



Viking Voice

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Kingsburg High School

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Brock, McFall Named Viking Royalty



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VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High School 2021-2022

Viking Voice Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Lorne Rogers

Assistant Editor
Kirrah Morton

Staff Writers

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Abigail Berry
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Special Thanks to Samuel Marshall for Photography!

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Letters to the Editors

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Viking Valor page at
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Decades: Vikings explore past for Homecoming



Staff Writer
Scarlett Laita

Photo credits:
Samuel Marshall

On September 30th, KHS crowned Sydney Brock and Conner McFall as Homecoming Queen and King.

Queen Sydney exclaimed that she was “A little surprised but totally relieved. I was so excited to win with Conner and to be crowned [by former homecoming queen] Lily Wilkin. I was a little sad that homecoming week was over because I had so much fun throughout the week. Getting to participate in games and activities with some great friends was so much fun and winning with Conner was the best way to end the week.”

King, Conner McFall said he was “Pretty surprised and within the first few seconds of being announced, I was in shock. I didn’t know where to go or what to do. I got really excited when they announced Sydney Brock as the queen and that’s when I just felt incredibly happy. I was honored to be voted in and to win with the best girl.”

The rest of the Senior court consisted of Trista Fry and Zachary Ergo, Anajelly Hernandez and Fernando Salazar, and Lauren Van Curen and Derek Brett.

The Junior class had Julia Moreno and Ayden Aja representing them. The Sophomore class had Sarah Carver and Hunter Hurtado (this also happens to be their second year on a

homecoming court). The Freshman court consisted of Ava Irigoyen and Emilio Ayala.

The Homecoming float theme this year was Decades. Each grade got their own decade, Freshman had the 70’s, Sophomores had the 80’s, Juniors had the 90’s, and the Seniors got the 2000’s.

The Senior class won first place, Sophomores got second, Juniors got third, and the Freshman got fourth.

Senior Class President Paul Gaytan exclaimed this about winning the float, “Once we heard we won I think it was such a relief to all of us, me personally I was just hyped that we were able to pull through and take home the win for the senior class”. Gaytan would also like to give credit to Caitlin Unruh for the choreography, Ryan Carver for the music and Vanessa Hernandez for creating the backdrop.

After the halftime festivities, featuring performances from the KHS Cheer and Marching Band, the football game resumed. Kingsburg played hard against Washington Union and reigned victorious in the end, the score being 39-15.

Senior Caleb Irigoyen, Senior Conner McFall, Junior Houston Hirschorn, and Junior Mathew Ward were selected the Kingsburg football Players of the Game.

News

Seniors' Tribute to 2000s Wins Competition



Junior Class; 90's; 3rd place

Sophomore Class, 80's; 2nd place

Freshman Class, 70's; 4th Place



Viking's Salute Homecoming Decades Week

Staff Writer

Joyah Hernandez

This year, KHS had a fun and creative Homecoming week. There was a new theme for students to participate in each day.

These themes have encouraged students to let their creativity shine over five days.

KHS tried their best to make different themes for each day to make them as fun as possible.

They included dressing up and showing participation and the spirit they have for KHS.

On Monday, the theme was anything but a

backpack day. KHS students brought a variety of objects for this day, such as ice chests, grills, and even a microwave.

Tuesday was Nerd vs. Jock day. "Jocks" tended to wear jerseys, gym shorts, and sports caps, while "Nerds" wore collared shirts, slacks, and glasses. Many students had the idea to dress up in pairs with their friends, with one jock and nerd per pair.

Wednesday's theme was Country vs. Country Club. This day also saw strong participation from the student body, as well as from the staff, with people showing off their best outfits. At break there was also a performance presented by Mr. Peterson, our earth science teacher and Mr. Carbajal our

World History teacher with a truck show.

Thursday was Throwback Thursday. Students were to wear outfits from past decades. The result was colorful, creative, and diverse. Styles from the past were on full display. Overall, an enjoyable day at KHS. At break the Senior Court Trista Fry and Zachery Ergo, Anajelly Hernandez and Fernando Salazar, and Lauren Van Curen and Derek Brett set up a surprise for KHS students where anyone could pie them in the face.

Friday was, of course, Green and Gold day. Students let their viking spirit show by repping KHS' colors.

Anything But A Backpack Day

Monday



Nerd vs. Jock

Tuesday



Country vs. Country Club

Wednesday



Throw Back

Thursday



KHS Talent On Display, Show is Back After Covid Absence



By Landon Manley
Staff Writer

From singing to skits, the KHS Drama Department made a comeback on September 16th after several years with no Talent Show. Within the show, there was also the viking competition where 3 Senior students competed against each other across a varying amount of challenges, and Zach Ergo emerged as the victor.

The KHS drumline started off the show with a bang. The drummers were Sophomores Haylee Contreras, Briar Estes, Haley Luper. And Juniors, Ty Molina and Matthew Sawatzky Seniors, William Bishop, Max Marshall, and Ajay Mohan were decked out in black clothes, sunglasses, and straight faces. Their performance was catchy and a massive hit among the audience.

Freshman Presley Patterson followed and sang "Requiem" from Broadway's "Dear Evan Hansen." Patterson stated that she wanted to perform because she loved being on stage. She exuded confidence and had a great voice throughout her performance.

The audience then learned more about the Viking contestant's talents. Lorne Rogers was a "Man of Many Talents" with three abilities. Rogers danced, played a jaw harp, and used a jitter ring.

Following Rogers, Ethan Garcia was a "W-Rapping Sensation" on stage. He began neatly wrapping a mysterious gift on stage, and once he finished, he pulled out even more gifts from his bag. He went to the judges to give them out, and to their surprise, it was a picture of himself.

After the laughter settled, Sophomore Jaden Reed sang "Believe" by Cher. The audience loved his relaxed personality and singing. They even began clapping to the beat.

Next up was Senior Yanitza Serrano who choreographed a dance to BTS' "Black Swan."

"It actually took me about 5 hours to choreograph the whole song," explained Serrano.

The hours were worth it, as her moves were smooth and elegant. The audience cheered her on, and at the end she received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Freshman Devin Alexander was next up in the program and sang "Fly me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra. Her voice was silky smooth, making it perfect for the classic song. The audience loved her rendition of Sinatra's classic.

The three Mr. Viking contestants came back ready as ever for competition. The first competition was tortilla slapping one another with a mouthful of water. Some got slapped while others accidentally threw their tortilla.



Next, was one where the contestants had a candle and a bottle of soda which they had to drink while the candle was lit, but can sabotage others by blowing out their candle. After a lot of hassle for the three contestants, Garcia got fed up and decided to hold his candle away from the others and chug down his drink.

The last challenge was where the contestants had a minute to get the most balls from one side of the stage to the other with a spoon while wearing a wedding dress. It was a close game. But a minute later, Ergo emerged as champion with 8 balls.

Continuing the talent, Freshman Joshua Lewis came dressed as the Joker to play "Waltz to the Death" from the Batman movie. Lewis said that he wanted to

show off his piano skills.

He said, "I was nervous, but after I felt joy and success." His performance was so seamless that the audience chanted his name while he bowed.

Sophomore Davin Collazo came out with a bat in hand to sing Carrie Underwood's "Before he Cheats" Collazo said she wanted to perform to have fun and to "shake up the acts." She was confident and had a great voice, leading the audience to give her a standing ovation.

The next performance was Freshman Max Silva, who sang "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley. The emotions the song held brought the audience together to wave their phone's flashlights to create an unforgettable performance.

Freshman Samuel Rice prepared a Jim Croche song titled "Time in a Bottle." Rice was another fan-favorite with many chanting his name and "whoop-ing." He had a great voice and put on another fantastic performance.

Zach Ergo was the final contestant to show off his unique skill, which was balloon art. With circus music playing in the background, Ergo began creating an unknown item, but as time went by the audience saw a crown form. He finished off his act by giving teacher Doug Davis the crown.

Next was the final act, a skit titled "Pass it down" performed by Freshmen Presley Patterson and Jackson Horiuchi, Sophomores Elli Ambriz, Katie Bishop, Davin Collazo, Aaron Dorrough, and Dennis Fan, and Senior Emily Fedor.

