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# The Bluejay Post

CIMARRON HIGH SCHOOL

CIMARRON, KANSAS 67835

JANUARY 2010

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## Artist, teacher shares passion for art with others

by Britnie Jenkins

Dean Mitchell, famous artist, once said, "I have inherited a passion for the simple things of life — in this we retain the essence of time and the true meaning of life." Mitchell not only "inherited a passion for the simple things in life," but he has also inspired local artist Steve Giebler.

Giebler, who has taught art at CHS for 18 years, looks up to Mitchell.

"[I like] the way he paints, creates a down-to-earth mood," Giebler said. "He does watercolors with a lot of earth tones that are monochromatic."

Giebler decided he wanted to be an art teacher for two different reasons.

"First, I like to work with the younger students," he said. "Second, I thought a good way to stay with art and keep fresh with it would be by teaching it."

Giebler grew up in Hays, which led him to his first college.

"I got my Bachelor of Fine Arts and Graphic Design at Fort Hays State University," he said. "I grew up there and it had a good art program. I transferred to Kansas State University to get my Art Education degree."

Giebler, who likes the small town community feel of Cimarron, teaches students as young as fourth graders all the way up to seniors.

"I used to teach the second and third graders," he said, "but as their numbers grew I just teach from fourth grade up."

He doesn't see the grade school as often as he does the high school.

"I only teach the grade school once a week," said Giebler. "It's weird because I don't get to know them as well as I do with the junior high and high school classes, but I get to watch them grow up."

He has his favorite components about teaching each level.

"In the grade school I like knowing them from a young age," Giebler said. "I get to know their personalities and talents so I know what to expect in junior high. The junior high students are becoming more

serious art students and are finding hidden talents they didn't know they had. The high school students are more advanced, and their art feels more finished because of their more advanced skill."

After teaching all of these different skill levels, Giebler prefers one over the others.

"I enjoy teaching high school most," he said. "I enjoy the level of experience the students bring. They can work on more difficult projects and they have more patience. Their art has a different quality."

An art medium is the way in which the artist executes his or her piece, and Giebler enjoys teaching a specific art medium.

"My favorite art medium to teach is drawing," he said. "It's easier to teach with the different levels of experience in the classroom. It works better than painting."

He also has his own art medium preference for his art projects.

"I have always liked to paint and draw," said Giebler. "I like working in two dimensions better than three."

Giebler's new project ideas both for himself and his students come from many different sources.

"Art shows are a good place to exchange ideas with other schools," he said. "I also get ideas from online."

Even though he has a degree in teaching and in fine arts, Giebler has to have recertification classes every five years.

"I just go over to Dodge City Community College," he said. "Also, I take some classes through Fort Hays online. It helps with researching new ideas. I like to keep things exciting and not repeat projects."

Giebler's students have the chance to share their projects at contests.

"The junior high HPEA League is every year in April," he said. "They also have the Western Kansas Scholastics Art show for the lower level. The high school has the HPL art show at Fort Hays and the Western Kansas Scholastics Art show for the upper level."

Giebler's students usually do pretty

well at contest.

"I'm always impressed with the unique and original look the students bring to their art," he said. "It feels like you've accomplished something, kind of like a pat on the back, and it makes you feel like you've had a good year."

Giebler has no regrets about choosing Cimarron to teach.

"I have always enjoyed teaching here," he said. "There are so many talented students. I also appreciate the school district for providing and supporting the fine arts. Overall, I am very thankful for teaching at Cimarron."



**STAYIN' IN THE LINES:** Art teacher Steve Giebler, helps out Javier Trevino, seventh grade, with his watercolor painting. Giebler, who attended college at Fort Hays State University and Kansas State University, has been teaching at Cimarron for eighteen years. "I thought a good way to stay with art and keep fresh with it would be by teaching it," he said. (Jenkins photo)

## New Forensics coach on her way

by Kyle Maddox

From the heat of the spotlight to the nervousness of waiting for scores, Forensics isn't an easy class. But with a good coach, most of those feelings can be dispelled.

Rebecca Koehn, Forensics coach and English teacher at CHS, is retiring from her teaching position and her coaching position along with it.

"I'm a little sad," said Koehn. "Enrollment [for Forensics] is up, and I'm going to miss all the kids that I've built up."

Koehn is going to miss all the good aspects of Forensics.

"I love seeing the kids perfect their pieces," she said. "The best part is when the

shy students build up their confidence and self-esteem. They gain poise and become more confident in everything they do, not just Forensics."

Cindy Kelly, the incoming coach, has had plenty of experience.

"I have taught in Hoisington, Lawrence, Oskaloosa, Hays and Garden City," said Kelly. "My classes have included English (9-12), Journalism, Forensics, Speech, and General Science."

Kelly is confident about this upcoming Forensics season.

