

# THE CHARGER

## Willier to study abroad

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A WHS student is seeking funding to study abroad.

Junior Falisha Willier is in search of funds to study abroad through the American Field Study Homestay Program. Willier hopes to spend 4-6 weeks in this program in Tuscany, Italy during the summer of 2019.

Willier will fly to Rome and attend a week long language camp before driving to Tuscany where she will live with a host family. She is hoping to take a lot from this experience. "I just want to learn new cultures because I feel like we're a little unexposed to other cultures," Willier said. "It also looks really good for college."

The program alone will cost \$8,650 which does not include airline fees and transportation. Willier has planned many activities and fundraisers to raise money for the trip. On Saturday, Willier held an Italian Dinner at the Alma Community Center serving spaghetti and sides. The event raised \$650.

Willier also plans to host a Paws with a Clause holiday photo shoot for pets and a Parents Night Out event where childcare will be provided for parents wanting a night out.

## Maintenance a financial challenge

Eleanor Badeker  
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USD 329 faces maintenance challenges and is considering an extension of a bond issue to pay for solutions.

"The building was built in 1937," WHS custodian Tim Songs said, "so it's always challenging when there's a problem."

"The biggest problem is the roof," maintenance manager Freddie Johnson said. The clay tiles high school roof leak, and the underlayer becomes saturated with water and splits open. This can be seen in the form of brown water stains on the ceiling tiles, or in more extreme cases such as the hole in the ceiling of one teacher's room.

"To fix it right," Johnson said, "we could take the clay tile off and replace it with tin. That would alleviate a lot of problems."

The old high school building is not on the Register of Historic Kansas Places, so there are no restrictions on what can be done to the building. "The boiler system will have to be replaced," Johnson said.

While some of the problems are cosmetic, others affect the way the building is used. For instance, the heating system in the high school auditorium has been broken for several years. A school assembly Wednesday was moved to the gym because it would be too cold to have students in the auditorium.

Funding for maintenance is



A hole remains open in the ceiling of Mr. Praeger's classroom on the third floor of WHS. A rolling trash can is brought in whenever it rains. The roof is one of many maintenance challenges facing USD 329.

provided by the capital outlay budget, which also provides for salaries of maintenance and custodial staff, transportation, and performance uniforms. The capital outlay budget would pay for maintenance repairs such as a toilet going out.

But for certain large expenditures like the roof or boiler system, capital outlay is insufficient. "To replace the roof at the high school," superintendent Brad Starnes said, "it would take around \$160,000."

Another large expense is the heating, ventilation and air conditioning

(HVAC) system. The systems installed with the last bond issue have outlived their life expectancy. To help pay for these things, the board is considering extending a bond issue for another seven years, which would raise about \$2-3 million without raising taxes from the current level.

The district also faces a decision about Paxico Middle School. Parts of the building and facilities need to be repaired, so the board is considering the district's need for the building. The board has also been looking into studies that show that when a

student transitions into another building, there is a drop in academic success before it rises back up. Potential plans would keep fifth grade students in elementary school and move sixth grade students to the junior high.

It is an ongoing process to look for solutions to maintenance problems, and several options are under consideration.

"We don't want to put money into something that we won't have in the future," Starnes said.

## FCCLA team advances to nationals

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The WHS FCCLA Knowledge Bowl team punched its ticket to nationals.

After a victorious weekend, the team will be competing in Anaheim, Calif. this summer.

Five FCCLA members traveled to Louisville last weekend to compete in the Lifesmarts knowledge bowl at the National Cluster Meeting. The team consisted of seniors Luke Barber and Jessica Vanstory and juniors Eleanor Badeker, Alexis Hafestine and Autymn Schreiner.

In October the team took an online test and scored an 89, the top score of the cluster and second overall in the nation. This score was then added to the results from the quiz bee that the team participated in on Saturday at cluster. The quiz bee is where members from each team separated into their different areas of expertise and answered a set of 10 questions. With a score of 60, WHS kept its number one position at the meet.

After advancing to pool play, WHS played out three rounds of knowledge bowl. They were able to stay at the top of their pool advancing them to nationals this summer. They received second overall out of 26 teams that came all across the country.

