

THE CUB REPORTER

Sterling, KS 67579

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New FFA organization debuts

**RILEY
RICHTER**
Cub Reporter

This new school year has brought many new changes, including a new club — Future Farmers of America.

Recently hired industrial arts teacher Jaret Wohler is sponsoring the new club.

FFA is an organization that helps high school students explore careers in agriculture, among other fields.

“It gives them competitions to be able and go and compete in, as well as preparing them for life and college,” Wohler said.

Wohler was heavily involved in FFA when he was in high school, which fueled the idea of starting FFA at Sterling.

“High school is where I developed a love for it and realized the value of what it could do for kids by teaching them to be leaders,” he

said.

FFA allows students to learn new skills that translate to agriculture jobs they could have later in life, which is one of the many reasons Wohler wanted to start an FFA program.

“In Sterling, we live in a county where the third-largest employer is agriculture based,” Wohler said. “Sterling is an area where I believed we really had a need, and we had been under serving students who wanted to go into an ag related job.”

FFA is not just for students looking to farm, though. Students who want to go into an ag business or even just learn about leadership can also benefit.

“[Approximately] 90 percent or more of the students who are in FFA will never farm,” Wohler said. “The skills that FFA teaches you are valuable and can translate into any industry.”

The president of FFA



Photo By Riley Richter

Junior Caden Webb slides toward home during the FFA water kickball event Sept. 3 at the Sterling Lake. “We wanted to get people excited for the upcoming year in FFA,” FFA President Lauren Fredrick said.

this year is senior Lauren Fredrick with senior Mallo-ry Beltz as vice president.

Fredrick has been showing beef cattle since she was seven, and she has always had a passion for it.

“I’ve wanted an FFA program since my freshman year,” Fredrick said. “I wanted people to realize

how passionate I am about the livestock industry.”

FFA held a kickball slip ‘n slide night Sept. 3.

“We wanted to get people excited for the upcoming year in FFA and let people mingle with our officers so they could talk about why they wanted to be in FFA,” Fredrick said.

Candidates vie for BOE seats

**MEGAN
ROELFS**
Cub Reporter

their job at the highest level.”

For Joshua Sant, being at the top means supporting different activities the schools are involved in.

“A goal for me would be to see the programs continue to thrive that we have here in this district,” he said. “I think it would be an awesome opportunity to be able to be apart of that, in some way. To get to know the students more and to get to know the faculty more and to be able to help strengthen the already good things that are happening with the school district.”

David Lockhart is from Sentinel, Oklahoma, and has lived in Sterling for three years now. While in Oklahoma, he was on the

This year, there are 14 people running for school board, which is the most that Sterling has had. On Aug. 6, the school board primary elections were held, narrowing the original 14 candidates down to eight.

Kent Anthony, like other candidates, wants to keep Sterling as one of the state’s best school districts.

“My number one goal is to make sure Sterling keeps their reputation as one of the best school districts in the State of Kansas,” he said. “Other goals, which go with the first goal, is to make sure we attract and keep great teachers and administrators and provide them with the resources to do

**SEE ‘BOE’
on page 5**

• Staff Editorial

Immigration policy could damage nation's prosperity

Since he started running for president, Donald Trump has had a strong opinion about immigrants. At the start of his presidency, Trump made it very clear that he did not want illegal immigrants in the country.

But now, the Trump Administration is making it more difficult for even legal immigrants to get settled in the United States.

The Washington Post reports that a new policy being put into place this month will no longer allow immigrants who use certain government aid programs to be eligible for a permanent residence in the United States.

The policy, which will more than likely challenged in court, will block the path to naturalized citizenship and puts access to programs such as food stamps and Medicaid in jeopardy.

This will combine with one of the Trump Administration's goals to change U.S. immigration, and shift the focus from a family reunification to one based on English proficiency.

According to the Los Angeles Times, research shows that even those who need financial help, over time learn or improve skills that move them into higher-income brackets and will help the overall economy.

The new policy being put in place would make legal immigrants ineligible for green cards if they are deemed likely to use public benefits and services for a period of 12 to 36 months.

So, legal immigrants that are students

or have temporary work visas, who are required by law to turn to public benefit programs, may end up putting their future legal status in jeopardy because they accepted the help that Congress said they were allowed to have.

