



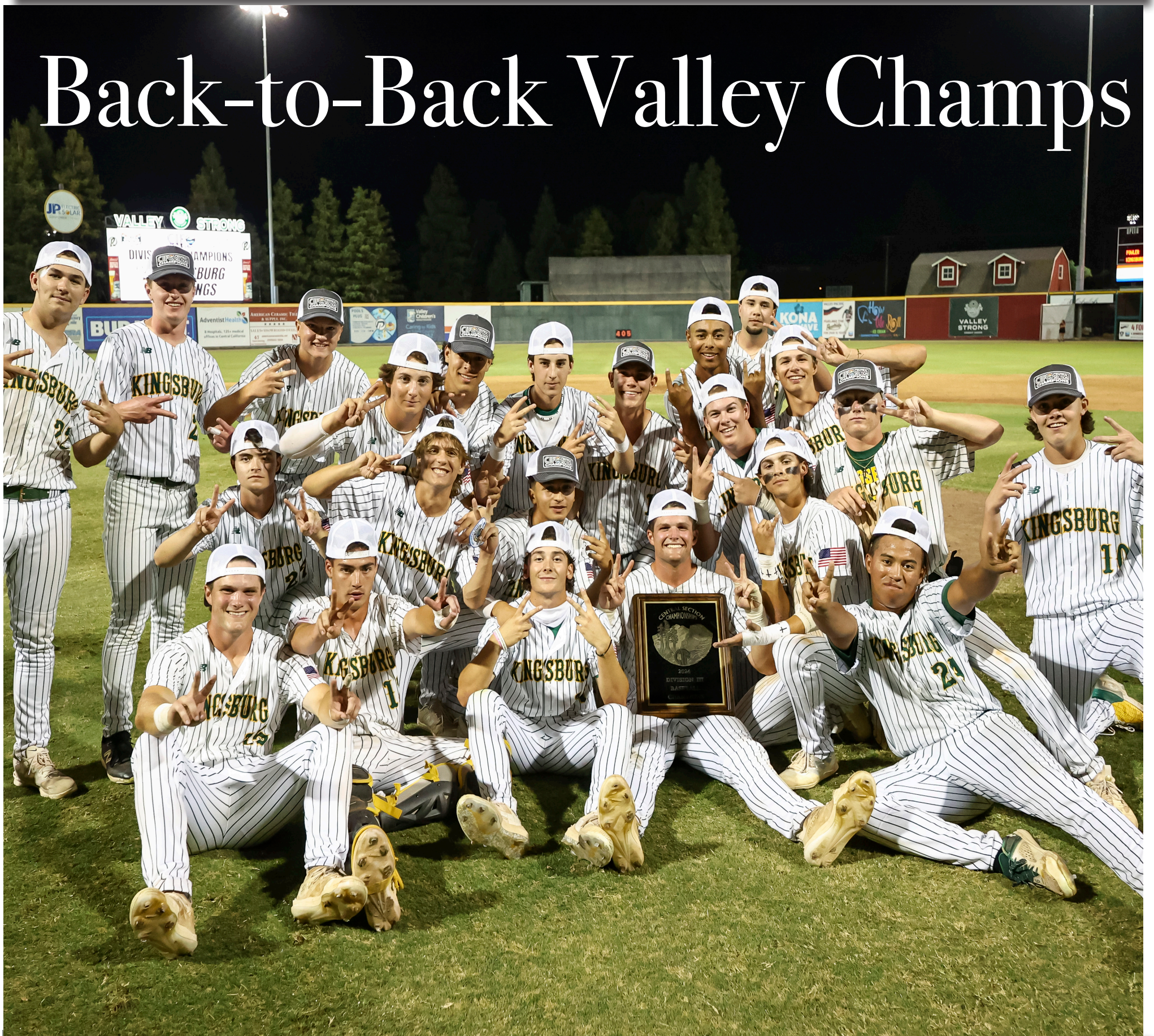
# Viking Voice

May 31, 2024

Kingsburg High School

Issue 4, Volume 101

## Back-to-Back Valley Champs



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# VIKING VOICE



Kingsburg High School 2023-2024

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## Letters to the Editors

Email your comments, opinions, and ideas on this issue's articles to the Viking Voice at 6005196@stu.kingsburghigh.com. Your responses may be published next issue!

Check out the Viking Valor page at kingsburghigh.com

# Kingsburg Students Go to FFA State Conference

By: Kaitlyn Sanchez  
Staff Writer

In March, 37 of our students went to Sacramento and attended the California State FFA Conference. While there students witnessed a variety of agricultural experiences at the state level.

On the first day of the conference, students went to the first session where they were introduced to the 2023-2024 State Officers and were presented to the conference theme of, *Infinite*.

The next morning, students had three options for an industrial tour, highlighting different agricultural pursuits. Students could choose between Floral Fresh, West Coast Producers Tour, and Superior Farms, a lamb processing facility.

Students who went on the floral tour, toured Floral Fresh's business side, learning about the different components you can use in a floral arrangement. On the tour, students also learned about the different storing needs for a variety of different plants, as well as how they are processed. At the end of the tour, students made their own floral arrangements.

On the West Coast Producers tour, students learned about the process of canning foods. They saw a variety of foods canned and labeled for many different companies, such as Kirkland. At the end of their tour, the students got to try some of the canned foods.

The last tour available was the Superior Farms tour, where students toured through lamb processing facility. Students were able to see how they cut and packaged the different cuts of meat for sale. They also got to learn about the whole process of getting the lamb ready to be in stores.

Following the tours students were able to walk around in a career expo which featured different agricultural careers. The expo showed students various careers which implement agriculture, even some students wouldn't have thought of.



After sessions concluded on the second night, Kingsburg attended a block party. At the block party, the students were able to go to a silent disco and get to know many of the other members. In between the general sessions of the conference, students also participated in workshops. The workshops ranged from developing a LinkedIn profile to developing better public speaking skills.

During the general sessions of the conference, students heard from keynote speakers where they learned the impacts of agriculture, watched awards, and much more.

Each day varied in the schedule of the session, however most of them started with awards and students saw many walk across the stage to be

recognized.

During sessions, students heard the retiring speeches from the 2023-2024 State FFA team. This was a very emotional time for many as they saw the officers go from Present State Officer to Past State Officer.

On the second to last day the state's delegates were working hard to understand the candidates and their goals for office. During the session interviews were conducted between the twelve and voting took place.

Kingsburg's own Callie Waldner, junior, was a delegate this year. Her duties consisted of voting on decisions that would affect the state and to vote for the new officers. She said "I had an amazing experience as a delegate. I got to meet so many new FFA members within our state and really saw growth in my public speaking and ability to make connections with others."

During the final session of the conference members witnessed the announcement and installment of the 2024-2025 State Officers. Kingsburg's very own Camille Zavala, Senior, was announced as the State President. Her term will begin in June.

Camille started her journey towards be-



coming a State officer in January. She started out by filling out a paper application where she answered questions and essay. She also had to submit a video explaining her intentions as a State Officer.

After those were submitted, various candidates were cut. At state conference the interview process started. Interviews were spread across three days from 7 A.M. to 11 P.M. For Camille this was one of the hardest parts, seeing others be cut but also from being emotionally and physically exhausted.

When the last 12 of the 60 were left, those 12 met and talked to many of the delegates at a meet-n-greet. That night the 12 were slated for their respective offices.

On Sunday morning, Camille was announced as California's State FFA President. This excited so many, and was an emotional experience for all of the Kingsburg students in attendance.

Camille's younger sister, Freshman Bellamy Zavala said that watching her sister's hard work pay off was her best experience of the conference.

When asked what she was excited for, Camille added that, "I'm really excited to start traveling and meet members all around the state. California is such a big state and I just want to travel more. I'm also looking forward to making new friendships and teaching lessons as well as getting close with my new group."



## Newly Elected ASB and Class Officers 2024-2025

By: Audrey Laney  
Staff Writer

The voters have spoken, and it is time to welcome our newly elected leaders! KHS student body has chosen their 2024-2025 class officers and ASB committee. These teams consist of representatives with the pivotal role of shaping the students' school experience and representing their interests.

The ASB election results were announced on April 5th. The results are as follows: President Max Austin; Vice President Chase Coddington; Representative Jasleen Gill; Secretary/Treasurer Sienna Abernathy; Commissioner of Activities Gracie Davis and Kiara Zarate; Commissioner of Sports Gillian Shiplee and Jack Hambleton; and Commissioner of Technology Grace Fan and Emmanuel Gutierrez.

The election process is always fun for both students and candidates. President Max Austin said, "I enjoyed campaigning around school and involving as many students as possible in my campaign. It was a great opportunity for me to interact with the student body."

As president, Austin has numerous goals he hopes to accomplish this upcoming school year. He shared that his primary goal is to have the best year possible. This would consist of "energetic rallies, good school culture, and lots of school wide events," Austin stated.

To progress towards a great school year, Austin wishes to grow schoolwide participation for sports. He considered, "It is a shame we have athletes who work hard every day in their sport and show up to empty stands."

The ASB officers also aim to increase overall participation and school spirit among the students. Commissioner of Tech Grace Fan revealed

that they are currently brainstorming ideas to achieve this. She mentioned, "We've already started discussing the dress up days and other exciting plans, so stay tuned for that!"

Past member of the ASB team, Secretary Camille Zavala, has an optimistic outlook on the newly elected ASB. She remarked, "I'm really excited about the ASB team for next year! I've already heard that they have some great ideas for new, fun activities."



The current ASB have expressed their excitement too. Austin highlighted that they're energetically awaiting events such as the home football games and homecoming. "These are always the largest events and are a great way to grow schoolwide culture, for both returning students and incoming freshmen."

Additionally, the officers acknowledge there are issues on campus that need to be resolved. Austin aims to improve the bathrooms on

campus by adding working stall doors, considering, "the math restroom has been missing four stall doors the entire year." On top of this, the ASB wants to increase the time on Minga bathroom passes. Austin explained, "The six minute time limit is strict and has caused unnecessary strife for a lot of students."

Moreover, most of our class officers have recently been elected. The incoming Freshmen officers will not be chosen until Fall of 2024.

The elected Sophomores are President Alessandra Rosales; Vice President Bryer Glover; and Class Representative Ethan Chagoya.

The elected Juniors include President Presley Patterson; Vice President Sarah Urbietta; Secretary Madelyn Essegian; Treasury Landon Manley; Sergeant at arms Kate Gurrero; and Class Representative Ian Stype.

Finally, the Senior class officers are President Brianna Corona; Vice President Casi Manes; Secretary Scalett Laita; Sergeant at Arms Delilah Rebellero; and Class Representative Hunter Hurta-do.

All of the class officers strive for positive change on campus. Sergeant at Arms Delilah Rebellero expressed, "We want to ensure all the students' opinions are heard and discussed thoroughly so everyone has a good year." Additionally, she eagerly anticipates what the upcoming school year will bring as a Senior class officer. "I look forward to interacting with more students and becoming more involved with the school!"

Ultimately, KHS can undoubtedly count on both the ASB and class officers, as they are determined to create a memorable year filled with strong leadership, innovative ideas, and positive change.

# Kingsburg High's New Turning Point Club

By Ethan Chagoya  
Staff Writer

This year KHS administrators approved a new club led by Senior William Butts and Advisor Darin Peterson, the Turning Point USA Club. The club will be a local chapter of the national organization founded by Charlie Kirk in 2012.

Butts decided to start this club after he attended the American Legion California Boys and Girls State program last summer. This is a one week program in Sacramento designed to give high school juniors the opportunity to learn about functioning government and American politics.

