

TROJAN PRIDE PRESS

April 2022

Kiefer High School

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Coming Up ...

* DRIVER'S ED CLASS –

Students interested in taking the driver's education course taught by Mr. Giddens this summer should go to the KPS website at kiefer.k12.ok.us and fill out the online form. Students participating must be 15 by July 1, 2022. Cost is \$185. For more information, contact Giddens at jgiddens@kiefer.k12.ok.us.

* YEARBOOKS ON SALE –

Deadline for ordering and purchasing 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. Orders may be placed online or in person. For information, see Mrs. Capehart or the district website at kiefer.k12.ok.us. **Note:** No extra books will be ordered

*** GRADUATIONS – The Senior Class of 2022** is set to graduate at 7 p.m. Friday, May 13, on the high school football field. Eighth graders will graduate on Thursday, May 12.

*** LIBRARY CLOSING –** The library will be closing on Monday, May 2. Please return all outstanding books by May 9.

*** TUTORING – After-school tutoring** in the high school has ended for the term. Students who need additional help should speak with classroom teachers.

Space tops needs list for Kiefer

By CODY NEAL
Managing Editor

Just like every person, business, town and nation, schools have needs, needs that are unique to it and it alone. Kiefer Public Schools is no exception.

The Kiefer district is expanding quickly, and with more students comes more needs. The high school is already filling back up now that more students are moving here or returning from virtual classes to in-person classes due to the decline of Covid-19 cases.

See SCHOOL NEEDS, Page 6



Photo courtesy of the TROJAN BASEBALL PAGE

Hanging with the Stars

Kiefer High senior Jaxon Bevon gets on the level of Little League baseball players to shake hands with them as they crowd on the high school field to meet the players on Little League Night. Bevon is a senior who pitches and plays third base.

SAFE group offers place to be self

By GABBY COLLIER
Staff Writer

Want a way to fit in? SAFE might be the answer.

SAFE - Students Advocating for Equity – is a prospective student organization committed to promoting a culture of accept-

ance within our school and community through student advocacy, group discussion, and community service.

Student Council President Lillie Plane said the group is designed to give students who would like a group where they

are accepted – regardless of their race, ethnicity, politics, academic standing, popularity, gender, or participation in extracurricular activities – a place to go, a group of fellow students with whom to sit and talk.

See SAFE, Page 6



Photo courtesy of the TROJAN TRACK PAGE

College-bound runner

KHS senior Jonathan Figueroa has signed a scholarship offer to run cross country at Carl Albert Community College in Poteau. Pictured with Figueroa, seated, are his parents, Gerardo and Carmen Figueroa, and his brother, Nathan Figueroa, a sophomore.

Dress code not as strict, but still requires caution

By AUBRIE BRIDGEWATER
Staff Writer

Kiefer's dress code might not seem strict, but if you're not careful, you could be in trouble about what you wear.

"It frustrates me because I feel like ... I don't really care what kids wear to school as long as they are appropriately

covered up," said English teacher and senior class sponsor Monica Standiford.

"But I feel like the idea that if students push this issue, then they will continue to keep pushing and we will have discipline problems. So they feel like it's not a

See DRESS CODE, Page 3



Organizers hope to draw twirlers for guard clinic

By EMMALIE MAEZ and AUBRIE BRIDGEWATER

Get your flags and your flagpoles ready!

Kiefer High School's band is hosting a color guard clinic from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 5.

Color guard is the group of students who twirl flags and non-operational rifles in synchronized movements alongside the band.

"I would love to see people come out and be a part of this," said band director Brian Hayes.

The clinic is open to 8th through 12th grades and will be taught by Jennifer Money-Maez. No experience is necessary to participate.

Student participants will learn a short routine and some of the basic movements and skills

See COLOR GUARD, Page 6



Photo courtesy of JENNIFER MONEY-MAEZ

FRESHMAN COLOR GUARD member Emmalie Maez performs for the home stands as part of the band's halftime show earlier this year.

Kiefer Fun Facts

Did you know ...

* The rooms in the old high school were huge, but there was only one plug in.

