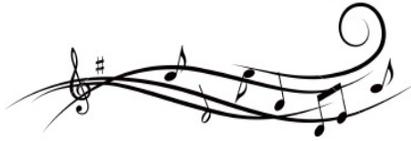




The Freshmen participate in Operation Christmas Child to spread a little Christmas cheer . Pg. 3



Remembering Nelson Mandela. Pg. 7



[UNPLUGGED]

By Marissa Kendall



The night of the Variety Show the stands were full of parents and friends ready to watch the Kiowa County High School choir. The students filed in and took their place on the risers, ready to perform. The choir sang three songs all together, filling the gym with a beautiful sound. Once these songs were finished individual students and groups sang a song selected by choice. Weeks before the Variety Show 14 students tried out for a place in the spotlight, but only ten made it. When choir director Kim Stewart was asked about auditions she replied, "I'm glad I had a couple of people help me with judging the auditions because I knew how hard each group had worked and I had helped them prepare to do their best. It's hard to make cuts when you know how much effort and progress the students have made."

Students ranging from freshmen to seniors bravely walked up to the microphone and sang in front of the crowd. The Variety Show was a wonderful opportunity for students to show what they have learned by applying it to songs that they love.

When later asked, junior Maddie Cannon said, "I was super nervous and scared since I had a solo in our group. Once we got further into the song I relaxed and was pretty comfortable. Then once the song was over I was relieved and knew we did good."

Many students said afterward that they had fun and were excited to try out next year. It was a wonderful evening full of talent, the turnout was great and everyone enjoyed listening to the students.



[RUNNER RUNNER]

By Corbin VandenHoek

Freshman Frank Cuevas participated in an out of season cross country meet on Nov. 10, in Garnett, Kansas. Cuevas ran to qualify to run for the Brocaw Blazers, a youth cross country team out of Kansas City.

Cuevas placed second, qualifying to run at Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky, on Nov. 23. Cuevas ran at Tom Sawyer State Park and finished with a time of 12:55.14. Being only 14 years old, he had to run a 4k, or 2.4 miles. Cuevas finished second out of the 196 runners in his 13-14 age group, only being beat by a fellow teammate.

Out of the 20 teams that participated in the meet, The Blazers were able to pull out the win.



Top: Sophomores Kelsi Francis, Kaitlin Ross, Tatum McKinney, Shayna Lingafelter and Natalie Stewart harmonize together during their song "Barbara Ann." *Photo by Miranda K.*

Middle Left: Senior Lillian Hinshaw sing Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) at her last Variety Show of her high school career. *Photo by Marissa K.*

Middle Right: Senior Riann Heft sings her solo while smiling out at the crowd. *Photo by Marissa K.*

Bottom: Choir Director Mrs. Kim Stewart, calmly leads the whole choir through three songs. *Photo by Marissa K.*

DID YOU KNOW?

[The color orange was named after the fruit, not the other way around.]

[IF YOU COULD GIVE A GIFT TO ANYONE...]

“Something from Kay Jewelers for my girlfriend. I’ve watched too many of those commercials.” - *Michael Tedder, sr.*

“I would give immortality to Corbin because that is what he told me that he wanted me to get him for Christmas” - *Marissa Kendall, so.*

“I would give my grandpa his health back and take away his cancer.” - *Riann Heft, sr.*

“I would give a puppy to my dad because he has always wanted a pitbull puppy.” - *Jackie Whitten, jr.*

“I’d give Evan a new pair of gator skin cowboy boots because I figure a cowboy like Evan would surely appreciate them.” - *Nick Mull, jr.*

“I would give love to the world because everyone needs a little love.” - *John colclazier, sr.*

“I would give Kelsi a leaf blower and lock picking set because she’s really wanted those two things really bad for a few years now. I have no idea why.” - *LaTosha Tuttle, jr.*

“If I could give a gift to anyone, I would give my Papa Don a surprise visit down in Louisiana because I have never met him in person only over Skype, and I know he has been trying to figure out a way to see me so if I was to surprise him it would just make him so happy.” - *Tierra West, fr.*

“I would give the homeless a home.” - *Darise Fillmore, Kindergarten teacher.*

“I would give anyone any book by John Green, because they have such meaningful messages. Anyone could read his books and be easily inspired.” - *Jenner Little, fr.*

[OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD]

By Kayleen Stevens

Operation Christmas Child, an organization whose efforts are to bring Christmas joy to children around the world who are less fortunate and don't know what it is like to wake up Christmas morning with presents under the tree.

