



# Viking Voice

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Kingsburg High School

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## Prom Royalty Reign



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## VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High  
School 2020-2021

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## Letters to the Editors

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# Maury Nyberg Leaves His Mark on KHS

By Avneet Purewal  
Editor-in-Chief

Maurice Nyberg passed away on April 18th, 2021 at the age of 95. He was looked up to as a role model in the Kingsburg community. He dedicated countless hours with the goal to help others, especially young students.

Nyberg graduated from KHS in 1943, and continued to stay involved with not only the Kingsburg community, but also KHS for the rest of his life. He advised KHS Key Club and Kingsburg Kiwanis alongside his wife, Pauline Nyberg.

World War II began in Nyberg's junior year of high school. He knew he'd be drafted, so he made the decision to enlist in the navy. He had to overcome many hardships while serving his country during such a dangerous time.

The first ship that Nyberg was assigned to was named the U.S.S. Jenkins which was hit by artillery from a shore battery. Six soldiers were killed, all on his first operation.

Another major obstacle he faced near the end of the war occurred when his unit was bombarded and hit a mine. "We would've sunk but the sandbar barely saved us. We had to wait until we were discovered and then a bigger ship came to rescue us," Nyberg explained.

After the atomic bombs were dropped over Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Nyberg and his crew knew that the war was almost over. He served the rest of his time with a decommissioning team in San Diego until he was discharged in 1946.

Although he served as a safety consultant with the State Compensation Insurance Fund after the Navy, Nyberg impacted the community in many other ways. He played a big role in the Orchard Church, serving as the choir director and helping out whenever and wherever he was needed. He advised KHS' Key Club (a volunteering club) and was also a member of Kiwanis, a service club that empowers people to fundraise and partake in local service projects to serve the needs of children. He served as the president for the Kingsburg chapter in the past.

Kiwanis' motto is "Serving the children of the world," which Nyberg lived by. With Kiwanis, he helped with countless projects, both on the national or local level. Some of his bigger projects included getting iodized salt to countries that were

lacking iodine, which can cause developmental disorders. He also helped in getting tetanus shots to women in developing countries who didn't have access to sterile equipment during childbirth.

Local projects Nyberg led mostly involved fundraising so that Kiwanis could continue giving out their annual scholarships. One of his most recent fundraisers included a pancake dinner and a silent auction which generated a lot of scholarship money.

Nyberg lived in Kingsburg for all of his life. His grandparents moved to Kingsburg from Sweden. He had Swedish parents, who raised Nyberg and his two older brothers. He had three children, nine grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren who continuously brought joy into his life.

Another hardship Nyberg underwent was when his first wife, Lorraine Ny-



berg, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a long, hard-fought battle, but lost when she was 67 years old. Nyberg met his current wife, Pauline Nyberg, through Kiwanis. They shared similar passions and spent much of their lives helping the community. "If it wasn't for Kiwanis, our paths would've never crossed," Nyberg added.

Pauline Nyberg added, "Mr. Nyberg was always upbeat and happy and if things bothered him he did not seem to let it show. He gave the best hugs and had a nice, big laugh. He was generous with his time and loved life. He enjoyed all his volunteer work and was very proud to be associated with Key Club. Mr. Nyberg and I were so fortunate to meet at the stages of our lives when we needed each other. Despite our age difference, we enjoyed much the same things, including God, family, friends and being with them. We loved Kingsburg and happily worked together

to do our part to keep up its traditions. I know he would want the Kingsburg Swedish Days to continue and we both enjoyed hosting our large Nyberg family for Santa Lucia Day, which is the first Saturday in December. I also appreciated how he loved me unconditionally, and I him."

Nyberg always had a deep passion to give to others. "I enjoy being involved in community beneficial activities and serving the community. It's such a worthwhile feeling helping children of the world," marveled Nyberg. Nyberg was driven to help high school students which is why he dedicated so much time to Key Club.

KHS College & Career Counselor Kerry Peterson got to know Mr. Nyberg through Key Club and Kingsburg Kiwanis. She explained, "One of my favorite things about Mr. Nyberg was his humility. He served others graciously- he got in there and worked! Even when he was in his 90's, he would lug water bottles for Key Club lunches or cook and clean at the annual fundraisers to raise money for KHS scholarships."

"I remember one Pancake Dinner night where he was the last man standing- truly. He (at age 90 or so) was mopping while all the rest of us gave out or went home. He never asked anyone to do a job he wouldn't do right along with them. His style of leadership that way made a deep impression on me. As far as a lasting impact, I would have to say that Mr. Nyberg showed me how much kindness matters. He had a way of making each and every one of us lucky enough to know him, feel like we're really quite special. And he made you feel that way each and every time he saw you. He truly loved

and was so proud of the students he served through Key Club. I will cherish those memories," Peterson continued.

Nyberg often advised Key Club members, "Study hard and find activities that will serve your community. Don't be so involved in things that would take away from you being active in your community because it really is worthwhile."

The Kingsburg community lost Nyberg on April 18th, 2021. Kingsburg honored him with a motorcade down Draper Street all the way through Downtown Kingsburg on May 5th, 2021. He received Military Honors as a large crowd arrived to support him. Nyberg was a huge inspiration to both young and old. He will forever be remembered, and his legacy will live on forever. Thank you, Mr. Nyberg, for all you did for KHS students and the Kingsburg community.

# Jackson Huckabay Heads to U of Texas

By Kimmy Alexander  
Staff Reporter

KHS Senior Jackson Huckabay has been given the opportunity to swim for the University of Texas located in Austin, Texas. Huckabay has been a part of the KHS swim team for four years now and his swimming career will continue in college.

Huckabay explained, "My biggest motivation for swimming is to try and be the best I can be. I want to reach my full potential."

On Friday, April 30, 2021, Jackson swam for the 18U Spring Cup. He swam a 50, 100, 200, and 400 freestyle. His times were 24.1, 51.6, 1:52.1, and 4:03.

Overall, Jackson said that the most valuable things that he's earned from swimming are lifelong friends, time management skills, and discipline. With so many years of swimming experience, discipline and time management skills are very important to balance academics and athletics.

In swimming, it is difficult to improve a

time by even a second. It's always exciting when one of the swimmers beats a school record or beats their own personal record.

Huckabay motivates his teammates to

but his legacy will be embraced by his teammates forever.

As for beginning swimmers that have never swam before, Huckabay is a great role model and can critique anything from starts to turns in the pool.

