

# the talon



## Senior Edition

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1 MAY 18, 2021 ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL [WWW.THETALONNEWS.COM](http://WWW.THETALONNEWS.COM)



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The Talon News



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The Talon News student directors take a look back on their high school experience, the highs and lows of this eventful year, and leave words of advice.

## 24-25 Class Conquers Titles

As the school year draws to a close, we look back on the many ways the class of 2021 has left their mark on the high school. Whether it was through breaking school records, defending titles, or earning new titles, the class of 2021 continued Argyle's tradition of success.

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Photos Top to bottom: OAP advances to region | courtesy of Jessica Reynolds; basketball takes state (Nicholas West | The Talon News); football wins Title game (Katie Ray | the Talon News); cheer performs at state (Sloan Dial | The Talon News); softball & baseball begin their seasons(Brooklyn Greer | Yearbook).



A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a white sweater, is smiling and posing with one hand on her head. She is standing in front of a large, abstract, light-colored sculpture. In the background, a building with large windows is visible.

Trinity Flaten

You always amaze us  
by your talent, brilliance, and grace. Never stop shining!  
Love, Mom & Dad

A young woman with brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting cross-legged on a brown suitcase on a paved surface. She is smiling at the camera. The background features a grassy area, trees, and a white house with a black fence.

SARAH CROWDER

WE LOVE YOU, AND WE ARE FOR YOU.



# Letters from the Directors

Ashlynn Roberts | Director of Productions

When I joined The Talon freshman year, I wanted to be involved in the school paper because writing was a hobby of mine. Little did I know that this class would grow to become my favorite part of high school. It has shown me the things I'm truly passionate about such as social media and communications. I've learned that writing is more than just expressing myself, but that it's

about building relationships with people through the things I write. I am so thankful for the friendships, memories and opportunities I have gained because of this class. Without The Talon, my high school experience would not be nearly as memorable. As Mrs. Short always says, 'everyone has a story to tell' and I have loved getting to do that these past four years.

Trinity Flaten | Director of Print

Four years ago, I joined The Talon News as a freshman trying to fill their schedule. Almost immediately, the class became more than that. Mrs. Short threw us into interviewing, writing, and the world of Adobe programs. I fell in love with it all. From telling other people's stories to the monotony of Adobe Indesign, I almost couldn't get enough of it. The Talon forced me to leave my comfort zone and without that push I wouldn't be the person I am today. This class has taught me so much more than journalism. I've learned how to literally run an organization and how to make connec-

tions with the people you work with, some even being my closest friends now. This class has given me so many gifts including showing me what I want to do with my life, journalism.

Being a part of The Talon has without a doubt been one of the highlights of my high school experience. Jumping headfirst into the world of journalism has opened so many doors for me, and has helped me realize that I want to tell stories for the rest of my life. Being on staff has given me the opportunity to talk to and connect with so many people I would not have been able to otherwise. It has allowed me to try so many new things and shown me that words really and truly are magic. I only hope that in the four short years I have been on staff, I have made a

difference in the school and community, that I have lit the same fire I have in someone else.

In what seems like the short time that I've been on The Talon, I've realized that my job is no longer just a job. Talon has given me an outlet to indulge in my love of storytelling and capturing fragments of life. I'm able to freeze a picture and to tell a story with it, one of truth that's encaptured forever. Photography has offered me opportunities I never thought possible, from learning the importance of leadership and accountability, to finding the small joys of life and the art that surrounds us entirely. I've been promoted

and I've won contests, but what makes this all worth it is the joy I'm able to immerse myself in and the people I've surrounded myself with. My time with The Talon News won't be anything easily forgotten.

Sarah Crowder | Director of Web

Katie Ray | Director of Photography









**Lila, Kaelyn & Andie**

**Lila, Kaelyn & Andie,  
Be Bold, Be Courageous ...  
Slc 'Em, Wreck 'Em and Woo Pig Soobie!**



*Katherine Burns*

*We are so proud of you!  
We believe in you and love you!  
Mom, Alix, Grandma & Grandpa*



**GAIGE INMAN**

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU.  
THE BEST IS YET TO COME.  
43 MOM, DAD**







# Band Avenges 2018, Wins State

Dec. 17, 2020

Ashlynn Roberts | Director

Even though the Argyle Band fought through COVID-19 restrictions, double-masking, equipment covers, avoiding friends and family, and morale issues, they still finished with a highly successful season capping the year as 2020 4A Marching Band State Champions.

"When I found out we won, I kind of went crazy," senior clarinet player Trinity Flaten said. "I wasn't really thinking anything except that I had to hug everyone near me. I was so incredibly proud of everyone and being a senior and watching many of them grow to make this program what it is today made me so thankful for their hard work."

The state medal was not easily earned, as band students spent eight hours weekly rehearsing outside of class plus time during the band period.

"We've been rehearsing more than we ever have before," senior drum major Sarah Crowder said. "We've been putting in countless hours and repping over and over again. We've worked on focusing in and getting everything right the first time, and in the week leading up to state we've put a big emphasis on shutting doors – not leaving any doubt in the judges' heads or leaving any room for another band to do something better than us."

With the pandemic, the students have had to focus even more on teamwork and remaining optimistic despite the obstacles in front of them.

"There were so many things dragging us back and sometimes it was difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel," senior drum major Katy Atkins said. "Even though I wanted to give up at some points, I couldn't let my band down- I couldn't just leave what I had started because everyone was counting on me just as much as I was counting on them. Since we're a team sport, we can only be as strong as the weakest link in the chain, so as a leader if you were frustrated, all



Soloists Zach Tait, Trinity Flaten, Micah Splain, and Jorge Terrazas perform the opening to the marching show titled 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' on Oct. 31, 2020. (Nicholas West | The Talon News)

you could do was buck up and support the kids that were feeling the same way and build them up to be stronger."

Although COVID-19 has presented many challenges, it also brought with it more time to practice and fine-tune every skill.

"We started preparing for state back in July," Flaten said. "During the summer, UIL decided to push back state to December when it's normally in November. With it pushed back, we couldn't start learning our marching show until later. However, we used this time to work on our fundamentals and learning the music which seemed to pay off. As Mr. Lemish (Argyle band director) said, 'No one has touched us in music.'"

One of the key factors that contributed to the band's success is the senior leadership both on and off the field.

"It's definitely been different," Crowder said. "I've had some different responsibilities than drum majors did in previous years. For instance, I've had to remind people to wear masks and be careful. I and the other leaders have also put a big emphasis on relationships this year, trying to connect with the band as much as possible, and keeping up morale with the longer season."

In addition to memorizing choreography, band students also had to remember to follow social distancing whenever possible.

"We were definitely thrown a curve ball with COVID-19," Flaten said. "Band is something that requires us to take off our masks which made things difficult. Anytime we were just marching and not playing, we wore our masks because the drill required us to be less than six feet apart. We even had to get fabric to put over the bells of the instruments to prevent aerosols in someone's breath from spreading. As we got closer to state, the band director Mr. Bird started having anyone in the band, no matter if you marched or were part of guard, eat in the band hall to prevent us from having our masks off around anyone that may have been exposed to COVID-19."

Being in band allowed students to make music and spend time with friends.

"Band has taught me so many things, but I think the most important is time management and how to work as a team, especially with such a large group of people," Flaten said. "Between balancing school and band I've had to learn when to study and do my homework to keep my grades up and still make rehearsal."

Band students feel they have grown as both people and musicians.

"Being a part of band for as long as I have has taught me that success doesn't come from luck, but it's a product of hard

work," Atkins said. "There's no magic penny nor special sock to suddenly make us great, but it's the members of the band and their diligence that really turns a program around and unites them together."

While many people assume the band will have a successful season each year, what oftentimes gets overlooked is how much the band changes with every school year due to graduation.

"I think sometimes people don't realize how much work goes into what we do," Flaten said. "We are here every morning like any other activity and practice after school once they all leave. It's a lot of work but it definitely pays off. The band has a tradition of doing well at state and I think sometimes it's just expected of us to do well. But every year is an entire new group of people with different strengths and weaknesses and we worked incredibly hard to earn first place; it was not given to us."

The State gold medal is just one of the many rewards that have come with being in band.

"We've worked so hard for this," Crowder said. "For the seniors, this has been four years of giving up summers, weekends, and sleeping in. I have never been this proud and I am honored to be the drum major this year."



A portrait of a young man with short brown hair, wearing a black zip-up jacket. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a rustic brick wall with a dark metal ladder leaning against it.

*Jacob Rodriguez*

*Taking the road less traveled  
-may the journey be filled  
with joy and adventure!  
Semper Fortis! Love, Mom and Dad*

A portrait of a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a black graduation cap and gown. She is smiling broadly at the camera and waving with her right hand, which has a ring on the ring finger. A red tassel hangs from her cap. A white stole with a blue and gold emblem is draped over her shoulders. The background is a plain grey.

*Peyton  
Deffenbaugh*

*From Eagle to Wildcat - the sky's the limit!  
We are so proud of you Peyton!*



# Eagles Soar Above Lindale Win 4A Division I State Title

Dec. 19, 2020

Trinity Flaten | Director of Print  
Sam Mykel | Co-Sports Editor

"I knew we had many of the ingredients for a championship team," Athletic Director and head football coach Todd Rodgers said. "It's no different than making a cake and having the right ingredients, but it has to be cooked right. These kids worked together and stayed together and put themselves in the right spot."

The Eagles won their second state championship title, defeating the Lindale Eagles 49-21 on Dec. 18 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX.

"To come out with our guns, a blazing offense, and our shutdown defense, it has been the perfect combination for our 16-0 season," Rodgers said.

Led by offensive MVP Tito Byce and defensive MVP Zach Stewart, the Eagles were able to dominate and win the game, finishing the 16-0 record having never trailed an opposing team.

"I think this just shows the type of energy we came out with," senior quarterback CJ Rogers said. "It's all in the practice each week so we came out and showed that."

The seniors made sure to come out in their last game and it was evident. Rogers had a great day throwing the ball, connecting with fellow seniors Cash Walker and Cole Kirkpatrick along with his tight end Jasper Lott for two touchdowns. Byce had a field day rushing the ball, stacking up four touchdowns, three of which came in the first quarter.

"At the time, I was just thinking we needed to keep driving," Byce said. "I wasn't satisfied yet; we needed to win the game."

Defensively the Eagles were able to make big plays when it mattered most, forcing turnovers and ending nearly every drive with a punt.

"I think we played all year with an edge," Stewart said. "We wanted to prove ourselves and I think we were able to do that."

