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Non-profit  
Permit #41  
Cimarron, KS  
67835

# The Bluejay Post

CIMARRON HIGH SCHOOL    CIMARRON, KANSAS 67835    FEBRUARY 2010    VOL. 7, NO. 5

## Day in the life of an administrative assistant: CHS secretaries keep school running smoothly

by James Rittenhouse

A day in the life of an administrative assistant can be described in one word: hectic.

All day they answer phones, deal with students, and file papers. For our secretaries, Kim Kopper and Shannon Dewey, they have the privilege of helping out the high school students. Their day starts at 7:30, and right off the bat our secretaries get to work.

“We open the office when we get here,” Kopper said, “and right away start answering the phones.”

“Our day is busy,” Dewey said, “We answer phones, file papers, and help out with scheduling.”

Being a secretary, a lot of the time they spend is around students. A good fifty percent of the time is spent around the students who come to the office to ask for admit slips or call parents.

“Being around the students is one reason I chose to become a secretary,” Dewey said.

Vacation time is also something that our secretaries can enjoy.

“The vacation time is really good,” Dewey said. “I enjoy having the summers off.”

Even though most people have complaints about their job, our ladies in the office don’t have a single one.

“I really don’t have any dislikes about the job,” Kopper said, “I enjoy coming to the school and working with the staff and students.”

Students also get a taste of what it’s like to work in the office, as seniors are allowed to be office aides.

“Working with the student aides is good,” Kopper said, “We get to know them more. I enjoy seeing them everyday, and I hate to see them go.”

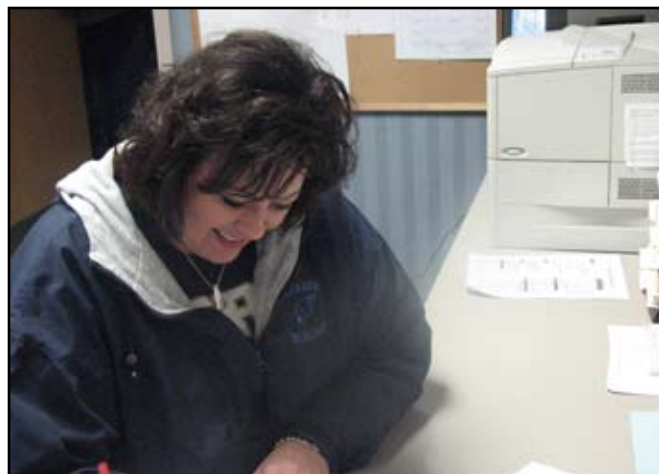
Our secretaries here at CHS work hard from 7:30 in the morning to 4:15 in the evening.

Everyday we can see them in the office answering the phone and helping students. Kopper and Dewey put in a lot of time and effort to help students.

They help keep our school going in ways that most of us do not see.



**IT’S BUSINESS TIME!** Secretary Kim Kopper does a day’s work, keeping the school running in top shape. “I really don’t have any dislikes about the job,” Kopper said. “I enjoy coming to the school and working with the staff and students.” (Rittenhouse photo)



**BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!** Secretary Shannon Dewey works hard on the day’s paperwork. “Our day is busy,” Dewey said. “We answer phones, file papers, and help out with scheduling.” (Rittenhouse photo)

## Miss School Spirit Ceremony to be held

by Shelby Dawn

Cimarron High School’s 2010 Miss School Spirit ceremony will be held Friday, February 5. The ceremony will take place during half time of the varsity boys’ basketball game against Lakin.

The candidates for Miss School Spirit are seniors Britnie Jenkins, daughter of Gordon and Mary Jenkins; Katelyn Ridenour, daughter of Scott and Vickie Ridenour; Kelsey Stucky, daughter of Doug and Celia Stucky; juniors Ashley Harrell, daughter of Randy and Amber Harrell; and Britney Boersma, daughter of Ted and Nancy Boersma.

The candidates for Mr. Bluejay are seniors Charles Blattner, son of Rick and Rhonda Blattner; Saige Martinez, son of Dawn Louis; Tyler Peterson, son of John and Shelly Mowry; Matt Wehkamp, son of Dave Wehkamp and Paula Wehkamp; and Junior Nate Baublits, son of Bruce and Shelley Baublits.



**ROYALTY POTENTIAL!** (Front row) Junior Britney Boersma, Seniors Kelsey Stucky, Katelyn Ridenour, Britnie Jenkins and Junior Ashley Harrell. (Back row) Seniors Saige Martinez, Charles Blattner, Matt Wehkamp, Junior Nate Baublits and Senior Tyler Peterson. (Pulkrabek photo)

## Do all of us a favor-- Stay in bed at home when you're sick

by **Shelby Dawn**

I head to the office Monday morning after being sick Friday and all weekend. I'm barely feeling better at all.

