

TROJAN PRIDE PRESS

March 2022

Kiefer High School

Vol. 22, No. 3



Coming Up...

* **NO SCHOOL** – Kiefer Schools will be closed **Friday, April 15**, for **Good Friday**.

* **TRANSCRIPTS** – **Sophomores** who need copies of their **transcripts** for Central Tech and concurrent college enrollment, should complete the request form available in the office and drop it in **Coach Howk's box** on his office door as soon as possible.

* **ACT TESTING** – State mandated **ACT testing** for **juniors** will be **April 18-22**.

* **YARD SIGNS** – Don't miss out on your opportunity to honor your favorite Trojan graduate or student involved in extracurricular activities with a yard sign. For questions or more info, contact **Coach Kowalewski** at rkowalewski@kiefer.k12.ok.us.

* **NO SCHOOL FRIDAYS** – Good news for students and staff. Kiefer schools will be out **Fridays April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29**. April 15 is Good Friday and already set as a holiday. The other three Fridays are reclaimed snow days.

* **YEARBOOKS ON SALE** – Deadline for ordering and purchasing the 2022 Kiefer yearbook is **May 6**. Cost is **\$40**. For more information or ordering instructions, see **Mrs. Capehart**.

Service hours required, help area projects

By **CONNOR CAYWOOD**
Staff Writer

It may not be a well-known fact, but most high schools in Oklahoma – public and private – require students to perform community service in order to graduate.

Kiefer High is one of those schools.

Community service can be defined as “anything where you help out the community without being paid for your services,” said high school academic counselor Josh Howk.

Kiefer students are required to perform a

See **SERVICE HOURS**, Page 3



Photo courtesy of JASPER VINCENT

Prom royalty

Seniors Kennedy Mims and Jasper Vincent reign as king and queen of the 2022 Kiefer High School prom. For more prom pictures, see Page 4.

Preparing for ACT on students' minds

By **EMMALIE MAEZ** and
AUBRIE BRIEDGEWATER

It's time to start studying!

ACT season is upon high school students. It's that time where students get a little nervous as butterflies dance around their tummies and sweat beads up at the thought of facing an ACT or SAT and what that test score holds for their futures.

So here are a few things students might want to know before taking an SAT or an ACT, which is the more common of the two college entrance exams in the Kiefer area.

Math tutor Jeff Gaffen of Tulsa, who has tutored the ACT for more than 20 years, said there is no need for stud-

See **ACT PREP**, Page 8

'Wearing o' the green' highlights Irish holiday

By **SCARLET MITCHELL**
Staff Writer

Erin go Bragh! Translated from the Irish: Ireland forever!

That's the cry of every Irishman, Irish descendent and want-to-be-Irishman on St Patrick's Day every March 17.

Some Kiefer High Schools students celebrate as well, though maybe not as big as the folks in Dublin itself.

“Me and my friends ate green cupcakes for breakfast to cele-

See **ST. PADDY'S DAY**, Page 8



Photo courtesy of RACHEL MATHENEY

Honoring

A memorial honoring crossing guard Darrell Spurgeon sits where he greeted elementary students every morning. Spurgeon passed away unexpectedly. See more on Page 3.

News



Seniors honored for essays

From Special Reports

Six Kiefer High School seniors have been named local winners in the Masonic Charty Foundation of Oklahoma's annual Senior Essay Contest.

Winners in the women's division are Makayla Nation, first place; Sarah Zapata, second place; and Morgan Bennett, third place.

Winners in the men's division are Logan Jones, first place; Alex Lozoya, second place; and Rafael Rodriguez, third place.

Local winners are chosen from among the entries from an individual school. Certificates will be awarded to each student.

"Hopefully this was a good exercise for your students and some of them will be honored for having the best essay in your school," said Lauren Riepl, communications specialist with the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma.

Topic for the essay was related to the new state law requiring Oklahoma High School students to score 60 percent or higher on the U.S. Naturalization Test and asked students to if they thought politicians should have to pass a basic U.S. civics test in order to hold office. Students then had to defend their position.

