

# The Kaw Tracker

## Christman Twins Voted PLHS Royalty

By Alexandria Parnell

The time for the annual Winter Royalty festivities has come around again. Winter Royalty has been part of PLHS traditions for many decades now. This year's girl candidates were Jessica Christman, Emma Gantz and Shelby Erickson. The boy candidates were Tyler Christman, John Mehl and Kameron Hurd.

During seminar on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a pep rally was held in the gym. The cheerleaders did a great job at getting the students ready for



Shelby Erickson and Emma Gantz play wheelchair basketball

the upcoming game. The candidates then played wheel chair basketball. After a couple of intense games, Jessica and Tyler came out on top!

The 2010 Winter Royalty King and Queen were



2010 Winter Royalty King and Queen: Tyler and Jessica Christman

could last a little longer this time. Everyone showed up dressed to impress and had a blast dancing the night away!

announced during halftime at the PLHS Varsity Basketball game against Lansing. This year's winners were twins Jessica Christman and Tyler Christman.

The Winter Formal Dance was held on February 6 in the PLHS commons, from 7:30 to 10:30. This was a little different than how it is usually done, but due to the weather, the original Winter Royalty ceremony and dance were postponed. But as always, everything worked out well and somewhat better since the dance



Juniors Dalton Carver, Taylor Easum and Taylor Akagi enjoy the dance

## Students Enjoy Days Off for Snow

By Allissa Christman

So far this year Perry Lecompton High School has had five snow days. The district doesn't have a certain amount of days that the school can take off for snow days. Instead of the days they go by hours, with 1,116 hours being the number of hours students must attend. The district schools have 1,151 hours planned for class. If this

number of available hours is exceeded students would have to make the snow days up at the end of the school year.

The roads of Jefferson County have been horrible for students to have to get up and drive to school on, and the buses have also had trouble with starting. For the buses to start in the cold weather it is harder on them and costs extra money. Some students' vehicles and school buses have also been getting stuck in

snow drifts as tall as six feet!!

PLHS Vice Principal Mike Copple and another PLMS Vice Principal Mr. Woodward, go out early in the morning after a long night of snow to check the roads and see how the weather conditions would be for students driving. It is up to the school board if we do cancel school in case of slick roads. Overall the staff wants to make sure the students are in the best hands and are as safe as they can be.

# Budget Cuts Affect Curriculum

By Emily Steward

The last thing many students want to hear is that their favorite class is being taken out of the curriculum. However, with the economy as it is, many schools have to do just that.

At PLHS, there have already been cuts around \$100,000 from last school year to the current year. Are more cut backs coming? Principal Elliott says that "less funding happens as the revenue goes down, and our students should

keep up with the legislature to find out if the amount of money given to schools is lowered."

There are a number of things that could change if we get another decrease in state funding. Things such as increasing the cost of lunches, enrollment fees, textbook fees, pay-to-participate fees, adding on after-school activity bus fees, and non-school group facility usage. There could be a decrease in teachers which would mean bigger class sizes, and a decrease in

coaches for our sports teams.

The classes in lab settings (i.e. art classes, industrial tech classes, and F.A.C.S. classes), are the most expensive ones to have, but they are also arguably the most fun classes. Hands-on education costs can really add up and become impossible to afford while on a budget. Adding on extra supply fees may allow the school to keep these classes in the curriculum. But hopefully PLHS won't endure any more cuts this year!

# Erickson Signs Washburn Letter of Intent

By Taylor Korth

All time dedicated softballer Shelby Erickson signed for Washburn University on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This blonde bombshell is one of the easiest going, friendliest, yet most competitive players PLHS has seen all year. She can make any game fly by whether the team is up by twenty or down by thirty, and do it all with a smile on her face. Shelby has been playing softball for fourteen years now, starting at the young age of four.

Shelby is also involved in basketball, volleyball and track but only because she loves to stay in shape and has a great time with her friends. Her mind is really set on softball though.

"Ever since I was born, softball was in my life. My Aunt Erin played for Missouri, and we would go watch whenever we could. My dad coached me until I was fourteen; it's a family thing, and I love the game! It never gets old!" Shelby states.

She started training with Lisa Carey, who is the head coach for Washburn, when she was eleven till she was fourteen when she went to play for the Olathe Rockets. So she has always had a close bond with Lisa as the coach



Shelby takes a photo with her high school softball coach, Jill Bradney for the last time

watched her grow into the player she is today.

