



Photo courtesy of Kris DeMaris
Submitted Photo
Josiah DeMaris (left) and Ryan Koberoski both earned All Section Honors in cross country.

DeMaris heads to State as Section 2A Cross Country Champion

Koberoski earns All-Section Honors and Jayhawk team places sixth out of 18

BY KRIS DEMARIS
VAN HEE MEDIA SPORTS WRITER

The Madelia/Truman/Granada Huntley East Chain/Martin Luther Jayhawks cross country team competed at the Section 2A Cross Country Championships on Thursday, October 17. The meet was held at Baylor Park in Norwood Young America. It was a great day for running. The temperature was 52 degrees and the skies were overcast with just a little breeze in the afternoon.

Sophomore Josiah DeMaris is heading to the state cross country meet for the second year in a row. This time he is going as the Section 2A Champion! There were 111 runners in the boys race. DeMaris finished the 5K course with a time of 16:15.79, overtaking the second and third place runners with about 400 meters to go. About a half mile into the race there was a lead pack of five runners. By 1.5 miles, the lead pack was down to three. Those three pushed each other until DeMaris was able to pull away on

the final downhill stretch into the chute.

The second place runner, from Maple River, finished with a time of 16:20.13; 4.34 seconds behind. The third place runner, from Butterfield-Odin, finished with a time of 16:22.34. DeMaris led the All-Section Team.

Junior Ryan Koberoski put forth his best effort of the year and placed 11th with a time of 17:27.68, shattering his previous best time by 16 seconds. With that finish, Koberoski also earned All-Section honors.

Eighth grader Carson Meraz was 62nd with a time of 19:37.47. Also in eighth grade, Eddie Ramirez was 66th with a time of 19:52.58. Seventh grader Caleb DeCann was 76th with a time of 19:55.41. DeCann also shattered his previous best time, beating it by 36 seconds. Junior Jake Lehman was 76th with a time of 20:28.05. Freshman Caden McMullen was 85th with a time of 21:03.99.

SEE CROSS COUNTRY, PAGE 10



Photo courtesy of Shirley Anderson
Submitted Photo

Hour of Hope – Open To The Public – Includes a Quilt Raffle

Thursday, November 17, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the St. James American Legion is being called the "Hour of Hope." Join Watonwan County Relay For Life as they celebrate how much hope there is for people fighting cancer because of all the generous people who continue to donate toward finding a cure. Refreshments will be served throughout the hour and the drawing for Rosie's Quilt, pictured above, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Raffle tickets may be purchased up until the drawing for \$5 each. This quilt includes a shirt that has been part of each Relay for Life since it began in our county. It is very special and was quilted with love.

Meet two more of Madelia's new teachers

*Madelia Elementary:
Julie Jensen*

BY MICHELLE VAN HEE
VAN HEE MEDIA EDITOR

Julie Jensen is a new Multilingual Learner (ML) Teacher this year at Madelia Elementary School.

She shared this information about herself with us: I'm from Southern Idaho and graduated from Boise State University with a MA in English Teaching.

My hobbies/interests include taking care of my animals (dogs, cats, chickens, horses, sheep, goat), riding horses, snowmobiling, fishing, gardening, practicing sports with my kids and going to their activities.

My mom and grandma were both teachers, and I always respected the job they did. I graduated with my English teaching degree, but I didn't have a great student teaching experience. I grew up around horses and cattle so I went to work for a large cattle feeding company.

Later my husband, Todd, and I owned a custom harvesting and trucking business, but as our kids got older and started school, I knew I wanted to work in education.

This is my first year teaching. We moved to Madelia about a year and a half ago, and I worked last year at the high school as a paraprofessional. That's when I decided I wanted to be a teacher. It sounds cliché, but I want to make a difference in students' lives and be part of the community.

I think one of the most rewarding parts of teaching is being around such nice kids who are eager to learn. One of the most challenging aspects is being all the things the job requires and trying to do them well.



Submitted Photo
Julie Jensen

I graduated from college more than 20 years ago, so if I could give one piece of advice it would be that if you want to do something, it's never too late to go for it.

An interesting fact about me is that I was a member of the Boise State University Rodeo Team and competed in breakaway roping and team roping.

I'm also the proud mom to 12-year-old triplets.

Our family moved to Madelia not knowing anyone – and everyone in the community has been warm and welcoming.

I appreciate having the chance to work at the high school last year to get to know the staff and students.

The elementary school staff has been awesome to work with, especially Sarah Wimmer and Katie Soldner who have mentored and guided me. I feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to teach here and be a part of the community.

*St. Mary's Catholic School:
Amy Kranz*

BY MICHELLE VAN HEE
VAN HEE MEDIA EDITOR

Amy (Denn) Kranz is the new second grade teacher at St. Mary's School.

Here are her answers to some questions we asked in order to get to know her better.

Tell us a bit about your personal and educational background. Where are you from? Where did you go to college?

I was born and raised in Madelia, and graduated high school in 2017. Currently, I live in St. James with my husband, Connor. I go to college online through SMSU in Marshall. I will graduate the fall of 2023 with a degree in K-12 Special Education and Early Childhood Special Education.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

When I'm not working on homework, I enjoy being outdoors, going biking, hiking and hunting. I am also in a bowling league here in Madelia and help coach JO volleyball in the winter.

What inspired you to pursue teaching? When did you know you wanted to become a teacher?

Teaching was not my first career choice. However, I worked as a paraprofessional for several years and I loved it. That is when I decided to go to school to become a teacher.

How are things going with your first time teaching?

Having the background of being a para has helped me a lot in my first year teaching! I've had many great examples, and different strategies that I was able to incorporate into my classroom. Overall, the year is going great!



Submitted Photo
Amy Kranz

What is the most rewarding aspect of teaching?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the children grow and having that light bulb moment when they understand a hard concept.

What is the most challenging aspect of teaching?

The most challenging part of teaching is behavior management.

What is some advice you wish you would have gotten?

I've received great advice from my current and past co-workers. There is nothing I would change!

What's an interesting or surprising fact about yourself?

An interesting fact about me is that I was born on St. Patrick's day.

How is teaching at St. Mary's; how are you enjoying it?

Working at St. Mary's has been a great change of pace. My co-workers and the students are amazing to work with.



Women of Today Hold Annual Halloween Dance

Each year, the Madelia Women of Today put on a Halloween carnival for younger elementary children and a dance for the older elementary aged children. The events were held on Friday, October 28. The winners of in the Best Costumes Contest were Joe Guyer, first place; Piper Ulmen, second place; and Leigha Sorenson, third place. Find out who was name king and queen at their event and see photos from Madelia's Spooktacular celebration on page 6.

Submitted Photo
Courtesy of Traci Henry



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T-M PHOTO

A Fiesta at Plaza for Breast Cancer Awareness

Madelia Health and La Plaza Fiesta Mexican Restaurant teamed up to raise money and awareness of breast cancer. Among those in attendance at the event held at the restaurant on October 26 included (L-R) Jennifer Mendiola, Dona Rehome, Carolyn Drevlow, Heather Nase, Melissa Hunt and Crystal Suiter. See more photos on page 6.