"This was a challenging topic and sparked much discussion in my classes," said Lorrie Quinnelly who teaches senior English at KHS and required students to enter the contest.

"I had a student who downloaded a copy of the test to see how many questions she and her classmates could answer. We also have students who are not native to America who provided a totally different perspective to

See SENIORS, Page 8



Photo courtesy of the Kiefer High School Band Page

Band takes honors

Kiefer's High School Trojan Marching Band has earned superior ratings at the OSSAA District Solo and Ensemble Competitions. Pictured are, front row, from left, Dylan McGuire, Emmalie Maez, Allison McGuire, Ashlyn Hutton, Kaylee Spangler and assistant band director Katelyn Baker; second row, from left, band director Brian Hayes, Gavin Nance, Luke Witte, Cooper Venable, Alexis Tecumseh and Lillie Plane; and, back row, from left, Daniel Marquez and Josh Matheney. The band will compete on the state level April 19-21 at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Law Day winners announced

From Special Reports

OKLAHOMA CITY – Two Kiefer High School students have received top honors in their age division in the Oklahoma Bar Association's annual Law Day creative arts competition.

Hannah Murrell earned first-place honors in the 10th-grade di-

vision and will receive a framed award along with a cash prize. Honorable mention in the category went to Brayden Taylor who will receive a certificate. Both students entered poem for the competition.

See LAW DAY, Page 5



Photo courtesy of Kiefer upper Elementary School Page

KIEFER'S 6th GRADE Academic Tema has placed fourth in regional competition. Pictured are, from left, coach Rachael Dodson, Jacie Hollingsworth, Ethan Henson, Landon Acton, Nolan Welker and Paisley Delcours.

Kiefer Fun Facts

Did you know ...

* Kiefer was originally called Praper?

* Some people believe the old high school building, is haunted by the ghost of an individual who died behind the stage?

News Shorts

Kiefer yard signs on sale to public

Kiefer's wrestling program is selling yard signs graduates and students involved in extra-curricular activities.

The **18-by-24-inch signs** are available through April 14 and sell for \$20. Proceeds benefit Kiefer wrestling.

Signs can be ordered by visiting.signsunleashed.com/kiefertrojans. Once ordered, a representative will make contact with the purchaser with information about pick-up.

For questions or more information, contact coach **Ryan Kowalewski** at rkowalewski@kiefer.k12.ok.us

Yearbook deadline fast approaching

Deadline to order a copy of the 2022 Kiefer yearbook is **May 6**.

Yearbooks are available for students from Pre-K through 12th grade as well as faculty and staff members. Books are hard-covered and printed in color. Cost is \$40 per book.

Books may be ordered online. For more information, contact yearbook sponsor **Tiffany Capehart**.



Features

Community mourns crossing guard's death

From Special Reports

Kiefer Elementary students, faculty and parents alike are mourning the loss of beloved crossing guard Darrell Spurgeon.

Superintendent Randy Shaw broke the news to faculty and staff via personal letter March 26.

Shaw wrote that he spoke with Spurgeon every morning and afternoon of the school day.

"In those moments, I learned Darrell was many things," Shaw told faculty and staff. "Among those roles, he was a soldier, a cowboy and a truck driver. He was the best crossing guard a school could ever have."

Spurgeon passed away March 26. He was 72. At presstime, no funeral or memorial services had been planned.

"I had kids and parents alike crying when they heard the news," said Brent Weaver, principal of Kiefer Elementary School. "We certainly thought a lot of him."

Parents came together to construct a small memorial where he once stood during his job, complete with flowers and notes thanking him for keeping the children safe, Weaver said.

Spurgeon lived a colorful life. According to his obituary posted with Schaudt's Funeral Home, Spurgeon and his brother, Bud,

were team ropers on the professional rodeo circuit for a time. Spurgeon joined the U.S. Army when he was old enough, where he was trained as a sniper. After completing military service, he worked as a truck driver.