Even though she was close with the coach, Washburn wasn't always where she wanted to go though. She checked out Missouri schools, KU, got really interested in UMKC and Eastern Illinois. She got offered scholarships from Eastern Illinois and UMKC, but those schools didn't



Shelby signs to play for Washburn University with her parents by her side.

offer as much as Washburn had, so she decided to stick with a D2 school instead of D1. On the plus side she's already close with half her team already. Shelby still plays for the Olathe Rockets, and five girls from her team are also going to Washburn for softball as well so she already knows their playing style and won't be such a "new girl" going in.

Her advice for those wanting to be in the same position she's in?

"Definitely practice as much as you can, work on fundamentals more than anything. Whether you're at a ten and under level or a pro always focus on the fundamentals. Love your sport also

and keep a good head on your shoulders. Do it because YOU want to." It wasn't just all her talent that got her recruited though. She went to many recruiting tournaments, sent out her resume at least ten times a day for coaches to come and watch her. Even to the schools that she wasn't positive about, because some eyes are better than none.

Her parents are also happy with her choice because she was almost set on going to Eastern Illinois, which is eight hours away, but going to Washburn she's only roughly twenty-five minutes.

"Twenty four without hitting any red lights!" Shelby laughs. Close enough to come home if she's ever homesick or needs her parents to get to her quickly if there is ever any trouble.

After college Shelby hopes to become either a Coach or a PE teacher, mainly coaching the sport softball and maybe volleyball during season. She wants to start with a young team, so she can teach them the fundamentals early and watch them grow before her eyes like she once did with her very own coaches.

Watch out world! You have a new athlete making her way into the world!

## Scholars Bowl Tests Knowledge

By Jessica Christman

Scholars Bowl is a round robin style tournament where eight to sixteen different schools come together to test their skills in a wide variety of questions. There are five members per team and one alternate. Questions can range from a math question to an art question. Team members earn ten points if they answer the question right. They have to wait until the whole question has been said before answering. If the buzzer is sounded before the whole question is given, five points are deducted. Ten to sixteen questions are asked.

This year there are eight members on the scholars bowl team. They are Ethan Merritt, Morgan Brown, April Blair, Austin Naramore, Rhiannon Pearson, Julie Clement, Samantha Buchanan, and Anna Seib. This year's sponsors are Ms. Norton and Mrs. Whitaker.

Regionals were at Pleasant Ridge this year and the team did really well but fell a little short. They took fourth place in their bracket and they had to take third to qualify. Although they didn't make it, they gave it all they had.



## Need Advice? Ask Alice!

Dear Alice,

This semester my grades are much lower than I want them to be. My parents haven't seen them yet, but I know they will be disappointed when they do. This problem is really stressing me out. Do you have any advice for me?

Love,

Troubled in School

Dear Troubled in School

I think what's best is for you to have all your assignments in on time and to ask your teachers for help so you can achieve your desired grades. Although if you can't get them up before your parents see them, calmly explain that you know your grades aren't your best, but you are honestly attempting to get them up. Hope this helps!

Sincerely,

Alice

## Shafer To Play Soccer At Allen County

By Taylor Korth

It's about that time again where people are buying caps and gowns, turning in college applications, and signing scholarships to play sports in college. And this year that's exactly what two of PLHS' seniors Riley Shafer and Shelby Erickson did.

Riley "Rosco" Shafer signed a letter of intent in the little theater on December 10<sup>th</sup> to play soccer for Allen County. Riley has been playing since preschool and dreamed of playing college, and that day finally came. Johnson County, Ottawa University and Allen County all offered Riley scholarships, but Allen County really caught his eye. If he wasn't playing soccer, he would more than likely be headed to Washburn he noted.

Not only is he happy with his choice,



Riley Shafer signs to play soccer at Allen County.

but his parents are grateful because it's not too far away from home.

"Close enough to drive home on weekends but far away enough that

my parents won't drop in for a surprise visit whenever," Riley laughs.

Riley went to open practice at AC and kicked around with the team mates to meet them and learn the ways of the coach, Doug Demareau. This gave him the feel for how the team played and for the team to decide if he was "player worthy." He fit in right away and traded his goofy, fun loving natured ways in to a more serious tone

to prove that he had what it takes.