"I think practice, practice, practice, and more practice, coupled with strategy," said Kelly, "is a winning combination."

# FACE OFF: Stereotypes; right or

## Stereotyping: the lazy man's way

Dictionary.com explains stereotyping thusly: "a conventional, formulaic, and oversimplified conception, opinion, or image of a person belonging to a group as a whole."

Let's break that down a little bit.

Conventional: Normal, accepted. Formulaic: Created from a formula, uninspired. Oversimplified: reducing to a description too basic to be correct.

Thus, from those three adjectives, it becomes clear that stereotyping is, at the very least, the lazy man's way out of getting to know another human being.

Stereotyping is wrong in all senses of the word.

Firstly, it is incorrect to assume that a person can be so simplified by the clothing he or she wears, their attitude, or whatever defining characteristics are picked out to quantify them.

Take me, for example. I appear to be the stereotypical "fat nerd" sort of a guy, probably based on my thick glasses, constant use of electronic gadgets, or nerdy  $\pi$  shirts. What most people wouldn't get from that quick assessment is that I love watching professional soccer (Go, Ireland!). It's both quick and easy to stereotype someone, yet is often incorrect.

Secondly, it is logically wrong to stereotype. We are all products of different upbringings, different life experiences, and different thoughts. To disregard every aspect of a person's life and boil he or she down to a formulaic personality set is flawed at best. At

worst, it is a product of mental laziness and a complete indifference for a complex and intricate history behind every choice a person makes, from the clothing he or she happens to wear one day to the words he or she chooses to greet you with.

Finally, it is morally wrong to stereotype. When we begin to remove the defining characteristics of each individual and categorize them into a simple group, it becomes much easier to hate them.

This gives rise to racism, sexism, homophobia, religious discrimination, and other aspects of hate. This is, by far, the worst byproduct of stereotyping. It's far too easy to segregate

people into "the good" and "the bad," and treat them accordingly. Hitler used it. Fred Phelps uses it. But that doesn't mean it's right.

Stereotyping is the gateway to hate at the end of the road of laziness. It's incorrect, it's illogical, and it's immoral, yet racism, sexism, and homophobia continue to breed in the darker corners of the world.

Instead of stereotyping, take time to consider another person's perspective. Get to know them, find out the unique experiences and emotions that they have. And never, ever assume two people are alike because they share one characteristic.



Opinion by  
Kyle Maddox

## Stereotyping makes everything

"I can tell that kid is a baseball player by the way he dresses and carries himself."

"I know what kind of music that guy listens to because of his shirt and painted nails."

Sentences like this can be heard virtually everywhere.

Stereotypes. Are they really a bad thing?

I don't think that stereotypes are necessarily a bad thing, because they help us save time and make life completely easier.

Everyone stereotypes sometime in his or her life.

Whether it be moving to a new

school and seeing that girl in cheer-leading clothes and instantly not liking her, or at the mall seeing the kid in a Metallica shirt and liking him because you think you have something in common. For someone to say, "I do not stereotype people" is hypocritical.

The beautiful thing about the world we live in is that everyone is different and has the right to express himself in a different way. The hobbies we have, music we listen to, movies we watch, churches we go to, all affect our personality in a great way.

With that being said everyone also has the right to dislike certain things of the same sort. Automatically we are not going to agree with other people on many things.

Stereotyping is the main reason we find criminals after committing a crime if the police department had a "Stereotype Free!" policy, criminals would be able to get away with anything.

Say you are a devout Christian girl, you attend church regularly, and since your dad has a job that requires him to move a lot, you have to attend a new school. On the first day, while trying to meet potential friends, are you really going to go to the lunch table with Marilyn Manson and other kids wearing gothic clothes? Or are you going to go to the lunch table with modestly dressed girls?

Look at this from an employer's standpoint. As a principal at a school, are you going to hire a teacher who has holes in their clothes and that smell of cabbage, or the teacher nicely groomed, wearing clean clothes? Are you going to risk the chance that maybe this hobo is actually a really good math teacher? Or are you going to trust your intuition and hire the latter of the bunch?

The moral of this story is that stereotyping makes life completely easier, and it could potentially keep you out of trouble. Don't waste your time by going around and talking to mean looking people to try and find the "good" in them.

Stay in your shell and have friends you can stand to be around.



Opinion by  
Spence Byer

### Letter Policy

The Bluejay Post welcomes letters from readers. We do, however, reserve the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity and space, and we regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters.

### Letter

### to the Editor

To the Editor:

I want to give a shout out to Mr. Kyle Maddox for his wonderful article on Ms. Hendrix in last month's *The Bluejay Post*.

Not only did I find the article informative about a member of our staff, but I thought it was an exceptional work of journalism. I am especially glad to see *The Bluejay Post* "toot our own horn" a bit. In these troublesome economic times, our community needs to know that we have many positive factors to the Cimarron School District. One positive factor to attending Cimarron schools is the professionalism of our teachers and other staff members.