*Achoo!* Someone sneezes on me. Sure enough, that evening, I'm sick again because some parents wouldn't keep their sick kids home from school.

How many of you have ever had your parents tell you to suck it up, get out of bed, and go to school, even though you can't talk, are puking your guts out, and running a fever? I'm sure all of us have heard this before.

The number of illness-related absences at CHS has skyrocketed since years past, and a huge cause for this is parents sending their sick kids into this massive germ pool, contaminating other students, and endangering their health.

You don't think there is a very big chance of other kids getting sick because of this? Think again. First hour your child sits in a desk and coughs on it. Throughout the day six other students sit in that same desk and come in contact with those germs. Then your child goes to second hour and five students after that sit in the desk; after third period four people sit in their desk; then after fourth period three people sit in that

desk; after fifth period two people sit in that desk; then after sixth period one other person sits in that desk, with your total number of contaminated students amounting to 21, not including students who came in contact with lunch tables, shop tools, etc.

That doesn't seem like a large number, but then you consider if all 21 of those people get sick and come in contact with another 21 students each, the next day that's 441 people. That is roughly one and one-half times the current school population sick because one set of parents sent their sick child to school to keep from breaking his

perfect attendance record. Granted, not everyone will actually get sick from this due to different immune systems and sanitation habits, but it does prove how quickly the germs can spread.

So the entire school population is sick because of one or two parents. That's only the base of the snowball of chaos that's crashing through the halls of CHS. Students and teachers are rapidly falling behind and getting lost in make-up work, grades are slipping, and tension is rising. Valuable class time is being used to help catch up the multitude of students who have been ill.

This problem is totally preventable. Most illnesses only take a day to get over the contagious part. It would be much better for one student to miss one or two days from being sick than have the entire school miss that many days and more because viruses are getting into the school and mutating and attacking people in different ways.

So, parents, please, if you have sick kids, leave them at home. You will be doing every other parent, student, and faculty member a massive favor.

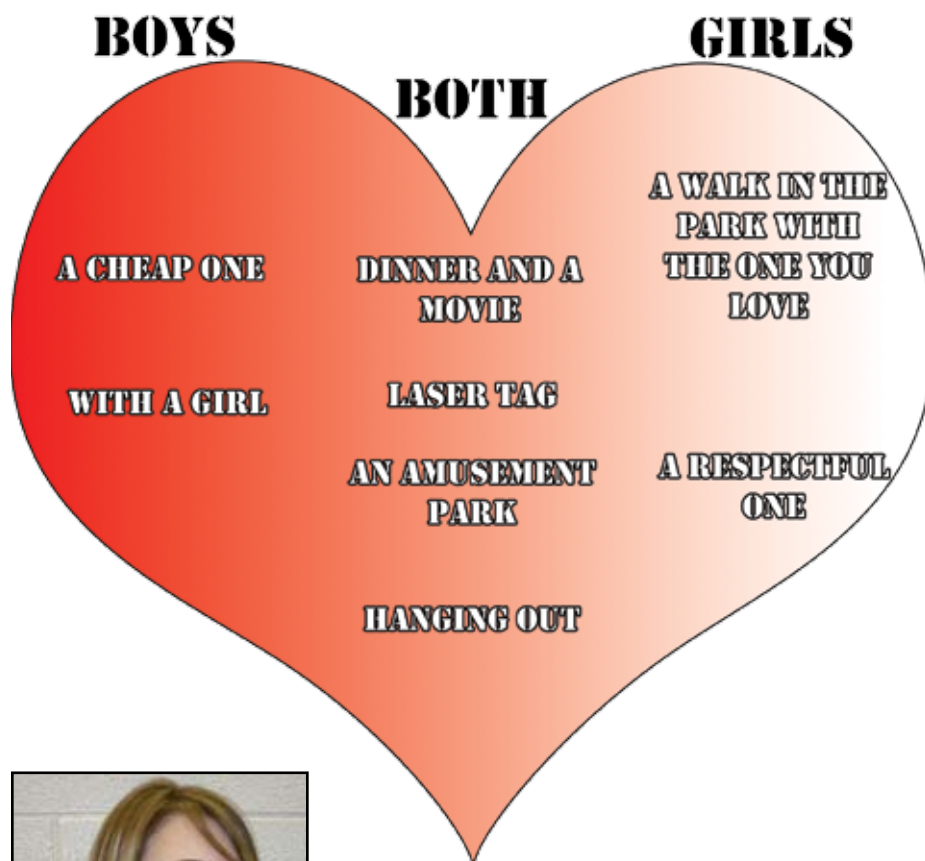
**You don't think  
there is a very big  
chance of other  
kids getting sick?  
Think again!**

