

THE MAVERICK MAYHEM

SPELLERS ARE BACK AT IT

By: Sebastian Favela

Photos by Angela Walters & Gentry Ballard

Junior high students were back at it spelling some easy and some challenging words. This year there were nine spellers that participated the school spelling bee. For sixth grade, it was Hadleigh Greenleaf, Briley Murray, Elsie Brown, and the alternate was James Harrison. For 7th, it was Caleb Watson, Cheryl Rosenbaum, and Treyden Walters, and the alternate being Collin Ketterl. Finally the 8th grade spellers were Shelby Fulton, Sebastian Favela, Eli Peintner, and the alternate was Brody Hoffman.

On January 18th, all nine of those spellers competed against each other for first, second, and third place. The spellers spelled their hearts out and in the end, third place was Shelby Fulton, second was Treyden Walters, and first place was Caleb Watson.

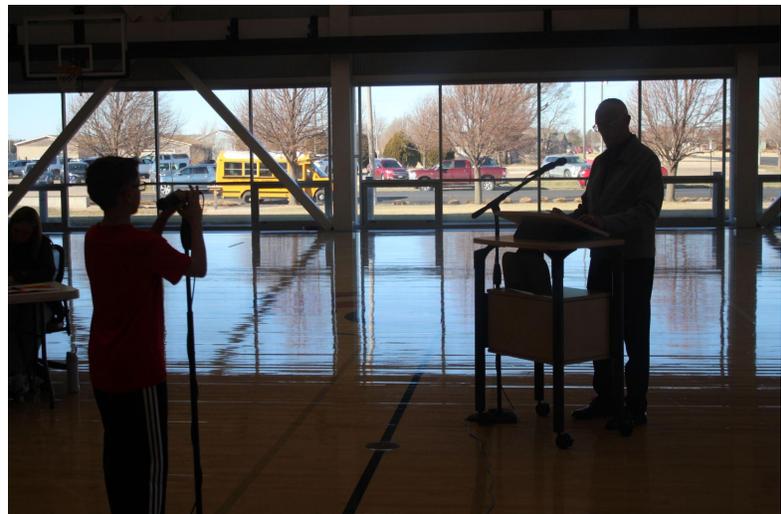
On February 11th, those three spellers will head to Haviland for the county-wide spelling bee. Whoever wins will have the opportunity to go to Wichita to compete in the state spelling bee. The top winners at state will get the option to go to the national spelling bee. So let's wish our spellers the best of luck as they move forward.



Above: Junior High School Spelling Bee winners; Caleb Watson, Treyden Walters, and Shelby Fulton

Bottom Left: Treyden Walters spelling words.

Bottom Right: Caleb Watson at the mic.



SOIL WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

By: Gentry Ballard
 Photos by: Angela Walters

COLORFUL CONSERVATION POSTERS

Kiowa County Junior high students were asked to make posters about the importance of soil for the annual county conservation poster competition. This year's theme for the contest was: Soil Where it all Begins. Judges selected the top three posters from each grade as well as a grand and reserve champion by division. Victoria Yohn, the District Manager for the Kiowa County Conservation District, presented the awards at an assembly on January 13. The top 3 winners from each grade got medals for their accomplishments and were invited to be recognized at the 81st Annual Meeting & Bankers' Award Dinner on January 21.

7th Grader Mya Mitchell got overall reserved champion for the 7th and 8th graders, while placing first in the 7th grade division. 6th grader Lilianna Torres got overall reserved champion for the 5th and 6th graders, while placing second in the 6th grade division.

8th grade KCJH winners: Sebastian Favela (2nd), and Ty Hatton (3rd). 7th graders KCJH winners: Mya Mitchell (1st), Gentry Ballard (2nd), and Jessie Werth (3rd). 6th grader KCJH Winner: Lilliana Torres (2nd).

SAVE THE DATES!

Big Read Recognition:

- February 2nd at 7, before the JH boys basketball game

6th Grade Honor Band:

- February 4th. Sixth grade honor band performs in Minneola.

County Spelling Bee:

- February 11th at 10 AM. The County Spelling Bee is in Haviland.

JH League Basketball Tournament:

- SPIAA League Basketball tournament in Meade on February 12th.

Top: Lilianna Torres next to her poster.

Middle: Gentry Ballard, Mya Mitchell, and Jessie Wirth next to their posters.

Bottom: Sebastian Favela and Ty Hatton next the their posters.



OUT SHOOTING THE COMPETITION

BASKETBALL TEAM IS PUSHING THROUGH THE SEASON

By: David Keeton

The junior high boys A team have had a really strong season with one defeat putting them at second seed going into the SPIAA League Tournament. After our unfortunate loss to Meade, it made them work even harder and get better. They have not lost again which proves that their hard work is paying off. Although they had a close call with Spearville, they pushed through for the win. They are really excited to have another shot at beating Meade in this upcoming tournament. 8th grade basketball player Brody Hoffman said, "I think we are prepared to play Meade again; our offense and defense is really starting to click."