Bill Brown

### Haiku

Winter breezes blow,  
chilling us all to the bone.  
Time for heavy coats!

Now that finals are  
over, I can only hope  
that I didn't fail...

Time to start a new  
semester, new classes, new  
teachers... Let's have fun!

### Editorial Board:

Although our editorials are written by individual board members, the thoughts and ideas conveyed are that of *The Bluejay Post* editorial board. Members of the Editorial Board are Kyle Maddox, Spence Byer, and Shelby Pulkrabek.

### Unlock the Memories



Reserve your 2010 yearbook now!  
Contact any yearbook member or  
Mrs. Hewes. Sales begin January 15.

Cost: \$35

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## Scholars' Bowl season saunters

by Kyle Maddox

The tick of the clock. The frantic mental searching. The high-pitched whine of buzzers.

Each of these sensations is very well known to members of the CHS Scholars' Bowl team, whose season is now half over.

Scholars' Bowl coach Jennifer Hendrix is happy about this Scholars' Bowl season.

"We've been doing very well," she said. "We've had a very successful season. We have an older team this year stocked with a lot of juniors and seniors. We also have a diverse team with a lot of different interests, which helps when answering questions."

Hendrix is careful not to set the team up for failure.

"I expect my team to work hard and put forth 100%," she said. "We have a chance to make it to State, and even do well, but so

does every other 3A school [in Kansas]."

As the season is about midway through, Hendrix has noticed some changes.

"Most of the new student have an ominous feeling about the whole process," she said. "The older students may have bad memories about the event. As the year wears on, that seems to fade."

Although the Scholars' Bowl team hasn't been winning at every meet (see sidebar), Hendrix is still optimistic.

"I've always been a fan of the underdog," she said. "It's not fun if we win every meet; there has to be a challenge."



**READY... SET... BUZZ!** Scholars' Bowl members, Spence Byer, junior; Charles Shaughnessy, junior; and Britnie Jenkins, senior, scrimmage during practice. "I expect my team to put forth 100%," said Coach Jennifer Hendrix. (Yearbook photo)

## Grade school offers multiple music



**SING IT LOUD:** The fifth and sixth graders focus on singing their songs at their Christmas music concert. The program was held on December 14. The concert started at 7 p.m. (Courtesy photo)



**SING INTO THE MIC:** Students at the K-2 Christmas concert spread some joy while performing. "The children practiced very hard," said Keaton, "and we started practicing back in September." (Courtesy photo)

### Third, fourth grade music concert to be held

by Tess Trahern

There will be a music concert performed by 112 third and fourth graders on January 26 at 7:00 p.m.. The concert will be held in the high school auditorium. Lynn Unruh is the instructor.

"We are focusing mostly on partner songs," said Unruh, "and our theme is Folk Songs for Kansas."

The concert will celebrate Kansas Day, which is January 29.



## Org. Bytes

### Scholars' Bowl

2nd @ Lakin  
3rd @ Satanta  
4th @ Leoti  
3rd @ Rolla  
2nd @ Cimarron (CHS 1)  
3rd @ Cimarron (CHS 2)

Kays Club finished up their class competition food for Kays Citizenship week.

Congrats to the **Freshmen** for winning.



Congratulations to the students attending the **KMEA District Honor Band:** Freshman **Kaitlyn Rempel**, Sophomore **Avery Burns**, Sophomore **Abby Thompson**, Sophomore **Grace Royle**, and Freshman **Garrison LeRock**.

Congratulations to the students who attended a live audition and qualified for the **State KMEA Honor Choir:** Junior **Miranda Burns**, Senior **Callie Fisher**, Senior **Callie Losey**, Senior **Tyler Royle** and Sophomore **Tyler Siek** as an alternate.



## Elementary honor choir to compete in Dodge City

by Tess Trahern

The grade school honor choir will be going to Dodge City on January 23 to compete with choirs from other schools. Music teacher Lynn Unruh is their instructor. The honor choir is made up of 13 sixth graders.

"You can have a definite five children going and we have 13," said Unruh.

To be qualified, a student has to pass an audition.

"Children from each school go through auditions to be in honor choir," said Unruh.

The sixth grader Honor Choir participants are Owen Waters, Emmy Williams, Clint Legg, Rachel Schuetze, Kylie Rempel, Andi Ogles, Samantha McPhail, Juan Ramirez, Korina Bailon, MacKenzie Blackburn, Chantel Lacy, Kaitlyn Knobbe, and Victoria Hoopingartner.

"The children will be members of the 200 Voice Choir," said Unruh. "The clinician for the day will be Johnny Matlock. He is a very dynamic instructor. The Choir is performing five songs."