Bishop said, "Our act was an 8-person skit of a couple entering a theater, but having to sit apart. The boyfriend ends up having to "pass down" all his moves to the next person who passes that on to the next, all to get to his girlfriend."

Many from the skit said they had a couple of bumps along the way, such as not being able to go to practice, but in the end, everything worked because the audience was full of laughter at every moment, especially the proposal scene.

This was the moment that all of the audience anticipated, the crowning of Mr. Viking. After a hush upon the crowd, Zach Ergo was crowned with a luxurious cape and crown! All members of the talent show came out together and bowed while everyone gave their final goodbyes and cheers.

Meet your new KHS Class Officers

Elections Solidify New Class Leadership, Gaytan Leads Class of 2022

By Lorne Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

The students have voted, and the results are in! The KHS student body has elected their class officers for the 2022-2023 school year. These officers have been elected by the student body for their respective classes, and have pledged to work hard towards accurately representing their class.

For the sophomore class, the elected officers are: President Greg Ross; Vice President Scarlet Laita; Secretary Angie Casarez; Treasurer Kiara Zarate; Class Representative Hunter Hurtado; and Sgt-at-Arms Precious Pacheco.

The sophomore class officer's goals for this

"We're hoping to take complaints from proms in the past and organize the smoothly run and memorable prom that the upperclassmen deserve."

Zavala added that in order to secure the funds needed to make prom happen, they're having to organize fundraisers, which is the bulk of



For the freshman class, the elected officers are: President Onnika Aguirre; Vice President Grace Fan; Secretary Caleb Johnson; Treasurer Ian Stype; Class Representative Victoriana Jones; and Sgt-at-Arms Devin Alexander.

An interesting fact about this year's election is that Freshman Ian Stype was elected to his role via write-in which is a rare occurrence at KHS.

"I was excited to jump on the opportunity to become treasurer even though I wasn't on the ballot. I enjoyed campaigning and getting people to vote for me on the write-in," expressed Stype.

Stype added, "I feel like the freshman class did a good job with Homecoming this year, considering our limited participation."

President Onnika Aguirre said, "I strive to be the person everyone can go and talk to, regardless of their reason. I also aspire to be a leader who can make an impact now, and continue to do so in the future."



year were articulated by President Greg Ross, "[We hope] to bring more energy and school spirit back to our class."

He added, "I feel like we've greatly improved

our spirit thus far with our Homecoming float competition, which we should have won."

Ross also mentioned his desire to bring back boy's volleyball, a sport he believes many would enjoy.

For the junior class, the elected of-

ficers are: President Harley Furlong; Vice President Lexi Villagomez; Secretary Brynlee Woods; Treasurer Isabella Garcia; Class Representative Camille Zavala; and Sgt-at-Arms Cayla Diaz.

This year, the junior officers are tasked with organizing prom, an event they intend to take very seriously.

Representative Camille Zavala declared,

what they're currently doing.

Finally, Zavala wants to remind students to keep an eye out for opportunities to support the KHS prom fund in the near future.

For the senior class, the elected officers are: President Paul Gaytan; Vice President Devyn Sasai; Secretary Jimmy Cranford; Treasurer Katelyn DeGroot; Representative Caitlyn Unruh; and Sgt-at-Arms Derek Brett.

This year, the senior officers are looking to have an exciting, spirited school year.

Vice President Devyn Sasai announced, "Our goal is to have a great year with a lot of class in-

volvement."

She added that she and the officers are currently picking out the class quote that best embodies the senior class.

As the year continues to unfold, KHS can count on these officers to make this year exciting and memorable for all.



KHS introduces new Freshman Teacher, Mrs. Boyd

By Lilliana Cortez
Staff Writer

Carrie Boyd, the new 9th grade math teacher transfers from Rafer Johnson Jr. High to KHS. She has been teaching for 17 years including this year here at KHS.

Carrie Boyd went to National University, a private University. While at NU, she majored in English.

Boyd first began teaching at Clay Elementary where she taught grades 1, 2 and 3. She then moved to Rafer Johnson Junior High and taught 8th grade math, as well as the elective MESA to both 7th and 8th grade students.

“So far, I am loving KHS! The staff and administration has been extremely welcoming. It’s also been exciting to see so many of my former students from Clay and Rafer. I definitely feel like I am where I belong,” Boyd said after being asked about her experience so far at KHS.

For Mrs. Boyd, it was a big change to go from 7/8th grade to high school. She mentioned the schedule change was something she had to get used to because now she doesn’t see her math

students everyday.

After coming to KHS, Boyd has come to like some of the changes. “I think so far, my favorite thing is that the students tend to be more comfortable chatting with me. I feel like I have had



more conversations with my students the past 3 weeks than I did all of last year.”

Students here at KHS who’ve had Boyd from previous schools enjoy having her on campus. Sophomore, Jenna Rogers answers, “I love

having her on campus because even though I’m a sophomore, I know I can still go to her if I need help with anything.”

One of Boyd’s colleague, Sarah Alvarado, a math 1 and 1a teacher wrote, “I love having Mrs. Boyd here. We worked at Rafer together and got really close and I have been trying to get her over here with me for 5 years. She’s my other half when it comes to work,” after being asked about Boyd’s transfer here.

It is clear to all her students and previous students that Boyd has a positive teaching attitude. Freshman, Pluto Caballero spoke, “She is a nice teacher, if we have questions she’s always free to help. She explains things well and she’s easy going.”

Freshman Jasmine Galvan also added, “I really like Mrs. Boyd and her teaching. She always tends to make every student feel included, and she never fails to make her teaching fun. Her class is one of my favorites to attend and a great way to start my day. She always has a smile on and I could tell from learning from her that she truly enjoys what she does and it makes me motivated to show her I can do well. I’m excited to see how this year turns out.”

Cheer Coach Gabriella Lopes Hired To Teach

By Gracie Davis
Staff Writer

This school year, Special Education teacher and Cheer coach Gabriella Lopes was hired to replace exiting teacher Nicole Comstock.

Lopes went to Fresno Pacific University, majoring in Liberal Studies with a minor in Educational Disabilities. She’s also currently getting her Mild/Moderate Extensive Support Needs Credential at FPU.

Education runs in Lopes’ family. She explained, “I’ve always wanted to be a teacher, since my mom’s been an educator longer than I’ve been alive, but I knew I wanted to go into special education my sophomore year of high school.”

Lopes is not a new face at KHS. She explained, “Kingsburg chose me because I started coaching here, which is how I got connected with Mrs. VanderVelde to do my undergraduate senior project in her classroom.”

“So when a position opened up, I felt like I couldn’t pass up the opportunity. I love the students I get to work with in the classroom and cheer. Despite some days being hard, hearing and seeing progress in them in only the second month of school has been an amazing experience that I can’t wait to keep having,” Lopes added.

This is also Lopes’ second year as the Viking cheer coach.

This isn’t an easy thing to balance, explains

Lopes, “It’s definitely a lot, I have to leave cheer early to make it to class. I wake up everyday at 5:30 and go to sleep about 10-10:30 depending on how much grading and homework I have.

I tend to do most of my credential program



homework on the weekends (all my classwork and homework is due Sunday nights). I teach everyday 8-3, then have cheer 3 days a week and night classes twice a week. Something that helps me through it is not denying myself small things.”

Lopes clarified that she is the only special ed teacher at KHS who teaches students who are both on track for their diploma as well as their certificate of completion, so she teaches a variety of students.

Lopes says, “Essentially, I serve students with mild

disabilities as well as the students on our campus who have more severe disabilities.”

“In Tutorial, I teach lessons where students can use the skills they learn in their general ed classes, like how to annotate correctly. In Life Skills, I teach what it sounds like: skills such as how to count money, why hygiene is important, and so forth.”

“I like to give my students at least one hour to do other classwork and homework because my class is a support class for their needs, and many of my students need extra time to complete things.

When I’m teaching, I like to let my students converse with one another on topics and what they interpret about texts,” she adds.

A few fun things about our new teacher: “I love all things Harry Styles, reading, and cats! I also have two dogs and four (yes four) cats,” Lopes said.

