



THE CHARGER

FFA wins dairy cattle judging

Sienna Jones | staff writer

FFA placed first at the dairy cattle judging competition November 16 at Linn County.

Fifteen students competed, forming three teams: A team, B team, and an entomology team. Three of the A team competitors placed as individuals. Junior Calvin Magette earned 4th, freshman Karsyn Shoffner 11th and sophomore Aubrey Imthurn 12th. Freshman Mikayla Edds earned 9th for the B team.

“Dairy cattle judging isn’t usually one of our strengths, I had more hopes for our B team going into the competition,” FFA sponsor Danny Davis said. The A team did very well despite previously struggling, placing 1st out of 19 teams. “The A team definitely beat my expectations,” Davis said.

FFA traveled to Mission Valley the next week on November 21. The senior and freshman team did opening and closing ceremonies, while the freshman team also competed in parliamentary procedure.

The senior team did not do as well as they predicted. FFA vice president Sophia Castillo said “We did not place and it didn’t go as well as we would’ve liked. It came down to our level of preparation, and we all could’ve done worse and obviously could’ve done better.”

The Par Law team got 8th in its part of the competition, which is what brought down the overall score, while the Greenhand team earned 3rd overall. Freshman Cole Frank was the greenhand master secretary, as he was voted 1st out of 16 other secretaries.

“He presented his part the best out of all of the other secretaries, I thought he did very well,” Davis said. Frank also thought he did well. “I wasn’t shocked when I found out, but I was still happy about it.”

FFA just completed fruit sales, which is its biggest fundraiser. They head to Hutchinson Friday for livestock judging.

THIS WEEK ON WHSCHARGER.COM

- Preview boys and girls wrestling.
- Read about the Jones Project presentation to WHS and WJH.
- Listen to the Senioritis Podcast Christmas Draft.

TIPPING OFF

#6 ranked basketball team returns
7 varsity players

Jacob Meseke | editor in chief

With seven returning varsity players, basketball looks to carry momentum from the summer into the season.

Basketball competed in multiple tournaments over the summer, winning its 1A-2A MAYB tournament. The Chargers defeated the 2A preseason #4 Inman Teutons in the championship. WHS enters the preseason ranked #6 by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association.

The Chargers come off of a 17-6 season where they lost to the eventual 2A state runner-up St. Marys Bears in overtime of the substrate championship.

Christian Ulsaker enters his fourth season as coach of the Chargers. Ulsaker looks forward to seeing the team compete and is ready to see how much the seniors have improved from freshman year.

“I really enjoy how they get after it. Being able to coach these seniors for the last time. They’re my first four-year group. I’m really excited to see how much they’ve developed from freshman year to senior year,” Ulsaker said.

Basketball returns three starters: seniors Eli Oliver, Logan Clark and Ryan Schutter. Seniors Lanson Parry and Bryton Reves and junior Zach Frank all played valuable minutes. The Chargers lost their top two scorers from last season. “With a lot of minutes returning, it should pay dividends when it comes to state and substate,” Ulsaker said.

Oliver is the team’s highest returning scorer with 11.6 points per game. Oliver also earned all-league honors last season.

The team welcomes two new assistant coaches, Tim Klein and Al Mock. Klein has previously coached at Hoxie and Abilene.

The goal for the season is to get better everyday and not be out-toughed. “Coach Klein always says to get 1 percent better everyday. A goal for myself is to never get out toughed. That’s something I hang my hat on. Strive to be the tougher team,” Ulsaker said.

“There are a lot more seniors. We have some dudes that understand our offense. I have 8 or 9 guys that I trust to get in the game to run our offense and play defense how I want them to play defense,” Ulsaker said.

The team opened its season Tuesday against Northern Heights, and continues Thursday against Frankfort and Friday against Manhattan CHIEF in the Wabaunsee Invitational Tournament.

Girls basketball focused on daily improvement

Jenna Donaldson | staff writer

Girls coach Trevor Keller enters his fourth season as head coach with a roster that’s small, but has a lot of potential.