Coming back from the program, he decided to implement everything that he had learned. He wanted to make a positive change in his school and community. The best way for him to accomplish this was by creating and establishing a club where students are able to learn about their role in government, and to motivate them to practice patriotism.

Butts explained that he was driven to establish the club so that students gain an understanding of their rights and freedoms so they can exercise them in any given scenario.

"Turning Point USA at Kingsburg High School is a club where students create a positive impact on campus and in the Kingsburg community by developing a love and dedication to the United States of America. We as a club



implement accountability, leadership, and integrity in ourselves and others to promote a sense of National pride," Butts explained.

"We also strive to have all students, regardless of being in the club, pre-registered to vote at any level for any upcoming election."

The club hopes to hold their first voter registration event before the end of the 2023-34 school year.

Peterson said that there are currently 15 club members and he has hopes that more will be joining soon.

The club is currently being promoted through social media, school bulletins, and word of mouth. The club has been having monthly meetings since January and has two meetings planned for May. One meeting will establish the leadership roles for the next school year.

Johnny Peterson serves as the Vice President, Lucas Huckabay serves as the Secretary, and Titus Young serves as our treasurer. Since this is the inaugural year

for this club, all members were excited to serve on the leadership team to help promote and develop this club," Butts added.

The club is encouraged by the number of students that have already joined and is more than excited to see the club grow in the years to come!

# Green Club Makes a Return this Following Year

By Abigail Berry  
Production Editor

With the return of Mrs. Olsen to KHS full-time comes the return of Green Club as well. Students who were previously members showcase great enthusiasm for the club's return, as some are willing to run for officer elections and fill in the gap left by the lack of cleaning events on our campus and outside.

After the temporary closing of Green Club the previous year due to Ms. Olsen not being there to maintain the club, she allowed students to stay in the Google Classroom for the following year, allowing them to run for club office once the applications opened up.

She shed some insight on the return of Green Club by stating, "I am excited to start up Green Club again next year. This club is focused on sustainability, protecting the environment, and promoting eco-conscious practices to reduce waste. The new construction on campus has helped to give a nice look to the campus, and our regular campus clean-ups will help keep those areas looking beautiful and free of trash."

Students who were not members before the return of the Green Club also show eagerness to join the Green Club, as some of them feel that

they haven't had much opportunity to get in some community service and aid in cleaning our high school campus.

Freshmen looking to join the Green Club can do so next year at the beginning of the year during Club Day, where they can approach the Green Club stand and request to join the club, without needing any requirements.



As a reminder, the Green Club participates in activities such as campus clean-ups, which usually occur after school at the end of the week once a month. Students take grabbers, gloves, and some trash bags, and walk around campus looking for trash to pick up with their fellow club members

and friends, similar to Campus-Clean ups that Key Club participates in, another community service-oriented club.

Green Club also participates in cleaning activities outside of the campus, such as a beach clean up, where Green Club gathers on a weekend and takes a day trip to Pismo Beach for a clean up. Mrs. Olsen shared "One of my favorite activities

with the students is the Beach Clean-Up in Spring Semester, so I look forward to renewing that. Hopefully, our officers and members will come in with new ideas to help get the club off to a good start and keep it going for years to come."

With Key Club and Green Club being active simultaneously, there is also the possibility of both clubs collaborating for multiple events such as Campus Clean Ups and Recycling sorting, which would improve participation and attendance for these types of events.

With the return of Green Club comes a feeling of cleanliness and tidiness on the campus, which gives the Freshman incoming a more welcome feeling to the campus. Along with the finishing touches to the renovations occurring near the New Gym, the KHS campus will see a lot of changes in its environment starting next year!

# Gutierrez Wins VROP Ambassador Award

By Leon Bennett  
Staff Writer

As the Kingsburg High School year comes to an end, 19 recipients of the Valley Regional Occupational Program's Ambassador Award were honored at a dinner themed A Night with the Stars on May 15th at Kings River Winery. Of the nineteen finalists that represent the best VROP students throughout the south valley, KHS Senior Noah Gutierrez was recognized.

This is awarded to students who excel in at least one of the school's many career technical education classes. Ambassadors were selected from students who go above and beyond for outstanding leadership, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

At the event, the Ambassador winners were honored with a certificate and \$250 prize.

Principal Ryan Phelan praised Gutierrez saying, "Noah is a stand out student at KHS. He has a phenomenal GPA. He also takes a variety of classes which shows how well rounded he is. We are proud of you, Noah!"

When asked if there was any specific thing he did to earn this award, Gutierrez said, "I'm not really sure why I received this award, but what I do know is that I participated in 3 ROP Classes such as ROP Intro to Manufacturing, ROP Manufacturing CAD, and ROP Construction."

When Gutierrez was asked how much work he put in throughout the year to be considered for the honor he said, "I participated in contests throughout VROP like TigerROMP, and SkillsUSA Carpentry."

When asked about the last four years, he said, "I got A's all 3 years while building amazing projects like birdhouses, gliders, and a large shed with the whole class."

When asked what words of encouragement he'd

give to students aiming to achieve this award, Gutierrez replied with "When I was at the award show, I learned that all the recipients received the award because they had a 3.5 GPA or higher, as well as participated in contests and activities outside ROP. I would encourage any student aiming for this to do the same."

When asked about accomplishments that he was especially proud of, Gutierrez responded, "I have accomplished many things in my VROP Classes, but the ones I'm very proud of are my Industry Certifications in OSHA10, SP/2 Safety and AutoCAD."

Being a finalist for this important award is incredibly impressive, especially considering how many different schools students were chosen from. Everyone here at Kingsburg High School applauds Noah Gutierrez and his impressive accomplishments. he put in throughout the year to be considered for the honor he said, "I participated in contests throughout VROP like TigerROMP, and SkillsUSA Carpentry."

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# Superintendent Shoemaker Retires After 7 Years

By Landon Manley  
Production Editor

After an impactful seven years at Kingsburg High School as District Superintendent, Mr. Don Shoemaker has announced his resignation from the job. He has stuck with our school through the highs and lows of Covid-19, and shaped the way for Dr. Ryan Phelan to take over.

Over his entire working career, Shoemaker has been a Science Teacher at Glendale High School, Science Department Chair at his previous school, and Head Football Coach. Shoemaker transferred from Glendale in Southern California to Kingsburg to take his final step in his career as Superintendent.

During his time at KHS Shoemaker led monthly meetings, advised the board of school activities, oversaw construction and maintenance, and provided decisive leadership during the hardships of Covid 19.

After dedicating his life for the last 30 years to the development and education of youth he has officially decided to retire. When asked what he plans to do during his retirement he said, "I plan on traveling and spending time with my family and my new

granddaughter. I look forward to returning to KHS events which are always a highlight."



Shoemaker left a major impact on the school and staff improving KHS district to be the best they can be.

"I am leaving the district, which was

already great, in an even better place for the future. We have continually improved our staff with high-impact and high-character people who understand the culture of Kingsburg. We have a strong team of educators who continue to improve their craft and are passionate about their work. Kingsburg has the best staff in the valley and it is people who make a difference not materials and supplies."

Phelan is taking over the new superintendent to further guide our district. Phelan plans to grow the district and be the best he can be looking up to Shoemaker.

Shoemaker stated "I hope to be remembered as someone who fostered a culture of excellence, compassion, and innovation. I want to be known for prioritizing the well-being and growth of every student, teacher, and staff member. I planned to balance the needs of the staff and district without compromising while maintaining the focus on student success. We have always and will continue to follow the focus on "doing what is best for students!"

KHS thanks Don Shoemaker for serving our district for the last 7 years, and help shaping KHS the way it is now.

# KHS Honors Vikings of the Month

By Kirrah Morton  
Editor-in-Chief

Each month, KHS teachers honor students for their exceptional character, positive attitude towards school, determination, and perseverance.

The different Academic departments have a meeting to discuss how the month is going, things to improve on, and talk about which students they believe deserve this honor and recognition. Each department nominates a student from each grade level to be honored as "Viking of the Month."

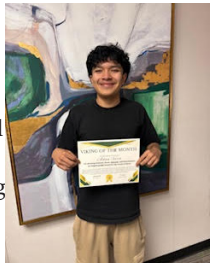
Each recipient is given a personalized certificate, as well as a special message from the nominating teacher.

## March



**Emily Vasquez** Chemistry teacher Pauline Phillips nominated Emily saying, "Emily is a hard working and dedicated student. She works hard and has shown lots of improvement in Chemistry this year."

**Adan Vera** English teacher Jacob Simmons nominated Adan saying, "Adan is a close and thoughtful reader who strives to make meaningful connections to the world outside our windows. He continually raises the intellectual bar for discussion in our class, and he sets an academic example for his peers. Adan's writing also shows how much of a critical thinker he is."



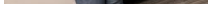
**Lyrn Alexander** English teacher Daniel Albers nominated Lyrn saying, "Lyrn demonstrates the quality of Success in his contributions to class discussions and his excellent responses to the pieces of literature that we read. He shows his determination through his consistent attention to detail and his dedication to completing his work."



**Joey Housewart** History teacher Frank Carbajal nominated Joey saying, "Joey has been working really well in class and had led the class in simulations."



**Imelda Arellano** Math teacher Kenneth Harvey nominated Imelda saying, "Imelda's relentless determination in the classroom propels her to an elite level of student success, where her exceptional academic achievements stand as a testament to both her intellect and unwavering work ethic."



**Wyatt Boyd** P.E. teachers Jim and Marci Cranford nominated Wyatt saying, "Wyatt is such a respectful young man and he is looked up to by his peers. He is continually helpful, a hard worker, a role model for others and always does so with a smile."



**Gabriela Ladino Rosas** Science teacher Amanda Manuszak nominated Gabriela saying, "Gabriela is a very hard working student. She is always doing her best in class and asks good questions if she ever needs help. It's been a pleasure to have her this year as a student in Earth Science and AVID."

**Alize Gutierrez** Spanish teacher Celene nominated Alize saying, "Alize is an exceptional student that always gives 100% for every class assignment. Always demonstrates kindness to her peers in class and is always prepared to participate and follow class directions."



**Jason Hanzak** Biology teacher Britini Boyajian nominated Jason saying, "Jason is a dedicated, hardworking student who always applies his best effort. Jason consistently portrays respect, integrity, and discipline."

**Matthew Ward** P.E. teachers Jim and Marci Cranford nominated Mathew saying, "Matthew is a hard worker in the weight room. He gets right to work and doesn't let anything distract him. He is very determined."



**William Carnes** Math teacher Brad Deaver nominated William saying, "William excels at his studies. He is always willing and able to work with and help others. He has a great attitude, work ethic, and is a very welcome presence and influence in the classroom."

**Nick Brett** Math teacher Carrie Boyd nominated Nick saying, "Nick is an extremely hard worker. He puts in extra time to try to understand the classwork, even though it is a challenge, and he does so with the absolute best attitude. He is also the first to offer to help out with anything needed in the classroom."



**William Butts** Math teacher Ingrid Morris nominated William saying, "William is a fantastic student. William is kind and determined and shows honor to himself and those he is working with. William works well with others in class, he asks good questions and explains ideas and concepts."

**Johnathan Manzanales** P.E. teachers Jim and Marci Cranford nominated Johnathan saying, "Jonathan is very determined. He strives to do better every time that he walks through the doors of the weight room and he is continually meeting those goals that he sets for himself."



