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Osage City FFA members attend national convention

Osage City FFA Chapter members Jaiton Bosse, Chyanne Wiley, Avery Thielen, Kimberly Knauber, Brenton Seastrom, Brody Thompson and Wyatt Pope, along with FFA advisor Danny Rice and his wife, Terry, attended the 98th National FFA Convention "Empower" in Indianapolis, Ind., in late October.

The group headed out the morning of Oct. 28, stopping to eat at the Old Spaghetti Factory, and to visit the famous and historical St. Louis Gateway Arch and Museum before arriving in Indiana. The second day, the students attended the National FFA Career Fair and Expo, and the Opening General Session. The Career Expo allowed students to explore various agriculturalrelated businesses and universities from across the nation. Students also had the chance to visit the National FFA Shopping Mall and many other agriculture and western retail stores, including Cowboy Podcaster and Rodeo Time retail clothing owner Dale Brisby. Next, they attended the first session of the convention at Lucas Oil Field Stadium, with nearly 75,000 members and guests, where they heard inspiring words from national officers, Indiana Governor Mike Braun, and A'ric Jackson, with mes-



Members of the Osage City FFA Chapter, from left, front row, Avery Thielen, Chyanne Wiley and Jaiton Bosse; back row, Kimberly Knauber, Brody Thompson, Wyatt Pope and Brenton Seastrom, traveled to Indianapolis, Ind., in October to attend the 98th National FFA Convention.

sages to inspire students to make an impact and lead with purpose. The group ended the evening at the 13th Hour Haunted House.

Day three took the students on agriculture tours, beginning at the University of Purdue, College of Agriculture, led by a student who was a former student at Rock Creek High School in Kansas. Students were educated on how the university teaches such things as entomology, animal science, horticulture and food science. They then headed to Fair Oaks, Ind.,

where they visited one of the largest dairies in North America. Students witnessed firsthand how technology plays a part of agriculture from the production and processing side of the dairy industry. Following the dairy tour, the students visited a portion of the Fair Oaks Dairy with a swine tour. The facility hosts 2,800 sows, where they farrow out nearly 80,000 pigs per year. After supper at Culvers, students reflected on their trip and worked on a presentation, which they will share with USD 420 board members

and Superintendent Ted Hessong.

As the trip came to an end on the final day, the group stopped at the Blue Springs Caverns, the longest underground navigable river in North America, where everyone boarded a boat for the tour. Tired. but inspired and motivated, the students got back to Osage City the evening of Oct. 31, filled with great memories, positive experiences, new friends, and a better understanding of what the National FFA Organization can offer to students.

Burlingame USD 454 Students share classroom project with board

 ${\tt BURLINGAME-The}$ regularly scheduled Nov. 12 meeting of the Burlingame USD 454 Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Board President Melissa Droege.

Miranda Gardner and fourth-grade students shared a recent classroom project with the board.

The board went into an executive session to discuss confidential student information pursuant to the exception relating to actions adversely or favorable affecting a student under KOMA, with Marcy Cassidy, Taylor Montgomery, Shelley Banzhaf, Kaylee Slater, Makenna Lang, and April Lang attending.

The board approved the printed agenda as presented, then approved the consent agenda, consisting of the Oct. 8 meeting minutes, the activity funds reports, the snow removal bid, and the employment of Darian Summers as classroom aide.

Also approved by the board was the payment of the warrants and the treasurer's report as presented.

The junior/senior high school honor roll was presented, the 2025-2026 Hall of Fame recipient was discussed, and an update on the high school gym mural was presented.

In new business, the board approved the financial statement and independent auditor's report for June 30, as presented.

Taylor Montgomery reported on student attendance, student behaviors, the food drive, and the school play.

Shelley Banzhaf reported on student attendance, parent-teacher conference attendance, the Quarterly Success Celebration, the Veterans Day program, and upcoming events, including the Country Christmas activities and the winter programs.

Jamie Bowman reported on the November Three Lakes Special **Education Cooperative** meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Gantenbein initiated into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. Kaityn Gantenbein, Osage City, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at The University of

She is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff, and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa

Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only, and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

School Resource Officer Honored



Jacob Burrell, School Resource Officer (SRO) at Overbrook Attendance Center (OAC), was a recipient of the NextGen Under 30 Award during a ceremony Nov. 8 in Wichita. The award recognizes outstanding young professionals across Kansas who demonstrate innovation, creativity, and leadership in their fields. Burrell was honored in the Education K-12 category, highlighting his commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment for students and staff at OAC.

LEMS November Students of the Month



Lyndon Elementary and Middle School ROAR students of the month of November are, from left, front row, Brantley Robinson, Cheyenne Wiley, Charlotte Shoup, and Hadley Heckel: middle row, Emilia Bronson, Jaxon Uttinger, Lane Burkdoll, Rowdy Neilson, Damien Crookham, Abby Smith, Emma Schmidt, and Hunter Turkin; back row, Dominic Horne, Ryker Smith, Ayvah Shepard, Hunter Bichel, Leina Girard, Ellie Scott, Chelsea Green, and Sydney Burkdoll.

LHS Student Places Fourth



Lyndon High School freshman Loki McClintock attended Kansas State University's annual High School Coding Competition on Nov. 5. He competed in the team competition, as an individual, against other high school teams from across the state, and took fourth place overall, in the beginner category, out of 18 teams, missing third place by only four points. Solutions to the contest problems required numerical calculations, string manipulation, single-dimensional arrays, and logical decisions.







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