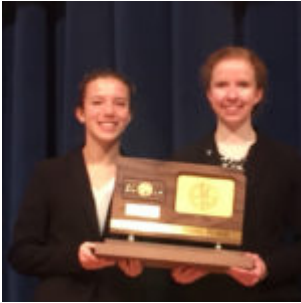


# Anderson, Holtzen take third at state debate



Louisburg High School's Isabelle Holtzen (left) and Grayson Anderson pose with their Class 4A third-place trophy following the state debate tournament on Jan. 21 at Lyons High School.

LYONS – Greyson Anderson and Isabelle Holtzen were filled with negative thoughts in one of the most important times of their season.

In most competitions, that kind of pessimism can spell doom and gloom. Not debate.

Anderson and Holtzen argued on the negative side of things during the final day of the Class 4A state debate tournament Jan. 21 in Lyons. Those arguments served them well as the Louisburg High School duo finished in third place for the second consecutive season.

When it was all over, there was nothing but positivity.

“At the beginning of the year, Grayson and I were both hoping that we would have a good year,” Holtzen said. “We were hopeful that we could make it to state again. When we got to state and made it to the semifinals, we couldn’t believe it. Grayson and I were extremely excited that we were blessed enough to take third place again.”

The road to another third place state trophy wasn’t an easy

one. The LHS debate team left Louisburg around 5:45 a.m. that Friday to head to Lyons and the team didn't return until 2 a.m. the following Sunday morning.

State didn't get off to a great start as Holtzen and Anderson began the tournament with a 1-3 record in the preliminary rounds. On Saturday, they picked up it up by winning two preliminary rounds to even their record and advanced to the elimination out-rounds.

Holtzen and Anderson went on to win the double octofinal, octofinal and quarterfinal round that eventually helped them to that third-place trophy.

"State debate is very intense and rigorous," Anderson said. "We suffered a pretty severe setback after the first day so that really challenged our character and tenacity. The tournament was emotionally and mentally exhausting but I was very proud of our team and coming from behind made the success that much sweeter."

The key to the debaters' success Saturday was arguing to their strength. Anderson and Holtzen argued the negative side in each of their rounds.

"This year being able to debate with Grayson throughout the year helped a lot because we were able to become more comfortable with each other," Holtzen said. "On Friday we had four rounds and we argued both the affirmative and negative sides, but on Saturday we only argued the negative.

"Both Grayson and I prefer the negative side. In the state tournament we only lost one round while arguing negative. Being able to argue that all day Saturday really contributed to our success because we are better at it."

Saturday was a long day for the entire Wildcat debate team as competition lasted from early morning until late in the evening. But the Wildcat pair got a lot of help from teammates

who came up short in their competitions.

Brooke Talmage, McKenzie Vanmeerhaeghe, Calvin Cassida, Nathaniel Mason, Janae Kuhlman and Flynn Langner all did work throughout the day.

“Even though the three other teams didn’t break to out-rounds, every one of our teammates played a key role in our success,” Anderson said. “Brooke, McKenzie, Flynn, Calvin, Nathaniel, and Janae were in other rounds scouting cases and strategies for future rounds. There was a whole group of people that contributed to that trophy and I am very proud to call them my teammates.”

Holtzen couldn’t agree more.

“Throughout the day having teammates and a coach helping you stay focused is very helpful,” Holtzen said. “They were always there between rounds to keep our energy up and they were really key in our success.”

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## LHS Winter Royalty for 2017



The Louisburg High School 2017 winter homecoming candidates are (front row from left) Avery Aust,

**Julia Walker, Kaitlyn Gaza, Ava Littrell; (back row) Sam Guetterman, Mason Koechner, Ben Hupp and Noah Juarez.**



Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students and faculty. All of it is of course is centered around the crowning of the 2017 winter king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday inside the LHS gymnasium in between the varsity boys and girls games against De Soto. The boys game is scheduled to tip at approximately 7:30 p.m.



**Ava Littrell and Noah Juarez**

### **Ava Littrell**

Ava is the daughter of Kyle Littrell. Ava has been involved with volleyball for three years, football manager for three years, forensics for two years, track for one year, basketball for one year and Spanish Club for one year. She is currently undecided on a college but is looking to major in nursing.

