

the
Seaman
Clipper
Seaman High School Topeka, KS.

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Seaman High School

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Seniors Stephanie Bayless and Trayton Schafer gather presents wrapped and purchased by NHS for their adopted family. (Photo by Marcy Anderson)

Christmas lights add holiday spirit

by Brenlee Yingling
AD MANAGER

Imagine taking a drive with the whole family to see Christmas lights and putting electronics away for an hour. Going to look at all the different Christmas lights is a fun holiday trip to spend some quality time with family. There are a few places that are hot spots to look at Christmas lights.

The Potwin neighborhood is one of the most well known places to look at lights in Topeka. It is six blocks long where almost every house is lit up. Every year they have a theme, where they place decorations at every roundabout intersection in the neighborhood. This year's theme is Charles Dickens Christmas. The lights and decorations will be on display until Jan 3.

Another place to go look at Christmas lights in Topeka is Winter Wonderland. 2014 is the 14th year for Winter Wonderland, which is a fundraiser for TARC, which supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It costs \$10 per car. It is a mile of different Christmas light displays. Winter Wonderland runs

through Dec 31 from 6-10 p.m. every night.

"I like to go to Winter Wonderland and look at all the lights with my family. It's a time when we all take a minute away from electronics to spend some time together enjoying all the different lights," said senior Katie Andrews.

Another place to see Christmas lights is the Kansas City Plaza. Every year business owners decorate almost all of their stores and buildings with Christmas lights. People can even take a horse carriage ride around the plaza to enjoy a night with the family without having to walk around everywhere. The Christmas lights will be up until Jan 15 at the Kansas City Plaza.

"I have been to the Plaza during Christmas time and I like to ride the horse carriage and enjoy all the lights and the atmosphere," said junior Sarah Knight.

Enjoy all of these places to see the Christmas lights because before long, all of the lights will be down again for the year.

clipnotes



*The Scholar Bowl team of Cassidy Harden, Dameron Boland, Micheal Devoe, Lakota Shehi, Geordan Shaffer and Will Hartner (not pictured) have qualified in the Top 16 and will be part of the television round that will be announced at a later time.

*The Morgan Kottman Blue Out Game will be played on Jan. 16 against Shawnee Heights

*The Seaman Marching Vikings leave for the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 29 and will return from San Antonio on Jan. 5



This is Freshman LeAnna Ard's locker that was decorated by Josie Lucas to lift her spirits through all of November. (see related story on page 3)

WATCH D.O.G.S. program provides positive influence

by Mason Diederich
STAFF WRITER

More dads in the Seaman community are becoming involved in their child's education through a new program at several elementary schools. This new program was first introduced at North Fairview during the 2013-14 school year, followed by Elmont this year.

The WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) program began in 1998 with two goals: to provide positive male role models and enhance school security/reduce bullying. It was a result of a dad who took action after the Jonesboro, Arkansas school shooting.

Both schools have received positive feedback from the dads who have participated in the program. Their day consists of many tasks throughout the school routine. This includes going outside for every recess, being in the lunchroom, and spending time in his child's classroom.



An Elmont dad participates in everyday activities with the students.

"I love the WATCH D.O.G.S. program. It's a great opportunity to provide a positive male influence in a student's life," said Nate Bruns of North Fairview.

The students have also benefited from this program. Regardless of the parent, they look forward to having a new face in the classroom and recess.

"The best part is that they play with you at recess," said Elmont student Mateo.



A WATCH D.O.G.S. dad poses with a class from Elmont. In addition to spending time in the classroom, dads also go out to recess and to lunch with the students.

Staff recognizes the importance of having positive role models working with students. The extra set of eyes, ears and hands do not go unnoticed in an elementary classroom.

North Fairview principal Kelli Finnegan shares, "I am very appreciative of these dads giving their time to build relationships with the students and helping keep the building safe."

West Indianola is try-

ing to bring this program to their school as well, after hearing all of the positive feedback that it has brought. WATCH D.O.G. Chris Heald encourages every father figure to take advantage of this program and get involved with their child's school.

Top Dog coordinator, Deb Johnson of Elmont, sums it up as "Such a simple idea with a WOW result!"

Locker A10 decorated as a small act of kindness

by Cortni Heston
STAFF WRITER

Freshman Josie Lucas, found a unique way to lift the spirits of her friend LeAnna Ard using just a locker and Post-it notes.

LeAnna found herself at home one night feeling

down, and Josie decided she wanted to do something spontaneous to brighten her mood the next day.

"She was having a bad night and I just wanted to cheer her up. I wanted to make her happy and just make her day," said Josie.

Josie came to school 20

minutes earlier than she usually would in order to decorate both the inside and outside of LeAnna's locker with Post-it notes of things she liked.

Some of the notes had names of bands she liked, and other simply had nice things from Josie written on them to let LeAnna know

how much her friend cared about her so she could feel a little bit better that day.

It only takes a few minutes of time and a small act of kindness to change someone's outlook for the day.

Clipper

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Views in this newsmagazine do not always represent those of the faculty of school of USD 345.

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Resolution pre-planning increases success

Starting the year off right

by Tory Darting
STAFF WRITER

New Year's Day is the holiday that is celebrated the most around the world. People around the world should take this holiday as an opportunity to better themselves or give up old habits.

Whether your resolution is eating healthier or losing weight, following through with it requires more than just simply thinking about it. Studies have shown that if you write down your ideal resolution beforehand, you are more determined in completing your promise.

The first step in the process of developing a resolution is brainstorming. Think about goals you can easily meet and then don't forget to write them down. Keep in mind that there will be obsta-

cles you will face as you strive to accomplish your resolution—plan to work around them.

Next, pick a starting date. Choose when you want the resolution to begin and end. It doesn't necessarily have to start on New Year's Day; pick a day that works best for you. The most effective resolutions last between three to five months.

Finally, keeping a positive attitude is imperative. There will be moments when you give in to the temptation, but don't give yourself a hard time.

In the end, if you fail, don't put yourself down; if you succeed, plan some type of reward. The whole point of this project is to learn from your mistakes and become a better person.

Good Goal-setting

•Step 1 - BRAINSTORM

Pick a goal that excites you. A great example is losing weight. People can carry that around for decades. Resolve to make that change.



•Step 2 - CREATE a PLAN

Plan to achieve this goal. You want to know that you are willing to work for this.



•Step 3 - PRACTICE PATIENCE

Don't rush the progress. When you take baby steps toward your goal, it becomes easier to accomplish.



•Step 4 - REMEMBER

Keep reminders in your phone or in a planner. That way, you can keep track of progress made.



•Step 5 - REWARD YOURSELF

Don't wait until you have finished your goal. Treat yourself for your hard work.



Design by Kamryn Kaul
Info provided from <http://www.besthealthmag.ca/embrace-life/wellness/6-steps-to-choosing-your-best-new-years-resolution>

VIKING VOICES

What is the weirdest Christmas present you've ever received?



"Once I got a Veggie Tales Mr. Potato Head."
Freshman
Katy Mulqueen



"My dad got me a shake weight. He said I needed to tone up my arms."
Sophomore
Kennedy Mirowski



"My dad gave me a toy dump truck because he said I was trash."
Junior
Colton Moranz



"One time my grandpa gave me a fart in a jar."
Senior
Mariah Creollo

People grieve at their own pace Holiday time difficult for many

by Delaney Spence
STAFF WRITER

When most people think of the holiday season what comes to mind is time spent with friends and family, but for some, this “joyful” season can magnify the loss of loved ones. There is no wrong way to handle grief; everyone is different when it comes to tough situations, especially during the holidays.

To start with, don’t avoid feelings of grief. It is a way out of pain. Keeping emotions bottled up can make the situation even worse; so having a support system to lean on can make the days go a little easier. Remember to be gentle with yourself because it takes time to find the meaning of holidays again, but pay attention to kids during this

season because their happiness is real. Be supportive and understanding of friends who are grieving. Invite them to activities.