**Juliana Morales** Spanish teacher Ana Parra saying, "Juliana's dedication and intelligence set her apart, driving her towards success in all her endeavors."

**Jenni Juarez** English teacher Michelle Schiller nominated Jenni saying, "Jenni is a dedicated student who adapts to all situations. She includes all members of her group while also demonstrating strong leadership abilities. Jenni is attentive during class instruction and discussions which enable her to support others and produce quality work on her own. She is an absolute joy to have in class!"

**Alyssa Vera** P.E. teachers Jim and Marci Cranford nominated Alyssa saying, "Alyssa is an outstanding young lady both in the classroom and in her everyday life. She has overcome adversity and is determined to keep up with her grades and all of her responsibilities. She is currently working on her Certified Nursing Assistant State Licensing with a job waiting for her after graduation."

## April

**Rayanna Gill** Science teacher Britni Boyajian nominated Rayanna saying, "Rayanna is a responsible, conscientious student who displays consistent integrity, respect, and honor in all that she does. Rayanna is very hardworking and makes her commitment to success clear through her high quality work and participation."



**Isabella Strambi** P.E. teachers Marci James Cranford nominated Isabella saying, "Isabella is the hardest worker in the room. She is a leader and the others in the room are always looking to her for guidance. She is self motivated and determined to excel."

**Zachary Hofer** Spanish teacher Jorge Contreras nominated Zachary saying, "Zach is an exceptionally hard worker. His time and dedication is present in his work as well as his work ethic. He is very kind and is always willing to help others especially those who may need help but are afraid to ask."



**Eric Johnson** Econ teacher Mark Jensen nominated Eric saying, "Eric is an outstanding student who approaches each class with a positive attitude and a great work ethic."

**Brenda Marquez** Spanish teacher Martha Gudino nominated Brenda saying, "Student is always ready to learn. Brenda is very respectful, responsible and a hard working student. It is a pleasure to have her in AP Spanish class."



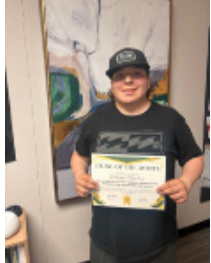
**Briley Lackey** English teacher Dave Wilson nominated Briley saying, "Briley is extremely reliable. She is consistent with turning in quality work always on time. She does superior work all the time, and always has a positive attitude about work. Along with her work ethic, she is a great classmate, who participates in discussions and is always there for her fellow classmates"





**Garrett Smithers** P.E. teachers Marci and Jim Cranford nominated Garrett saying, "Garrett has continually been a positive role model and is always encouraging other students to do their best. He is a quiet leader and is always willing to help others in the weight room"

**Ethan Viveros** P.E. teachers Marci and James Cranford nominated Ethan saying, "Ethan has shown tremendous improvement in class. He has been working hard and getting stronger everyday. He is determined to be successful and that drives him to continually push himself."



**Rafael Sanchez Salinas** English teacher Patti Crass nominated Rafael saying, "Every day Rafael demonstrates success and determination by working hard to understand difficult concepts, as well as making sure to use all resources available to him. He has developed an excellent work ethic and it is a pleasure to have Rafael in class."

**Cali Mendez** Science teacher Leigh-Ann Olsen nominated Cali saying, "Cali is a true inspiration. She does not shy away from a challenge and truly illustrates Determination in her education. I am proud to have had her in my classes for three years!"



**Paramjot Johal** Special ED teacher Robert Henandez nominated Paeramjot saying, "Paramjot has really started to turn things around this semester academically. He is more on top of his school work and is taking pride in his academic achievements."

**Brianna Corona** Special ED teacher Bri Lopes nominated Brianna saying, "Bri is an amazing role model and support for her peers in life skills. Bri takes the initiative to help and support students even when I don't directly instruct her to do so. She is also patient and kind to each student which is valued and appreciated. Bri has a natural presence about her that is made for education."



**Makendra Martinez** Science teacher Darren Peterson nominated Makendra saying, "Makendra consistently works hard in class doing her best on every assignment. She is the first to contribute to class discussions getting the conversation started and making the class interaction more dynamic. She is kind to everybody and her work ethic and consistency is an example to others."

**Monce Cortes** Special ED teacher Elizabeth VanderVelde nominated Monce saying, "Monce is such a bright light on this campus; her smile and personality make others feel welcomed and appreciated. Monce has worked hard to improve her grades and her work ethic."



**Lilliana Cortez** Science teacher Pauline Phillips nominated Lilliana saying, "Lilliana is a hard working and dedicated student. She has shown consistency in all that she's done this year."

**Alondra Chavez** Special ED teacher Robert Henandez nominated Alondra saying, "I have been very impressed with her willingness to try things independently this school year. She has grown in her ability to communicate and self advocate. I look forward to her continued growth as we move into this next school year."



**Jenna Badilla** English teacher Daniel Albers nominated Jenna saying, "Jenna shows incredible determination in her learning and her participation in a wide variety of activities. She participates excellently in class and shows great dedication to her wide variety of activities. She participates in sports, Academic Decathlon, drama, and a number of other activities."

**Chris Browe** Physical Education teachers Marci and Jim Cranford nominated Chris saying, "Chris is a talented and determined athlete. He works hard in the classroom and on the playing field. He is helpful with the other students in class and is continually pushing them to do their best."

## Students of the Month celebrated through luncheon

By Amia Mathis  
Production Editor

This semester's student of the month luncheon took place on May 17, 2024. It happened at the KHS new gym at 12:00 P.M. This lunch is to celebrate and congratulate the students that won student of the month during this last semester. Each student attending is allowed 2 extra guests to attend the event with them.

85 students were recognized during this event.

They were expecting a total of around 200 people.

During this event students were called up and each given an award. They explain what VOM is and how students earn this award. Families get to converse with staff as they recognize their accomplishments.

Each department is given a limit on how many people they can nominate for student of the month award. Some departments give multiple awards but some are only allowed one student.

During this celebration students and families will be served fresh baked pizza on site and salad.

Mrs. Warkentin said, "Viking of the month lunch is one of my favorite events. It brings together all types of students who have shown kindness, honor, success, and or determination.

We love seeing families and staff come together to celebrate our Vikings."

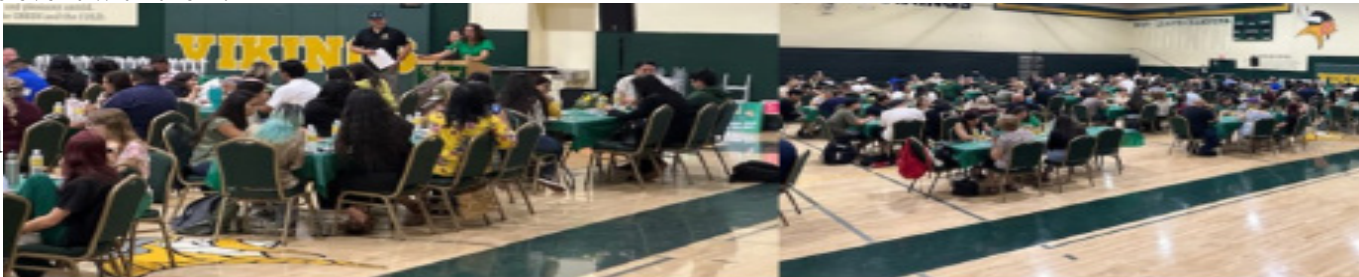
VOM brings joy not only to the students and their families but staff and teachers being able to see students' improvement throughout the year.

The students that will be attending this event include Teddy Lehn, Shea Lee, Eric Johnson,

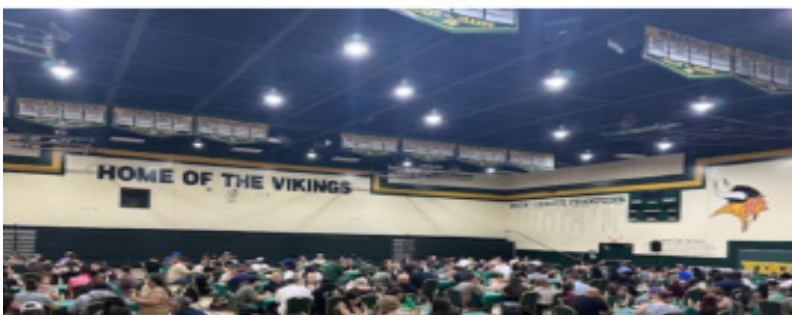
do, Alexandra Rodriguez, Noah Gutierrez, Angie Casarez, Ty Molina, Alina Martinez, Emily Ayala Gonzalez, Sophia Diaz, Ayleen Bermudez-Torres, Macario Garcia, Crystal Carrasco, Anika Galvez, Esmeralda Hernandez, Carli Burkhalter, Carlos Camacho Ortiz, Sophia Quintana, Ralph Morfin-Gonzales, Sophia Liu, Addison Murgia, Juniper Bergstrom, Parker Woods, Aliya Ayers, Ragan Boem, Andy Crass, Alexis Gagnon, Rafael Sanchez Salinas, Jasmyn Jauregui, Bonnie DeMoss, Faith Casarez, Siena Chaparro, Angelina Gomez, Jenni Juarez, Gabriela Ladino Rosas, Jason Hanzak, Emilt Vasquez, Sydney Sandoval, Juliana Morales, Joey Housewart, Imelda Arellano, William Butts, William Carnes, Nick Brett, Lyrin Alexander, Alize Gutierrez, Adan Vera, Eric Johnson, Rayanna Gill, Lilliana Cortez, Cali Mendez, Briley Lackey, Zachary Hofer, Makendra Mar-

tinez, Rafael Sanchez Salinas, Brenda Marquez, Jenna Badilla, Paramjot Johal, Alonda Chaves, Bri Carona, Mince Cortes.

All of these students were presented awards and were able to celebrate their accomplishments with their family, friends, and staff.



## Viking of the Month Lunch Congratulations!



Gisell Rangell, Jocelyn Gonzalez, Max Warkentin, Blend Sharani, Anthony Vasquez, Chris Browe, Wyatt Boyd, Nabryalu Flores, Alyssa Vara, Kate Guerrero, Lilliana Cordova, Jackson Horiuchi, Isabell Strambi, Jaden Reed, Makenna Prine, Taylee Webb, Agustin Leon, Matthew Ward, Jonathan Manzanales, Ethan Viveros, Garrett Smithers, Amayah Nutt, Jayda Bonilla, Priscila Maldona-



# 2024 Swedish Festival Events

By Jenna Rogers  
*Production Editor*

The Swedish Festival is a long time Kingsburg tradition that includes 3 days full of events.

The Swedish Festival weekend started on Thursday, May 16th with the large event of that day being the Swedish Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner. This event ran from 5:30pm to 7pm and served Pea Soup for \$6.00 and Pancakes for \$8.00. Also, you could get the best of both worlds for \$12 dollars.

Within this Thursday night there was a Svenske Musik Kids Club performance at 5:30pm. There was also Swedish Entertainment spread throughout Draper Street starting at 5:30pm and running through 9pm.

At 5:45 on this night there was the very special event of the Swedish Queen Crowning. This past year's Swedish Queen Senior Emilie Parker crowned her sister, Junior Taryn Parker.

When Emilie was asked how she feels about crowning her sister as the newest Swedish Queen she said, "I'm super excited for her to be the next Swedish Queen. I can't think of a better person for the job! She's sweet and punctual and great with people and super responsible; She'll be an amazing Swedish Queen! I'm glad that I can give her the crown and watch her enjoy her time as queen like I did."