Speaking on what she enjoys most about teaching she says, “I love when my students say good morning or thank you on their own because many of them have communication goals, so I feel like those are small victories that will start to evolve to large victories. I love being a safe space for my kids too, which is why I try to always say yes to things (within reason). I don’t want them to feel like I’m superior, I’m here to support and help them so I want them to feel cared for.”

Lopes is excited to be a part of Kingsburg High’s staff and is already off to a great start!

New VROP Benjamin Gonzalez takes over criminal justice, CSI classes

By Maria Escoto
Staff Writer

Benjamin Gonzalez is one of the new teachers this year at KHS. He is the new VROP Criminal Justice and VROP Crime Scene Investigation teacher in the 2022-2023 school year.

He teaches at KHS and also San Joaquin Valley High School. His job prior to this was being a homicide detective for the Fresno County Sheriff's Office.

His goal for teaching is "To inspire youth to think for themselves and to help students be successful".

Mr Gonzalez has 90 students and around 28 kids in each class he teaches here and in San Joaquin Valley High School.

When Mr Gonzalez was asked what his students are being taught he replied with "My classes are being taught how to think for themselves, integrity, standstand up for what's right, to be honest, to question everything and to stand up for the weak and oppressed."

The class is the basics on what kids need to know if they want to have a job in law enforcement. They can explore the different fields of work with the opportunities the class is offering. The class gives students a leg up on their future.

Mr Gonzalez helps students with understanding more about what they want for their

future. He shows students all that comes with jobs in law enforcement.

He follows an agenda of things that he needs to teach to the students so that they get the full experience.

This is Gonzalez's first year teaching.



When asked why he decided to start teaching he said ,

"I was inspired by my daughter and her friends, they would come hang out at our house and I saw that they had a lot of questions. I

figured that they were lost in this big world and I wanted to do something to help out the youth".

Gonzalez takes suggestions from his students about who he should bring in to talk to them. He brings people who specialize in what some of the students want to know more about.

He expects to bring a K9, CSI Analyst, Lawyer, blood splatter analyst, and more.

Sophomore Aaron Ovalle was asked his feelings about the class and how he thinks it is preparing him for the future.

" His classroom is a very comfortable environment to work and learn in. I dont think ive ever seen students be as interactive with the class.

We spend time in class having competitions and learning new techniques. We get to play sernios of different things cops have to deal with and he would break it down for the class to fully understand how he and other cops would handle the situations.

I think his class is preparing us very well for the future. We've learned our 10 codes, phenetics and handcuffing. He has shown us how to properly handle situations in a calm and logical manner.

New Freshman Teacher Chris Woods Spreads his Knowledge on AVID, Health

By Jasmine Galvan
Staff Writer

With the new school year comes new students and teachers, one of whom is Chris Woods, brother to Joshua Woods the Computer Science teacher. Woods is the new Freshman health and AVID teacher at KHS.

Mr. Chris Woods is one of the few KHS alumni that have gone on to teach at the school. It's a part of the reason he started teaching at KHS. He answered, "Being a graduate of KHS and having grown up in Kingsburg, I have always wanted to teach here."

Woods attended both Reedley College and Fresno State. He spent 2 years at Reedley College to study General Education. He then went to Fresno State for 2 years for his bachelor's degree in health science, and finally another year for his teaching degree.

Mr. Chris Woods was asked what got him into teaching and since he used to coach, he related the two. He shared, "teaching gave me the best opportunity to be able to teach and coach."

When asked what got him into teaching AVID and health more specifically, he shared, "AVID interested me because I realized the importance of organization when I got into college. I feel like AVID is similar to coaching because I'm helping prepare students for the next level of their educational journey."

He also added, "As for health, I like that this subject is real life and will be with you your

entire life. The things you learn in this class can help impact and improve your life even after high school as an adult. Also, I have always had a passion for health, fitness, and sports, and teaching health allows me to teach all those areas."

Being new to something isn't always easy because

being a new ment. case of Woods, treating ty well. to him, "felt the ness or ness some-when a new "great school

that KHS has might've been a part of the reason he didn't feel that new job anxiousness when starting at KHS. It seems to be that we as a community at KHS tend to positively affect the others that interact with us. It's shown that the positive environment that we surround others with can leave an impact on the way students and staff feel about being at KHS. Mr. Chris Woods is part of that pos-



you're put into environ- In the Mr. Chris he says it's him pret- According he hasn't nervous-anxious- that you times get starting job." The sense of spirit"

itive environment, as he seems to leave one in his classrooms.

Mr. Chris Woods wants his students to succeed in life above all else. He hopes that he can give his students "skills and information that will help them in their lives."

Mr. Chris Woods might have an impact on his students, because when questioned, students have shared that the environment he creates in his classroom helps them become better students.

Freshman Natalie Hernandez shared, "I like how engaged he is with his classroom. It helps me learn a lot more."

Freshman Faith Casarez stated, "When he's teaching he's super enthusiastic and energized, and I enjoy him caring; for us; it says a lot about him as a teacher."

Students always seem to appreciate teachers being good people outside of the classroom. So, students were asked how they felt about Mr. Chris Woods when it comes to not being in the classroom.

Freshman Parker Woods stated that she likes how "He's a nice person and he's easy to relate to."

Freshman Emilio Ayala answered that "He's a pretty cool person."

Let's help Mr. Chris Woods achieve the school year he wants to achieve, and give him a warm welcome to Kingsburg Highschool!

UC Application Workshop Held on Campus

Seniors Take Advantage of College Entrance Advice



By Grace Fan
Staff Writer

As deadlines for college applications are approaching, Kingsburg High School has started to offer various college workshops for those who plan on continuing their education after graduating high school. A recent workshop held by the college and career teacher, Kerry Peterson, was the UC Appli-

cation Workshop.

The UCs are made up of nine distinguished public universities in the state of California. According to Crimson Education, “The UC system is recognized for its excellence in education, research, and service and is widely considered the best public university system in the United States.” Senior Leila Zarate, who attended the workshop, expressed “They offer world renowned professors, nice locations, and a diverse student population.”

In the past five years, on average, about eight students from KHS have been accepted into UC campuses. With that in mind, it’s clear that competition for acceptance is intense. So what has helped KHS students prepare for it?

Aspiring UC Irvine student, Senior Lucy Lo, believes that taking AP classes have benefited

her preparation. Through the workshop, students have also learned how crucial extracurricular activities are to applications.

For Senior Lorne Rogers, who is looking to apply to UC Los Angeles and UC Santa Cruz, his sports and extracurriculars throughout his academic career have been significant to his applications. Rogers is an active participant in the Chess Club, Computer Club, and the Academic Decathlon Team. He’s in Cross Country and Tennis, and is in the school’s band too. “These are great, enriching programs offered by KHS that not only strengthen one’s application, but one’s character as well,” said Rogers.

This year, the workshop has had notably more attendees than compared to previous years. “At the workshops, we just work on finishing the applications.” Lo added Zarate, who also specialized in two Berkeley courses this past summer, included, “I have been able to ask questions on various tasks which have been helpful.”

Applying to college requires plenty of different factors to consider, and various questions to ask oneself. When asked if there’s something in particular that sparked their interest in the UCs, the most mentioned component was specific campus locations.

In this case, Rogers mentioned he’s “always liked Santa Cruz as a city,”

Lo responded, “The location of UC Irvine is what’s pulling me in. After high school, I want to be in or by a big city. I want to be in an area with lots of places easily accessible.”

Zarate, who is applying to four UCs, said, “I have always shown interest in going to a UC because of location.” She carried on, saying that she was originally drawn to UC Santa Barbara as it’s by the beach.

Their experience allows them to offer advice to those looking to achieving similar goals.

“Get involved! Join sports, clubs, and other extracurriculars that interest you, and don’t be afraid to try new things! You’d be surprised at what you end up enjoying. Then, you’ll be involved in programs you enjoy while also strengthening your college app. It’s a win-win.” encouraged Rogers.

“Try to stay on top of everything inside (grades and clubs) and outside of school (volunteering and work). These additions to your application help make you stand out compared to other applicants,” Zarate added.