He later worked at Green Acres Sod Company until his retirement.

After retiring, Spurgeon became a crossing guard at Kiefer Public Schools. To him, it wasn't a job but something that brought him great joy.

"Darrell worried about our kids and even made sure I made it across the street," Shaw wrote. "I told him I could do it, but he told me it was his job to make sure everyone was safe while crossing."

"I was working late last Wednesday (March 23), and he came over to make sure I was doing alright," he said. "Darrell had more important things to do than check in on me. But that was Darrell. Whatever made Darrell, I wish the world could find it because that man was hard-working, loyal, kind, and someone I wish I could be more like."

Shaw, representing the school district, has extended heart-felt sympathy to Spurgeon's wife, Jeannette Spurgeon, and family for their loss.

Teacher Feature

EDITOR'S NOTE: For each edition, the *Trojan Pride Press* focuses on teachers who help us be better students and better people. So, here's ...

Brittany Brown – Biology, Zoology, Physical Science

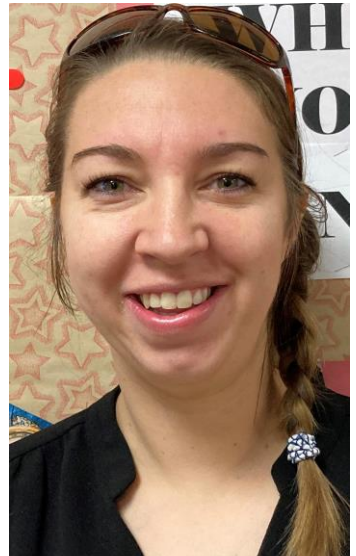
Where did you receive your education? Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Alva, bachelor's and master's degrees.

Any family members you want to tell us about? My 3-year-old son, Ripley. He loves dinosaurs and monsters. Halloween is his favorite holiday. (*Trojan Pride Press* reporters also have learned Mrs. Brown and her husband, are expecting another little one in September)

How did you get into teaching? I used to coach college soccer while earning my master's degree. I fell in love with the education side of coaching; I'm over coaching in itself.

What do you like about teaching? Learning from the kids I teach and (the) daily interactions.

Favorite class to teach? Any



Brittany Brown

kind of life science, but mostly zoology.

Favorite class in school? In high school, English; and in college, history.

Favorite food? Chips and salsa

Favorite Hobby? Soccer, gardening, crocheting, and having hobbies.

Favorite Book? *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse

Favorite TV show? "New Girl."

- Compiled by Karlee Lankford

SERVICE HOURS

FROM Page 1

minimum of 40 hours of community service during their four-year tenure in high school. Ten of those hours are designated for service to the school community; the remainder can be completed within any community or within the school community.

"I don't have any opposition to letting students do community service hours," said senior sponsor Monica Standifird. "I do think it's an important thing for the community. The community supports the school, and I think the school kids should recognize that they should also support the community."

"I feel like part of what you learn in school is about learning to be

zation, all of that is about being a part of the citizenry. ...

"I feel like the students have gotten away from understanding that, and I know that it has proved to be a difficult thing for kids to do. But, for the most part, I think it's a great thing."

Examples of service within the school community include helping to set up or pick up at sporting or public events or working concessions at ballgames. But there are other ways to earn community service hours.

In the summertime, students who volunteer for mission projects or Vacation Bible School through their churches can count the time they spend as community service. Helping with theatre productions, volunteering as a referee or umpire without pay also count.

Community service hours are tracked individually during a student's time in high school. In the past, hours for students who transfer in later in their high school careers have been adjusted to meet the requirement.

Prom 2022



Photo courtesy of SYDNEY RANDLEMAN

STUDENTS CRASH on some sofas, above, in one room at the Pearl District venue for the Kiefer High Prom. They are, from left, Sydney Dunn, Julia Robbins, Parker Fjeldsted, Lexi Worthan, Cooper Venable, Emily Thompson, Sydney Randleman and Brooklyn Johnson.

