



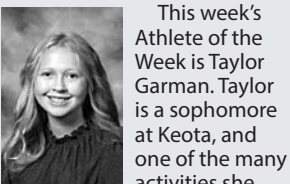
THE EAGLE'S WING

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

By SKY WEBER



This week's Athlete of the Week is Taylor Garman. Taylor is a sophomore at Keota, and one of the many activities she participates in is basketball.

She is one of the point guards on the Keota Varsity basketball team. Taylor likes basketball because she gets to play with a really great group of girls, who are all very close as a team. She also likes basketball because it gets her in good shape for other sports.

Throughout this year's season Taylor wants to improve her basketball skills by hustling more, playing more aggressive, focusing more on the game by not spacing out, and remembering plays. Taylor is looking forward to the rest of the season because she gets to play the game of basketball with all her friends and gets to have fun while doing it.

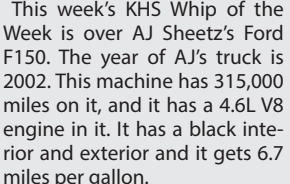
Taylor doesn't have an ultimate goal or achievement for basketball, but she likes to play to the best of her ability in every game she plays. This not only shows on the basketball court, but in her everyday life as well. She always is working hard to make sure she is giving her maximum effort in everything she does.

Taylor has had many funny memories throughout her basketball career. One of those memories is when she did a TikTok dance before shooting her free throws in a game. Another is when she, Bailey, and Jordan borrowed toilet paper from HLV for homecoming. Taylor's advice for the upcoming high school basketball players is to always pay attention in practice and never do anything in practice that shows you are not paying attention, such as singing Christmas songs or doing TikTok dances, because you will most likely have to run.

Taylor wants to really encourage younger girls to play high school basketball because it is so fun and totally worth it. You get to be a part of a team and learn many life skills along the way. Lastly, Taylor wants to leave you with this: "Go Lady E'Gals!"

WHIP OF THE WEEK

By SAM SIEREN



This week's KHS Whip of the Week is over AJ Sheetz's Ford F150. The year of AJ's truck is 2002. This machine has 315,000 miles on it, and it has a 4.6L V8 engine in it. It has a black interior and exterior and it gets 6.7 miles per gallon.

While driving, AJ usually listens to 99.7 FM, 102.9 FM, 800 AM, and 670 AM. The previous owners of the truck were AJ's parents, who paid \$2,000 for it when they purchased it in 2018.

AJ's favorite thing about the truck is that it runs. The truck can fit up to five people and it has a top speed of 100 mph. His favorite memories were going to Chicago, and his bad memories were the days that it didn't run.

AJ nicknamed his truck "Unreliable" for reasons already explained. AJ takes the truck to school the most and he travels with his family the most. Now it's time for you to decide. Would you like to drive this Whip of the Week?

KHS SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Lexi leaves a lasting impression on Keota High School



By JAYDIN BENFORD

This week's Senior Spotlight is Alexis Marie Purkeypille. Alexis likes to be called Lexi and was born February 24, 2003. Lexi is the daughter of Dewey and Abby Purkeypille. Lexi has three siblings: Addy, Jocey, and Leo.

Her favorite childhood memory is mudding in her uncle's woods on ATVs with her friends. Her favorite elementary teacher was Mrs. McClenahan. The reason she was her favorite teacher was because she was always so nice to Lexi and was always a very easy person to talk to. Lexi's favorite elementary memory is sixth grade camp out with her class.

Lexi's favorite high school memory is All-State group speech vacation with her class. Lexi's favorite birthday party was the birthday she took herself and a few of her

friends to Fun City. Her favorite family tradition is watching Jim Carrey's Grinch every Christmas and acting out the scenes.

Lexi admires many things about her parents and other family members. She admires her dad's humor and overall kind personality. She admires her mom's open mindedness. She feels she has the perfect combination of both her parents and is extremely grateful they brought her into this world.