News Shorts

KHS Band earns Superior ratings

Kiefer's **Pride of Trojanland Band** has earned all superior ratings at the OSSAA state concert band contest.

The competition was held at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Jr. High 2022-23 cheerleaders set

The 2022-23 Junior High School cheerleaders have been announced.

Eighth graders are **Lexi Wilson, Makenna Creekmore, Gabriella Aguilar, Maci Skelton, Libbee Pendergraft, Karyn Stogner, Kaitlyn McAulay, London Poindexter** and **Kierra Nelson**.

Seventh graders are **Riley Yarbrough, Kennedy McCarty, Sofia Bower, Jennah Bowman, Caylen Capehart, Khloe Vinson, Channing Hallow, Lilly Lincoln, Riley Johnston, Aubrie Yeahpau, Taytum Huss** and **Jaiden Brothers**.

Coach is Taylor Fairchild. Senior ad deadline set for yearbook

Senior Spotlight ads for Kiefer's 2021-22 yearbook are due to yearbook sponsor **Tiffany Capehart** by **Monday, May 2**.

Ads should be emailed to tcapehart@kiefer.k12.ok.us.

Kiefer Tech students honored

From Special Reports

Four Kiefer High School students have been named to Central Tech's 2021-22 National Technical Honor Society.

Those students are senior **Blake Chapman** and juniors **Jewelina Beard, Kevin Marquez** and **Cody Neal**.

The students have been honored for maintaining an A average in their technical programs and at least a B average in their high school classes, involvement in their technical leadership organizations, attendance and discipline. Each received a recommendation from their respective

instructors.

Chapman is enrolled in Central Tech's power sports program.

Marquez is enrolled in the welding program, while Beard and Neal are enrolled in the criminal justice program.

Inductions were earlier in April.



Medalists

Kiefer's FFA speakers show off their medals following the Regional Competition. They are, from left, sophomore Ry-lee Davidson, second place, 8-10 general agriculture; freshman Allison McGuire, third place FFA Creed; sophomores Jaylee Buck, first place, 8-10, general agriculture; and Emma Sutton, first place, plant science; and freshman Carli Brownfield, third place, 9th-grade opportunities.



Features



Trojan Pride Press Photo by SYDNEY RANDELMAN

Dog days art

KHS junior Dakota Baxter traces the outline of a dog as part of an assignment in art class.

MORP event approved, but no official date set

From Special Reports

KHS Students Council members are on the job again planning the school's annual MORP event.

Monica Standifird, student council sponsor, said the 2022 high school event recently was approved, and the group is awaiting a date on the calendar.

STUCO member Sarah Zapata said council members have been debating what kind of event they would like to present while awaiting approval of a date. Some members, she said, prefer a different kind of event than MORP has traditionally been.

Zapata said some STUCO members feel that a dance is often awkward and would prefer some sort of game night with snacks. Others would like to follow the tradition of a dance and

the more casual dress code.

Zapata said she likes the idea of allowing the student body to decide what kind of event they would like – game night or dance. But such a poll would take time and add to delays with scheduling.

STUCO member Saylor Worley said she really likes MORP.

"It allows you to flip the switch, with the girls asking the guys," she said. "It's so fun."

Worley said she is uncertain of a theme for the event, but she looks forward to planning and preparing for MORP.

In years past, MORP has been a dance planned in the early spring, prior to the prom. This year, the prom was earlier so planners could secure the venue at the Pearl District, and MORP fell to a date following the prom.

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 ...

Jeff Giddens – 8th Grade Math

Where did you receive your education? the University of Oklahoma

Any family members you want to tell us about? My wife of 36 years, Suzanne, and my two adult sons, Jonathan and Justin

How did you get into teaching? My family has a big teaching history, including my mom, grandfather, my wife, and more.

What do you like about teaching? I like dealing with students and seeing them grow.

Favorite class to teach? Math

Favorite class in school? Physical education



Jeff Giddens

Favorite food? Pasta

Favorite hobby? Fishing

Favorite book? "Don't ask me that"

Favorite TV show? The History Channel.