### Unlock the Memories



Reserve your **2010 yearbook** now!  
Contact any yearbook member or  
Mrs. Hewes. Sales begin **January 15**.  
Cost: \$35

## What is your idea of a perfect date?



**Alyssa Dale**, senior, says her perfect date is "An afternoon spent in the museum, so we can talk about something interesting. After, we would have a nice picnic in the park."



**Tyler Siek**, sophomore, says his perfect date is "A really nice dinner, followed by a drive-in movie. After that, we stay up all night talking, then go to a nice breakfast."

### The Bluejay Post 2009-2010

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Cimarron High School  
Cimarron, KS 67835  
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### 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.

### 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.

## ABC it's easy as 123? Cimarron holds spelling bee

by James Rittenhouse

On January 20 Cimarron hosted its school-wide spelling bee for third through eighth grades. The local spelling bee is the ultimate test for students trying to and make it all the way to the national bee.

Students prepared for weeks to determine who would represent their grade in our school's spelling bee. In the end only the top spelling students of their respected grade were chosen to participate in the school wide bee.

This year the bee was filled with intensity with seventh grader Jessica Wehkamp winning the bee for second year. Wehkamp won the school's spelling bee last year as a sixth grader and, after winning the county spelling bee, went on to place sixth in the state. To make it all the way to state takes

practice.

"To study I had a booklet of words of different origins that I would study over and over again," Wehkamp said.

Nerves play a big part when spelling in front of an audience, but being a two-time winner doesn't exactly curb the nervousness.

"I was still very nervous even though I've been in spelling bees before," Wehkamp said.

As our school's champion, Wehkamp will now have the opportunity to participate in the county's spelling bee, and possibly go as far as the Scripts National Spelling Bee. Although she has this opportunity, she is still looking towards the future.

"After I'm done with spelling this year, I'm going to hit the words hard for my last year of spelling," Wehkamp said.

## Foreign Language Club helps out Haiti

by Tess Trahern

On January 12, Haiti was hit by an earthquake that caused major damages. Eight days later, it was hit by an aftershock that worsened the country's condition. CHS's Foreign Language Club has decided to donate \$500 to help with the survival needs of the country and its people.

"We made a check donation of \$500 dollars taken from the Foreign Language Club fund," said Foreign Language Club sponsor Norma Pando. "We had enough money built up over the years that we could afford it. And we

thought the need was great enough."

Senior Vianney Garcia, who is a member of KAY Club and Foreign Language Club, suggested the idea to Pando.

"KAY Club usually does donations, but Vianney suggested that since it's a foreign place, the donation could be sent through Foreign Language Club," said Pando. "Some original ideas were donating items or water, but getting supplies there would be difficult, and the need was so great, so we thought money would be better."

## Thompson first musician to attend Honor Band



**STATE BOUND!** Abby Thompson, sophomore, practices before the big week in Wichita. "These are the best band members in the state," says Thompson. (Maddox photo)

by Kyle Maddox

Abby Thompson, sophomore, is on her way KMEA State Honor Band.

Thompson is the first person from CHS to go to State Honor Band.

"The only thing you have to do is be a sophomore, junior, or senior," she said,

"and have played in District Honor Band."

Conflicting emotions are often present when faced with stressful situations.

"I was very excited at first," said Thompson, "but as time goes on and the reality that I'll actually be going through with this sets in, I'm getting more nervous as time goes by."

State Honor Band is coming up very quickly.

"We'll be leaving on Wednesday, February 24," she said. "Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, we'll be practicing for the concert we're performing on Saturday."

The State Honor Band is rather large compared to the CHS band.

"There will be 200 of us performing," said Thompson. "These are the best band

members in the state."

Band wasn't always fun for Thompson.

"Mrs. Minneman, my parents, and my grandparents all pushed me to succeed," she said. "When I was forced to take band in fifth grade, I hated it, but now I love it."

## KAY Club helps out through 'pennies for patients'

by Spence Byer

Since January 11, CHS KAY Club has been raising money for a six-year-old girl diagnosed with leukemia, through Pennies for Patients. The patient, Reese Naylor;

from Rose Hill, is in the final phase of her treatment. Pennies for Patients has become a competition among classes.