The accomplishment Lexi is most proud of is being able to throw a curveball in softball. Lexi is involved in softball, volleyball, speech, basketball, and Eaglerock. The extracurricular activity Lexi enjoys most is Improv because practices always give her the best belly laughs. Lexi's hobbies include playing video games and hunting, because they are both things that she can sit down and relax and do with family.

When Lexi was younger, she wanted to be a zoo veterinarian. Now that she is older, Lexi would like to attend Indian Hills Community College to major in nursing. She hopes to get a job as a nurse anesthetist or a nurse practitioner. Lexi chose Indian Hills because it has affordable tuition and it's a local college. She wants to be a nurse to be

able to help others through their times. Lexi is currently employed at Manor House in Sigourney as a temp CNA. Some of her duties include assisting residents, making a comfortable environment, and ensuring their safety. Lexi has learned from her responsibilities as a CNA that you have to be patient with others and appreciate the little things in life.

Three things Lexi would like to accomplish in her lifetime are to build her own house with a pond, visit a rainforest, and own a reptile zoo. One quality that Lexi possesses that will help her achieve her goals is her determination.

Her most enjoyable class while at KHS was her sophomore year in Biology class with Ms. Hobbs. It was her favorite class because of the Cell Jig project and the dissecting unit. The class she thinks has prepared her for life the most is College Prep. It has prepared her because it teaches her how to not only write scholarships, but also interviewing and many other skills that will help her. One thing Lexi thinks KHS can offer over other schools is the small class size, which allows for more one-on-one teaching.

When Lexi graduates she will miss her friends that she

has made. When classmate Sky Weber was asked what she would miss most about Lexi, Sky replied, "She always puts a smile on my face and is super bubbly".

The words that best describe Lexi are someone who is kind but strong-willed. If she could go back and do high school again, she says she would try harder her freshman year because she didn't take freshman year as seriously as she should have.

The advice she would give future KHS seniors is, "Take your time and relax. You've worked hard for 12 years! Give yourself a break, because before too long you'll wish you had."

We wish Lexi the best of luck in her future.



10 FACTS ABOUT ANTHONY WESTENDORF

By CARSON SPROUSE



By CARSON SPROUSE

- #1 Anthony has been growing his hair out for six months.
- #2 Anthony is 16.
- #3 Anthony lives in Hedrick.
- #4 Anthony participates in the fall and spring plays.
- #5 Anthony is in Eagle Rock.
- #6 Anthony enjoys trapshooting.
- #7 Anthony is an only child.
- #8 Anthony shows 4-H cattle at the Washington County Fair.
- #9 Anthony drives a Duramax to school.
- #10 Anthony owns an El Camino.

Keota High School Girls' Basketball Team

By SKY WEBER

DEC. 10, 2020 — The Girls' Varsity Basketball team at Keota began practicing during the middle of November to prepare for their upcoming games. The team this year not only has to worry about playing the game but also about how Covid is going to affect their season.

Their first game was on November 20, and it was supposed to be a tournament at Keota. At the time the Keota Girls' Basketball team was going to play Lone Tree, but they ended up having to play Centerville's JV team because of a positive case on the Lone Tree Girls' Basketball team. The tournament was supposed to go into Saturday as well, but there weren't enough teams to carry on the tournament. So, the Keota girls ended up just playing that Friday game. This just shows how the team has to be ready for any obstacles



Pictured above is the 2020-21 Keota High School Girls Varsity Basketball team. From left to right, they are: (back row) Emily Sheetz, Taylor Kindred, Sky Weber; (front row) Macie McDonald, Taylor Garman, Madison Scott, Nicole Clarahan, and Bailey Sieren. Photo courtesy of Batterson Photography.

thrown at them during this year's season.

The Keota girls ended up losing to Centerville 41 to 33. The Keota Girls' Basketball team also played Belle Plaine on December 4 and Tri-County on December 9. They lost 47 to 54 against Belle

Plaine, but they won 44 to 27 against Tri-County.

