

IHS forensics team continues successful trek at SEK meets

INDEPENDENCE — Independence High School forensics students had a busy week with numerous medals earned at two tournaments.

At a meet in Fort Scott on Saturday, Audrey Kaiser placed third out of all participants in three-plus events.

Kaiser was joined by Makenna Larimore in earning third in duet acting and also improvised duet acting.

Kaiser also earned a bronze medal in informative speaking.

Isabella Martinez placed second in international extemporaneous speaking, and Makenna Larimore placed fourth in humorous interpretation.

In duet acting, Sophie Ballew and Isabella Martinez placed fifth.

Other medalists included Izzy Sharp, dramatic interpretation, and Sophie Ballew, original oration — both of whom placed sixth.

At a tournament in Neodesha last week, Independence returned home with the first place team trophy.

Multiple IHS forensics students earned medals while also gaining qualification to state competition in May. Earning medals at the

Neodesha meet were (state qualifiers is denoted with *):

- Poetry: Toby Colon, first place*; JP Tharp, second place*; Sophie Ballew, third place*.

- Program of Oral Interpretation: Peyton Connors, first place; Lauren Blackard, second place; Kaylee Williams, third place*; Stella Pate, fourth place*; Sophie Ballew, fifth place, Isabella Martinez, sixth place.

- Humorous Interpretation: Lauren Blackard, first place; Kaylee Williams, second place; Dalton Werner, fourth place*; Rosalia Williams, fifth place*; Kellen Ebert, sixth place.

- Duet acting: Isabella Martinez and Sophie Ballew, first place; Brody Cooley and Kellen Ebert, second place; Dalton Werner and Nolan Carnes, third place; Lauren Blackard and Stella Pete, fourth place; Claire Haslett and Khloe Robles, fifth place; Izzy Sharp and Trinity Wickline, sixth place*.

- Impromptu Speaking: Peyton Connors, fourth place.

- Original Oration: Peyton Connors, first place; JP Tharp, third place; Brody Cooley, fifth place; Izzy Sharp, sixth place.



Competing at the Neodesha Invitational Tournament from Independence High School were (back row, left to right) Kaylee Williams, JP Tharp, Kellen Ebert, Brody Cooley, Stella Pete, Peyton Connors, (middle row, left to right) Toby Colon, Claire Haslett, Trinity Wickline, Makenna Larimore, Izzy Sharp, Nolan Carnes, (front row, left to right) Rosalina Williams, Isabella Martinez, Sophie Ballew, Dalton Werner, Lauren Blackard, and Khloe Robles.

- Extemporaneous Speaking: Isabella Martinez, second place; Toby Colon, third place*; Nolan Carnes, seventh place.

- Dramatic Interpretation: Toby Colon, first place*; Stella Pete, third place; Kaylee Williams, fourth place; Nolan Carnes, fifth place; Izzy Sharp, sixth place.

- Improvised Duet Acting:

- JP Tharp and Dalton Werner, first place*; Brody Cooley and Kellen Ebert, second place*; Claire Haslett and Khloe Robles, third place.

- Informative Speaking: Peyton Connors, second place*; Sophie Ballew, third place*; Claire Haslett, fifth place; Izzy Sharp, sixth place.

- Prose Interpretation: Stella Pete, third place; Trinity

Wickline, seventh place.

O'Rourke.

Special recognitions:

- IHS senior Makenna Larimore has moved into fifth place all-time in Independence High School history for National Speech & Debate Association career points, surpassing the previous mark of 1,702 points set by 2016 graduate Maddy

Next tournaments

IHS forensics students will compete at a meet in Neodesha on April 1 and at Coffeyville on April 11.

Students will also compete in the NSDA National Qualifying Tournament in Chanute on April 17.



Independence High School forensics students who competed in the tournament in Fort Scott last Saturday were (back row, left to right) Izzy Sharp, Makenna Larimore, Audrey Kaiser, (front row, left to right) Sophie Ballew and Isabella Martinez.

FKHS musicians bound for state contest

COFFEYVILLE — Field Kindley High School had numerous musicians qualify for the KSHSAA State Solo and Small Ensemble competition by virtue of earning I, or superior, ratings at a regional competition in Independence last Saturday.