Freshman Joy Le Shana knows this feeling all too well; she was one of these children. Born in 1998 to parents who could not afford to take care of her, Le Shana was placed in an orphanage at the age of eight. Christmases in the Ukraine are not observed as we do here, especially in the orphanage. Children received a single present under their pillow on St. Nicholas Eve; there would be no present brightly wrapped awaiting them under any Christmas tree the next morning.

When Le Shana was ten, she received her first shoe box during Operation Christmas Child. Although she could not remember specific items that were in her box, she did remember what a friend received. "I don't remember my first gifts but one of my friends received a tea set, an actual tea set that we played with for a long time. It was awesome."

Le Shana would receive another shoe box before her life changed. The children at the orphanage traveled as a group to the United States where Le Shana stayed with host parents Jim and Jeanine Le Shana. After a third visit to California, the Le Shanas asked her if she would like to live with them as their daughter. There wasn't a lot of discussion or persuasion needed to help her make up her mind. An absolute yes was all that was needed. In 2009, Le Shana was adopted and now has a family who gives her not only Christmas presents each year but has given her maybe the best gift, a family who gives her love and a place to call home.

If you wonder what gifts to put in a shoe box for a child that you do not know, take it from Le Shana, "Anything is wonderful. Some of the items that might not seem like a big deal, but in actuality items the children really like are hair stuff, toothbrush and toothpaste, hard candy, photos of the sender and basically anything!" So next year when the Operation Christmas Child asks for your donations, don't hesitate to give a little. You never know, next year you may be going to school with someone who benefited from your gift.



On Friday, Nov. 15, some of the freshman students gathered to divide the donated items into gift boxes that would be sent out during the week of November 18 and delivered to children across the world this Christmas for Operation Christmas Child. "The generosity of these students speaks well of our communities. I know that I applaud their unhesitating willingness to reach out to those less fortunate," stated English instructor Mrs. Staats. *Courtesy Photo*

[WINTER DANCE]

By Jansen Miller

On Dec. 6, following the basketball games against LaCrosse, the senior class put on the Winter Dance. The Winter Dance, one of many dances that are held during the school year, is one that the student body looks forward to. Everyone always looks forward to this dance because it is right before break and, who doesn't look forward to break? "I liked the winter dance because it was fun, and there were a lot of people dancing on the fast and slow songs," said freshman Frank Cuevas.

During the dance, the playlist of songs ranged from country to pop. Out of the more than two dozen songs that were played, the slow songs seemed to be more participated in than the upbeat songs. With formal attire being the choice of most, all who attended seemed to enjoy the night of dancing.

After a long night of dancing, the students ran to their cars because of cold weather and looked forward to the rest of their weekend.

[INTERVIEW]

By Heidee Prosser

What are your plans for Christmas break?



"Hanging out and having a good time with my friends and probably going skiing."

- *Sierra R., sr.*



"Every year my family goes down to Oklahoma and stays with our grandma. When we're there we spend time with our other family that we only get to see every year at Christmas so it makes it all the more special." - *Kylee M., fr.*



"My plans are to go pheasant hunting and work on my truck." - *Garrett K., jr.*

[VOCAL CONCERT]

By Corbin VandenHoek



Junior Denisse Ramos started off the night of Dec. 16 with two beautiful songs on the piano, *At the Ivory Gate* by Brian Gates and *Cristofori's Dream* by David Lanz.