The Immigrants Rights Association are upset, and saying that the policy "punishes the poor" and "violates immigration laws."

They also warn that this rule will make people avoid looking for medical help for fear of ruining their chances of becoming permanent citizens.

For years, the focus has been on reuniting families.

Now, though, Trump wants to limit admission to those who already speak English, clearly have an education and skills, and will be ready to help out the economy upon arrival.

Historically, immigrants who have come over with nothing more than a little change and very little to no knowledge of the English language, have added to the American culture and have helped our prosperity.

The nation that we hope to have will need the various skills at all different levels that immigrants bring into the U.S., especially as our overall population ages and birth rates go down.

If President Trump keeps putting policies in place like this one, the border wall will result in him walling off himself and our country from people who could benefit the United States.

— For the Editorial Board

• Letter to the Editor

Cub Reporter reveals new look, focus to better serve

It's here. The latest installment of the Sterling Cub Reporter, which is the first issue of this school year.

As you can see, it looks and feels a little different. This year, we've decided to go away from the glossy, magazine-style and adopted newsprint.

This choice wasn't made easily. We loved working on a professional-style magazine. However, producing a newspaper affords us a lot of new options and opens doors to better serve you, our readers.

Primarily, this format provides us more room to tell the stories of Sterling High School and the Sterling community.

As you can see in this issue, with eight pages of a newspaper, we can pack in a lot more coverage. That means we can provide more depth in our reporting. We don't have to make as many of the tough decisions about what goes into each issue because we have room to cover more.

A secondary reason for transitioning to newsprint is the cost. We can produce a larger newspaper for less money than we could with the magazine. That helps our bottom line, but this will also provided added benefit to the generous advertisers that support our publications.

For the money, we get many more copies of a newspaper than we could afford with the magazine. That means we

will be able to put The Cub Reporter out in the community on a regular basis.

This provides the advertisers with a better opportunity to have their messages appear in front of more people.

It also allows the students to experience journalism in a more real-world setting. Now, their work isn't just going to be seen by students, faculty and staff of high school. Now, any and all members of the Sterling community can pick up a copy and read all about it.

That's important for student journalists. The best way to improve is to be constantly producing content for a wide audience with diverse interests and needs.

Overall, this change will be a positive one for The Cub Reporter and the overall journalism program at Sterling High School. It will give students more practice with reporting and writing, and that's what scholastic media is for — to learn the ropes and start to improve.

Sure, mistakes will still slip through, but hopefully those mistakes get fewer and further between. Or, at least, new mistakes are being made each time.

If anyone has any questions about this new direction we are embarking upon, I would love to discuss it. Feel free to reach out.

Just remember, print isn't dead.

Todd Vogts, CJE
Journalism Adviser

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The First Amendment

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Bressler assumes principal role

ASHLYN SPANGENBERG
Cub Reporter

Sterling High School has a new administrator this year, and he is highly visible around the building.

Phil Bressler has been popping into every class and stopping students in the halls to talk to them as an attempt to make their days better.

He has given several high fives walking in the hallway, asking students about their days.

Every time you see him, either working in a classroom or walking the halls, Bressler has a smile on his face.

Bressler grew up in a small town named Breges City in northwest Kansas.

He was principal at Pittsburg High School for the past two years, and before his principal career, he was an assistant principal and a math teacher.

Some of Bressler's hobbies are home improvement and renovation and watching his children do what they love doing.

He also works part time at his wife's sign business and really enjoys it.

He and wife Trasie have four children — Synthia who is 23, Caden is 18, Reece is 15, and 10-year-old Elli.

"Family is greater than work," Bressler said. "I tell all on the staff members this, and I also want to model it for them."

He also has been modeling how the students should

use teamwork by working with his staff and giving lots of feedback around the school and in sports, Bressler said.

Bressler has one expectation for the school and that is to make the school better for the students.

He wants to have more successful graduates and make the students at Sterling grow, not only as individuals but also as a group.

Any change he makes, he said, is aimed at improvement, not just to make a change for the sake of change.

He said he has meetings every week with the grade school staff members because it is important to work as a district.

"I think that we are more of a team than any other district that I've been in," Bressler said.