The team was unsure if a state championship would even be possible this season. The COVID-19 pandemic put limita-

tions on training and gathering, causing unexpected issues.

"COVID was such a distraction early on," Rodgers said. "It created a lot of anxiety on the team along with mitigation, risk, and factors that you don't normally do."

However, with the many downsides of the pandemic, the team was able to turn the situation around, working hard to achieve a great season.

"I think our kids really conformed to it in July," Rodgers said. "Then for them, it was just worrying about football when football season started."

Leaders on the team were able to help throughout all of this, gathering up teammates for workouts and posting their tapes online. Training and workouts over quarantine were able to help unify the team.

"This is where I like to think the pandemic became a blessing," Rodgers said. "[CJ] really stepped out during the pandemic and was instrumental in getting the receivers together, doing heavy weight workouts, working with his videos, and just really working from the front and setting a pace for our team like most of our seniors were, and I'm so proud of them."

The team became a unified group and put aside differences in order to help their team win big games this season.

"They do not care who gets the credit," Rodgers said. "Not anytime. They bounce around and smile for whoever scores or makes the tackle. They're grinders and good workers. I don't want to be too cliché or anything but they're just unbelievable kids."

Despite injuries, COVID-19, and other obstacles thrown their way, the team rallied around one common goal: the need for a championship.

"It's a very joyous event," Rodgers said. "I'm very proud of my football team, I think they played like champions, and they earned this."



The Eagles celebrate after winning the State Championship title on Dec. 18, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. (Nicholas West / The Talon News)





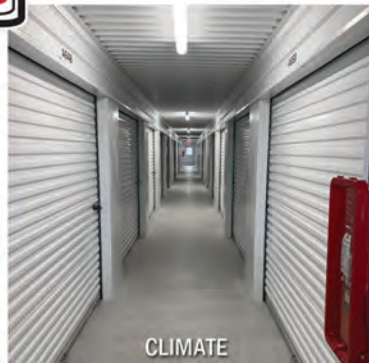
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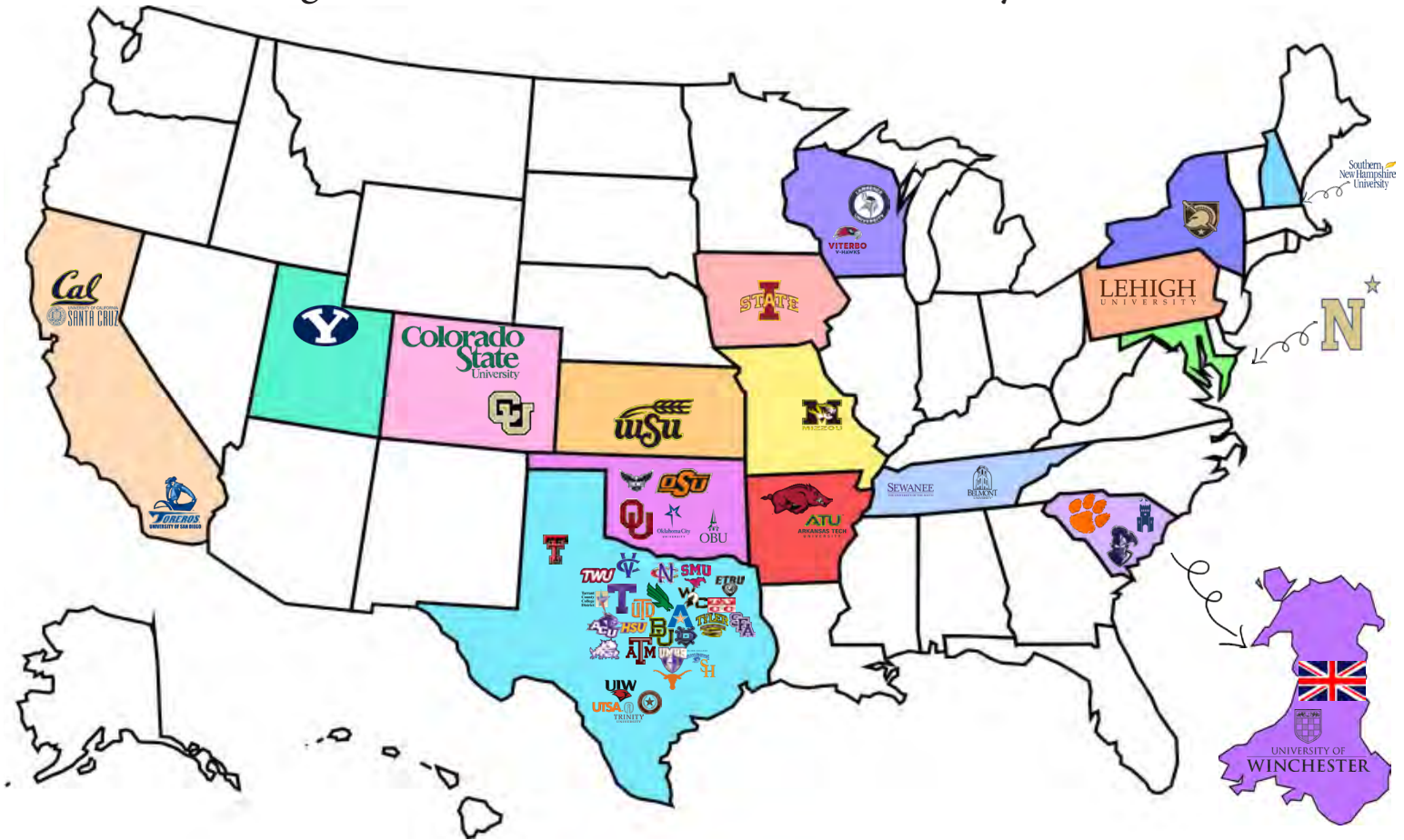




# COLLEGE BOUND

Class of 2021

This year's seniors plan to attend universities and colleges spanning 4,906 miles, from Texas to England, California, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

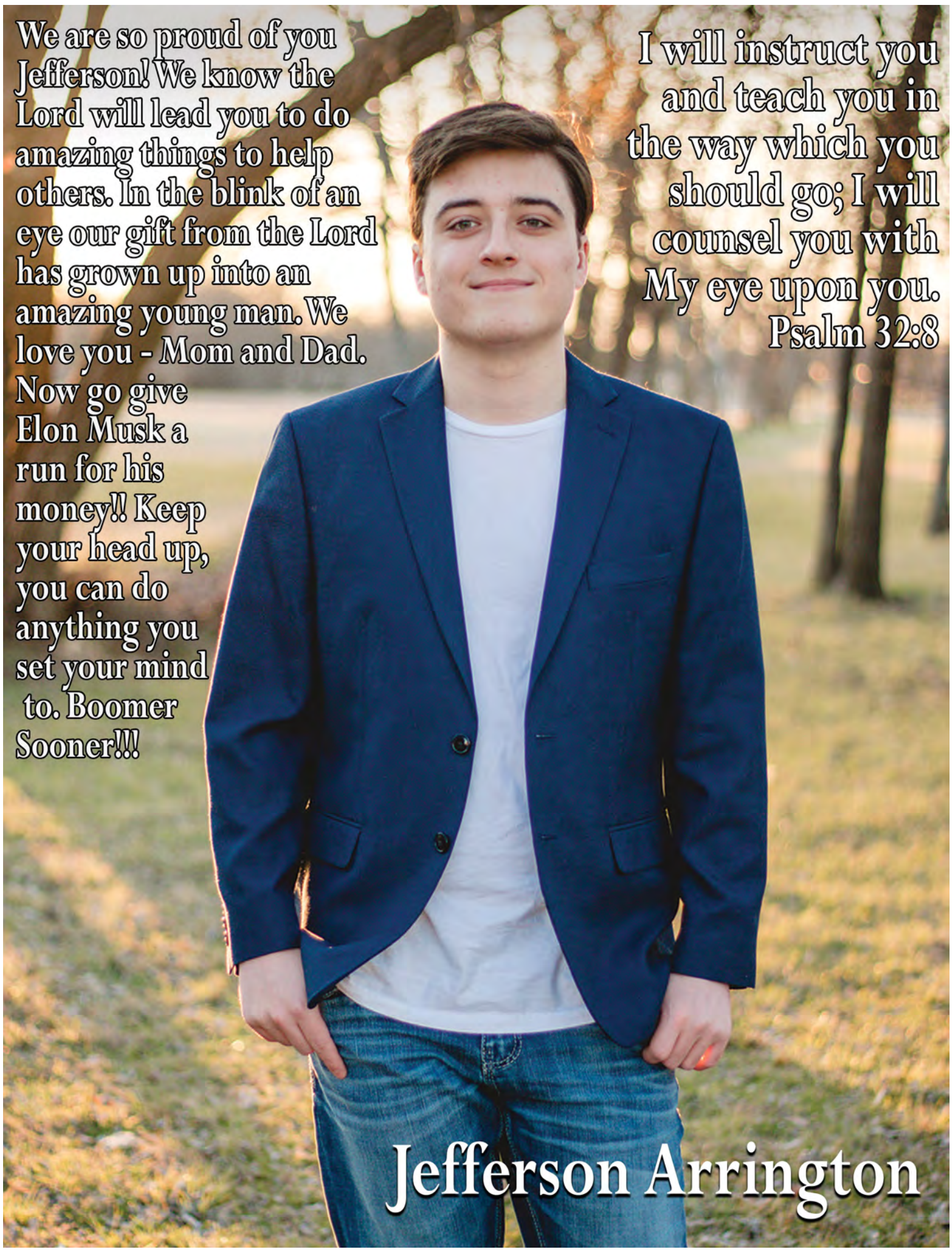


## MOST COMMON COLLEGES

## STUDENTS TRAVELING FURTHEST

COLLEGE	#	COLLEGE	MILES	STUDENT
University of Arkansas	21	University of Winchester	4,706	Ryann Ragsdale
Texas Tech University	19	Southern New Hampshire University	1,851	Isabel Hille
Oklahoma State University	18	University of California-Berkeley	1,686	Kassidy Rosengren
Texas A&M University	12	University of California-Santa Cruz	1,656	Joseph Thompson
University of North Texas	10	West Point Military Academy	1,635	Nicholas Hance
University of Oklahoma	10	Lehigh University	1,513	Hunter Lawson
North Central Texas College	8	United States Naval Academy	1,413	Jacob Rodriguez
Baylor University	7	University of San Diego	1,352	Hope Freeman
University of Texas	6	Brigham Young University	1,161	Ariana Sadler
Texas State University	4	The Citadel	1,124	Brice Marks





We are so proud of you  
Jefferson! We know the  
Lord will lead you to do  
amazing things to help  
others. In the blink of an  
eye our gift from the Lord  
has grown up into an  
amazing young man. We  
love you - Mom and Dad.  
Now go give  
Elon Musk a  
run for his  
money!! Keep  
your head up,  
you can do  
anything you  
set your mind  
to. Boomer  
Sooner!!!