The choir then took over the night with many songs. The first song they performed was *Song of the Angels* written and arranged by Mark Hayes, followed by *Adeste Fideles (O Come, All Ye Faithful)*, arranged by John Purifoy and continued the night with *A Cradle Song*, arranged by Vicki Tucker Courtney, which featured junior Chelsye Racette with a flute solo. *Please Come Home for Christmas*, arranged by Mark Brymer, was the next song the choir sang. This song featured senior Lillian Hinshaw with a vocal solo. "My favorite song is *Please Come Home for Christmas*, because it's just really nice. I'm going to miss when Mrs. Stewart jumps up and down when we do something right," stated Hinshaw. To end the night, the choir sang *Sing We all Noel (African Noel and Siyahamba)* by Ruth Elaine Schram. Band students Justin Hall, junior and Emily Sarber, senior, played percussion on this song.

The Select Choir girl's ensemble then sang two songs before the band's took over. The girls sang *Carol of the Bells* arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky and *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* by Edmund Sears.

The band took over the second part of the night, starting off with *Grant County Celebration*, by Mark Williams, followed by *Hymnsong Variants*, by Robert W. Smith. This song featured sophomore McKenzie Heft as a soloist on the alto saxophone. The next song was *Asian Folk Rhapsody* arranged by Richard Saucedo. "My favorite song that the high school students performed was *Asian Folk Rhapsody*. This song involves a unique collection of folk songs from China, Korea and Japan. My students know this is my favorite piece and worked hard to make sure it was at its best," stated high school band teacher, Ms. Claire Mullender. To continue the night, the students performed *Eye of the Tiger*, arranged by Lopez and *Crunch Time*, by Jim Swearingen. And they finished off the night with the good ol' KCCHS Fight Song.

"I am absolutely loving it here in Greensburg. I couldn't have asked for a better first job. The students are wonderful and work hard (for the most part!). My colleagues are kind, helpful and make me feel right at home," said Mullender.



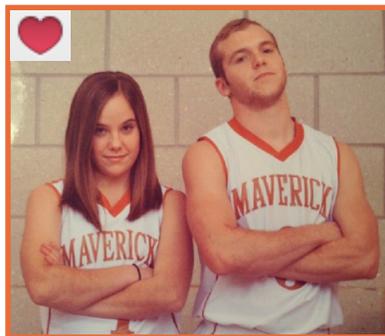
Top: The KCCHS choir, directed by Mrs. Kim Stewart, sings one of the five songs they performed on the 16th. *Photo by Payton M.*

Above Left: Junior Chelsye Racette plays her flute as a soloist in the choir's song, *The Cradle Song*. *Photo by Payton M.*

Above Right: Junior Denisse Ramos opens the concert with two piano pieces. Ramos has been playing the piano since a young age. *Photo by Payton M.*

[SOCIAL SCENE]

By Marissa Kendall



♥ 79 likes

• morgan_004 Thugs. #PowellPower 🍌



♥ 12 likes

• alissak23 Camel :) #ChristmasPageant



♥ 33 likes

• lillianelisee One of the most inspirational and influential people I have met in my short 18 years of life. So thankful for the impact she has made. See you in Spain, Señorita Alarcón!

[THE SCOREBOARD]

By Payton Miller

[FB WRAP UP]



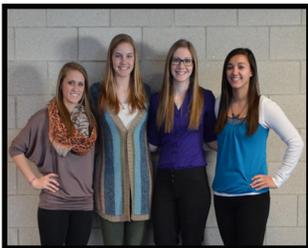
Above: Sophomore Erik Torres and senior John Terhune fire off the defensive line against South Central. Photo by Miranda K.



SPIAA All-League Football Honors

- Sr. Michael Tedder - 1st Team - Center
- Sr. Trever Powell - 1st Team - Back; 1st Team - Def. Back
- So. Eric Torres - HM - End; 1st Team - Down Lineman
- Sr. John Terhune - 2nd Team - Int. Lineman; HM - Linebacker
- Sr. Evan Jacks - 2nd Team - Int. Lineman; 2nd Team - Linebacker
- So. Aaron Heft - 1st Team - End; 1st Team - Down Lineman

Photo by Kayleen S.



