY
Boys Girls
Perry Lecompton 8th 10th
Tanner 8th 11th
Shawnee 9th NP
Ottawa NP NP
Prairiefire NP NP
KV L 5th 4th
Topeka West 5th 4th
Wyco 1st 1st


Fall Sports Groups • 135
# Winter Sports Groups

**Boys Varsity Basketball**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>28-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmon</td>
<td>31-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellsville</td>
<td>43-32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrisonville</td>
<td>29-49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basehor-Linwood</td>
<td>20-42</td>
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<tr>
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<td>40-45</td>
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<td>Lansing</td>
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<td>Baldwin</td>
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**Girls Varsity Basketball**

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<td>Augusta</td>
<td>L 56-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paola</td>
<td>L 57-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Ward</td>
<td>L 66-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner</td>
<td>L 48-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piper</td>
<td>L 73-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Ward</td>
<td>L 58-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basehor-Linwood</td>
<td>L 29-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonganawie</td>
<td>L 62-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>L 71-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Miege</td>
<td>L 52-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record:</strong></td>
<td>12-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wrestling**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riley County Tournament</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick Burns Mat Classic</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNW Husky Inv</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEK Championships</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWCC Championships</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Hill Inv</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KVI, Championships</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionals</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A State</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Freshman Basketball**


---

**Junior Varsity Basketball**

*Front Row: Nathaniel Buckley, Nashon Porter, Bryant Stimac, Coby Henley, Drellyn Carroll, Camden Mayfield, Jackson Poe, Josiah Crowley.*


VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

Baldwin  L  0-1
Ottawa    W  9-0
Shawnee Heights L  0-2
Topeka Seaman L  0-0
Basehor-Linwood W  9-2
Lansing    L  0-4
Bishop Seabury W  7-0
Gardner-Edgerton L  1-4
Blue Valley SW W  10-0
Tonganoxie W  3-2
Piper     L  1-3
Bishop Ward W  11-0
Christ Prep Academy W  12-0
Spring Hill L  0-0
De Soto     L  0-7
Turner     W  12-2
Basehor-Linwood W  7-0
Lawrence  L  0-9
Record:  8-10

VARSITY GIRLS SOFTBALL

De Soto W  130 1 7-12
Lansing L  12-21 L 6-14
Turner  L  015 L  5-33
Tonganoxie L  69 2 L 7-12
Baldwin L 1-18 L 3-12
Piper     L  1-16 L  0-12
Washington W  19-2
Basehor-Linwood L 11-1 L 0-15
Leavenworth L  2-12
Sumner Academy W  23-7
Pittsburg L  6-22
Bishop Ward W  83 3 W 11-7
Bishop Miege W  100
Spring Hill L  1-8
Record:  6-16

VARSITY BOYS BASEBALL

Sumner Academy W 16-3
Turner W 79 3 W 6-1
Basehor W 31 3 W 8-3
Lansing L 617 L 3-10
Tonganoxie W 13-3 W 10-9
Eudora    L 01 L 4-11
Piper W 211 W 10-2
Veritas Christian 13-0
Holton     W 15-4
Spring Hill W 3-2
Paola     L 2-15
Bishop Ward W 11-2 W 10-4
Baldwin  L 2-9
Bishop Miege L 9-2
Record:  14-7

TRACK

Baldwin  9th 12th
Basehor Inv.  7th 6th
Baker Relays  5th 8th
Bonner Inv.  2nd 3rd
DeSoto Inv.  3rd 9th
Wellsville Inv.  12th 8th
KVL Meet  5th 5th
Regional  9th 13th
State  35th 29th

GOLF

Bonner Invitational  6th
Gardner Invitational  5th
Mill Valley Invitational  14th
Lansing Invitational  4th
Spring Hill Invitational  13th
Alhison Invitational  5th
Ottawa    2nd
KVL Championships  4th
Regional  7th


Clubs


MEN'S ENSEMBLE  Front Row:  Blake Wurtz, Devon Chitwood, Michael Murphy.  Row 2:  Colton Laster, Michael Unon, Joshua Mullins, Juan Vela-Olaez.