Huckabay encourages students to try out for swim. He advised, "I would tell a beginning swimmer to enjoy the process. It may be a long process but enjoy learning and have fun. Because if you're not having fun, don't do it."

No one ever said that swimming is easy, but the more one practices, the better one gets even if they feel tired and sluggish.

As Huckabay leaves and new swimmers come, he is excited to see how well the KHS swim program performs. KHS staff and students are ecstatic to see what Huckabay will accomplish at the University of Texas.

KHS swim coaches are very proud of how well Jackson has done at KHS and will continue to cheer him on while he is in Austin.

As the end of the school year approaches, KHS just wants to say thank you and congratulations to Jackson Huckabay for being a part of this school and its swim team.

"Once a Viking, always a Viking." Congratulations Jackson!



do the best they can possibly do in practice and at swim meets. This may be his last year at KHS,

# Taryn Irigoyen Named Junior League Scholar-Athlete

By Laura Angel  
Staff Reporter

Recently, it was announced that Senior Taryn Irigoyen had received the Junior League of Fresno Female Scholar-Athlete Award. The Awards Ceremony was broadcast on KSEE 24 on Wednesday, May 5 at 7:00pm.

KSEE 24 wrote in an article, "The Junior League of Fresno is continuing its tradition of honoring young female athletes who have excelled in academics, athletics, and community service with the 40th year of its Senior Girl Athlete program. Each year the women's volunteer organization awards a scholarship to one female athlete from schools all over the Fresno metro area. In the event's 40 year history The Junior League of Fresno has honored more than 600 young women. This year, instead of an in-person banquet, the Junior League of Fresno is partnering with KSEE24 to broadcast the event. The special will air this summer and sponsorship opportunities are still available."

When asked how she felt regarding the award, she said, "I was super honored and humbled to receive this award

considering KHS is filled with many great female athletes. I was also super joyful because I felt my character and athletic achievements were rewarded!"

KHS Athletic Director Scott Hodges said,



"Taryn's work in the classroom and on the field has been outstanding during her tenure at Kings-

burg High School. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has multiple League and Section Championships in Softball and Soccer. She plans to continue her education and softball career at CSU Fresno in the Fall."

Irigoyen was very flattered to have received the award, and is very excited to be continuing her sporting career. Out of the two sports she played, soccer and softball, she said that she would most likely only be continuing her softball career.

Irigoyen believes that she had amazing teammates who would also have qualified for this award. She also stated that she most likely won't be trying out any other sports, "I love both sports, but my skills on the soccer field aren't at the D1 level."

When it comes to balancing her sports with academics, she said, "There were a lot of late nights, but it's the best feeling to succeed in the classroom as well as on the field."

She also hopes that she will be able to continue her success throughout her time at CSU Fresno next year while playing on the highly competitive softball team. Irigoyen elaborated, "I am

excited for what the future holds for me after high school!"

# Mr. Steve Harness Retires After 34 Years a Viking

By Brenda Marquez  
Staff Reporter

KHS teacher and overall extraordinaire, Steve Harness left a legacy here at KHS that will forever be remembered. Harness taught at KHS for 34 years, since the fall of 1986.

Harness taught a wide variety of courses at KHS. Although his main classes were Earth Science and Chemistry, he also taught one year of Biology, "green, slimy, and worms" as Harness calls it, Astronomy/Geology, and AVID for 24 years.

KHS will always hold a special place in Harness's heart and he was sad to leave. He adores all the memories and experiences he has had with students and staff here.

When asked how he felt about leaving KHS he said, "People say that you know when it is time to go and it is time. I really feel sad. The teachers, school, and community have made me feel welcome. A good part of me doesn't want to leave."

His experience at KHS was like no other. He interpreted, "I have been wonderfully blessed by this school everyday. We have a great, fantastic, wonderful group of science teachers. Their individuality, professionalism, and the care they show everyone goes beyond any other reward. We have a great group of teachers and staff at KHS who are truly compassionate about their students. The students are really great here."

Harness feels like his path to becoming a teacher at KHS was like no other.

He was born and raised in Illinois. He had really poor counseling in high school. His dad, who only had a 5th grade education, encouraged him to go to college. Harness knew he liked science, but was suspended twice in high school due to chemistry experiments. His father couldn't afford putting him through a university so he worked during the

summer and attended Illinois Community College for two years. It was here that he became intrigued in the Earth and the natural world around him. He transferred to Bradley University in Illinois where he graduated with honors and a bachelor's degree in Geology along with his teaching credential in 1974. His initial plan was to work for Texaco but that didn't follow through.

He elaborated, "With my degree in hand, I was planning on working for Texaco but that changed and none of the oil companies were hiring



geologists. I was working in retail business and the company promoted me and moved me to California. After I left the retail business, I started teaching. I went to Fresno Pacific and earned a Masters in Math & Science Education."

He was involved in numerous activities during his 34 years at KHS. He coached Boys Tennis for 15 years, coached Mock Trial, was the

Science Club Adviser, was the MESA Adviser, was the contact person for the Upward Bound program out of Reedley College, was the Science Department Chair, and was deeply involved in AVID.

He remarked, "I started teaching AVID in 1989 then became the Coordinator. As Coordinator, I helped organize university field trips, fundraisers, concessions at sports games, car washes, and especially the Christmas Families. This started small with AVID and a few clubs but became a major event for the entire school."

There were many proud moments that stood out to Harness. One moment that felt special to him was having a group of MESA students win first place in every event at the MESA Regional Competition.

Watching his 8 classes of AVID students finish and graduate high school also made Harness feel proud. He read their names out loud as they received their diplomas. He is also very proud of his past students who now have successful careers. Several of them are teachers at KHS and he is glad that he was a part of their educational journey.

Harness left an impact on so many students on campus. One student said he was known for telling the best dad jokes and playing the Eagles Greatest Hits. According to a student, he also was so passionate about his job and made students want to actually do their work. Another KHS student noted how much he loved Mr. Harness's quote "Do Smart, Don't do Stupid!"

KHS staff and students will miss seeing Harness on campus. They will miss his dad jokes and all his fun stories.

Harness had many accomplishments at KHS. He left a huge impact here that will be missed. KHS wishes the best to Harness in his future and sincerely thanks him for all of his service.

## CNA Class of 2021 Graduates Ready for Action



The KHS 2020-2021 CNA class held their graduation on May 13, 2021. It was held in the Little Theater at KHS where the students were recognized for their hard work and achievements throughout the school year.