I will instruct you  
and teach you in  
the way which you  
should go; I will  
counsel you with  
My eye upon you.  
Psalm 32:8

Jefferson Arrington



# Lauren Allen



*Impossible only means that you haven't found the solution yet.*

# Joe Walsh



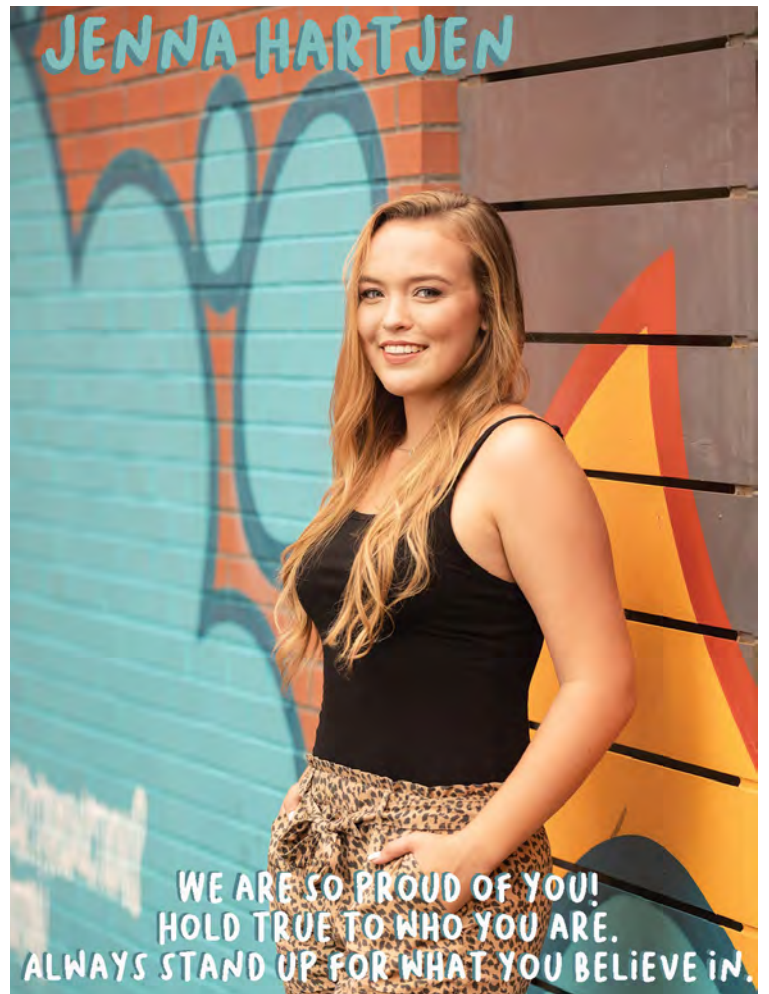
So proud of how hard you have worked and all that you have accomplished. You are AMAZING!  
-Mom, Dad, Steve, Alex and John.

# Grace Fife



*Our Beautiful Grace,  
We are so incredibly proud of the amazing young lady you are. Always remember you are immensely loved and adored.  
Love Always,  
Your Proud Family*

# JENNA HARTJEN



**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!  
HOLD TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE.  
ALWAYS STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN.**





# Alli Johnson

Your faith, commitment, character,  
compassion and sensitivity are  
an inspiration to your family  
- your next season of life will be great - We love you!!



# Eagles Fly Over Falcons, Win State Championship

Perkins wins first title, McCurry earns MVP



The boys basketball team secures another state title after winning the State Championship on March 13, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. (Nicholas West / The Talon News)

March 13, 2021

Sam Mykel | Co-Sports Editor

The boys basketball team captured the State Title on March 13, entering the game with a near-perfect 29-1 record. Senior point guard Skylar McCurry was named MVP of the game as the Eagles were able to top off their season with a 49-30 victory over the Huffman Hargrave Falcons in Head Coach Russell Perkins first state title at Argyle.

After having to abruptly leave the state tournament last year, Perkins and the team knew they would have to find a way to get back to the Alamodome.

"To go and win it, it's just so special," Perkins said. "To see the progress and the journey of the team, that's what's just so fun

about it."

The team's starters stepped up every game along with the team's bench, and the team's strong depth of talent showed up in every game.

"Our guys, our team, they all stay ready to play every night," Perkins said. "That takes a lot of strength and courage just to get here every day and play to the best of your ability; we have 16 guys that can get after it every game and practice."

As MVP of the game, McCurry led the way for the Eagles, hitting big shots.

"He was huge," Perkins said. "I mean huge for us. He hit big shots at big times. Skylar has done that all year. We just get the ball into his hands for those big-time shots."

COVID-19 was a huge factor this year, but the team was able to overcome its challenges and stay healthy to secure a state championship.

"Last year, we got stuffed by it and it really broke our hearts," McCurry said. "But to come back here and win, especially with it being my senior year, it's just really special."

The boy's

offense was on fire, but the defense was a huge factor in deciding the winner. Senior guard Slate McMellian was able to shut down Hargrave's senior guard, Jacob Harvey, and the teams' defense shut down Hargrave's offense.

"He's a very special player, he does everything right on the court," Perkins said. "Slate was as good as anybody guarding him. He makes things hard and forces tough shots for them."

The team was led by its seniors who were able to guide the young members of the team through the difficult year and the playoffs.

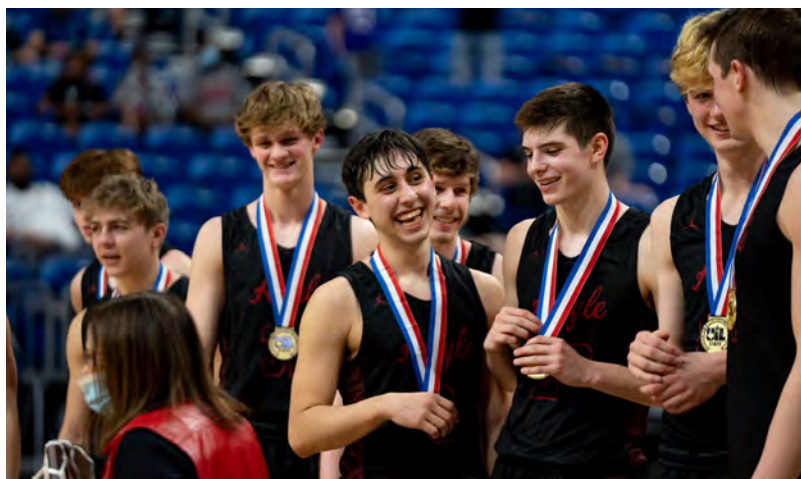
"This team is super special," senior center Nate Atwood said. "We are all super good friends and close together. We have great chemistry and even though we don't have the star players that other teams have, we can work together and that's what makes us special."

The winning culture in Argyle is clearly evident and the expectations remain high for the future.

"Ever since I was young and growing up here, all I heard about was Argyle winning," McMellian said. "It's really awesome to be a part of that. It's really special."

For right now, the team and the town of Argyle are going to celebrate their second boys basketball state championship.

"I'm not very good at celebrating," Perkins said. "I like making these kids better at everything. I have very high expectations, and I want these kids to feel the experience of what they are getting to do right now."



Senior point guard, game MVP Skylar McCurry, celebrates the State Championship win with his teammates on March 13 in San Antonio, Texas. (Nicholas West / The Talon News)



# Looking Back

Billy Mykel | Opinion Editor

For the vast majority of people, high school is much more than just a buffer before college. High school is a time for students to find who they are, make lifelong friends, and create unforgettable memories. As the school year draws to a close during this time of great trial and uncertainty, our senior class is painfully aware of just how important these final memories are. Despite the great struggle of the past year, the class of 2021 is pushing ahead. With great character and strength, our class has thrived in the midst of tragedy. Among us, the strongest resolve can be found among the K-12 students, who in an ever changing and fast motioned world, have remained completely loyal and dedicated to Argyle.

Growing up in a difficult

time, in not just local but also national history, is not an easy feat for any group of people. Born into a time of national fear and uncertainty, the class of 2021 found happiness and

seniors as middle schoolers and terrorized freshmen as upperclassmen.

For this group, that has shown such great strength, nothing is more important

Intermediate school. These friendships, which have outlived and outshined any fear or hardship, have allowed this special group of people to always find light in the darkness and to always find a smiling face in the middle of tragedy. The sense of community that has bound Argyle together and become the defining trait of our town truly is greatest among these students who have opened their hearts to each other and lived their lives together.

As these amazing students begin to take their own paths, they might not remember the difficult times, they might not remember the uncertainty of the current world, but they will never forget the friends they have made, the memories they created, or the home they found.



support. Living through economic hardship and recession, this class forged hope and happiness. Watching their hometown grow slowly and painfully, they happily dodged

than those around them. For many, the friends they end this year with are the same that were forged on the jungle gym of Hilltop Elementary or in the gaga ball pit of the



K-12 students left to right: Front Row Bottom: Amanda Cox, Sam Gladys, Kyle Banar, Slate McMellian, Will Adoue, Gaige Inman, Elvis Begaj, Max Botti. Second Row: Lily Fillhart, Madison McGee, Izzy Wolfe, Madelyn Diomedea, Raina Schmied, Hope Freeman, Damian Hirschhorn, Davis Elsey, Armando Saldivar, Katie Ray, Billy Mykel, Alex Govea, Jackson Sanberg, Braden Baker, Cullen Davee, Logan May, Grace Fife, Cayden Sizelove, Steele Harper, Tito Byce, Kaelyn Homeyer, Hunter Roberts, Joe Walsh, Hunter Lawson. (Josh Fritz | The Talon News; Tyler Castellanos | Photo Art)



