



THE CHARGER

Scholars bowl prepares for regionals

Scholars bowl finished its regular season Monday with a 5th place finish at the Mid-East League tournament. The team went 2-3 in pool play, losing its three matches by a total of 40 points, or four questions.

“It was a tight competition, despite what our record looked like,” coach Brendan Praeger said. At the end of round-robin pool play, Rock Creek and Silver Lake were seeded one and two, with three teams tied for third place. Wabaunsee won the tie breaker based on win-loss differential.

In bracket play, the team lost a close match to Rossville, before defeating St. Marys. “I think we could have won any of the matches based on our knowledge, but the other teams beat us to the buzzer a couple of times,” Praeger said.

Junior Heather Baker led the team with 130 points. She’s also the season leader for the Chargers with 615 points over six meets. Austin Spellman and Jackson Frey each scored 30 points. AJ Grutsch added 20 and Shawn Moser added 10.

Rock Creek won the league title, going 7-0 and defeating Silver Lake 120-20 in the championship.

The team now prepares for regional competition, which it will host at WHS February 2. Sixteen teams from North-east Kansas will compete at the regionals, with the top 3 teams advancing to the state tournament. “I think we have a lot of potential, since we have students who are good in each category,” Praeger said.

HOLD YOUR HORSES



Berkenmeier competes in National Finals Rodeo

Ava Meinhardt | staff writer

Senior Kent Berkenmeier competed in the 2022 Junior National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December.

The Junior National Finals Rodeo was founded in 2015, and it hosts more than 800 contestants over the time it takes place. The participants compete at the Las Vegas Convention center for about

\$1 million in combined cash, and a championship buckle.

The entire Junior NFR lasted ten days, from December 1-10. Berkenmeier only participated in steer wrestling, so he was only at the event from December 4-8.

In order to compete in the Junior NFR, Berkenmeier had to qualify. “We went to a whole bunch of rodeos throughout the summer and last winter to get qualified for this rodeo,” he said.

There were 45 other competitors in Berkenmeier’s event. “I ended up making the short round, in which they took the top 20 out of everyone in the steer wrestling event,” he said.

This was Berkenmeier’s

first time ever competing in this rodeo. When asked what he learned, he said, “Six days is way too many days in Vegas.”

Berkenmeier ended up taking 17th place out of the 45 competitors for steer wrestling.

Ag teacher Danny Davis interrupted his class to watch Berkenmeier compete.

Davis said it was great for the students to watch a fellow classmate and FFA member at a national competition.

“By the time we watched him and saw him succeed, they were cheering and saying good job Kent. We are very supportive of him,” Davis said.

KAY receives Spark grant

Heather Baker | staff writer

Wabaunsee High School’s Kansas Association of Youth (KAY) club received a \$3,500 grant from Be The Spark. The club, sponsored by Lisa Hull, received the grant to be able to help Diane Breiner’s Nutritional Snack Program, run by Nutrition and Wellness class.

The KAYAN (KAY Alumni Network) Board, working with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, approved the application for the grant. Be The Spark was mid-cycle in terms of handing out grants, Hull said. That means they don’t tend to hand out grants at this time, so she didn’t know if she could apply. “They had money left over from the previous cycle,” Hull continued, “and said that I should put one (an application) in.”

The application highlighted that the program is very student-led, promotes mental and physical health and is a great idea for any student in any program that may have to stay after school.

In a letter congratulating the club, Be the Spark coordinator Katlin Bryan wrote “When reviewing your grant idea, we thought you did well with creating a project that is very student led. We are excited that you are looking at student’s physical and mental health and the benefits a nutritional snack can make.”

Last week, the KAY club signed a contract sealing the deal. This money will be used to continue and improve their snack program that provides nutritious snacks for students in the afternoon.

Thought Bubble | Watch out for red flags before dating in high school



Payton Wurtz | staff writer

The season of love is right around the corner, and it’s plenty obvious that high school kids aren’t the most experienced in the relationship world.

Valentine’s Day can be a very lonely day for those who don’t have a special someone. This love-centered holiday can cause people to go crazy, and I don’t know about you, but I’m not a huge fan of spending this day alone.

If you’re feeling the same way, you know how much easier it is to ignore some pretty bad characteristics.

Even though I don’t have the most experience with dating, I’ve watched my friends go

through some rough relationships. I know all about the red flags, and what not to look for.

I thought it would be helpful to share my professional advice to everyone out there looking for a special someone to spend Valentine’s Day with.

Don’t settle! You deserve the best of the best. You shouldn’t settle until your man (or woman) kisses the ground you walk on.

Know who you are and what you want. It’s not fair to yourself or the other person if you aren’t already confident in who you are. You also can’t expect someone to complete you or make you whole. That’s a lot of pressure to put on someone. Imagine trying to be 1.5 people. It’s best if you know who you are, and they are like a cherry on top to help make you a better version of yourself.

Focus on communicating your feelings with each other. Even though you may feel like your partner should

be able to read your mind and know exactly what you want, they can’t. Ladies, that’s for you especially.

Have the hard conversations. It might be easier to avoid talking about something that’s a little bit uncomfortable, but if you want a successful relationship it has to happen. You can’t assume that you know what your partner’s reactions to the hard conversations will be, and you never know, you guys might be on the same page.

Don’t be selfish. Remember that you aren’t the only person in the relationship. The other person has opinions that are valuable and they deserve to be heard just as much as you feel yours do.

The next part of relationships sometimes gets skipped over — the red flags. Red flags are things that are obviously wrong but are typically ignored. These can be seemingly simple things at the beginning, but over time can evolve into a

larger problem.

▶ **Poor personal hygiene.** Regardless of what you’ve been told, deodorant doesn’t repel girls (boys that’s for you). Axe body spray is not a substitute for bathing.

▶ **They don’t value your opinions or beliefs.** Everyone deserves someone who cares about their feelings, and if your special somebody isn’t doing that, it might be time to look for a different somebody.

▶ **They have bad table manners.** No one wants to be around someone who’s trying to tell a story while also trying to eat a steak at Texas Roadhouse. It’s just nasty.

▶ **You don’t agree on anything.** Even though you might think this person is the most amazing creation to walk the earth, there’s almost no way you two are going to make it very far in the relationship if you can’t agree on anything. It’s okay to have a difference of opinions, but when it comes to

the big stuff you need someone who can agree with you.

▶ **If they aren’t putting in the same amount of effort as you.** Relationships need to have equal give and take. One person can’t give 100 percent while the other gives 75 percent — it’s not fair to either of you.

▶ **Bad communication skills.** Everyone knows that relationships can be dramatic and stressful. Which without a doubt is going to lead to some hurt feelings. Unattended hurt feelings are like a festering wound. If you leave them untreated they are going to destroy you, or your relationship. It’s best to tell your partner when they’ve hurt your feelings so they can learn more about you and your emotions/how you process things.

As we get closer to Valentine’s Day take these things into account and enjoy your time with friends and family.