BRAVES FIGHTING BACK ▶ Front Row: Loriann Neighbors, Lacey Dean, Blake Wurtz, Peyton Capehart. Row 2: Marissa Satterfield, Sayra Serrano, Andrew Christensen, Sabria Zitini, Aloyna Tooley.

INTERNATIONAL THESPIANS ▶ Front Row: Jordan Shiao, Mikey Young, Marisa Young, Lillian Kaus, Claire Guerley. Row 2: Kameron Zimmerly, Juan Vela-Ortiz, Michael Unton, Jarod Mortensen, Hunter Amega.


Clubs 145
Alayna Dooley

Alayna,
We miss the little girl, but love the woman you are becoming. We love you so much and wish you love, health, and happiness always.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Joseph, and Travis

Paige Krone

We are so proud of the young lady you have become through the years. You have a bright future ahead.

Love you always,
Dad, Mom, & Bryce

Jay’on Burgin

Jay’on,
You are on Step 1 of many to pursuing your dreams.

Love,
Family
Dayton,  
You made it Monster! I know your dad is watching you with a proud heart. We couldn't be more proud of you. Watch out world; he's graduating!  
Love,  
Mom, David, Jacob, & Tatem

Terry Bruce  
Always remember,  
You are BRAVER than you believe, STRONGER than you seem, SMARTER than you think, and LOVED more than you know. Congratulations!  
We are very proud of you.  
Love you always,  
Mom, Ralph, and Jake

Amy,  
My sweet baby girl,  
You are brave, smart, talented beautiful girl with so much potential! You have been through so much in your short life, but it has made you stronger! You can do anything and be anything you want to be. You are going to do so many great things in your life! Fly baby girl! We love you so much!!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Ivan and Hunter!!

Tanner Hitchcock  
We are so proud to call you our son! The years of being with you and watching you grow have been an exciting journey. We only wish we could halt time as the years have gone by too fast. Congratulations on the next steps in your life. We are behind you 100 percent!
Sydney Sprague

Sydney,
It is important to remember that we all have magic inside us.
And now, Sydney, step out into the night and pursue that flighty tempress, ADVENTURE!
—J.K. Rowling
Be proud of all that you’ve accomplished! Enjoy the next chapter of your life!
Love,
Mom, Tyler, Payton, Mayson, Mikah, and Brady

Cheyenne Willmon

Cheyenne,
While closing this chapter, remember this is just one of many in your best-selling novel! Focus on what’s important, capture the good times, learn from the negatives, and when things don’t work out, JUST BREATHE and move forward. So proud of you!
Love Always,
Mom

Brendan Orahood

Our greatest joy has been watching you find your greatness. Continue to always ask why. Never let the world tell you no. Remember to always be humble and kind. Act as if Pop is always watching!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Shane & Shelby
"I’ll love you forever. I’ll like you for always. As long as I’m living ..."

Alysa Carpenter

Alysa,
Behind you, all your memories.
Before you, all your dreams.
Around you, all who love you.
Within you, all you need.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Erika, Annie, Katie, and Sam

Why fit in when you were born to stand out?
Stephanie Best

Stephanie,

Through your hard work you have made great accomplishments in your life. We are so proud of you! Never forget your foundation. Faith, Family, & Friends. Your future is bright — always strive to do your "BEST" and have FUN along the way!

We Love You Lots —
Mom, Dad & Blake

Mariah Chavez

Well, high school is over. A new chapter begins. No matter what, we’ll always be there for you. Amy, the girls, and I are super proud of you.

Love you,
Dad

Mariah,

My babydoll, my little girl, my big girl, my daughter, my best friend... I am forever grateful you were brought into my life and couldn’t be more proud of the woman you have become.

Love you the most,
Mom
Lacey,
What a blessing to watch you grow from our little baby girl to a beautiful woman in Christ.

Love,
Dad and Mom

"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

—Deuteronomy 31:8

Sabria Zlitni

In the middle of an ordinary life God gives you a miracle. You were ours and suddenly you took our breathe away. Life will knock you down, get up every time with a fervor. You are indestructible. Have a great adventure in the next phase of your life. We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mama & Baba

Sabria has always been a funny, beautiful sister. I look up to her in so many ways. I never thought the day she would leave would come so soon. I’ll miss her so much.