The Mavericks have one final regular season game left with Minneola. Let's wish all of the players luck when they play in the league tournament.

Photos By: Angela Walters



B Team Tournament Champs!



BOYS BRACKET



Middle: Bracket from B team tournament on 12/6.
Left: Bodie McDonald drives to the basket.

Current Record A team: 11-1

12/4 vs Satanta

A Team (W):64-9
B Team (W):34-16
C Team (W):12-10

1/15 vs Spearville

A Team (W):47-44
B Team (W):38-27
C Team (L):23-29

12/11 @ Ashland

A Team (W):47-17
B Team (W):24-11
C Team (W):18-5

1/19 @ Ingalls

A Team (W):50-19
B Team (W):51-26

1/8 @ South Central

A Team (W):49-28
B Team (W):27-20
C Team (L):27-28

1/22 @ South Gray

A Team (W):48-22
B Team (L):23-32
C team (L):32-44

1/10 vs Hodgeman

A Team (W):54-16
B Team (W):24-8

1/26 vs Skyline

A Team (W):49-29
B Team (W):40-6
C Team (W): 42-13

SCORES

KCJH BOYS C-TEAM TOURNAMENT

SEMI-FINALS

MAVS 31 WILDCATS 14

CHAMPIONSHIP

MAVS 8 BUFFALOES 40

JANUARY 17, 2026

GREENSBURG, KS

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

Photos By: Angela Walters

By: Hadleigh Greenleaf

The Kiowa County Junior High Girls Basketball Team has had some ups and downs over the past two months. The Lady Mavs had had some very hard losses in the last few seconds of the game, including Ashland and South Central. In both games, they lost both two points or less points. They have also had some very dominating wins including Spearville, Meade and Satanta.

7th grader Mya Mitchell stated, "If we have confidence, we can do some very good things, and coming into the tournament, I am very optimistic."

Likewise 7th grader Khloe Gilkey said, "I think we need to push in every game and not stop when we are losing, and we need to beat some of the harder teams. I think we need to improve on boxing out and rebounding because when we do, we are very fortunate. Although we do great in hustling down the court, moving the ball, and using good teamwork."

Top: Mya Hoffman looking for a pass.

Middle: Selah Lingafelter going for a basket.

Bottom: Elsie Brown getting ready to steal the ball.



Current Record A team: 8-4

12/4 vs Satanta

A Team (W):28-20
B Team (L):6-20

12/11 @ Ashland

A Team (L):30-32
B Team (L):15-20

1/8 @ South Central

A Team (L):32-33
B Team (L):4-21
C team (L):6-10

1/10 vs Hodgeman

A Team (L):26-34
B Team (W):29-12

1/15 vs Spearville

A Team (W):45-7
B Team (W):20-15
C Team (L):7-12

1/19 @ Ingalls

A Team (W):32-8
B Team (W):30-7

1/22 @ South Gray

A Team (L):18-36
B Team (L):13-17
C team (L):0-18

1/10 vs Skyline

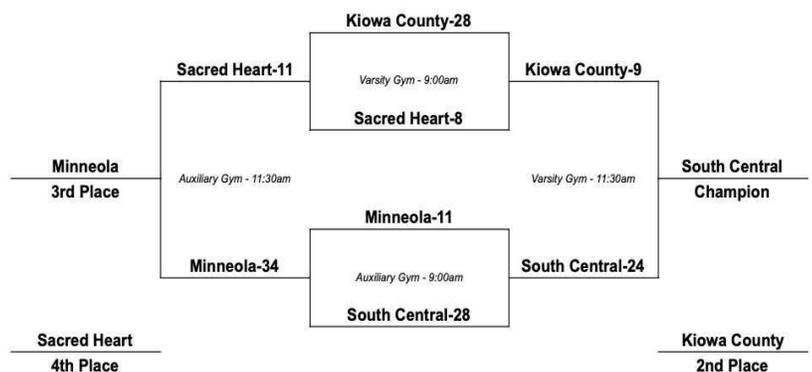
A Team (W):49-6
B Team (W):8-2

KIOWA COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH

B-TEAM BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

December 6, 2025

GIRLS BRACKET



COME READ ALL ABOUT IT

AN ARTISTIC AR PARTY

By: Gentry Ballard

Eleven junior high students finished the semester with a special Accelerated Reader (AR) party on December 19th. Students enjoyed breakfast at Kook's before heading to the 5.4.7 Arts Center. Students then selected either a Christmas or basketball painting, and they customized the painting to their own liking. "Since we had a smaller group, I wanted to offer students the opportunity to do something different than what they had in the past. And, I love supporting our local businesses when we can. So, it was a win-win."

Students need to earn 40 points each semester to meet the AR party goal. The points are earned through online tests over books students have read. The next party will be in May, so start reading now to earn your points!

Top: All of the readers at Kook's Meat.

Left : David Keeton works on his painting.

Right: Some of the students display their stellar paintings.