“Work hard, don’t be afraid to go for things, and enjoy your time. Find something you’re passionate about and can focus on! Don’t overthink things too much as there’s still some time left, and try not to spend it all worrying about the future,” concluded Lo.



Pictured left to right: Leila Zarate, Lucy Lo, and Lorne Rogers

KHS Campus Gnome Under Extensive Investigation

By Samaris Olivia Odom
Staff Writer



Students of KHS are being watched! Perched on top of the old gym sits a gold-colored gnome, observing the campus below. It is “ungnome” exactly how long it has been there, though campus sources can confirm it’s been at least two years.

An interview with Senior Lulu Abdelfattah and Junior Elizabeth Garcia led investigations to English teacher Michele Schiller whose fascination with gnomes is unrivaled.

Being a gnome expert, Schiller was one of the few interviewees who knew where the gnome was located. She stated, “I didn’t put the gnome up there, but many ask me if I did.”

She suspects that it was the result of a senior prank from a few years back, and said she knows for certain that it had been there, “all of last year”, and maybe even the year before.

One could say pranksters couldn’t decide between, “Go big or go gnome.”

When questioned what she would ask the gnome if she could, Schiller said, “[I would ask] how do things look from up there?”

Schiller was not the only one to have spotted the gnome. Freshman counselor Stephanie Marriott also reports having seen it, mentioning she has “gnome” about it for around a year.

Vice Principal Heather Wilson stated that if she had the chance she would ask the gnome, “What’s the greatest secret at KHS?”

The gnome’s origins remain a mystery even to the administrators. Surprisingly, Principal Dr. Ryan Phelan, doesn’t know where the gnome came from. He said he has seen it, but that he doesn’t know its origins. He speculated that it is some kind of trick (perhaps a troll?), or some other odd game perpetrated by a troublemaker.

As of right now, nobody knows where it came from, but some try to find the significance of the gnome. Many wonder, what does the gnome mean? Particularly, Freshman Joseph Houseweart has said, “[the gnome] is a metaphor for elders watching over us, to

keep students in line. They feel disappointed in us.” He also hopes to see the gnome attend “Gnomecoming” next year.

As for now, it looks like the origin and goals of the gnome will remain a mystery. Assistant Principal Michelle Warkentin poses a good question. She said she would ask the gnome, “Who put you up there?”

Readers are encouraged to report gnome sightings or information about the gnome to KHSgnome-sightings@gmail.com. In case of follow up articles, please state in your email if you would like to remain anonymous.

The Gnome, who has yet to have been identified by a name, has not responded to requests for comment.



Pictured above and to the right: Gnome, Michelle, Schiller and her Gnome Collection.

Star Wars Club Struggles to Meet First Order of Business

By Lorne Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

This year marks the attempted establishment of the first student founded-club at KHS in many years- the Star Wars Club.

Started by Seniors Garret Perkins and Jack Rogers, the club gained instant popularity when it was first announced at Club Day. Many students were drawn to the new club, with 87 people joining the club’s Google Classroom forum.

When asked about why they joined the club, student answers varied.

Sophomore Finley Rogers recalled he joined the Star Wars Club “because it was the first club I saw, and it piqued my interest because Star Wars is dope.”

Sophomores Kiara Zarate and Maximilian Austin reported joining the club for different reasons. Zarate said she joined the club because her friends wanted her to join, and Austin said that he joined because he saw a lot of people do-

However, the club also seemed to appeal to people who maybe weren’t as big of fans of the franchise.

“We cannot be a club at the moment, but we are working on it,” he reassured.

If the club does ever manifest in some form, KHS students have some ideas for possible club activities.

“I think a great way to kick off the club would be a (Star Wars) movie watch party with pizza and root beer floats,” expressed Rogers.

Austin also supported this idea, adding that he’d like to watch the newer Star Wars movies.

Zarate showed interest in having discussions

of the movies within the club in addition to watching the movies.

Whatever the club’s fate may be, the Star Wars Club will remain an interesting chapter in KHS’ history.

And to all the Star Wars fans at KHS, may the force be with you.

“I enjoy Star Wars to a certain extent. I would consider myself a semi-fan; I enjoy watching the movies/shows, but it’s not necessarily my number one choice,” said Zarate.

Austin shared a similar opinion. He said, “I am somewhat of a Star Wars fan; I enjoy the first six movies and Rogue One, but the rest don’t really

Features

Art, Agriculture compete at Big Fresno Fair

By Amia Mathis
Production Editor

The Big Fresno Fair is an event that allows students to compete in Agriculture and Art competitions against other schools in the Valley. It allows students to show their art and sell their animals. This year, several KHS students placed in competitions and competed in the events.

Association Scholarship. Mendez was a recipient of Allards Monetary award and Allard's exhibit. AG

For the first week of the Fresno Fair, animals that were shown include the dairy cattle and rabbits. KHS students that participated in the first week of showings include Senior Kimmy Alexander, Freshman Lola Leonardo, and Sophomore Caitlyn VanLaar.

For the second week of the Fresno Fair, the animals

that are shown include the sheep, goats, beef cattle, and swine. Many KHS students will be showing their animals in the second week including Junior Kayden Kazanjian, Sophomore Hunter Nelson, Junior John Rooney, Sophomore Price McLaughlin, Senior Gage Collazo, Senior Sage Hanson, Freshman Dylan Brett, Sophomore Zach Ribeiro, Sophomore Kaylee Cas-

tellanos, Senior Jack Hager, Junior Darrel Stout, Sophomore Kirrah Morton, and Sophomore Caleb Pasillas.

The Ag Department and teachers are proud of the



hard work their students put into preparing their animals all year for this event. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of week two at the fair, students that showed are Freshman Emilio Ayala, Junior Araceli Ayala, Freshman Justin Balling, Senior Derek Brett, Freshman Dylan Brett, Sophomore Madilynn Buendia, Senior Gage Collazo, Senior Riley Castellanos, Freshman Meagan Degroot, Georgia Dill, Senior Trista Fry, Freshman Keith Garcia, Zachery Haga, Jack Hager, Sage Hanson, Kenly Kazanjian, Christopher Kitauchi, Hannah Loper, Logan McGowan, Grace Mettee, Bently Miller, Heath Montgomery, Kirrah Morton, Hunter Nelson, and Mikayla Rosales. After asking VanLaar what her days have been like she responded with, "The days were mostly spent sitting down and waiting for your show or auction time. I was only there for 2 half days and about 10 minutes 2 other days".



ART

There are six Viking students' artwork that is being displayed at the Fresno Fair Junior Art Exhibit Hall. Senior Ava Laney, Senior Ethan Harrison, Senior Vanessa Garcia, Junior Cali Mendez, Junior Gissell Rangel-Melchor, and Junior Alexandra Rdoriguez both submitted works for the fair.

Art teacher Arturo Valarde was allowed to submit 10 students' work that he considered strong examples and that show excellence in composition, presentation and mark making. The artwork that has been submitted was created last school year from the Drawing and Painting 1 Class.

Four of the art projects are portrait drawings that are made with a charcoal pencil and two of them are illusion drawings made with color pencils.

The artwork is being displayed at the Junior Art exhibit building from October 5th to the 16th. The reception for certain awards was held on October 6th at 6:00 P.M.