"When we go to conferences, we discuss how to motivate students to participate," said KAY Club sponsor Jackie Jantz. "Someone suggested having a class competition."

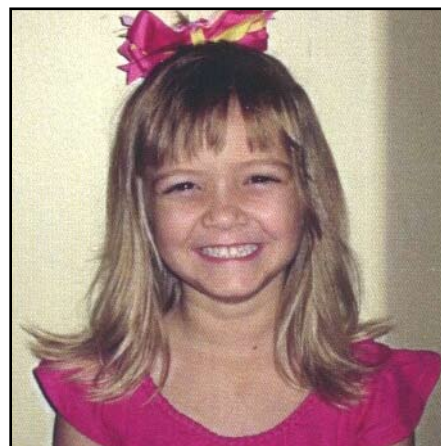
The competition is taking place between the seventh and eighth grade and a separate competition throughout the entire high school.

"Each student out of the seventh or eighth grade will get a candy bar and pop as a prize," said Jantz. "Same goes for the high school."

The boxes will be placed in each grade's English classroom.

"My Accounting II class will count the money this year," said Jantz.

The fund raiser will run until February 5.



Reese Naylor

## 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: Eva Giebler  
Last issue's winner: No one!

## New Forensics coach prepares for performance

by Kyle Maddox

Entering CHS with an unusual amount of experience for a new staff member, Eighth grade English teacher and Forensics coach Cindy Kelly commands the classroom with a certain air of authority. She comes to us from the Garden City school district.

Kelly comes from a quality educational background.

"My undergrad is from Fort Hays State," she said, "and my Master's is in English from KU. I'm also certified to teach Forensics, General Science, and Social Studies."

Teaching is nothing new to Kelly.



**READY... SET... ACT!** Forensics coach Cindy Kelly evaluates performances during practice. "I rely on a mentoring system," said Kelly, "so the novices have someone besides the coach to help teach them the ropes." (Maddox photo)

"I've had seven years of in-class teaching," said Kelly. "[But] I've also been a sub for four and a half years and a homebound instructor for six years. A homebound instructor is a teacher for someone who is physically or mentally unable to be in class. The lessons are brought to them."

She has taught all over Kansas: Lawrence, Hays, Oskaloosa (a small town outside Lawrence), Garden, and now Cimarron, yet Kelly has never taught junior high before.

"There's not really that much different," she said. "Eighth graders are similar to freshmen, so I'm not finding a big difference between the two."

Teaching has always come naturally to Kelly.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," she said. "I can remember, as young as five years old, playing school with my siblings... I was always the teacher. It's always something I knew I was going to do. I just really enjoy teaching others."

Though it's only been a month, Kelly already enjoys teaching at Cimarron.

"It has more of a family feel than other schools I've taught at," she said. "I felt welcome from the moment I walked in here. I have the freedom to actually teach here; in some schools it's pretty controlled as to what you can and cannot teach. Specific assignments are given and so on."

Even though the year is half-over already, Kelly feels comfortable stepping into her role.

"I've likened it to being a substitute," she said. "You have to go in and take charge, even though you haven't been in charge before. For me, even though there are a lot of details to take care of, it

isn't really an overwhelmingly difficult change."

However, she stepped in with perfect timing for Forensics, as it is only a second-semester class.

"I've been the head coach for two years," said Kelly, "but I've been an assistant coach for three years."

Kelly is impressed with the current Forensics program.

"I think that it has been pretty strong in the past," she said. "The students have been well coached, and there's always a lot of enthusiasm. Obviously, both the past coach and someone in the administration has taken the time to make Forensics a priority to the school."

Approaching swiftly, March 27 is the day that CHS will host a Forensics tournament, and Kelly feels ready.

"I've located the information used in previous tournaments," she said, "appointed a tournament manager, and have been contacting people to see if they can help."

Kelly expects a solid Forensics season.

"I expect lots of medals," she said. "I also expect my students to gain confidence throughout the season. I hope that the novices will become just as enthusiastic as the veterans, so that we can continue the cycle."

Inter-team leadership is vital to Forensics success.

"I rely on a mentoring system," said Kelly, "so the novices have someone besides the coach to help teach them the ropes, which helps with the motivation factor."

Even though the team is comprised mostly of novices, Kelly is optimistic about the success of this season.

"I'm not concerned at all," said Kelly. "The novices in both classes have jumped right in. They've found pieces and have started to ask questions, both of which are signs that they understand the process."

## Mud in the blood: Lacy practices extreme sport

by Spence Byer

"The best time to go mudding is anytime you can find mud," said CHS Junior Chris Lacy.