- Compiled by Kyra Russell,
Staff Writer

DRESS CODE

FROM Page 1

big deal, it doesn't matter.

"But when we have no adherence to this rule, it's more difficult to adhere to more important significant rules," Standifird said. "Plus, I also think that students should recognize the fact that they are at school and they should dress for school and not for more leisurely out of school activities. So I feel like people should be dressed a certain way for school."

Students who do not follow the school dress code typically are written up by teachers and addressed by either Trent Worley, Dean of Students, or Josh Howk, high school academic counselor.

"What would get kids written up for the dress code would be not following the rules in the handbook," Howk said.

The high school district handbook posted online says:

"If a style is too disruptive to the educational process or constitutes a threat to the safety and health of the student or others, or how others react to the student, it will not be permitted in school."



Editorial

Opinion Poll

What do you think the high school needs at this time?



Maddy Bonilla

"I think the school needs off-campus lunch."



Bryson Henderson

"There aren't enough clubs to participate in."



Dakota Baxter

"We need more school materials."



Alexia Taber

"I wish we could eat off campus lunch."

If we're making a list, we've got some suggestions

Objectively, we can say that no school is perfect and they all could use some improvements.

There are a few things that we believe would make our school a better facility and place for education.

One issue that is apparent in our school day is the need for more restrooms. We understand that it's not an issue of funds; it is an issue of plumbing.

To add a new restroom, workers would have to completely rework the plumbing and classrooms that reside in the hallway containing Mr. Mora, Mrs. Blankenship, Mr. and Mrs. Ramey, Mr. Giddens and Mrs. Standiford. Essentially, it would mean tearing apart that hallway – and possibly other parts of the current high school – in order to facilitate, well ... more facilities.

Another issue for students is the student parking lot. There are so many high school students who drive to and from school. That's too many cars and not enough spaces. As the years go on and the student body gets larger, this will become a more imminent problem.

And, the list of our electives is not as diverse as it once was. Covid-19 did a number on our selections, but it's about time that some of these classes return. We used to have electives – such as drama, choir, music appreciation and Native American studies – prior to the covid pandemic. We'd like to see those return.

While we know none of this can happen overnight, we can at least make our hopes and wishes known here.

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.

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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KHS Principal: Randy Shaw

Faculty Advisor: Lorrie Quinnelly



On the run, in the air

Sophomore Jaxon Worley hurls himself over the bar in the pole vault event (above, left) at a recent track meet. Worley is one of three who compete in the pole vault for the high school team. Alston Carr and Pepper Watashe also participate in pole vaulting, a newer addition to Kiefer's track and field events. Meanwhile, relay runner Shayna Hendrix, a junior, (above, right) pulls her leg of the race, baton in hand, and junior Nick Byrd (at left) sprints for a handoff to teammate Trent Sweeney, a senior.

Photos courtesy of the TRACK TEAM PAGE

COLOR GUARD

FROM Page 2

color guard members need to know.

Flags will be provided. Participants should be sure to wear or bring tennis shoes with them.

A sign-up sheet is in the high school office for those interested in participating. Sign-up is available through May 5.

For more information, contact Hayes or assistant band director Katelyn Baker. Would-be participants also may contact Money-Maez via email at jmoney@kiefer.k12.ok.us.

SCHOOL NEEDS

FROM Page 1

"The most urgent need of the school is to develop a plan to get our facilities prepared for growth," said Randy Shaw, high school principal/superintendent at Kiefer.

The student body is growing as fast as it can. The 456 Building for upper elementary students was the most recent addition to the district's facilities, and while it has done its job in terms of relieving the younger elementary of the fourth graders, it does not do much to assist in the growth of many activities such as band and sports.

A plan is in place to assist different activities, such as band and athletics, with growth, Shaw said. A multi-purpose/fine arts building has received voter approval, while repairs and renovations at the old high school facility are under way.

A need that is commonly mentioned among students is better parking for the high school. Several minor accidents have occurred in the parking lot this year alone, and daily the parking lot is filled to capacity.

