



# Cat's Corner

A Publication of 21st Century Journalism at MHS

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Photo by Tammy Unruh

Congress team (l-r) Chris Houk, Matthew Morrison, Mackenzie Woltje, Mateo Roth at Abilene

## Forensics Starts Off Strong

The Moundridge high school forensics team went to its first tournament of the season on February 7 and 8, placing three competitors in Student Congress.

"I placed 5th in the novice house in congress," novice Mateo Roth said.

Roth was one of two in the novice house. Mackenzie Woltje was with him and placed 6th, while in the House floor, Chris Houk placed 5th.

"I think the season will be good," second-year Matthew Morrison said.

The first tournament of the season is almost always the best learning experience the team will get, and the team is always getting more information.

"I feel that once I start getting more information I will do better so I have high hopes for this," Roth said.

"I think the season will go well. I feel the 1st tournament was a great learning experiences i'm thankful to be a part of it" Woltje added.

The team went out to Lyons on Feb. 21 and 22, taking; Matthew Morrison, Houk, and Woltje. On Friday, the team was able to participate in Student Congress or Lincoln-Douglas debate, and on Satur-

day, the team was able to participate in a range of events including; Informative, Impromptu, Extemp, Oration, and Poetry.

While Congress isn't a state event, Lincoln-Douglas is. Every year the coaches are able to take two competitors to state to compete in Lincoln-Douglas, having sort of an in-team competition to see who the two best Lincoln-Douglas participants are.

"I can't wait to grow in forensics throughout my high school career" Woltje added.

"I'm exited for the start of a new season. It's an exiting time where the team can stretch and grow. I think that this year's team has potential to do well. We are still a relatively young team, but we have potential and can carry momentum from debate and last year's forensics into this year. I'm also exited for congress this year as it is a new event for Moundridge and one that I think is really fun... The season has started well with some placing and some medals. I hope we continue to build on the early breakthroughs," Coach Hank Unruh said.

Chris Houk

## 21st Century Journalism Class

Editors  
Alanna Golden, Jr.  
Myiah Logue, Jr.

Reporters & Photographers  
Sarah Brunk, Sr.  
Kyler Dalke, Sr.  
Alanna Golden, Jr.  
Christopher Houk, So.  
Myiah Logue, Jr.  
Emily Smith, Jr.  
Cambry Stucky, Jr.

Advisor  
Ms. Krehbiel

This newsletter is a production of the 21st Century Journalism Class of 2019-2020. Advisor is Ms. Melanie Krehbiel. Questions or comments may be directed to: krehbielm@usd423.org.

# FFA Attends Speech Contest

FFA went to Manhattan on Feb. 1, where students Carson Orpin, Jordan Creed, Mackenzie Woltje, and JD Jenkins attended the Kansas State University Agriculture Education Club's Speech Contest.

Orpin prepared an agriculture speech in the Prepared Public speaking contest, he then answered questions from judges afterwards.

Creed and Woltje studied topics and gave a speech in the Extemporaneous Speaking contest. They drew topics and prepared a speech within 30 minutes, and Creed placed in the top 4. He was then invited to draw again to make a second speech, placing third overall.

Freshman Jenkins recited the FFA Creed speech written by E.M. Tiffany in 1928, and he also answered questions from judges afterwards.

These activities encourage FFA members to get out and improve their speaking skills and help make their community a better place by gaining and sharing the knowledge required for these events.

FFA hosted FFA week Feb. 24-28 at MHS. On Monday, there was a donut break as well as the beginning of the



Photo by Alicia Herbel

Sophomore Jordan Creed poses with his medal for Extemporaneous Speaking at K-State.

Kiss the Pig contest in the High School. Tuesday was Greenhand Day, where everyone wore green. Wednesday was a Staff Appreciation day where FFA served breakfast to them before school. Thursday was Elementary day, where FFA members went to the Elementary school to teach about FFA. Friday was Blue and

Gold day, where students wore blue and gold. The Kiss the Pig contest concluded the following week.

"I think it's a great opportunity to celebrate our national organization, especially with the whole school," Orpin said.

Kyler Dalke

# District Elections and FCCLA Week

FCCLA attended District Officer elections and STAR Events on Feb. 13 in Hutchinson. Freshmen Emily Durst and Kendall Elmore, sophomore Lizzy Kliewer, and juniors Makenzie Elmore, Kira Jackson, and Myiah Logue all attended the event. During the elections, they all voted on who they wanted to represent them as a District G Officer for the 2020-21 school year. During the STAR Events they helped out by acting as judges, timers, and runners.