Lacy is a man of many colors coated in mud.

"Who doesn't like to play in the mud?" he said.

Each great hobby comes with certain inspiration.

Lacy's inspiration came from his dad.

"My dad introduced me to the sport of four-



**PUSH!** Junior Chris Lacy gets stuck in the river. Lacy is confident he can make mudding more than a hobby. "Mudding easily can incorporate for a job," Lacy said. (Courtesy photo)

wheeling when I was five," said Lacy.

At five, a kid has little options other than toys. Lacy made use of what he had.

"When I was a kid, I used to play in the mud with toy dump trucks," he said. "Now I do it with real trucks."

Lacy has two mudding vehicles: a Jeep CJ5 and a S10 Blazer. He has the knack of fixing things himself and shows signs of becoming a seasoned mechanic.

"The two most common breakdowns that I have had are broken axles and steering problems," he said.

Many hobbies are just hobbies, but Lacy is confident that he can make a career out of this extreme sport that he loves.

"Mudding can easily incorporate with a job," he said. "Around big cities there are shops that build vehicles for mudding."

Lacy is a true "mudder" though; he builds his own at home.

"I like fixing my own," he said. "The shops are more for the rich kids that just get in and drive."

When it comes to shop knowledge of the best equipment to use, Lacy is on it.

"Bogger TSL tires would be my favorite. They cost around \$170 a piece," he said. "I use lockers so both tires spin at once on one axle."

Mechanics can't just watch people have fun though. They feel the need to get their hands dirty too. Lacy is no exception.

"One night me and some buddies tried to make it completely to Dodge on the trails," he said, "and we ended up breaking both the front and rear axles and blew a transmission."

Lacy offers advice to anyone interested in the sport: "Mudding can easily be an expensive hobby, but if you're careful, it can be cheap and fun."



## Oklahoma student adapts well to life in Kansas

by Britnie Jenkins

Students who have lived in a small town and attend a small school know almost every student in their high school. So when a new face appears in the halls, everyone knows about the new student, especially when this new face appears in the middle of a school year.

Freshman Taylor Moyer, who recently moved to Cimarron from Blackwell, Oklahoma, is one such student.

"This is my tenth time moving," said Moyer. "I have lived in Nebraska, Iowa, and Texas. This is the first time I have lived in Kansas."

She hasn't stayed in one town for too long. "The longest place I've stayed is Blackwell," said Moyer. "We were there for a year and a half. Hopefully, I'll be at Cimarron until I graduate."

Moyer's family has relocated so many times because of her dad's job.

"My dad is the manager at Walmart," she said.

At her last schools, Moyer was involved in many activities.

"I did softball, track, golf, slow pitch, swim team, and cheerleading," she said.

Moyer was a part of two cheerleading squads.

"I was in regular cheerleading and competition cheerleading," she said. "It seemed like I was never home."

Competition cheering is just like it appears in the Bring It On movies.

"We practiced every day for about three hours," said Moyer. "It took a lot of skill, and we had to work hard. My squad went to Florida to compete for nationals, and we won. I was tossed in the air a lot because of my size."

Even though she's new, Moyer still plans to try out.

"I want to try out for cheerleading," she said. "I'm scared, though, because most people don't know me here."

Moving in the middle of the school year is hard and because of scheduling conflicts, Moyer has to take English I independently.

"At Blackwell," said Moyer, "I had block scheduling so I had planned on taking English I second semester. But Cimarron doesn't have that so I have to take it independently."

The schools are much different too.

"We had open lunch and a whole hour to eat," Moyer said. "I also haven't had homework in five years. Then I came here and I had homework in every class the first day of school. At my old school we had half a semester and learned [the material] fast with lots of time to do it. Here, it's slower, but we have less time in class to do homework."



**READY? OKAY!** Freshman Taylor Moyer demonstrates the splits. Moyer, who moved to CHS from Blackwell, Oklahoma, used to be involved in competition cheerleading. "It took a lot of skill... I was tossed in the air a lot because of my size," said Moyer. (Jenkins photo)

Blackwell was a much bigger school than Cimarron.

"There was 250 students in my freshmen class," said Moyer. "This school is small. Everyone knew me before I knew them. Someone walked up to me on my first day and said, 'Hi. You must be Taylor.' It was weird because it was the middle of the year, too. I seemed like the only new kid."