SPIAA All-League Volleyball Honors

- Sr. Riann Heft: First Team
- Sr. Heather Melton: First Team
- Sr. Dena Liggett: Second Team
- Sr. Katelynn Gamble: Honorable Mention

Below Left: Junior Cole Kendall hustles for a ball, trying to keep it inbound during the season opener against LaCrosse. Although the game was tight most of the night, the Mavericks couldn't hold off a final push by the Leopards.

Photo by Heidee P.

Below Right: Senior Heather Melton receives the inbound pass before going up to add two points to the Lady Mavericks lead.

Photo by Marissa K.



Saturday, Nov. 9, was a very emotional afternoon for the Kiowa County Mavericks. It was very unfortunate that the season had to come to such an abrupt end for the team. The season was all in all a great success for the team, ending the season with a record of 10-1.

Senior Trever Powell said, "My favorite part of the season was the fact that we just focused on working hard and getting better every day. The wins took care of themselves and it was just really fun playing on this team with these guys."

Powell had an amazing year rushing for 2,478 yards in this season alone. Adding to the rushing yards for this season were sophomore Dylan Jacks with 471 yards and sophomore Pancho Banman adding another 349 yards.

The Mavericks defense was also a huge factor in all the games they played. The team had a total of 13 interceptions this year, their most being four at Stockton. Powell was also the leader in this category with a total of eight. The team had four members receive all-state honors, senior Michael Tedder, linebacker, sophomore Aaron Heft, line and sophomore Erik Torres all received honorable mention while Powell was honored with first team running back.

[BASKETBALL]

The Maverick basketball season is now in full swing. The men's team has had good seasons in the past, but with new Head Coach Zach White only time will tell what this year's team is capable of. White stated "It's hard to pin down one specific goal for the season because I feel like I have a lot of goals for this team. One of my main goals is to improve over the course of the year. If we are getting better every day I will be happy because the wins and losses will take care of themselves. I think the way we are going to improve is by having competitive practices and making sure kids are working hard at all times."

The mens team has 25 players out this season with five seniors, one junior, ten sophomores and nine freshmen. Cole Kendall, the only junior on the team said, "My favorite part about basketball so far is the pregame in the locker room. We get to listen to music and just relax before we go play. It helps to calm me down and get my nerves settled."

Starting the season with five seniors, who saw a lot of playing time last year, the team has recorded three wins and two losses. A win in their home opener, the ladies began the journey to a hopeful league and state title.

Coach Kim Heft has stepped in to undertake the head position while Coach Staci Derstein recuperates from emergency surgery. "With the goals that were set at the beginning of the year, everyone has stepped up, knowing it will be harder to reach these goals without her being here," stated senior Katelynn Gamble.

LADIES	MEN
Varsity	Varsity
LaCrosse W 52-28	LaCrosse L 43-57
Larned W 34-19	Larned L 40-67
Spearville L 26-33	Kinsley W 41-40
Hoisington L 49-33	Hoisington L 39-43
South Central W 55-48	South Central W 46-40
Junior Varsity	Junior Varsity
LaCrosse L N/A	LaCrosse W N/A
South Central W N/A	South Central W N/A

[VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM]

By Miranda Kimble



The Wing Honor Guard from the McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita marches into the Veteran's Day program to present the colors on Nov. 11. Photo by Marissa K.

"Since the beginning of our nation, men and women have served our country with courage and honor..." are the words, read by Arlen Harris, which began Kiowa County's annual Veteran's Day program. The piece that Harris read was an original piece he wrote several years ago for a Veteran's Day page.

After the colors were presented by the 184 Intelligence Wing Honor Guard from the Kansas Air National Guard based out of McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, the Kiowa County select choir sang the National Anthem. When the anthem was over, the colors were posted and Pastor Franklin Ruff from the First Baptist Church stepped up to the podium to give the Invocation. All the Veterans that attended, from various parts of the military, were recognized for their service.