"It went okay. We got to vote on who would represent our district," Logue said. Logue is this year's FCCLA president.

"The second week in February is National FCCLA week. Monday, we provided fruit snacks for the high school during break time. Treats for Tuesday involved providing drinks and a snack for our staff members. Wednesday was Wildcat Day where FCCLA presented the annual Lead-



Photo by Julie Diepenbrock

The team waits at a table while listening to a speaker.

ership Awards to one boy and one girl in each class K-12. Students were selected by the teachers as the students that that best exemplify this definition of leadership: 'The student who leads quietly or boldly, who does a good job working in groups, leads and directs others in a positive way, and shows good character

in their words and actions.'

"Thursday was Wear Red for FCCLA and Friday was Walk a Lap during Break day." FCCLA Sponsor Julie Diepenbrock said.

Kyler Dalke





Elementary school staff playing tug-of-war.

# Wildcat Day Was a Success

Wildcat Day is an annual celebration day for the MHS Wildcats. The day started with "Fill My Shoes". Fill My Shoes is an activity that the seniors do every year.

The seniors dress up and represent a sport or activity that the little kids could do when they get to high school. They call an elementary kid up to the stage to "Fill their Shoes".

This is normally very fun for elementary students because they love to be with high schoolers. It gives them motivation to do some type of activity when they get to middle school and high school.

"My favorite part of the day is seeing our bigs and middles interact positively with our littles,"

The support for each other is heart-warming. Everyone puts aside being tired, grouchy, worn out, etc, for one day of coming together as a family and celebrating being a Moundridge Wildcat," Principal Hilarie Hecox said.

The next part of Wildcat Day was going to be the gym for fun activities. Grades K-12 plus staff played tug-of-war.

This was a favorite part of Wildcat Day because K-12 worked together. K-12 plus staff were put into 20 groups. The groups were a variety of elementary, middle, high school and staff.

After all of the fun and games, it was

time for lunch. This is another favorite part of Wildcat Day because high schoolers were challenged to sit with elementary students to make them feel more comfortable being in a new place.

Wildcat Day started around 2013-2014. This day was started to bring our whole student body to the high school and bond with everyone.

"The previous principal, Mr. Wedel, started Wildcat Day as a way to bring K-12 students and staff together in a positive way that leads to ownership and pride. There was no doubt that I wanted to continue the day and make it part of our tradition," Hecox said.

This day ended with a talent show. There were several groups of students and staff who participated in the talent show. It was awesome and everyone did a fantastic job! There were some plans that had to be postponed but everything went well in the end.

Wildcat Day is a special day for everyone involved in USD 423. It takes extra time to plan but in the end it is always worth it.

"We continue to listen to feedback from students and make it a day that all want to participate in. I would like to continue to build on this year's festivities and have it student driven," Hecox said.

Emily Smith



Photo by yearbook staff

Mr. Unrau, Mr. Fast, Mr. Neufeld, and Mr. Diepenbrock dressing as the Beach Boys.

## What was your favorite part of Wildcat Day?

"Tug-of-war"

-Archer Hastings  
Kindergarten

"Tug-of-war"

- Brooklyn DenHartog  
Kindergarten

"Everything"

-Camila Guillen  
Kindergarten

"Getting to be with everyone"

-Isabele Webber  
6th Grade

"Talent Show"

-JD Jenkins  
Freshman

"Holding a balloon with Henry Hecox"

-Wyatt Falco  
Junior

Emily Smith

# MMS Basketball Places Third at League

MMS boys basketball had an exceptional season. The team placed third at league, playing against Sedgwick to end their season out.

In every sport, players have something that makes it fun for them.

"My favorite part of basketball is being part of a team and getting to hang out with my friends," Henry Hecox said.

The team finished the regular season with an 8-5 record, then won 3 of 4 games in the league tournament to end with an 11-16 record.

"My favorite part of basketball is being on a team and being able to help them out," Bear Moddlemog added.

Coaches always try to teach life lessons to their players, some of those include; "never give up," "work for everything," and "if you believe, then you can do anything."

"All of the plays and calls the coaches make are really helpful," Moddlemog stated.

"Similar to last season, this year was a building process. During the regular season, we felt like we lost a couple of games that we could have won. Fortunately, we were able to avenge two of



Photo provided by Hilarie Hecox

Coach Jeremiah Meeks with the MMS Boys (l-r) Daniel Dixon, Braden DenHartog, Lane Durst, Joaquin Huff, Henry Hexox, Bear Moddlemog; Front row (l-r) Jacob Swartz, Chase Campbell, Kepple Adolf, and London Ward after placing third at league.

those losses in the league tournament -- to get a third place finish.