### **Noah Juarez**

Noah is the son of Tony and Susan Juarez. Noah has been involved in soccer for four years, Leo's Club for three years,

musicals for three years, choir for three years, girls soccer manager for two years and chess team for one year. He is currently undecided on a college, but is looking to play soccer and major in athletic training.



**Mason Koechner and Julia Walker**

### **Julia Walker**

Julia is the daughter of Pat and Jeri Walker. Julia has been involved with band for four years, choir for four years, musicals for four years, FCA for three years, volleyball for two years, National Honor Society for two years, Scholar's Bowl for one year, forensics for one year and Leo's Club for one year. She plans to attend Johnson County Community College for one year and then attend the University of Kansas to get a PHD in psychology.

## **Mason Koechner**

Mason is the son of Scott and Beth Koechner. Mason has participated in football for four years, wrestling for four years, track for four years, Letterman's Club for three years, choir for three years, FFA for two years, Leo's Club for two years, Model UN for two years, debate for one year and chess club for one year. He is currently undecided on a college, but plans to play football.



**Avery Aust and Sam Guetterman**

**Avery Aust**

Avery is the daughter of Brian and Shannon Aust. Avery has been involved with cheerleading for four years, National Honor Society for two years, debate for two years, forensics for two years, select choir for two years, SADD for one year, women's choir for one year, mixed choir for one year and softball for one year. She plans to attend Kansas State University and major in nutrition and health to obtain a pre-physician's assistant degree.

### **Sam Guetterman**

Sam is the son of Ted and Lisa Guetterman. Sam has participated in FFA for four years, basketball for four years, baseball for three years and football for two years. Following high school, he plans to attend Kansas State University.



**Ben Hupp and Kaitlyn Gaza**

### **Kaitlyn Gaza**

Kaitlyn is the daughter of Kerry Melissa Gaza. Kaitlyn has participated in Leo's Club for four years, FFA for four years,

track for four years and cross country for two years. She plans to attend Kansas State University and major in animal science to become a veterinarian.

### **Ben Hupp**

Ben is the son of Scott and Cynthia Hupp. Ben has participated in football for four years, wrestling for four years, track for three years, Letterman's Club for two years and band for one year. Ben plans to attend Johnson County for two years and then enroll in the University of Kansas medical program.



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## **Top 10 stories of 2016**



Here are the Louisburg Sports Zone Top 10 Stories of the Year. In each brief explanation of the story, there will be a link to the full story of when the event actually happened. Thanks again for a successful 2016 and I am already looking forward to 2017.

## **10. LHS golf qualifies three for the state tournament**



**Hogan Welch (left), Ty Martin (middle) and T.J. Svoboda all earned a spot in the Class 4A state golf tournament in May.**

Three Louisburg High School golfers put together a strong performance in less-than-ideal weather conditions during the Class 4A regional tournament in May.

Hogan Welch, T.J. Svoboda and Ty Martin all three earned qualifying scores to earn a spot in the Class 4A state tournament in the rain at Dub's Dread Golf Course. At the state tournament, Welch led the way as he shot an 84 to finish

34th overall in his second consecutive state tournament.

## **9. Tappan, Conklin win state debate crown**



**Carson Tappan (left) and Curran Conklin (right) pose for a picture with their state championship debate trophy with coach Brian Weilert.**

After 11 rounds and 17 hours of debate over two days, Carson Tappan and Curran Conklin didn't have a lot more left to give.

But all that hard work paid off for the Louisburg High School duo.

During the Class 4A 2-speaker state debate tournament at Independence High School, Tappan and Conklin were awarded

their first state championship after finishing with an 11-0 record.

They weren't the only Louisburg team to come home with some hardware.

Sophomores Isabelle Holtzen and Grayson Anderson found themselves among the final four teams as well. Despite a close split-decision loss in the semifinals, Holtzen and Anderson finished third to win their first state trophy.

## **8. Three Wildcats win regional track titles, qualify 11 events for state**



**Chloe Renner (left), T.J. Dover (middle) and Isabelle Holtzen won regional titles in their respective events in May at the regional meet in Chanute.**

Louisburg High School students Isabelle Holtzen, Chloe Renner and T.J. Dover were among several members of the Wildcat track teams to have big performances at the Class 4A regional meet in May at Chanute High School.