Students Laney, Mendez, Rangel-Melchor, and Hernandez Garcia all got first place ribbons for their artwork. Laney was a recipient of the West Coast Artists

Fresno Fair 2022 Results

RABBITS

Breeding.
Trista Fry- Best Heavyweight Breed
Trista Fry- Best Opposite of Show

Market
Trista Fry- Reserve Champion FFA Meat Pen
Kimmy Alexander- Champion FFA Single Fryer
Kimmy Alexander- Reserve Supreme Champion Market Rabbit

Showmanship.
Trista Fry- 1st Place Advanced FFA
Kimmy Alexander- 7th Place Advanced FFA

DAIRY CATTLE

Lola Leonardo- Champion AOB Replacement Heifer

GOATS

Breeding.
Trista Fry- Reserve Champion Bred and Owned
Jillian Penner- Champion Yearling

Market
Kirrah Morton- Champion Lightweight
Trista Fry- Reserve Champion Lightweight
Loren Rocha- 1st in Market Class

Showmanship.
Jillian Penner- 1st place FFA Novice
Loren Rocha- 6th Place FFA Novice
Kirrah Morton- 10th Place FFA Novice

SHEEP

Market
Hannah Loper- 1st in Market Class
Georgia Dill- 1st in Market Class

Showmanship.
Megan DeGroot- 5th place Intermediate FFA
Hannah Loper- 6th place Advanced FFA
Logan McGowan- 9th place Advanced FFA
Jake Scroggins- 9th Place Intermediate FFA

SWINE

Market
Kaylee Pallares- Reserve Champion Light Cross

Showmanship.
Kaylee Pallares- 11th place FFA Advanced
Derek Brett- 14th place FFA Advanced
Zach Ribeiro- 5th Place FFA Novice
Grace Mette- 7th Place FFA Novice

BEEF CATTLE

Showmanship.
Kaydyn Kazanjian- 2nd place FFA Novice

Fresno Fair 2022 Results

Thank you for supporting our students' efforts as they exhibited their livestock at the Big Fresno Fair

SMALL ANIMAL ROUND ROBIN
Trista Fry
1st Place
Advanced FFA

KINGSBURG FFA - WEEK 2 EXHIBITORS

LARGE ANIMAL ROUND ROBIN
Jillian Penner
2nd Place
Novice FFA

RABBIT EXHIBITORS

DAIRY EXHIBITOR

SWINE EXHIBITORS

SHEEP & GOATS EXHIBITORS

CATTLE EXHIBITORS

AG MECHANICS EXHIBIT
1st Place Large Project
Class of 2021-2022 Flatbed Trailer

ALL-AROUND AG TOOLBOX AWARD RECIPIENTS
Kirrah Morton Kaydyn Kazanjian
Gage Collazo Darrell Stout
Jack Hager John Rooney

Features

Foreign Exchange Students Share Unique Stories

By Aliya Ayers
Staff Writer

Juniors Benedict Wedemann, Ziad Elkholy, and Kairbubu Kurmanbek kyzy are foreign exchange students at KHS this year from three different countries. They are from Germany, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan respectively and have shared their different backgrounds and experiences both in their home countries and at KHS this year.

Elkholy grew up in Egypt and so far has enjoyed his school year in a different country. “I have a lot of friends,” he says.

Wedemann has also had a variety of good experiences this year. “I love KHS!” he exclaimed.

“Especially the variety of people here, and the different classes you can choose.”

In Germany, secondary schools have three different possible tracks of education students can be assigned based on intelligence and achievement.

In “Gymnasium”, the level of school Wedemann attends, students prepare to go on to a university. It is strictly academic and there are no electives, clubs, or sports. “It’s really just school,” Wedemann explains.

Wedemann has enjoyed his electives this year. He joined Art Club and the yearbook class and has appreciated the opportunity to try different things.

When asked about similarities and differences between Kingsburg and his hometown, he shared an interesting comparison. He lives in a town called Buxtehude near Hamburg and the Swedish border. “Both cities are Swedish,” he said. “When I first came to Kingsburg I was very confused because it makes sense that MY hometown is Swedish, because we’re very close to Sweden, but you are very far away.”

In contrast, Elkholy’s hometown and the town of Kingsburg have differences. “There are no houses in Egypt,” he says. “Everyone lives in apartments.”

Kurmanbek stated that housing in her



Pictured from left: Ziad Elkholy, Egypt; Kairbubu Kurmanbek kyzy, Kyrgyzstan; and Benedict Wedemann, Germany

hometown is also in the form of apartments, as there is a big difference between the population of Kingsburg and Bishkek. In Bishkek, people live in small apartments as there is not enough room to spread out.

Good connections have been made this year between the exchange students. Elkholy learned German at his school in Egypt, and has been able to speak with Wedemann in his native language.

Elkholy’s school day in Egypt is similar to a school day in America, as he has seven periods and a school day of the same length as most American students.

However, many differences exist between high school in America and in Egypt. When asked if anything at KHS was similar to his school, he said “absolutely none.” “Everything is different,” Elkholy remarked.

Kurmanbek also shared a comparison between her hometown Bishkek and Kingsburg. “We do not have school buses,” she said. “The majority of the population uses public transport every day.”

Kurmanbek wishes to educate others about her country. “I want to share my culture and traditions,” she says.

These students have been presented with opportunities for new experiences in America. Elkholy shared that he gets to go to Disneyland this year, and he has also been granted the opportunity to tour facilities at NASA.

Kurmanbek, Wedemann and Elkholy are excited to share in the KHS school spirit this year. They look forward to spending more time here, but also heading back home to their countries.



Hurricane Ian: Damages and News

by Gir Brewer
Staff writer

A hurricane has shut down Florida and taken at least 119 people at the time of press. Flooding reached 12 ft deep in some locations and winds were as high as 155 mph. Hurricane Ian was a category 4 storm that earlier this week took hold of Florida.

The hurricane had come up through Florida last week and quickly took out several towns with flooding and mass winds. Several homes had been destroyed by Hurricane Ian along with a trailer park, displacing many Florida residents.

The hurricane had originally hit Cuba and came up to the U.S. making landfall in Florida on September 28, 2022. Hurricane Ian had intensified quicker than any other hurricane since 2017's Hurricane Irma. Hurricane Ian seemed to be heading towards a new landfall in South Carolina, however never made this.

Hurricane Ian had caused roughly \$67 billion in damages on its own. This hurricane tore through south-west Florida

Naples, Ft. Myers, and Sanibel Island. Most major damage was towards the shores of Florida and is from water damage.

Hurricane Ian's damage to western Cuba destroyed 94 thousand homes with its winds and floods. This in turn had cut out much of the electricity to western Cuba as well. Havana, Artemisa, Pinar De Rio, and Mayabeque were all affected by hurricane Ian greatly. Recovery is as of press actively underway to return Cuba to its normal day to day.

Hurricane Ian was the 5th most powerful hurricane to come through the U.S., killing over 100 people and destroying thousands of homes. Deaths have been recorded through Cuba, Florida, and North Carolina. The hurricane canceled 6 thousand plane flights, caused ~3.4 million houses and businesses to be left without power, issued 2.5 million evacuation orders, and tore through Florida with 21.16 inches of rain.

With efforts to repair Florida occurring President Biden had joined the efforts. He had issued power to the federal government to aid the work. He had worked alongside Republican Governor DeSantis. The two appear to have set aside their differences for the time being while helping recover Florida, President Biden even praising DeSantis' current handling of Hurricane Ian. Biden had gone to Florida in person to observe the damage and pledged billions of dollars into the aid of Florida.



Image from State Farm from Openverse shared under CC

Rainbow Fentanyl Awareness: What Students Should Know to Protect Themselves During Holiday Season

by Olivia Ramirez
Staff writer

The dangers of deaths in regards to drug use has become more and more prevalent as the holidays are just around the corner, and more impressionable young consumers are succumbing to Fentanyl overdose.

As many news outlets have stated, the number of Fentanyl overdose cases has seen an increase of around 7% since the first quarter of 2022 (reported on by the Metro Public Health Department). Of these cases, 1 in 10 street drug busts have included "rainbow Fentanyl". Many cases in California that have dealt with Fentanyl have been found within the Central Valley.

What exactly is Rainbow Fentanyl? Fentanyl is a highly addictive (and in most cases lethal) synthetic opioid that was created by Dr. Paul Janssen in 1959 and introduced in 1960 during his work with painkillers. It was made as an "intravenous surgical analgesic", which turned out to be between 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine. It has since been adopted by the drug industry, being used to split other drugs.

Rainbow Fentanyl is the same as regular Fentanyl, but like many other drugs, such as cannabis and LSD, this version of Fentanyl has taken

on a much more colorful form in order to make it more marketable towards young customers, who have been found purchasing it online through different online market places, which has been more prevalent in 2022.

Deaths related to Fentanyl have been on the rise since 2019. Deaths have spiked to over 5,700 in recent years, contrasting from 2012 in which only 82 Fentanyl deaths were reported. In 2021 this spiked to 1,603 in 2019, out of this there was a 625% increase in deaths from 2018 to 2020 in people ages 10-1, according to the California Department of Public Health website.

