



# THE EAGLE'S WING

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper



## NEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By JOE SWANSTROM



Jordan Hammen

Keota High School is glad to welcome a new senior this year, Jordan Hammen. She is 17 years old and lives northeast of Keota. She previously attended Mid-Prairie High School before transferring to Keota. Jordan is looking forward to being very active in Keota extra curricular activities, including cross country, FFA, track, basketball, and speech. She said "I like being involved and making friends." One downside Jordan has noticed so far was how Keota's lunch doesn't have as many options. However, she does prefer Keota's scheduling over Mid-Prairie's scheduling; she likes having eight classes a day compared to only four at Mid-Prairie. Jordan prefers Keota's smaller classes because "Keota has more one on one time with students and teachers." She also greatly enjoys the atmosphere at Keota. When asked what she thinks about Keota so far, she said, "Everyone is nice and the teachers here are very welcoming." Jordan is extremely excited to be involved in Keota extra-curriculars, make new friends, and receive a good education. Keota is extremely glad to welcome her to the school.

## Marvelous Mums in Bloom

By BRYCE GREINER



The Keota FFA recently received fall mums to sell for a fundraiser. The FFA has had a lot of success with this fundraiser in the past years. They received 75 mums to sell this year, and the Plant Science class has done a great job taking care of the mums. They have red, white, pink, orange, and yellow mums for sale. They will be selling the mums at home sporting events, parent teacher conferences, and after school from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. All the funds and proceeds will be used to help support the FFA throughout the school year.



photo by Swanson Photography

## KHS SPORTS VARSITY Volleyball

By JAIME SCHULTE

Hardworking and driven, the 2019 KHS Varsity Volleyball team leaves it all on the court each time they play. Following an exciting win for the team on Monday, Sept. 23, where the Eagles were able to sweep English Valleys three sets to none, the team has confidence and momentum going into their final games of the season. The varsity volleyball team consists of (back row, from left): Teresa Miller (Assistant Coach), Jaime Schulte (Sr., Captain), Lexi Purkeypille (Jr.), Taylor Kindred (So.), Lindsey Imhoff (Jr.), Addison Swanson (Sr., Captain), Sky Hahn (Head Coach); (front row) Makenzie Jackson (So.), Nicole Clarahan (Fr.), Callie McNurlen (Jr.), Macie McDonald (Fr.), and Chloe Pringle (Fr.). Catch the final home game of the regular season on Monday, Oct. 7 vs. Colfax-Mingo. The theme is "Jersey Night."

## Hahn takes on new roles at Keota School District

By JAIME SCHULTE

Fifth and sixth graders will be seeing a new face at the front of their classroom this year, but it might be familiar to most kids in the school. While Sky Hahn has spent the last four years being a stay-at-home mom, she is not new to this occupation. She taught first grade at Keota for three years before taking four years off to raise her kids.

Hahn grew up and went to school in Sigourney, where she thought she wanted to be an astronaut some day. As she grew up, she decided that was not the fit for her. Her first-grade teacher, Mrs. Jarnes, made her fall in love with learning. After graduating high school, Hahn went to the University of Iowa with an open major with intentions to major in childhood psychology. However, after taking a few classes, she realized that this career was not the hands-on connection she wanted with kids. That is when she decided to enter into Iowa's College of Education.

Since then, Mrs. Hahn has got-

ten married to Noah Hahn, had two kids, Izley and Brooks, and settled down just outside of Keota. While she enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom, she has a love for learning and seeing others learn that she wanted to share with the world, which ultimately brought her back to teaching.

This adjustment in her life has not been easy, but Hahn says it was worth it. The hardest adjustment she has faced is balancing her family life and occupation. Her husband, Noah, is a farmer, so this is a busy time of year for both of them.

She has taken classes, been to professional development, and tried to plan ahead to prepare for the year. Her goal for herself and her students is to get reacquainted with the curriculum and for everyone to feel comfortable with it. Hahn said, "I hope that the students feel like they are in control of their learning." She wants her classroom to involve student driv-



Sky Hahn

vorite subject to teach is reading because it gives the kids a chance to explore and use their imagination. Along with that, reading connects to all subjects.