# K-12

## Looking Back

---



Will Adoue



Braden Baker



Kyle Banar



Elvis Begaj



Max Botti



Tito Byce



Amanda Cox



Cullen Davee



Madelyn Diomede



Davis Elsey



Grace Fife



Lily Fillhart



Hope Freeman



Samantha Gladys



Alex Govea



Steelee Harper



Damian Hirschhorn



Kaelyn Homeyer



Gaige Inman



Hunter Lawson



Logan May



Madison McGee



Slate McMellian



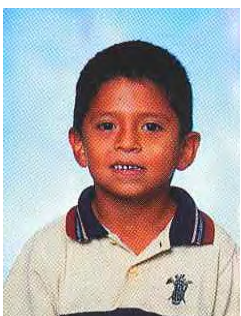
Billy Mykel



Katie Ray



Hunter Roberts



Armando Saldivar



Jackson Sanberg



Raina Schmied



Cayden Sizelove

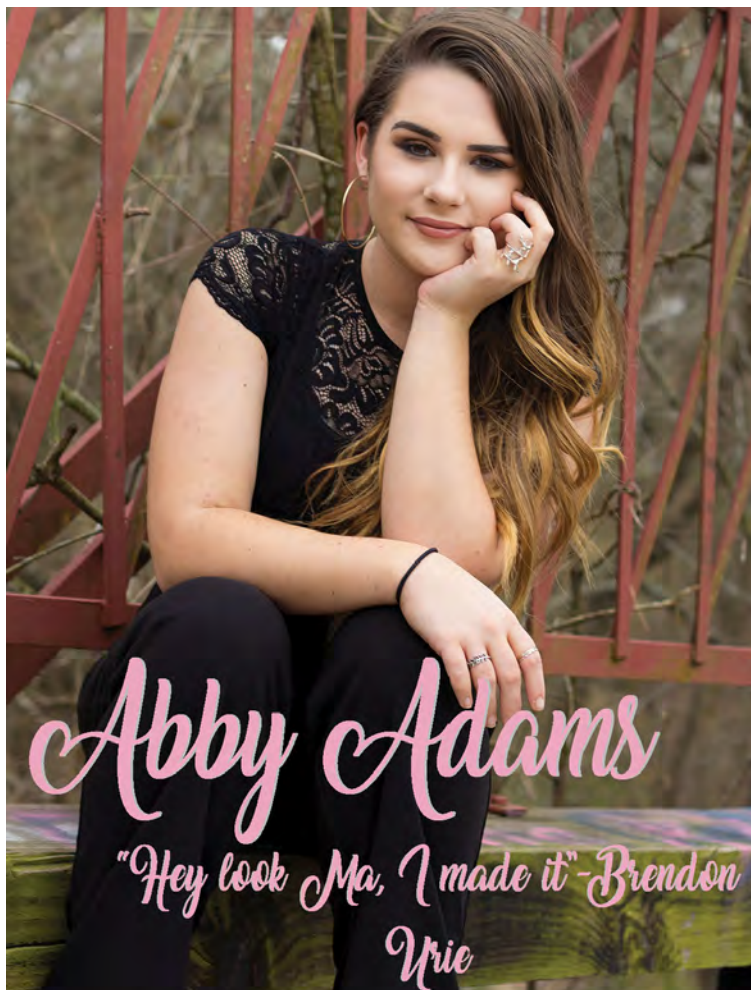


Joe Walsh



Isabella Wolfe







CLASS OF 2021		CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2021
Last Name	First Name	College / Future Plans	Senior Crush
Abrego	Tyler	University of The Incarnate Word	Bailee & Rhylee Mullenix
Adams	Abby	Oklahoma State University	N/A
Addison	Kai	Undecided	Montseratte Orozco and Ileana Roel
Adoue	Will	University of Arkansas	Coach Thaker
Airey	Mariah	Southern Methodist University	N/A
Alford	Ethan	University of Arkansas	Mia Malkova
Allen	Lauren	University of Texas- Austin	Harry Styles
Anderson	Ashton	Texas Tech University	N/A
Arrington	Jefferson	University of Oklahoma	N/A
Atkins	Katy	University of Texas - Arlington	Dinosaur Chicken Nuggets
Atkins	Reid	University of Arkansas	Brooklyn Greer
Atwood	Nate	Texas A&M University - College Station	Baileigh Ehrenberg
Avery	Austin	Oklahoma State University	Kinsey Wellborn
Aylesworth	Emma	Texas A&M University - College Station	Maya Medrano
Bachtel	Bailee	East Texas Baptist University	N/A
Baker	Braden	University of Arkansas	Kadyn Kozminski
Banar	Kyle	North Central Texas College	Sarah Runyon
Barnes	Jackson	Oklahoma City University	Razz-Cranberry La Croix
Barnett	Zachary	Oklahoma State University	Damian Hirschhorn
Barrera	Jacob	University of North Texas	N/A
Barton	William	U.S Marshall/Marine Corp	N/A
Baxter	Paige	University of Arkansas	Will Ramsey
Begaj	Elvis	Baylor University	Marie Wagner (Thomas's older sister)
Bello	Gian	North Central Texas College	N/A
Berney	Victoria	Colorado / Denver	N/A
Biswas	Anusha	Texas A&M University - College Station	N/A
Biswas	Archisha	Texas A&M University - College Station	Isaac Fisher
Bond	Alissa	Undecided	N/A
Botti	Maxwell	Undecided	N/A
Boyett	Hunter	Mechanic / Trade School	N/A
Bunnell	Chase	Arkansas Tech	Taylor Kirkpatrick
Burns	Katherine	University of Oklahoma	Will Adoue
Bush	Alexis	North Central Texas College	myself
Byce	Tito	Undecided	N/A
Cain	Braden	Military	N/A
Calendine	Hayden	Iowa State University	Gold Fish (like the snack I love them)
Camp	Diesel	Tarrant County College	N/A
Candelas	Dadne	University of Oklahoma	Kenny
Carrier	Justin	Oklahoma State University	N/A
Carson	Reese	Texas Tech University	Thomas Wagner
Carter	Dylan	Texas Tech University	Blythe Wickstrum
Casey	Luke	University of Colorado	N/A
Cerda	Caleb	United States Airforce	N/A
Chapa	Darren	Hardin-Simmons University	Trent Bunnell
Cheatham	Amanda	University of Arkansas	Levi Pabst
Childress	Simeon	University of North Texas	N/A
Christman	Justus	Texas A&M College Station	N/A
Coleman	Lilly	Tyler Junior College	N/A
Coles	Emma	University of Arkansas	N/A
Connatser	Payton	Texas State University	N/A



CLASS OF 2021		CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2021
Last Name	First Name	College / Future Plans	Senior Crush
Cox	Amanda	University of Arkansas	Ryan Francis
Crane	Christian	North Central Texas College	Logan Helker
Crowder	Sarah	University of Texas - Austin	Billy Mykel
Cruz	Chance	University of North Texas	Thomas Wagner
Dahl	Jordyn	University of Oklahoma	N/A
Davee	Cullen	University of Oklahoma	Kendall Baker
Davis	Conner	University of North Texas	N/A
Davis	Payton	Undecided	N/A
Deason	Rachel	Texas Woman's University	N/A
Debruin	Shane	Texas Tech University	Sophia Strachan
Deeter	Charles	North Central Texas College	N/A
Deffenbaugh	Peyton	Abilene Christian University	Micheal B. Jordan
Depiro	Ethan	Blinn University	Kyndall Hennigan
Deramo	Caitlin	Stephen F. Austin University	Lee DeMarsh
DeShazo	Savannah	Viterbo University	Kyle Banar
Diaz	Anthony	United States Army	N/A
Diomedee	Madelyn	Abilene Christian University	Eren Yaeger
Doggett	Cade	Ole Miss: The University of Mississippi	N/A
Dye	Jacob	University of Arkansas	N/A
Ebeling Santiago	Stephen	University of North Texas	N/A
Elsey	Davis	Oklahoma State University	Caleb Tapp
Farda	Scout	University of Arkansas	N/A
Fields	Rachel	University of Texas - Austin	Big Chungus
Fife	Grace	Tarleton State	N/A
Fillhart	Lily	Texas Woman's University	N/A
Flaten	Trinity	University of Texas - Austin	tik tok
Fletcher	Micah	United States Airforce	Coach Vaughn
Frahm	Ella	N/A	N/A
Freeman	Carson	Texas Christian University	N/A
Freeman	Hope	University of San Diego	Thomas Wagner
Friedrichsen	Danniel	Undecided	N/A
Fritz	Grayson	Oklahoma State University	Emma Kerley
Garrison	Riley	N/A	Coach King
Gibson	Andrew	University of North Texas	Billy Mykel
Gilbert	Isabelle	University of Texas - Austin	N/A
Gladys	Sam	University of North Texas	Kincaid Zindel
Goodpaster	Trenton	Wichita State University	N/A
Goodson	Grey	University of Arkansas	N/A
Govea	Alejandro	Hardin-Simmons University	Coach Drake
Grubbs	Tyler	Texas Tech University	N/A
Hance	Nicholas	Army West Point	N/A
Harper	Steelee	Texas State University	Coach Griffin (Ricky Griffin)
Harris	Savanna	GAP in Guatemala (ministry)/Texas State	jax lol
Hartjen	Jenna	Texas Tech University	Kincaid Zindel
Haynes	Liam	N/A	N/A
Helker	Logan	Oklahoma State University	Davis Elsey
Henches	Shelby	Texas Christian University	N/A
Henexson	Grady	University of Nebraska Lincoln	Bella Nicole Zindel
Hennigan	Karter	University of North Texas	sans undertale my beloved
Hernandez	Jose	N/A	N/A