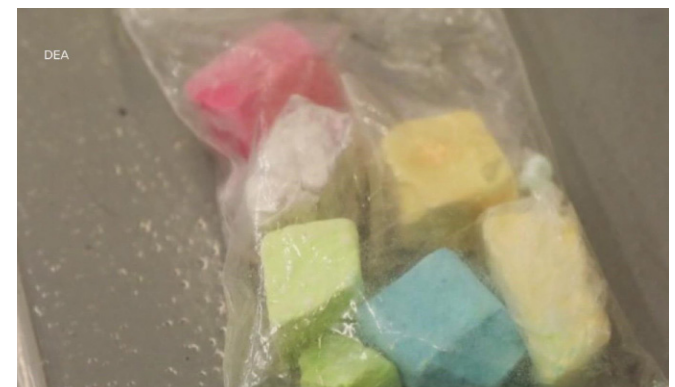
Rainbow Fentanyl has also caused concern in parents because many have taken to calling it "skittles" due to its resemblance to the popular candy brand, and in some cases it resembled chalk. This alarms parents because there are many reports of it being found in altered candy packages and, in one instance, five pounds of Fentanyl powder was found hidden in cereal boxes intended for resale.

Since Halloween is coming up, it is advised that all parents and young people should be aware that taking food from strangers and other sources can be dangerous. Sticking to pre-packaged candies and other consumable items is the best way

to ensure that these disguised drugs don't harm people unknowingly.



U.S. drug enforcement Agency



U.S. drug enforcement Agency

Russia Targets Kiev, Civilians in Intense Fighting

War waging since February shows no sign of stopping anytime soon.



Ukrainian soldiers near Lyman, a key city in the eastern Donetsk region that Russian forces abandoned over the weekend to avoid encirclement. Anatolii Stepanov / AFP - Getty Image

By Abigail Berry
Staff Writer

As of February 24th, 2022, Russia has been invading Ukraine in hopes to overrun the country and dispose of its government. Since the war began earlier in February this year, it's been featured in newscasts and papers non-stop.

At first, the invasion started cold; Putin was lining up troops between the Russia-Ukraine border, and then soon after he ordered Russian troops to invade.

Immediately, the Russians took action to capture the capital, Kiev, as well as other major cities. So far, the attempt to take over the capital has been unsuccessful but bombing of civilian sites in the city has recently increased.

Putin's primary goal is to capture Ukraine's capital, Kiev, overthrow the Ukrainian government, and admit Ukraine into Russia's orbit. This goal is similar to a reformation of the Soviet Union; Putin has since then lamented the loss of Ukraine and other countries that were part of the union since its fall in the late 1980's.

The results of these attacks have been devastating to the Ukrainian people; thousands of

lives have been lost, resulting in a massive refugee crisis. More than three million people have fled Ukraine, causing massive border queues in countries that support Ukraine, such as Georgia.

Citizens who didn't evacuate the country are fighting strong; a lot of them are protesting and even fighting against Russian troops. Even Russian citizens are disagreeing with Russia's decision to invade Ukraine, so much so that Russia has illegalized their citizens from protesting against the war.

This war has urged the current U.S. president, Joe Biden, to not send troops to Ukraine in order to assist Ukraine, but rather resources, which has been debatable among US citizens, who believe that this decision was not morally correct while some believe that he was in the right for not.

This decision was made due to multiple reasons, the main reason is that it would cause a nuclear threat, which may impose WWII. Since both Russia and the United States own approximately 90% of the world's nuclear warheads, the threat of a devastating war is huge.

This fighting has also caused some worries about Ukrainian power plants, and how the fight-

ing that is taking place may cause another nuclear disaster, similar to the one that took place back in 1986 in Chernobyl.

As of early October, the war has been worsening, as Putin has been launching missiles towards Kiev, which has been causing a lot of terror and blackouts. Putin has also been hinting at a nuclear strike towards the United States in a recent statement about how much the country of Russia is willing to protect itself.

President Joe Biden has warned the U.S. that Putin's threat of a nuclear strike was "no joke" and should be of worry for U.S. citizens, and that they should prepare just in case.

Thankfully, most of this announcement has been deannounced by the White House, and they say that there is no indication that Putin wants to use nuclear weapons on the United States.

All of this has happened within the span of 8 months, but the war is still ongoing and very active. In order to be knowledgeable about whatever happens next, make sure to watch news about it regularly, check your sources and make sure that they're reliable, and do not take information from anything that's anonymous.

Opinion

Freshman Adjusting Big Campus, Life at KHS

By Serj Valenzuela
Staff Writer

The new high school year has started out amazingly for me and I wanted to know how other Freshmen have felt about their start in highschool so 2 Freshmen students were interviewed on how they feel about highschool, and how it's been for them so far, and if they think highschool is going to be easy or not.

The reason this story was wrote was because knowing how other people feel about school is a good thing because it shows each other what other people do or don't like about highschool. i am glad that these indeividuales have had a great start to their year and i hope that there rest of there time here at khs is good for them and that they contine to like all there classes.

The first person that interviewed was Freshman Jacob Gutierrez.

When asked about how he felt about school his response was "It's good so far, going by slow" the next question I asked him was if he has joined any sports and if he likes them and he said "I'm enjoying soccer so far" the third and fourth questions i asked him was if he likes his classes and what he thinks the rest of highschool is gonna be like and he responded with "I like my classes so far and my elective is spanish" and he said "I think it is going to be slow but fun i hope my grades can stay the same."

The next person I interviewed was Freshman Christopher Kitauchi. What I asked him for my first question was how has high school been and he replied with, "It's been good." The

next question I asked him was what are his classes and if he likes them and he responded with, "Well I have Math 1, English 1 ,Spanish 1 , Ag intro, Choir, and Earth Science. I like them all."

The last two questions I asked him was do you want to or have you joined any sports and do you like high school and Kitauchi said, "I have joined the soccer and baseball team, and yeah, I like high school."



Poll: What are you planning to dress up as for Halloween this year?

Freshman Onnika Aguirre



"I plan on being Spongebob for Halloween because why not?"

Freshman Jack Hambleton



"I'm going to be a banana just because I want to be."

Sophomore Reed Yokota



"I'm going to be Timmy Turner, and Piper Protzmann is going to be Trixy Tang because I have to."

Sophomore Alyanna Gonzales



"Adam Sandler because he's my idol."

Junior Lexi Villagomez



"I want to be Luke Johnston for Halloween because he's my inspiration."

Junior Teddy Lynn



"I'm going to be a teddy bear because my name is Teddy."

Senior Ryan Carver



"A monster."

Senior Ashley Hurtado



"I think I want to be Lightning McQueen."

Sports

Tough Loss, But Vikes Have Valley Hopes

By Nehemiah Zapien
Staff Writer

During the season, the Varsity Football Team has done an amazing job on the field. At the time of press, the Vikings are 7-1 in Division 3, and are ranked 8th in the entire Valley.

Coach David Wilson believes that if his players play well and execute what they've learned, they have a chance at winning any game they play this season. When asked what was his favorite part about coaching, Mr. Wilson said that he is all about the relationships and how it's an absolute joy being able to speak into his players' lives, and being able to prepare them for competition, and life.

In the most recent game played, KHS suffered their first loss against CVC. The team played well but lost by 1 point with the final score being 26-27.

During the first quarter of the game, KHS had scored no points, with CVC scoring 7. During the second quarter, KHS scored 14 points while CVC only scored 8. During the third quarter, KHS scored another 6 points, while CVC scored 0, taking the lead. During the last quarter, KHS was winning with the score being 26-21, but right before the game was about to end, CVC made their last touchdown, winning their game, and KHS receiving their first loss. Junior Gavin Jensen, Senior Ethan Winslow, Senior Caleb Irigoyen, and Junior Wyatt Boyd all received Players of the Game.

In game played against Kerman, KHS won the game with a score of 28-0, leading to the seventh victory in a row.

In the first quarter of the game, KHS immediately took the lead with 7 points leaving Kerman with 0. During the second quarter, both teams were battling it out, and both teams ended up scoring no points. KHS was on a roll scoring another 7 points for their team and in the last quarter of the game, KHS scored another 14 points, beating Kerman. Junior Bhodi Verners, Junior Matthew Ward, Senior James Cranford, and Senior Trace Jackson were all chosen as Players of the Game.

