

THE MAVERICK MAYHEM

SERVING UP THE SEASON

By Gentry Ballard

The Kiowa County Junior High volleyball team has had an excellent season with a season record of 12-3. They have faced many tough teams, but pushed through each match until the end. The Mavericks volleyball team consists of 34 girls this year. 7th grader Elsie Brown stated, "I like having a big team because there is a lot more people to push each other, and there is a lot of people to support each other." The Lady Mavericks competed in the league tournament on Saturday, October 15th. Tournament results will be reported in the next Maverick Mayhem newsletter.

Photos by Eli Cooper and Briley Murray

Right: Mavericks volleyball team photo.

Bottom left: Mya Mitchell serving an ace.

Bottom middle: Mavericks A-team striking a pose before their game.

Bottom right: Lady Mavericks players shaking hands with opposing team.



9/3 vs Spearville

A Team (W): 25:12; 25:18

9/10 @ South Gray

A Team (W): 25:10; 25:8

9/12 KCJH Tournament - 2nd place

Bracket Play Results:

SW Heights (W): 25:19, 25:21

St John (L): 7:25, 19:25

9/14 @ Hodgeman Triangular

Hodgman (W): 23:25; 25:10; 25:9

South Gray (W): 25:15; 25:18

9/17 Triangular

Bucklin (W): 25:8; 25:15

Ashland (W): 25:12; 25:15

9/21 @ Minneola Triangular

Satanta (W): 16:25; 26:24; 25:11

Minneola (W): 25:10; 25:12

9/24 vs Pawnee Heights

A Team (W): 25:9; 25:4

10/1 vs Meade

A Team (W): 25:12; 25:14

10/5 KCJH Triangular

Satanta (W): 25:15; 25:20

Meade (W): 25:23; 25:21

10/8 vs South Central

A Team (L): 25:16; 20:25; 23:25

10/15 @Ingalls

A Team (L): 25:22; 25:22; 14:25

RUNNING TO SUCCESS

By: Eli Cooper

Photos by: Eli Cooper

The Kiowa County Junior High Cross Country team has had a successful 2026 season with multiple first places finishes. Runners have had to battle difficult terrain, such as hills as well as slick, muddy trails. The Maverick boys' team has won two meets.

The CC team includes fourteen athletes with ten boys and four girls. New assistant coach is Alec Cowley joined veteran coach, Lori Wade this season. "Every runner is consistently beating their personal best time. We've been having a ton of fun!" said assistant coach Alec Cowley. The Mavs' final challenge was at the league meet on October 15 in Ness City. A full recap will run in the next newsletter.

CC Meet Results:

9-5 @ Meade Invitational: No Team Results

9-12 @ Skyline Invitational: Boys 1st place

9-17 @ St. John Invitational: Boys 5th place

9-26 @ Stanton County Invitational: Boys 1st place

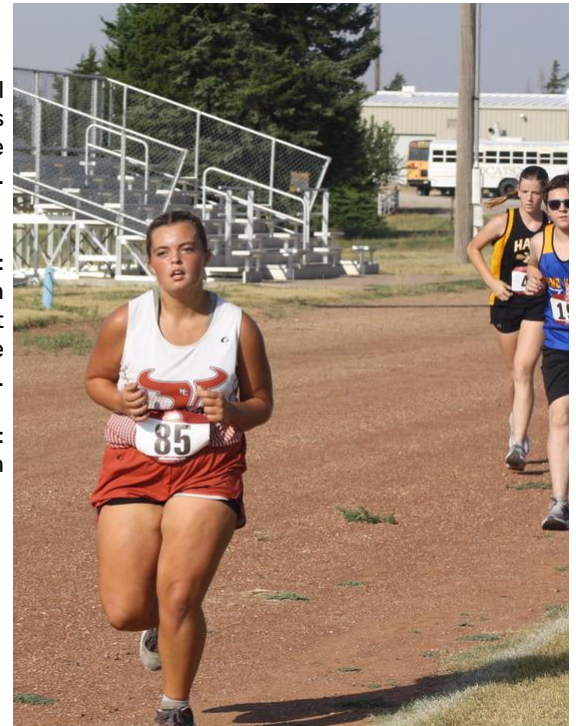
10-1 @ Ness City Invitational: Top 25 Finishers: Nora Stokes (24th); Sydney Allen (25th); Reece Dean (23rd); Luis Faudoe Duarte (25)

10-8 @ Cheney Invitational: No Team Results

Top: Cheryl Rosenbaum runs at the Skyline Invitational.

Bottom Right: Zi Kishpaugh finishes strong at the Skyline Invitational.