## Car Creepin'



If you know whose car this is, come to Mrs. Hewes' room (125)! The first one to guess correctly wins a prize!

Last issue's car: **Genare Woofler**  
Last issue's winner: **Andrew Reed-Moutray**

## Creed 'draws' out laughs from students at CHS

by Spence Byer

In the halls of CHS in the mornings we can usually find one of the funniest kids CHS has to offer walking around. A talent that goes unnoticed with him is his grasp for art. This kid is Tyler Creed.

"I love making people laugh," said Creed. "Most of the things I say are just the first thing that comes to mind, none is really planned."

Anyone who has listened to Creed talk knows that he definitely has talents for stand-up comedy.



**SHADING:** Sophomore Tyler Creed draws a picture before school starts. Creed started displaying his love for drawing at a young age in Wellington. "I have always enjoyed drawing and a good laugh," Creed said. (Byer photo)

"I think stand-up comedy would be a great career," said Creed. "I blow Larry the Cable Guy away."

There are different types of comedy, ranging from Disney comedy to American Pie type comedy.

"I really compare my comedy to movies like, Knocked Up, Funny People, and Superbad," said Creed.

Like all comedians, Creed has influences.

"I really like Daniel Tosh," said Creed. "Larry the Cable Guy is just a dumb redneck."

When Creed is asked a totally random question, he doesn't miss a beat and answers it.

"If I were a fruit, I would be a grape," he said.

Creed may be known as a joker, but not as an artist. Creed started to become an extraordinary artist at a young age while living in Wellington.

"I draw demonic things," said Creed, "and clowns too!"

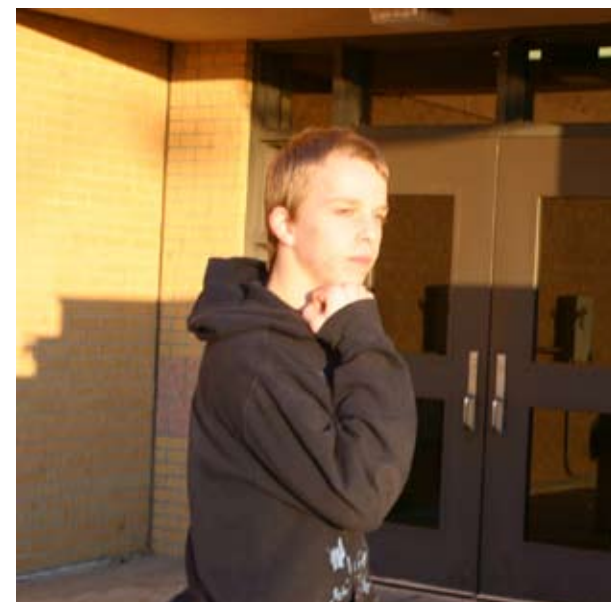
Everyone has different ambitions for their career when they are younger. The majority of kids want to become a baseball player, a movie star, or a policeman. Creed is different from most kids.

"When I was younger I wanted to be an architect," said Creed, "but that dream shattered when I realized I [am horrible] at math."

Artists like Van Gough all the way back to Michelangelo have always had influences, or ways to get inspired. Creed looks for inspiration in music.

"While I draw, I like to listen to underground rap and metal," he said.

Creed proves that there is more to a person than meets



**CONTEMPLATION:** Sophomore Tyler Creed thinks hard before school about his comedy. Creed can be seen around CHS, always smiling. "I think stand-up comedy would be a great career," he said. (Byer photo)

the eye.

"I have always enjoyed drawing and a good joke," he said.

### Wherfor art thou, Bach?

## New student's passion for music shines through violin

by Nicole Marshall

"Words make you think a thought. Music makes you feel a feeling. A song makes you feel a thought."

—E. Y. Harburg

Many people find that the violin is a difficult instrument to master, but for junior Valencía Faust, learning it is a passion.

"I began playing the violin in fourth grade and learned the piano in seventh grade," Faust said.

Faust received her first violin during her freshman year. She had been renting from the school before she received her first violin.

Faust has continued her violin career into high school. However, like most students, she once wanted to quit once she got into junior high and high school.

"My mom encouraged me to keep playing," Faust said.

As the violin grew on her, Faust developed favorite songs and composers.

"My favorite composer is Bach," she said. "My favorite song to play is 'Greensleeves,' which I play very well."

Though Faust has favorites about the violin, she has developed a slight dislike about playing any instrument.

"I don't like how it's competitive," Faust said.

"When you play an instrument, you should play it for the fun of it."

Faust has written some of her own songs, but has left them untitled. She is currently working on an untitled song.

Faust has many memories of playing her violin with an orchestra, but she has a favorite.

"I like to see the people enjoying the music while I'm playing," she said.

Though the violin is Faust's favorite instrument, she is beginning to learn the saxophone. Faust is participating in the CHS band, but she's played in an orchestra before.