—Zaynab

Peace out!

—Zubayr

Bia,
Thanks for being my role model throughout our lives and being the best big sis ever. Thanks you for riding the Barbie Jeep around the yard with me for hours and breaking trampolines throughout our childhood. Have fun in college wherever you end up going, I know you’ll do awesome bro!

Love,
Maryam
Lexi McCleary

Alexia,

I am amazed daily by your beauty and spirit. You have taught me so much in life and inspire me to be a better person everyday. I am so proud of the young lady you have become. The future is yours, baby girl and I know you will do amazing things. Daughters are angels sent from above to fill our hearts with never ending love.

—Your Mamma

Brenna Holt

Brenna,

You bring such joy and light to our family. We are very proud of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad and David

Charles Shively

Charles,

We are all so proud of the smart, kind-hearted, strong and passionate young man you have become. Remember, red-headed guy, you are stronger than you know! Always know who loves you angel! Go out and change the world Dennis!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Brianna, Benjamin, Gramma C.C., Poppie Joe, Grandma Pat and Grandpa Bob

Alex Torres

Having a son like you is a matter of pride. You have the strength to face all challenges and the determination to see your dreams come true. Congratulations on all your achievements.

Love,
Your Family
Brett Nichols

Brett,
We are proud of everything you have had to overcome to get to this point. We know that you will conquer everything you tackle in life.

Love,
Dad, Mom and Morgan

"Son, we want you to remember to never give up—to keep going even if the pain is tough. We want you to understand that life can be unfair. We want you to remember that we will always be there."

Cheyenne, Megan, & Jessica Willmon

Cheyenne, Megan, and Jessica: We are so proud of you and we love you. You have accomplished so much and much more to come.

Love always,
Grandpa Ken and Grandma Lori

Brendan Mathia

Brendan,
From our little baby boy to an amazing handsome young man! Always believe in yourself and there will be nothing you can’t achieve! We are so proud of you.
Congratulations Son!

Love,
Mom and Dad

Alivia Crouch

Alivia
We are incredibly blessed to be your parents! You’re beautiful and confident. You know who you are and where you want to go in life. We will always support you and do everything in our power to help you achieve your goals. The world is yours!

Love you!
Mom, Dad & Andrea

Summer Ney

Summer,
You are our miracle that never ceases to be Miraculous! ... and a joy for everyone lucky enough to have you in their life.

Never a disappointment, with so many, many, accomplishments ... we are just so very proud of you! There is nothing you cannot achieve! Reach far and enjoy the big dance that is life. You are our Sunshine!

Love you!
Mom, Dad, & Shelby
Brett McPherson

Brett,
You have defended those who could not, you have made people smile who felt they could not, and you have persevered even when you thought you could not. We are so proud of the young man you have become.
Congratulations!
Love,
Mom, Jer, Kayla, Reagan, & Elijah
"Knowing nothing in life but to be legit."
—Eazy E

Kayla Willis

Kayla:
From my little pork chop to a beautiful young woman, words can't express how proud I am of you! I can't wait to see the places you will go.
123
Mom

Baylie Hontz

Baylie,
Congratulations!
We can't express it enough how proud we are of you and what your future holds for all of your dreams and accomplishments. You are loved by all more than words can say. Your mom is smiling down on you, proud of what you have become and following in her footsteps.
Love,
Dad & Lucinda

Nathan Hinton

Nathan, Mah Boi.
I closed my eyes for a moment and a man now stands where my boy used to be.
"Time passes, people move, like a river’s flow, it never ends. A childish mind will turn to noble ambition. Young love will become deep affection. The clear water’s surface reflects growth. Now listen to the Serenade of water to reflect upon yourself."
—Stein, Ocarina of Time

Through your journey in life: Play Hard. Enjoy the Game, and "May the way of the Hero lead you to the Triforce of Power, Wisdom, and Courage."
—A Link to the Past
Love you always,
Mom

Senior Ads • 153
Anna

Your hard work and perseverance has produced a young lady of great character. We couldn’t be more proud of you.

