



# MHS *ex*PRESS

## Bootleggers earn 4th state championship title

Kearsten Ball and Chloe Brooks  
Writers

Kicking their way to a state championship, the Marlow High School Bootleggers earned their fourth state title at the state competition on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Arriving at the Cox Business Center in Tulsa, the Bootleggers performed in the Pom and Kick portion of the competition, in which their kick routine sealed their 2-A, 3-A, 4-A Kick State Championship.

Since the end of football season in mid-November, the Bootleggers have tirelessly prepared to achieve a high award.

Finding that practice makes perfect, junior Grace Banks described the process of the team's preparation.

"It took lots of motivation and remembering our reason for being at practice," said Banks. "We had such limited time to practice before school, so much of our improvements came from everyone practicing the routine at home."

For three months, the team held their daily morning practices at 5 a.m. to perfect their routines.

Stepping up and becoming a leader of the team, senior Sydney Blundell expressed her actions to help inspire her fellow teammates.

"My coach encouraged me to do my best and be a good leader for my team," said Blundell. "I gave my girls speeches to make them work harder and want to win."



Pictured above is the Marlow High School Bootleggers performing at state competition.

Photo taken by Olivia Cantwell

Leesha Crowson, the Bootleggers head coach, explained her hope and pride into this year's squad.

"I had confidence that we would do well," said Crowson. "They performed during both halftimes of the Marlow vs. Washington basketball game, and it really boosted the girls' confidence levels. They were fun to watch and a crowd favorite."

With hours of dancing, kicking and exerting energy, after performing in front of judges, the MHS Bootleggers were announced as the 2019 Kick State Champions.

Being a part of the team since her freshman year, senior Lindley Newberry described her emotions as she received her first state

championship.

"Winning state was one of my top goals I had wanted to accomplish this year, and I got it," said Newberry. "It feels amazing to be a state champion. I feel accomplished - all of the hours of my hard work and dedication paid off. Not only me but also the whole team worked hard, and I don't know how to describe them as anything other than amazing."

Alongside Newberry, four year squad member Blundell expressed her achievement of aspiration.

"Being a state champion is the best feeling ever," said Blundell. "Being seniors on the team, Lindley and I had never won such a high achievement. Sharing that accomplishment with the team was special to me."

With the end of the Bootleggers season here, Crowson reflected on the skills and growth of the team.

"This group is so special because they all work together and get along so well," said Crowson. "While our Pom performance highlighted our energy, sass, strength of movement, projection and visuals, the kick performance fit our style because it's what we do all season."

The Bootleggers next season will begin with a dance bootcamp in February and tryouts in March where the team hopes to pick up their skills they left off with.

## Basketball opening season

Caleb Kimbro & Chloe Brooks  
Writer

Tipping off the 2019-2020 basketball season, the Outlaws and Lady Outlaws have begun with the girls being 5-1 and the boys being 4-2.

Both the Outlaws and Lady Outlaws started the season off at Davis and Lindsay, where the Outlaws beat Davis 52-44 and Lindsay 53-32, and the Lady Outlaws beat Davis 42-23 and Lindsay 50-27.

For the Outlaws, senior Seth Aguilera viewed their first game as a stepping stone to mesh their skills and get a quality win.

"The first game was rough because we have never played with each other, but after that, we figured out each other's strengths and weaknesses and built off that to lead us to our next two wins," Aguilera described. "I think that we have a very good future ahead of us if we keep working hard every game and keeping our heads up even when things don't



Photo taken by Luke Davis

go our way."

Traveling back to Marlow for their first home game, the Outlaws and Lady Outlaws were both triumphant over Washington as the Outlaws won 58-45 and the Lady Outlaws won 45-30.

With a strong home-opener statement, sophomore Korie Kizarr felt proud and motivated to keep their early success going.

"I think our first home game went very well. It always feels good beating Washington, since we have not beaten them in awhile," Kizarr said. "We just need to make sure to keep up the

intensity, no matter what our record is."

After an exceptional 3-0 run, the Outlaws and Lady Outlaws competed in the Okemah tournament, where they were met with with a combined three losses.