Faust enjoys playing her violin, but she also has other hobbies that occupy her time.

"I like to run, listen to all kinds of music, and read," she said.

Faust is planning on continuing playing violin into college but doesn't plan pursuing a career in it.

"I want to play for fun and give kids free lessons," she said.

Faust has chosen to the violin for various reasons, but she has one way to describe it.

"The violin is the prettiest instrument you could choose. It takes a lot of hard work and time to stay dedi-



**MUSIC'S IN MY SOUL:** Junior Valencía Faust is a violin player recently enrolled at CHS. Faust didn't choose the violin; the violin chose her. "The violin is the prettiest instrument you could choose," she said. "It takes a lot of hard work and time to stay dedicated to it." (Marshall photo)

## Custodians: necessary part of our school

by Tess Trahern

Everyone has seen our custodians around the school. Most students don't seem to pay much attention to them, but they help our school function in several ways. Without our custodians, the school would become a condemned pig sty.

The high school building custodians are Mary Koehn, Gary Alexander, Leon Schartz, and John Rohrbaugh. They work everyday and are essential to our school functioning properly.

"I try to keep the school as clean as possible. I do my best to help." said Kohen who has been a custodian for 11 years.

Being a custodian at CHS is not the most glamorous job. It has its unpleasant parts.

"Scrubbing toilets, that's my least favorite thing to do," said Kohen.

Alexander, who is on his twenty-second year on the job, also has chores he dislikes.

"The commons area after lunch or a game is the worst," said Alexander.

The custodians have multiple jobs around the school that we couldn't function without. They do more than just clean. A few of Kohen's jobs include vacuuming, dusting, mopping, and cleaning halls and bathrooms. Alexander, too, keeps busy.

"Other than cleaning, I work on the lights, sound systems, and do laundry sometimes," said Alexander.

When we go on our breaks, our custodians are still here everyday helping out. They clean desks, floors, and carpets if needed. During summer break they shampoo the carpets and rugs, refinish tile surfaces, repaint, and strip and wax floors. When we get back, they have even more to deal with. Students and faculty are known to try and help out, but sometimes they are better than others.

"The students are good about not making messes," said Kohen. "I think they have gotten better over the years."

Alexander has also seen changes in the student body.

"The main things the kids can do to help out is to just pick up their messes," said Alexander. "Some years are better than others. It really just depends on the year and the class. Most kids aren't bad, but it only takes a few to mess it up."

Students see that the custodians are busy all the time, but most of them don't realize that there are serious risks that come with the job. There is a risk of shock, and they work with harmful chemicals. Kohen has back problems from some of the work she does.

Our custodians are the secret weapon to keep our school functioning properly. They deserve more help from the students and "Thank you's" would be appreciated. We should tell them how much we appreciate the time they put in to make our school nice for students and faculty.



**BUSY BEE:** Custodian Mary Kohen vacuums in the hallway. Koeh enjoys the students, saying they're usually helpful. "I try to keep the school as clean as possible," said Kohen. "I do my best to help." (Byer photo)

## Illness plagues halls of CHS, absence rates hit the roof

by Shelby Dawn

Trash cans full of dirty tissues, empty bottles of hand sanitizer, vacant desks, and runny noses is becoming the new look of Cimarron High School as the number of illness-related absences skyrocket from past years.

"We are seeing a substantial increase in illness since last year," said Principal Bill Brown. "From the beginning of the school year until November 24, we have had a 55% increase in our absenteeism due to illness." (See sidebar for more information).

Increased absences cause a negative effect on the school's relations with state requirements.

"Schools are accredited by the state of Kansas through a process called the Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA)," said Brown. "One of the requirements of the QPA process is that we must meet or exceed a 'target attendance rate' each year. For the current school year, that 'target attendance rate' is 90%, or an increase from the previous year."

Reaching these requirements may be a little easier said than done.

"Last year our attendance rate for CHS was 95.6%," said Brown.

There are ways to help with these problems.

"If we begin to see that we won't make our target attendance rate, we have the option of filling out a waiver," said Brown. "I've not seen the waiver yet, but I understand that it will ask us for a listing of the types of absences we have accumulated and maybe a sampling of doctors' notes for students who are selected randomly."

This plan also has a backfire to it.

"I personally have a problem with providing doctor's notes because different health organizations have been informing the population to not take their students to the doctors because they were swamped with more severe

cases," said Brown.

Other than problems with the state, illness related absences have other negative impacts on the school as a whole.

"I know it has been a frustrating problem," said Brown. "One problem is that students are so far behind when they return to class. This is especially true if the student has been absent for three days or more in a row. As a result, the teacher must backtrack to assist the student and bring them up to speed, which takes valuable class time."

The whole point of school is to get an education, but increased illness makes this difficult.