Along with the new queen being crowned there was also the Swedish Court that the queen has to support her. This court consists of Freshman Alison Rogers, Sophomore Samaris Olivia Odom and Junior Jenna Rogers. The purpose of the queen's court is to assist the queen and be at events such as ribbon cuttings or social parties when the queen is unable to attend.

Then on Friday, May 17th there was a Svensk Smörgåsbord. This event is a buffet-like dinner that showcases traditional Swedish foods such as Swedish meatballs, Sausage, pickled beets and pickled herring. Also on this day there was Swedish Cultural Entertainment from 5:30pm to 8pm in Downtown Kingsburg at Coffee Pot Park.

On the big day of the Actual Swedish Festival and Parade there was a lot of events. From 7-10 am there was a traditional Swedish Pancake breakfast at Coffee Pot Park. Also starting at 7am is the Dala Horse Trot. For this event there is a 10k and a 2 mile run through Kingsburg. This event ran from 7-9 am. Starting at 7:30 am was the decorating of the Maypole that was raised later in the day immediately after the parade was over.

Then the most crowd favorite event was kicked off with an opening ceremony at 10am. The parade started at 10:30 and ran through about 11:30. Then once the parade had concluded, Swedish Culture Entertainment will begin.

This includes Swedish dancing downtown.

Then to wrap up the festival portion of the day was the awards ceremony at 2pm where the awards were presented by the 2024 Swedish Queen Taryn Parker. When Taryn was asked how she feels about being the newest Swedish queen she said, "I'm glad that I get to be the Swedish queen this year. It's a big opportunity and I'll get to make a lot of fun memories. It's cool that I get to be the Swedish queen after Emilie too. It feels traditional, both like the position and the festival itself."

Parker was also asked what she is looking forward to over this next year and she replied, "I am looking forward to representing our town and community. It's a big honor to display to the people around me, both in and out of costume, the kind of town that Kingsburg is. I also look forward to making tons of memories with my awesome Swedish court. We're going to have a great year!"

After the festival portion is over there is an event titled Gammeldans which is where you can learn Swedish Folk Dancing. This event will run from 5 - 7:30 pm. Then the last event of the weekend is a ABBA Sing-Along Concert in Downtown Draper starting at 8pm.

The Swedish festival is a long running and well loved event by the community that will continue to go on for many years to come.



# Features



KINGSBURG HIGH SCHOOL



*Masquerade Ball*

2024 Prom

Saturday, May 18th 2024  
Legacy Ranch, Kingsburg, CA



# Spring Band Concerts and Events

By Mariah Rodela  
Staff Writer

As the school year is coming to a close, spring band festivals are coming to an end. The Spring Concert Season started off with a SpPre-Festival Concert in The Little Theater on Monday, March 4th at 7:00pm. This concert premiered the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band's Concert Band Festival set.

Two days later there was a two day long spring concert festival held here at KHS. Kingsburg Wind Ensemble performed on day one and Symphonic band performed on day two.

Then the following week Wind Ensemble performed at 10:30 am at Fresno State for the annual Dr. Lawrence R. Sutherland Wind Festival.

A few weeks later the Wind Ensemble performed at Clovis North in the Morning and the Symphonic band performed in the early afternoon.

Then a month later in May the KHS Marching Band got the opportunity to march in Disneyland in the parade on May 4. The band was selected to perform in the daily Disney Main Street Parade at 1:45 and played "America on Parade" by Don Dorsey arranged by Ken Dye.

Junior Jenna Rogers reflected on her experience at Disneyland and stated, "Disneyland

was fun and it was a good experience to be with family and friends. We got to have the morning to do whatever we wanted. Then we had to meet up with the band in California adventure at 12 to go backstage and get changed and ready."



She continued on to say, "Being Backstage is a cool experience. You get to see the buildings from behind the scenes and where all the performers at Disneyland go. It's an exclusive experience that not a lot of people get to have. There are some rules that we have to follow because they want to preserve the magic of Disneyland. We can't use our phones or take pictures. That is their

most strict rule."

The last concert of the Season was on May 16th. It was held in Memorial Park on the same stage where the Summer Band concerts are performed by the Kingsburg City Band.

The second to last performance for the band this year was the Swedish Festival parade on May 18 in which they also played "America on Parade."

The Jazz Band's last performance was on May 21st in the Little Theater, which they shared with Rafer Johnson's Jazz Band as well as the KHS Jazz Choir.

Commenting on the Jazz Band's year as a whole, Sophomore Armen Woods said "I think we did really well. Next year I'm looking forward to having more festivals and playing more jazz music."

The KHS Band will also be playing at Graduation on June 6th. They will be playing the classic graduation tune "Pomp And Circumstance" as well as KHS's fight song "Green and Gold".

The band is already preparing for the busy fall season, working on auditions for next year's field show. Overall, the future looks bright for the KHS Marching Band as they continue to work hard and improve their musical skills.

## 2024 AVID Trip To Cal Poly SLO

By Julian Garcia  
Staff Writer

On March 15th, AVID students at Kingsburg High School went on an exciting trip to California Polytechnic State University, also known as Cal Poly.

All levels of AVID students as well as teachers Mrs. Amanda Manuzak, Mr. Chris Woods, Mrs. Sarah Alvarado, Mrs. Satiner Klair, and coordinator Mrs. Kerry Peterson were all present on this trip.

A Cal Poly tour was chosen because it gives students a chance to meet former Kingsburg High students that now go to Cal Poly and ask them questions. This connection helped students learn more about college life and what they'd like to study at a university.

Leaving Kingsburg at 8 AM, the AVID group arrived at Cal Poly, excited to learn more about the campus and KHS alumni, Hayden Yakli-gian and Chelsea Flood. According to Sophomore AVID student Jasmyne Galvin who interviewed KHS alumni, "Good advice is to challenge yourself throughout highschool for when you get to Cal Poly. You'll be more familiar with the difficulty of

classes. I interviewed two people that took AP calc and a girl that took AP biology. She told me that any AP class difficult or not is recommended." Donations from people in Kingsburg helped fund



their Cal Poly tuition. Led by their teachers, AVID students toured the campus, visited classrooms, and talked to current Cal Poly students to learn about life there. The AVID group prepared their questions beforehand, making sure not to waste the students' precious and valuable time.

After exploring the campus and interviewing alumni and students at Cal Poly the group stopped at Avila Beach. At the beach, students enjoyed spending time together and reflected on their overall experience at Cal Poly.

Sarah Alvarado, the junior AVID teacher, said "The trip allows them to visit different campuses and get a feel for the environment. They get to see classes, all of the buildings and amenities, meet students and ask them questions about being in college and the campus in specific, potentially meet professors and ask questions, see the different majors and sports the campus offers."

The bus headed back to Kingsburg, and arrived at around 7 PM. Students knew visiting Cal Poly was more than just a field trip but was an important part of their journey towards college that would hopefully give them hope and determination for their academic future.

This trip will be remembered as AVID's focus and dedication to helping students succeed in school and put them in the right direction. These students now have valuable memories and wisdom coming back from Cal Poly they'll now have and remember for their entire lives.

# KHS' Little Mermaid Play Makes a Big Splash

Sophia Spate  
Staff Writer



For this year's Spring musical, Kingsburg High School performed a play based on one of Disney's classic movies, *The Little Mermaid*.

The show ran for five days, with two acts each show. They performed from April 23 to April 27. Each day, there was a big and positive audience.

The story is about a young mermaid named Ariel, who was played by Senior Kristen Pacheco. Although she's one of the daughters of King Triton, who was played by Damian Mendoza, Ariel wants something more. She has always been fascinated by humans and dreamt of living among them.

After rescuing a human prince named Eric, who was played by Junior Jaebok Noh, from a terrible storm, Ariel instantly falls in love. Although King Triton doesn't approve of her even going anywhere near the human, Ariel goes on a big journey to be with Prince Eric. There was a large amount of cast and backstage crew members that took part in this production. Not only high school students participated, but many younger kids of different ages did too.

In act one, the Sailors were played by Seniors Lyrin Alexander and Matthew Sawatzky, Junior Aaron Dorrough, and Sophomores Joseph Bujulian and Landon Manley. The pilot of the sailor's ship was played by Junior Elijah Vasquez and Grimsby was played by Dennis Fan. Sophomore Presley Patterson played Flounder and Junior Katie Bishop played Scuttle the Seagull. Sebastian the Crab was played by Junior Ragan Boen.

Windward, a seahorse, was played by Freshman Maycee Givens. Leeward, another seahorse, was played by Freshman Kaylee Reich.

The Mersisters were Adella, played by Sophomore Aria Affeldt, Andrina, played by

Sophomore Sophia Barrios, Aquata, played by Freshman Alejandra Jimenez, Atina, played by Freshman Amayah Nutt, Allana, played by Freshman Maleah Ortega, and Arista, played by Junior Tyshekuz Uba.

Junior Elli Ambriz played Ursula. Sawatzky played Flotsam and Jetsam was played by Dorrough.

In act two, the seagulls were played by Juniors Daniela Cacace and Estella Carillo, Sopho-



mores Devin Alexander, Gracie Cunningham, Mia Gonzales, and Kaylee Reich.

The maids were played by Senior Mia Mora and Freshman MaKenna Kemplin Gonzales. Givens also played a maid.

Freshman James Bishop played Chef Louis. The other chefs were played by Alexander, Bujulian, Dorrough, Manley, Reich, Sawatzky, and

Vaquez.

The princesses were played by Sophomores Olivia Andrade and Jenna Badillia. Givens and Mora also played princesses.

Fourteen children were in the production. They played the sea creatures in the Under the Sea scene and land creatures in the Kiss the Girl scene.

There were eight backstage crew members. They were Seniors Gir Brewer, Jaylynn Jiang, and Zoey Yacconi, Junior Francisco Ortega, Sophomores Joshua Lewis and Max Silva, and Freshmen Leon Bennett and Sophia Spate.

Pacheco was asked about her favorite parts of preparing for the performances. "I love the preparation that goes into making a production come to life. Having work days on the weekend when everyone comes together and helps build the set is one of my favorite parts about getting ready for a show," she responded.

Since she is a Senior and will be graduating this year, this was Pacheco's last production for Kingsburg High School.

"I think *The Little Mermaid* was a great last show for me because the main message of the story is finding where you belong. The KHS theater department has been my home for four years now and it's prepared me to leave and find my place in the world. I'm sad that it was my last show because I'll miss all my friends, but I'm ready to move on and start a new chapter," Pacheco shared.

Pacheco also gave advice to future students who could be interested in theater and drama, "Just do it. Nobody is going to judge you in the theater. In a way, I feel like we're all just kids looking for a place of belonging. That's why I love the KHS theater program. Whether you're an athlete or a quiet reader or if you're someone just looking for an afterschool activity, you are always welcome in the KHS theater!"

# Most Memorable Moments from the 2023-24 Year

By Makenna Gonzales  
Staff Writer

Throughout KHS there have been many memories, such as the dances, games, and rallies. One of the best memories I've made is with the plays and musicals that KHS has put on. Although I enjoy my part in these productions, as well as meeting the new people in it, I wish I could go to more of the rallies and games.

KHS has made many great memories for students, such as Sophomore Mia Gonzalez, who says, "The football games were the most fun. I was able to hang out with friends and scream my lungs out. And the homecoming game was cool too." She also has the same problem of wishing she went to more school events, saying, "I would have tried to go to formal or school events. Because I didn't get out much except for sports and the play."