Each student was presented with a Pre-Certified Nursing Assistant at the awards ceremony. Their teacher was Diana Gomez.

Senior CNA Graduate Natalie Fedor stated, "The CNA class of 2021 faced many obstacles this year, but with hard work and the help offered from our teacher, we were able to overcome our difficulties. This class was a huge help in introducing me and my classmates to the medical field. While we may not do what registered nurses do, we have also gained knowledge of the next steps we must take to continue our careers as nurses."

Fedor highly recommends this class for upcoming seniors. She advised, "Persevere through the (sometimes) mundane note taking and repetitive skills portion of the class because at the end of the day it is totally worth it to put that smile on someone's face! Don't forget you can also work in hospitals and other facilities, not just skilled nursing homes!"

## KHS Summer School Goes Online to Accommodate High Numbers

By Jadyn Franco

Staff Reporter

This year at KHS they are offering multiple summer school classes. It's going to be different from the other years that KHS has done summer school Administration is trying to offer the best possible options for all students.

Administration has answered a lot of the questions people may be wanting to ask. They tried their best to give as much detail as possible.

"This year's summer school will be through Edgenuity," stated KHS Assistant Principal Heather Wilson. KHS has used this site before. It will be just like last year. Students have to keep track of their school work or they may fall behind very quickly. Students will have to do work daily and keep up with their class as much as they possibly can.

When a student completes a whole class, they will receive 5 credits per semester that they complete. "If you have to take both semesters of that class then they will be getting 10 credits for that class in total," stated Wilson.

Students may also take two different classes for summer school but that's only if they

need one semester of those two classes.

"The summer school applications were due on April 9th." Wilson said. If students signed one and turned it in, they are set and ready for summer school. Students needed to just fill out that form and turn it into Mrs. Hale.

"For summer school there will be an assigned teacher for students to go to if they need

The teachers will be very helpful to the students. They will try their best to help all of their students, but it is important to keep in mind that there are a lot of other students that may need help too.

Any student at KHS can take a summer school class. They just needed to sign up for that class before the deadline. Students can take summer school to get ahead of a class or if they failed a class.

"This year at KHS over 600 students have signed up to take a summer school class. Due to the classes having to be cut down in size not all students will be able to attend a class this summer," stated Wilson. It's a struggle to not be able to get into a summer school class but there is always next summer for students to do so. Students have 2 weeks to complete a semester of a class. That being so they can complete two semesters or even a full year of a class in just 4 weeks," explained Wilson.

Summer school will be a challenge for some students due to not being in person, but Vikings always make it through. Have a great summer KHS, go Vikings!



any help with that class," explained Wilson. If a student needs help in any way, shape, or form, they can email the teacher they are assigned with. There will be about 30-35 students in each class.

## Jazz Choir, Band Perform As COVID Restrictions Loosen

By Kristen Pacheco

Staff Reporter

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, things have begun to loosen up as KHS was able to host their last home football game against Selma High on April 16th. Along with the football game, the Jazz Choir was able to sing the National Anthem and the KHS Band was able to perform throughout the game. Overall, the game was a success with the Vikings beating their rivals and both performances running very smoothly.

When asked how he and his choir were able to prepare for the national anthem on such short notice, KHS Jazz Choir Teacher Richard Mynderup, explained, "We were originally asked to sing the anthem the week before which would have only given us two rehearsals. It worked out to trade weeks with the band which allowed us 3 additional rehearsals. And then we were also Zooming for one of them. I quickly found an arrangement the choir had originally performed several years ago. I made quick rehearsal tracks so the students could practice at home."

When also asked how his students felt about performing at the last home game, Mynderup continued, "The Jazz Choir was very excited for the chance to sing the national anthem. When we were asked to do the anthem, we realized it had been over a year since the choir

had actually performed together. So although they were super excited, there was a little bit of nervousness too."

When asked about how he and his band prepared for the last home football game performance, KHS Band Director Mike Schofield responded, "We prepared some pep songs and Green and Gold. We had a short period of time to get ready due to the requirements for bands not allowing them to attend games until very recently. Up until then, we were getting ready for the upcoming Swedish Festival Parade and some concert music."

Because Schofield was unable to attend the last game performance, when the Viking Voice asked him how he felt leaving his two drum majors in charge (Junior Kira Wilson and Senior Luke Lutrell), Schofield responded, "I felt very calm. We also had our Rafer Johnson Jr. High Band Director, Sigle, as well as our drumline instructor present. I felt confident that everything would be ok knowing they were there and that the drum majors had it handled."

Unfortunately, the KHS Color Guard was unable to perform at the last home football game due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Schofield was optimistic that they would be back and better than ever next year with the halftime shows beginning in the fall.

Nonetheless, these last performances were

a huge success and the students were very pleased with how they did.

When asked about how she thought she and her fellow students did while singing the National Anthem, Senior Kalynn Olson stated, "I feel like we had a pretty good performance, excluding the feedback issues we had with the microphones of course. We hit all of the harmonies perfectly, and we were all well balanced, which is exactly what you want out of a performance."

Although students were nervous for the performance, they were super excited to be able to perform again.

Olson expressed happily, "Yeah, I was a little bit nervous. It had been over a year since the Jazz Choir had last performed in front of other people, and we had only a week and a half to prepare for it as well, so I had a little bit of anxiety about it, but I still had faith we'd all do great. The way we all prepared for the performance was through in-class rehearsals, and a few outside ones as well, practice tracks and a lot of patience."

It's been a hard year for everyone with the COVID-19 pandemic, but KHS was able to persevere through it in a time of uncertainty.

Along with that, all the students performed with big smiles on their faces... underneath their masks of course. And the awesome defeat of the Selma Bears was like the icing on the cake!

# Garabedian Chosen as Girls State Delegate

By Madelyn Wiest  
Staff Reporter

Nadia Garabedian, a KHS Junior, was nominated by KHS teachers for the Girls State Delegate Award.

This award is given to one junior girl who will represent the American Legion Kingsburg Unit 191. The selected girl will attend a leadership and citizenship program, representing their unit, to help them learn about the American government as well as politics.

To receive the Girls State Delegate award, Garabedian explained, "I was nominated for this award, by the teachers, amongst other girls. I then submitted an application answering the questions provided. After this, there was an interview for each candidate and from there I was selected as the Delegate."

The process for the Girls State Delegate Award is long and extremely competitive, but worth it. This award helps many students learn and focus on how the American government works.