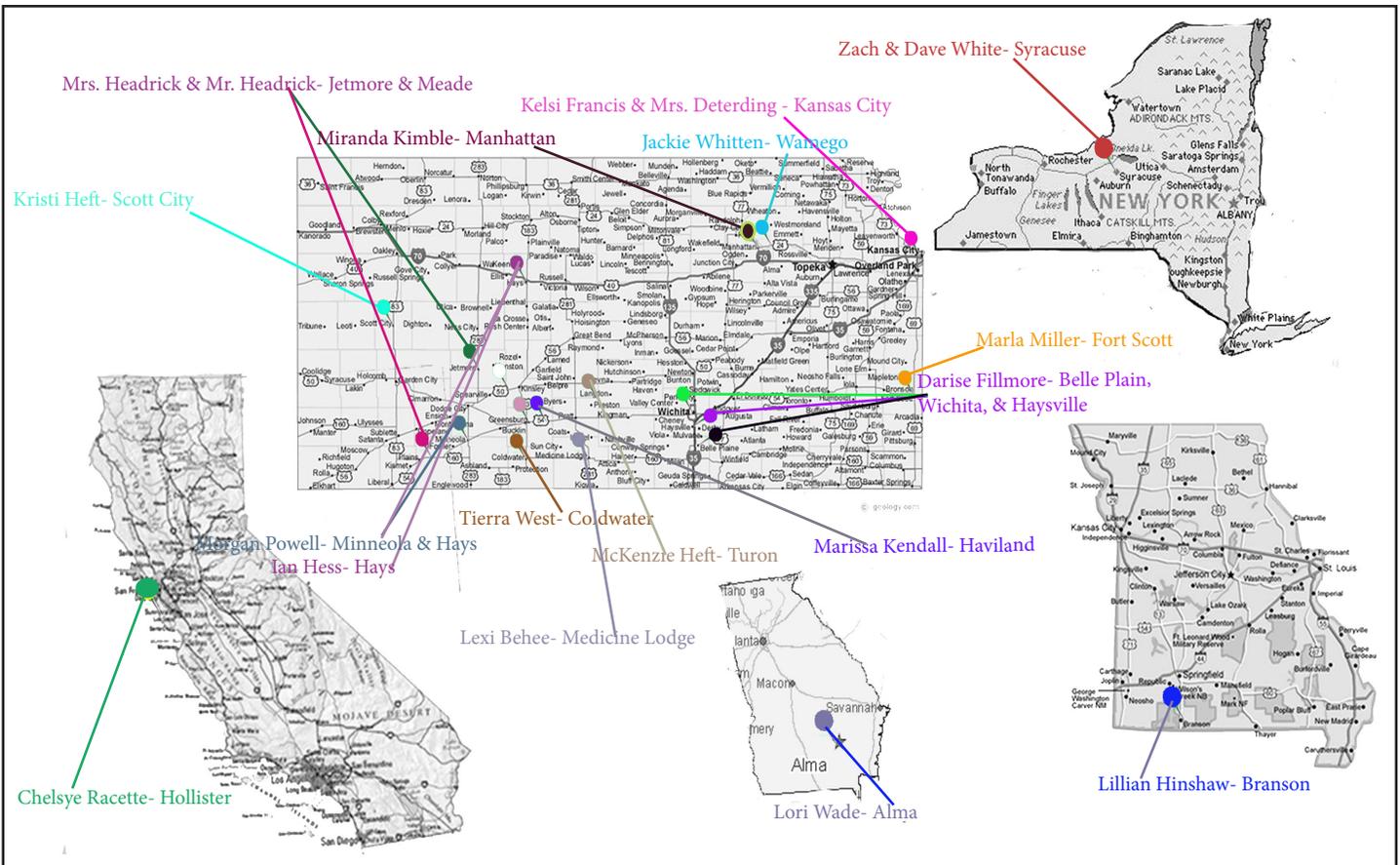
Although this is a special holiday to thank veterans for their service, we shouldn't just confine it to the one day. Whenever you see someone who has served, a simple thank you could make their day.

["The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for." - Bob Marley]

[MONTHLY POLL]

By Jansen Miller

The students and faculty were asked where they were going on Thanksgiving break, here were the results.