"Hopefully they learned the values of hard work, and that being in good shape can make a huge difference in how competitive you are. I think the value in any team sport lies in an individual learning

that the "team" comes first, and that everyone can make a contribution to the good of the team if their attitude, effort, and preparation is top-notch," Coach Larry Diepenbrock added.

Chris Houk

# Kaufman and Helms Lead Boys' Team

The high school boys basketball team is 8-10 for the season.

The boys faced Sedgwick on Fri., Feb. 21 coming off with a big win, 42-32.

On Fri., Feb. 14 the Wildcats played Berean at home, coming short of a win, 41-53.

Berean is ranked first in the league and they have been one of the more challenging teams the Wildcats have played this season.

Team leaders are seniors Dan Kaufman and Brady Helms.

"Dan and Brady are huge in helping the team. They show up to practice every day and work their tails off, and they help their underclassmen because they know that they will have to step up and they are the future of the Wildcat basketball program," head coach Vance Unrau said.

Starters for the boys are freshman

Landon Kaufman, junior Jon Schlosser, Corbin Unruh, seniors Helms, Kaufman.

"The seniors are great role models and great mentors for our young guys in practice and in games. They play a great part in our overall team success," Unrau said.

The Wildcats dropped a few games early in the season that Unrau wishes he could back because the strength of schedule has been a big challenge.

They had a 1-5 start which Unrau thinks they could have beaten those teams because of their improvements over the season.

"I think that later on down the road this will be a tough team. We have the capability of being that team that nobody wants to play, which is a good thing," Unrau said.

"We have had some disappointing

losses, but I've never been discouraged because I know that these guys would always come back and work hard to get better," Unrau said.

"One way I helped the underclassmen is by sitting down with them and make sure they understand the plays and knew where to go on each play" Senior Dan Kaufman said.

"Most likely we will be going on the road as the 6th seed for Sub-State playing" Unrau said.

"We need to play great as a team because right now it matters the most, if we don't work together and we lose, then our season is over. We have one shot at every game and we have to make it count" Kaufman said.

Myiah Logue



# MMS Girls End Their Season at 3-11

The middle school girls basketball team ended their season on Feb. 6 at Marion with the score of 11-23. They ended with a record of 3-11.

This season was a transition for both players and coaches. This was the first year that sixth graders were able to play on the middle school team due to low numbers.

Head coach Andrew Scheef also transitioned to coaching middle school.

When asked if it was an adjustment Scheef said, "Not at all. Basketball is basketball. I appreciate the younger kids and their desire to be taught and learn the game. They don't have the 'I know it all' attitude, and as a coach that's what you want in your players, a hunger to be coached hard and improve."

Scheef is looking to next year's 7th grade class to step up and continue the culture that was started this season.

"It was scary getting to play with the older girls at first, but then they helped us get the hang of things" 6th grader Lakyn Allenbach said.

8th grader Kaelyn Wedel led the team



Macie Woltje holds on tight to the rebound.

in both rebounds and points per game.

The girls were the top team in the league with defensive points allowed per game. They only allowed teams a 19.5 points game average.

Allench said it was a challenge

playing against older girls, but "it made us better."

"Growth" is how Scheef described the girls season.

Cambry Stucky

# Lady Cats Rise Above

In January the high school girls played in the Wildcat Classic at Haven.

They faced Halstead in the first round. Halstead had a strong defense which put pressure on the ball control.

The second round they played Garden Plain who is defending state champs.

"The Haven Tournament is known for being a strong tournament and this year it was probably the best girls' tournament in the state" head coach Vicky Kessler said.

Some challenges for the Lady Cats this season have been sickness and injuries.

Junior Kourtney Kaufman is averaging 10 points per game and sophomore Kate Eichelberger is averaging 11 points per game.

Junior Erin Durst is leading the Cats with assists, averaging 3 per game.

"Adjusting to a new coaching style has been a challenge this season" Kaufman said.

The team's motto this season has been



Head Coach Vicky Kessler gives the girls a game plan.

"Rise Above". By this they are choosing to rise above the adversity they face in practice and games.

"We have improved a lot over the season and have learned to work better-

together as a team" Junior Myiah Logue said.

The Lady Cats have a record of 10-10 going into substate.

Cambry Stucky

# Adventures With Buck

They headed back to the boat. The sun was starting to set and it was starting to get really cold.

"Why is it getting so cold?" Gregor asked.

"It's not that bad Gregor, you know you're always cold. You should have brought your jacket," Jack exclaimed.

