

All-area boys' basketball teams are announced

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3A Honorable Mention by both KSHSAA Covered and Sports in Kansas. He earned Honorable Mention All-TVL a year earlier as a sophomore.

"Layne plays the best defense," said CVHS coach Matt Washburn. "He kind of takes it to heart when the other team scores. Offensively, he runs the show."



Denny

Caney Valley closed out the season at 18-7 overall, which included a 6-0 mark in the TVL for first place in the final standings. The Bullpups have gone a perfect 13-0 over the past two seasons in league play, while winning back-to-back outright titles. This was the 10th league championship in program history. Seeded No. 5 in the Class 3A postseason, the 'Pups captured a 54-34 victory over Halstead in the quarterfinal round before watching their season come to an end with a 66-56 loss to TVL rival Neodesha in the semifinal round of Haven Sub-State Tournament 1.

This was Denny's second straight year picking up all-area basketball honors after earning Honorable Mention a year ago. Denny was also a standout last fall for the Bullpup football team as he was selected All-Area Honorable Mention on offense at the quarterback position.

Remington John Cherryvale

In his first season at the high school level, Cherryvale's Remington John was selected to the All-Area First Team by Taylor Newspaper Family.

A 6-1 freshman guard, John came up big for the Chargers all season long, leading the way in scoring with an average of 18.2 points per game. He also led CHS in rebounds (6.0 rpg), assists (3.5 apg) and steals (2.4 spg).

John was named to the All-Tri-Valley League First Team. Recently, he earned Honorable Mention All-Class 3A by both KSHSAA Covered and Sports in Kansas.

"Remington really brought stability to our point guard position," said CHS coach Scott John. "He was able to score at all three levels for us and was often guarded by the opponent's best defender. Remington was probably our guy we leaned on the most and was hard to find him a rest during the game. He was our quarterback out there making sure guys were where they were supposed to be. And when we needed a bucket, he was our guy we went to."

Cherryvale tripled its win total from a year earlier as it finished with a 9-15 overall record. The Chargers strug-

gled down the stretch, losing six of their final seven games. They went 2-4 in the TVL to tie Humboldt for fifth place in the final standings. The season came to a close with a 53-26 loss to Girard in the quarterfinal round of Class 3A West Franklin Sub-State Tournament 1.



John

John is currently a player on the Cherryvale baseball team this spring.

Kellen Lanning Independence

Reaching 1,000 points in his final game, Independence's Kellen Lanning has capped off his Bulldog career as an All-Area First Team selection by Taylor Newspapers.

A 6-2 senior guard,

Lanning led the team in all four major statistical categories for a second straight year, finishing with an average of 16.6 points, 5.7 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 1.7 steals per game. It was the third straight year he led the Bulldogs in scoring.

A two-time All-Southeast Kansas League First Team selection, Lanning was also named All-Class 4A Second Team by Sports in Kansas and Third Team by KSHSAA Covered. Earlier, he was selected to the All-Tournament teams at Circle and Burlington.

"Kellen led us not only in the major categories on the stat sheet, but he was looked upon to lead us," said IHS coach Brad Smith. "This season meant so much to him. His overall athleticism was very good. Most of the time, he was one of the best players on the floor night in and night out."

Independence finished the season at 13-10 overall, which included an 8-4 mark in the SEK to tie Chanute for the league championship — its first title since 2015 and the 16th overall in program history. The season came to an end with a 72-56 home loss to Topeka-Hayden in the semifinal round of Class 4A East Sub-State Tournament 2.

This was the third straight year Lanning earned All-Area basketball honors, which included First Team last year as a junior and Second Team as a sophomore. In addition to hoops, he was also a two-time All-Area honoree last fall in football, earning First Team on offense at wide receiver and Second Team at defensive back.



Four juniors from Sedan bring home top state honors

Powerlifters from Sedan High School proved their strength at the 2A State Meet at Royal Valley last Saturday, March 28. The Blue Devils entered four athletes, all juniors, into the competition.

Makayla Henson, a junior at Sedan High School, captured 1st place overall in

her 132 pound weight class, which crowns her as state champion in that division. She also secured 1st place in bench, 1st place in squat, and 2nd in clean lift. She also won the Best Ratio award across the women's division.

Lincoln Dowell brought home a bronze award with 3rd

place overall in the 140 pound weight class. He placed 7th in bench, 1st in squat, and 6th in clean lift. The 1st place win in squat gave him the state champion title.