Photos By: Angela Walters



ON THE MAT

By: Rhett Heinson

The Kiowa County Wrestling Club's season kicked off in November for its second consecutive year. The club has 29 athletes from four different school districts including two Kiowa County Junior high participants—sixth grader Elsie Brown and seventh grader Rhett Heinson. This year wrestlers are learning more moves and putting their skills to the test on the weekends at area tournaments in Pratt, Great Bend, and Dodge City, to name a few. Wrestlers will compete in Hays on March 6 and 7 to qualify for state. The season culminates on March 13-15 at the state tournament in Topeka. Best of luck!



FUN FACTS WITH THE 8TH GRADERS

Article by
Sebastian Favela

LARTSON HIGBIE



Photo by Sebastian Favela

- Q: When is your birthday?
A: October 3rd
- Q: What are your hobbies?
A: I like to play basketball.
- Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
A: I've been coming here since pre-school.
- Q: What is your favorite food?
A: It a cheeseburger!
- Q: What is your favorite video game?
A: It's Farming Simulator.
- Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
A: I'm a foodie.

TY HATTON



Photo by Sebastian Favela

- Q: When is your birthday?
A: May 11th
- Q: How long have you gone to Kiowa County?
A: I have I have been going to Kiowa County for 5 years
- Q: What are your hobbies?
A: I like reading, video games, and sports.
- Q: What is your favorite foods?
A: I love chicken
- Q: What is your favorite color?
A: My favorite color is blue.
- Q: What is your favorite video game?
A: College Football
- Q: What do you think is one interesting thing about you?
A: I braid doll hair with my sisters.

MEET THE PUBLICATIONS TEAM



Sebastian Favela



Gentry Ballard



Rhett Heinson



Angela Walters

A'S FOR AIRS

By: Gentry Ballard

“A’s for Airs” gave one deserving student a reward for her second quarter efforts. Cash Hayes won shoes at a KCJH assembly on Friday, December 19th. “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 cookie, and an entry in a drawing for Nike Air Force Ones.

This nine weeks will end on March 12th. Make sure to keep your grades up to be in the next drawing!



(Photo from usd422.org web page)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 KCJH BB vs. Minneola 3:10pm: JH Pep Assembly 7:00pm: JH Big Read Recognition	3 KCHS BB @ South Central	4 6th Grade Honor Band @ Minneola 2:45pm: Fire Drill 6:30pm: FECT Meeting	5 KSHSAA Regional Scholars Bowl SPIAA JH League BB Tournament @ Meade	6 KCHS BB @ Kingman 8:00am: DLT Meeting 2:30pm: Classes Dismissed	7 KSHSAA Regional Piano Festival
8 No School SPIAA JH League BB Tournament @ Meade 6:00pm: Little Pepsters Practice 8:00pm: USD 422 Board Meeting	9	10 KCHS BB vs. Hodgeman County	11 10:00am: County Spelling Bee 11:30am: SPIAA League Meeting 6:00pm: Little Pepsters Practice	12 SPIAA JH League BB Tournament @ Meade 6:00pm: Little Pepsters Practice	13 KCHS BB vs. Satanta Little Pepsters Performance KSHSAA Girls Regional Wrestling FECT Silent Auction 2:00pm: Pep Assembly 2:30pm: Classes Dismissed	14 KSHSAA State Scholars Bowl ACT Test Date Valentine's Day KSHSAA Girls Regional Wrestling 8:00am: KCHS Forensics - Maverick Nation Invitational
15 FFA Week Kindergarten Student Led Conferences KCHS BB vs. Fairfield Presidents' Day	16 FFA Week KCHS BB vs. Minneola 4th Grade Student Led Conferences KCHS Winter Sports & Activities Recognition	17 FFA Week JAG-K Day at the Capitol 9:00am: SPIAA HS Vocal Festival @ Bucklin	18 FFA Week 4:00pm: KCJH Scholars Bowl @ Meade	19 FFA Week KCHS BB @ Pawnee Heights K-5 Art FFA Week 2:30pm: Classes Dismissed	20 KSHSAA State Piano Festival KSHSAA Boys Regional Wrestling	21
22 1A Sub-State BB Quarterfinals 4:00pm: KCJH Scholars Bowl @ South Gray 8:00pm: USD 422 Board Meeting	23 1A Sub-State BB Quarterfinals	24 JAG Regional CDC 9:00am: SPIAA HS Instrumental Festival @ Minneola 6:30pm: BeAlert Parent Presentation	25 BeAlert Student Presentation 4:00pm: KCJH Scholars Bowl @ Minneola	26 KSHSAA 1A-3A State Wrestling 2:30pm: Classes Dismissed	27 KSHSAA 1A-3A State Wrestling 1A Sub-State BB Semifinals (Boys)	28

To find upcoming events, information and more, go to usd422.org

New Year Word Search

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

RESOLUTION
CELEBRATION
COUNTDOWN
PARTY

BALLOON
SPARKLER
TOAST
STREAMERS

MIDNIGHT
CONFETTI
CHEERS
HATS

CALENDAR
FIREWORKS
CLOCK
PARADE

RING
GOALS
HAPPY
YEAR

SPIRIT WEEK