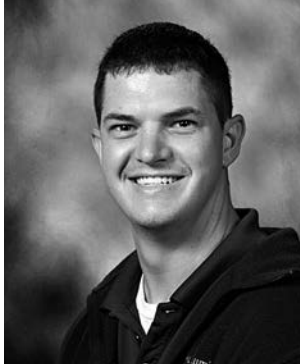
The Keota Girls' Basketball team has many opportunities throughout their season to show what they are capable of. Last year the team had only six girls go out, but this year the team has eight. This

doesn't seem like a big difference, but two extra girls helps a lot in games and practices. The girls' team is working really hard throughout the season to improve their basketball skills and to show they deserve to be on the court.

The Keota Girls' Basketball head coach Jeff Sprouse says, "We have spent a lot of time this season working to change the culture of our team. It is a work in progress, but we are trending in the right direction. In the last week, we have seen some of that extra work pay off. We just can't be satisfied with being close. We need to fight, scratch, and claw at every opportunity we get, whether it is in practice or a game. If we continue to do this, we will have a successful year."

The Keota Girls' Basketball team has played a few competitive games so far, and they will keep improving throughout the rest of the season to have some great games ahead of them.

Teacher Spotlight



By LUKE HAMMEN

This week's teacher spotlight is over none other than Dakota McCombs. Mr. McCombs has been teaching Special Education in the resource room at Keota for two and a half years. Before his years at Keota, Mr. McCombs student taught in Sigourney

as well as EV. He says that the class sizes were very similar, but that it was in elementary, so that part was a lot different. Small town Keota is where Mr. McCombs lives now with his wife Haley, his daughter Kameron, and his son Emmitt. The rest of his family still lives in his hometown in Russell, but Mr. McCombs really enjoys living in Keota and being able to see his Hammes family a lot as well.

When asked who his biggest inspiration was, Mr. McCombs said that his parents are his inspiration because they worked very hard to provide for their family and worked multiple jobs to do so.

Mr. McCombs wanted to be a teacher to make a positive impact on student's lives. His teaching method must

have worked because student Carson Sprouse says, "McCombs is the goat." Mr. McCombs enjoys his students very much and he is looking forward to Homecoming in basketball this year. McCombs says the hardest part of this school year has been that Covid19 has really put a damper on things, which is hurting the enjoyment of the school year, as well as making his job more difficult.

Most people would agree that Mr. McCombs is a fun person to talk to and he has a few good jokes as well. He likes living in and working in Keota because everyone knows everyone and he can talk to whoever. We wish Mr. McCombs the best of luck the remainder of the school year.

Mystery Student



By RILEY HAHN

This week's Mystery Student has two siblings and lives in Harper. He is an avid hunter. He has a dog named Ruby. In his spare time he enjoys playing video games with friends. He is involved in golf, baseball, basketball, and speech. This student has always attended Keota High School.

If you think you know this week's Mystery Student, head to Mrs. Conrad's room for a chance to win a prize.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By CONNER WOLTERING

HOW WILL SENIORS RESPOND THE SECOND TIME AROUND?

Each week, we ask a senior the same question they were asked for the Question of the Week when they were younger. Let's see how their responses have changed over the years...

JENNA JAEGER

Q: If you could have one wish granted, what would it be and why?

8th: A: "I would wish for a horse because I like horses."

12th: A: "I would wish for a million wishes so I would never run out."



Question of the Week: What do you want for Christmas this year? By Jenna Jaeger

- Mrs. Swanson Staff "For 2020 to be over."
- Bailey Sieren 12th "A trip to somewhere warm so I am not depressed this winter."
- Makenzie Jackson 11th "Wax melts, because they make my room smell better."
- Taylor Garman 10th "A jewelry box, because I have a lot and I need to keep it organized."
- Emily Sheetz 9th "An Apple watch, so that I can have a watch."
- Jax Weber 8th "A rifle."
- David Sherman 7th "A computer so I can play games on it."

2020-21 EAGLE'S WING STAFF

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