Captain Autymn Schreiner felt the team did an awesome job through different phases of competition. "Even when we were losing in some of the buzzer matches we stayed calm and came back every time. I feel like we were never really worried about losing, we knew we could do it," Schreiner said.

FCCLA adviser Diane Breiner said she was proud of how the team competed. "They did amazing," Breiner said, "They were number two out of six of the teams to advance. They were number two out of 26."

WHS will compete at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim in July. There they will compete against the 5 others from Louisville, 6 others from the cluster in Arizona and the 4 teams who will compete for a second chance in an online test later in the year. "We are very excited to see them represent Wabaunsee," Breiner said.

## Former WHS student developing rap career

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Former Wabaunsee student *Mason Schwemmer*, also known as *Schwem*, is a local artist making his start in the music industry. Check out his new album "L;FE" November 30.

**Q: What made you want to go into music?**

**A:** Music has always been the only piece of my life that feels free/comfortable. I've never felt in place doing stuff like work, school, sport, to even kickin' it with friends. I want to do music so I can help people help themselves, just like I've done. I feel like I was meant to create this music that brings people together and builds them up. Although I'm not religious.

**Q: When and how did you start recording?**

**A:** I started recording myself in 2015, but I started going to a recording studio in 2017, to improve quality because I wasn't really doing it right. To start I used a program called audacity, fruity loops, and a \$70 mic from a music store and just my computer, and some random soundproofing material like egg cartons.

**Q: How did you get your rap name?**

**A:** I originally went by schwemdalabim then I kind of got sick of that so I changed it to Schwem. It's part of my last name.

**Q: What are you currently working on?**

**A:** I'm about to push out my 2nd album on all platforms like iTunes, Spotify, etc... and I'm working on finishing a mixtape that'll come out after the album.

Also work on doing bigger shows.

**Q: What are some challenges people don't know?**

**A:** I gotta say the most challenging part of making music and pursuing it as a career is keeping your head in it. As someone who struggles with depression pretty often, it gets difficult to continue to put yourself in that mind state. Confidence, Energy, & Passion are things that a successful artist must constantly strain & rebuild.

You have to stay motivated.

**Q: How has your work progressed throughout the years?**

**A:** It's becoming very diverse in style compared to older songs I've made to open the demographic to a less specific audience. I've also been trying to focus on quality and professionalism.

**Q: How are you marketing your music? And where do you see your music taking you?**

**A:** Marketing through so-



Schwemmer appears in promotional art for his new album, "L;fe," which releases November 30.

cial media like Facebook, Snapchat, Youtube & Instagram. My distribution is handled through a company called DistroKid. Honestly I see myself going all the way. I'll either die rich or get famous after I pass.

**Q: Do you see this turning into a career?**

**A:** That's what I'm trying to do.

**Q: What are you going to do to turn this into a career?**

**A:** I'm always trying to find different ways to market.

Find Shwemmer's work on Spotify, Youtube, iTunes, and Google play, or see him live the following dates:

Nov. 30 - Topeka - Album Release Party & No Industry Standard Tour  
Dec. 1 - Topeka - with Haystak  
Dec. 21 - Topeka - with Twisted Insane  
Dec. 22 - Kansas City - with TWISTED INSANE

**Q: Do your album names mean anything?**

**A:** My new album is L;fe. I called it L;fe because it tells a story, it's like an emotional journey, sort of like an odyssey. It's how you wake up and it's like the boiling point. Then throughout the day it like fluctuates. It just happens everyday its like a cycle. That's what my album is about.

**Q: Do you have any songs that mean anything to you?**

**A:** All my songs mean something special to me in a different way. My favorite song is nosebleeds, I like the way it sounds it's fun to sing.

**Q: What are some steps to getting a producer/record label?**

**A:** Just reaching out, doing shows, and talking to people you don't know. Whether it be face to face, over facebook, just trying to reach out and it just comes together.

**Q: Do you have any advice to younger kids wanting to do something like this?**

**A:** Ain't nothing but to do it. Just stick with it.

## The Charger

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