After college Riley is hoping to coach soccer for the 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade age group. He admits that he didn't behave perfectly during practices and gave his coach a hard time.

"The last thing I want to do is run into a younger crazier version of me." Riley says.

His advice for the upcoming athletes?



Riley Shafer, his new coach Doug Demareau, parents and his high school coach Rodge Moore

"Work hard and keep your head up. It may get rough at times but it's worth it in the end."

We all wish you a safe and amazing season Riley!! Good Luck!!

# The Best of Italy

By Taylor Korth

International Club members are getting antsy and counting down the days until their big trip to Italy! On June 7<sup>th</sup>, seventeen members from the club are headed to the KCI airport with sponsors Dr. Marial Johnston and Susan Whitaker. The travelers are estimated to arrive there by 10:00 am and fly all night to reach Europe early in the morning.

After touching down in "Bella Roma" the club members will meet up with their EF Tour Director who will give them the introduction to the beautiful city and guide them to their first hotel. The group will be staying in many different hotels as they travel, with EF Tours in charge of making reservations close to departure time.

*Day Three: Rome*

The travelers will explore Vatican City on day three of their trip, beginning at the Vati-

can Museum, which is filled with numerous famous paintings, leading the way to the Sistine Chapel and after that the tour of St. Peter's Basilica will begin. The PLHS travelers will have a full day of walking and sightseeing so let's hope they packed comfortable shoes!

*Day Four - six : Florence*

Students will arrive in the birthplace of the Italian language, Florence. The tour will consist of all sightseeing this day, from classical statues of the Piazza della Signoria to seeing the only bridge that survived WW1. The Leaning Tower Of Pisa was also on the list of "go see's" but sponsors are not positive if the group will go tour that yet. On day six they will make their way to Venice.

*Day seven - Venice*

The tour will begin at St. Mark's S.square, known as the "the finest drawing room in



Capri where they

will board a

cruise to see Capri's beautiful coast. After all the fun the group will have a free night and spend their last night in Rome and fly home the next day on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

The International Club will be taking a big Europe trip every two years from now on to make sure kids have a chance to earn enough money to put in their accounts.

The group members earn money by signing up and working the concession stand during games. Members also helped raise money by working with Student Council and holding a Halloween dance and a pie feed during homecoming season.

The entire trip will cost roughly between \$2,800 and \$3,000.

Interested in going? Check out the EF Tours Website at [Eftours.com/student](http://Eftours.com/student) or contact them at 1-800-665-5364

Have a safe trip PLHS travelers!

Europe." The sightseeing tour will include the Grand Canal and the 324 foot bell tower, the grand fourteenth century pink and white Doges Palace, and travelers will also get to experience the exact feelings that the prisoners felt while walking across the Bridge of Sighs that connects the palace to the prison.

*Day eight - nine : Assisi*

EF Tours will take the group on a tour of the city and to the "renown" international arts center, the town of Spoleto. They will spend all day in Spoleto and towards night the tour will end in Rome and there they will spend the night.

*Day ten: Home*

For those travelers that aren't going on the extension this is the day they will fly home.

*Extension - two days*

First day of the extension starts off in one of the "richest archaeological sites in the world" Pompeii. Then to Sorrento (known as Italy's favorite resort) to overlook the Bay of Naples. There the group will cross over to the Isle of

## New Wrestling Coaches Welcomed

By Taylor Korth

The talk of the new coaches was wide spread months before wrestling season even began.as prospective wrestlers wondered how much different they were going to be than the old coaches and what they were like personality wise.

First walked in head coach Will Mitchell. Mitchell attended Royal Valley High school and graduated in 2001. He served in the National Guard from 2001 to 2007 and did eight months as homeland security. Mitchell graduated from Kansas State University in 2007 and then took a job as an American history teacher at Marysville High School where he also coached freshman football and wrestling and was the assistant varsity football coach.

Currently he teaches in the Atchison school district and lives with his family in Holton while filling the role of head wrestling coach at PLHS.

He has a wicked competitive streak and his coaching is "an attacking style" of wrestling. He's enjoyed working with the team to get them to State and hopes they can place at there.