Now that Garabedian is selected as the delegate, she gets to attend a conference for a week with other delegates in the state. This year, it is going to be virtual instead of the usual conference at a college campus due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. The conference will be

one week long starting on June 28th and ending on July 3rd.

ALA Girls State described the conference on their website, "Female high school students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected and sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary units for this program, where

felt really honored when I received this award. It is truly an honor to be selected as the delegate for this conference. This opportunity really is a great one and especially during this time I feel like it is important to understand our American government and how it works. I am truly grateful and honored to be picked. I am so thankful to the

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



American Legion Auxiliary Kingsburg Unit 191 for giving me this opportunity."

ALA Girls State wrote, "Candidates should be keenly interested in government and current events, and show strong leadership abilities. Because the structure of state and local government varies, ALA Girls State programs may vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic core values."

Garabedian is really thankful and honored to be selected for the Girl's State Delegate Award, to participate in the program, and attend the

conference. She gets to expand her knowledge on American government and politics with other state delegates.

This award is a big deal to be nominated for and is highly competitive. It is an amazing opportunity and very educational on the topic of the American government.

they learn about the political process by electing officials for all levels of state government and actively running a mock government. The girls are assigned to mock cities and either the 'Federalist Party' or 'Nationalist Party.'"

When asked how she felt when she received this award Garabedian elaborated, "I



## "Jonny Needs A Lift"

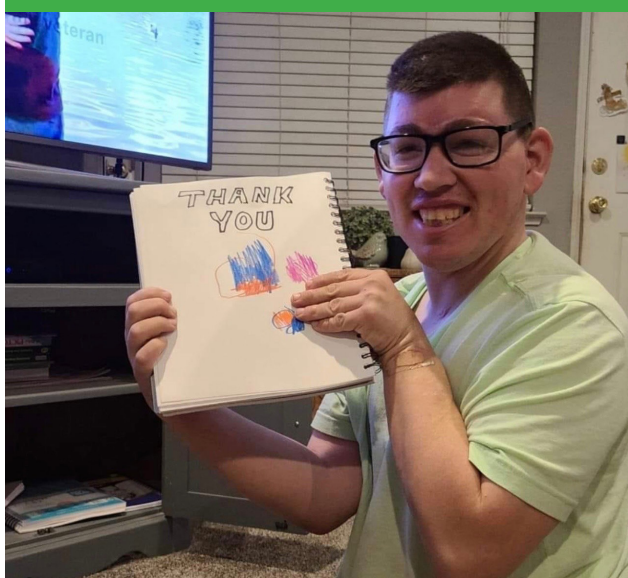
By Kalaya Schreiber

A local family, the Garcias, have a 27 year old son, Jonathan, who has suffered from Parkinson's, cerebral palsy, uncontrollable seizures, and fluids on the brain. He lives in a wheelchair when he leaves the house. However, it is growing increasingly more difficult for his parents to load him into the wheelchair, into the car, into the wheelchair for a second time, to their destinations, and repeat.

The family's only vehicle has pushed through many years and hundreds of thousands of miles. However, its lifespan is quickly coming to an end. Recently, the Garcias have begun fundraising for a new vehicle through several different approaches, and are still falling around 40 thousand dollars short.

They hope for a Chevy Traverse, which retails at around \$70 thousand. So far, with all the efforts combined, they have gathered 27 thousand dollars!

Donations have been made available at the Garcia families church, New Life Ministries PO Box. New Life Ministries, PO Box 584, Kingsburg, CA 93631.



# Swedish Festival Resumes with High Attendance

By Camilla Zavala  
Staff Reporter

Any resident who has lived in Kingsburg has heard about the annual Swedish Festival. This four day celebration is a way for Swedes to share and salute their heritage, and others to learn about the culture. It has a range of activities to participate in and generally brings in over 25,000 visitors from all over the state.

This year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration continued. However, because of the virus and state regulations, it was rebranded as the Swedish Days.

On Thursday evening at 5:30 to 7:00 (as always) was the Pea Soup and Swedish Pancake Supper. Shortly after this dinner was the crowning of the Swedish Festival Queen, following predecessor Chelsea Flood. Flood was able to secure the crown for another year, as she was awarded 2021 Swedish Queen at the event. From 5:30 to 8:00 on Thursday night was the traditional Swedish Entertainment, with dancing and lots of music.

Friday was the Flower and Garden Show in the Village Mall from 4:00 to 8:00. From 4:30 to 5:30 was the Public Safety Officer Dress Review & Award Ceremony in the Coffee Pot Park. To end the night, there was a Swedish Dinner & like always, Swedish entertainment.



Saturday was a full day of festivities, starting with the Dala Horse Trot in the morning, whether it was the 2 mile or 10k walk/run. The Swedish Pancake breakfast, hosted by the Lions Club, was a huge hit. The line for the pancakes stretched down the alley, past the historical jail. Kingsburg residents were allowed to take pan-

The parade, starting at 10:30 am, included several floats and bands performing from all over. After the parade was the traditional dancing of the maypole, and Draper Street was full of an assortment of vendors, ranging from kettle corn and bierock food trucks to booths with face paint and doll clothes, to booths selling books and flags and so much more.

The Historical Park was also open to the public during the festival days. Guests from all over were invited to see the museum, tractor barn, tank house and all the other exhibits.

Saturday night also brought a new musical program, an ABBA tribute performance. ABBA, a band popular in the 70's for their catchy tunes and brought to light most recently for the presence of their music in the smash hit franchise, "Mamma Mia," is from Sweden, and therefore perfect for the celebration. The music, covered by Kingsburg residents Leah Brey and Cheryl Carlson, drew in a large crowd. The audience was visibly enjoying themselves and singing along to all the hit songs.

The Swedish Festival is a Kingsburg tradition that has made fun for all ages for over half a century. All residents and guests should check it out at least once because there will always be something for everyone.

cakes home, but there was also seating throughout the Coffee Pot Park, attended to by Kingsburg High FFA students.

# Congressional Computer Science App Awards

By Zachery Howell  
Page Editor

On Tuesday, April 14th, a field representative for David Valadao presented the Congressional App Challenge Award to sophomores Lorne Rogers and Breton Pumarejo.

The challenge itself is rather self explanatory. Over 6,500 students registered and submitted nearly 3,088 apps of different functions to be judged.