Holtzen won a regional crown in the pole vault, while Renner won the triple jump to lead the Lady Cats as they qualified for six events total. Louisburg sent all three relay teams

that consisted of Kaitlyn Gaza, Mikayla Quinn, Megan Lemke, Reilly Alexander, Jordon Leach, Hanna Becker, Lauren Becker, Shaylor Whitham, Liz Hildreth and Holtzen. Sophie McMullen also earned a spot in the discus.

Dover captured a regional crown in the discus as he recorded a personal best throw of more than 150 feet. He was one of five events to go to the state meet. Teammate Jarod Woodward also qualified in the shot put, while Chris Williams did the same in the 400 dash.

Brandon Cooper, Quinn Rigney, Ben Minster, along with Williams, helped the 4×100 relay team earn a spot, while Wyatt Reece, Ben Hupp, Tanner Belcher and Michael Minster also qualified in the 4×800 relay.

## **7. FFA wins three state titles, shines at national competition**



Members of the LHS FFA chapter won three state titles in May and later traveled to nationals in October and brought home several honors.

After three Louisburg High School FFA teams won state titles in their respective career development events in May at the state competition, those same students performed well at the nationals.

Louisburg sent three teams to the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and all three were among the top in their respective Career Development Events (CDE). Each team received a gold emblem, while 11 of the 12 members who attended received individual gold emblems as well.

Paige Buffington, Wyatt Reece, Georgia Wilde, Justin Sievert, Hattie Harris, Hallie Hutsell, Faith Seuferling, Mariah Wrigley, Madelynn Yalowitz, Bryn O'Meara, Morgan Strumillo and Lexie Reece all came away with honors from nationals.

## **6. Cross country sends three to state, Moore captures medal**



**Freshman Trinity Moore became the first female runner in Louisburg history to capture a state cross country medal.**

Louisburg High School freshman Trinity Moore didn't look like a first-year varsity runner at the Class 4A state cross country meet as she finished 19<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 20 minutes and 54 seconds – just 10 seconds off her personal best time. That finish was good enough to earn a state medal and became the first female runner in Louisburg history to do so.

Moore joined juniors Wyatt Reece and Tim Smith as all three runners competed in the state meet in Wamego in October. Reece and Smith finished 48th and 68th, respectively, just a week after finishing in the top five at the regional meet.

## 5. Koechner, Keegan earn medals as Wildcat wrestling puts five to state



Louisburg's Mason Koechner was one of two medalists for the Wildcats at the Class 4A state wrestling tournament in February. Koechner finished third at 220 pounds and teammate Nathan Keegan was sixth at 120 pounds.

For the first time since 2011, a member of the Louisburg High School wrestling team left the Class 4A state tournament with a medal – in fact – two of them did.

Mason Koechner and Nathan Keegan finished in the top six of their respective weight classes at state meet in Salina.

Koechner took third overall at 220 pounds, while Keegan came in sixth at 120 pounds.

Along with the two state medalists, the Wildcats also sent three other wrestlers to state. Anders Vance (285 pounds), Thad Hendrix (113) and Hunter Bindi (106) competed for Louisburg as it qualified five for state for the second consecutive season.

## **4. Griffin signs with New Orleans Saints**



**Photo courtesy of the New Orleans Saints**  
**Louisburg native, and Air Force Academy graduate, Garrett**  
**Griffin, was signed to the New Orleans Saints practice squad**  
**in August.**

In early June, Garrett Griffin received his diploma from the Air Force Academy and shook hands with the President of the United States.

That event alone is enough to top most people's list of

accomplishments. Four days later, Griffin fulfilled a life-long dream.

Following his graduation from the Air Force, Griffin was signed by the New Orleans Saints and his dream of playing professional football became a reality. The Louisburg native competed in the Saints training camp and later earned a spot on the team's practice squad, where he currently resides.

### **3. Wildcat football rallies around coach, ends playoff drought**



**The Louisburg High School football team celebrates its regional championship and its first playoff win in four years.**

The season didn't get off to the start members of the Louisburg High School football team were hoping for. The Wildcats dealt with the departure of head coach Kyle Littrell before the season, but instead of letting it define their season, it made them stronger.

Louisburg rallied behind its former coach and the Wildcats won their first playoff game in four years after they defeated Independence in November to win a regional title. The Wildcats lost to eventual state champion Bishop Miege in the sectional round of the playoffs and ended their season with an 8-3 record.

