



MHS exPRESS

Outlaw wrestling competes in their first dual

Madison Contreras
Writer

Starting off their season on top, the Marlow High School Wrestling team continues to strive towards improving their skills.

Being ranked number two in the state for this season, the Outlaws have a lot of pressure to live up to their title.

This year, the main goal is to achieve a state championship for both the team and individual wrestlers.

In the past two years, the wrestling team has made it to state and received back-to-back runner up.

Adding to their history, the last two years have now brought the Outlaw Wrestling team record to three state runner-up titles.

Past having three events in November, the MHS Wrestling team started their district season on Tuesday, December 3, traveling to Blanchard High School to wrestle the Lions in a dual.

Despite the Outlaws losing to the BHS Wrestling team 39-35, they set their minds to practice harder.

Although the team has much to improve on before state, sophomore Case Rich, wrestler for the 120 pound weight class, explained why he feels this season will be a successful one.

“I’m feeling pretty good about this season because it just started and our team is looking pretty good,” Rich said. “We had three peo-



Pictured above is Case Rich competeing in a match

Photo taken by Hailey Sloan

ple out at our dual, but we still kept it pretty close, so it’s looking up.”

Wanting the best of his team, Head Coach Andy Howington, who has coached for the MHS Wrestling team for the past five years, has a different opinion.

Recalling the team’s last dual, Howington described a few steps the wrestlers will need to take before being able to advance in this season.

“We want to go and win it this season, but with the way we started out, that won’t happen,” said Howington. “To win, the kids have to

work harder and be as hungry as they were before.”

Noting the effort the team is giving now, junior Carson Moore, wrestler for the 195 pound weight class, stated what he feels the Outlaws need to accomplish to make it to state.

“Right now, I’m nervous because we are one of the teams that are expected to go out and put on a show at state. Even though we lost to Blanchard, I think it was kind of a wakeup call for us. We’re second in the state and I think everyone has just been coasting on that,” said Moore. “I think we need to get more mentally tough, and we need to have more of a heart for the sport. We need to work harder in practice by finding who we need to be drilling with in practice to make ourselves better.”

The Outlaws will attend the non-district Mid America Nationals Tournament in Enid, Oklahoma on Friday and Satur-

day, Dec. 13-14, where the top teams from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Missouri will wrestle each other.

Following this, the MHS wrestlers will travel to Harrisonville, Missouri on Friday, Dec. 20 for a tournament between over twenty schools.

The next event set to continue their fight towards state will be the MHS Wrestling team versus Watonga in a dual at home on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Will “Frozen II” really thaw a frozen heart?

Brianna Reed

Frozen delivered Disney magic in spades, with a heartfelt story about sisters, a duo of incredibly cute creatures and a massively successful hit in “Let It Go”. It all culminated in “Frozen” receiving widespread praise from critics and earning over \$1 billion at the worldwide box office. Now, six years later, “Frozen 2” is hitting theaters, though it is perhaps more to do with Frozen’s success than the story demanding it. “Frozen 2” doesn’t reach the heights of the first film, but with more complex emotional themes, there is still plenty of Disney magic.

Frozen 2 opens with a flashback to the king, voiced by Alfred Molina, and queen, voiced by Evan Rachel Wood, of Arendelle telling young Elsa and Anna a bedtime story about a magical enchanted forest and the indigenous people of Northuldra who live there. In the present, Queen Elsa, voiced by Idina Menzel, starts getting distracted by a siren call that only she can hear. While Anna, voiced by Kristen Bell, worries for her sister, Kristoff, voiced by Jonathan Groff, prepares to propose to Anna, and beloved snowman Olaf, voiced by Josh Gad, secure with permafrost, matures enough to have an existential crisis.

To the credit of screenwriters Jennifer Lee and Allison Schroeder, Frozen 2 finds a compelling way to continue the stories of Anna and Elsa, with the former film focused on protecting her sister while the latter is still struggling to find her place in the world. However, in the writers’ bid to give every character their own distinct arc, Frozen 2 winds up feeling a little bit like a hodge-podge of storylines that sometimes intersect. That is not to say the arcs are not strong because Frozen 2 does mine some very complex emotional themes for Anna, Elsa and even Kristoff’s storylines.