Contest winner Lorne Rogers stated, "Our app (v.Task) is a scheduling/reminders app for students. It can add events to a checklist, set reminders that access the phone's 'clock' feature (it'll alert you when the set time is passed). It also has helpful tips that students can access if they need pointers on how to manage their schedule. It also has a page where you can

email developers, change the color theme, etc."

The two student coders had worked on the app for a little over a month for their computer science final projects. They then heard about

This is not the first time that students from KHS have entered and won this competition. Rogers added, "I speak for myself and my partner when I say I'm honored to have been able to defend KHS' title. Its so cool that the school could win two years in a row, and we're glad that we could give our small town some representation in an event as big as the Congressional App Challenge!"

The award was awarded to several students throughout the state, but Rogers and Pumarejo were the only winners within our congressional district.

Thousands of functional apps have been created and recognized through this challenge and are designed to improve our everyday lives through technology and will continue to attract more young and bright minds to rise to the challenge.



the app challenge and decided to enter it into the competition.

continue to attract more young and bright minds to rise to the challenge.

# Valedictorian Elects



Avneet Purewal  
Rank 1  
Fresno State University  
Major: Biochemistry



Hayden Yakligian  
Rank 2  
California Polytechnic  
State University  
Major: Computer Science



Luis Martinez-Chun  
Rank 3  
University of California  
San Diego  
Major:



Cambria Brandon  
Rank 4  
Biola University  
Major: Nursing



Hannah Hjelm  
Rank 5  
University of California  
Irvine  
Major: Mechanical  
Engineering



Jacob Nystrem  
Rank 11  
Reedley College  
Major: Computer Science



Rachel Just  
Rank 12  
Long Beach State  
University  
Major: Psychology



Monica Chaidez  
Rank 13  
Reedley College  
Major: Civil Engineering  
& Mathematics



Jackson Huckabay  
Rank 14  
University of Texas  
Major: Business Marketing



Jett Jackson  
Rank 15  
Auburn University  
Major: Agricultural  
Business & Economics



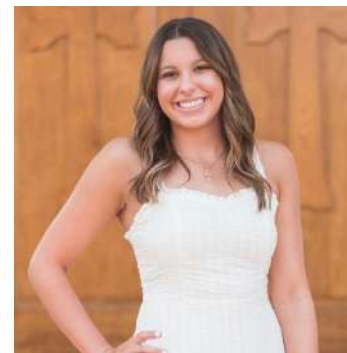
Taytum Neves  
Rank 21  
California Polytechnic  
State University  
Major: Agricultural Science



Tyler DeGroot  
Rank 22  
Grand Canyon University  
Major: Criminology



Joshua Bennett  
Rank 23  
Reedley College  
Major: Accounting



Audrena Butts  
Rank 24  
The Masters University  
Major: Liberal Studies



Natalie Fedor  
Rank 25  
Reedley College  
Major: History &  
Communications



Ivan Gonzalez  
Rank 31  
Fresno State University  
Major: Computer  
Engineering



CLASS OF  
2021 FACTS



## Class of 2021



Emmett Firkus  
Rank 6  
University of California  
San Diego  
Major: Biology



Madeline Perkins  
Rank 7  
Fresno State University  
Major: Kinesiology



Rajvir Rai  
Rank 8  
University of California  
Santa Barbara  
Major: Biology



Leila Gonzalez  
Rank 9  
Fresno State University  
Major: Pre-Health



Sofia Righetti  
Rank 10  
San Diego State University  
Major: Biochemistry



Maci Wood  
Rank 16  
University of California  
Santa Cruz  
Major: Psychology



Nathan Towsley  
Rank 17  
Allan Hancock  
Community College  
Major: Marketing



Melody Lewis  
Rank 18  
Fresno State University  
Major: Criminology



Nadja Rosenfield  
Rank 19  
Reedley College  
Major: Creative Writing &  
Education



Katharine Rodriguez-Puga  
Rank 20  
University of California  
Merced  
Major: Biology



Marissa Gonzalez  
Rank 26  
University of South  
Carolina  
Major: Exercise Science



Khloe Hodges  
Rank 27  
Reedley College  
Major: Graphic Design



Sarah Wallis  
Rank 28  
DeSales University  
Major: Dance



Taylor Trigueiro  
Rank 29  
Oklahoma State University  
Major: Agricultural  
Education



Hunter Stone  
Rank 30  
Reedley College  
Major: Agricultural  
Business

218  
Graduates  
Total

About 1/3  
are Attend-  
ing a Four  
Year Univer-  
sity

Approximately  
1/2 are  
Attending  
Community or  
Trade School

11% are  
Entering  
the Work-  
force

7 Graduates  
are Entering  
the Military

# Vikings Earn \$350,450 at Senior Scholarship Night

KHS held its annual Senior Scholarship Night on May 24th, 2021, awarding \$350,450. All seniors and senior families that were awarded scholarships were invited.

In a normal year, the ceremony is held in the KHS New Gym, packed to the brim with excited families and students. In order to meet COVID-19 precautions, the ceremony was held at the KHS Stadium.

KHS students and staff deeply appreciate the generosity of the Kingsburg Community. Overall,

\$350,450 was awarded as scholarships to various seniors.

In total, 315 individual scholarships were given out to 112 senior students.

Families and seniors sat in the bleachers,



while presenters sat on the track and the football field. There was no hand shaking to limit contact, students were simply handed their envelopes.

The Class of 2021 was ecstatic to be able

thankful that KHS made this night possible. I feel honored to receive the scholarships I was given."

KHS would like to give a special shoutout to retired counselor Marlene Pavlina who put



in her own time to plan the awards night. This Scholarship Night would not have been possible without her hard work. Another special thanks to KHS College and Career Counselor Kerry Peterson for

helping students apply to scholarships.

KHS seniors were honored to have an in-person scholarship night. Thank you, KHS staff and administration, for making this memorable night possible.

to have the awards night in person and appreciates all the effort that KHS administration put in to make this special night happen.

KHS Senior Avneet Purewal added, "It was great to have this event in person. I am very

## Senior Activities: Prom, Graduation, Senior Night

By Trista Fry  
Staff Reporter

At the beginning of the school year, no one foresaw the possibility of school districts being able to host senior activities to celebrate the end of the year. Luckily, with COVID precautions in place, KHS is going forward with a Prom, Graduation, Grad Nite, and a college signing day to celebrate and reward the Senior Class of 2021 for surviving a difficult year.