Evan Butler lifted in the 156 pound weigh class, and got 16th place overall. He placed 13th in bench, 16th in

squat, and 16th in clean lift. And Nate Smilko represented the Blue Devils in the 123 pound weight division, capturing 5th place overall, with 4th in bench, 6th in squat, and 5th in clean lift.



The Blue Devils powerlifters pulled in several top honors at the state meet including (left photo, back row) Lincoln Dowell, Coach Shaun Scott, Makayla Henson, Evan Butler, and (front row) Nate Smilko. Makayla Henson placed 1st overall in the women's division (middle photo), and Lincoln Dowell (right photo), secured 3rd place overall in the men's division.

THE PECK PERSPECTIVE (From the Capitol)

By Virgil Peck, Jr.

On Friday, March 27, (more accurately, early Saturday morning) the Legislature heard the sound of the gavel signaling we had reached first adjournment. Legislators can now spend 12 days in District visiting with constituents and catching up on personal responsibilities.

There are far too many bills to write about in one article. But I'll cover a few here and more over the next few weeks.

Two More Veto Overrides (SB 368 & HB 2635): For the first time as a legislator, I made a motion to override a gubernatorial veto by saying, "I move that SB 368 be passed notwithstanding the Governor's veto." The override was successful in the Senate 30-9. That vote was followed with the same motion in the House by Representative Ron Bryce who secured sufficient votes, 87-37, completing the override and allowing SB 368 to become law.

Passage of SB 368 gives the more than 11,000 Kansas households who choose to participate in a HealthCare Sharing Ministry (HCSM) the same tax benefits as health insurance — except the deduction is limited to \$5,000 for

individuals and \$10,000 for a married couple.

HCSMs act as not-for-profit clearinghouses connecting people with medical bills with those willing to pay them. The HCSM model is not for everyone, but for those who choose to participate, it helps control rising healthcare costs.

The other override was of HB 2635, a bill to prohibit local governments from passing a regulation that requires pregnancy care centers to refer women for abortions, counsel in favor of an abortion, post signs or flyers promoting abortions, or force them to hire employees who don't share their pro-life values. One legislator rightfully said, "The governor is quick to talk about supporting choice, but that support disappears the moment a mother chooses life." The Senate override vote was 30-9 and the House vote 87-35.

As a reminder, earlier in the Session the Legislature overrode the Governor's veto of SB 244. A bill protecting females from having males intrude into their private spaces — restrooms, locker rooms, etc.

More Alcohol Sales in Kansas? (HB 2481): With bipartisan opposition and bipartisan

support, a step was taken to allow for an increase in the amount of alcohol served in Kansas during the FIFA World Cup soccer tournament, June 11 through July 19. The Senate vote was 23-17, while in the House it was more lopsided at 86-39. I was an absolute no.

States across the county have limits on alcohol consumption for good reason — to protect its citizens. No matter what a person's beliefs are concerning alcohol, there's no denying that alcohol consumption has contributed to fatality auto accidents, spousal and child abuse, job loss, and health issues. Passage of HB 2481 will allow bars and liquor stores to stay open and sell alcohol 23 hours a day (6 a.m. through to the next morning at 5 a.m.), seven days a week for the 38-day period when the U.S. hosts the World Cup.

HB 2481 does require a county commission or the governing body of a city, by resolution or ordinance, to opt-in to the expanded alcohol sales hours before the hours are changed. A county or city making such a decision will be required to submit a copy of the resolution or ordinance to the Director of Alcoholic Bev-

erage Control within the Kansas Department of Revenue.

I can't disagree with what one senator said, "I don't want to wake up during the FIFA World Cup and hear about some child's parent being killed in a car wreck on their way to work from somebody leaving a bar at 5 a.m."

As a reminder, in 2025 the state committed \$28 million to the World Cup.

Avoiding Daylight Savings Time (HB 2594): Although I like the idea of avoiding adjusting our clocks twice a year, I was one of only four no votes to HB 2594, a bill to exempt Kansas from daylight saving time and adopt permanent standard time. My opposition was not to the idea, but because the law will only take effect if Missouri enacts similar legislation. What?!? We're going to let the "show-me" state determine Kansas law?!? I don't think so!

Wording in HB 2594 states that if Congress enacts a federal law adopting permanent daylight saving time, Kansas will move to permanent daylight saving time, rather than standard time. The House hasn't voted on the current language of HB 2594 but might when we return to Topeka on April 9.

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