KHS Junior Ragan Boen shares, "My memorable moment in my high school career is doing the shows and rehearsals and getting to know more people as I do this. However, I wish I did more

with clubs."

KHS has so many things for the arts, like drawing, woodwork, and even music. With the



music department, students have practiced and performed at schools for the Jazz Choir and even for competitions, like Knott's Berry Farm in May.

Even one of our own KHS Freshman, Kaia Palomino says, "Join choir if you love singing and the trips are awesome!" She explains, "I got to learn how to sing better, and during the Knott's trip I could hang out with my friends, getting closer to them." She is also excited to join FFA next year since her family is "an AG based family".

FFA is an organization that allows students to grow in ways seemed unimaginable. Through FFA there is a multitude of leadership and teamworking opportunities preparing students for their future.

KHS Sophomore Chris Kitau-chi says, "It will be going to the status of FFA in Sacramento. I got to see a lot of my friends from MFE, a leadership conference." He also mentions that he'd like to make a chapter office.

Either way this school year has been a good one. Having a winning streak with games, football, and softball and other sports. As well as having fun activities for students like Formal and Valentines Day dances, as well as Prom. This school year had been a good one and next year should be even better!

# The Evolution of AI throughout these Past Few Years

By Ethan Anguiano  
Staff Writer

During this past year the evolution of AI has shown exponential growth. This growth has brought up mixed emotions in the world, many scared and many excited.

During this growth different things have been established. There are more AI's on apps such as Instagram and Facebook that allow users to search stuff up on.

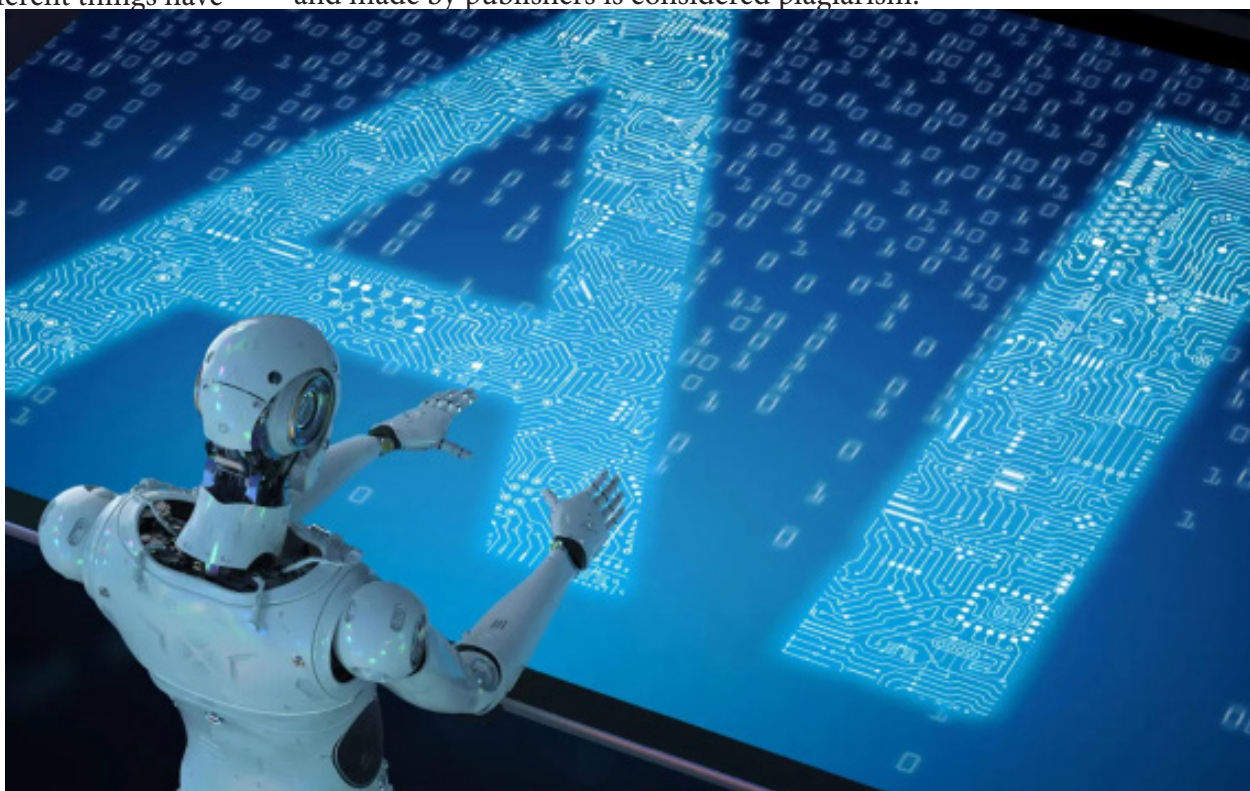
Many are worried about it taking over the world as many people have lost their jobs just from AI taking over.

Multiple companies like the New York Times have created images using AI and it allow people to take quizzes on if they are AI generated or if it is real. It allows people to get the understanding of what to look for in pictures to understand if it's real or not.

These AI robots use data to get all of the information that they need. The data put into robots allows them to move almost like a human and can do almost anything a human can do. The one thing they haven't mastered is emotions but that is because it is hard to configure something with emotions without a heart or a

brain.

There was a lawsuit with the New York Times suing OpenAI and Microsoft that led to the discussion of AI training on materials that were copyrighted. Letting AI train on stories claimed and made by publishers is considered plagiarism.



It's basically feeding the AI articles from people who took the time to make those stories and basically saying the same thing that's not their own work.

AI is also something that teachers have

struggled with this past year as there is a website called, ChatGPT, which writes whatever you tell it to. Students have been using this AI bot to do their homework and work for them. Many school sites such as Turnitin.com and Google Drive have AI detectors and will give a percentage on how much of it was done by AI.

As of right now copyright infringement is the main reason as to why many people are suing AI. Not because of how it was made but where it gets its source and inspiration from past real works from real people. And stealing them to benefit the company itself in the revolution of AI.

Then there is always the innocent version of AI which helps create art and helps the minds of people with amazing ideas develop. Many people are taking advantage of the use of AI and how much it can really do which is affecting the people that are using it for an innocent reason.

AI is something that is new to this world and it is something that not many people are familiar or comfortable with.

# 2023 Off the Chart Climate Reports

By Alliah Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

Climate Reports for 2023 are off the charts, officially becoming the hottest year.

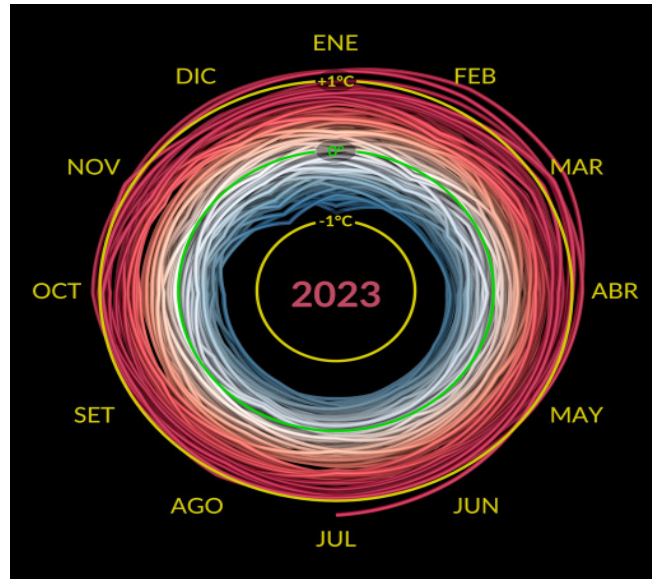
As well as enduring the hottest year on record, Earth has surpassed six other climate metrics. The World Meteorological Organization, publishers of the State of the Global Climate 2023 has confirmed all of what has been widely reported.

The WMO tweeted about the report, using a spiral graph to show how global temperatures have warmed since the 19th century. Tweets from other scientists that had responded to the report say that, "2023 gave us a new meaning to the phrase 'off the charts.'"

WMO says that 2023 has capped the planet's warmest 10 year period. The world's average near-surface temperature in 2023 was 2.61% above the pre-industrial baseline.

In a statement about the report General Celeste Saulo, WMO secretary, said, "Never have we been so close - albeit on a temporary basis at the moment - to the 2.7% lower limit of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The WMO community is sounding the Red Alert to the world." According to these reports, these changes are and will continue to speed up. Records for greenhouse

gas emissions were projected 1.1% to 37.55 billion metric tons. The effect of rising amounts of the greenhouse gasses prevent heat radiated from earth's surface from escaping into space as freely as it used to, causing global heating, where just about



90% of this heating occurs.

The extent of sea ice has reached its record low, arctic ice hanging well below normal, with an average of 9.81 million square kilometers per year.

Which is 2 million square kilometers less than usual.

After the world's largest island experienced its warmest summer on record, the Greenland ice sheet has continued to lose mass. Sets of glaciers around the globe that are used for reference have also seen the largest mass losses on record. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made another statement about the report which said, "Sirens are blaring across all major indicators... Some records aren't just chart-topping, they're chart-busting. And changes are speeding up."

Solar, wind and water are the sources of renewable energy, and scientists say that the renewable energy generation in 2023 has also set records. Capacity additions have increased by 50% from 2022 for a total of 510 gigawatts.

Renewable energy has become a focus of climate action, scientists say, because of its potential to achieve targets aimed at reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Because of this, countries are now setting goals to triple all of last year's global renewable energy capacity to 11,000 gigawatts by 2030.

# TikTok Ban 2024 Update

By: Daylynn Fynaut  
Staff Writer

A potential TikTok Ban in the US is something congress has been debating for the past few years. Owned by Byte Dance and thought to be heavily influenced by the Chinese government, Tik Tok's critics argue that the app poses a national security threat to our nation.

This is not the first time a ban of the company has been proposed, but it has been again picking up traction in congress since it is one of the fastest growing social media websites and 150 million Americans are currently using it. The biggest concern lies in the potential data being farmed by China and it's potential to influence American users since the app has become a part of many Americans' daily lives.

TikTok is an app where users can watch videos called "reels" which are short videos that are entertaining. Many other apps such as Instagram and Snapchat also have "reels," but the Tik Tok algorithm is the most praised by users for generating the best suggestions to the user's feeds.

Officials from TikTok are fighting a proposed ban that would force Byte Dance to sell Tiktok to an American buyer or risk being banned by the US.

TikTok officials stated, "For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single,

named speech platform to a permanent nationwide ban, and bans every American from participating in

limit 1st Amendment rights of the people.

TikTok voiced, "It is unfortunate that the House of Representatives is using the cover of important foreign and humanitarian assistance to once again jam through a ban bill that would trample the free speech rights of 170 million Americans, devastate 7 million businesses, and shutter a platform that contributes \$24 billion to the U.S. economy, annually."

The lawsuit states that ByteDance should sell their organization to another buyer in America and if not then TikTok will be banned in the United States. There was then a poll where it mentioned that, "roughly 51% of Americans said that the U.S government should try to force a sale of Tik Tok while 46% say it should not."

Many are confused as to why the US government wants to ban tiktok and the simple answer is politics and privacy. The US government is concerned about TikTok influencing people in the US in voting. Specifically, with this 2024 presidential election coming up, the potential for Chinese national influence via TikTok raises more concern.

The US government is also concerned that users' locations and private information being leaked as all of that information is required to create an account on TikTok.

a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide."