## It's all love and basketball

## Sophomore Avery Burns shows passion on the court



**ALLY OOP!** Sophomore Avery Burns works on perfecting her free throw shots. Burns looks into the future and has big dreams. "I would like to think the WNBA is in my future," she said. (Marshall photo)

By Nicole Marshall

"When I was young, I never wanted to leave the court until I got things exactly correct. My dream was to become a pro." -Larry Bird

Some students enjoy participating in various sports, clubs, and activities. For one student at CHS, basketball is her game.

Avery Burns, sophomore, has shown a strong passion for basketball. Burns is a starter for Cimarron's varsity basketball team, which is an honor for a sophomore.

Burns showed an interest in the sport in her early years.

"I started to enjoy it when my sister Alexa (CHS 2008 graduate) started playing," Burns said.

Burns has shown a strong sense of leadership when it comes to being a player as well as a mentor.

"I don't really get away from playing; I help my sisters in playing and getting better," she said.

Though Burns never strays far from the court,

she does find ways to keep in shape outside of basketball practice with the team.

"I run at home and do ab workouts," she said.

Burns doesn't have a strict diet she follows, but she keeps away from sugary and fatty foods and drinks.

To maintain a successful season, before each game, Burns enjoys listening to certain types of songs to get herself motivated. She also receives cheers from her biggest fan.

"I think Audra, my little sister, is my biggest fan," Burns said.

Not only is she inspired by others, but Burns also has her own inspirations.

"My dad is my biggest inspiration," Burns said. "But I also look up to Shalee Lehning (K-State graduate, Atlanta Dream guard)."

Burns is focused on the future and achieving her dreams.

"I would like to think the WNBA is in my future," she said.

## Wrestling Mania

# CHS Wrestlers hit the mats

by Shelby Dawn



**3-2-1, PINNED!** Freshman Aiden Shaughnessy pins his opponent to win the match. (Pulkrabek photo)



**STRANGLEHOLD:** (Left) Freshman Brady Barrett works on pinning his Larned opponent during the Cimarron Wrestling Tournament. (Pulkrabek photo)

**HOLD 'EM:** (Right) Senior John Shaughnessy holds his opponent down at the Cimarron Wrestling Tournament. Shaughnessy wrestles with his three brothers. (Pulkrabek photo)



**JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER:** (Left) Senior John Shaughnessy works on pinning his opponent from Larned. Shaughnessy has wrestled all through high school. (Pulkrabek photo)



**FROM THE SIDELINES:** (Right) Coach Lance Walker watches anxiously from the sidelines as his wrestlers compete. (Pulkrabek photo)



## Sports Highlights

### Men's Basketball

Stanton County-L 43-37  
Larned-L 52-48  
Syracuse-L 71-44  
Hugoton-L 46-34  
Satanta-W 48-14  
Elkhart-W 48-41

### Women's Basketball

Stanton County-W 65-48  
Larned-L 39-53  
Syracuse-W 60-50  
Stanton County-W 50-46  
Holcomb-L 44-33  
Syracuse-W 43-40

### Wrestling-Scott City

1st-Tyler White-215  
2nd-John Shaughnessy-160  
3rd-Zach Fields-285  
3rd-Josh Meis-140  
4th-Brady Barrett-145

## Alumni basketball game to be held this month courtesy of StuCo group

by Britnie Jenkins

Student Council will be putting on an Alumni Basketball tournament on Saturday February 6.

The girls' game will take place at 6:00 p.m., and the boys' game will take place at 8:00 p.m.

Jersey check-out will be at 5:00 p.m. "For the girls' team," said StuCo President Spence Byer, "the '98 state team will play the '08 state team. The guys' teams will consist of CHS Alumni ranging from Scott Ridenour to Ian Campbell."

StuCo will be in charge of the all the arrangements.

"There will be a concession stand run by StuCo," said Byer. "StuCo is also doing the checking in, announcing, and scorekeeping. But we had to hire JV refs."

Between games there will be entertainment.

"The little girls' dance team will be dancing," Byer said.

Advance tickets can be purchased from any StuCo member, the school, or from Jennifer Hendrix, sponsor.

"The advance tickets will be \$3," said Byer. "Tickets at the door, however, will be \$5."

## Coaches' comments: getting to know athletic instructors

by Lyndi Stokes

### COACH JOHN MOWRY

- Q: What do you do in your spare time?**  
A: Spend time with my family and golf.
- Q: Do you have any children? If so how many?**  
A: Five.
- Q: Favorite activity with family?**  
A: Bowling, movies, and playing on Wii.
- Q: Where were you born and raised?**  
A: Dodge City.
- Q: What is your favorite sport to coach?**  
A: Football and Track.
- Q: If you were a fruit, what would you be? why?**  
A: I don't know. Probably a nut.
- Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be?**  
A: Dog because everybody waits on you.
- Q: What is your favorite Michael Jackson song?**  
A: Don't know. "Ben" by Jackson 5.
- Q: What was your childhood nickname?**  
A: Jake.
- Q: What is the strangest talent you have?**  
A: Talking like Donald Duck.
- Q: What kind of shampoo/body wash do you use?**  
A: Whatever is available.