Prom is an activity that many students thought they would have to forego this year. Senior Noah Rocha stated, "When we came back I thought at most we were going to have a graduation, but I was not expecting us to have a Prom or Grad Nite."

Prom happened on May 15th this year. Due to COVID, it could not be held on school grounds so it was at 1613 9th Avenue Drive in Kingsburg.

In order to comply with COVID precautions the school had to limit the amount of people allowed to go, so it was only open to Juniors and Seniors. Unlike other years, no outside guests were allowed, except for last years' KHS Seniors as student guests. Each table had fewer people and there were multiple dance floors so that students could socially distance while still socializing. Since the venue was outside, masks were not required as long as students socially distanced.

KHS Seniors also have the chance to go to Grad Nite on June Second. Grad Nite this year is going to be at Great America near San

Jose. Other popular sites such as "Disneyland and Magic Mountain did not offer Grad Nite this year because of COVID and were not open when we signed up," stated Robin Lund, KHS's ASB Book-keeper.

All of the seniors will be taking a charter bus up to and back from Great America. They will spend the day at the park, have a meal voucher, and a snack bag for the ride back home. Great America is going to require masks indoors or when it is not possible to socially distance. KHS was also limited in the amount of tickets they could purchase, so there are not as many seniors going this year. Senior Audrena Butts exclaimed, "I am going to both grad nite and prom. I am very excited to spend time with friends before graduation!"

Another event that took place for the seniors on campus was "Sign your Star Day." This was an event for all seniors. The seniors were invited to write their name and where they are going, or what they plan to do after they graduate on a star to display. Their stars were then hung up on the Senior Star Wall. KHS College & Career Counselor Kerry Peterson stated, "We have many, many students who write a community college, CSU, UC, or a private university but we also have people who list a vocational college or a branch of the military."

"Sign your Star Day" is an important day for seniors as it allows others to see the path they are choosing and where they want to go. Mrs. Peterson thinks that they have nearly 100 stars on the wall as of right now, but plans on getting many more students to turn theirs in.

The graduation ceremony for KHS Seniors is going to be on the last day of school, June 3rd, in the high school football stadium at 8 pm.

Wow, what a year it has been, and it's not even over yet. All of the seniors are extremely grateful for the leaps and bounds the staff and administration have gone through to allow them to have as normal of a year as possible.

Senior Audrena Butts stated, "I am very thankful and appreciative to the staff and school administration for working tirelessly to try and get us senior activities."

It has been a challenging year for everyone, but especially for the KHS Class of 2021. They have faced many challenges, setbacks, and disappointments but took it all in stride. While these events could not be possible without the amazing staff and administration, the students have also been resilient.

Mrs. Peterson stated, "I feel like many of them have taught us adults so much by hanging in there this year and graduating from high school when it became more challenging and less fun than they had planned. I guess I'd want to tell them that the ways they served their families this year, by supervising younger sisters and brothers and helping them with distance learning, by working more hours to help their family get through a tough time, by handling the disappointments they experienced with an honest but flexible attitude. These are all accomplishments and they are huge. I hope they can feel proud of themselves and use the strength they've built to go tackle their next challenge."

# Senior Department Awards

Every year the KHS Academic Departments decide on one Senior that they feel has demonstrated outstanding dedication to a certain academic educational discipline. Faculty would like to honor the following seniors:



**English:**  
**Avneet Purewal**



**Agriculture:**  
**Taylor Trigueiro**



**Social Science:**  
**Luke Luttrell**



**Performing Arts:**  
**Daniel Huerta**



**Foreign Language:**  
**Carolina Gutierrez**



**Math:**  
**Jacob Nystrem**



**Outstanding Scholar:**  
**Jesse Paniagua-Garcia**



**Visual Arts:**  
**Leila Gonzalez**



**Physical Education:**  
**Jania Martinez Ramirez**



**Science:**  
**Hayden Yakligian**

# Students Debate the Pros & Cons of Back to Regular Schedule vs. Hybrid Schedule

By Lauren Berry & Madelyn Wiest  
Staff Reporters

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Kingsburg High School has been a lot different during the 2020-2021 school year. Students and teachers have opinions on whether or not they think school will be back to normal next year.

This school year, Kingsburg High School started with on Zoom classes, but eventually moved towards in-person learning with an AM/PM hybrid schedule. Students had to wear masks and social distance around campus as well.

Some students and teachers think that next school year could possibly be back to normal. Adeline Kliewer, a KHS freshman said, "I think that school next year will be normal because by then lots of people will be vaccinated which means that less people are getting sick, therefore allowing the public more freedom."

Joshua Woods, KHS computer science teacher and cross country coach said, "I think that school will not go back to the normal that we knew before the pandemic, but will be more like the new normal."

While it's possible that school next year will be back to normal, some safety precautions might still be in place. The schedule could change, but masks and social distancing could just stay the same.

Kliewer said, "Even if we do go back to a

normal schedule next year, I think that we would still have to wear masks at least most of the time, and we might still have to stay a few feet away from each other, as well as routinely disinfecting surfaces that get touched a lot, like desks and chairs."

Some students and teachers would maybe like the idea of a different schedule and a normal school, but some people might not like the idea. When asked if they would want to go back to a normal schedule, Hayley Garza a KHS junior responded with, "I do want to go back to a 'normal' schedule as band is difficult with shorter classes, and I miss being in class for full hours. It will be my senior year next year, and I would really enjoy normality and being able to see my friends in class again."

Having a normal schedule could affect both students and teachers in different ways. Students would be at school for a longer period of time and teachers would have more class time with their students.

Woods stated, "I think it will be an adjustment if we go back to our normal block schedule next year. Only half of next year's students (the Juniors and Seniors) have ever done our normal block schedule so I think teachers will have to be flexible and adjust based on how well students are able to handle the block schedule and going to school for a full day again."

Garza said, "Going back to a normal

schedule will affect students negatively at first as they are not used to the original schedule. After a couple of weeks or a month, students will be adjusted and begin understanding their material more."

KHS Freshman Alexa Covarrubias said, "Some advantages are that we get out a lot earlier than normal, we get in person instruction after so long of being online."