When KHS played against Washington Union, KHS won with a score of 39-15. In the first quarter of the game, both teams were tied at 7 points, but during the second quarter, the game took a big turn. KHS was able to score 22 points on Washington Union and took a huge lead. In the third quarter, KHS scored 3 points and the opposing team scored none. In the fourth quarter, Washington Union was able to score 8 points, with KHS scoring 7. In the end, KHS emerged victorious with their sixth win in a row, and won on homecoming night. Senior Caleb Irigoyen, Junior Houston Hirschhorn, Senior Conner McFall, and Junior Mat-



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall

thew Ward were all chosen as Players of the Game.

In the game against Tulare Union, KHS played hard and took the win, beating them with a score of 49-28.

At the start of the game, KHS scored 14 points on Tulare Union while they only scored 7 on KHS in the first quarter. KHS proceeded to score another 14 points on them with them only scoring 6 points in the second quarter. In the third quarter, Tulare Union scored 8 points on KHS with KHS scoring 7, but during the fourth quarter, another 14 points were scored on Tulare Union, with another 7 points scored on KHS. The chosen Players of the Game were Senior Jack Rogers, Junior Kenyan Simpson, Senior Ethan Winslow, and Senior Conner McFall.

In the game against Golden West High School in Visalia, KHS took the win, beating Visalia by 31 points, with the final score, 41-10.

During the game, KHS took the lead immediately. The first quarter ended with KHS in the lead with 14 points. During the second quarter, Golden West had gained 10 points with KHS only gaining 7. For the rest of the third quarter, KHS took the lead with 13 points, and in the fourth quarter, they gained 7 more points, leading to a convincing win over Golden West. The recognized Players of the Game were Senior Trace Jackson, Junior Kenyan Simpson, Senior Eddie Hernandez, and Junior Wyatt Boyd.

When KHS played in their game against Dinuba, Kingsburg beat them with a score of 21-14.

In the first quarter of the game, KHS and Dinuba kept the entire quarter at a tie of 0-0. They then both kept tying in both the second and third quarter by earning 7 points for both teams each quarter. It was up until the fourth quarter when Kingsburg took the lead with 7 more points, and beat Dinuba. The Players of the Game went to Senior Jack Rogers, Senior Conner McFall, Senior Trace Jackson, and Junior Houston Hirschhorn.

During the football game against Sunnyside, KHS beat them with a large difference, with the final score being 49-9.

At the start of the game, Sunnyside took the lead with 3 points while Kingsburg remained at 0. That quickly changed during the second quarter when KHS scored 28 points and Sunnyside scored 0 the entire quarter. The same thing happened in the third quarter with KHS scoring 21 points. In the last quarter of the game, Sunnyside scored 6 points, but that wasn't enough to beat the KHS Vikings. The players that were given recognition for the game were Senior Jack Rogers, Junior Houston Hirschhorn, Senior Trace Jackson, and Senior Conner McFall.

In the first game against Paso Robles, KHS won with the score being 35-0, winning their first game of the season and many to come.

During the first quarter, KHS scored 6 points with Paso Robles scoring none. The same thing happened in the second quarter but this time, KHS scored 8 points. In the third quarter, they were able to score 14 points, and in the last quarter, another 7 points, taking home their first win. Players of the Game were given to Senior Trace Jackson, Senior Caleb Irigoyen, and Sophomore Ryan Martinez.



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall

KHS Boys Water Polo Undefeated In Season

Boys Water Polo team fights to return to Valley Champions for Second year

By Luke Johnston
Staff Writer

The KHS Boys Varsity Water polo team has been undefeated in league at the time of press. Their league record is 13-0.

The Vikings last game that they played was against the Reedley Pirates. The Vikings won and the final score was 19-8.

The Vikings also played the Selma Bears again for the second time this season. The Vikings had another blowout game and the final score was 20-0.

The Vikings played against the Sierra Pacific Bears. It was close in the first quarter, but the Vikings broke ahead afterwards, leaving the final to be 19-6.

The Vikings played against the Huskies and just like the last matchup they had, the game was a blowout. The final score was 29-8.

The Vikings played the Exeter Monarchs and didn't have as big of a lead. The final score was 15-9, favoring the Vikings.

Kingsburg then played against Kerman. The Vikings dominated, clinching the win against

the Lions, 26-1.

The Head coach, Eric Schlick said, "I think our team mirrored last season a lot because we lost very few athletes." The Water Polo team only lost 3 seniors last year which were Shoji Shinkawa, Sam Chappell, and Brenden Tackett.

The Vikings played Strathmore, a team that is also undefeated in their league. The Spartans put up a good fight in the first quarter, but the Vikings came on top in the end. The final score was 15-6.

The Vikings were set to challenge Selma on September 6th, but due to the heat the game was postponed. The game was rescheduled for the next week and the Vikings beat the Bears in a blowout. The final score was 24-2.

Coach Schlick added, "I am hopeful that this team will be able to go further this season, and we have increased our strength by entering more difficult tournaments to better prepare ourselves."

The next league game that they played was against the Reedley Pirates. This game was closer than any other game, the final score was 14-8. Their following game was against the Sierra Pacific Bears which was similar to the Hanford West game. The final score was 23-8 and the Vikings

won yet again.

The Viking's first game was against the Hanford West Huskies. The final score was 24-8. One of the players on the Kingsburg Varsity Boys Water polo team, Zach Ergo, won an award which was The Viking of the Week. This award is given to someone who criteria for award

One of the captains, Cy Hammerstrom, who has played for 11 years said, "I feel this team is very strong this year. We lost one of the best players in the valley last year (Shoji Shinkawa), but our team has gotten better as whole... Our motto for the team is "Brotherhood" and that's exactly how our team acts. We all have each other's backs and are as close as can be. Having played with each other these past 4 years, as well as having known each other our whole lives, it creates a special bond that no one can break".

Coming out of last years Valley Champion win the Boys Water Polo Team is hoping for a Second Year League win. As they fight through there games hoping to stay undefeated to make it to league this year again.

Lady Vikings Dominating League Play, 10-4 Overall

Girls Water Polo Team Hope for a League Champion this Year

By Katelyn DeGroot
Staff Writer

The girls Waterpolo Teams league is 10-4. They have lost to Strathmore and Reedley.

Selma game the girls played a good game and pulled ahead winning 18-6.

The game against Sierra Pacific on October 4th was a blowout game having the Kingsburg Vikings pull ahead in the first two quarters with the score being 11-0. We had a great time playing this team with both teams having great sportsmanship and the vikings pulling out the win at the end.

They played Kerman High school on September 22 at home and had a really good game with multiple counter attacks and many shots. The girls had so much fun by running plays they don't usually play in the games and by pulling the win with the final score being 16-7.

Strathmore was one of the harder games that the girls had played. The girls came out in the beginning of the first quarter having the first two goals. They made it all the way to the end with the final score being 12-12. They went into two three-minute quarters for overtime. They lost it right at the end with Strathmore pulling ahead with two extra goals at the end. Making the final score 14-12.

With their Reedley game they came out having a lot of energy and being excited for their game. The girls didn't let them pull ahead with goals by too much because at the end of the game the final score was 10-8 and they only lost by two points.

When talking to the Head coach Bre Abell this is what she had to say about the team. Do you think the girls can make it far in the league this year? "We have a very good shot at winning a League Title right now. These next 3 weeks of games are extremely crucial."

Have you seen big/much improvement in your team this year? "This year the team has grown even further from what I thought possible. From our first game to the present we are a completely different team. Our communication and understanding of the game has improved so much. Very excited for these last few weeks of the season."

What does a typical practice look like for the team? "A typical practice starts the moment everyone walks on deck. We do a Dynamic Warm Up to stretch out the shoulders, back, hips, and wrists. Then we do some land ball handling and grip strength drills. After that we hop in the water and do a swim set for some conditioning. Last half of practice we are working on specific drills we wanna see implemented in that week's games."

I talked to the captain Trista Fry of the girls team and this is what she has to say about the team.