"Here, have mine. I don't need it," Buck said. "You know the sunset here is amazing! I don't think I have ever seen so many colors in a sunset."

"Yeah, sure, I'm just cold... can we hurry back now?" Gregor whined.

Jack rolled his eyes and kept walking. By now the sun was almost gone and darkness had descended on the island. "Wait, do you see that?" Buck asked in amazement.

"Oh good! I thought it was just me," Jack looked relieved as he let out his breath.

"There... everywhere!" Gregor was looking the other way.

Every so often there was a small light hidden in the tall grass. They were all different colors and there were even some lights in the trees. Buck walked over to a light and uncovered it. He looked at it and saw an oval shaped rock about the size of two fists. The bottom of it was a dull grey that did not glow. It had holes in it and it created a weird bumpy texture. The top was smooth and shiny. This

particular one was a yellow orange color. The glow was bright but not too bright to look at. Buck picked it up to inspect it.

"I thought it would be warm... but it's cold," Buck said confused.

As they all took the sight in, Gregor looked up. "Look!"

They all looked at what he was pointing at. In the trees the lights looked almost like flowers. It was a small blossom of various colors that hung upside down. They had dark popping colors with yellow and white stripes. Inside of the flower fruit stigmas hung down and the tips glowed bright.

"This is amazing!" Buck said in astonishment. "I have never seen anything like it in my whole life."

Gregor sighed, "As much as I hate to ruin the show, we got to get back to the ship,"

They started again, this time totally distracted by the lights. The whole island seemed to glow and the sky was dark but sprinkled with stars. They finally reached the beach and found their small boat.

"Well, I guess Martin didn't leave us," Jack said.

"Then where is he?" Gregor asked.

"Beats me. Does anyone else see that rock? Its color is changing," Jack wondered aloud.

They all turned and looked. He was

right, the rock's color was changing, but why? Buck walked over to the rock and picked it up.

"There is something engraved on it. I can't tell what though. It seems to be incomplete."

"Hey, I saw a rock like that earlier!" Gregor exclaimed.

"You what?" Jack asked.

"Yeah, I saw a rock almost just like it. Didn't you see it?"

"Um... no," Jack sounded annoyed.

"Guys, it's fine. We can always go back to look for it," Buck said. "Do you think this is the light through darkness from the riddle?"

"It would make sense because they only glow at night," Gregor said.

"Wasn't the next part and a tale is told? What does that mean?" Jack asked.

"Well maybe that referring to the engraving on the multicolored stone. If there are more, maybe we could find them and read what they say. Maybe that's our tale."

"I bet you are right but unless we want to be here another whole day we need to get to the ship and come back so we can still see the stones!" Jack said.

They all agreed and quickly headed to the ship.

To be continued...

Sarah Brunk

## Moundridge Students Start Powerlifting

Saturday Feb. 15th, our new powerlifting team went to compete at Emporia. Thirteen lifters competed there and several placed.

Freshman Avery Rice placed third in her weight group, sophomore Garrett Doherty placed third, and juniors Cambry Stucky and Erin Dust placed third and second respectively.

In the past we had a powerlifting team. We also have a record board that will be put up after all the construction is done. Some of our current powerlifters are hoping to break records in their weight classes.

Freshman Maggy Adolf is a part of our first-ever girls powerlifting team. She competes in the hang clean, squat, and bench press.



Photo by Hilarie Hexcox

Left to right (back row): Braden Schmidt, Kaden Jenkins, Garrett Doherty, JD Jenkins, Jonathan Schlosser, Caleb Samland (front row): Myiah Logue, Maggy Adolf, Aubree Durst, Erin Durst, Cambry Stucky, Avery Rice, Katelynn Miller

"I enjoy lifting and pushing myself," Aldof said.

She also says her best event is the hang clean and wants to work more on bench press.

Junior Jonathan Schlosser also com-

peted in the powerlifting meet at Emporia.

"I wanted to join powerlifting to see how well I could do in a competitive environment," Schlosser said.

Continued on page 8...



# Photography Captured the Moment

Every other year Moundridge hosts a “Best of Moundridge” photo contest.

There were two age categories for the contestants participating: eighteen and younger, and nineteen and older.

The results of the photography contest were announced during the basketball game on Feb. 14.

Junior Emma Green and Moundridge resident Marissa Stucky were both winners of one hundred dollars. Stucky won for the nineteen and over age group, and Green won for the eighteen and younger.

“The overall winner got \$100 dollars, and the winner of each category received \$25 dollars,” art teacher Kelsi Chisholm said.