Love,
Dad, Mom & Shelby

And though she be but little, she is fierce.
—William Shakespeare

---

Kaytie Gibson

Kaytie,

We are all so proud of you. We know you will do great things and continue to make us proud. We will always love you and can’t wait to see where your dreams take you.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Addie

---

Jordan Shiao

Jordie,

We cannot believe you are at this point. You are such an amazing young lady with a ray of sunshine. We are proud of you and your accomplishments. You have been such an incredible daughter and friend; we know you are destined for greatness. We cannot wait to see what this chapter brings to your life. Go reach for the stars baby girl!

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Kelsi and Logan

---

Caleb Brungardt

Caleb,

We are so proud of you. Promise to be true to yourself, to pursue your dreams, and then watch as wonderful things happen!

Love,
Mom and Dad
Joshua Grimm

Congrats, Joshua! Your Father and I are so proud of you. Use what you have learned to take you to infinity and beyond to make all of your dreams come true. Just remember, you will always be our little boy.

Love, Mom & Dad

Sally Crabtree

Sally,

Seems like only yesterday you started pre-school. You've come a long way. We are very proud of you! It's been great watching you grow into the beautiful, caring person you are. Can't wait to see what your future holds for you. Keep your dreams alive, reach for the stars!

Love,
Mom & Dad

Emilio Garcia

To our one and only son, Emilio. Never lose sight of your dreams, push always to get ahead and never forget where you came from. You make us proud, always!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Cylysce and Maressa

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

—Abraham Lincoln

Thomas Fehlhafer

We are so very PROUD of you and all you have accomplished! Continue to be your BEST, live life to the fullest and continue to walk with Christ!

Love always,
Dad & Mom
Sayra Isabel Serrano

Sayra,
Este es un pedazo más en tu lucha por alcanzar tus metas. Sabes que siempre estaremos contigo.
Te amamos,
Papá, Mamá y Hermano

A’Leigha Simpson

May this year be full of pleasure and discovery for you. May each day hold something special that is wonderful and new. You deserve the very best that life can bring you.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Monica & LeVoide

Taylor Jordan

Taylor,
We are so very proud of the beautiful young women that you have become. All of your hard work, dedication and occasional procrastination is finally paying off... We know that God has an incredible plan for your life. We love you always.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Kelsey

Paige Krone

Paige: We are busting with pride as you lead the way to graduation and beyond. Your beauty radiates from within and you will always be our princess.

Love you,
Grandma and Grandpa Krone

Alyssa Bland

Alyssa,
Where has the time gone? One moment you were my tiny dancer and now you are a CNA graduating. I am so proud of you. I love you always and forever; to the moon and beyond.

—Mom
Ryan Stumbough

Ryan,
You have amazed us all your life! Your laughter fills our house with joy and your charminess keeps us on our toes. We are so proud of the man you have become. Keep your faith in yourself and in God and you will do amazing things. Thanks for being the best son and brother in the world.
Love you more than pudding!
Mom, Dad, and Madison

Harrison Ricci-Weller

Harrison,
We know you’ll go far in life; you deserve the best and it’s all yet to come. We are so very proud of you. You’re an amazing son.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Samantha, Rose and Chase

Elijah VanWinkle

Congratulations, Elijah!
I can’t believe how quickly this day has arrived. I’m excited to see where life will lead you on all your future endeavors. You are an absolutely amazing young man and I’m so thankful to be your mom! We love you to the moon and back!
Mom, Aubrey, Andrew & Abigail

Paris Forshey

Paris,
Let us start by saying it’s hard to put into words how much we love you and how proud we are of you and of all the things you have accomplished in your 18 years. Your personality, your smile, your drive, your desire to succeed is infectious. Keep chasing your goals and dreams. The Forshey posse is excited to see all the great things that you are going to do with your future!
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So there you have it,

another year in the books. Did you have your big moment? Was it everything you’d hoped for? Maybe you hit it out of the park, like sophomore Addie Gibson did, getting the first grand slam of her career in the softball season opener. Or maybe you scored honors on your senior project, letting you know that all the hard work was worth it. Whatever your wait was or will be, don’t forget to enjoy the anticipation and moments in between with the people around you. Despite the struggles you’ve faced, remember...
The best is *YET* to come!