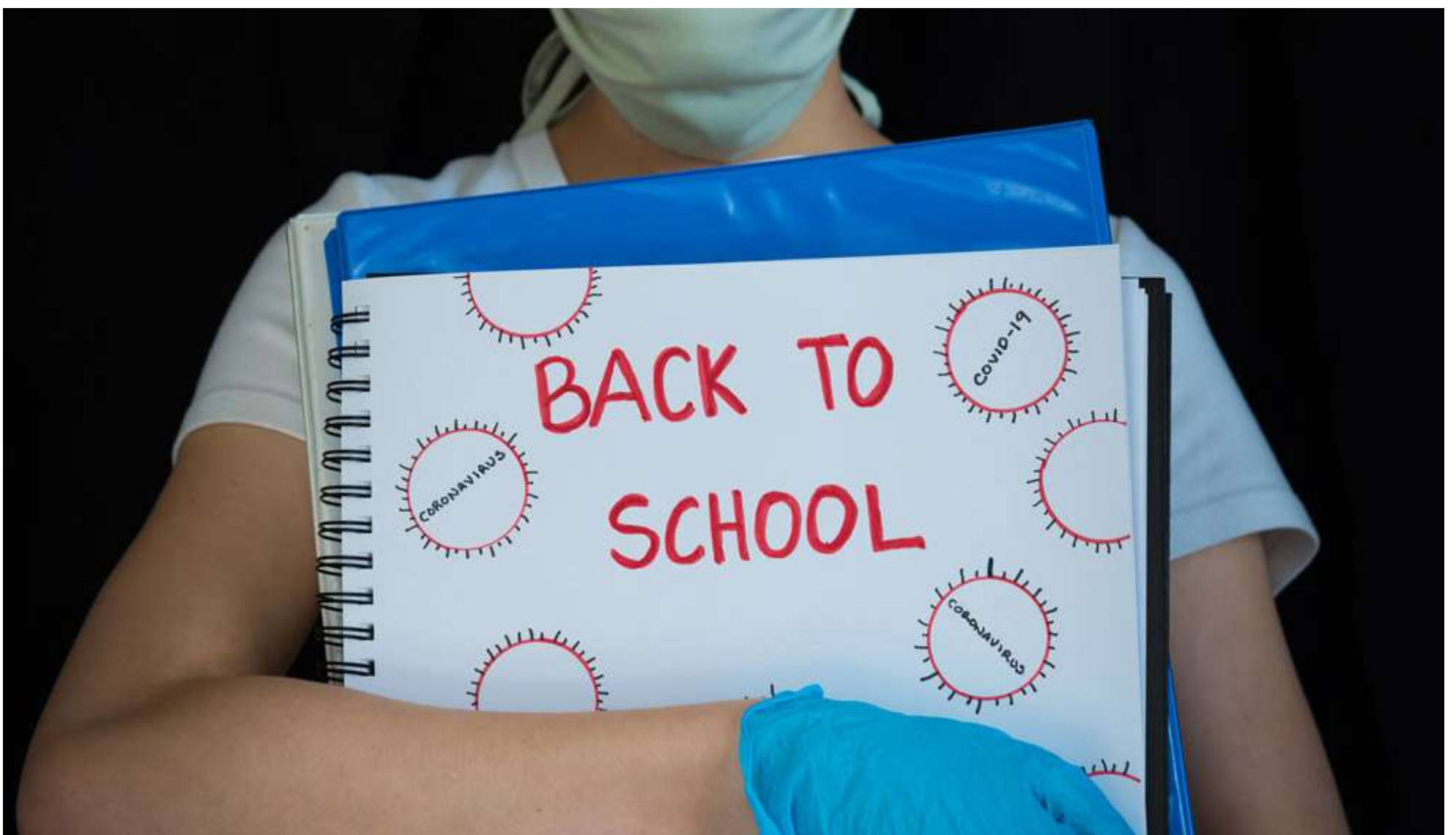
She continued, "Some disadvantages of the hybrid are that not everyone is in school so we can't do things as a whole class, and the class periods are cut shorter so some lessons are cut short."

This year has been a major adjustment for everyone, from starting the year off on zoom to now finishing the year attending in-person classes.

A few months ago, the school sent out an email wondering if students and parents would like to continue the hybrid schedule or go back to normal before the year was over.

Some students prefer the hybrid schedule such as Freshman, Logan McGowan. She says, "I can go to school then come home and just do my work, easier for me."

Students and teachers at Kingsburg High School all have their own personal opinions on whether or not they think school next year will be back to normal.



## Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team came through with 2 wins this year. Senior Melody Lewis said she had a great time for such a small season. She got to play in 8 games this year during this season. She did a great job at playing in her games and giving all that she had. Senior Captain Avneet Purewal added, "It was a difficult season with the year that we are in. However, I'm really proud of how the team fought hard and came together at the end of the season."



## Boys Basketball

KHS Boys Basketball is looking forward to competing in playoffs starting next week. They started off with a tough season, facing Division 1 Clovis schools but managed to keep the games close. Their overall record is 6-4 and they are 2-0 in league. Senior Nathan Towlsey elaborated, "This season has been a blessing to have, especially knowing if we were going to play early in the year. I'm looking forward to making another push to try and bring home another valley championship to Kingsburg."



## Wrestling

KHS Senior Jonathon Viveros said, "Although we had little to no time to practice as a team due to Covid. Everyone pushed themselves past their limit and worked hard. The wrestling program has three guys going to college to continue what they love doing and the wrestlers who are still in high school are looking to put Kingsburg on the map. Go Vikings!" Viveros will be continuing his wrestling career at California State University Bakerfield next year. His coaches and KHS staff are very proud of all the hard work he has put in.



## Softball

This softball season was like no other but that did not stop our KHS Viking Softball teams to do their best. KHS Varsity Softball has an overall record of 15-7 this season. Their greatest win was against the Immanuel Eagles, 15-2. Game after game, they have been defeating the opposing team. Their most recent game against Hanford West was a score of 15-0. The softball team is very proud of themselves this season and are really happy that they were able to play despite the circumstances.



## Track and Field

The KHS Track and Field team was able to compete this year in a total of 6 meets. The team was able to compete in meets at home and at other schools like CVC and Dinuba. They also competed in the CSL league meet. When asked how her track season was going and if it was being affected by COVID-19, Freshman Danielle Jackson responded, "We have had meets leading up to our championship league meet this Wednesday at Exeter (May 26). In my opinion, track season has felt completely normal, and COVID-19 hasn't affected it at all."