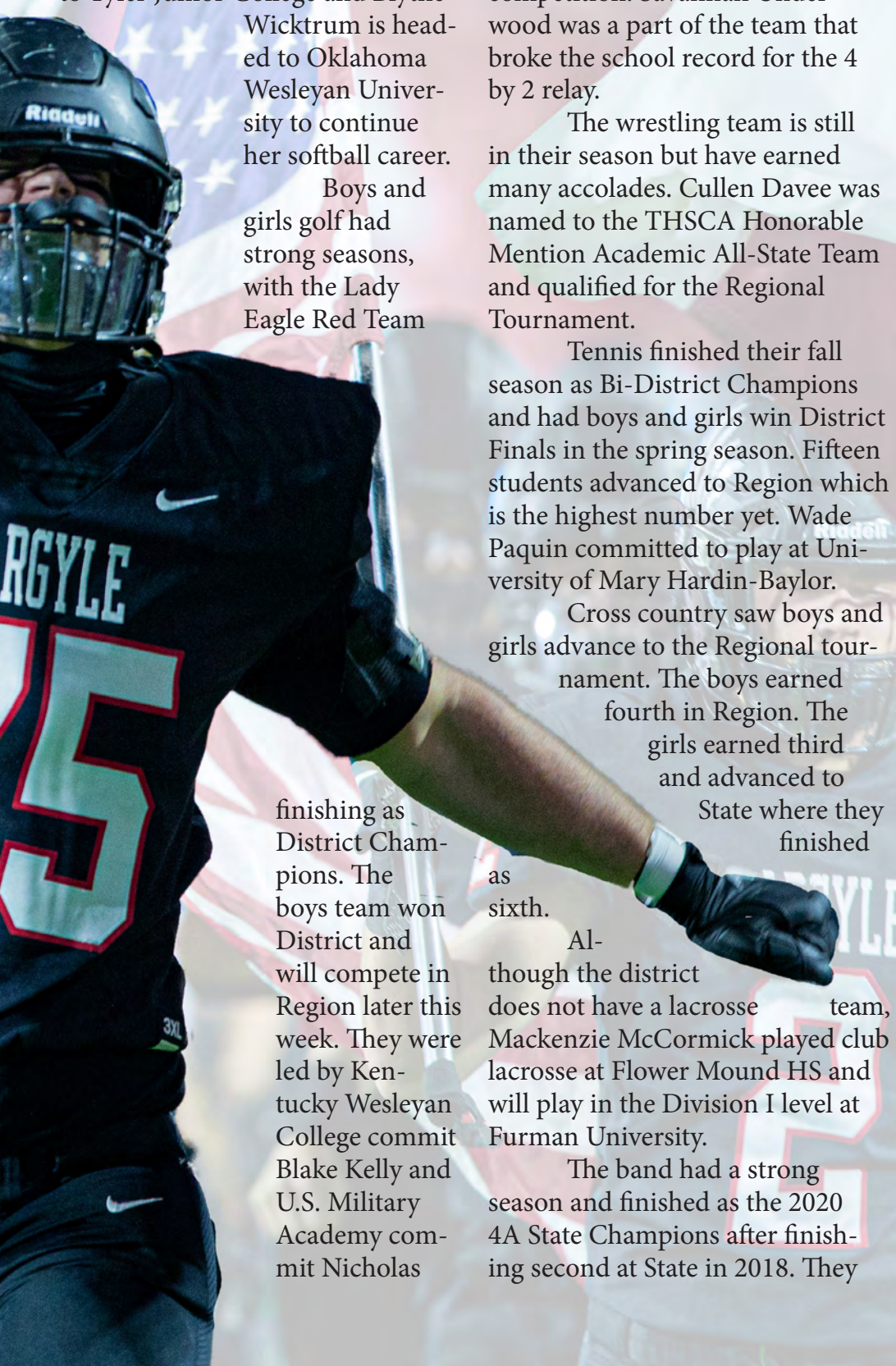
# CLASS OF 2021 CLASS OF 2021 CLASS OF 2021

Last Name	First Name	College / Future Plans	Senior Crush
Herrera	Johnathan	University of Arkansas	Mrs.Hunt
Hille	Isabel	Southern New Hampshire University	N/A
Hinojosa	Devin	North Texas Central College	Mackenzie McCormick
Hinojosa	Dylan	North Texas Central College	N/A
Hirschhorn	Damian	Oklahoma State University	Zac Barnett
Holder	Samantha	Trinity Valley Community College	Scout Rouser
Holder	Sara	North Texas Central College	Emma Estrada
Holmes	Holden	Southern Methodist University	N/A
Homeyer	Kaelyn	TCC / Texas Christian University	Cody Rogers
Hurst	Gracie	University of Texas Dallas	Gracie May <3
Inman	Gaige	North Texas Central College	N/A
Irwin	Mia	University of Oklahoma	Wes Tucker
Jacobs	Nikolas	Texas Tech University	Trent Strachan
Jarrott	Aysha	N/A	N/A
Johnson	Alli	Samford University	Drew Taunton
Johnson	Ty	University of North Texas	Beyonce
Jolley	Rachel	University of Arkansas	N/A
Keith	Erin	Doula	Mr. Green
Kelly	Blake	Kentucky Wesleyan	N/A
Kelly	Grace	Texas A&M College Station	Kincaid Zindel
Kelton	Mattie	Belmont University	Slade Monroe
Khan	Muhad	University of Texas - Dallas	Drew Snakenberg
Kirkpatrick	Cole	Texas Tech University	N/A
Kottu	Krish	Texas Tech University	Marie Wagner
Krzysiak	Charlie	Texas A&M University - College Station	Shaye Feely
Kuchta	Danica	University of Arkansas	Chris Pine
Kulesa	Jordyn	Masonry/Technical School	N/A
Lawson	Hunter	Lehigh University	N/A
Long	Allie	Texas Woman's University	N/A
Long	Ryland	University of Oklahoma	Thomas Wagner
Lore	Owen	Trade school	Mr.King
Lott	Jasper	Texas Christian University	N/A
Loveday	Nick	University of Texas San Antonio	N/A
Lundy	Zoey	North Central Texas College	Ryann Ragsdale <3
Mann	Ethan	North Central Texas College	Brooke Dickie
Marcello	Juliahnna	Baylor University	Caden Dodson
Marks	Brice	The Citadel	N/A
Marshall	Beau	University of Arkansas	N/A
Martin	Ava	Volunteer State Community College	N/A
Mata	Ethan	N/A	N/A
May	Logan	Texas Tech University	Kadyn Kozminski
Mazariegos	Bryan	General Contractor	N/A
McBee	Kate	Colorado State University	my phone
McCormick	Mackenzie	Furman University	Devin Hinojosa (mainly Johnny Depp though)
McCray	Hayden	University of Oklahoma	Ryland Long
McCue	Reece	Oklahoma Baptist University	Mia Irwin
McCurry	Skylar	Oklahoma State University	Presley Allen
McCutcheon	Alyssa	Vernon College	N/A
McGee	Madison	Texas Tech University	Mackenzie McCormick/Alex Govea
McMellian	Slate	Oklahoma State University	Ashlin Crabtree









play. Tyler Abrego signed with the University of the Incarnate Word and Dawson Walls will attend Oral Roberts University.

Softball is in the middle of their regular season and currently ranked 19th in the state poll. They set a school record for most wins in a season and have won 17 games. Lilly Coleman is committed to Tyler Junior College and Blythe

Wicktrum is headed to Oklahoma Wesleyan University to continue her softball career.

Boys and girls golf had strong seasons, with the Lady Eagle Red Team

finishing as District Champions. The boys team won District and will compete in Region later this week. They were led by Kentucky Wesleyan College commit Blake Kelly and U.S. Military Academy commit Nicholas

Hance.

Although the track and field teams are still in season, they have already seen many athletes break school records. Regan Ruffner and Caleb Murdock both signed to Texas A&M University to continue pole vaulting. Girls and Boys Track won the district championships and sent 31 athletes to the Area competition. Savannah Underwood was a part of the team that broke the school record for the 4 by 2 relay.

The wrestling team is still in their season but have earned many accolades. Cullen Davee was named to the THSCA Honorable Mention Academic All-State Team and qualified for the Regional Tournament.

Tennis finished their fall season as Bi-District Champions and had boys and girls win District Finals in the spring season. Fifteen students advanced to Region which is the highest number yet. Wade Paquin committed to play at University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

Cross country saw boys and girls advance to the Regional tournament. The boys earned fourth in Region. The girls earned third and advanced to

State where they finished as sixth.

Although the district does not have a lacrosse team, Mackenzie McCormick played club lacrosse at Flower Mound HS and will play in the Division I level at Furman University.

The band had a strong season and finished as the 2020 4A State Champions after finishing second at State in 2018. They

also earned Grand Champions at Sounds of Springtown competition and the Ponder Marching competition and Sweepstakes at UIL after getting straight 1's in every category.

The cheerleading team spent the fall season cheering the football boys on to a state championship. In the spring, they competed in various contests before earning second in Spirit State Championships.

The Majestics dance team won State for the Small Division, making them back to back state champions.

Choir had 13 students advance to the area round. Tenors Alex Govea, Austin Rusk and Payton Connatser placed in the All-State competition. Remedy is also currently working on their third studio album that will be released on all streaming platforms in the upcoming weeks.

One Act Play finished fourth in Region and was ranked as one of the top 16 plays in the state. Jackson Barnes was named Best Performer.

UIL Academics had 42 students advance to the Regional Meet. They will have competed and hopefully advanced some of these students to State by the time this article is published. Led by Billy Mykel and Joe Thompson, Debate made school history for the first time by earning a speaker award at CX State.

Throughout the school year, the academic and athletic teams continued to dominate and earn Lone Star cup points, vaccines continued to be distributed and seniors prepared for graduation and all the things to come in the future. Regardless of the circumstances, the Class of 2021 did not let those things define them.



CLASS OF 2021		CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2021
Last Name	First Name	College / Future Plans	Senior Crush
Meyer	Andrew	United States Airforce	N/A
Miller	Dalton	Living my dreams / Out of state	Margot Robbie
Miller	Kaleah	Southern Arkansas University	N/A
Mirelez	Mark	University of Texas - Austin	Mrs. Devine
Moore	Chelsea	Oklahoma State University	Wes Tucker
Moore	Ryan	Henderson State University - Arkansas	N/A
Morgan	William "Joey"	Undecided	N/A
Morse	Caden	North Central Texas College	Rachel Muffie
Muffie	Rachel	Tarrant County College	Caden Morse
Murdock	Caleb	Texas A&M University - College Station	N/A
Mykel	Billy	Texas State University	Sarah Crowder
Nash	Rand	Undecided	N/A
Newman	Landon	Texas Tech University	Tess Siedler
Norkett	Adam	University of Dallas / Business	N/A
O'Neal	Rebecca	Lawrence University	Luke Bentley
Orozco	Montseratte	University of Texas- San Antonio	Mark Koke
Overton	Billy	Iowa State University	N/A
Owens	Jarvis	Oklahoma State University	N/A
Pace	Houston	Ogle Cosmetology School	N/A
Pakebusch	Savannah	Georgetown University / Then POTUS	Curtis Williams
Palmer	Reid	Oklahoma State University	Leah Coleman
Paquin	Charles	University of Mary Hardin Baylor	N/A
Patterson	Cannon	Work in Colorado / vanlife	Mrs.Jackson
Payne	Ella	Texas Tech University	Clayton Davee
Payne	Zachary	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	N/A
Penzes	Zoe	University of Arkansas	Reese Witherspoon
Petter	Blake	University of North Texas	N/A
Piatt	Ethan	Texas Tech University	N/A
Piel	Andie	University of Arkansas	Eli Valentino
Pitner	Maci	Baylor University	Ricky Griffin
Ragsdale	Ryann	University of Winchester- Winchester, England	N/A
Ray	Katie	University of Colorado-Denver	N/A
Reed	Kaelyn	Baylor University	Eli Valentino
Reeves	Caden	University of North Texas	Cate Clark
Reid	Anna	University of Texas - Dallas	N/A
Rigsby	Lila	Texas Tech University	JC Davis
Roberts	Ashlynn	University of Missouri	KJ Apa
Roberts	Heather	Weatherford College	Stephen Ebeling
Roberts	Hunter	Texas A&M University - College Station	Alli Johnson
Robinson	Henry	Texas Tech University	N/A
Rodriguez	Jacob	United States Naval Academy	N/A
Roel	Ileana	Stephen F Austin University	ETHAN GONZALEZ
Rogers	Emmanuel	N/A	N/A
Rogers	C.J.	Baylor University	Brooklyn Greer
Romolo	Emily	Iowa State University	N/A
Rosengren	Kassidy	University of California Berkeley	Levi Pabst
Rouser	Scout	Texas State University	N/A
Ruffner	Regan	Texas A&M University - College Station	N/A
Rusk	Austin	Southern Methodist University	N/A
Sadler	Ariana	Brigham Young University - Provo	N/A