Distinguishing teacher parking from student parking is also an issue. Parents or students often take up spots reserved for teachers in the mornings, which forces teachers to park in student parking.

Additionally, overcrowded buses are something that is familiar to most students at Kiefer.

"There are only three buses running daily," said Randy Buntin, Dean of the Students in the middle school and upper elementary. Each is packed with students, especially in the afternoon when they are transporting students home.

"Everybody (who) goes to the elementary to get off, rides the buses from here down to the elementary. So they're initially real crowded. But very quickly just from here to the elementary, it gets about normal," Buntin said.

The restroom shortage is one problem that has seen a recent surge. Shaw said due to some short-sighted planning for plumbing in the high school, it only has one restroom when it needs at least two. The problem lies in the fact that the whole southern hall would have to be torn down and rebuilt in order to install a second restroom.

SAFE

FROM Page 1

Currently, Plane said, the group is awaiting school board approval for official status, but approximately 12 are meeting as a preemptive measure to forming, on Wednesdays at lunch. The group is open to any student who would like to join them. Monica Standifird has agreed to be the group sponsor after school board approval, and Plane said the school board is

expected to vote on SAFE's formation in the summer.

"This is a safe club to help people who don't know how to stand up for themselves," said senior Saylor Worley.

Plane said the hope is that the group can help curb bullying problems and contribute to the school and town through community service projects. SAFE leaders have been kicking around the idea for the organization – which is similar to those on multiple other campuses in the area – for a couple of years.

Sports



Photo courtesy of the KHS GOLF TEAM PAGE

KHS GOLF TEAM members include, from left, juniors Tate Rader, Caleb Blankenship, Jamison Schumacher and Trey Ashford and sophomore Dillon Mackey. Not pictured is sophomore Brayden Taylor.

Kiefer golfers eye top titles

By **KATCH DALEY**
Staff Writer

Kiefer High's golf team has taken a swing at a state bid. The team finished second in the regional qualifier, the next step.

The team of four juniors and two sophomores has participated in six tournaments as of press-time. The team placed third in four of those tournaments and

fourth in one.

"I'm seeing more improvement with each tournament we play in," said Shelley Blankenship, who coaches the team with Colton Loomis.

The Trojans also placed third in the conference tournament. The outlook is promising, coaches believe.

Golf team members include

Caleb Blankenship, Trey Ashford, Jamison Shumacher and Tate Rader, all juniors, and sophomores Dylan Mackey and Brayden Taylor.

Ashford, Blankenship and Mackey all have metals for the top 10 individuals.

The golf team will tee off at regional and state competition in May.



Photo courtesy of AVERY STALLSWORTH

Lady Trojan powerlifters

All six Lady Trojan powerlifters qualified for Regionals, and four of the six qualified for State. They are, from left, Lil Bacon, Avery Stallsworth, Cheyenne Bills, Jazi Yarrington, Kaylee Spangler and Ashley Eaton.

Sports Shorts

Bacon tapped for All-Conference nod

Kiefer High School freshman **Lillian "Lil" Bacon** has been named to the **All-Conference Slow-Pitch Softball Team**.

Bacon, a right-handed batter, plays third base for the Lady Trojans.



Bacon

Meeting set for Football parents

A high school and junior high football parent meeting will be at **6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3**, in the **Caitlyn Mathis Event Center**.

Discussion will center on spring/summer/fall football ..



Hendrix



Coons

Lady Trojans earn basketball honors

Kiefer High School junior **Shayna Hendrix** and sophomore **Hannah Coons** have been tapped for newspaper honors.

Hendrix received honorable mention in the *Tulsa World's* All-World Team and honorable mention in the *Daily Oklahoman's* Class 3A Girls All-State Team.

Coons earned honorable mention in All-World Team and honorable mention the *World's* and the *Oklahoman's* Class 3A Girls All-State Teams.

Youth football registration set

Registration and sign-ups for first through sixth-grade football will be from **10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 30**, in the event center.

Parents should bring birth certificates for students intending to play. Cost is **\$120 per player, \$100 for multiple players**.