## Cross Country

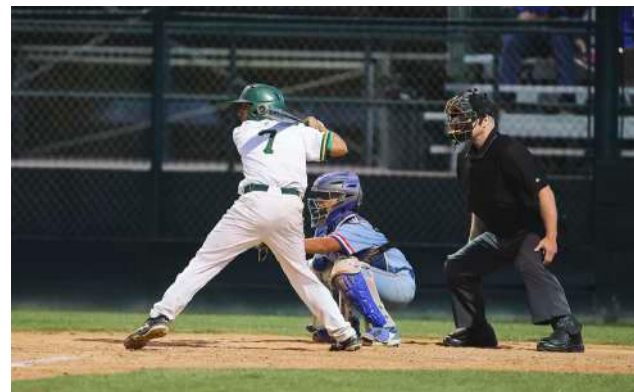
The KHS Cross Country team had four meets for their spring season. The meets were the CSL



(Central Sequoia League) meet at the Visalia Country Club, Ridge Creek Classic, the Central Valley 5k at Woodward Park, and the CSL meet at Imanuel. Senior Ivan Gonzalez, a cross country runner, said, "What I enjoyed the most about this season was really getting to know all of my teammates through practices and races and just enjoying being around a great group of people that have been one of the biggest influences in my life."

## Varsity Baseball

This season for Varsity Baseball has been amazing. Currently, Varsity is 12-4, and 2nd place in League. Senior Luke Berry, explained the highlight of their season so far, "Our 11-7 win against Immanuel." He continued, "That win has allowed us to put ourselves in position to win the CSL this year."



## Girls Water Polo

Girls Water Polo had a short but rewarding season. Sophomore Nadia Garabedian stated, "Our season was good for what it was. We really didn't get a season. We kept thinking we were going to and we never did, which was a bummer. The good thing, though, was that we got to practice and play as a team which was really nice." The one game that Girls Water Polo was able to have was the Senior Night Game. They ended up winning the game by a few points. All the players are looking forward to next season to showcase all of the practice and hard work they put in over the last year, hoping that it will pay off.





### Boys Water Polo

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, their playing season kept getting pushed back and games postponed. In the end, they were only able to have one game which doubled as their senior night. They ended up winning the game by a considerable margin of points and tried to make the best out of a bad year. Even though this year was less than ideal, many of the team are getting ready for next season. Sophomore Trent Regier stated, "I am really looking forward to next season since we won't have to listen to any COVID rules, and we can play a lot more games in the season."

### Swim & Dive

KHS Swim & Dive season came to a close except top swimmers who advanced to Valley. The season started in February and the very first meet was in early March. Seniors Audrena Butts and Jackson Huckabay were standouts for this year's team. Though smaller than previous years, the level of commitment was impressive. At time of print, the Viking Swimmers were undefeated going into playoffs.



## Marissa Gonzalez Beats Career Home Run Record

By Trista Fry  
Staff Reporter

Marrisa Gonzalez, a KHS senior, has broken the record for home runs at the KHS softball field.

Marissa Gonzalez is a star athlete at the KHS, and just broke the record for hitting the most number of home runs. She hit a whopping number of 22 throughout her career while playing high school softball.

Softball is a family affair in the Gonzalez family. The record that Gonzalez broke was her sister's, Jessica Gonzalez, from when she played at KHS. Jessica's number of record home runs before Marissa broke it, was 17.

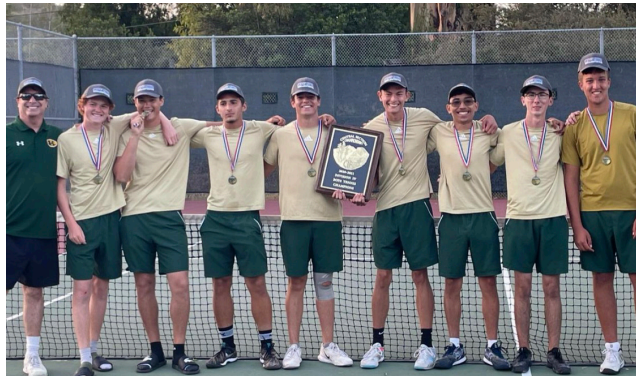
Marissa plans on furthering her academic and athletic endeavors at the University of South Carolina. She is very excited to be playing softball there and cannot



son, is quite an accomplishment. The KHS var-

### Boys Tennis

The Boys Tennis team at KHS has had an amazing season. The boys worked hard and overall won league with a perfect score of 12-0. Going into Valley championships, the Vikings were ready for anything. They ended up winning Valley by a close score of 5-4. The Vikings have made KHS very proud. Senior Luke Luttrell stated, "This group of seniors have been putting in the work for 4 years. It really showed, since we went undefeated in league, and then beat the 1 seed to win Valley. Super proud of my team and all of the hard work we've put in!"



### Girls Tennis

With the season over, it has been a great year for Girls Tennis at KHS. Making it all the way to the quarter finals, the girls have played their best through an unusual year. Ending the 2020-2021 Girls Tennis season, the girls have done an outstanding job.

### Girls Golf

KHS Girls Golf has had a great season and they are excited to compete for a Valley title next week. They had a few regular season matches and have been performing well in playoffs. KHS Junior Kailey Emmersen stated, "I'm excited to see how do next week! The team has really come together."

### Boys Golf

KHS Boys Golf had a great overall season. They practiced hard and performed well. They won the

Central Section Championship. The team was led by Senior Joshua Bennett who will continue his golf career at Reedley College next year.

### Girls Soccer

The Varsity Soccer team went 11-0 in all of their league games this season. Despite the pandemic, the team was able to persevere through and play their hearts out in every single game. The team has now made it to the Valley Championship and will play against Templeton Highschool on May 28. Senior Heidi Ahumada stated, "I can't wait to compete for Valley. This group of seniors has been playing together for a long time and we hope to win Valley for the 5th year in a row!"



### Boys Soccer

The KHS Boys Soccer team is thankful for the chance to compete this year. They went 4-13-2 overall and 4-5-1 in league. They continued to improve as the season progressed and enjoyed the opportunity to play.



sity softball team has played a total of 22 games, winning 15 of them.

They have had an outstanding season, even under the trying times and circumstances. The team won their most recent game against Hanford West on May 18th with a final score of 15-0.

Gonzalez explained the highlight of her senior year, "The softball season, and breaking the home run record. I also broke the RBI record, and those were my goals this season."

While this year has not been normal or easy, Marissa Gonzalez has embraced the challenge and quite literally stepped up to the plate. She has left a lasting legacy on the KHS campus and softball field. KHS is proud to call Marissa Gonzalez a Viking Record Breaker and can't wait to see what she will accomplish next!