### COACH JOSH LITTLEJOHN

- Q: What do you do in your spare time?**  
A: I like to spend time with my family, workout, play ball, watch TV and movies.
- Q: Do you have any children? If so how many?**  
A: Yep, one boy and one girl. Jude is three and Exie is six months.
- Q: Favorite activity with family?**  
A: Going out of town for the weekend, staying in nice hotels, and trying new places to eat.
- Q: Where were you born and raised?**  
A: Born in South Africa, raised mostly in Texas.
- Q: If you were a fruit, what would you be? why?**  
A: Elton John because he is rich and famous.
- Q: What is your favorite movie?**  
A: I have two: *Hoosiers* and *Dead Poets Society*.
- Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be?**  
A: Gorilla.
- Q: What is your favorite Michael Jackson song?**  
A: "The Way You Make Me Feel" and "Bille Jean."
- Q: Do you have any strange phobias? If so what?**  
A: Not really, I don't like snakes much though.



### COACH DAVID EDIGER

- Q: What do you do in your spare time?**  
A: Spend time with my family, play golf, work in the yard, and watch tv.
- Q: Do you have any children? If so how many?**  
A: Three girls-Morgan, Maddie, and Mallory.
- Q: Favorite activity with family?**  
A: Spending time in our huge backyard.
- Q: Where were you born and raised?**  
A: Meade.
- Q: What is your favorite sport to coach?**  
A: Basketball.
- Q: If you were a fruit, what would you be? why?**  
A: Strawberry. I have no idea why.
- Q: What is your favorite movie?**  
A: There are many. Comedy is *Plains, Trains, and Automobiles*. Drama is *The Rock*.
- Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be?**  
A: An eagle.
- Q: What is your favorite Michael Jackson song?**  
A: "Smooth Criminal."
- Q: Do you have any strange phobias? If so what?**  
A: Not really a phobia, but I don't like things out of order.
- Q: What was your childhood nickname?**  
A: Hollywood.



### COACH DOUG MINNEMAN

- Q: What do you do in your spare time?**  
A: Golf and play with kids.
- Q: Do you have any children? If so how many?**  
A: Two. Mckenna is five and Kendall is two.
- Q: Favorite activity with family?**  
A: Playing outside.
- Q: Where were you born and raised?**  
A: Born in Manhattan. Raised in Claffin, Kansas.
- Q: What is your favorite sport to coach?**  
A: Football.
- Q: If you were a fruit, what would you be?**  
A: Peach.
- Q: What is your favorite movie?**  
A: *Gladiator*.
- Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be?**  
A: Tiger.
- Q: What is your favorite Michael Jackson song?**  
A: "Thriller."
- Q: Do you have any strange phobias? If so what?**  
A: Being under water (drowning)



## Lady Jays off to good start



**FREE THROW:** Sophomore Dalia Erives prepares herself for a free throw during Lady Jays varsity game. Recently the Lady Jays played in the HPL tournament, placing third. (Yearbook photo)

## Principal's Perspective

### Wrestling Vulnerabilities

One of the highlights of my position is that I have the opportunity to watch our students as they participate in extra-curricular activities such as FCCLA, FFA, basketball, wrestling, and so forth. Last Saturday, I had the opportunity to watch our young men as they wrestled in the Scott City Wrestling Tournament.

As I watched our men wrestle, I was struck by the fact how much 'wrestling' parallels real life. For example, it was clearly evident that our young men were being successful because they had put in so much 'preparation' time before arriving for the matches. In addition, even though our wrestlers might lose a match... they got back up, gathered themselves, and began planning for the next match.

Both of these observations are paralleled in real life. We must prepare for our 'conflicts and endeavors' in advance of the 'performance' time. We are generally not successful in life if we wait till the last moment to prepare for life. In addition, when we do fail, we need to get back up, re-gather ourselves, and begin preparing for our next endeavor.

While thinking of these 'parallelisms' between wrestling and real life, I watched one of our wrestlers make a move that really caught my attention. At the time, I was watching Tyler White 'dive for the feet' of his opponent. It is my understanding that ... by grabbing the feet of the opponent, Tyler would have been able to 'take control' of the match.