Bottom Left: KCJH CC Team



KICKING OFF THE SEASON

By: Leiland Smith

Photos by Landry Peintner and Angela Walters

The football team has worked hard and crushed the competition this season. The football team has won four games and lost two games. They have 17 players on their roster and three coaches. Marcus Mitchell is the head coach of football along with assistants Colton Oshel and Lymon Morehead. The coaches are proud of the football players for always trying their best in the games and at practice. Head Coach Marcus Mitchell stated, "We have been impressed with the players' effort, being coachable, and most importantly being a great teammate consistently throughout the season. Even though we are considered a small team (physically, not in numbers), we have great team speed and competitive spirit which will trump size most of the time in football."

Top:

Collin Ketterl makes a tackle.

Bottom Right:

Mavericks football team posing before their game.

Bottom Left:

Booker McDonald running the ball for a Mavericks touchdown.



Season Results:

9/3 KCJH vs Spearville: Won 26-22

9/10 KCJH @ South Gray: Lost 28-6

9/17 KCJH vs Ashland/Bucklin: Lost 46-0

9/24 KCJH vs Reno County Homeschool: Won 34-22

10/8 KCJH @ South Central: Won 36-14

10/15 KCJH @ Ingalls: Won 52-6

10/20 KCJH vs Meade: (Rescheduled from 10/8)



GO, FIGHT, WIN!

By: Gaige Ballard

Kiowa county cheerleaders are stealing the show at Kiowa County football games. The 2026-27 cheerleaders are Gaige Ballard, Gentry Ballard, Macy Bowman, Elsie Brown, Khloe Gilkey, and Mya Hoffman. A new member of the squad Macy Bowman stated, "Our team has improved this season so far by practicing and having good teamwork." This year they traveled to the Dodge City Cheer Clinic where they participated with different schools cheer teams to learn new skills. They also participated in Stafford Cheer Camp over the summer where they acquired new tricks and learned through games and competitions. Additionally, the cheer team organized the junior high pep assembly on October 1st. The cheerleaders look forward to cheering the Mavs to victory in the final football game and during basketball season.



Top: Macy Bowman completes a front hurdler (jump).

Bottom Left: Mavericks cheer squad posing at the lake after a cheer clinic.

Bottom Middle: The finalist during the pep assembly game.

Bottom Right: Maverick cheerleaders throwing a stunt.

Photos By: Angela Waters



MARCHING ON

By: Landry Peintner

Photo By: Alec Cowley

This fall the Kiowa County Band has had new opportunities. In addition to marching in the homecoming parade, the band has marched at the Haviland Play Day parade, and they have played at home football games. Flute player Gaige Ballard explained, "I had a good time marching and playing with my friends, and I am excited to play with high school pep band." The last time the Junior High band marched in any parade was 4 years ago. Kiowa County Band director Mr. Cowley stated, "The band is doing great. I am starting to see people learning their parts by themselves, and I see my students enjoying themselves too."

Kiowa County band performs at the Haviland Play Day parade.



SHOWING some KC Love

By: Macy Bowman

Photos By: Angela Walters and Alec Cowley

Kiowa County Junior High (KCJH) students showed their love for Greensburg with their annual community clean up on Friday, September 18th. Love KC day is an opportunity for students to show their pride and kindness towards the community. KCJH students split up into their advisory groups and go around town picking up trash. This marks the 14th consecutive year for the clean up. Local business owners say they appreciate the students' efforts in making the city nice for visitors.



Right: 7th graders pick up trash along Highway 54 in Greensburg.

Left: Mr. Cowley's 8th grade advisory having fun while picking up trash.



Homecoming PARADE

By: Briley Murray

Photos By: Angela Walters

More than 50 entries packed the streets for the annual homecoming parade on September 18th. The theme was Beat the (Meade) Buffaloes. The combined KCJH and KCHS band marched through the parade to show their KC pride. The parade concluded with a pep assembly on Main Street. "It was fun marching with the high school and being part of the pep assembly," stated Gentry Ballard.

Right: Seventh and eighth grade band students play in the homecoming parade.



SPIRIT Week

By: Landry Peintner

Photos by Landry Peintner

Kiowa County schools celebrated Spirit Week Monday September 14th to Friday September 18th. Spirit week allowed students to bring out their creativity. The specific days for spirit week were Dress like a Baby/Kid day; Twin day/Dress like a Teacher; Wild Wednesday; Color Wars (orange) day; and Mavericks day. Students enjoyed the opportunity to trade their everyday clothes for something fun.

Right: Hadleigh Greenleaf and Adele McClain on Twin Day.

Middle Left: 6th grade girls posing on Dress like a Kid day.

Middle Right: 6th graders showing off their matching outfits.

Bottom left: Junior high girls having fun coming up with different poses.