"Being absent causes students to have discontinuity of their knowledge," said Brown. "In some cases, it is very difficult for a student to get caught up when they have missed several days."

Sometimes getting assignments isn't enough.

"It is true that parents have been requesting their student's homework when they see that their child will be home ill for multiple days," said Brown. "However, we need to understand that much of the time students are not capable of completing the work while at home."

Actual class time has extreme value.

"If a student misses four or five days of a math class in a row, it is doubtful that the student will be able to complete the material on their own," said Brown. "They need the teacher to explain

the curriculum to them."

It's hard to trek the trail to higher education alone.

"Contrary to popular belief, students are usually unable to continue on their own for extended periods of time without the assistance of teachers," said Brown.

Illness isn't the only thing that causes these kinds of problems.

"This type of problem also arises every year around Christmas time," said Brown. "We have multiple parents who will pull their children from school for one or two additional weeks around this time."

No matter the effort, the result is still typically a failure.

"We as a school pull together homework and send it home with the students," said Brown. "However, in a lot of cases students come back with nothing or very little of the assignments completed."

Sick Statistics Illness-Related Absense				
Period	Students	Absent Periods	Avg. Periods	
1st Quarter	'08-'09	151	2054	13.3
	'09-'10	202	3378	16.7
2nd Quarter	'08-'09	101	987	9.77
	'09-'10	111	1399	12.6
To Date	'08-'09	193	3090	16
	'09-'10	221	4777	21.6

# Winter teams off to good start

## Sports Highlights

### Mens' Basketball

Meade: L 62-38  
Dighton: W 52-11  
South Gray L: 46-66  
Bucklin W: 47-36  
Ulysses L: 47-36

### Womens' Basketball

Meade: W 55-38  
Deerfield: W 35-31  
Satanta: L 38-41  
Dighton W: 44-39  
Ulysses L: 45-40

### Wrestling

1st 215: Tyler White  
2nd 140: Coulter Croft  
3rd 145: Tyler Royle  
3rd 160: John Shaughnessy



(Clockwise from left) **PINNED!** Junior Tyler White gets ready to pin his opponent during a tournament held at CHS. The wrestling team had a successful day. (Courtesy photo)

**BOUNCE PASS!** Senior Travis Sharp attempts to bounce pass to a team mate during a game against South Gray. Cimarron went on to lose the game. (Courtesy photo)

**SWISH!** Sophomore Avery Burns aims for a freethrow against the Satanta Indians. Cimarron went on to lose the game 38-41. (Marshall photo)

## New movie truly hits from *The Blind Side*

by James Rittenhouse

In a time when actual good movies are hard to come by, and I mean good movies, not movies based on fictional vampires and werewolves, one movie is for sure going down in history as the greatest film of the year 2009.

*The Blind Side* is based on the true story of Michael Oher, the twenty-third overall pick in the 2009 draft. The movie was actually a book before being converted into silver screen gold. The book, *The Blind Side: The Evolution of the Game*, was written by Michael

Lewis.

The stars of the show are Quinton Aaron and Sandra Bullock as Oher and the woman who welcomes him into his family, Leigh Anne Tuohy. Aaron and Bullock play the parts to absolute perfection; really, the casting director did a great job of finding the right people to play every part in this movie.

The movie itself has its ups and downs. At one point we even meet Oher's crack-addicted mother who can't even remember her son's true last name. The movie will keep you interested throughout, never a dull moment in the film. The only

complaint I would have about this movie is that I made the unfortunate decision to go see it on opening night, the same night *Twilight* opened. After cutting in front of the kids who were there to watch the *Twilight* film, I got many rude stares and grumbles from the people behind me, thinking I was there to steal their ticket to see the great *New Moon*.

Overall, the movie is one of the best I've seen in a long time, and has the box office numbers to back that statement up. If you get a chance to go watch this film, I strongly suggest it. After all football beats a vampire any day.



## Coaches soak up sun during off-season

by Lyndi Stokes

Every year summer comes and goes faster than we can imagine. It seems as though our coaches have disappeared from earth until school starts again. So what are they really up to those days?

Some may have a summer job, some may relax and get away for a while, or others are still coaching away.

"I paint and help farm during harvest," said junior high boys' Coach Bob Friesen. "I also help my parents and my wife's mom take care of their house and repair work."

Coaches also work with their players to prepare for the season ahead of them. One such coach is head football and basketball Coach Doug Minneman. Each summer he holds a team football and basketball camp for next year's players.

"In the summer we have team football and basketball camp," said Minneman. "I've also helped with little kids basketball camps and all summer I open the weight room."

Some coaches, like junior high girls' coach Emily Feldt, are not only teaching school still, but also going to school themselves.

"In the summers I have been taking classes to receive my master's, and I

have been teaching summer school," said Feldt.