CLASS OF 2021		CLASS OF 2021	CLASS OF 2021
Last Name	First Name	College / Future Plans	Senior Crush
Saenz Salinas	Adriana	University of Central Florida	N/A
Saldivar	Armando	University of North Texas	N/A
Sanberg	Jackson	University of North Texas	N/A
Sanchez	Daniel	Hockey	N/A
Sanders	Cameron	Texas A&M Prairieview	N/A
Schleder	Courtney	Texas Tech University	Caleb Tapp
Schmied	Raina	Baylor University	Coach Vega
Selvakumaran	Nethra	University of Texas-Dallas	N/A
Shelley	Darien	University of Tampa	N/A
Simmons	Mikayla	University of Texas	N/A
Sizelove	Cayden	Texas Tech University	N/A
Snakenberg	Drew	University of Arkansas	Carson Rosckes
Soyland	Steffen	Pilot / Flight School	N/A
Spence	Blake	Texas Tech University	Jenna Hartjen
St Romain	Gunner	Chick-fil-A & Argyle HS	N/A
Stagg	Kayla	North Central Texas College	N/A
Standifer	Sydney	Clemson University	Clayton Davee
Stepp	Rachel	Baylor University	Tom Hiddleston
Stewart	Zach	University of Arkansas	Kadyn Kozminski
Strachan	Leilani	Texas A&M University - College Station	Nolan Griffeth
Strittmatter	Ashton	University of Arkansas	Shaye Feely
Stuard	Kaitlyn	North Central Texas College	N/A
Styron	Avri	University of Oklahoma	Caden Dodson
Sutler	Lucy	Oklahoma State University	N/A
Sutton	Jacob	Virginia Tech University	N/A
Swedin	Gosha	Texas A&M University - College Station	N/A
Tapp	Caleb	Oklahoma State University	Reece McCue
Thompson	Joseph	University of California Santa Cruz	Mr. Woody
Thurston	Emma	University of Oklahoma	Mr. Rahman
Timmons	Bailey	Trinity University - San Antonio	Nate Atwood
Tubbs	Grayson	North Central Texas College	N/A
Tucker	Jack	Texas Tech University	Kaeleb Lund
Underwood	Savannah	University of Arkansas	Coach Vega
Van Drunen	Maxwell	North Central Texas College	Mrs. Romero
Wagner	Thomas	University of North Texas	Hope FWreeman
Walker	Cash	University of Houston	N/A
Walls	Dawson	Undecided	N/A
Walsh	Joe	Oklahoma State University	Ella Atkins
Weeks	Cole	Belmont University	Tommy Hilfiger
Wickstrum	Blythe	Oklahoma Wesleyan	Dylan Carter
Wofford	Zach	Texas Tech University	N/A
Wolfe	Isabelle	Texas A&M University - College Station	N/A
Woolums	Adriana	Texas State University	N/A
Zindel	Isabella	Texas Christian University	Grant Wright

*Congratulations Class of 2021*

*Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails.*

*Explore, dream, discover.*

*- Mark Twain*



# SENIOR



Yung Gravy Photo by: BM Entertainment



Ryland Long Photo by: Nicholas West



Ben Shapiro Photo by: Celebrity Net Worth



Billy Mykel Photo by: Nicholas West



Polar Express Kid Photo By: Wiki Fandom



Grady Henexson Photo by: Nicholas West





Charli D'Amelio Photo by: Elite Daily



Avri Stryon Photo by: Nicholas West



Hank Green Photo by: Complexly



Hayden McCray Photo by: Nicholas West



Hiccup Photo by: Tissuspicious



Jackson Barnes Photo by: Nicholas West

# LOOK ALIKES



May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace  
as you trust in Him - Romans 15:13



Billy Mykel

Jarvis  
Owens



WE LOVE YOU SON!  
Proud of you! Continue  
to follow Christ!

Cade Doggett



"Set out each day believing in your dreams.  
Know without a doubt you were made for great things."

With Love, Dad, Mom, Noelle & Ethan





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**GO EAGLES**



*Simeon Childress*



*Wherever your journey in life may take you,  
I pray you'll always be safe.  
I'm always here for you.  
Love, Mom*



Congratulations Nick! We are so very proud of you,  
and all your hard work at Argyle. You have such  
great adventures ahead of you!  
Love, Mom and Dad

**Nick Loveday**





*Maci Pitner*

*We love you for all  
that you are, all that  
you have been, and all  
that you're yet to be.  
Love Mom, Dad, and Mason*



**CAFE**

**gēckō**

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*“foods from sunny latitudes”*

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# Improper Mask Use Raises Health Concerns

Aug. 24, 2020

Trinity Flaten | Director of Print

To allow students to attend in-person school, the district opened schools on Aug. 17 with several restrictions, including the requirement of face masks. Students are required to wear masks at all times unless they are eating at lunch or exercising. Many students have begun to wear a variety of different masks and face coverings, in some cases incorrectly.

Students opting for in-person learning should take the safety of their peers and teachers into consideration by wearing and using masks correctly.

Throughout the week, students have started pulling down their masks and wearing them below their nose or pulling their mask away from their face when they talk. Doing so severely impacts the mask's effectiveness. Masks are meant to prevent a person's respiratory droplets from entering the air so other people do not breathe them in. According to clinical and lab studies done by the CDC, masks are shown to reduce the spray of droplets when worn over both the mouth and the nose. COVID-19 is spread when people are in close proximity to each other and can be transmitted by people who do not have symptoms, so it is important that students wear their masks correctly. Students do not know if their teachers or peers are at high risk if they were to contract the virus, and by opting for in-person school, it is their responsibility to do everything to keep them safe.

Many students wear the same mask day after day or wear disposable masks. Multitudes of these students are not aware that the medical masks they wear to school everyday are meant for one use. This means at the end of the day students should throw them away as soon as they get home and wear a new one the next day. Ryan Sinclair, associate professor of environmental microbiology at Loma Linda University School of Public Health, stated that viruses and bacteria can live on masks for 8-12 hours. He also stated that fabric, when not disinfected properly, can carry bacteria like *E. coli*, and viruses like COVID-19. Because of this, students wearing reusable masks should wash them daily. It is important for students to wear a new reusable mask each day and to wash their cloth masks every day after school to prevent the spread of anything they may have come in contact with during the day.

Instead of disposable masks or cloth

masks, some students elected to wear a face shield or gaiter as they are easier to use and breathe through. However, these are not as effective as a normal mask. A face shield's primary purpose is to protect a person's eyes. It is not currently known how effective they are in preventing the spray of respiratory droplets. Because of this, the CDC does not recommend them in place of a mask unless they wrap around the wearer's face or include a hood. They also state that disposable shields should be thrown away after one use and reusable shields should be disinfected after each use. Gaiters are made with the intent to be thin and breathable. Because of this, they do little to stop respiratory droplets from entering the air. A Duke study tested 14 common masks and their effectiveness when

speaking to examine droplet emission. They found that gaiters, specifically made of fleece, caused larger droplets to be dispersed into smaller droplets. In some cases, the gaiters actually dispersed more droplets than someone not wearing a face covering. These smaller droplets also stay airborne longer than large droplets as large droplets sink faster. Because of this, the study concluded that the use of a gaiter may be counterproductive. Instead, students should try to wear a disposable mask or cotton one in a face shield and gaiter's place.

In order to continue in-person school and prevent a district shutdown, students should make an effort to wear their masks correctly and wear a clean/new mask each day.



Students wear their masks throughout the school day with many wearing them incorrectly. (Nicholas West | The Talon News)

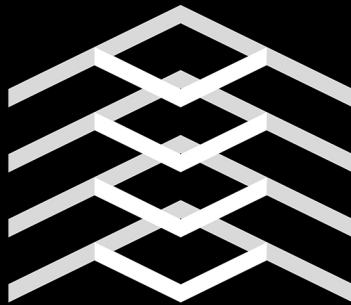


You have and always will  
make the sweetest music to  
our ears. We love you very  
much. Mom and Dad

Karter Hennigan

NIK JACOBS

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# Exemptions Canceled

Dec. 3, 2020

Sarah Crowder | Director of Web and Digital Content

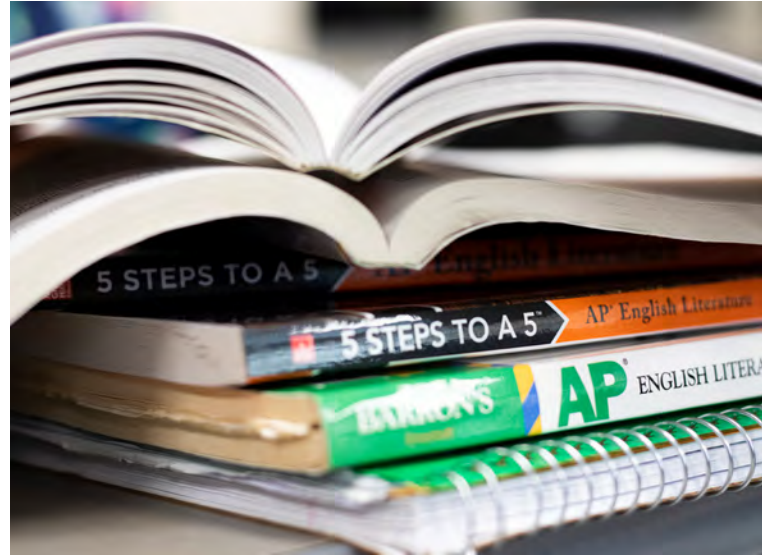
This year has been less than normal. The first semester has been filled with rapid changes and last-minute fixes; administrators, teachers, and students alike have been throwing things at the wall to see if they stick. With increasing cases and the typical stress of the end of the year, the chaos of the semester is coming to a crescendo.