## **2. Girls soccer team wins regional crown during inaugural season**



**The Louisburg girls soccer team celebrates its regional championship in the Wildcats' inaugural season.**

As the final buzzer sounded, members of the Louisburg girls soccer team rushed to each other in the middle of the field at the Wildcat Sports Complex. It was a sense of euphoria.

The Wildcats had every reason to be excited.

Louisburg – a program that has been in existence for all of two months – won its first regional title in program history in May after it ousted Basehor-Linwood in a 3-1 victory during the regional championship game. The win put the Wildcats in the state quarterfinals, where their season came to an end with 3-1 loss to De Soto and finished up with a 14-4-1 record on season.

## **1. Boys soccer advances to state final four**



**The Louisburg High School boys soccer team made history this past season as the Wildcats earned their first state quarterfinal victory and a spot in the Class 4A final four.**

The state quarterfinal round had been nothing but heartbreak

for the Louisburg High School boys soccer team.

In their previous six appearances, the Wildcats have seen their season come to an end and those players were left only to dream what playing in the state final four would be like.

There was no imagining this time around.

Louisburg got a goal in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute from senior Herman Knipp to give the Wildcats a 1-0 victory over Trinity Academy in the state quarterfinals in Louisburg. The Wildcats moved on to the Class 4A state final four in Topeka in November, where they took fourth – the best finish in program history.

The Wildcats (14-6-2) finished their season with losses to eventual state champion Bishop Miege and Andover Central, but doubled their number of wins from the prior year.

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## **Wildcat debate makes history with league title**



The LHS debate 4-speaker team of (from left) Brooke Talmage, Isabelle Holtzen, Greyson Anderson and McKenzie VanMeerhaeghe won the Frontier League title on Nov. 5 in Spring Hill. The four members finished with a combined record of 10-0 to become Louisburg's first undefeated league champion.

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The Louisburg High School debate team has challenged itself this season by competing in tournaments against bigger schools and better competition.

That tougher schedule seems to have paid off in a big way as the Wildcats successfully defended their Frontier League title on Nov. 5 at Spring Hill High School. The 4-team speaker team of Brooke Talmage, McKenzie VanMeerhaeghe, Isabelle Holtzen and Grayson Anderson went undefeated to win the league championship and made a little history in the process.

The Wildcat quartet made a statement as they became the first 4-speaker team in Louisburg history, and just the fourth in league history, to earn an undefeated league crown. Anderson now has back-to-back titles under her belt as she was lone returner from the league championship team a year ago.

“It meant a lot to me to be a part of the league team,” Anderson said. “It was a great group of girls and I was super proud of our performance this year. The fact that both teams went 5-0, making it an historic showing for Louisburg debate, was stellar and I could not have asked for a better end to that day.”

Anderson joined Holtzen as the two argued on the negative side, while Talmage and VanMeerhaeghe debated on the affirmative side. The Wildcats are being led by first-year coach Claire Haflich as both teams earned five victories on the day, but it wasn’t always easy.

Holtzen, who took third at state last season with Anderson in the 2-speaker format, wasn’t used to the 4-speaker setting, but it didn’t show in the final results.

“The toughest part of the day for me was only debating one side of the argument,” Holtzen said. “Normally I debate both sides in 2-speaker. It was a very different experience, but I

really enjoyed it.

"I was super excited when (coach) Haflich asked me to go to league to try to defend our league title. It's super cool to become part of school history and to do it with an extremely talented group of girls beside me."

Under Haflich, the Wildcat program has decided to compete in tougher tournaments throughout the season, many of which are against Class 6A teams. Although the Wildcats aren't bringing home as many medals or awards as the year before, they hope this will prepare them for the ultimate prize, which is a state title.

"Competing at challenging tournaments has been very beneficial for the growth and improvement of our team," Anderson said. "We have had a lot of novice move up to open and had very competitive performances. The higher level competition has given us insight to many different arguments, cases and has taught the team the importance of adaptability. I am very excited to see what the rest of the season has in store."



**Louisburg's (from left) Amber Pendell and Janae Kuhlman won the 2-speaker competition on Nov. 5 at Spring Hill, while teammates Sydney and Demi VanMeerhaeghe took second.**

Although they didn't compete for a league title, the Wildcats still had several teams who did well in the 2-speaker formats at Spring Hill.