How is the team bonding this year? "The team is bonding great this year, we are always building each other up and getting excited before our games. A common occurrence is to hear us screaming golddigger during our pre game warmups."

Do the girls have a good relationship in and outside the pool? "The girls have a great relationship inside and out of the pool. Most of us were already friends or have become friends due to water polo. We see each other on campus, go to lunch together, and act more like sisters than teammates."

How is the girl's motivation going into their games? "In most games our motivation is spectacular! Occasionally we have an off day, like everyone, but we all rally and get pumped for our games. This team is amazing and I'm so grateful for these girls!" Also our very own Trista Fry won Viking of the Week Award.

The Lady Vikings are very excited to finish off this season. We are planning to do more team bonding throughout the season and are hoping for a win in Valley Champions.

Volleyball Sets Themselves Up For Victory

By Kirrah Morton
Assistant Editor

The KHS Varsity Volleyball season is coming to an end. At the time of press and with just a couple weeks left in the regular season, they are 18-8 overall and 2-2 in league.

“The KHS Varsity Volleyball team revolves around the unity of playing for each other rather than ourselves. What’s special about our team is that most of us have been playing together for a long time. We know each other’s tendencies and patterns which makes us a strong team. That gives us the advantage because we have a hard work ethic and are willing to give the second effort for the sake of our teammates,” said Senior Danielle Jackson

Ten of the girls’ wins have been sweeps (complete 3-0 game wins), including their latest matches against Sierra Pacific and Washington Union.

Their latest game was against Exter with a score of 3 to 0.

KHS Freshman Volleyball Loses Beloved Coach

By Kirrah Morton
Assistant Editor

On Friday, Aug 19, 2022 The KHS Freshman Volleyball team lost their beloved coach, Mary Rodriguez. Rodriguez, 56, was deeply loved and appreciated by her team and will be missed dearly.

Rodriguez was born in Kerman, and graduated from Kerman High School. She attended Fresno City and Fresno State University where she was a volleyball player, and graduated with her bachelors degree. She later went to Fresno Pacific University and earned a master’s degree.

She began her career in 1994 as a P.E. teacher in Lemoore and then moved to Orosi. She retired from teaching after 24 years. After that, Rodriguez dedicated her life to coaching. It was one of her passions. She coached

The Vikings lost this game, but commented that they’ve gained much from their losses. Clarie Toliver said, “In my opinion, our game against CVC taught me as an individual and our team that we can compete and battle with good



teams like that and stay with them throughout the entire game. I truly believe we could’ve taken them to 5 and won, but we fought a good battle and I’m hoping that when we play them at home we show them that we are just as good.”

all over the Central Valley. Besides coaching volleyball, she also coached basketball and softball.

Coach Mary ended her career at KHS.



She was one of the coaches for the Frosh Volleyball team.

The team honored her by having a moment of silence at one of their home games after her

Although the girls find losing as a learning opportunity, winning is something they are always proud of.

“As a team we are all proud to be Kingsburg Vikings! Each individual is motivated to work hard for the wonderful community of Kingsburg. Traveling to other schools to compete has made me realize the incredible amount of support that the fans of Kingsburg have to offer. Shoutout to the KHS student section for being the best student section there is!” added Jackson.

The team consists of Seniors Audrey Palomar, Claire Toliver, Evelyn Movsesian, Presley Woods, Emma Chappel, Allie Balling, Maddie Oehlshlaeger, and Wendy Garcia. As well as Juniors: Macey Visser, Danielle Jackson, Addison Murguia, Kelcey Brett, Sydnee Wilson, Jalissa Arevalo, Asia Allen, Kristen Pacheco, and Sullivan Phelan.

Their last league game will be on October 19th against Washington Union.

passing.

“We will continue to honor her by wearing pink bows every home game because pink was her favorite color,” said Freshman Raygan McGowan.

Coach Mary had a big impact on these girls’ careers. When asked how she impacted their volleyball careers, Freshman Aubrey Turmon said, “She always pushed us to work hard and if we didn’t succeed, she wouldn’t let us quit. I was with her all summer and she helped me so much with my setting.”

“She meant everything to our team. She was so much fun to have as a coach. She would give us the most amazing pep-talks before the game that would get us all pumped and ready to go win!” added

Turmon.

Coach Mary left a strong impact on these girls’ lives and they will continue to honor her memory for the games to come.

Girls Varsity Tennis clinches TCC Sequoia Championship

By Crystal Carrasco
Staff Writer

The KHS Girls Varsity Tennis team has picked up speed and they are now sure to have a good shot at winning the playoffs.

It's Varsity Head coach Aaron Ortiz's first year leading the Lady Vikings Tennis team and his main goal for the team is a big one.

"Our goal is to win and make a run in the playoffs," stated Coach Ortiz.

He admires the Varsity team mentioning their determination, "We have a great Varsity team with tons of talent."

Varsity player and Senior Devyn Sasai, who has been playing since her freshman year, explained that her team is hard-working and persevering. "The team is very knowledgeable and we all give each other tips on our technique," stated Sasai.

She also mentioned that she believes in Coach Ortiz's take on playoffs, "We definitely have a good shot at playoffs!"

Another Varsity player, Senior Bethany Emmersen, who is in her fourth year of playing tennis at KHS, has great hopes for the new season, "The season is going well and I predict some new friendships will be made," said Emmersen.

en.

But what makes people interested in tennis? "Tennis is a good sport for maintaining health, fitness, strength, and agility," stated Coach Ortiz.

It can positively affect your physical health and you don't necessarily have to be good at Tennis



to have fun. "Tennis can be played at any level and only requires one other person to play," added Em-

mersen.

Tennis also has mentally positive attributions attached to it. Playing tennis can lower stress levels. "It also has social and psychological benefits and anyone can play," commented Coach Ortiz.

Tennis overall helps you get in a better mood and causes the brain to release endorphins and serotonin.

Just watching a game of Tennis can have the same mental effects on an individual without actually playing. "Tennis is never boring and keeps the audience (and the players) on their toes," notes Sasai.

For those wanting to support the KHS Tennis team, it is quite simple. "The student body can support us by coming to the matches to watch and cheer on our players," expressed Emmersen.

This will positively affect the team as a whole, showing support can increase the self-esteem of the players. "Any games that students can come to really support the team," added Sasai.

"We have stands that the student body can come out and sit and watch," asserts Coach Ortiz.

The girl's tennis team will continue to play their hardest as they continue their season, and they along with Coach Ortiz hope to see you there.

Varsity Cheer Expands Team Under New Coach

By Victoriana Dimas
Staff Writer

The KHS Varsity Cheerleading squad is having a very successful 2022-2023 school year. The squad has done many exciting things in preparation for the season.

The Varsity cheer squad went to a UCA Cheer Camp in early July. The UCA camp was a three day event at Great Wolf Lodge in Lathrop, CA.

"Going to cheer camp was a really fun experience for me. My favorite part was the team bonding aspect because we got to learn more about each other," said Sophomore Laryssa Salinas.

During this three day camp, the cheerleaders learned a dance, cheer, chant, and band dance, and they had to perform everything in front of the judges on the final day.

During the summer, the squad also got to have two stunt clinics with Fresno Pacific University Cheer. Coach Allison from FPUC brought some of her squad to help teach new stunts and pyramids.

When asked how the stunt clinic helped the team, Coach Brie Lopes said "insert quote here"

Right before school came to a start, Senior Kaylee



Pallares and Junior Emily Valencia were named the 2022-2023 captains for the squad.

The first game of the season was very exciting for the Varsity cheerleaders.

During the week of September 19th Varsity cheer held "Future Vikings Cheer Camp" which was three days long. In this camp there were girls from kindergarten to 8th grade.

The squad practiced three days out of the week and got to perform with Varsity during their halftime show on Friday, September 23rd.

Gracie Davis said, "My favorite part was getting to coach the kids because it was a good teaching experience on learning how to coach and also creating bonds with the kids."

Homecoming was a very important event for the cheerleaders. They did a Homecoming performance that fit the theme of "Decades" with various

dances and stunt sequences.

We can't wait to see what's next for the Kingsburg High Cheerleaders and all the exciting things they will be doing the rest of the year!