Despite the losses, the Outlaws and the Lady Outlaws earned the consolation championship title and received fourth place.

Hoping to ring in the new year with two wins, the Outlaws and Lady Outlaws will be traveling to Lexington on Tuesday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m.

## Pope manages the sidelines

Lanie Leach  
Writer

Helping along the sideline at every game, senior Cheyenne Pope holds the title of boys basketball manager.

Supplying water and encouraging the team to play their hardest, Pope is a leading contributor to the behind the scenes success of the basketball team.

Experiencing Pope's dedication to her role on the team first hand, head coach Kirk Harris explained the team's appreciation for Pope.

"Cheyenne consistently supports our team," Harris said. "She is always there to help during practice and games. She also runs the clock during holiday practices and Sunday night shoot around."



Cheyenne Pope

Not only is her love and support for the game spread to the players on the team but also her fellow basketball manager.

Senior manager Rebecca McPherson vocalized Pope's respect for her job as basketball manager.

"Cheyennes attitude toward

being a manager is great, and she loves doing it," said McPherson. "She cares for others and wants to help them with whatever they need."

Pope herself described the process of being a basketball manager and the role that she takes on game days.

"My job is to make sure we have everything we need: book, water bottles, and other things the players need for the game," Pope explained. "I also keep the book for away games and hand out water at the home games."

Pope believes that by being a basketball manager, she has learned responsibility and the skill of coordinating chaos.

After high school, Pope plans to attend Cameron University and receive a bachelor's degree in nursing science, specializing in labor and delivery.

## Vocal department sings of Christmas traditions

Madison Contreras  
Writer

Taking a break from learning contest music, the Marlow Vocal Program put on a holiday concert on Thursday, December 12 in the high school auditorium.

Students in grades sixth through twelfth that are involved in the Marlow High School Entertainers Choir, the MHS General Chorus, and the Marlow Middle School Choir were a part of the performance.

In an effort to expand the vocal music program at the middle school, students below seventh grade performed alongside the high school choirs for the first year since 2017.

With the concert's theme being "Christmas! Everything Christmas," the students dressed out in all types of holiday colors and ugly holiday sweaters.

Junior Rachel Retherford,

Entertainers' vice president and soprano vice section leader, explained how the songs brought about the Christmas spirit.

"Before the concert, I felt excited yet worried because I felt like I didn't really know all the words due to learning so many songs," said Retherford. "After the concert, I felt wonderful and happy. We had a great turn out, and the songs just left a magical feeling in the air that made me want to watch the Polar Express in my pajamas."

While showing her contentment with the show, Vocal Director Sara Pitts noted the students have continually improved their singing ability since the beginning of the year.

"I am always so happy after concerts because the students are able to show everyone how hard they have worked and what beautiful music they can make," Pitts said. "For this concert,

my favorite piece was "White Christmas." Hearing all of the voices come together is always such a fun experience for me."

The Marlow Vocal Programs are now focused on preparing for contests, including large ensemble, solo and small ensemble contests.

Traveling around Oklahoma, the choirs will compete at Vocal All-State January 15-18, District Solo and Ensemble Contest on March 7, District Large Ensemble Contest on March 11, State Large Ensemble Contest on April 2-3, and State Solo and Ensemble Contest on April 23-24.

After the multitude of contests, the MHS Entertainers is set to have an exclusive Beatles themed performance for the high school in the first week of May.

This will be followed by another concert including all Marlow choirs that will be available to the public for one night.



Photo taken by Hailey Sloan

Marlow High School sophomore Landry O'Neal begins practicing her music she had received from the All-State Band competition. O'Neal traveled to West Moore High School on Saturday, Dec. 10 to audition for the All-State Band. With hours of practice and hard work, O'Neal placed 9 out of 10 in the flutes for symphonic band out of all 2A-6A competitors. O'Neal is the second sophomore to make the All-State Band since band director Billy Daniel started in Aug. of 2002. The All-State Band Concert that O'Neal will perform in will take place on Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2:30 p.m. and the location will later be determined.



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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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