Bottom right: 8th graders Gentry Ballard and Khloe Gilkey matching on Twin Day.



SHORT STORIES

A'S FOR AIRS

By: Kylah Corbally

"A's for Airs" gives one deserving student a reward for the student's excellent quarterly efforts. Eli Cooper won shoes at a KCJH assembly on Friday August 19. He chose royal blue and dark blue shoes. "A's for Airs" is a reward program with specific criteria. Students can not have a D or F as their final grade, unexcused absences, missing assignments, or sent to the office. If students follow this criteria, they will receive a homework pass, a sweet treat, and an entry in a drawing for custom Nike Air Force Ones. This nine weeks ended on October 16th. Make sure to keep your grades up to be in the next drawing!

Right: Eli Cooper won the A's for Airs award.



JAG OFFICERS ELECTED

By: Adele McLain

This fall, JAG held its annual officer election. Mya Hoffman was elected as president. Mya Mitchell was selected as vice president. Khloe Gilkey was chosen to be the secretary while Cash Hayes was chosen for the parliamentarian.

JAG also continues to make a big impact on our community. On Monday September 28th, JAG volunteered its time at the local nonprofit, Care and Share. Ashley Armendariz explained, "Our experience was great that day. We went on a bus to help clear out racks in the store. It was fun to get out of the classroom to go help the community." Students say they're looking forward to the next opportunity to serve our community.

Below: Jag election winners



COWLEY GOES THE EXTRA YARD

By: Staff

Photo By: Cherish Mitchell

Congratulations to Alec Cowley, Band/Choir Director, this year's recipient of the Extra Yard for Teachers award. Cowley was nominated and voted on by students for the impact he takes everyday in students' lives. Cowley received a football autographed by the junior high students and shirt. The Extra Yard for Teachers College Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that is dedicated to elevating the teaching profession by inspiring and empowering teachers. Great job, Mr. Cowley!

Mr. Cowley with the junior high students.



FUN FACTS

WITH THE 8TH GRADERS

Article by Lilianna Torres



ASHLEY ARMENDARIZ

Q: When is your birthday?
 Q: What is your favorite movie or tv show?
 Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
 Q: If you could go one place where would it be?
 Q: What is your favorite color?
 Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
 Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: June 24th
 A: *10 things I Hate about You*
 A: 3 years
 A: Japan
 A: My favorite color is pink.
 A: I broke my elbow when I was little.
 A: I like snow leopards.



GENTRY BALLARD

Q: When is your birthday?
 Q: What is your favorite movie or tv show?
 Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
 Q: If you could go one place where would it be?
 Q: What is your favorite color?
 Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
 Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: November 19th
 A: *Moana* (live action)
 A: 6 years
 A: I would like to go to Italy.
 A: Coral and green
 A: My favorite sport is softball.
 A: A shark



KHLOE GILKEY

Q: When is your birthday?
 Q: What is your favorite movie or tv show?
 Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
 Q: If you could go one place where would it be?
 Q: What is your favorite color?
 Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
 Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: October 31st
 A: *Stranger Things & Outer Banks*
 A: I have been here for 11 years.
 A: Moorea or Tahiti.
 A: Purple is my favorite color.
 A: I've done seven sports in my life.
 A: Otter & manta-ray.



CASH HAYES

Q: When is your birthday?
 Q: What is your favorite movie or tv show?
 Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
 Q: If you could go one place where would it be?
 Q: What is your favorite color?
 Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
 Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: October 18th
 A: I like *Cars*.
 A: 9 years
 A: I want to go to Africa.
 A: Blue is my favorite color.
 A: I like to hunt.
 A: A bear



RHETT HEINSON

Q: When is your birthday?
 Q: What is your favorite movie or tv show?
 Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
 Q: If you could go one place where would it be?
 Q: What is your favorite color?
 Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
 Q: What's your favorite animal?

A: March 27
 A: *Goat* is my favorite movie.
 A: 9 years.
 A: I want to go to Rome.
 A: Blue is my favorite color.
 A: When I'm not at school, I work at Kook's Meat.
 A: I like Basset Hounds.

MEET THE NEW TEACHER

By: Rhett Heinson

Photos by: Rhett Heinson and Gentry Ballard

MS. HESKAMP- KCJH P.E. TEACHER

Q: What or who inspired you to be a PE teacher?

A: "I became a PE teacher because sports has had such a positive impact in my life. I want to give kids the same opportunity to find something they enjoy, build confidence and realize being active can be fun. I want to make every student feel encouraged and feel capable regardless of their athletic ability."

Q: Where did you go to high school and college?

A: "I graduated from Spearville High School. I went to Barton Community College for two years and played basketball. Then I went to Sterling College and played basketball there."

Q: Did you play sports in school?