Not all members of congress are supportive of the ban however, and feel a ban would go too far to



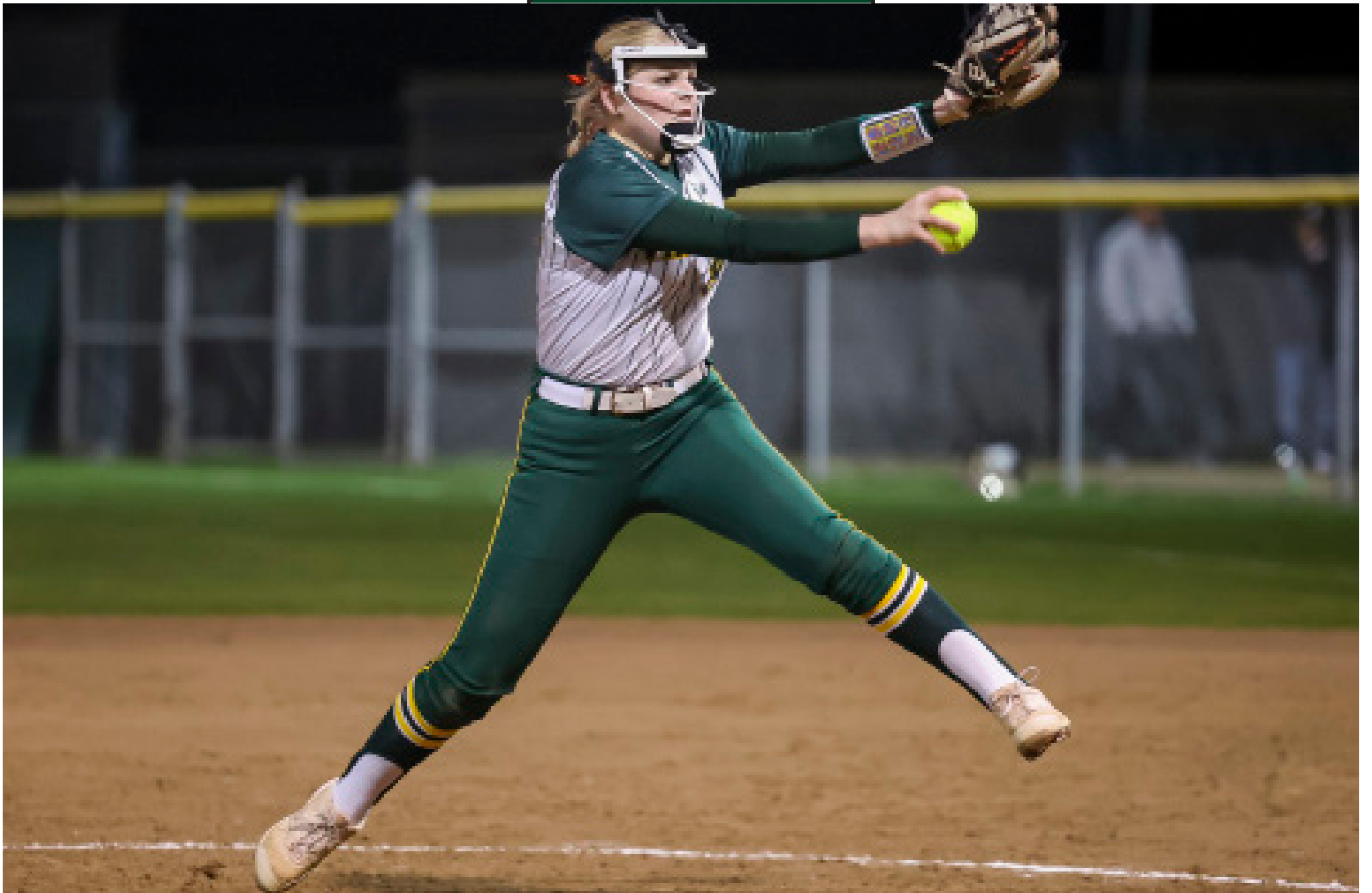


Photo Credits: Samuel Marshall

# Varsity Softball Season Comes To an End

By Nicole Gomez  
Staff Writer

The KHS Varsity Girls softball team season has come to an end, as they have pushed hard to finish off the season strong with an overall score of 20-6-1.

The team comprises of Seniors Harley Furlong, Ganna Garcia, Lexy-Kay Paxton, and Mikayla Rosales as well as Juniors Alyanna Gonzales, Reygan Jones, and Scarlet Laita.

“What is most special about this team is our bond. We are all best friends and genuinely like sisters. We all want the best for each other and push each other to be the best we can be,” shared Senior Harley Furlong. The Lady Vikings play with a level of certainty that comes from their long history as teammates.

Harley added, “We have so much fun together and make the best out of every single inning. This team has been very blessed to have a new coaching staff this year that has brought us so much closer together. It has been a gift from God to be able to experience this last season with the best group of girls.” Harley plays center field and will be attending Oklahoma Baptist University after high school to continue her academic and athletic career.

The Lady Vikings have had a productive season so far, winning their first four games. They played against Central with a score of 6-5, Redwood 4-2, Fowler 15-5, and Stockdale 2-1.

The team took a turn, losing to Clovis

North with a score of 4-3. Senior Lexy Kay stated, “Our team definitely works together, wins together, and loses together. The main goal we focus on as a team is picking each other up and supporting one another. At the end of the day we win or lose as a team and more importantly, we come together as a family and push others for our next game!”

The girls were able to redeem the loss and won the following three games with Madera 2-0, Sanger 6-0, and Ceres 13-4.

Reygan Jones stated “At the end of the game we talk about the team’s highs and lows. We take both the highs and lows and strive the next day at practice to maintain or fix them. All in all we try to stay positive about everything and look towards the next game ready to go after another win and playing to the best of our abilities.”

Even though this team has its ups and downs, losing to Central Catholic with a score of 5-0, but winning the following games against Clovis East 3-0 and Orange Cove 4-1, they continue to push through.

This team has remained strong, gaining a winning streak of 4. These teams included Sierra Pacific 12-2, Hanford West 4-0, Kerman 10-0, and Reedley 3-0. The girls lost against Selma with a score of 6-3. This team is a very smart strong group, as they are aware of their mistakes and try their best to contribute as a team to improve on the following games.

Mikayla Rosales stated, “This team has had their ups and downs throughout this season. Defensively, making mistakes is rare, and looking at the stats can prove that. Offensively, some mistakes have been made, but it’s the way that our team comes back from them that sets us apart from other teams in our league. When a mistake is made on the offensive side, you would never guess it happened by the way our defense pulls through.”

As this team continues to push through, they have won all their recent games against Sierra Pacific 12-0 on 4/26, Hanford West 4-0 on 4/30, and Kerman 4-0 on 5/3.

Senior Night was held on Friday the 10th and they recognized each one for their hard work and dedication. Not only was it Senior Night, but the Lady Vikings also won League Championships against Selma with a score of 5-2.

On Wednesday the 15th, the Lady Viking had their first playoff games against Mader High. The team pushed through the end and won with the score of 6-5.

The girls continued strong to their second playoff game against Clovis North. The girls lost this game with a score of 7-3. Even though they took a loss with this one, the team worked very hard to get where they finished and cherished every moment of it.

# Boys Tennis Ends Season Strong

By Aliya Ayers  
Copy Editor

KHS Boys' Tennis has ended their season on a strong note with a successful senior night and strong perseverance throughout a long and hard season.

The boys had a successful senior night honoring four players and bringing home a win on their home courts. They pulled through with an 8-1 overall score, winning the final game held at KHS.

Senior Gabriel Amariei has been playing tennis for 2 years. "Senior night was very successful," he shared. "I feel so much gratitude towards my teammates and coach. They helped build me into not only the player I am today but the person I am. Being apart of this team was truly a honor. I am glad my parents had the opportunity to come out as all the Seniors were honored."

Commenting on the match as a whole, he expressed "It was arguably one of my better matches. Going into it I was nervous as I know this team is very competitive, but I was able to use

the skills I have developed and come out on top." About his tennis experience as a whole, he shared "I'm really glad I played. I

multitude of wins. They beat Exeter 5-4 at home on February 27. Also, another home match on March 19 brought a win against Selma 9-0.

Junior Reed Yokota expressed "through the challenges of this year, I was grateful to have the experience of being on this team. Being a Junior I am happy that I have the opportunity to spend another season playing for KHS. It is bitter-sweet knowing I only have one more year, but I will continue to play how I know and try my best to make my coaches, teammates, and school proud."

Senior Will Williams shared a similar sentiment. "Overall, I had a wonderful four years as part of KHS Boys Tennis. From winning Valley my sophomore year to having an amazing senior night this year, we've done well and I'll miss this team."

To sum up, this year was a growing year for the team, but it still had its high points and victories. In all, the future looks promising for KHS Boys

Tennis as they continue to improve and grow in their skill and comradery as a team. They hope to go on to a more successful season next year as they continue to work hard and get better at their sport.



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall

had a great time playing this sport with my friends. I had a great couple years playing with some really skilled and talented guys."

Throughout the season the boys had a

# Boys Golf has an Undefeated Season

By Anabelle McFadden  
Staff Writer

The Boys golf team did amazing with an undefeated season. They went to Valley this season.

Some of their top players are Brady Barrington, who had a 36.4 9 hole average, Hunter Nelson with a 38.4 average, and Simon Marriott with a 42.5 average.

Freshman Gage Shepard enjoys golf because he wants to be good at a sport he can play his entire life.

"Although it's very frustrating, it is fun to always play a round with my friends and get better," he shares.

Shepard said that golf can be hard because it's a game of inches and it takes a lot of work to hit a good shot every single time.

On April 25th, they had a successful game and won against Exeter High School.

The Varsity team is doing very well in their season this year, winning undefeated league champs. They are going to Valley.

On April 30th, they had a game and also won that game. They

had won this game by a lot.

Sophomore Braydon Miller enjoys the sport because it can be relaxing, and you can always improve no matter how challenging it is.

"It's Challenging at times because of the

terrain of the club courses we play at, the different club types you hit, and finding something different to tweak every time you play," Miller said.

He also shared that their team is doing really well for the season. They were undefeated in the league and are going to valley.

On May 2nd, they went to Lemoore and won.

On May 6th, the team went to valley in Lemoore.

Brady Barrington and Hunter Nelson had placed third and seventh at CIF Central Section in D2 Golf Championships.

Coach Bill Jensen enjoys coaching golf because he played golf most of his life and loved it. He loves golf so much he decided to coach it so he can share it and so others have fun.

The team did impressively well, going undefeated the entire season despite having no seniors. Jensen shared that the entire season the team made great improvements.

"We won our league and in valley we didn't play as well as we could've, but we came in the middle of the pack. A little disappointed, but it happens. Winning league really was a good thing."



Photo Credit: Samuel Marshall

# Boys Track Takes Valley Title for D3

By Amia Mathis  
Production Editor

This year's boys and girls season has been very successful. The teams have both been trying their best and have been at the top of their game.

Both teams have practiced and have worked together to get their overall results and it is clear how hard they have each worked.

KHS hosted Division 3 Valley on Friday May 10, 2024. That included 800+ students with 36 schools at the KHS stadium. This event started at 3:00 P.M.

The Boys track team took league on May 3, 2024 and the girls took 5th in League. On May 4, 2024 the boys record was broken last night at 4x400 and the girls set a new school record April 20, 2024 at Sanger Metric Classic at 4x800.