One thing he has been working on is the school spirit.

Within the building, it can be seen that he has let parents into the school to decorate the lockers for sports. He also has put bear paws with a "W" on the lockers of the sports that have won a game.

"I think it's important to let them know that what they do matters," Bressler said.

He shows this by going and supporting all of the sports. He has even made a goal to go support all school activities at least once in the school year.



Staff Photo
Principal Phil Bressler works in his office Oct. 2. Bressler said he doesn't usually spend much time in his office because he likes to be out in the school.

Stuco hopes to serve students

MADISON LACKEY
Cub Reporter

Student Council is back with new faces.

"It is a fun club I can be a part of," Freshman Representative Colton Madden said. "It is fun to be in it with my sister."

There are eight members of Stuco — President Alaina Madden, senior; Vice President Aubrey Anderson, junior; Treasurer Colton Sant, junior; Secretary Natalie Schweizer, junior; Senior Representative Mallory Beltz, Junior Representative Hannah Bennett, Sophomore Representative Wyatt Beltz, and Freshman Representative Colton Madden.

"I am feeling excited about Stuco this year," Alaina Madden said. "Being president, I feel like I have the ability to make Stuco more involved and do more with the power we are given. I love building those relationships with the students and planning all the activities Stuco does."

Stuco is in charge of many things in the school — freshman orientation day, the Stuco mixer in August, the homecoming ceremony and dance, Ironman volleyball, Sterling Basketball Association games, and last day of school activities.

"Homecoming is our most popular Stuco event," Madden said. "We plan the whole dance and pre-

ty much everyone comes. We also handle the candidates and that gets the whole school involved."

The purpose of Stuco isn't only to plan and organize events.

Stuco also tries to keep on the lookout for people who need help academically and socially.

"Students should talk to a Stuco representative if they have concerns about academics or administrations," Stuco sponsor Ian Anderson said.

Stuco can help in ways some students might not realize.

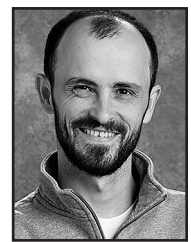
"We can help be a mediator if they feel like they need one," Anderson said.

Madden said she would like people to think of Stuco as more of a resource for students.

"I wish that people knew that Stuco was there for them," she said. "I think sometimes students feel helpless when they have issues and forget that the student council is here for them."



Alaina Madden
President



Ian Anderson
Sponsor

New faculty settle into classrooms

MADISON LACKEY
Cub Reporter

The new school year brought five new faces into the building.

These new faculty members are agriculture and industrial arts teacher Jaret Wohler, special education teacher Robin Amend, band director Abby Giles, strength and conditioning teacher Brent Schneider, and science teacher Layne Gilliland.

Wohler last taught in the Little River school district, heading up the ag department. Prior to that, he

worked for Downing Sales, but he said he felt drawn to education and the Sterling school system.

“I love it. I absolutely love Sterling,” Wohler said. “The staff is awesome and the kids are great.”

Wohler is now working with his wife Tina Wohler, who serves as the high school counselor.

However, this isn’t the only family reunion happening in the district.



Jaret Wohler
Industrial Arts

In his eighth year of teaching, Schneider is now working alongside his brother Derek Schneider, who teaches art classes and coaches football.

“We have been very, very close, and it’s been an awesome opportunity to be in the same building as Derek,” Brent Schneider said.

Some new teachers have been in Sterling before. Giles was a student teacher



Robin Amend
Special Ed.

here prior to applying for the band director job.

“My goal when I graduated was to teach beginning through 12th grade band in a small, Kansas high school that valued the arts and excellence,” she said. “What kept me here was definitely the people I get to work with. The staff, especially the students, and as well as the community.”

Sterling isn’t brand-



Abby Giles
Band

new to Amend, either. She had previously worked at Sterling Grade School as a para educator.

“It’s just so rewarding when you can see the little lightbulb go off. Like they finally learn something or they finally understand it,” she said.

Gilliland, who began teaching at Stafford High School, might be new to the area, but she’s focused on students regardless of where



Brent Schneider
Strength

they live. “I love teaching and helping students learn things, but I also love blowing things up,” she said. “I want you guys to love science. I want you to learn.”