Students should be allowed to exempt their final exams, as a grace to students and teachers.

Teachers and students have been overwhelmed, to say the least. Trying to juggle normal classes, online studies, and a global pandemic is draining. Stacking final exams for seven classes on top of that is absurd. Not only would having exams add hours of studying and review for students, but it would also pile on prep and grading for teachers worked to the wire. Teachers have already been overtaxed this year,

so much so that the school had to implement “virtual Fridays” to allow them to catch up. Allowing exemptions would give the school some breathing space at the end of a jam-packed year.

Traditionally, exemption eligibility is based on attendance and grades. Both of these are obviously going to be a little bit different this year. Despite this, there have been a substantial number of students who have attended school enough, whether in person or online, to qualify. It is unfair that the students who have shown up every day and kept their grades up don't get the reward that previous years did. While average grades may have fallen this year, that should be expected with many students doing at-home learning for the first time. Multiple students have spoken up about how different and challenging it is to focus and learn online. These students



Fall semester exam exemptions get canceled. Photo taken April 13, 2021 (Katie Ray | The Talon News)

shouldn't get penalized for having to adapt. In addition, exams were always an incentive for students to keep their grades and attendance up. Having the option drives students to do better.

With everything in 2020, students should be able to exempt their semester exams, for the benefit of them and the teachers. Talk to Mr. King and the counselors about exemptions.

## Baseball Team to Start Season

Feb. 9, 2021

Tyler Castellanos | Graphic Designer

The baseball team saw success under Head Coach Ricky Griffin during the past few years. They currently are the reigning State and National Champions after last year's season was cut short due to the COVID-19 quarantine. This year they look to do it again, despite being ranked fifth overall in class 4A by Texas High School Baseball.

“We have to obviously follow the rules set for COVID,” Griffin said. “Every kid is going to have a mask. When they are in the dugout they will have to have that mask on at all times and while they are playing, when they are within six feet of another player.”

Even though this year presents new changes, the coaches and players remain

hopeful for the season.

“Expectations are high, like they always are,” assistant coach Steve Stinson said. “I think from a team standpoint that's been a culture, established last year by the older players that have graduated and I think that the younger ones continue that.”

The coaches remain confident their season will not be cut short this year.

“I am expecting it to last because we know a little bit more about how to protect each other than we did last year,” Griffin said. “It was new and when they canceled us last year, COVID had just hit and they were being real cautious. They are still being careful now, but they have a lot of precautions and I feel like when we finished football without a problem, I don't see how we wouldn't finish baseball season.”

Even with all of the precautions, some people are bound to get exposed.

“There's nothing you can do about it as far as if a player has to quarantine,” Griffin said. “You have to have plenty of depth on your team so if you're missing a kid because of quarantine, you're going to have to play or count on the next kid to step up behind him.”

With quarantine potentially taking out players, the coaches aren't worried.

“Quarantine I think may give someone else a chance to step up and see what they can do,” Stinson said. “There are some district guidelines in place for quarantining as far as if players are missing or if there's a lot of them out, but I think from our viewpoint as coaches that it will give someone else a chance.”



The Argyle Eagles defeat Princeton 8-1 on Feb. 28, 2020. (Jordyn Tarrant | The Talon News)





# Rebecca O'Neal

Rebecca -  
Always be kind, funny, bold,  
fierce, strong, and loyal...  
stay who you are!  
We love you! Mom and Dad



# Senior Assassin Game Promotes Unity

Jan. 20, 2021

Sarah Crowder, Sloan Dial, Trinity Flaten, Katie Ray & Ashlynn Roberts  
The Talon News Directors



A few players pose for a group photo as the Senior Assassin challenge comes to a close at Argyle High School on Jan. 13, 2021. (Katie Ray | The Talon News)

To bring the grade together, the senior class began a mass game of “senior assassin,” with 26 teams of three, spanning from October to January.

“It’s all about two different teams going against each other each week,” co-founder and senior Joe Walsh said. “They shoot each other with water guns. If you get shot, you are eliminated. The goal is to have more eliminations at the end of the week than the opposing team. You just want to survive throughout the week.”

The founders of the game got the idea from other high schools, like Marcus and Guyer, which have had their own games of senior assassin in the past.

“I told my close friend group about it,” co-founder and senior Ethan Dipero said. “We told more and more people about it and they all said it sounded like a great idea. Everyone involved in the game helped spread the news around about the game and got everyone really interested in senior assassin.”

There is a long list of rules to play, including that all kills must

be filmed, no shooting somebody at work, and the school is a safe zone on weekdays until 6 pm. However, this has led to some students getting creative and finding loopholes.

“We have been in pool play for the past 5 weeks, so everyone can get a gist for the game and see how it’s played,” Dipero said. “It helps the administrators figure out how the rules come into play, such as no shooting from or into a car, or going into someone’s house without being let in. There have been quite a few problems with the rules, leading to a big discussion with the administrators. Eventually, it gets solved and we give our final ruling to the teams.”

Besides the safe zones, participants also have other protections built in to make it more challenging.

“You have floaties that you wear, which are your safety,” senior Ryland Long said. “You can’t wear those on Wednesdays and Sundays though, so there are a bunch of people getting out on those days.”

Dedicated to winning, some participating students camped outside of the opposing team’s house for hours at a time, or shot people in public restaurants.

“I went to Slate McMellian’s house to get Braden Baker out,” senior Mark Mirelez said. “We

went in [while he was having] this huge fundraiser event for the school and Slate’s sister grabs my arm and escorts me out of the house as over 50 people watch me. We did not get the kill and we lost for the week.”

The competitive portion of the game officially began this week. The last team standing will get a prize at the end of the game.

“Each person put \$10 [in a pot at the beginning of the game],” Walsh said. “The winning pot is supposed to be around \$750.”

In addition to a tremendous amount of fun, the game helped create a community and additional memories for senior year.

“With all that’s going on, we can’t totally forget about COVID,” Long said. “But [the game] puts us in another year where we’re just having fun with kids, doing something that everyone can be a part of. You don’t have to be in football or anything, everyone can do it. It’s bringing people together.”

Damian Hirschhorn, Thomas Wagner, and Ryland Long won the bracket and will receive the \$750.



That’s a wrap! Damian Hirschhorn, Thomas Wagner, and Ryland Long are named the 2021 Senior Assassin Champions at Argyle High School on Jan. 19, 2021. (Katie Ray | The Talon News)



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LONG**

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# Top Ten Gives Advice

Sarah Crowder, Trinity Flaten & Ashlynn Roberts  
Director of Web | Director of Print | Director of Productions



The top ten pose for a photo in the library after the official rank was announced April 7, 2021. Pictured from left to right, front row (not official order): Isabelle Gilbert, Trinity Flaten, Archisha Biswas, Sarah Crowder, Anusha Biswas, Peyton Deffenbaugh, and Lily Fillhart. Back row: Mark Mirelez, Joe Walsh, and Lauren Allen. (Josh Fritz | The Talon News)

Juggling grades, extracurriculars, and friends in high school is difficult for most students, but the top ten of the class of 2021 have mastered the key to success.

While 246 students (including early graduates) are part of the class of 2021, only the top ten will be on the center stage at Eagle Stadium on May 18, and these students will be the first and last to graduate from Eagle Stadium and the main high school campus.

“Give yourself grace, look for the joy in everything (even if you have to look harder sometimes), and remember to enjoy your time in high school,” Valedictorian Isabelle Gilbert said.

She also believes that it’s the little moments with friends, teachers, siblings, and parents that matter as much as grades and hard work, and she says “don’t give up, there will be moments when it gets really tough but it is important to be determined in pursuing your goals.

Gilbert says that the best feeling is when you can look back at your work and know that no matter the outcome you have given 100%.

Salutatorian Sarah Crowder knows that the only thing you can control is yourself.

“You are far more capable than you believe,” she says. “Just do your best and everything else will fall into place.”

Lauren Allen (3rd) says that your should not really worry about grades because in the end, everything works out for the best.

“Spend time with your friends and do what makes you happy rather than studying a lot,” she said. “And don’t do drugs.”

Trinity Flaten (4th) says even though you might be tempted, not giving up is really important.

“I’m not gonna lie,” she said. “It was difficult to get here and sometimes you definitely want to give up along the way. But, it [making top ten] was definitely worth it. This group of people are

some of my closest friends and at times carried me through high school. Without them, I wouldn’t be here. I am very grateful to this group.”

Anusha Biswas (5th) and her twin sister learned the secrets to success side-by-side.

“My sister, Archisha, helped me towards this achievement by motivating and guiding me,” Anusha said. “Wherever you go, go with all your heart.”

Joe Walsh (6th) understands that going after goals is never easy.

“Just don’t forget to have fun along the way,” he said.

Archisha Biswas (7th) says her sister also helped her achieve success by inspiring and supporting her.

“Having the motivation to improve, work hard, and be the best that I could helped me towards this achievement,” she said.

Mark Mirelez (8th) tends to rely on humor, hard work, and food to maintain success.

“Box day in the lunch line is the only thing that kept me goin,” he said. “Oh, and hook ‘em.”

Peyton Deffenbaugh (9th) says that the most important thing to do during high school is to decide what the most important things are to you personally, and then go after those things.

“Whether it’s grades, art, sports, or even the friends in your life, when you spend these years focused on what you care most about, you will have a wonderful experience,” she said.

Lily Fillhart (10th) says that grades are important, but not at the expense of having fun and doing what makes you happy.

“You only get one high school experience,” she said, “so make it count and don’t forget to take lots of pictures in case someone does something stupid! Also, “The Office, season 7, episode 19, minute 14:45.”



*Congrats boys on  
another great season!*



**Armando Saldivar, Kyle Banar,  
Scout Farda, Joe Walsh, Will Adoue,  
Johnny Herrera, Adam Norkett  
Class of 2021**

**DJ SHELLEY**



**I APPRECIATE ALL MY TIME HERE  
AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE.**

*Raina Schmied*



*We are so proud of you and look forward  
to seeing what God has planned for you!  
Love, Dad & Mom*

**LEILANI STRACHAN**



**YOU'LL ALWAYS BE OUR LITTLE GIRL, EVEN AS WE  
WATCH YOU GROW INTO A STRONG,  
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!**



Wishing you all of the joy and promise that this next  
chapter brings you. We love you.  
- Dad, Mom, Dude, B and Monkey

Mia Irwin



# Girls Soccer Advances to Regional Finals

April 9, 2021

Sam Mykel | Co-Sports Editor



Senior Rebecca O'Neal attempts to make a goal against the Salado Eagles on March 23, 2021 in Argyle, Texas. (Katie Ray | The Talon News)

"There is only one goal," head girls soccer coach Mark Koke said. "State Champions."