The Disney movie does not shy away from big and tough emotions, diving deep into some themes that are surprisingly dark for a children’s movie, though Frozen 2 does offer a roadmap for kids to deal with the emotions it brings up. Still, it is not as cohesive of a movie as Frozen was, which may be down to the sequel never even attempting to introduce a villain. Instead, Frozen 2 takes the risk of forgoing the typical Disney movie story structure for a more mature style - and while it does not entirely work, other aspects of the film are compelling enough to keep viewers engaged.

Like the best Disney animation, “Frozen 2” effectively operates on multiple levels. And like any follow-up to a major hit, it comes burdened with expectations that are challenging to fulfill. The first movie generated such a bracing gust of enthusiasm, “Frozen 2” will inevitably be nitpicked and judged against those lofty standards. Still, there is plenty to enjoy for those willing to chill out, and yes, let the past go.

Marlow High students helping others

Bralyn Stallons
Writer

With the month of December beginning, Marlow High School students have gotten into the Christmas spirit through helping others.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) organization had traveled to West Wind Assisted Living to decorate Christmas trees and doors, as well as to socialize with the members.

The organization is also in the process of donating teen gifts to the First Baptist Church’s Toy Drive for their community service project this month.

Sophomore Alexus King, FCCLA member, described what motivates her to volunteer.

“I volunteer because I love

to see the look on people’s faces when I help them,” said King. “Volunteering makes me feel like a better person.”

Another MHS organization that has brought an opportunity for students to help others this month is Student Council.

When the high school students returned from Thanksgiving Break, they were given the chance to participate in a friendly canned food drive competition.

The competition lasted from Monday, Dec. 2 to Tuesday, Dec. 10; all cans donated were given to the Marlow Samaritans, who use the donations to fill Christmas baskets for families in need.

Oklahoma Student Council President and junior Elena Holguin expressed how she believes taking part in helping others impacts MHS students.

“This will affect students because helping others makes

people feel good,” said Holguin. “This makes such a huge difference in other people’s lives.”

Ann Field, StuCo adviser, explained why students should participate in volunteer work.

“Students can benefit immensely from volunteer work,” said Field. “When they experience what it is like to take the focus off of themselves, they will see the world differently and can find a certain satisfaction in knowing that they have helped someone.”

Any class that reaches the minimum amount of 500 canned foods by the end date of Friday, Dec. 13 will be rewarded with extra lunch time - the overall winner will receive a class movie day.

With many more volunteer projects to come, MHS students will continue to strive to help others in any way that they can.

MHS senior excels with academics

Hailey Sloan
Writer

Whether it be through academics or being a positive figure to her other classmates, Marlow High School senior Jaci Strickland has made an impact on her fellow classmates.

Having been friends with Strickland since kindergarten, senior Valhana Woods explained how she has watched Strickland succeed throughout her journey in the academic field.

“Jaci will give 110% in any situation she’s in,” said Woods. “She has had good academic skills since elementary, and I would say her biggest accomplishment is recently getting accepted into Oklahoma State University.”

Strickland explained how she had always put education first, which has helped maintain her

Grade Point Average (GPA).

“Never procrastinate, procrastination is everyone’s biggest fault in high school,” said Strickland.

Making friends and working hard for straight A’s has been two of Strickland’s strongest qualities in her four years of high school.

Achieving friendship with Strickland earlier in life, senior Lindley Newberry explained how Strickland has always been a good friend.

“Jaci has always been there for me no matter what for the 14 years we have known each other,” said Newberry. “She has always supported me through whatever I’m doing. She will always be one of my best friends, and I love our friendship and how true it is.”

Never having a setback with friendships, maintaining a 4.0



Jaci Strickland

GPA is a major role in Strickland’s mindset about getting into college.

“My favorite thing about academics is that it’s the thing that gets you so far in life, and it has a great deal of meaning to some colleges,” said Strickland.

With success in mind, Strickland plans on attending Oklahoma State University to major in chiropractics and then continue her schooling at Parker University

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The MHS exPRESS encourages comments from the student body, faculty, and administration in the form of letters to the editor. All letters must include a name for consideration; however, the name may be withheld upon request. Letters should be sent to Room 105 at MHS.

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