Coaches who continue to coach during the summer are also known for working at coaching clinics. Friesen is one of these.

"In the past I worked a five-star camp in Newton, volleyball camp at Bethel College, and a basketball camp at Hutchison," he said.

Many coaches just like to take some free time for themselves and get away from coaching for a while, such as Friesen, who will be returning to Bolivia for ten days.

"We are going to work at an orphanage and run a bible school for them," said Friesen. "We will also be building on to their school."

Family plays a big role in summer time. Coaches are busy most of the year and use summer to make up for the time they have missed.

"I enjoy just hanging out and playing with my kids," said high school coach Josh Littlejohn. "We travel and go to the lake quite a bit in New Mexico and Missouri."

Even though we may not see our coaches much during the summer, they are doing just about the same things we are like spending time with our families or participating in sports.



"I play golf and help my father cut wheat during the summer."

--Doug Minneman



"I teach summer school and have been taking classes to receive my masters."

--Emily Feldt



"We travel and go to the lake quite a bit in New Mexico and Missouri."

--Josh Littlejohn



"I paint and help farm during harvest. Next summer I'll go back to Bolivia to help build a school there."

--Bob Friesen

## Bluejays take it up strong, placing third at invitational

by Lyndi Stokes

As a tradition Cimarron hosted the Bluejay Invitational from December 7 to 13. Teams were Bucklin, Satanta, Meade, South Gray, Dighton, Deerfield, and Healy.

"Because of this tournament we play a lot better as a team and we know what players can step up and take charge," said sophomore Joey Franzitta.

The Cimarron Lady Jays played Monday night, December 7 against Deerfield. They played a rough game, but ended up winning the game 31 to 35. The boys' games Tuesday were moved to Wednesday due to weather. Once Wednesday rolled around, the boys had a successful win against Dighton, with a final score of 52 to 11.

"I thought we played really well against a team with a lot more experience," said Burns. "It was a hard win, but it always feels good to win a game you know you deserve."

The Lady Jays played again with a much more tougher game. After great struggle from both teams, the girl lost with a score of 38 to 41. The boys also had an unsuccessful win the next night against South Gray with an ending score of 46 to 66.

"Playing against South Gray, their pressure got to us the first half, but the second half we beat their press, which led to easy baskets" said Franzitta.

Both the boys and girls continued on to play for third and fourth on Saturday. The girls battled their way to the top, beating Dighton by five points, with the ending score being 44 to 39. The boys also had a successful night against Bucklin, with a finishing score of 47 to 36.

"I think we came out a little too confident and didn't play to our potential, but we came out with a win and that's all that matters," said sophomore Avery Burns.

**POST UP:** Sophomore Joey Franzitta posts up strong against a South Gray defender during the Bluejay Invitational. The boys ended up placing third in the tournament. (Yearbook photo)

**THINK FAST:** Sophomore Taylor Siek passes the ball after successfully bringing it up the court. The girls also placed third in the Bluejay Invitational. (Yearbook photo)



## Principal's Perspective

### Great Uncle Jim

This past weekend, I traveled to Coffeyville, Kansas to visit the graves of my grandparents on my mother's side. Due to various circumstances, there was no funeral or memorial service at the time of their deaths. So, even though it is years later, this was the first time I've visited the graves or been back to Coffeyville in years.

Even though the purpose in attending Coffeyville was to visit the graves, it was the time I spent with my great-uncle Jim that made the trip worthwhile. Uncle Jim is 99 ½ years old and is currently in the nursing home since he broke a hipbone. However, everyone anticipates that he will return back home in about a month.

But, it was the visit on Saturday morning that proved to be a blessing to me. As we talked, he began to tell stories that all had a central point ... that a person's character is important and shouldn't be compromised in any circumstance. It was refreshing to hear Uncle Jim tell stories that were just a relevant today as they were fifty or sixty years ago.

Since 'faith' has always been important to Uncle Jim, I naturally asked if he was able to go to church on Sunday mornings. To this question, he replied, "No, I'm not able to get to church anymore. But, I do get to watch Charles Stanley, Crystal Cathedral, and Billy Graham on television every Saturday night."

Immediately, I thought back to those Sunday mornings when I just didn't want to 'crawl out of bed' and go to church. Here was a man who watched three hours of 'preaching and singing' every Saturday night because he was unable to attend church. What an inspiration ... in his humble way, he simply stated the importance of his faith to him.

Later in the morning, Uncle Jim and I began discussing the topic of 'tithing.' Once again, in his humble attitude, he simply stated how 'tithing' was an important part of his life and the blessings he had received in return. I don't know about Uncle Jim's financial condition, but I can clearly see that he doesn't give 'material possessions' a second thought.