[NELSON MANDELA]

By John Colclazier

On the 5th of December, one of the most influential people in our lifetime, Nelson Mandela, passed away. Mandela led a protest against the South African government, which didn't allow races to mix and denied many rights that most just assume are a given, such as denying blacks the right to vote and marry who they want. At first, he believed in non-violent protest, eventually he was involved in more violent protests, but he always refused to harm women and children. He was arrested for conspiracy to overthrow the government in 1962, and he went on to serve 27 years in prison. Upon release, he was elected the President of South Africa. He could have been angry and retaliated against all the people that had denied him rights, the people that had put him into to prison. Instead he preached peace and forgiveness. In 1993, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1998, he was also awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. More than 43 educational institutions have been named after him. In his lifetime, he has received over 1,000 awards and honors. Government class teacher, Mr. Zach White stated that he was truly "one of the last living legends."



[ALARCON BIDS KCHS ADIOS]

By Marissa Kendall

For two and a half years students have been taught Spanish by Senorita Alarcon. In 2011 Ms. Alarcon moved all the way from Spain to come to Greensburg to teach at KCHS. She has taught the basics of Spanish I and the more complex lessons during Spanish II. She has been a favorite for many years and many students are sad to hear that she will be returning home. Ms. Alarcon said that once she returns home she will go back to the University of Valencia for further study in World Languages (French and Arabic). She will also look for a job in either the Education or the Interpreting and Translating fields. When asked what the highlight of teaching was Ms. Alarcon's reply was, "Highlight? Let me tell you that it is practically impossible to point out to just one! Being able to teach in KCHS has been incredibly rewarding and fulfilling. My life has been greatly impacted in so many different ways by each one of the courageous students that I have had the pleasure to teach here. I will treasure all these memories forever."

Many students have learned a lot from Ms. Alarcon. Senior Lillian Hinshaw, who has completed both Spanish I and Spanish II said, "Ms. Alarcon has greatly impacted my life. She instilled a love of language and travel in me, and I am majoring in Intercultural Studies largely due to the experiences I had with her as my teacher." When asked what her favorite memory from Spanish I is, junior LaTosha Tuttle said that she always enjoyed helping Ms. Alarcon learn English lingo.

Everyone has learned so much and Ms. Alarcon will be greatly missed, but we are all very excited to see what the future hold for her in Spain.

[SENIOR LAST WORDS]

By Corbin VandenHoek



"Be sure to prioritize! And be friendly to everyone, it's much more enjoyable."
- **Riann Heft**



"Don't wait until the last minute to do your homework. Get it done before you forget about it." - **Trevor Powell**



"Stay on track and be yourself."
- **Heather Melton**



"Don't mess around in your classes because sophomore and junior year mean just as much, if not more, than senior year." - **Shad Butler**

DID YOU KNOW?

[The Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. has 365 steps, one representing every day of the year.]

[CAMERA ROLL]

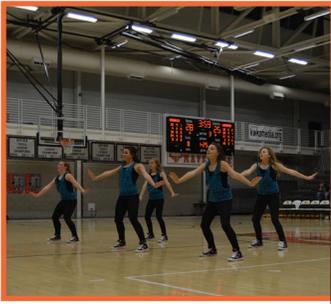


Photo by Heidee P.



Photo by John C.



Photo by Miranda K.



Photo by Marissa K.



Photo by Heidee P.



Photo by John C.



Photo by Marissa K.



Photo by Payton M.

[TWEETS OF THE WEEKS]

By Heidee Prosser

lurch from the Addams Family is my favorite, @DanOl5on!
love a guy that can do crazy legs! #hilarious #addamsfamilytour
- *Hannah Brown, jr. (@hannahbrown)*

I hate losing, but win or lose, I love playing basketball.
- *Corbin VandenHoek, sr. (@Corbmiesters)*

now is the time to regret all the food eaten in the last couple of days.
#thanksgivingprobs #basketball
- *LaTosha Tuttle, jr. (@toshtheprincess)*

[VIDEO OF THE MONTH]

By John Colclazier



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