Anyone who submitted a photo had the possibility to win. People could submit up to four photos.

“The categories for this past photo contest were portraits, cityscape, landscape and Moundridge at work,” Chisholm said.

For the category “Landscape/Cityscape”, sophomore Daniel Gloria won for eighteen and younger, and Lori Frazer won for nineteen and over.

For “Still Life” category, junior Alanna Golden won for eighteen and younger, and Shelby Graber won for nineteen and



Photo taken by Hilarie Hecox

Winners in the photo contest line up for a photo after results are announced.

over.

In “Portraits”, Green won for eighteen and younger, and Jean Regier won for nineteen and over.

Lastly, for “Moundridge at Work”, senior Seth Holloway won for eighteen and younger, and Marissa Stucky won for nineteen and over.

“It’s a collaboration between the Moundridge Arts Council and Chamber. As of the first of 2020 there were thirty photos submitted. Because the number was low, we extended [the deadline] a couple more weeks,” Chisholm said.

Moundridge doesn’t have a specific photography class, so the encouragement of engaging with photography through this competition was good for experience for the students.

“My favorite photos are portrait. What I think is awesome about Moundridge is the people here. No matter the piece, I like when they give a story. Context clues make the piece just that much more interesting,” Chisholm said.

Alanna Golden



Photo provided by Facebook

Junior Emma Green, overall winner and winner in the “Portrait” category for 18 and younger, poses for a photo with art teacher Kelsi Chisholm.



Photo taken by Tina Golden

Alanna Golden, winner of the “Still Life” category, gets her photo taken.



Photo provided by Facebook

Seth Holloway, winner of the “Moundridge at Work” category, poses for a picture with art teacher Kelsi Chisholm.

## March Events

- Mar. 2-7.....Substate BB
- Mar. 11-14.....State BB
- Mar. 13.....No School
- Mar. 14.....Powerlifting
- Mar. 16-20.....Spring Break
- Mar. 21-23.....State Swimming
- Mar. 28.....State Powerlifting
- Mar. 31.....MS Quiz Bowl



Scholars Bowl competitors hold up medals for a picture from left to right: Lucas Beasley, Daniel Kaufman, Cross Lintecum, Aaron Green, Brady Helms, Kyler Dalke, Coach Adam Robb and Gabby Robb.

# Scholars Bowl Season Comes to a Close

The Moundridge Scholars Bowl team hosted and competed in Regionals on Feb. 6, ending with a record of 3-4.

Despite not advancing to state, the team still was proud of their work that they did this season.

"It was a very different team compared to some I've had in the past. We didn't have necessarily one very strong person. We were very balanced, which in some ways was a very good thing because then I could rely on multiple people, and take about anybody at any time. But that made it a little hard to know which ones should be relied on for Regionals this year," coach Adam Robb said.

Scholars Bowl has grown stronger thanks to the leadership of the older students.

"Cross, Dan, and Brady were our real team leaders," freshman Lucas Beasley

said.

"We started the year off really really well with the meets that we went to, but we struggled a little bit at the end of the season, and there were good teams at Regionals that we were competing against," Robb said.

"The luck of the draw was on who was out. The rounds we lost were only by 1 or 2 questions, and those could've been made up by the person who was sitting out. Other than that, we did the best we could, and hopefully we'll make it to state and win next year," Beasley said.

The Scholars Bowl team had a mixture of repeats and newcomers.

"I have done Scholars Bowl since seventh grade, so four years. I feel like we had a pretty good team. Some of them are people I wouldn't generally be around or have any classes with, so

it's a good chance to get to know them and work together," sophomore Emma Blough said.

The team grew close like a family as they worked together and faced difficult competitions.

"Bennington was the most difficult team we faced. They were incredibly fast on the buzzers, and knew just about every subject. We are a family. If you miss a question, they are right there to pick you up, and get you ready for the next round," Beasley said.

For some of them, this was their first time going to Regionals, which was a bit intimidating.

"I think we were a little hesitant at first. I think we just need to be more confident in the future and not second guess ourselves," Blough said.

Alanna Golden

# Powerlifting continued from p.6

Schlosser says his best lift is a hang clean and he wants to work on bench press. He aims to break a few records, one set by Josh Knight in 2017. It was the hang clean lift of 255 lb.

Courtney Modellmog was the previ-

ous coach of powerlifting. The last time Moundridge competed in powerlifting was in 2014. Bret Lange is the new coach now and he wanted to start the program again.

"It's another way to let kids compete

and build a good environment. Next year I hope to start right after Christmas and go to more meets," Lange said.

Sarah Brunk