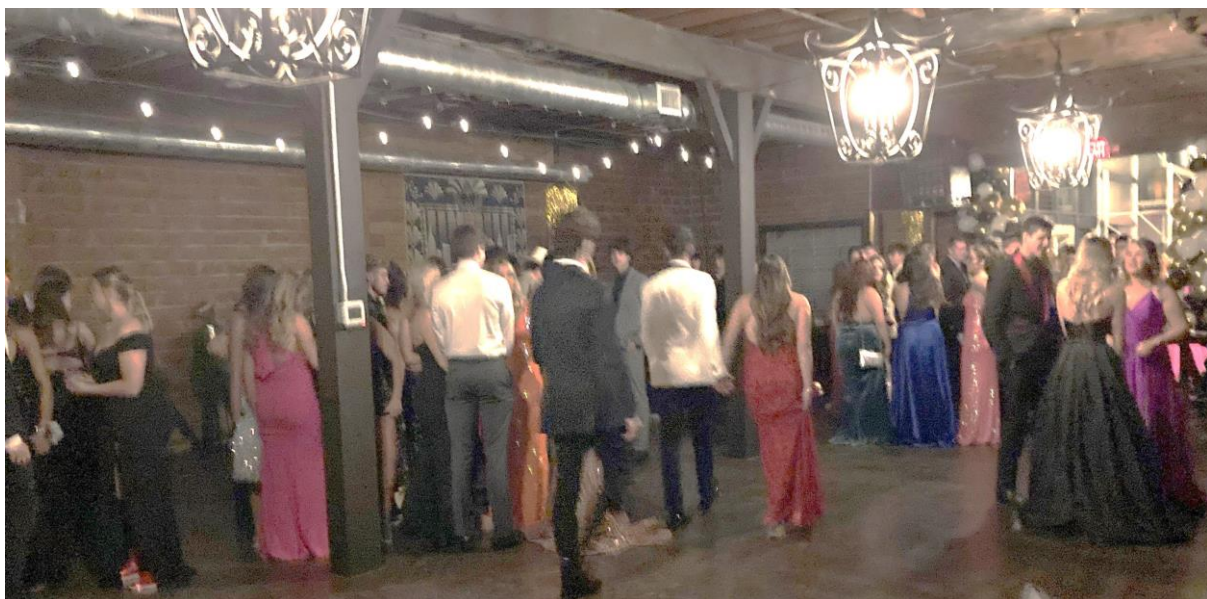


Photo by BECKY CARR

A GROUP of seniors, above and their friends from Central Tech, made a night of the event, having dinner together, heading to the dance, then on for some midnight bowling. They are, top row, from left, Jacob Brook, Rachel Bowling and Blake Chapman; bottom, from left, Natalie Coker, Hope Tuttle, Sarah Zapata and Heather DeWeese.

At left, students arrive at the Pearl District with their dates.

Trojan Pride Press Photo by KARLEE IANKFORD



Photos courtesy of KENNEDY MIMS & BAILEY KIDD

SENIOR FRIENDS Tatum McMasters, Kennedy Mims and Olivia Hopkins stop for a quick picture before the prom, right, as did a group who posed in downtown Sapulpa near the courthouse for a few photo opportunities, far right. They are, from left, Bailey Kidd, Karlee Kuhlenschmidt, Lauren Wroten, Ruby Weaver, Macy Parker and Peyton McAllister.



Upper Elementary Dance



Trojan Pride Press Photos by KAYDEN ROBISON-QUINNELLY

While high school students were under the lights at the 2022 prom, fourth, fifth and sixth graders danced the night away at a dance of their own in the elementary school gym. By all reports, a fun time was in the making. Pictured are, from top left photo, Ellie Saxton and Madison Viera strike a pose; fifth graders Brinley Calvert and Cameron Peterson hang out at the photo booth; Carley Crosby and Audrey Calvert show off their "little black dresses;" and Tori Fisher and Journey Strunk put a little sass in their picture. At right, Meeko Freeman and Cameron Peterson show off their smiles for the camera. Above, left, Upper Elementary Dean of Students Randy Buntin adds a little more color to his mustache.