No matter what rain or shine both teams are practicing after school. There have been around 15 meets this season. Some of these meets only a few are allowed to go. There are roughly 1-2 meets per

week. The progress seen with this group of students is amazing. Coach Jason Crass said, "As coaches, we have had a blast with this group of student athletes. It hasn't always been easy with such a large group, but they have done a great job all year at becoming leaders and help-

ing each other become better athletes as well." Although it is difficult for the team to bond due to its sheer size as there are 112 total students in track which is a really large group this season. Although there are team meetings every Monday in the bleachers where they debrief about the last week and talk about the upcoming week. This also includes handing out medals and who got personal best.

Coach Crass added, "It's tough to really have a team bonding trip when 30% of the team comes out 4 weeks into our training because they were in winter sports."

During the Division 3 championship meet another team was tied with the KHS track team and the winning point was during the last activity which boys track won. The last event had some of their best players as it was their 4x400 which made it even more intense.

After talking to Junior Baelin Carrillo he said, "I think this track season was definitely my favorite and I can't wait for

next year." This year's boys track team did extremely well and even won D3 which is a big accomplishment.



Photo Credit: By Samuel Marshall

# Swim, Dive Completes Their Season

Eliana Roman  
Staff Writer

This swim season the team consists of these boys on the Varsity team; Seniors Cole Adams, William Butts, and Trevin Wood. Juniors Aiden Alvarez, Chase Coddington, Carter Hatcher, Tanner Kelm, John Peterson, Zack Ribeiro, and Caleb Simmons. Sophomores Jack Hambleton, Lucas Huckabay, Tyler Morton, Blake Reiger, Bodee Ruiz, and Sophomore Delbert Salvadalena.

For girls Varsity the girls who made up the team were: Senior Sydnee Wilson, Junior Catlyn VanLaar, Junior Isabella Grilione, Junior Rachael Farley, Junior Davin Collazo, Junior Brooke Carrasco, Junior Madilynn Buendia, Junior Sienna Abernathy, Sophomore Emily Riddle, Sophomore Isabella George, Sophomore Madeline Dix, and Freshman Jade Perez-Hughes.

For the Dive team, the Boys Varsity divers are Freshman Nick Brett and Junior Tristan Flores. For the girls, the Varsity Dive Team consists of Senior Kayden Kazanjian. Sophomores Kenley Kazanjian, Lola Leonardo, Victoria Jones, and Rachel Erickson, and Freshmen Daryk Breckenridge, and Brooke Visser.

The league schedule was: Wednesday April 3, 2024 Hanford West + Selma at Kingsburg. Senior Sydnee Wilson got the best time of 2:02.12 during the Varsity girls 200 yard freestyle. For boys Varsity Senior Lucas Huckabay, a student at Kingsburg highschool got the best of 1:54.36 during the 200 yard freestyle.

Friday, April 5th, 2024 KHS Vikings had a meet with Clovis West Invite (Varsity Prelims) at Clovis West. Kingsburg varsity girls got ninth place, Kingsburg Varsity Boys ranked seventh place. As a town, Kingsburg ranked fifth place.

Saturday, April 6th, 2024. KHS Vikings had a meet with Clovis West invite (Varsity finals) at Clovis West. As a whole, Kingsburg got the ranking of being in fifth place. In the Kingsburg Varsity Girls team the girls got ninth place. Kingsburg Varsity Boys got the ranking of being in seventh place.

Wednesday, March 10th, 2024 Kingsburg had a meet with Reedley + Kerman. They had this meet for swimming and diving at Reedley.

Saturday, April 13, 2024 Sierra Pacific Invitational had a meet taking place at Sierra Pacific. Kingsburg Girls Varsity got fourth place in the championship. Kingsburg Boys Varsity got fourth place as well in the championship.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Exeter + CVC at Kingsburg had a meet. Kingsburg got fourth place in the Girls Varsity 1 meter Diving meet. Kingsburg boys Junior Tristian Flores got a score of 142.90 and Freshman Nick Brett got a score of 140.95. A student from Exeter got first place,



Photo Credits: Samuel Mar-  
Tristan got second, and Nick got third.

Thursday, April 25, 2024 TCC Championships for Dive occurred. They had this championship at Reedley. Friday April 26, 2024 Kingsburg Vikings participate at the TCC Championships (Swim), which took place at Reedley. The boys earned League Champions and the girls earned Co League Champions. Three in the top 3 at the TCC Diving are sophomore Kenley Kazanjian, sophomore Rachel Erickson, and junior Tristian Flores.

Friday, May 3, CIF Valley Swimming Prelims at Clovis West. On Saturday May 4, 2024 Kingsburg Vikings Participated in CIF Valley Swimming Finals, which took place at Clovis West

Friday May 10th, 2024 CIF State Swimming Prelims at Clovis West. Sydnee Wilson is the swimmer that was representing the Kingsburg Vikings. She represented the 50

freestyle and 100 freestyle. For boys Lucas Huckabay is the swimmer. He also represented the 50 and 100 freestyle.

Saturday, May 11, 2024 CIF State Swimming Finals at Clovis West.

Morgan Coddington the girls coach was asked about the team's overall performance/ how far the team got: "Our team had a great season! They boys were 9-0 in league and were TCC League Champions. The girls were 8-1 in league and were TCC Co League Champions. This year we were placed in CIF Central Section Division 1 for Valley.

Morgan also stated, "The quality times are much faster for D1, but we had all three relays for the boys and all three relays for the girls qualify. We also had 15 athletes qualify for individual events including diver, Tristan Flores. Two of our athletes qualified for the CIF State Championship meet- Sydnee Wilson was 15th in the state in the girls 50 yd freestyle and Lucas Huckabay was 5th in the state in the boys 100 yd breaststroke."

We also asked for Morgan's input of the highlights of the season and she had this to say, "There were so many highlights of this season! To make a few, having both the girls and boys team win the TCC League Championships, having all three relays on the girls and boys side make it back for CIF D1 finals. The girls finished 10th out of 23 teams in D1 and our boys finished 9th out of 23 teams.

Morgan continued, "Our team is pretty small compared to many of the other teams in Division 1, so to be able to make it that far and be competitive at that level is true testament to the amazing team we have and how hard they work."

We then asked Morgan who her star players are, she responded with this "There is so much talent on the team which makes it hard to name a few. Sydnee Wilson and Lucas Huckabay led the team with the most points this season.

We then asked her one final question. Why did she want to coach the swim team? She responded beautifully with this; "Swimming has been part of my life since I was about six years old. Coaching is just another way for me to continue to pour into a sport that I really enjoy."



# Boys Baseball Back to Back Valley Champs!



Photo Credit: By Samuel Marshall

Victoriana Dimas  
Production Editor

Kingsburg High Varsity Baseball team has had an amazing and thrilling 2024 baseball season. The Vikings had 32 games this season which led them to winning the Valley Championship Game on May 23rd also making them back to back Valley Champions.

This year's coaches are Head Coach Jim Cranford and Assistant Coach Chad Alford. These coaches have been leading the baseball team throughout the whole season leading them to victory once again. Varsity Baseball was 25-7 Overall, 9-3 in league, and 1st in Tri-County.

The Vikings had many wins throughout the season but also had some big losses. Losing their first game of the season against Pioneer Valley, the Vikings made a comeback continuing to win 25 out of 32 games this season.

When asked who the team's biggest competitor is, Junior and star pitcher Gavin Ekizian said, "Our coach (Cranford) always says we are our biggest competitor because if we play the game right we will win, but if we play to our opponent's level we will most likely lose."

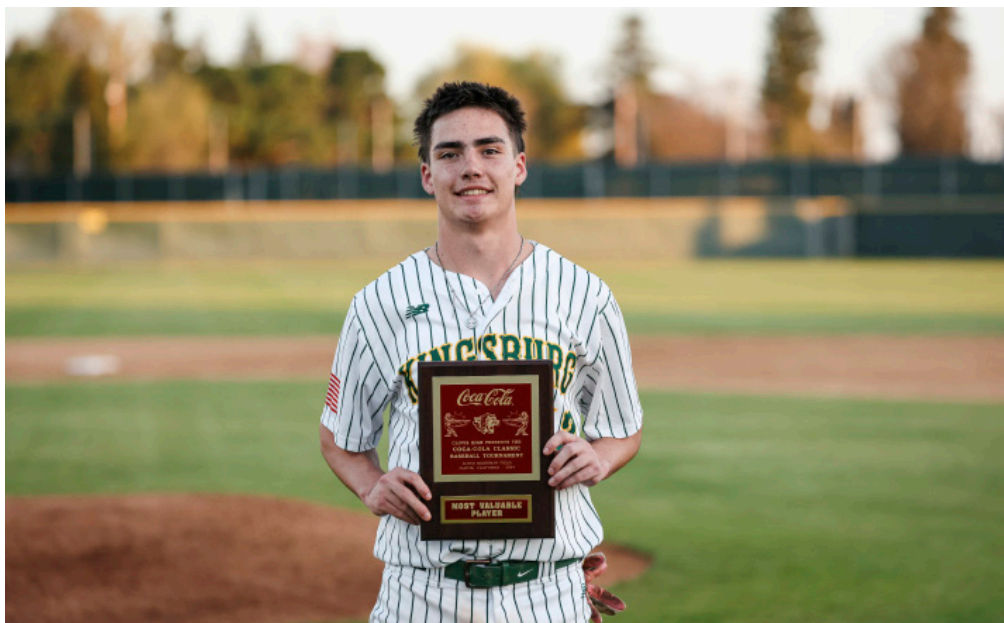
This team had big wins against Washington Union, Central Valley Christian, and Justin Garza. With their biggest win of 21-5 against Immanuel.

This year Kingsburg Varsity Baseball had 14 seniors on their team. Houston Hirschorn, Gunnar Geringer, Holden Hirschorn, Bodhi Verners,

Gavin Enns, Wyatt Boyd, Zach Tackett, Matthew Ward, Ethan Salazar, Eric Johnson, Nick Palm, Mason Tredway, Isaiah Quevedo, and Sam Farley.

Three Seniors have committed to colleges to continue in their academics and baseball careers including Bodhi Verners committed to Fresno Pacific, also Holden and Houston Hirschorn committing to UC Davis.

The Vikings had a thrilling regular season with a 21-7 record and left with their 3rd league championship in a row.



Within their season the Vikings won the Tri-County Conference for the third year in a row and also won the Coca-Cola Classic baseball tournament. In the Coca-Cola Classic Junior Gavin Ekizian got awarded Outstanding Pitcher and Senior Bodhi Verners got awarded Most Valuable Player.

The First Round of Playoffs was against Jus-

tin Garza with a Final Score of 15-3. The game was led by Sophomore Jensen Hirshkorn's grand slam in the bottom of the 3rd.

Moving on to the quarterfinals against Garces Memorial winning 6-5 leading them into the semi-finals.

Advancing into the 3rd round of playoffs was against Central Valley Christian with a final score of 17-1 taking Kingsburg to the valley game. In the Valley Championship game,

the Vikings knocked Fowler out of the water with the final Score, 8-0. Which made Kingsburg Varsity 2024 Baseball Team Valley Champions.

Also during the game, senior Houston Hirschorn led the game with his first high school home run.

Last year the Vikings made history by "putting out their drought" and winning the valley for the first time in 20 years. Now they continue making history by being back-to-back Valley champions.

The Vikings then continued into the state playoffs with their first game against Elk Grove High School.

At the end of the first inning, Elk Grove had 2 runs with the Vikings at zero.

In the second inning, Elk Grove made 3 runs with the Vikings still at zero. After 7 innings our Kingsburg Vikings lost with a final score of 0-5.

Sadly that was the end of the 2024 baseball season for the Vikings, we congratulate the Vikings and all their successes they had this season, and cannot wait to see what happens in the years to come!