The days between Oct. 1-Jan. 1 can also be a time of extreme stress and depression. Finding ways to cope may seem difficult, but here are a few simple steps to handle the holiday blues:

1. **Lower expectations.** Don’t compare your holidays to anyone else’s, or what Hollywood portrays how they are “supposed” to be.

2. **Do something different.** Switching things up can make the season go smoother, especially if you are dreading the traditional things.

3. **Volunteer.** Not only can it make others joyful, but it can also make yourself find

a sense of comfort and happiness. Helping others can spread joy a long way.

4. **Find positive ways to remember loved ones.** Whether it’s writing a note to them or doing something the two of you used to do together, this may help with the coping process of the loss of loved ones.

5. **Exercise and eat well.** Easier said than done with all the parties and family gatherings going on, but maintaining a consistent diet, and exercising regularly has been shown to decrease anxiety and depression.

There is not a right or wrong way to celebrate the holidays, especially during the grieving process. Just take it easy on yourself, and get support from others.

STAGES of GRIEF

Denial

The first reaction is to deny the reality of the situation. This is a temporary response that carries us through the first wave of pain.

Anger

When denial wears away, pain re-emerges. Emotion is expressed as anger — aimed at objects, strangers, friends, even our dying or deceased loved one.

Bargaining

After feeling helpless is a need to regain control — we make a deal with God to postpone the inevitable.

Depression

Depression is so individual and private. In this time we prepare to separate and bid our loved one farewell.

Acceptance

Grief is a singular experience — we all go through it differently and in varied amounts of time. Resisting it prolongs the natural process of healing.

Clubs ‘give back’ to help others

by Delaney Spence
STAFF WRITER

Some clubs and classes have found a way to participate in giving back to the less fortunate during the holiday season by adopting a family or children. This comes with many responsibilities, like receiving donations to purchase the gifts needed.

Lisa Martinez, Spanish teacher, gets her classes involved by adopting two Spanish-speaking families through United Way.

The way Martinez raises money is by a competition between her classes to see which one can raise the most money, whatever hour wins gets a pizza party; however, if the students decide not to participate in this competition they can help out by donating items, wrapping, or delivering



Junior Andie Sodergren, helps wrap gifts for the NHS club who adopted people (Photo by Delaney Spence).

the presents.

Wondering how clubs decide what to get as gifts? Well, lists will be sent from organizations that specify what each person needs and a couple of their wants.

Mrs. Martinez gets excited about this time of year.

“The students love helping people in our community and

they also enjoy experiencing the culture of different Spanish-speaking families.”

Several clubs involved in adopting families go through God’s Storehouse, which is a food pantry located in Meriden.

A total of 28 kids and three families have been adopted by members of Seaman High.

Military perfect fit for some graduates

by Ethan Brunetti
STAFF WRITER

Imagine you have to spend months or years away from your loved ones, or having to live with the constant uneasiness of whether or not you will be deployed.

Men and women in the military face these problems on a daily basis.

Seaman High School has been able to consistently put graduates into the military. These people are hardworking and have the determination to fight for the world's best military.

Tyler Bushnell, a graduate of the class of 2013, decided as a junior in high school that he was going to join the United States Air Force.

"I decided late in my junior year that I wanted to serve in the U.S. Air Force. It was a decision that I took a while to come to, but I ultimately thought it would be the best route for myself," said Bushnell.

Four years ago Jason McGinty made his way to Annapolis, Maryland to attend the United States Naval Academy. This road started as a freshman when Jason thought that a career in the mili-

btw

"The thought of a military career started as a freshman when I first thought I would like to become a U.S. Marine Corps officer. I took my grades and school work seriously and always worked my hardest."

Jason McGinty



tary would be a good fit for himself and his future.

"The thought of military career started as a freshman when I first thought I would like to become a U.S. Marine Corps Officer. I took my grades and school work seriously and always worked my hardest."

Alex Hurla, graduate of the class of 2014. He graduated from basic training over this last summer to start his journey with the United States Marine Corps. Amanda Hurla, a junior, talked about her brother's decision.

"Alex always had a fascination with history, and always was intrigued with war. Alex took his physical fitness into



Alex Hurla after graduating basic training. (Photo provided by Emmalie Myers)

account before he left and worked insanely hard to get in the best shape he could before he went to basic training."

New school app helps students stay organized

by Brianna Schuster
STAFF WRITER

With clubs, organization, events and assignments that go along with school, it can be difficult to stay updated and on track. With School Way, stay organized and in the loop right at your fingertips.

School Way is a free app available for iPhone and Android devices.

The app sends notifications to your phone about classroom, sports, and safety updates.

"It's like a private Twitter account for Seaman High School," said counselor Dawna Edmonds.

With the app, students and parents can customize and choose what

type of notifications you want to receive and from what schools.

The app also comes with a calendar equipped with all of the upcoming events of the Seaman district.

"I use the app to check when basketball games are," said junior Lexi Price.

Teacher, counselor, and administration emails are also included under the contact folder.

To download the app, you can go to www.usd345.com. On the homepage, there is a School Way link on the left hand side. When you click on it, it will take you to where you can download it.

"I think as a student it would be very helpful," said Mrs. Edmonds, "and it's pretty user friendly."



"It's like a private Twitter account for Seaman High School."

Counselor
Dawna Edmonds

New School Way app can be downloaded today in the App Store

Wi-fi blocks certain websites at Seaman

by Jakob Ready
STAFF WRITER

As senior Savannah Workman studies her notes during seminar, she is unable to listen to her soft, joyful music that helps her relax, concentrate, and get ready to ace the big test. The reason for the error in music is that her favorite music website is blocked on the district wifi.

"It is stupid that an innocent website such as pandora is not allowed to be accessed by students," said Workman.

In this modern era of learning, wireless internet is a key component in helping students with their everyday school work; however, the district's technology department must abide by

state laws to regulate and monitor the websites on the public-accessed internet.

All websites including social media, games, obscene material, and online shopping are banned on the districts wifi.

"Our district uses a firewall appliance that has a built-in content filter that starts with a service that blocks websites based on content," said Director of Technology Administration Infrastructure and Maintenance Terry Morrow. "All in compliance with the CIPA (Childrens Internet Protection Act)."

The CIPA requires districts across the country to impose certain requirements to wifi, if that district receives

discounts for internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program. The E-rate program is a program that makes certain communications services and products more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. (fcc.gov)

Although the district has most of the harmful websites blocked, the staff using the wifi can also request the blockage of a certain website if the person thinks it is not useful for the learning process of our students.

"We create a blacklist to add sites to if the staff has asked us to block the website due to content," said Morrow.

The wifi requires a password to join. This password protects the wireless

internet from unwanted users and viruses. The password also protects from staff and students mobile devices connecting to the wifi.

If the district was to unlock the wifi, it would overload with devices; consequently, the internet would be too slow for the staff and students to use for learning purposes. In some cases teachers let students use their mobile phones for educational activities.

"We get to use our cell phones in some of my classes," said senior Wyatt Hendrix. "It is really depressing when I cannot use my own phone for educational purposes due to the fact that I do not have any service or wifi."

Field trip approval takes time and work

by Tory Darting
STAFF WRITER

An exciting way to keep your students intrigued is to take them on a trip. Students can't just go on a field trip, though; there are several requirements a teacher must meet before taking a class on a trip.

The faculty cares about their students, and in order to ensure their safety, the staff member planning on taking a group of students on a field trip must go through a multi-step approval process. This must also be done at least two weeks before the planned trip.

"If the field trip is in Shawnee County, I must approve it. If the field trip is outside Shawnee County however, the central office must approve it," Principal Ron Vinduska said.