Close behind is Assistant Coach Matthew Erb, who



New coaches Matthew Erb and Will Mitchell

graduated from Mulvane High School where in wrestling he was two time state qualifier and champion. Erb moved on to college at KU where he was vice president of the KU wrestling club team where he was two time regional champ and NCWA all American in 2001. Matthew is now working on becoming a lawyer.

# Wrestlers Near Season's End

By Taylor Korth

Boys wrestling season began November 16<sup>th</sup> with three seniors, four juniors, six sophomores and five freshmen on the Varsity and JV team.

For the seniors this was their last time to shine during the season, so they worked extra hard to cut weight and wrestled with everything that they had in them.

Senior wrestler, John Mehl, who has been wrestling for twelve years, speaks out about the team and says "We are all adjusting well to the new coaches; we as a team get along well and understand one another. We're all friends and can relate on the mat."

New student, sophomore Branden Ball, who transferred from Santa Fe Trail, found the wrestling to be different. He also has been wrestling for twelve years and said that Perry has a much smaller team and many different techniques but caught on quickly and now wrestles for Varsity. The team has it's ups and downs with wins and losses for having such a young team and also dealing with many injuries the team still goes to every meet with the best spirit and all try to be as focused as possible. With the wrestling season coming to an end on Feb. 27, the team can look forward to cheering for Dennis Madden at the state tournament in the 140 lb division that weekend.

Weight	Name	Record
103	Cameron Bedford	1-6
112	Austin Bryant	7-17
119	Alexus Callahan	2-19
130	John Mehl	24-6
135	Dennis Madden	24-2
140	Colton Miller	15-11
145	Luke Kellum	13-7
152	Trent Robb	25-8
160	Brandon Ball	20-6
171	Bobby Branden-	1-12
189	Logan Elliot	2-6
285	Tyler Bedford	4-7



Luke Kellum

Dennis Madden



## Lady Kaws on Track for Winning Season

By Dawn Shultz

"State here we come! We play as a team and win as a team, one game at a time!" "These past four years have gone to fast we have improved so much since we all started off, I will never forget the fun memories, people, and events that I have encountered." says senior Katherine Frye.

This year, the Lady Kaws have surprised their opponents with the improvement in their game. This last year they have more than doubled their wins as the season goes on.

"Coach Mayer is taking us somewhere." Katherine Frye says. This is Mayer's second year as head coach of the Lady Kaws and all ready he has led them to victory many times. Jessica Christman says, "The team has really pulled together these last two years to make us bigger and better. We are more together as a team. That's what has helped us this year."

They stand 10-7 so far this season, so let's root for them to do well at sub-state..

## Kaw Boys Struggle

By Dawn Shultz

"Basketball makes me feel like I'm part of a team, everyone's important in their own ways." senior Kameron Hurd says. This years PLHS boys basketball started off fair, but they have gone down a rough road. They have had a roller coaster of a ride, but through the struggle there has come progress.

Coach Jeff Dickson talks about his senior boys: "The boys have hung in there and stayed with the team. I'm extremely proud of them for their hard work."

Kameron Hurd says that "Practices have gotten much better we just have fun with everything, we laugh and just be our selves. We always try our hardest and give it our all in the games." This year's record so far is 2-15.

# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Kerry Neil Paul Funk	3	4 Michelle Robles Morgan Richards	5	6
7	8	9 Baylee Kilburn Caitlyn Winchester	10 James Hill	11 Bradley Phillips	12 Elisabeth Schaffer Isabella Schaffer	13 Austin Vess
14 Benjamin Peine	15 Andrew Sorrick	16	17	18	19	20 Kelsey Kasson
21 Taylor Easum	22 Michael Mallonee	23	24 Eduard Polovin	25 Breanna Robinson	26 Tyson Erwin	27
28						

# March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Clinton Harrell Brady Jack	2	3 Sean Kibbee Andrew Archer Webber Shereman	4 Maria Wulff	5 Courtney Nichols Austin Kelley	6
7 Kevin Tomkins Amber Aylor Michael King Matt Logan	8	9	10 Dusti Johnson Melanie Cox	11 Justin Nelson Cody Smock Adena Benton	12 Wes Boaz	13
14	15 Abbey Bays	16	17 Chris Callahan	18	19	20
21 John Mehl	22 Ryan Maline	23 Tori Crump Antonio Quinn	24 Bethany Wells	25 Gage McMullin	26 Victoria Maggard	27
28	29	30 Addison Jones				