Earning the I ratings and qualifying for the state competition were the following bands members: Sarah Rating, flute solo and alto saxophone solo; Lara Crafton, clarinet solo; Colton Hayden, bass clarinet solo; Kaeden Blagg, marching tenors solo;

Elijah Hogan, trombone solo; Connor Dobbins, marimba solo.

Earning II, or excellent ratings, were Marlee Rupert, clarinet solo; Tyler Thompson, snare drum solo; Andrea Bennett, clarinet solo; clarinet duet.

Vocal music students who received I ratings were Hayden Turner, treble vocal; Lenae Ivie, treble vocal; Spencer Decker, tenor/bass; Soundwave choir; Soundwave Women choir.

Finishing with II ratings were Soundwave Men choir;

Athena Fuentes, treble vocal; and Zakkary Williams, tenor/bass vocal.

Class 4A schools will com-

pete in the state and small ensemble contest in DeSoto, Kan., on April 25.

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CRMC Swing Bed Services...

The team you need to recover from illness, injury or surgery.

If you've been at CRMC in the last 15 years, you've probably crossed paths with Jackie Barlow. She's the kind Auxiliary volunteer in a red vest who offers a homemade cookie to everyone she sees. She's one of the most generous people you'll ever meet.


Recently, CRMC staff had a chance to give back to Jackie when she became a patient. Her journey started at the CRMC Medical Group Clinic. She then received care in the CRMC ER, followed by a stay in Acute Care. Although she's been a CRMC patient for years, her final step, Swing Bed Services, was new to Jackie.

Swing Bed Services is a short-stay, hospital-based program for patients who no longer need inpatient care but still require rehabilitation before returning home. This added care helps patients reach their highest potential for independence by providing the continued help they need to return home safely. If a patient has Medicare, the benefit covers services up to 20 days in full and up to 80 additional days with a co-payment. Private health insurance may also cover Swing Bed care pending pre-approval.

General requirements for Swing Bed eligibility include a medical need, a 3-day acute care stay, the motivation to participate fully with individual comprehensive care plan and goals. Patients who have returned home from an acute stay and find a need for further help may qualify to be readmitted to Swing Bed Services within a 30-day window.

Jackie's goal was to return home and start baking cookies again. CRMC's Swing Bed Services team implemented a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach that included nursing care, dietary services, respiratory, physical and occupational therapy. With help from CRMC and Swing Bed Services, Jackie reached her goal. She returned home on February 25 and was making cookies the next day.

If you need help recovering from illness, injury or surgery, ask your primary care provider about Swing Bed Services at CRMC or call Gail Billman at 620-252-2272.



I have been a member of the CRMC Auxiliary since 2010. I enjoy helping the patients and working along side the staff. I really like working in the Jerry Marquette Radiation Oncology center where I get to help cancer patients as they go through radiation treatments. It is definitely worthwhile work.

Unfortunately, I had to give up volunteering for a while recently when I got sick. I had just celebrated my 90th birthday with a big party. A few days later, I came down with a sore throat. I let it go longer than I should have, but I finally went to see my primary care provider, Afton Owen, at the CRMC Medical Group Clinic. After a thorough examination and a breathing treatment, she decided my condition warranted a trip to the ER. She kindly made arrangements for CRMC EMS to transport me from the clinic to the ER.


I received excellent care from the ER doctors and staff as well as the respiratory therapy team. They eventually decided I would need a stay in the hospital to make a full recovery, so I was transferred to Acute Care.

I spent several days in Acute Care and made really good progress, but I wasn't quite strong enough to go home and take care of myself. That's when Dr. Gangula recommended Swing Bed Services.

Gail Billman, CRMC Swing Bed Services Coordinator, explained everything to me. I could extend my stay at CRMC as a Swing Bed patient and Medicare would pay for it. I would receive all the therapy I needed to get stronger, regain my independence, and then I could return home when I was ready.

All the services I received at CRMC, from the clinic, to the ER to Acute Care, were outstanding. I couldn't have asked for better care. Swing Bed Services was the icing on the cake. It was so nice that I didn't have to go to the nursing home, and I could stay at CRMC with the people I know and trust. I got the extra care and attention I needed to get better and go home.

Jackie Barlow



Coffeyville Regional Medical Center

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