The staff member must

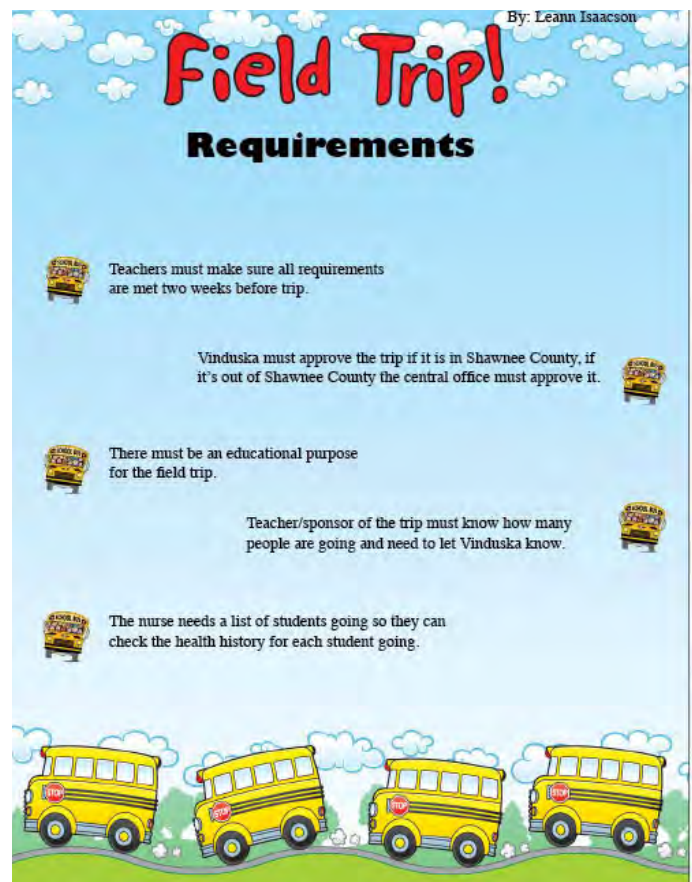
also inform Mr. Vinduska the educational value of the trip. It must teach the students something while they are there.

Transportation is another fundamental. It is vital that the trip sponsor notify Mr. Vinduska the number of students going on the trip. Whether paying for a bus or a van depends on the number of attendants.

"Probably the hardest part of planning a field trip is all the forms that have to be filled out," said Susan Sittenauer.

And then there are the health history forms. Students going on the trip must have their health history checked and approved by the nurse.

"The teacher planning the trip must give the nurse a list of all the students going and then the nurse will check the health history for every student," added Vinduska.



Senior year difficult

by Michael Owen
STAFF WRITER

If somebody tells you that senior year is easy, are you going to believe him or her? I know I did. Last year, when I was a junior, that's basically all I heard from the senior class.

If you want to listen to them, ask them what kind of classes they are taking. My schedule is filled with honors and AP courses that are pretty challenging. I would not consider this year easy by any means.

Senior Sam Moylan, one of the top students in the senior class, says, "This year has definitely been the toughest out of the other three, and it's only been one semester."

Most people say the second semester is much easier than the first because teachers are so laid back.

Moylan says, "Hopefully second semester will be a little easier because

this one is very stressful."

Senior Wyatt Steenson says, "My senior year isn't too hard. It hasn't been really easy, but it definitely hasn't been as hard as junior year."

If I compared senior year to junior year, I would say senior year is harder. Junior year was challenging, but senior year is sometimes just too much.

Senior Brad Piel, another student in the top of the class, agrees and says, "This year sucks. I hate it. It's been so hard to keep up my grades while also trying to keep active in my outside-of-the-classroom activities."

So why do most seniors say senior year is easier than all the other ones? Tougher classes, getting ACT/SAT final tests done, and getting accepted into college, that doesn't sound very easy to me. Senior year rumors can be misleading, so make sure you don't go into the year thinking it's as easy as some people say.

What's important?

by Blake Czajkowski
STAFF WRITER

People always seem to get excited for the holidays, whether it is eating with your family or opening presents. In recent years, people seem to be more concerned with the presents than spending time with their family.

The holiday greed begins on Black Friday. People leave their families on Thanksgiving Day to wait in lines to get a better deal on the hottest products. These sales have slowly been getting moved forward, now most of the sales begin around 7 p.m. on Thanksgiving night.

With Americans projected to spend over \$781 million this year alone between Black

Friday and Christmas, companies are getting prepared earlier and earlier. Before the Halloween costumes are put away, the department stores are already playing Christmas music and getting their sales ready.

Many people have forgotten what the holidays are about. The holidays are important to grow closer to your family, but the focus on getting deals on the hottest items interferes with spending time with family. Hopefully, this holiday season everybody will realize that getting the best deal on the newest items and opening hundreds of dollars worth of gifts is not as important as spending time with and growing closer to your family.

Christmas Shopping




Black Friday History 1960s


The best way to advertise Christmas merchandise campaigns was through department store parades like the one sponsored by Macys. Those parades were always on Thanksgiving, so big boosts in shopping happened the day after Thanksgiving.


1980s


In the 1980s, retailers started the myth that Black Friday was crucial to the economy. They convinced consumers that Black Friday was the first day of the year that retailers would see a profit and be "in the black."

Black Friday trivia

 Police departments give the Friday after Thanksgiving its nickname for negative reasons. It is usually the day of massive traffic jams and huge crowds.

 Nearly 135 million people go out to shop on Black Friday every year.

 Online shoppers prefer Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving. Online retailers usually give consumers added perks like free shipping for their orders. Cyber Monday has grown 15-20 percent since it first started in 2005.

 In the past seven years, Black Friday in the U.S. has caused four deaths and 76 injuries.

 Walmart recorded 10 million transactions this year between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving.

Rixton becomes more well known as they continue their career

by Delaney Spence
STAFF WRITER

Rixton, a fairly new boy-band consisting of four members from Manchester, England is releasing their EP album 'Let The Road' on Jan. 15, 2015. If the name of this band doesn't sound familiar, their number one song 'Me and My Broken Heart' should; in July it was the top hit on the radio.

Rixton started off just making covers of songs and posting them on YouTube, along with playing at music venues. They came into the spotlight when big time music manager, Scooter Braun, along with 250,000 other people discovered their cover of 'Don't Wake Me Up' by Chris Brown. Braun has also

helped many other music artists get started with their successful music careers.

This five-track EP starts off with 'Appreciated,' which has a similar sound to Maroon 5 in their early years. The first two tracks are pretty mellow, but then their number one hit hypes things up with its catchy lyrics, along with 'Wait on Me,' and 'We All Want the Same Thing.' These songs have a little more upbeat tempo compared to the opening tracks.

For the most part, this album is very good, although it is not what I would generally listen to, I still think it will catch the attention of many teens, and you will more than likely find yourself jammin' out to their songs when they come on the radio.



Teachers turning to project finals

by Cortni Heston
STAFF WRITER

As the semester comes to an end, finals make their semi-annual appearance and the complaints become increasingly more noticeable. It seems more and more teachers are choosing project finals instead of the traditional written test final. The way teachers see it, we'll appreciate a project final because it's one less "real test" we'll have to study for.

On the contrary, however, when multiple teachers assign project finals it becomes more work to do all the projects you've been assigned than the time it would take you to just study for written tests.

"I usually prefer project finals, but when I have multiple projects to do, the time spent

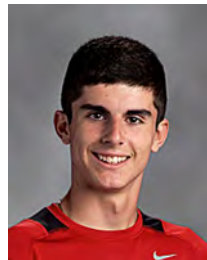
completing the projects outlasts the time it would take to study for a normal final," said junior Madison Henley.

English teacher Mrs. Wolfe likes both test and project finals.

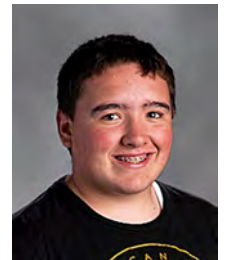
"I think written and project-based finals both tend to require the students to use all of their information or knowledge from the semester and incorporate it into either an essay or project of some sort. They both show a growth or a progression of knowledge throughout the semester," said Wolfe.