LAW DAY

FROM Page 2

vision and will receive a framed award along with a cash prize. Honorable mention in the category went to Brayden Taylor who will receive a certificate. Both entered poems for the competition.

"I'm always proud when students win in the Law Day competition because almost all of them start out by saying they can't write poetry," said high school English teacher Lorrie Quinnelly.

Topic for the 2022 competition was "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change." This year 1,331 students from 47 towns and cities and more than 70 schools and home school groups entered the contest.

"Law Day topics are always challenging

because they deal with the U.S. Constitution or the Oklahoma Constitution and laws, and often those subjects are somewhat foreign to students," Quinnelly said

"In class, we work on different techniques for developing a poem and putting those thoughts into a poetic form, some that rhyme and some that don't. Then students type their poems and they look like 'real poems,' and they can hardly believe they've come up with something that resembles poetry. For a teacher, it's a fun process to watch. When they earn cash for some of those poems, the whole assignment becomes a little more poignant," she said.

Topic for the 2022 competition was "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change."

Hannah Murrell's 1st Place Law Day Poem Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy ... Society says to love everyone
Love everyone, unless they have a different
political view from you

Love everyone, unless they are from a different
social class

Love everyone, unless they are of a different race
Love everyone when it is convenient for you
And that's just the way the world works

Hypocrisy ... Society says treat others the way you
want to be treated

Treat others the way you want to be treated by
laughing at them

Treat others the way you want to be treated by
saying cruel things

Treat others the way you want to be treated by
judging them

Treat others the way you want to be treated by
when it is convenient for you
And that's just the way the world works

Hypocrisy ... society's main issue
Self-absorbed, living for our own satisfaction
And that's just the way the world works

Editorial



Opinion Poll

How do you feel about required community service hours?



Anthony Brown

"40 hours is way too outrageous."



Josie Carr

"I think that they are beneficial."



Autumn Harris

"I think they should do them because it's a learning experience."



James Morsey

"I think it's a very good idea because it helps the community, but I do think 40 is a lot."

Letters to the Editor Policy

The *Trojan Pride Press* welcomes Letters to the Editor as a form of free speech and expression.

Letters to the Editor should address topics of interest to the student body, administration, faculty and staff at Kiefer High School, Kiefer Junior High and Kiefer Middle School as well as political issues and issues of local, state, national and international interest. They should **not** attack specific individuals not in the public eye or express any slanderous or libelous information. All Letters to the Editor **must be signed** by the writer and typed or neatly handwritten. Those that are submitted and illegible will not be printed.

Those individuals who would like to submit a Letter to the Editor of the *Trojan Pride Press* should drop their letters in Ms. Quinnelly's mailbox in the teachers' workroom or hand-deliver them to a member of the newspaper's staff.

More communication about service hours needed for students

Community service hours are required at Kiefer High School, and we believe that some changes could be made to make them easier to complete.

Kiefer requires 40 community service hours to graduate. We have them because community service is beneficial to students. It teaches us to be responsible and be more involved in the community in which we live.

One of the biggest issues that we have with required hours is that many people don't know about them. They are not publicized as much as they should be. Every student should know, and the best way to do that likely is through a freshmen orientation. That would be an ideal time for class sponsors or administrators to give students the heads up and offer suggestions for earning community service hours.

It's almost like teachers, class sponsors, even administrators assume we know about them without ever specifically stating that we need them. Most freshman and transfer students don't know that they are a requirement.

We see the benefit of community service hours, but we think that this should be communicated better to incoming freshmen and transfer students.