The girls soccer team made history this season with their longest playoff run in school history. The team had a record of 21-3-2 and finished first in district after going 8-0 during the season.

"We have a very talented group this year," Koke said. "They are very talented and the chemistry between them is great."

In their final year at Argyle, eight seniors helped drive the team the furthest it has ever been in the playoffs.

"This is the biggest senior class we've ever had," Koke said. "They lead by example and are vocal leaders as well."

Senior captain Rebecca O'Neal has been a big part of the team's success this year and is a vital leader on the team.

"Being a senior and a captain, there is obviously a lot of

responsibility that comes with it," O'Neal said. "Everyone on the team has been great and cooperative. It's really great getting to be a bigger part of the team and being able to help and lead the rest of the girls."

The girls have had a 'Do Your Part' mindset, which encourages the players to make an effort to stay healthy.

"Our team motto this year was 'Do Your Part,'" Koke said. "They have all done their part on and off the field to ensure we have a successful season."

One thing that has helped the team have such success is the bond and chemistry between the players.

"We all get along and are close friends with each other," O'Neal said. "Us being friends and respecting each other helps set an example for the team and has helped make this year go so much smoother."

Much like everything this year, COVID-19 has been a roadblock for the team, but they have been able to work their way around it and stay healthy and safe.

"We've been focused this season on doing what we can to win state and stay healthy," O'Neal said. "We decided our motto would be 'Do Your Part' with the main focus being to be smart about what we do and wearing our masks to stay safe."

The seniors had been able to help make school history this year and were hoping to close out their final year with a state championship.

"It's been really fun getting to all be together and finish our last season with each other," O'Neal said. "This team has made my senior season incredible and one I'll never forget and I couldn't be happier or more proud of all of us."

With just three games away from a state championship, the girls were ready to add another ring into Argyle's resume.

"We are all just doing everything we can to make our state run possible and play our best each game," O'Neal said. "We've already made history over our last few games so we might as well go ahead and win the whole thing."



The Lady Eagles break the huddle before the regional finals against Midlothian on April 9, 2021. (Delaney Lechowit | The Talon News)



# Choir Program Opens New Doors with Remedy and Flight

April 14, 2021

Sam Mykel | Co-Sports Editor



Remedy moves into their fourth year of performing with big plans for the future including a new album and the start of a new group (photo courtesy of Will Griswold).

The choir program continues to succeed, with a new a capella group and album on the way.

“I really just wanted a group for kids who knew that singing was their thing,” Choir Director William Griswold said. “I just wanted to provide an opportunity for musicians and singers at a very high level.”

This is exactly what the groups Remedy and Flight have offered choir students. Ever since Remedy formed in 2017, they have already released two EP’s and another album is currently in the works.

“I am super excited for the songs on the album,” senior Peyton Deffenbaugh said. “They work together really well and are going to do a great job of showing off our talents.”

While the choir typically performs more traditional pieces, Remedy and Flight offer opportunities for students to perform contemporary pieces of music.

“In choir we sing more classical music,” Deffenbaugh said. “But, I’ve always liked just singing in the car to pop music and I thought

Remedy was just a good place to do so.”

Much like Remedy, Flight also performs contemporary pieces and is the newest a capella group in the choir program.

“Flight is also new, it’s like a second Remedy,” senior Alex Govea said. “It’s still great and so much fun. It’s basically a smaller, more personal group.”

Both groups perform at venues such as concerts for school but along with that, Remedy also competes at contests and has even placed in the past.

“Once we can compete again, the things we’ve learned and how we’ve grown as a group and grown talent wise will finally be able to be shown off and it’ll be worth it,” Deffenbaugh said.

Currently in the works, when it’s completed and released, Remedy’s newest album will be able to be streamed on streaming services.

“We are about to record our album this week,” Govea said. “I’m just excited more people are going to hear our music by the time

our album is released.”

The new album does not currently have a title but it will continue with the theme of the elements following the earth feel of ‘In the Trenches’ and the water feel of ‘Waves’.

“We are embracing the idea that music lights a sort of fire on the inside of us with this album,” Griswold said. “When you get close to a fire you feel warm and we want the people who listen to our music get close with us and feel the warmth of our music.”

The choir program has evolved out of a group of students who sing on a stage into a family of students who have grown together while performing music and doing the things they love.

“It’s really cool to see these timid kids come into the program and after getting into these a capella groups, they grow and break out of their shell,” Griswold said. “These students may not ever go into music but these groups are building confidence and that’s what these students are taking out of this more than anything.”



A young girl with blonde hair and a pink bow, wearing a black and red cheerleader outfit, stands on a green athletic field with a red track in the background.

# Zoey Miller

“She attended Hilltop Elementary and was entering into sixth grade at Argyle Intermediate School. Zoey was full of fun, friendship, laughter, and nonstop smiles. She was involved in band, volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading, community plays and Girl Scouts. She loved trying new things, regardless of what it was such as sports, swimming, hiking, riding horses, raising and rescuing animals, diving, crafts, cooking, art and anything else that came her way. No adventure was too big or too small...

The Miller’s are survived by Leann’s son, Cory Dixon, and Mike’s daughter, Macy Miller, and other family members.”

-Obituary



*In Loving Memory  
Zoey Miller*



*May 24 2002 -  
August 8 2014*



# Nineteen Seniors Sign Despite Covid-19 Challenges

Feb. 3, 2021  
Ashlynn Roberts  
Editor in Chief

Despite challenges COVID-19 brought to each sport, nineteen seniors signed their National Letter of Intent throughout this school year, and each will continue play at the collegiate level.

"COVID-19 made the recruiting process very difficult," Lawrence University soccer commit Rebecca O'Neal said. "Junior year is the prime recruiting year and schools were in a dead period and travel was limited. It was hard to visit schools which is a big part in making a decision."

The pandemic also forced colleges to cut back the amount of money made available to this year's class.

"COVID-19 has affected softball recruiting so much," Tyler Junior College softball commit Lilly Coleman said. "With all colleges giving last year's seniors an extra year of eligibility, that takes away money that they would have given out to the 2021 recruits."

Since many college sports lost their spring season, some universities allowed seniors to play another year to make up for their lost season.

"[COVID-19] has made it a lot harder to find a place to get recruited because of some teams not having a season," Oklahoma Baptist University football commit Reece McCue said. "They get to have their seniors back so spots are limited."

Individual sports haven't been impacted as much, but athletes have still felt the impact of COVID-19.

"Recruiting has been seriously affected because we weren't able to take as many visits or in some cases couldn't even take a single visit," Kentucky Wesleyan College golf commit Blake Kelly said. "My senior season hasn't been affected [as much] since we



Seniors signed their National Letter of Intent on Feb. 3 at Argyle High School (Josh Fritz / The Talon News).

don't have to be close to people on the course."

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) currently has a dead period that started in March 2020 and is supposed to be lifted in April 2021. This dead period prohibits in-person contact with coaches or teams.

"Most of the 2021 recruits had to choose a school based on online information, without being able to see the school or meet the coach in person," Texas A&M University pole vault commit Regan Ruffner said. "I was fortunate enough to have been to Texas A&M several times and have met the coach earlier."

The pandemic caused athletes to appreciate every time they are able to play their sport.

"I definitely cherish every moment I'm on the field with my teammates as much as I can," Oklahoma Wesleyan softball commit Blythe Wickstrum said. "I never know when could be the last time I play."

While seniors remain optimistic about college play, they are fully aware that the future remains uncertain.

"COVID-19 has been very unfortunate but I was lucky because I was recruited and committed before the pandemic," Clemson University basketball commit Sydney Standifer said. "I am most excited about getting

to play at the college level and be surrounded by people that have the same goals as me."

Being on a sports team teaches hard work and dedication and has also given athletes a support group.

"There is a whole pole vault community that loves and supports everyone who is in it," Ruffner said. "Everyone within this community genuinely wants the best for every vaulter and loves the sport for the exact same reason. The friendships I have made in pole vaulting will last a lifetime and I have met so many amazing people because of it."

Many athletes also appreciate the community aspect and support found in the town.

"Argyle made me realize how good I actually could be and gave me the tools necessary to achieve the goals I wanted to," Hardin-Simmons University football commit Darren Chapa said. "My favorite memory from the 2020 football season was going up to Coach Lundy after we won state and just thanking him for giving me a chance."

The expectations of the community pushes the athletes to further develop their skills.

"Argyle has shaped me into the athlete that I am today because of the amazing coaches that I've gotten to work with, the competitive nature of the school, and the opportunities I have re-

ceived," Ruffner said. "The coaches have pushed me from day one to become the best athlete that I can be while supporting me 110% along the way."

Hardships faced have given new perspectives on the college athletic experience.

"I'm excited to make new friendships and take my skills to the next level," Wickstrum said. "It has always been my dream to play softball in college. I'm extremely excited to also be able to further my faith at Oklahoma Wesleyan and strengthen my relationship with Christ."

Signees look forward to the opportunities they will be given at the collegiate level.

"I'm excited to meet new people, be on a new team and be developed by a new program," Kelly said. "I am looking forward to learning more about the game."

Although COVID-19 has greatly impacted their high school careers, seniors remain optimistic.

"This opportunity will allow me to show younger vaulters how to act, how to be respectful, and how to be a Christian on and off the track," Ruffner said. "Being able to pole vault on a collegiate level opens so many doors to allow me to inspire others and be a role model for them."





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# The Talon News Staff 2020-21



Ashlynn Roberts



Trinity Flaten



Sarah Crowder



Talon Staff 2020-21: (Left to Right) Back Row: Ryan Mackereth, Sam Mykel, Tyler Castellanos, Josh Fritz, Jacob Lormand. Middle Row: Mike Birnbaum (Advisor), Ashlynn Roberts, Katie Ray, Billy Mykel, Sarah Crowder, Trinity Flaten, Bobby Volling, Nicholas West, Owen Norkett, Stacy Short (Advisor). Front Row: Sheridyn Ostler, Rylie Halk, Delaney Lechowit, Rebecca O'Neal. Not Pictured: Kenzie Emmons, Laini Ledet, Halle Malpass, Ella Rader, Elaina Richardson, Joe Walsh, Sloan Dial.



Katie Ray



Billy Mykel



Rebecca O'Neal

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