Teaching is not the only new role Hahn will be taking on this year. She has also taken on the position of head coach for the high school volleyball team. Before this, she has coached youth softball, varsity softball, and has been the assistant volleyball coach. Hahn says this position involves much more communication and behind the scenes work than her previous positions.

Her goal for the volleyball season is to turn her players into a family unit and define the word "team." As she has a young team this year, she also wants to focus on building confidence in her

players and their ability. Hahn says communication will be the key to her team's success this season.

Her team has been having open gyms throughout the season to prepare. Along with that, the team spent a lot of time in the gym for the first two weeks practicing twice a day doing weights, conditioning, and fundamentals. The team has team suppers as well to bond and build connections.

Hahn says if she could change one thing about her career, she would put more hours in the day so she could get more done. She wishes she could go back and tell herself not to overthink the small things in life. If she could change one thing about her past, she would have explored more activities in college to meet more people.

Hahn hopes that the students, players, and community can see that she cares about what she does and gives her full effort. She wants to build connections and make her job purposeful.

If you see Mrs. Hahn around, give her a warm welcome back to Keota!

## McCombs is Dashing into Cross Country

By JD STOUT

Dakota McCombs is no stranger to Keota High School athletics. He has one year of coaching under his belt, but he is now turning his attention to a different sport. McCombs has been named the head coach of the junior high and high school cross country teams.

McCombs is hoping to use his experience of running cross country in high school in order to help coach the team to a successful year. McCombs encourages all of his athletes to be active in high school and do as many sports as possible, just like he did. While in high school, McCombs participated in tennis, baseball, basketball, football, cross country, and bowling, while balancing a job at the HyVee warehouse and lifeguarding at the local Chariton pool. Of all the activities he did, baseball was his favorite.

McCombs currently works as the 7-12 resource teacher, head baseball coach, and head cross country coach at Keota High School. He went to multiple colleges in order to become the teacher and coach he is today. He studied at Indian Hills, California Coast, Buena Vista, and Northwestern



With a year of teaching at KHS now under his belt, McCombs is expanding his role into coaching this year.

Community College. Growing up in the small town of Russell, McCombs did not see himself as the educator he is today.

McCombs worked for Williamsburg Manufacturing before working at Keota High School. He moved to the area after meeting his wife Haley, who has resided in the area her whole life. "I decided to go into teaching because I got tired of working 70 hours a week and wanted to spend time with my family. I became the cross country coach because they needed one and I wanted to fill the

void," McCombs said.

McCombs is very excited for the upcoming season. His goal for the year is to make sure everyone has fun and improves themselves. He plans on working them hard during practice and pushing all the athletes to be the best versions of themselves that they can be. McCombs even occasionally works out with his team to prove to them that they can do it. He is also really working on being more creative and mixing up what they do at practice to make sure everyone is having a good time.

McCombs feels that his team will have great success because everyone is enjoying themselves and working to improve on their individual goals. His motto is "Dedication plus motivation equals success."

When asked what he thought about his new coach, freshman cross country runner Dakota Hammen said, "I believe he is a good coach that knows what he is talking about. He knows how to make running fun." Look for McCombs to run it up on the opposing cross country teams this year.

## New History Teacher at KHS

By TRINITY DALTON

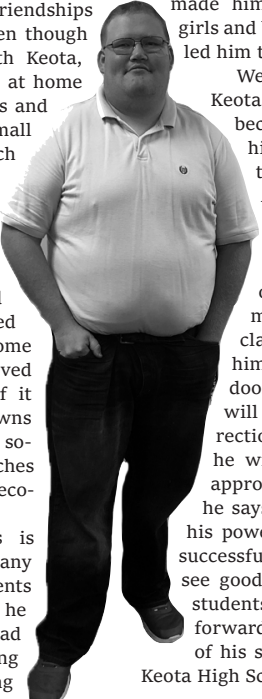
Keota High School has a new history teacher to get used to this year, and his name is Trevor Weeks. Mr. Weeks is no stranger to small towns; in fact, he is used to the close friendships that Keota, Iowa has. Even though he was not familiar with Keota, he immediately felt right at home with our friendly gestures and smiles. He is from the small town of Ryan, Iowa, which is north of Cedar Rapids.