TROJAN PRIDE PRESS

The Trojan Pride Press is a production of the Journalism Class at Kiefer High School. It is a not-for-profit publication. Opinions expressed on the Editorial Page do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Faculty, Staff, or Administration of Kiefer Public Schools.

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Faculty Advisor: Lorrie Quinnelly



Sports



Trojan Pride Press Photos by GABBY COLLIER

KIEFER TRACK TEAM members stretch out in preparation for an afternoon practice.



Track team off, running

By **GABBY COLLIER**
And **SCARLET MITCHELL**

It's springtime, and that means track season is here.

More than 50 Kiefer High School students are out this season running or participating in various field games.

"There's not too much missing from the team, but more practice will surely make them better," said Trent Worley, one of several coaches working with the team. "There are a lot of people joining the track team this year, because people like to try new things, which gives (participants) a much bigger team helping them get where they need to be."

More people, Worley said, means more support.

In addition to running sprints, mid-di-stance and long-distance, track season also involves field events, such as shot put, discus, long jump and pole vaulting, a new event for Kiefer. Sophomores Jaxon Worley and Alston Carr are participating in the pole vault and hoping to bring home some honors for the Kiefer team.

Worley said all track athletes need to do to improve, is to "train to run quicker and swifter."

"They will get better if they push hard together and work on all of their (events) by themselves *and* as a team," he said. "As long as they want to, they can."

Schedule for the rest of the high school season includes:

- * April 8 – Hilldale
- * April 12 – Skiatook
- * April 19 – Vinita
- * April 23 – Tulsa 7 Conference Meet at Bristow
- * April 29-30 – OSSAA Regional Meet
- * May 6-7 – OSSAA State Meet

Junior high schedule for the season includes:

- * April 15 – Cushing
- * April 14 – Mannford
- * April 21 – Stroud
- * April 23 – Tulsa 7 Conference Meet at Bristow

Lifters build legacy

By **KATCH DALEY**
Staff Writer

Kiefer's powerlifting team has pulled its weight right into an promising year and is building a legacy all its own.

"Every lifter was able to hit a new personal record in at least one or more lifts (during a meet earlier in the season)," said head coach Ben Duncan. "This is always a positive thing that us coaches love to see and helps bring more motivation to the weight room."

Powerlifting is not a sport solely for guys. Kiefer's team sports girls as well. Those Lady Trojans include senior Kaylee Spangler, sophomores Jazi Yarrington, Ashley Eaton, Cheyenne Bills and Avery Stallsworth and freshman Lil Bacon.

"Every lifter has his/her own unique quality that he/she brings to this team," Duncan said.

"They are always finding ways to motivate each other. They celebrate each other's victories and successes, and have fun along the way.

"The coaching staff is excited about how this year has (been) and we are looking forward to having more success in the future," Duncan said.

Assisting Duncan with the teams are Jim Brown and Chris Miller.



Kiefer baseball fever rampant

Coach Sheldon Fairchild, far left photo, center, passes on a few tips to baserunners Hunter Sweeden, left, and Trey Ashford, right, during a recent game at Kiefer. Pitcher Major Linden, photo at right, hurls a pitch toward home plate.

Photos courtesy of the Kiefer Baseball Page

Yard signs

Don't miss out on an opportunity for a yard sign benefiting wrestling, contact **Coach Ryan Kowalewski** at rkowalewski@kiefer.k12.ok.us



Photo courtesy of the Powerlifting Page

Powerlifting honors

Kiefer High's guys powerlifting team poses with its Regional medal and honors. At state, the team finished at runners up, while individually, Tyler Rupert placed first and Jarett Mims placed second in their respective weight classes. Pictured are team members and coaches Bradley Breland, Trent Buntin, Nathan Figueroa, Colton Glover, Nick Harper, Nathan Howard, Coltin Hudgins, Jared Kanada, Kendall Lang, Dylan McGuire, Mims, Rupert, Koy Parrick, Bryce Phillips, Hudson Poindexter, Trevor Rupert, Noah Sharbutt, Jack Stemmons, Cade Valois, Jasper Vinson and Luke Witte. Coaches are Ben Duncan, Jim Brown and Chris Miller.