Janae Kuhlman and Amber Pendell finished with a 5-0 record on the day to finish first, while Sydney VanMeerhaeghe and Demi VanMeerhaeghe went 4-1 to take second. Garrett Rolofson and Deven Wieland, who normally compete in the novice division, moved up to the open class and had a 3-2 record to finish third in their first advanced tournament.

The Wildcats have also experienced success throughout the season as Anderson and Nathaniel Mason went 5-0 and finished second at the Spring Hill tournament on Oct. 29.

On Oct. 15, Louisburg traveled to Olathe South where the defending Class 4A 2-speaker state champions Carson Tappan and Curran Conklin went 5-0 to take first, while Skylar Keaton and Holtzen went 4-1 to take fourth. Alex Axmann and Dillon Keegan finished seventh.

The Louisburg novice team went to De Soto on Oct. 8 and finished second overall. Cole Williams and Gabe Rader went 4-1 to finish second, while Calvin Johnson and Sam Kratochvil took eighth.

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## Louisburg FFA brings home honors from nationals



The Louisburg FFA Milk Quality team finished fifth overall at the 89th Annual FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. Members of the team are (from left) adviser Jim Morgan, Justin Sievert, Wyatt Reece, Georgia Wilde and Paige Buffington.

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The Louisburg High School FFA chapter is no stranger to success as the Wildcat students annually bring home awards from the National FFA Convention.

This year was no exception.

Louisburg sent three teams to the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and all three were among the top in their respective Career Development Events (CDE). Each team received a gold emblem, while 11 of the 12 members who attended received individual gold emblems as well.

Those were just some of the honors bestowed on the Wildcat FFA program at the gathering that wrapped on Oct. 22.

“The FFA members did a tremendous job,” Louisburg advisor Jim Morgan said. “Having all three teams place in the gold division is quite an accomplishment. Louisburg FFA is the only chapter from Kansas to accomplish this and the only single-teacher chapter in the nation.

“Also having 11 out of 12 members achieve gold division is a sign of the student’s academic skills as well as their strong work ethic and desire to do well. We had many hours of practice during the summer and after school in which they worked very hard. I am very proud of this group.”



**Members of the Louisburg Poultry team are (from left) adviser Jim Morgan, Faith Seuferling, Hallie Hutsell, Mariah Wrigley and Hattie Harris.**

Louisburg has its best showing in the Milk Quality and Product CDE. The Wildcat team Paige Buffington, Wyatt Reece, Georgia Wilde and Justin Sievert finished fifth nationally in the event and all four members earned individual gold emblems.

The Poultry team also earned a top 10 finish nationally as Hattie Harris, Hallie Hutsell, Faith Seuferling and Mariah Wrigley came in seventh overall. Harris, Hutsell and Seuferling were all awarded individual gold emblem, while Wrigley earned a silver emblem.

Madelynn Yalowitz, Bryn O'Meara, Morgan Strumillo and Lexie Reece led the Louisburg Floriculture team to a gold emblem, but were also recognized some individual performances. Yalowitz, a senior, finished eighth individually, along with garnering an individual gold emblem with the rest of her

teammates.



**Members of the Louisburg Floriculture team are (from left) adviser Jim Morgan, Morgan Strumillo, Madelynn Yalowitz, Lexie Reece and Bryn O'Meara.**

Yalowitz and Wilde also earned \$400 in scholarship money for their efforts in their respective events.

The convention made the move from Louisville to Indianapolis this year and Morgan said his students enjoyed their week FFA students from all across the country.

“The FFA members really like Indianapolis because with 65,000 in attendance the whole downtown area is a sea of blue jackets,” Morgan said. “The members attended a number of workshops and learned ways to improve themselves as leaders as well as ways to improve the chapter.”

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# Jazzy Cats earn top honors at dance festival



Members of the Louisburg High School Jazzy Cats are (front row, from left) Avery Graham, Lauren Cain, Kira Payton, Bree Christy, Quincy Rice; (back row) Brooklyn Mitchell, Melia Rice, Katie JoRay, Teagan Myers and Shae Murphy.

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Most teams will choose to only take one or two routines to a competition, but the Louisburg High School Jazzy Cats dance team decided to take it a step further.

For the Eudora Dance and Cheer Festival, that was held at Eudora High School on Nov. 5, the Jazzy Cats put together three routines. As it turned out, the Louisburg dancers handled the extra work load just fine.