However, I noticed that ... when Tyler 'dives for the feet' of his opponent, he is placing himself in a compromising position. Namely, he is placing his body underneath his opponent's body. As such, if he had been unsuccessful in grabbing his opponent's feet, he would surely have been taken down to the ground.

As I began to think about Tyler's actions and how they relate to life, it struck me that we frequently place ourselves in a compromising position in order to be successful. For example, in relationships, we 'open our hearts' to someone else in an effort to establish a solid relationship. However, when we 'open our hearts,' we are making ourselves 'open to attack' or 'betrayal.'

Even though this 'opening our hearts' may seem undesirable to us, it almost always ends with us being good friends with someone else. Yes, we could take a rigid stand and never open our hearts to someone else, but ... we would be some of the loneliest people in the world. What a price we would ultimately pay if we keep our heart to ourselves.

I also see this same principle ... placing ourselves in a vulnerable position to be rewarded later ... in nature. For example, every time a rabbit goes to sleep, he is placing himself in a vulnerable position. However, without this sleep, he would be unable to function in his everyday activities.

Lastly, we need to understand that ... when someone has placed himself or herself in a vulnerable position to us, we need to guard that 'gift' closely. When people share their 'dreams and secrets' with us, we need to realize that we have been 'honored' by that person. They trust us to maintain confidentiality and respect. When we treat this gift with dishonor, we injure the very persons who trusted us.

--Mr. Brown, Principal

## Students of the Month January 2010

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



### Azucena Cases Junior High

"Azucena has a cheerful personality; she's an excellent student and improving her performance in sports."

--Mrs. Feldt

### Cristoph Broers, junior

"Cristoph is a courteous and dedicated student who asks thoughtful questions and wants to learn."

--Mrs. Kelly



### Ashley Fischer,

"Ashley is without a doubt self-motivated and willing to take any challenge presented to her. She's a learner inside and outside the classroom."

--Mr. Miller



## Thinking Outside the Box



### Opinion by James Rittenhouse

February 14 is St. Valentine's Day, but is this day a genuine holiday or just a way for people to spend money on their boyfriend or girlfriend?

I believe in relationships, but I also believe that Valentine's Day is an elaborate scheme used by Hallmark to get us to buy their greeting cards and sappy, over-priced gifts.

To quote the Rolling Stones, "Everybody wants somebody to love," but is buying your significant other a bunch of flowers and a teddy bear really necessary? What happened to the romantic aspect of a relationship? Why can't we take our date out on a date to the park, or bowling? Why must we spend close to a hundred dollars?

I can give you the answer to this in two words: mainstream media.

Movie: \$8  
Flowers: \$30  
Dinner: \$50  
Showing your girlfriend you care: Priceless?

## Counselor's Corner

This time of year is busy with basketball games, wrestling, filling out college applications, preparing for state assessments and for many parents filling out the FAFSA application. I have had many questions regarding what type of documents are needed when filling out the application. Here are some of the items you will need to have handy:

1. Social Security numbers for both parent and student.
2. Your driver's license number if you have one.
3. Your Alien Registration Number if you are not a United States citizen
4. 2009 federal tax information for the student and parent.
5. Records of untaxed income, such as Social Security benefits, welfare benefits for both student and parents.
6. Information on savings, investments and assets for both student and parents.

It is recommended that you fill out the FAFSA application on-line. There is not a fee for applying for financial aid. The website is: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

If you have additional questions or concerns, please call me.

As always, I have a few reminders for you:

- \*Feb. 6 ACT exam
- \*Feb 8 State Assessments and Kelpa testing begins
- \*Feb. 15 No School
- \*Feb. 16 Academic Recognition: during the basketball game

Remember, my door is always open, so please stop by if there is anything I can do for you or your student.

--Mrs. Millershaski  
CHS Counselor

The media has influenced us to believe that we have to spend money to make this holiday romantic. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

You don't have to spend the big bucks to make your date feel special. Why not just a quiet night together? Staying at home saves you the money and it also lets you spend quality time with your significant other.

Another reason Valentine's Day shouldn't be considered a holiday is because it doesn't apply to everybody.

Not every person in the world has a boyfriend or a girlfriend to spend the day with. To them it's just another day in their life. It's not anything special.

Valentine's Day is a holiday that started as a religious event, but thanks to mainstream media, we have made it the most commercially involved holiday of the year. Before you go out and spend a bunch of money on your boyfriend or girlfriend, just remember that you can still make the night special.

Instead of taking the easy route and spending a whole bunch of money on unimportant things, channel your inner Shakespeare and think of something Romeo would do for Juliet.