ACT

FROM Page 1

ents to dread the test or "sweat it."

Gaffen said it's better to approach the test logically and spend a manageable amount of time studying and preparing in advance of the test.

"That's true," said Kiefer High School English teacher Lorrie Quinnelly who has tutored the ACT for approximately 15 years. "Students who try to cram in everything the night before the test typically do not score any better than if they had not studied at all."

The ACT or the SAT is a student's ticket to college and scholarship money.

First, the tests are different. While both cover basic reading, math and English, the approach to the tests is different.

Gaffen said SAT math is more theoretical math while the ACT leans more toward practical math. Students, he said, have to think about the questions in different way on the SAT, often a way that is different from what is typical to classroom study.

When it comes to English and reading, Quinnelly said the vocabulary on the SAT is more difficult than the ACT. But that doesn't mean vocabulary is simple on either test, she said.

The SAT – Scholastic Assess-

ment Test – has been around longer and scores range from 400 to 1600 points. The current average national score is 1060. The math section contains both a section where students are allowed to use a calculator and a section where students are not allowed to use a calculator.

There are five different timed sections to the test since math has two sections with the optional essay writing section. There is no science section. Science topics are incorporated into the Reading section. Each section is timed and appears in the following order:

- * Reading – 65 minutes
- * Writing and Language – 35 minutes
- * Math with no calculator – 25 minutes
- * Math with calculator – 55 minutes
- * Essay – 50 minutes

According to the College Board's website, cost for the SAT is \$55, \$68 if a student chooses to write the essay portion. The SAT also is the first step toward determining National Merit scholars.

The ACT – American College Test – is newer in comparison to the SAT, but by the end of junior year students should have covered the four basic content areas of the exam covers – English, math,

reading and science. It's scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The current average national score is 20.3.

Calculators are allowed for the entire math section, and a separate science section is included. Like the SAT, the essay portion is optional. Each section is timed and appears in the following order:

- * English – 45 minutes
- * Math – 60 minutes
- * Reading – 35 minutes
- * Science – 35 minutes
- * Essay – 40 minutes

Students in Oklahoma are offered one free ACT test during their junior year, typically administered at their own school. Kiefer's juniors are set to test during the window opened between April 18-22. Students can take a total of 12 tests between the 8th and 12th grades, including any residuals they schedule.

ACT cost is \$63, \$88 if a student chooses to write the essay.

Quinnelly and Gaffen also had several other tips for students taking an ACT or SAT.

"It sounds like what your grandma says, but get a good night's sleep before the test and eat a good breakfast," Quinnelly said.

"Check your calculator batteries, before the test," Gaffen said.

SENIORS

FROM Page 2

to the topic.

"I'm pleased to see that our students took the topic seriously and worked on this essay," she said. "This was in addition to other essays for class that I require them to write, so they really worked hard."

ST. PADDY

FROM Page 1

brate a little bit," said Emma Millor, Kiefer's foreign exchange student. In her home country of Spain, though, there's none.

"I don't really celebrate it," said sophomore Jaylee Buck, "but we usually show pigs for FFA on the holiday every year."

Some students said they wore green that day or had foods colored green, like Millor. But since St. Patrick's Day generally falls during spring break, there's not much celebrating that goes on at school.

Traditional food includes corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, potatoes and meat pies. Green ribbons and shamrocks have been worn on St. Patrick's Day since at least the 1680s.

Irish immigrants to the U.S. said they wore green because leprechauns can't see green. It's the wee leprechauns who tell others to pinch anyone they see not wearing green.

Leprechauns developed from the Celtic belief in fairies – tiny men and women who could use their magical powers for good or evil. In Celtic folklore, leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of other fairies.

St. Patrick's Day, originally celebrated in Ireland, came to United States through Irish immigrants.