The Jazzy Cats earned a “1” rating for each of their three routines and garnered another honor in the process. They also received a specialty technique award for their hip-hop performance.

“There were several strong dance teams at the competition, but most other teams took one or two routines,” Jazzy Cats coach Kassy Miller said. “We decided to take three to this competition because we knew we could be ready and do a great

job. It is difficult to have three routines strong all at the same time, especially in distinct styles, but the way we have set our team goals this year has allowed us to work on those multiple styles. Even though we might be stronger in some styles than others, practicing multiple styles can enhance the overall abilities of the team.

Dancers Brooklyn Mitchell, Melia Rice, Katie JoRay, Teagan Myers, Shae Murphy, Lauren Cain, Kira Payton, Bree Christy, Quincy Rice and Avery Graham performed well the entire day as they earned top honors in their pom, kick and hip-hop routine.

The hip-hop routine was a crowd favorite and resulted in the technique award, Miller said.

“Hip-hop is a very difficult style to pull together and perform, but the type of focus and concentration they put into this routine really paid off,” she said. “I think they had the most fun working on that one, and it was great that the judges recognized that. They can’t wait to perform it at assemblies and basketball games next semester.”

All the Jazzy Cats’ success hasn’t happened overnight as the dancers have worked with Miller since last summer and continue to try and perfect their craft.

“I am very proud of them and they should be proud of each other,” Miller said. “This team has shown that they really understand how to use teamwork and hard work to their advantage. I feel like they have really set good examples for each other and that is what I am really proud of.

“They have had a very consistent practice schedule since the beginning of summer, and we couldn’t have done this without that dedication.”

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# Louisburg debate off to good start



Louisburg's Grayson Anderson (left) and Isabelle Holtzen show off their first-place medals following the Shawnee Mission South Invitational last Saturday. The Wildcat duo finished the day with a 5-0 record.

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It is just two weeks into the season, but the Louisburg High School debate team is already racking up medals.

Most recently, the Wildcat team divided up and traveled to two tournaments last Saturday and both found success at Shawnee Mission South and Gardner-Edgerton High Schools.

At the Shawnee Mission South Invitational, two Louisburg teams left with medals. Isabelle Holtzen and Grayson Anderson finished the day with a 5-0 record to finish first overall.

Carson Tappan and Curran Conklin also had a nice showing for the Wildcats as they tallied a 4-1 record and finished ninth.

Louisburg sent 22 debaters to the Gardner-Edgerton Invitational and all of them were competing for the first time. It was a good debut for all of them as they combined to finish third overall in the team standings.



**Deven Wieland (left) and Garrett Rolofson pose with their third-place trophy.**

Deven Wieland and Garrett Rolofson went undefeated with a 4-0 record and the Wildcat duo finished third as well.

Louisburg opened its season on Sept. 17 and the Wildcats split

up again. One group traveled to the Washburn Rural Invitational – a 2-day tournament – and the other ventured to Blue Valley Southwest.



**Brooke Talmage (left) and McKenzie Vanmeerhaeghe finished with a 4-1 record at Washburn Rural.**

Brooke Talmage and McKenzie VanMeerhaeghe broke into out rounds and finished with a 5-1 record to take fourth place to lead Louisburg.

Calvin Cassida and Flynn Langner competed in the open division at Blue Valley Southwest and left with a 4-1 record. Gabe Rader and Cole Williams, who competed in their first tournament in the novice division, also finished with a 4-1 record.



**(From left) Calvin Cassida, Gabe Rader, Cole Williams and Flynn Langner (not pictured) finished 4-1 at Blue Valley Southwest.**

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# The LHS 2016 Fall Homecoming Candidates



Homecoming week at Louisburg High School kicked off Monday and events are in full swing. With something going on every day this week, it will be a busy time for students. All of it is of course centered around the crowning of the 2016 fall king and queen. Eight students were selected as nominees and here are their names and profiles.

The crowning will take place on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Wildcat Stadium before kickoff of Louisburg's game with Baldwin.



**Lauren Becker and T.J.  
Dover**

### **T.J. Dover**

T.J. is the son of Steven and Jenny Dover. T.J. has participated in football for four years, basketball for four years, track for two years, golf for one year and debate for one year. T.J. plans to either play college football or attend Kansas State University and major in marketing.