Although the gesture to make our finals easier is appreciated, each project comes with its own set of rules and parameters that become stressful to try and differentiate the rules that go with which projects, etc.

VIKING VOICES



"Naked House Hunting because it's pointless."
Freshman
Dylan Wallace



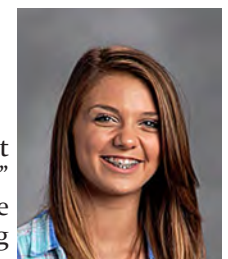
"Bobs Burgers because it is dumb, really dumb."
Junior
Ryan Brown

What is the dumbest show on TV?

"Dog with a Blog. The title speaks for itself."
Senior
Ashley McCune



"Family Guy. I just think it's stupid."
Sophomore
Tira Haag



Planner receives mixed reviews

by Taylor Buessing
CO-EDITOR

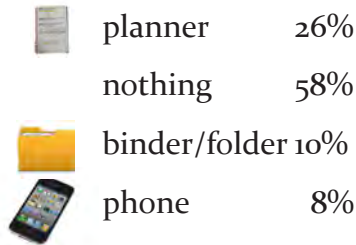
Organization is something that all teenagers seem to have a problem with. It seems to be essential any more because of all the things people have going on in their lives; sports games or practices, work, homework, doctors appointments or other school activities. At this day in age there are so many different ways to stay organized. Whether it's the calendar or reminders on smart phones, the school planner, another type of planner or books and binders, most people need some way to systemize their life.

Every year the district provides planners for all the students. Of the 234 students surveyed 93 percent said they use their planner. Of the 93 percent only 26 percent use their planner to stay organized. Fifty-eight percent of students say they don't use anything to stay organized, 10 percent say they use a binder or a folder and 8 percent say they use their phones.

"I have a different planner that I bought at Walmart... It needs to be bigger because I need more room for my big handwriting, and I also like to have a monthly view and tabs," said senior Whitney Kochever.

As everyone knows, having a planner is required if a student wants to leave the classroom during class. Most people

What tools do you use to organize your life?



234 students surveyed

claim that passes are the only thing they use their planner for. Of the students surveyed, 92 percent of students use their planner for passes.

All students surveyed were asked what could make the planner better. Forty-eight percent of students said the planner shouldn't change, 6 percent of students think it should have more passes, be more durable and more attractive, 15 percent think it should be bigger and 4 percent say that we shouldn't have a planner.

"I think they've kind of become outdated. We use our phones to remind us of things, paper cant notify you if you forgot about an assignment that's due," said Andrew Gill.

How to use a planner well



- Make it a part of your daily routine.
- Fill in due dates. Include corresponding textbook pages.
- Use backward planning. Review plans two or three days before to remind yourself of the event.
- Color code to organize. For example, try highlighting projects due this week in yellow.
- Put EVERYTHING in your planner: homework, tests, parties, conferences, etc...
- Attach a zip-lock bag to the planner and fill with index tags, sticky notes, etc...
- Don't discard old pages. They can be valuable resources to refer to later.

VIKING VOICES

What do you use to organize your life?

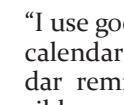


"Evernote is a good one for note organization and I use it for my Christmas list. :)" - Mrs. Brooke Ralph

"I use Remember The Milk all the time! It has a lot of different ways to organize life." Mrs. Gina Stanley



"I am old school. I use reminders and iPhone notes. Lists, upon lists, upon lists. I will also occasionally use voice memos to leave myself reminders." Mrs. Mariah Barnett



"I use google drive / google calendar + iphone Calendar reminders. It's accessible so many places. I use it as my alternate brain." Mrs. Elizabeth Woodman



"I use the Cozi App. It's perfect for coordinating schedules with my dear husband that lives states away." Ms. Patty Allacher

"I used Wunderlist and I would really like a tutorial on that app from one of the students. I am no pro, but it's great for grocery shopping :)." Mrs. Marian Sweany



Staying on track with college requirements

by Kaelin Summers
AD MANAGER

Senior year is a stressful time since it is the year important life decisions are made.

A majority of seniors are going to Kansas State University, University of Kansas, or Washburn University.

Several are still undecided.

For those in the early planning stages, Counselor Steve Alexander has advice. The first step is to take the ACT.

Counselor Steve Alexander said, "To just get into college, there is no limit for the ACT. You can take it until June." The deadlines for ACT scholarships have passed.

Every school has its own deadlines for admissions. KSU accepts applications of admission up to 15 months

before the first day of class.

Alexander said, "The sooner you put in your application, the more scholarships you will be eligible to receive."

Students applying for financial aid have a priority deadline of March 1.

Students interested in attending University of Kansas have few deadlines and many requirements to be accepted.

When completing the application, there is also a \$30 fee that must be paid.

To be accepted students must complete the Kansas qualified admissions curriculum with at least a 2.0 GPA and achieve a 21+ on the ACT (980+ SAT) or finish top third of the class.

If taking any college credit classes in high school, students must complete those classes with at least a 2.0+.

Before sending in their application, they must have an official copy of their transcript by July 1 to confirm admission status.

After applying or being admitted into KU at any time, a student receives a higher score on the ACT they may contact KU and update their score. Also to certify a spot at KU there is an enrollment deposit that can be paid by May 1 or any time earlier.

The FAFSA (free application of for federal student loans) is available online Jan. 1 and this must be completed and turned in by March 1 or any time earlier. Feb. 2 is when students can sign up for orientation. June, July or August are the months available to enroll and complete orientation. Aug 24 is the first day of KU classes.

Students attending or interested in attending Washburn University have few requirements to be accepted.

For regular admission students must complete high school with a 3.5+ GPA and receive a 23+ on the ACT, 3.0+ GPA and receive a 19-22+ on the ACT or 2.5+ GPA and receive a 16-18+ on the ACT.

When applying to Washburn the application is online and the students need an official copy of their transcript from high school and any college courses taken. There is a \$20 application fee when completing the application and official ACT scored are required.

Each school also has its own deadline for housing which can usually be obtained from the school web page.



What are your plans after graduation?



Note: 6.2 percent of the 177 seniors surveyed had NO plans after graduation.

THIS AIN'T OUR FIRST RODEO

Marching band takes on Texas

by Taylor Buessing
CO-EDITOR

Every two years the marching band goes to another state to compete or perform. This year they are going to San Antonio, Texas over winter break.

In order for the band to be able to go on this trip the Booster Club had to raise \$27,000 for charter buses and the band always does two fundraisers every year.

The band will be performing in the Alamo Bowl halftime show combined with 13 other schools from nine states across the country. They will also be competing against all nine schools to perform in the pregame show, which would be a "big honor" according to band teacher, Cary Stahly. Both colleges will also be performing their halftime and pregame shows.

Before the band could even plan the trip, they first

had to apply and get accepted to compete. The day the band competes, they will be performing their competition show for the judges.

They will be judged on their marching, music, percussion, drill team and color guard individually. All the individual scores will be combined and the winner will be chosen to perform in the pregame show.

The band is also doing other activities while they are in San Antonio. They will be attending Six Flags, the Alamo, the bowl game, Ripley's Believe It or Not, the river walk and the wax museum. While on the river walk, the band will be performing at the pep assembly for the colleges.

"While we want to win at this competition, our overall goal is to entertain the community first and then the judges," said Stahly.



Left to right: Nodia Rodriguez, Nathan Crowder and Laine Marston play the altosaxophones during a halftime performance at a football game. (Photo by Hollie Woodyard)

Percussionists consistently take top performance

by Kendall Leatherman
CO-EDITOR

To a novice eye, sheet music for the drumline is completely foreign and complicated, but to a drummer or percussionist it is the onset to creating a smooth rhythm and beat that many people go crazy about.