After going to the state tournament his first two seasons, the Chargers fell in the second round of substate last season to finish with an 8-14 record. Still, the gained experience, as well as a new senior, could help the Chargers bounce back to postseason success.

What are your strengths?

“Our overall depth of returning players that we have coming back we have a lot of players who have been playing for a couple years.”

What are your expectations?

“Daily improvement is really important for us to improve



Junior Zach Frank drives to the basket against Valley Heights in the first round of the 2021 substate. Frank is one of seven returning varsity players this season.

each day. We talk about getting 1% better each day, making growth throughout the year. We have some individual goals for each game, we take care of the basketball, we want to shoot high percentage shots and rebound well. Then we have to defend.”

What are some team goals?

“To go 1-0 everyday, getting better at practice and competing on Tuesdays and Friday nights but we have to do that by preparing throughout the week. If we were not having a good week of preparation, for whoever were going to play, then were not going to get the results we want.”

What are you looking forward to?

“Over the first couple weeks, I’ve seen every single player improve. I appreciate the attitude and effort they give each day. I’m looking forward to seeing how much this group can grow and improve throughout the season and to see where we’re at, at the end of the regular season going into postseason play.”

Who are the returning seniors?

“We have Annie Wright

returning, who started for us last year. Our other senior is Lexi Barnes, who transferred in from Abilene. She played a lot of minutes for them last year. We’re excited to add her to the team.”

Who are the main leaders on the team?

“I definitely think those two, being seniors. We also have four juniors playing that have really stepped up. We have a small group with only 12 girls playing so we talk about how it doesn’t just have to be an upperclassman that’s a leader. Anybody can be a leader in their own right. If you see something, you say something. That’s a big part of holding each other accountable and trying to improve.”

What are some things you’re trying to improve on from last year?

“We have to limit turnovers, we have to take care of the basketball a lot better and we have to improve our rebounding. We need to drastically improve in those areas if we want to have the success that we’re potentially capable of having.”

FCCLA STAR event to help elderly with technology

Heather Baker | staff writer

Seniors who need help with technology have a chance to learn from the best: a pair of teenagers.

Freshmen Elise Ford and Mataya Nichols and deputy county clerk and public transportation manager Alissa Barber are hosting a “Free Technology Help” day.

Ford and Nichols are members of FCCLA and are organizing the event as part of their FCCLA STAR event, which is Chapter Service Project.

The program aims to help local seniors navigate technology. Specifically, apps on their phones like social media. “Alissa Barber came up with the idea and showed it to Mrs. Breiner and we decided to do

it,” Ford said.

Barber said her office saw that this was a need for Wabaunsee residents.

“At the Annual Kansas Public Transportation meeting, I heard about the services and programs other communities offer. The technology clinic really resonated with me because our public transportation drivers help residents with their cell phones quite often.”

“We really hope this clinic will connect two generations in Wabaunsee County that may have not had much interaction before. This clinic is important because it keeps residents connected with their families and keeps residents independent in their households. It will be a

FREE TECHNOLOGY HELP

One-on-One help with Cell Phones, Email, Facebook, Skype, & more!

Unlock all the potential technology has to offer!



Wednesday, December 14th
9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Wabaunsee County Museum
227 Missouri Ave, Alma

low-pressure environment for Wabaunsee County residents to ask questions about their phones and other technology without the pressure of a sales associate. We hope it may alleviate some frustration some have around technology,” Barber said.

Barber, who participated in FCCLA STAR events when she

was at WHS, said it’s great to continue to stay involved in the programs. “It has always been a fond memory to look back on, and so it’s a nice full circle moment.”

Nichols said they hope to do a series of events to help the elderly community.

The event will be on December 14 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Wabaunsee County Museum, 227 Missouri Ave. in Alma.

There’s no sign up, Nichols said, unless the senior in question needs a ride. If a ride is needed, contact FCCLA adviser Diane Breiner (dbreiner@usd329.com) or call WHS during school hours.