### **Lauren Becker**

Lauren is the daughter of Brian and Andrea Becker. Lauren has participated in band for four years, cheerleading for four years, choir and select choir for four years, LEO's club for four years, student council for four years, musical for four years, FCA for three years, track for three years, Letterman's Club for three years, Spanish Club for two years, SADD for two years and National Honor Society for two years. Lauren plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in nursing.



**Rio Sierra and Grant Harding**

### **Grant Harding**

Grant is the son of Ken and Dotty Harding. Grant has participated in football for four years, baseball for four years, basketball for four years, Letterman's Club for three

years and choir for two. Grant is currently undecided on a school, but plans to play college basketball.

### **Rio Sierra**

Rio is the daughter of Fidel Sierra and Veneita Taulbee. Rio has participated in forensics for four years, musical for four years, select choir for three years, cheerleading for two years, Spanish Club for two years and debate for one year. Rio plans to participate in a worship internship through Life Mission Academy Ministry at King's University where she will enroll to study Theology and music. She will concurrently enroll in Johnson County Community College and then will pursue a music degree at the University of Kansas.



**Hanna Becker and Carson  
Tappan**

### **Carson Tappan**

Carson is the son of Dave and Jackie Tappan. Carson has participated in debate for four years, forensics for four years, LEO's Club for four years, student council for three years, scholar's bowl for three years and National Honor Society for two years. Carson plans to attend school out-of-state to study film production and television writing.

## **Hanna Becker**

Hanna is the daughter of Brian and Andrea Becker. Hanna has participated in cheerleading for four years, band for four years, choir for four years, Leo's Club for four years, musical for four years, student council for four years, FCA for three years, track for three years, SADD for two years, NHS for two years, Spanish Club for two years and Letterman's Club for one year. Hanna plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in nursing.



**Paige Buffington and Jake Hill**

## **Jake Hill**

Jake is the son of Andy and Megan Hill. Jake has participate in student council for four years, football for four years, Letterman's Club for four years, LEO's Club for four years, basketball for three years, golf for two years and National Honor Society for two years. Jake plans to attend Kansas State University to dual major in business administration and finances and minor in Spanish.

## **Paige Buffington**

Paige is the daughter of David and Amy Buffington. Paige has participated in FFA for four years, basketball for three years, track for three years, Letterman's Club for three

years, volleyball for two years, select choir for two years and National Honor Society for one year. Paige plans to attend either the University of Kansas or Missouri State to major in nursing.



The 2016 LHS fall homecoming candidates are (front row, from left) Lauren Becker, Rio Sierra, Hanna Becker, Paige Buffington; (back) T.J. Dover, Grant Harding, Carson Tappan and Jake Hill.



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## Jazzy Cats acquire several honors at dance camp



The Louisburg High School Jazzy Cats dance team recently brought home several awards from the ADTS camp June 9 in Olathe. Members of the Jazzy Cats (front row, from left)

**are Melia Rice, Bree Christy, Quincy Rice, Katie JoRay, Shae Murphy; (back row) Avery Graham, Brooklyn Mitchell, Teagan Myers, Kira Payton and Lauren Cain.**

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The Louisburg High School Jazzy Cats dance team put in hours of hard work prior to attending prior to attending the American Dance/Drill Team (ADTS) camp in Olathe.

All the hard work came to fruition when the camp ended on June 9.

The Jazzy Cats were recognized with several awards as they were chosen as the Gussie Nell Davis Team of the Camp. The Louisburg dancers were also chosen as an All-American team of the third day and were one of three teams recognized for a home routine award.

“The girls put in a lot of hard work into the routine, all starting with this new team’s seniors who spent a lot of time outside of practice helping to choreograph and structure the routine,” Jazzy Cats instructor Kassy Miller said. “The team started learning and rehearsing the dance after tryouts at several April early-morning practices, and also spent time in May and June to work on the dance technique and team performance.”

Louisburg also earned several individual honors as well.

Senior Quincy Rice was chosen as an Outstanding Leader and Performer in dance. Avery Graham, Katie JoRay and Rice were also named as Miss High Kick Finalists.

Bree Christy and Teagan Myers were recognized as All-American honorable mentions. Melia Rice, JoRay and Rice were named Overall All-American Teammates.