Giles agreed.

“I genuinely want to see students succeed in not just music but in everyday life and become contributing members of society,” she said.



Layne Gilliland
Science

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FEATURE

Student experiences America

MEGAN ROELFS
Cub Reporter

Leonie Bordtfeld might be miles from home and her favorite bread, but she is living an American life and enjoying it, especially football. Bordtfeld — hailing from outside of Hamburg, Germany — is the lone foreign exchange student this year.

She is staying with the Ayala family.

“I like having new sisters,” Bordtfeld said. “I’ve got a brother back at home. He’s 24, and he did an exchange year in Indiana too.”

Being from Germany, Bordtfeld is getting used to the small town atmosphere.

“It’s a really small town, and it’s

a good community. Everybody knows everybody. I’ve only been here for a month, and I know everybody,” Bordtfeld said.

Sterling High School provides many opportunities that Bordtfeld would otherwise not have back home, including sports like football. Such a sport doesn’t exist in her home country, according to Bordtfeld. Also, she is getting to experience classes she didn’t have in Germany.

“I really like cooking class because we get to eat the things



Leonie Bordtfeld

we make. My favorite teacher is probably Mrs. Prather. She’s really fun,” she said. “School is very different here than in Germany. We don’t have things like football, and it’s a different spirit because of them. Everyone celebrates the football guys.”

Bordtfeld said she is planning on trying sports she wouldn’t get to experience at home.

“I want to try softball because we don’t have that in Germany,” she said.

With the school year just starting, Bordtfeld has many hopes for what the rest of the year will bring.

“I can’t wait to make new friends, new family, and just getting the experience because everything is different here,” she said.

‘BOE’ from page 1

school board, so Lockhart has experience with being a board member.

“I feel that I am called to serve and give back to the community, so here I am running for the board,” Lockhart said. “I only want what’s best for the students and school. I want to keep Sterling the best in the state. The school system is phenomenal, and I want to keep it that way for all the students.”

Larry Brownlee taught in the Sterling school district for 34 years. At first he didn’t have any desire to be on the school board, but soon decided that he could possibly offer a perspective that any school board needs.

“The most important thing I would like to do is truly celebrate the success of every student in every activity,” Brownlee

said. “It would be great to invite groups of students to the board meeting every month and publicly acknowledge them and celebrate them.”

Melinda Thomas has lived in Sterling her entire life and both her and her husband make the commute to Hutchinson for work. Thomas is also in agreement with keeping the school system the best in the state.

“For starters, I would like to provide the support our staff needs tooot continue to strive to be within the top 10 percent in the state in all categories,” Thomas said. “My hope is for Sterling to continue to be the go-to school that provides top-notch programs within all students’ different skill sets.”

Other candidates contacted for this story, but they could not be reached by the deadline.

The election will be Nov. 5.



James Decker, DO



Kristina Darnauer, MD



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Volleyball starts at 8-4

MADISON LACKEY
Cub Reporter

The volleyball season has started and with a winning record. As of Sept. 25, the team is 8-4 overall and 5-1 in league play.

“The season is going well so far,” Head Coach Lori Smith said. “The girls are working hard and playing together as a team.”

Winning isn’t always the main focus for sports, so progress and leadership are two things the team is taking seriously.

“The biggest area of growth has been how positive and encouraging the girls are with each other,” Smith said. “They have fun while playing and smile, which is so important. Everything we do is positive, and it shows when the girls play that they are having fun and are enjoying it.”

This is Smith’s first year as the head volleyball

coach.

Assistant Coach Sheri Bennett is new to the volleyball coaching staff this year. After leading the squad to its first-ever state tournament berth, Bennett stepped away for a bit.

“I was an assistant coach more than I was a head coach,” Bennett said. “So it is okay to let somebody else take the reigns.”

Though her approach might not be the same as previous coaches, Smith seems to have been well-received by the players.

“Anytime you get a new coach, things will be different,” sophomore Kali Briar said. “But change can be good. I think we have all enjoyed getting to know Coach Smith and Coach Bennett.”

This can lead to team unity.

“We’re looking forward to our bond,” senior co-captain Kidist Wilson said. “Just getting stronger with it and our positivity.”