There are 34 percussionists in the Viking Marching Band, and throughout the past few years the drumline has won top percussion in three dif-

ferent competitions. Two top percussion awards at Newollah in 2011 and 2013, and top percussion at Top Capital City Marching Festival this year. The drumline usually consists of several types of drums and a pit. Cymbals,

ferent competitions. Two top percussion awards at Newollah in 2011 and 2013, and top percussion at Top Capital City Marching Festival this year. The drumline usually consists of several types of drums and a pit. Cymbals,

electronically amplified keyboards, bass guitars and xylophones accompany them.

Band director Cary Stahly said, "They have two directors where as the rest of the band has two directors. They have two groups one is known

as the battery, which is the group that is on the field and they march. They also have the front line that is in front of the band that stays stationary playing instruments like mallet instruments and the bass drums."

The members within the drumline refer to it as a family. "I've been section leader for 2 years now, and I have made becoming a family one of our main goals," says section leader Abby Price.

“

I love the drumline. I feel like every year the drumline becomes my family. This year I feel like the drumline is closer than before.”

Senior Abby Price

BAND CONQUERS THE ALAMO

Drum majors lead the band to the Alamo

by Kendall Leatherman
CO-EDITOR

The crowd knows the excitement is about to start when the drum majors sprint across the field and up the ladders. There is a unique feeling in the air as they raise their hands and the band members begin to perform. So how do you select three students to supervise 200 of their marching band peers? The first step is to decide who will be the leaders of the band, known as the drum majors. There are three drum majors here at the high school – Andrew Ralston, Jordan Hayes, and Tori Whalen- and their responsibilities range from cleaning up after practices to directing the entire marching band during a performance.

So how do they go through the process of selecting the drum majors for the year? “We have to audition at the beginning of the season. We get a recording of the piece that our directors have picked for us to perform for the year, and then we conduct a two-minute part of the piece. Once we have completed the section we are graded by the directors and the top three are selected for that year,” said lead drum major Andrew Ralston.

There are many different roles that the three drum majors play in the marching band. They set up music stands before practice and get organized before the rest

of the band shows up. During rehearsals they are the ones to make sure that it runs smoothly and productively. After practice they stay late to clean up the football field and are the mediators between the band directors and the rest of the marching band. They work with other band members who may be struggling with the piece in order to improve the overall performance.

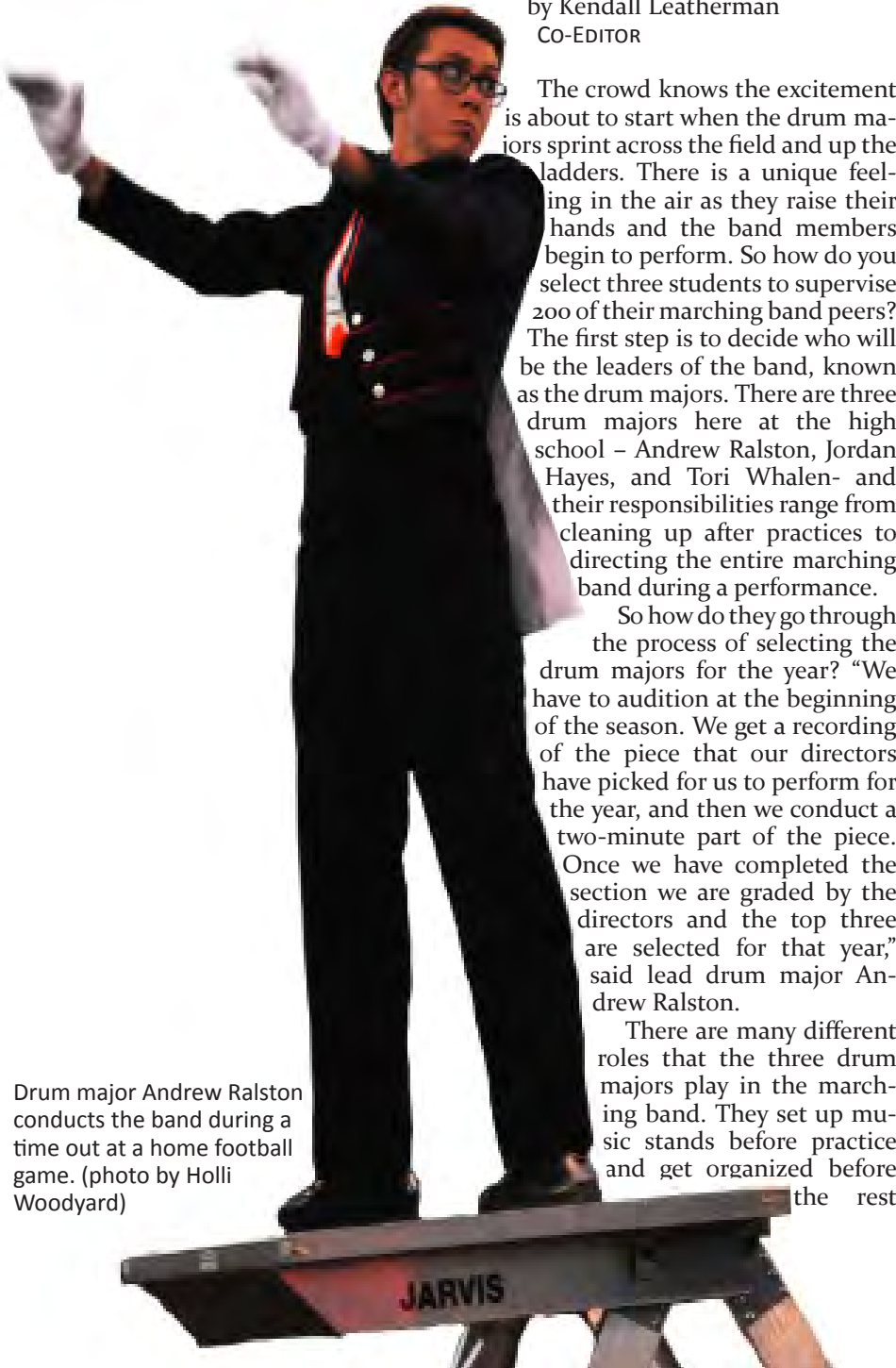
“It’s really cool to see someone who you’ve worked with improve, and you are just a member in the band you may only see some of the work that is put into it,” says, drum major Jordan Hayes. Although there are many organizational and leadership skills along with responsibility that are required to be a successful drum major the most important element is “keeping a positive attitude for everyone and setting the standard for our fellow band members to follow,” says Ralston.

One of the major sacrifices that the drum majors have to accept is putting down their instrument in order to direct the band.

“I have been a drum major for two years, so I haven’t had to read music for our last two seasons. It is going to be a little different when we have to play at the Alamo this year,” says Hayes.

Ralston agreed stating, “Yeah, down at the Alamo we will all be learning a Bruno Mars melody, so we will have to actually learn the piece because they will already have directors down there, but being a drum major is all worth it because it gives me a whole new perspective because I am behind the scenes seeing how it all works, and all the hard work that is put into it,” says Ralston.

Drum major Andrew Ralston conducts the band during a time out at a home football game. (photo by Holli Woodyard)



As times change, holiday traditions remain precious

by Shyanne Osterhaus
STAFF WRITER

As the holiday season approaches, it is common for families to arrange their holiday plans. Whether that consists of taking a vacation or gathering together to enjoy the holiday season, families have a general idea as to what their holiday plans are before the day arrives. For some this could mean exchanging presents, traveling to be with relatives and possibly attending a church service.

How a family spends their holidays occasionally depends on the traditions each family is dedicated to. Throughout history, the definition of a “typical” holiday tradition has been modified.

Christmas is the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and it is prevalently acknowledged in the United States and throughout the rest of the world. While it is generally known as a religious holiday, Christmas traditions have recently been becoming less religiously based and more secular.