Weeks grew up wanting to be a teacher, ever since 2008. He was inspired to become a teacher because he had great teachers that inspired him to grow up and become one himself. He also loved looking at maps, even if it was just going a few towns over. His main interest is social studies, but he teaches sociology, psychology, economics, and government.

As a teacher, Weeks is working to accomplish many goals, both with his students and as a teacher. Before he became a teacher, he had many jobs, including being a janitor at UNI, cutting

trees, helping on the farm, and one of his biggest passions, coaching. All of these things made him realize he wanted to be a teacher. He has also coached wrestling for five years, as well as girls' track. Coaching girls made him realize how different girls and boys are mentally, which led him to love psychology.

Weeks says teaching at Keota is similar to coaching, because he wants to make his students, just like his team, very successful. According to Mr. Weeks, he wants to "build dreams" in his classroom and "make everyone feel welcome." He may listen to some hard classic rock, but don't let him intimidate you. "My door is always open and I will push you in the right direction," he says. He believes he will fit right in with his approachable personality, and he says he will do anything in his power to make his students successful, because he wants to see good results from all of his students. Mr. Weeks is looking forward to getting to know all of his students and the staff at Keota High School this year.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By ADDIE SWANSON



Nicole Strand

Class of 1997 member, Nicole Strand, never imagined herself where she is now. In fact, she did not see herself living in Keota at all. "I planned on living in the big city, but ended up where my roots started," she said. She now lives in small town Keota with her four boys: Kolton, 18, Connor, 13, Cooper, 10, and Lucas, 7, along with her significant other, Mike. At this time, Nicole works at the University in the allergy and pulmonary section. She makes everything go smoothly.

During her high school years, Nicole was very involved in Keota extra curriculars. She participated in cross country, basketball, track, softball, band, chorus, Eagle Rock!, FFA, and the spring plays.

During her elementary years, Nicole had a desire to be a fashion designer in California. Going into high school, those plans changed. During her high school years at Keota, she enjoyed going to Home Ec. class with Bonnie Knutson, because it taught her how to cook and gave her good parenting skills. Her favorite teacher was Mr. Fish. One of the things that Nicole misses most is the "fun stuff. There were no responsibilities and you did not have to pay bills," she said. For Nicole's senior prank, they took Round-Up and killed the grass on a hill by the school. They wrote, "Class of '97." If she could go back and do things different in high school, Nicole says she would have tried harder, applied herself to her classes, and took things more seriously.

After Nicole's years at Keota, she went on to go to Kirkwood and major in health care. She enjoyed college a lot, but she did not expect to have to get a job. She had to pay bills, she had responsibilities, and she had to apply herself. This was the biggest shock to her.

Nicole is a hard working individual and loves her job, but her dream job would be to work from home and do the exact same thing she is doing right now. "Driving from Keota to Iowa City is not fun to do, especially when you have to do it every day," she says.

Nicole is happy with the life she is living and the people she spends her time with. She is an outgoing, happy person that is fun to be around. One piece of advice that she wants to leave behind for the students currently enrolled at Keota High School is to encourage them to apply themselves and try hard at everything they do.

## EAGLE'S WING STAFF 2019-20

TAYLOR CONRAD • TRINITY DALTON  
LEVI FRITZ • BRYCE GREINER  
JORDAN HAMMEN • SAM MENKE  
PAIGE MINARD • JAIME SCHULTE  
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This page was composed and designed by Keota High School students. The Keota Eagle is not responsible for the makeup or editorial content expressed.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

By JORDAN HAMMEN

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

MRS. CONRAD  
STAFF



"Starting The Eagle's Wing with my new newspaper staff!"

JD STOUT  
12<sup>TH</sup>



"Basketball season because I enjoy it."

BAILEY SIEREN  
11<sup>TH</sup>



"Having Jordan Hammen move to Keota."

GRANT GARMAN  
10<sup>TH</sup>



"Trying not to get a detention."

KOTA HAMMEN  
9<sup>TH</sup>



"Track because I like running and it's my favorite sport."

HUNTER SIEREN  
8<sup>TH</sup>



"Wrestling because it's a good experience."

JAX WEBER  
7<sup>TH</sup>



"Football season because it's lots of fun."