It was quite the showing for the Jazzy Cats, who competed against several other schools from across the Kansas City

area.

"This was the first time the Jazzy Cats attended this game, and I think they represented themselves, their school and community very well," Miller said.

Members of the 2016-17 Jazzy Cats are Quincy Rice, Teagan Myers, Avery Graham, Katie JoRay, Melia Rice, Bree Christy, Lauren Cain, Shae Murphy, Brooklyn Mitchell and Kira Payton.

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## **Holloway earns spot on Jayhawk cheer squad**



Louisburg High School recent graduate Maddie Holloway found out in April that she was named to the University of Kansas Cheer Squad. Holloway will cheer at football, basketball, volleyball and other Jayhawk events.

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When Maddie Holloway walked into the confines of Allen Fieldhouse for the first time two years ago, she was in a state of euphoria.

She couldn't believe the atmosphere of the old gymnasium on the University of Kansas campus. Holloway loved every minute of it.

As a sophomore in high school, Holloway attended her first Jayhawk basketball game and it was there she realized what she wanted to do in college.

“I looked down on the sideline and saw the cheerleaders and everything they did during a game,” Holloway said. “I watched the stunts they did and what it was like to be a part of that game atmosphere. I told myself that is what I want to do and this is where I want to be.”

So two years and a lot of hard work later, Holloway achieved her goal.

On April 20, the Louisburg High School senior found out the news via video that she was one of the newest members of the University of Kansas Cheer Squad.

After a 3-day tryout earlier in April, Holloway was nervously anticipating the announcement. So when the team released the video online, she couldn't help but begin to wonder if it was even going to happen.

“They told us before that they were going to keep 16 or 17 girls and I counted as I watched the video and I saw 14 girls pop up and it was almost over,” Holloway said. “I wasn't sure if it was going to happen and then I saw my picture come up. I have never been more excited in my life when I saw that.”

It was a long road for Holloway leading up to that announcement.

Once she realized she wanted to cheer in college, Holloway put in the extra work it took to make it happen. Starting her sophomore year, she made the drive to Lawrence every Monday for open gym workouts with members of the Jayhawk cheer squad.

She learned different types of stunts and other things to help her prepare for what life as a college cheerleader would be like.

"It was definitely a commitment on my part and my parents too," Holloway said. "Either I, or my mom, would drive up there and do that every week. There were no guarantees with anything, but cheering at KU was something that I really wanted and I figured doing this would help my chances. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed doing it."

Holloway's senior season at Louisburg wasn't exactly a smooth one as she suffered a concussion during football season and was forced to miss the final few weeks. It was a minor setback toward her overall goal of cheering in college.

Once she was cleared, she continued with her workouts in Lawrence along with cheering during the high school basketball season.

As the tryout date neared, Holloway had gotten an offer to cheer at Wichita State and Holloway seriously considered it.

"Wichita State offered me a spot on their team and I wouldn't have had to do tryouts and all the other things," Holloway said. "But I really wanted to cheer at KU. So I kind of put all my eggs in one basket and hoped that I would make the team."

Those hopes were nearly dashed just days before the KU tryout as she hit her head during an open gym workout. Holloway wasn't sure if she would be healthy enough for the tryout.

"I had worked two years for this moment so I wasn't about to have this ruin everything so I decided to push on," Holloway said.

Everything went according to plan in the early part of the tryouts, but later the cheerleaders were asked to run around Allen Fieldhouse as part of a conditioning tryout. It was then Holloway started to feel faint.

"About 10 minutes or so everything just went black, it was

pretty scary,” Holloway said. “I got to know the trainer at KU pretty well and everyone on the team came to check up on me. That is what I like about being a part of the team there is everyone there is like family. They were all texting me how I was and making sure I was ok. That really meant a lot to me that they would do that.”

Holloway was unable to do anything physical in nature for the final day of tryouts, but she still returned to give her interview.

“I just learned to make the best of a bad situation,” she said. “I just went there to kill the interview and hoped it would all work out. That is all I could do.”

Then came the waiting and wondering. Holloway then clicked on the 1 minute and 30 second video that showed the newest members of the Jayhawk squad.

It seemed like an hour, but in the end, it all worked out.

“I have never worked so hard for something in my life,” Holloway said. “Then to see all that hard work payoff is the best feeling in the world. I am so excited to get started and get down there with my new family.”