“When I was in sixth grade, we had a school Christmas program,” freshman teacher Mr. Cooper says. “The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) threatened to sue the school, so the name was changed to a winter program that not only included religion but other winter symbolism as well.”

Even though winter holidays are being viewed as more of cultural celebrations instead of religious ones, many simpler holiday traditions have changed as well (history.com).

“Yes I believe holiday

“ I think people don’t play games any more or play football, they just sit around on their phones.”

by Sophie Darting

traditions have changed,” English teacher Ms. Brewer explains. “Instead of cooking the traditional ham or turkey, my family does a different theme every year, like Mexican food or soup. In terms of getting together as a family, that hasn’t changed for us.”

In addition to minor traditions changing, there have been allegations regarding whether or not holidays are becoming less tradition-based due to the increase in technology.

“Holiday traditions have changed because of all the technology that has been invented,” sophomore Sophie Darting states. “I think people don’t play games any more or play football, they just sit around on their phones.”

No matter how many traditions have changed, many holiday traditions have been around for hundreds of years and continue to be implemented today.

One of the most familiar holiday traditions is decorating a tree, which originated in the 17th century with German Lutherans. They then brought the tradition over to Pennsylvania in the early 1800’s (time.com).

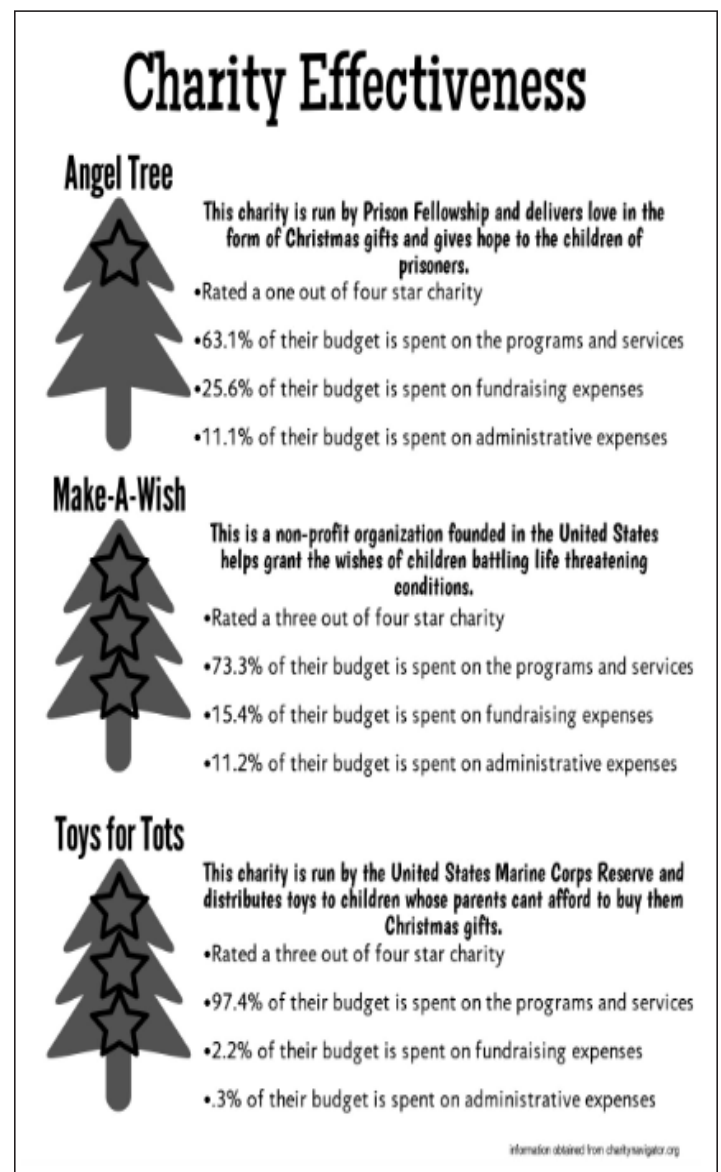
Other traditions such as caroling, giving and receiving gifts and decorating houses with lights are a typical aspect of many families holiday celebrations.

Sites created to evaluate charity effectiveness

by Taylor Buessing
CO-EDITOR

With the holiday season approaching many people are matching charitable donations. Many people don’t research how charities spend their money. Some charities are spending a large portion of their donations on paying their administrative and fundraising expenses and not spending the donations on the services of the charity.

The chart below shows how just three different charities can make a huge impact on people’s lives. “Angel Tree”, “Make-A-Wish” and “Toys for Tots” are just some of the many charities that help people get through the holiday.



Christmas

by Kendall Leatherman
EDITOR

Trends 2014



VIKING VOICES

If you could ask one question to Santa, what would it be?



“Does Rudolph’s poo glow like his nose?”
Freshman
Jenna Wilson



“Could I have a hippopotamus for Christmas?”
Sophomore
Cale Beam



“How do you go to the bathroom on the sleigh?”
Junior
Michelle Anderson



“Can I have a purple Challenger for Christmas?”
Senior
Jalen Heald



Increase in criminal activity seen around holiday season

by Brenlee Yingling
AD MANAGER

Avoid being victim during holidays



HOME BREAK-INS

- Large displays of holiday gifts shouldn't be visible.
- Make sure windows and doors are locked at night and when you leave.
- * Ask your neighbor to watch your house.



CAR BREAK-INS

- Park in a well-lit area
- Never leave your car unlocked or running while unoccupied.
- * Do not leave valuables in sight in the vehicle, this causes unnecessary temptation.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Keep a safety kit hidden with emergency materials if someone close to you is violent under stress.
- * Find a therapist if you or a family member are under high stress and getting violent.



DRUNK DRIVING

- If you are having a holiday party, serve non-alcoholic beverages.
- Don't drink anything alcoholic when at a holiday party.

Designed by Sophie Darting

During the holidays, criminal activity tends to become more common. People get their house or cars broken into, domestic violence rises, and there are even more car accidents than normal. Many people think that the holidays would be a time when violence decreases because people are with family, but a lot of the time that is not the case. It can be a very stressful time for many people, dealing with the loss of family members and financial problems.

"In my opinion, I would say that more incidents happen from the middle of December to New Years Day. Although, the days surrounding

Thanksgiving are no stranger to drunk driving and motor vehicle accidents as well," said Deputy Sheriff Matt Akers.

The most common calls that officers get during the holiday season are theft, motor vehicle accidents, drunk driving, and disturbances.

During the holiday season, many people are victims of theft and burglary.

"Everybody is out buying gifts for their friends and family for Christmas, but the sad truth is that there is someone willing and able to take it from them. As a Deputy, I strive to educate people so they can help prevent themselves from becoming a victim. Since vehicle and residential burglaries are the most common, the first thing we advise citizens to do is al-

ways make sure that their vehicle/home is secure. Keeping gifts and other valuables out of sight will also help prevent intrusion," said Akers.

Motor vehicle accidents and drunk driving increase over the holidays. Weather and road conditions play into the amount of calls that officers get. An increase in traffic during the holiday season is also a reason for many motor vehicle accidents. There are a lot more drivers arrested for driving under the influence as well.

"The holiday season can also be very stressful for many people, which leads to the higher possibility of us receiving a call involving a disturbance, oftentimes domestic in nature," said Akers.

High return rate for pets given as gifts

by Sydney Marney
STAFF WRITER

After running down the stairs to the living room early on Christmas morning, little Suzie Jo sheds tears of joy when she sees the white lab puppy with a giant red bow her parents are giving her. Little does little Suzie know, there is a 50 percent chance her new puppy is going to end up in the pound.