# Phelan Promoted to Superintendent Seat

By Kirrah Morton  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Being named district Superintendent is a life changing opportunity that comes from an extraordinary amount of hard work and dedication.

Thirty-six people applied and several interviewed for the top spot at KJUHS. After some intense interviews, Dr. Ryan Phelan was selected to take over for retiring superintendent Don Shoemaker.

Over Phelan's career in education, he has been a coach, teacher, athletic director, vice principal, continuation principal, principal at a comprehensive site, and is now being promoted to Kingsburg High School District Superintendent.

Phelan spent the last seven years as principal at KHS supporting students in all areas including athletics, academics, and all other extracurriculars. In that time, he has become a friendly face for his students to find in the crowd and know they have someone cheering them on. Not only did he leave an emotional impact on his students, Phelan led the school through the years of



CoronaVirus which shaped a new era at KHS. "When it is all said and done, because of what we all went through during COVID, I believe I will mostly be known as the Principal who oversaw KHS during the toughest years

the school has ever seen," said Phelan.

Walking into this new chapter of his professional career, Phelan plans to take his job one day at a time, and by involving all KHS

members whether current or alumni.

When asked how he would better our district Phelan said, "Our school culture and traditions run deep and I never want to lose sight of that. I believe that I bring a sense of networking in the community that will help keep our District strong. KHS is the hub of Kingsburg. It is a very special place and my hope is to continue to lead our district to future success."

This new position will come with challenges at different levels, but when asked what drew Phelan into this position he said, "I have worked closely with our current Superintendent, Mr. Shoemaker. I saw what took place day to day in his office and thought one day I would like to challenge myself to be able to do the same."

Phelan is ready to take on this new role and fulfill his duties and responsibilities. Phelan has expressed his gratitude for the Board saying, "I am very thankful to our Board for offering me this position. I know the weight it carries and the trust that they have in me means a lot."

# Wilson Named New KHS Principal

By Jenna Rogers  
*Production Editor*

After serving 7 years as KHS Principal, Dr. Ryan Phelan is moving up to the KJUHS District Office as the new Superintendent. Dr. Phelan will follow in the footsteps of retiring Superintendent Don Shoemaker.

With Dr. Phelan moving up this opens up a big job on campus, the position of principal. This position has been filled by Heather Wilson. Wilson is the current Vice Principal.

She has served as Vice Principal for 5 years at KHS. Prior to that, Wilson served at Rafer Johnson Jr. High as the Learning Director which is a fairly similar position to Vice Principal.

One thing that comes along with a new and different job is that it brings on the need to look back and reflect on experiences from one's previous position.

When Wilson was asked what she enjoyed most as KHS Vice Principal she mentioned, "The thing I enjoy the most in my Assistant Principal position is hands-down the relationships with our students at KHS. Getting to know our students and building relationships with them has been inspiring and energizing to me. I love finding out what motivates them and being a part of the things that the students do, whether it be FFA, music, drama, sports, or academics."

Another thing that comes along with a new and different job position is looking forward. Wilson explained, "I am most looking forward to continuing to build upon relationships with staff and the students. I can't wait to see what accomplishments our students are going to make in the new school year and meet the new freshmen joining us."

"I also look forward to getting to know our staff better and finding ways that I can encourage and support them."

One of the most challenging roles in starting a new job position, especially in the role of Principal at a high school is having to juggle all of the different responsibilities. Principals to be aware of the concerns of everyone around them.

When Wilson was asked about the most challenging part of her new position she said, "Being the principal means building relationships with staff, students, parents, and community members. It is about serving those around you and trying to get to know their needs. Even though this might be challenging, it is also rewarding because through building relationships with people, I have the opportunity of getting to know them better and I am able to grow and learn as well."

She continued on to say that there are rewards that come with the challenges. She stated, "One of the most rewarding things is running into

former students and catching up on what they are doing. It brings me joy to watch where students have been or where life has taken them. I love being able to be a small part of someone's journey through KHS and I look forward to continuing to build relationships and make connections with those around me."

When Dr. Phelan was asked what qualities about Wilson are going to make her a good principal for KHS he said, "Mrs. Wilson loves Kingsburg High School. She is very approachable by staff and students. She is passionate about the work that we do here. Relationships are #1 to her and it shows with students across campus. She has been my right hand for the last several years and is more than capable to take over the principalship. She is caring and loving but also isn't afraid to say "no" when need be."

Phelan was also asked how he feels about her becoming principal and taking over his position he stated, "I feel excited about her taking over. If you really love a place then you want to do all you can to leave it better than you found it. I am hoping that I have done so. In saying that, Mrs. Wilson will take KHS to places that I wasn't able to. I feel comfortable and confident in her taking over. There is no one else I'd rather have at the helm. She's going to be fantastic!"

# KHS Senior Activities

By Ashni Purewal  
Staff Writer

The KHS Senior class of 2024 is soon graduating. They'll be leaving in less than a month, their graduation day being May 6th. There are many activities that seniors have at the end of the year to finish off high school in the best way possible.

Senior Camille Zavala shared that she was most excited for Grad Night. About graduating, she expressed "It's a bittersweet moment. I'm excited to move on to bigger and better things but, I'm also sad to leave Kingsburg. I plan to defer college for a year serving as an FFA officer, and leading leadership conferences. UC Berkeley is where I plan to go after to study neurobiology to become a child psychiatrist."

Senior Shealynn Lee said her favorite activity is "Grad Night or prom." Lee also said "I'm excited to graduate because I'm ready to experience the real world. I plan to go to COS to get a degree in teaching and then transfer to a 4 year to continue my education."

Prom night was held at Legacy Ranch, 1530 Nelson Ave, on Saturday, May 18th. The

theme is a Masquerade Ball.

Graduation night is on May 5th. Students will go to Disneyland to celebrate. They will return in the morning and graduate the following night.

Our Seniors also had a Star Signing Day. Each student signed a gold paper star showing what school they'll be attending after graduation.

There was an awards night on Monday, May 20th for Senior Scholarships.

The KHS class of 2024 is looking forward to all their great activities and amazing futures after graduation.



## KHS Recognizes Hardwork and Dedication

By Kirrah Morton  
Editor-in-Chief

Monday, May 20th a multitude of students were honored at the annual Senior Awards Banquet. This year over 400 scholarships were given out totalling \$456,700 in scholarships.

Local business, churches, school districts, etc come out bringing members of the community to recognize the years of hard work these students have put in.

The award ceremony begins with a slideshow of valedictorians showcasing their overall GPA and what school they plan to attend come the following year. After the slide show came the announcement of awards. Each scholarship is announced in alphabetical order. Each student is given a certificate and awarded with a check.

This year KHS had a substantial amount of generous donors. To recognize some special students received the Kingsburg Knights of Columbus-Holy Family Council, Northern California Scholarship, Larry Hillblom Memorial, Ruiz 4 Kids and SmittCamp.

The Holy-Family church is the local Catholic Church in Kingsburg. Knights of Columbus act as their boosters working alongside the church. They gave out 14 scholarships ranging in \$500 to \$1,750 to the young members of their congregation, totaling \$11,000.



One of KHS's biggest donors is from The Larry Hillblom Foundation. They award 2 different scholarships honoring 10 students this year. 7 Grants were given out at \$7,500 following with 3 scholarships at \$25,000. This foundation was created to help support students through their college experience. Smitt camp is an honor college at Fresno State. Smitt camp Family awarded Brandon Bryson with \$55,000 in financial aid.

Ruiz 4 Kids is a foundation created to help others in need of financial help. This year they awarded 61 different seniors with \$1000 scholarships.

Through all the money given one scholarship awarded students with the laptops necessary for college students. The Fareid Family Scholarship has 7 laptops for students.

KHS is so grateful to be a part of a community that gets involved and helps the younger generations as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

A big thank you to all who have helped these students through their highschool and now college experience.

Following one student was awarded the Northern California Scholarship Foundation scholarship being awarded with \$32,000. This scholarship is awarded to CIF students who plan on attending a school within the area.

## Seniors

## Class of 2024



Will Williams  
Reedley College Honors  
Major: Biology



Wren Wilson  
University of California,  
Berkeley  
Major: Neuroscience or  
Sports Psychology



Judith Rivera  
Reedley College  
Major: Environmental  
Engineering



Zachery Tackett  
College of the Sequoias  
Major: Undeclared



Emily Ayala Gonzalez  
University of California,  
San Diego  
Major: Vocal Music



Emilie Parker  
Fresno City College  
Major: Elementary  
Education



Rachelle Ureno  
College of the Sequoias  
Major: Chemical  
Engineering



Aliya Ayers  
Biola University  
Major: English



Houston Hirschhorn  
University of California,  
Davis  
Major: Managerial  
Economics



Gavin Jensen  
Texas Christian  
University  
Major: Business Finance



Kayden Garza Carreto  
Reedley College  
Major: Manufacturing



Kristen Pacheco  
Flagler College  
Major: English



Alonso Hernandez  
Fresno State University  
Major: Computer Science



Evan Reich  
Reedley College Honors  
Major: Business  
Administration



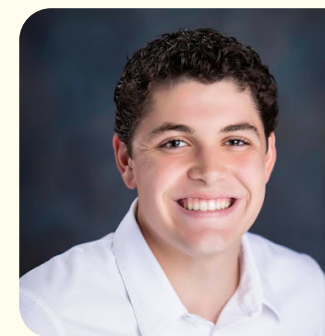
Macey Visser  
Biola University  
Major: Kinesiology



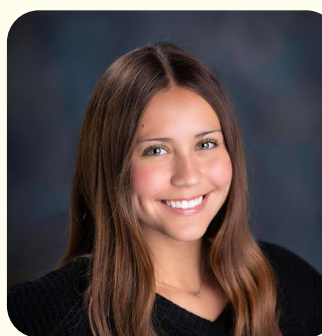
Madelyn Wiest  
College of the Sequoias  
Major: Education



Santiago Carreto Barrera  
Fresno State University  
Major: Applied  
Mathematics



William Butts  
The Master's University  
Major: Political Science



Addison Murguia  
Fresno State University  
Major: Nursing



Bodhi Verners  
Fresno Pacific  
University  
Major: Biology

# Valedictorian Elects



Valeria Camacho Chavez  
Reedley College  
Major: Liberal Studies



Alexis Gagnon  
Fresno State University  
Major: Criminology



Danielle Jackson  
The Master's University  
Major: Biblical  
Counseling



Damian Aragon  
University of California,  
Merced  
Major: Psychology



Anureet Klair  
Reedley College  
Major: English



Sullivan Phelan  
Fresno City College  
Future Nurses Program



Asia Allen  
Fresno City College  
Major: Allied Health



Katelynn Cornejo  
Fresno City College  
Major: Chemistry



Jiselle Moya  
Fresno State University  
Major: Communicative  
Science and Disorders



Alek VanBebber  
California Polytechnic  
State University  
Major: Agriculture  
Business



Camille Zavala  
University of California,  
Berkeley  
Major: Neurobiology



Derrick Chan  
University of California,  
Davis  
Major: Pharmaceutical  
Chemistry



Adeline Kliewer  
College of the Sequoias  
Major: Nursing



Matthew Sawatzky  
The Master's University  
Major: Mechanical  
Engineering



## Class of 2024 Stats

-249 Graduates

-\$456,700 given in local  
scholarships

-9 entering the military

-64 attending a 4-year  
university

-155 attending a 2-year  
university or trade school

-11 attending college out  
of state