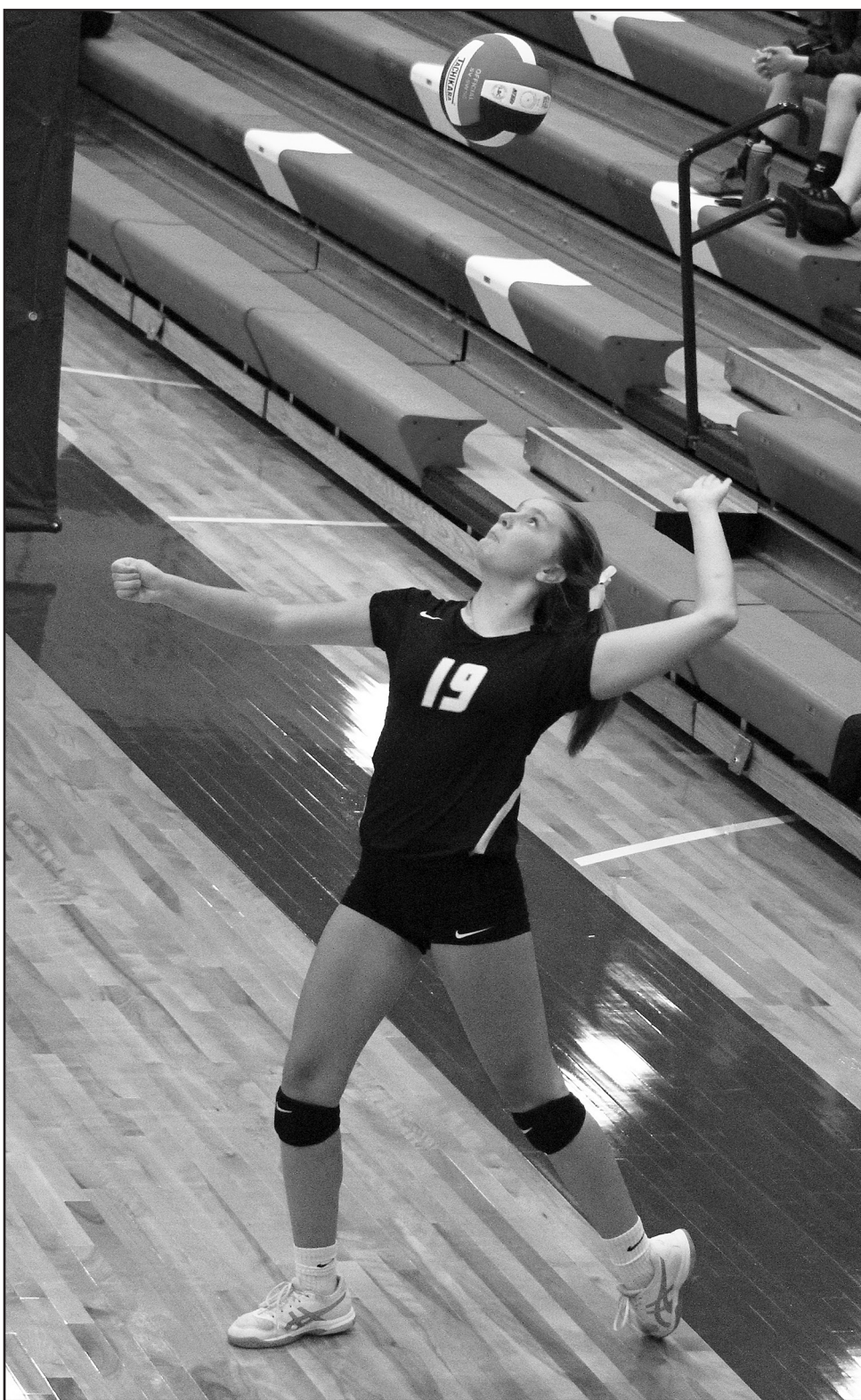


Photo by Megan Roelfs
Freshman Bennie Horsch serves the ball on Sept. 21 during the Marion High School Tournament, where the Black Bears took fifth place. Overall, Black Bear volleyball has started the season 8-4 and 5-1 in league play.



Photo by Courtney Ball
Volleyball players celebrate scoring a point.