Every year around half of all pets given as gifts are returned or sent to the pound. Kathy Maxwell, Director of Adoption Services at Helping Hands Human Society says, "The number one piece

of advice I can give for giving pets as gifts is to make sure the recipient really wants a pet and that they are prepared for the responsibility." It is highly encouraged by many different shelters to give items such as collars, gift cards, or toys insteads and let the recipient make the choice to get a pet on their own according to paw-rescue.org. Every year kids become uninterested with new pets just months after receiving them and the responsibility falls back on the parents. According to mlive.com adopting a pet should be a family decision and everyone should be ready for the responsibility.

Yappy Howliday!
December 19, 20, 21

Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc.
All cat adoptions: \$12
Dog adoptions: \$12, \$112, \$212
Compiled by Cortni Heston



Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,

For Christmas I would like iPhone 6, new shoes, new car and some barbies.

Love,
"Big Daddy" Marcus Blackwell

Dear Santa,

I want a trashcan for Christmas.

Love,
Paige Jacqueline Wilson

Dear Santa,

For Christmas i want a muzzle for my brother.

Love,
Lexi Price

Dear Santa,
 I m not asking for much this
 year all i want is Bugatti
 All gold, A shark skin jacket,
 Alligator boots, A ice cold
 Gold chain. 24 inches, i want
 Colten Glenn to follow me
 on instgram, and last thing
 is i want to be on
 The Harlem Globetrotters
 Love, Braiden

Dear Santa,

I want a tea cup pig for Christmas.

Love,
Shayla Podlena

Dear Santa,

I want bowl tickets for Christmas.

Love,
Mr. Stueve





Reid Fehr Sr.
1st team all-city defense
all-city "Top 11 Players"
1st team all-league
2nd team all-league
H.M. all-state 5A



Wyatt Hendrix Sr.
1st team all defense
all-city "Top 11 Players"
1st team all-league
H.M. all-league
H.M. all-state 5A



Bailey Bushnell Sr.
H.M. all-city
H.M. all-league



Tatyana Legette Sr.
1st team all-city
1st team all-league
KVA 5A all-state team



Nash McKnight Sr.
H.M. all-city
H.M. all-league



Brad Piel Sr.
H.M. all-city



Payton Summers Sr.
1st team all-city
1st team all-league
2nd team all-state



Hannah Olsen-Thomas Sr.
2nd all-city
2nd all-league



Hunter Poort Sr.
H.M. all-city
2nd team all-league



Garret Streets Sr.
H.M. all-city
2nd team all-league



Madison Henley Jr.
H.M. all-city
H.M all-league



Rylee Neigenfind Jr.
1st team all-city
1st team all-league
H.M. all-state



Ian Hall Jr.
1st team all-city
offense
2nd team all-league



Colton Moranz Jr.
H.M. all-city
H.M. all-league



Hailey Reed Jr.
2nd team all-state
H.M. all-league

Volleyball

5A Substate winners
Varsity 37-7; JV 22-15;
Freshmen 33-3



Dalton Cowan Soph.
H.M. all-city
H.M. all- league



Simeon Sykes Soph.
H.M. all-city
H.M. all-league

Football 2nd place in 5A District play
Varsity 4-6; JV 5-2; Freshmen 2-7

Cross Country



Mike Devoe Sr.
H.M. all-city
2nd team all-league
1st team all-regional
5A State Qualifier



Megan Lehman Sr.
1st team all-city
1st Team all-regional
5A State Qualifier



Jordon Jensen Soph.
1st team all-city
1st team all-regional
5A State Qualifier



Kaylee Snell Jr.
1st team all-city
1st team all-league
1st team all-regional
5A State Qualifier
Academic All-State



Dawson Podlena Soph.
1st team all-city
1st team league
5A Regional Champ
5A State Medalist -
12th place



Avery McCarter Soph.
1st team all-city
2nd team all-league
1st team all-regional
5A State Qualifier



Will Roark Fr.
1st team all-city
1st Team all-regional
5A State Qualifier

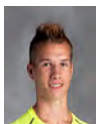


Emily Jowers Fr.
1st team all-city
2nd team all-league
1st team all-regional
5A State Qualifier

Boys Soccer -- Varsity 11-6-1; JV 10-2-2



Joseph Ginzel Sr.
2nd team all-league
H.M. all-city
2nd team all-state



Trayton Shafer Sr.
1st team all-league
1st team all-city
2nd team all-state



Tyler VanZandt Sr.
2nd team all-league



Daniel Kramer Jr.
1st team all-league
1st team all-city
1st team all-state



Natalie Fish Sr.
1st team all-city
League medalist 9th
5A medalist 17th

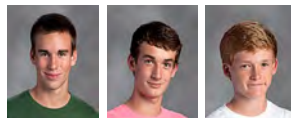


Sydney Marney jr.
5A state qualifier



Sydney Kirmse Soph.
5A StateQualifier

Girls Golf
5th place League meet;
4th at 5A Regional Meet



Daniel Kramer Jr.
Noah Loethen Soph
Nathan Heinen Fr.
5A State Qualifiers



Krista Akers Sr.
Andie Sodergren Jr.
Avery Bocquin Fr.
5A State Qualifiers

Boys finished 2nd at City,
4th at League, 1st in 5A
Regionals, 10th at State

Girls finished 1st at City,
2nd at League, 1st at Re-
gionals, 9th at State.



Peyton Porting Sr.
1st team all-city
5A State Qualifier



Sarah Knight Jr.
1st team all-city
5A State qualifier



Katie Andrews Sr.
Shyanne Osterhaus soph.
5A State qualifiers

Tennis
4th at City,
7th at League,
4th at Regionals



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College implements new 4-team playoff system, dumps BCS

by Mason Diederich
STAFF WRITER

The new championship series in college football has been established. A new four-team playoff system has taken the place of the previous Bowl Championship Series (BCS).

The new CFB playoffs will consist of the top four teams in the nation at the end of the year.

"I like the idea but there just needs to be more teams," said junior Hunter Williams.

Unlike the BCS, a 12-person selection committee will be the decider of the top four teams. There were originally 13 people but one selection member, Archie Manning,

withdrew because of health issues. This committee was not just randomly selected; the members include former players, athletic directors, sports writers, and a previous political leader.

The committee meets every Tuesday to discuss who the top 25 are in the playoff rankings. The final meeting they will have will be on Dec 7 in which they will release the final four teams.

"I really like the concept but it has too many flaws right now, too computer-based," said senior Houston Chinn.

Members will consider many different aspects for their selection. The team's record will be the main focus as



only the teams with the most wins and least losses will be eligible.

One factor is what is known as the eye-test. This is just seeing how good the team is not looking at all the numbers and stats, which will be widely used.

The four teams have created a small controversy because in college football because there is five power

conferences. One of the power five teams will not be represented, which may not create controversy this year but for sure in later years.

Generating excitement among the rowdy fans of college football was a main purpose of this new system.

"I think it's a great idea, brings in a lot of revenue as well as the excitement of something new," said senior Zach Mumford.

VIKING VOICES

Who deserved
the #4 spot
in the College
Football
Playoffs?

"Ohio State because they showed up in their biggest game of the season."

Sophomore Nick Steiner



"TCU deserved it because the Big 12 is a much tougher conference than the Big 10."

Senior Reid Morgart

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Boys swim starts season off strong

by Sydney Marney
STAFF WRITER

The boys swim team has started the season strong placing third in their first meet out of ten teams. At the Topeka West Invitational a freshman newcomer, Zeke Metz qualified for state in three events including two individual events and one relay. "I'm really excited about the season starting," says Metz "I've already been swimming for around nine years."

"This year we have a strong group of guys who work hard in practice and that want to accomplish something big," said senior, Grant Boyd.

In the Topeka West invitational the team had three events in which there were medalists ranking third place or better. Zeke Metz placed third in the 200



Gabe Wells swims the butterfly in the 200 yd medley relay at the Topeka West Invitational. (Photo by Sydney Marney)

Yard IM and the 100 Yard Backstroke. In the 200 Yard Freestyle Relay the A team also placed third.