A: "In high school, I did volleyball, basketball, softball, and track. In college, I played basketball."

Q: What have you enjoyed the most about KCJH so far?

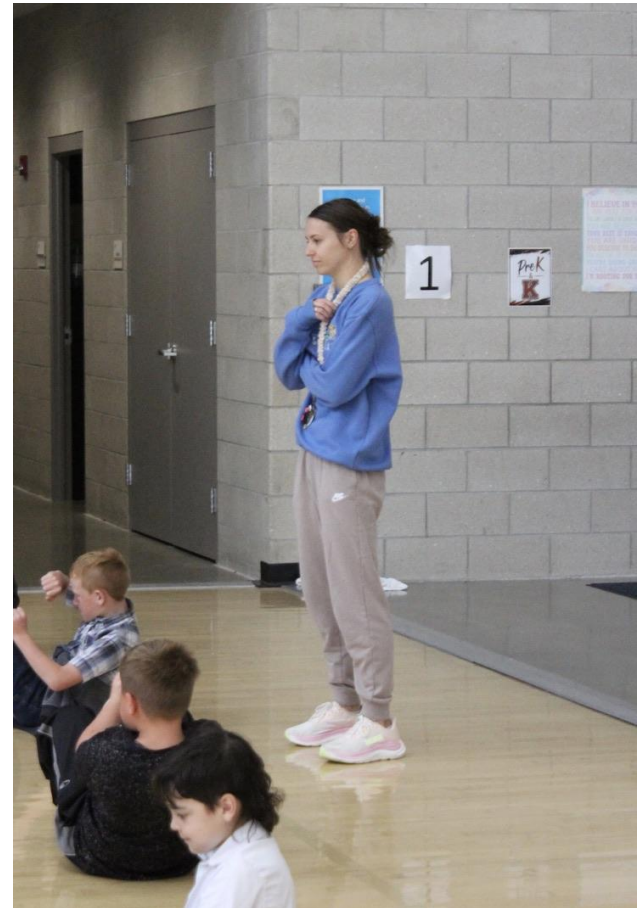
A: "I enjoy KCJH because I get to know my students & build relationships with them—seeing my students have fun while being active in PE class. JH volleyball has helped us build relationships along with getting to know my JH students."

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: "In my free time, I play pickleball, spend time with my family and friends, and I always enjoy a pick-up game of basketball."

Q: What are your favorite things?

A: "My favorite food is lasagna and my favorite drink is Dr.Pepper. My favorite type of music is Christian and country songs. My favorite sports teams are K-State, Nebraska volleyball, the Chiefs, and UConn women's basketball."



Top: Ms. Heskamp teaching a P.E. class.

Right: Ms. Heskamp.



HANDS-ON HISTORY

By: Staff

Seventh graders got a history lesson at the Kiowa County Historical Museum on September 16th. Students looked at exhibits and took notes before taking a break at the adjoining soda fountain. A special thanks to the Kiowa County Historical Museum and Soda Fountain for serving up free ice cream to all the students.

Right: The seventh grade class poses on top of the Media Center.



MEET THE PUBLICATIONS TEAM



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Writer
Photographer



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Photographer



Macy Bowman
Writer
Photographer



Eli Cooper
Writer
Photographer



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Landry Peintner
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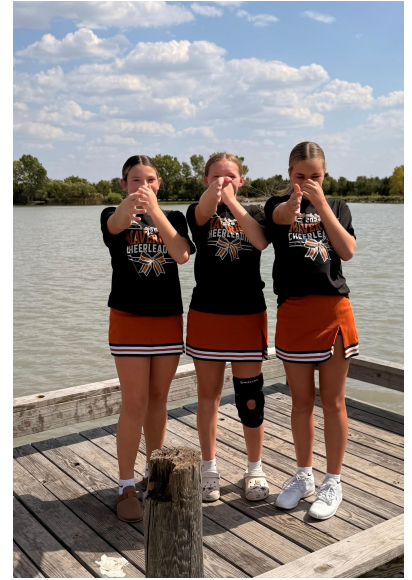
SMILE!



SMILE!



SMILE!



HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

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 T D K D E U X A S T E D N I K P M U P V L B G R
 I N G J L M A Z T E V E R I P M A V G Q N L H A

Happy Halloween
 Trick or treat
 Jack-o-lantern
 Haunted house
 Frankenstein
 Decorations
 Halloween
 Black cat
 Scarecrow
 Spiderweb
 Skeleton
 Monster
 Pumpkin
 Vampire
 Custom
 Coffin
 Zombie
 Ghosts
 Spider
 Scary
 Candy
 Skull
 Bones
 Grave
 Mummy
 Cat
 Boo