Harriers work toward goals

RILEY RICHTER
Cub Reporter

This year, there are nine athletes out for cross country, while last year there was 18.

With limited numbers, there are only two upper-classmen runners, senior Bryson Brownlee and junior Colton Sant.

Though this year’s cross country team may be smaller than last year’s team, they still have big dreams for this season.

“We have a few team goals this year — cheering everyone on and respecting the whole team,” sophomore Carter Crank said. “I think it’s important to have team goals because it gets everyone motivated.”

Although there are very few upperclassmen, there are six freshmen this year.

These newcomers to the team are learning the differences between levels of competition and practice.

“In high school, we run a lot more, and we work a lot harder too,” freshman Bella Brownlee said.

Along with the team goals, Bella Brownlee also has a personal goal.

“I want to try and beat some personal records, and I have already set some course records. I want to continue doing that,” she said. “I want to be good at running, and I want to achieve my goals. It helps me when my dad is there to yell at me because it pushes me to do better.”

The cross country team is coached by Pam Simpson.



Photo by Kayley Clark
Sterling's Alan Anderson finds a gap and takes the ball upfield Sept. 9 against Ell-Saline. The Bears started the season 2-2.

Football kicks off season

**ASHLYN
SPANGENBERG**
Cub Reporter

As of Sept. 27, Sterling High School's varsity football team had a record of 2-2.

This was one thing that has motivated senior Bryan Montoya to play harder because last year the team's record was 1-3.

"Family" is how both senior Cade Wilkey and the new head coach Brent Schneider describe the team.

"We can talk to each other about anything, and we always have each others' backs," Wilkey said.

This has helped the team build leadership and set good examples for the underclassman.

Schneider said one of the team's weaknesses is that the team lacks experience. This is because the team is made up of mainly underclassmen.

Schneider is working to build this up and allowing the younger plays to have in-game playing time.

"Every week we gain experience, and we can learn from what we put out there," Schneider said.

This year is Wilkey's last year on the team, and he has played football since he was in third grade. He enjoys being with his friends everyday and building bonds.

One thing that Wilkey is looking forward to this year is seeing how the season goes.

"We are learning a whole new offense, so it's exciting to do something new," Wilkey said.

Montoya said the new offense is a challenge to the team, explaining whistles being blown for too many people in motion and for players not getting down on time.

He said he thinks the team just needs more practice, and then the players could be really good at running the plays.

Montoya said he is excited to see if they make it to the state championships.

Sophomore Cody Oden also said he was excited for new plays and the new coach. He is ready to be better than they were last year.

Oden suggested playing football creates a different level of connection with people, and he said that connection can be life changing because the competition for playing time motivates people to do better and focus on the game to earn their spots.

"Football is mentally very hard because you have to keep your mind clear and know that the pain is just a part of the game," Wilkey said.

Schneider agreed, saying that he enjoys seeing them fight through the pain and struggle. He also enjoys watching as they learn and build character and relationships.

It comes down to a simple question, according to Schneider.

"How many times are you about to get back up after you fall down?" he asked.

Tennis team serves up wins

**MEGAN
ROELFS**
Cub Reporter

Lady Bear tennis has a record high number this year with 15 girls. The team is made up of six freshmen, two sophomores, five juniors and two seniors.

"A goal for me was really just to have fun. It's senior year, so I'm just enjoying the girls and I think that we really have bonded and I'm loving it," senior Kinzie Comley said.

Freshman Karissa Wilson finds high school tennis to be better and more competitive than junior high tennis.

"In high school, you get matched with someone who is your skill level. In junior high, you either get someone who is really good, or someone who is not very good," Wilson said.

Curtis Thompson has been coaching tennis for 34 years. This year, the team has gotten either first or second in the meets they've been to.

One of the goals Thompson has is to try and get the girls to be prosperous.

"I want to try and get people to have success at regionals and maybe some of them qualify for state," he said.

Wilson has similar goals.

"I want to be a better player than what I was on the first day. Another think would be making it to state," she said.

This year, the regional tournament is in Conway Springs. It will be held Oct.11-12.



Photo by Courtney Ball
Karissa Wilson returns a serve against an opponent earlier this season.



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