Assistant Coach, Andrew Taylor, is also excited about

the season. "In this previous meet, we had a lot of personal records from not only new swimmers, but also the veterans on the team. The work the boys have put in

over the summer has already paid off and it's a good sign that the rest of the season will go well." The team's next meet will be the Emporia Invitational on Jan. 8.

Young wrestling team looking for success

by Cortni Heston
STAFF WRITER

The Seaman High varsity wrestling team will be competing in Lee Summit, MO tomorrow morning at nine. The varsity boys recently competed at a tourney in Gardner where they received an eighth place finish.

They were competing against 15 other teams and head coach Patrick Kelly feels that although a 'middle of the pack' isn't usually what the team wants to

accomplish, he feels like it was a respectable placement for this completion.

Kelly is coaching a young team this year with 19 freshmen on the team. Although over half of the team are newcomers, Kelly has one freshman, Dray Podlena, starting on the varsity lineup in the 113 weight class. Podlena had a 10th place finish at the Gardner Invitational. There are also four returning state medalists and eight seniors on the team. In regards to how cohesive the team is Kelly said, "With the young

“With the young kids we have, it’ll take some time to develop the team chemistry. They’re working hard and they’re coachable.”

it’ll take some time to develop the team chemistry. They’re working hard and they’re coachable.”

by Coach Kelly

Boys basketball takes on tough competition before winter break

by Michael Owen
STAFF WRITER

The Vikings boys' basketball team kicked off their season with their annual team scrimmage on Tuesday, Dec 2. The Vikes will start their season off with three non-league games, one against last year's state champion the Lansing Lions and one against the preseason tenth-ranked team, the Salina Central Mustangs. Then before winter break, the Vikings will close out the semester against league rivals Shawnee Heights and Hayden.

Coach Craig Cox said this about the teams' schedule this year. "We have a very challenging schedule, and we need to come ready to play every night. Every team that we play has the ability to beat us if we don't come prepared and ready to go."

The main question about the team is their lack of size and having no big man to stop the taller players the better teams.

Cox says, "We do lack a true big man which will definitely hurt us in some games due to our matchups. However, after the watching the 5A state tournament last spring, I believe our versatility will allow us to compete with some of the best teams in the state."

Coach Cox believes the seniors on this team are providing the leadership needed for a quality season.

"Joe Miller and Reid Morgart coming back as returning starters provide a lot of experience and are stepping up and leading the way," Cox said. "Joe is our most talented player. He's worked the hardest in the offseason in improving his

game, and he can score in so many ways that the defense will have to key on him to get stops."

Some of the returning players have high expectations for this season, believing that the senior class can lead the way for a good season.

Senior Sam Moylan says, "I feel like we have a lot of returning talent. We're bringing back most of our starting lineup which may give us a step up on the competition."

With not a huge group of seniors, the team is made up of a lot of underclassmen that are expected to step up to the challenge and contribute tremendously.

Moylan says, "We're expecting Tanyon Schafer to step up this year after his late, break-out finish to the season last year. But were not just counting on him, we need everyone to do their part to have success this season."

The last few years, the Vikings record hasn't been the best. Even though that's the case, fans still come out and support.

Senior Wyatt Steenson says, "The team gives a lot of intensity and passion out on the court and I like to watch my friends get buckets. I love watching Joe dunk every once in a while and Morgart's sweet jumpers."

Starting clockwise from the top (All photos taken by Holli Woodyard.) Mason Diederich misses open three pointer in JV game against Turner. Junior Josiah Hazim shoots free throw after being fouled. Senior Reid Fehr knocks down big three in the game versus Turner. Junior Ryan Zeferjahn leads a fast break down the court. Senior Joe Miller drops in a finger roll on his way to a 25 point night against Turner.



Lady Vikes start slow, hope to turn it around and make state run

by Ethan Brunetti
STAFF WRITER

As the Vikings stepped onto the court for their pregame layup lines, and the tubas played the introduction to “Hey, Baby” the gym was filled with energy. Starting from the court, enthusiasm flowed through the players to the first row of the student section filled with seniors to the top rows filled with eager freshman excited for their first high school game.

The Lady Vikes basketball team got off to a slow start on Dec. 5 in a loss to Olathe South in the first game of the season. But, it was not due to a lack of intensity that was evident throughout the game.

The Vikings look to build on strong leadership from an experienced senior class, and a talented group of underclassmen who wish to help this team reach the 5A state tournament.

“My goal is to reach the state playoffs for a second year in a row,” said senior Tatyana Legette, who led the Lady Vikes in scoring and rebounding a season ago.

An experienced senior class will be a catalyst for the Vikes. Heald, McMillin, and Legette have combined to play in 150 varsity games throughout their high school career.

Junior guard Tatum Smith said, “I am excited for another year of basketball

with my teammates, but I am upset it will be my final year playing with these seniors. Our team has always been incredibly close, but after the last three years, our chemistry gives us a huge advantage on the court.”

The Vikes will be playing at Hayden tonight and revive the school rivalry that has been on hold since the fall sports season ended.

“I always love playing city schools because of the extra bragging rights that

come with a win. Especially when that school is Hayden because of the traditions surrounding the rivalry. It is always one of my favorite games of the year,” said senior guard Cassidy Henry who contributed off the bench last season shooting a solid 46 percent from behind the three-point line, and has since earned herself a starting spot.

The Lady Vikes hope to continuously improve throughout the year and fight for a state playoff bid to end the season.



Senior shooting guard, Cassidy Henry, stands with the ball ready to go against Olathe South in the Lady Vikes home opening loss. (Photo by Marcy Anderson)

Young boys and girls bowling teams looking for spot in state playoffs

by Shyanne Osterhaus
STAFF WRITER

After graduating nine seniors from the previous season, seven of those nine having varsity experience, the boys and girls bowling teams hope to regain some momentum before the 2015 season officially kicks off.

Of the 15 returning team members, only six carry varsity experience.

“This will be a completely different team than last year,” head coach Geoff Poston says. “If we gel as a team and continue to get better every day, we will put ourselves in a good position at the end of the year to make some noise at regionals.”

This year the boys and girls teams are primarily composed of returning seniors, although many newcomers have set high averages and made an impression throughout tryouts and the first few days of practice.

Senior Dylan Osterhaus said, “We have plenty of underclassmen bowlers, and if they can step up and fill the shoes of the graduating team, we will be contenders throughout the season.”

Both teams will make their debut at the annual Lawrence Free State tournament on Jan. 9 and 10. Unlike previous years, the boys and girls will not bowl on the same days for this meet, as the number of participating teams has drastically increased.

“The Free State meet is my favorite

because it’s the first meet of the year and the energy level in the bowling alley is crazy all day long,” senior Megan North says.

Other changes for this season include three full boys and three full girls teams having the ability to qualify for state instead of only two. Even though this gives teams another place to advance past regionals and claim the state title, the stakes will be higher with the extra available spot.

“This is my tenth year coaching high school bowling and the goal is always to make it to state as a team,” Poston explains. “We will take some bumps early, but it’s how we handle those bumps that will determine what kind of season we have.”

ON TOP OF IT ALL: Construction science teacher Mr. John Bloomfield supervises Alex Gutierrez and Joshua Carlson as they put the roof on the Habitat House. (Photo by Shyanne Osterhaus)

ALL IN THE DETAILS: Kiara Matchie and Brooke Hick add festive touches to their gingerbread house at the Book Club Lock-in. (Photo by Marian Sweany)

SHADES OF PINK: A balloon release marked a time of remembrance and healing for students and staff after the death of sophomore Morgan Kottman. (Photo by Kaitlyn Meader)



FLUFFING THE TREE: Senior Emily Wools decorates the Key Club Christmas tree for the annual community Festival of Trees. (Photo by Allie Crome)

DECKED OUT: David Deters models the fresh wreath he made in his ag-science class. (Photo by Faith Belisle)