But, the thing that struck me the most was that he was a 'sage' who was full of wisdom. Even though my time with him was very limited, his comments were 'time tested' and challenged my 'character'. However, just getting 'old' doesn't qualify a person to be a 'sage.' Uncle Jim is a 'sage' because he has lived his life according to 'principles' and not according to the 'whimsical nature of self-gratification.'

It is always has struck me that little 'surprises' pop up when most unexpected. As I read on a wall in Wichita on my way to Coffeyville, "The Journey is the Reward." How true. Taking the trip to Coffeyville was an 'agenda' item to get done before winter. However, taking time to listen to Uncle Jim was an unexpected 'journey' with a high degree of 'reward.'

Thank you, Uncle Jim.

I wrote another article about my trip to Coffeyville that it is more 'religious' in tone. If you are interested, it can be found at <http://tulip-bill.blogspot.com>.

--Bill Brown  
CHS Principal

## Students of the Month

Each month, the faculty honors students who have exhibited exemplary conduct, helpfulness, and enthusiastic involvement as "Students of the Month."



**Grace Royle**, sophomore: She is very dependable, hard working, confident, and self-motivated. (Mrs. Minneman)

**Jaden Woofter**, sophomore: Jaden is friendly to all students, as well as teachers. Always pleasant and willing to do what needs to be done. (Mrs. Unruh)

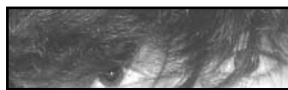


**James Royle**, seventh grader: James does his work and is a great drafter. He wants to learn and do his best. (Mrs. Jacobs)



## Thinking Outside the Box Goodbye '09; hello 2010

Opinion by James Rittenhouse



Two thousand nine has come and gone. Two-thousand nine was a year that will be remembered for a lot of different things: from Michael Jackson kicking to bucket, to the Tiger Woods scandal.

It seemed that '09 went by in the blink of an eye; it seemed like yesterday we inaugurated Barack Obama and finally got rid of George W. Bush. Now after a failed stimulus package and the country falling further and further into a recession, the country is in need of a serious overhaul.

But enough about politics; after all, it is the most boring part of the news. Let's get down to the stuff everyone really wants to remember.

As we look back to 2009, the biggest story of the year had to be the news of Michael Jackson passing away in June. After the proclaimed 'King of Pop' died, middle-aged moms everywhere were out on the street, crying because they would never see the man perform again.

The music industry was also buzzing about Chris Brown and Rihanna; Brown and Rihanna were on their way back from a pre-Grammy Awards when Brown hit Rihanna. Soon after,

## Counselor's Corner

This month, I am not going to write about scholarships, financial aid or even state assessments. This month I am going to share with you information on a problem facing many of our youth in this country called "self-injury." Some of you many know the problem as "self-mutilation."

The definition is the same no matter what term; it is the act of deliberately harming your own body, such as cutting or burning yourself. Many young people choose this act in hopes of coping with negative emotions such as anger, tension or frustration. It is easier for some to handle physical pain instead of emotional pain.

There is no one single reason why a person would choose to self-harm. In most cases people use self-injury as a coping skill or a way to feel in control when everything else in their world is out of control.

The most common form of self-injury is cutting. Most cut on the arm or on the inside of the thigh. Self-injury is often kept secret and for that reason is difficult to recognize the signs.

Below is a list of signs that teachers, parents and friends need to be aware of:

1. Scars
2. Fresh cuts or scrapes
3. Bruises
4. Broken bones
5. Keeping sharp objects on hand
6. Spending a great deal of time alone
7. Wearing long sleeves or pants in hot weather
8. Claiming to have frequent accidents or mishaps.

If you know or suspect someone is causing harm to themselves, please tell someone you trust and encourage the person to seek help. Oftentimes self-injury is a result of emotional stress and can be treated.

If you would like more information on the topic of "Self-Injury," please stop by my office.

Please remember, my door is always open, and as always I would like to leave you with a quote:

"Our attitude toward life determines life's attitude toward us."----Earl Nightingale

Mrs. Millershaski  
CHS Counselor

pictures were leaked via the all-mighty Internet of Rihanna's face after the beating. Also let's not forget Kanye West's outburst at MTV's Video Music Awards.

Another large story of '09 was the news of a blink-182 reunion. At the Grammy's, blink-182 announced they would be recording a new album and having a summer tour, which yours truly was fortunate enough to attend.

The entertainment world was also shook when rap artist Li'l Wayne pleaded guilty to criminal possession of a weapon.

But as 2009 has come to pass, 2010 is now in full swing. So even if you've already failed in epic proportions with your new year's resolution, don't worry: you still have a chance to make 2010 even better than 2009 ever thought of being.

Two thousand nine was all over the place, from the first African-American president to "Athlete of the Year" Tiger Woods being accused of adultery.

So when you look back on 2009, just remember: we're another year closer to 2012, and we all know what happens in 2012.