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State FFA

West Point Ag students compete at State FFA in Lincoln, NE

By: Zaq Leslie

As the bright sun rose over the convention center, the energy buzzing through the air was palpable. The State FFA Convention, a hallmark event for Future Farmers of America members across the state, brought together individuals who share a passion for agriculture, leadership, and community. Among the group of excited attendees, four standout members — Blake Wegner, Samantha Francis, Molli Miller, and Katlyn Hittle reflected on their most memorable moments during the convention and the pride they felt wearing their FFA jackets.

For Samantha Francis, the atmosphere of the State FFA Convention was electric. “You could feel the excitement and passion radiating from everyone around. From the general sessions to the competitive events, it was a celebration of our hard work throughout the year. Everyone was cheering for each other; it really felt like one big family,” she said.

Samantha, who competed in Meats Evaluation,



added, “No matter what happened, just being there in my blue jacket surrounded by my peers made all the difference.”

Every FFA jacket carries a legacy, an emblem of the dedication members have towards agriculture and leadership.

“The first time I put on my jacket before the opening session of the convention, I felt an overwhelming sense of pride,” reminisced Molli Miller. “Wearing that jacket symbolizes not just my work but my commitment to the values of FFA. It’s about service, community, and

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striving for excellence.” Molli had the chance to meet national FFA officers at the convention, an experience that she called “inspiring.”

Katlyn Hittle echoed Molli's feelings, sharing her pride in wearing the jacket during the event. “I wore my jacket during the entire competition day. Each time I walked past someone, hearing them greet me as a fellow FFA member made me realize how big of a network we are. Every conversation felt amazing, like we’re all part of something greater,” she said, eyes shining as she spoke about her interactions with other members.

Samantha added, “The stories shared by the speakers about their struggles and triumphs motivated me to push myself further, not just in FFA but in everything I do. It’s about having the courage to take risks.”

Molli chimed in, stating, “Every story told seemed to highlight that we’re not alone in our challenges. We have a community that supports us, whether we’re competing in events or pursuing our future careers.”

Throughout the convention, attendees engaged in a variety of activities, from

team-building workshops to social events.

Katlyn stated, “It felt like we were celebrating not just our achievements but our friendships as well. It’s moments like this that make you realize what FFA is all about, building lasting relationships.”

As the night ended and the members prepared to return to their home chapters, a sense of fulfillment lingered in the air. Both Blake and Katlyn reflected on their journeys, stating that FFA had taught them more than just leadership skills; it had instilled in them a passion for making a difference. “I’m excited to take what I’ve learned back to my chapter,” Blake said confidently. “I want to inspire others just like I’ve been inspired.”

Through their eyes, the convention was more than an event; it was a culmination of dreams, friendships, and dedication to a brighter future in agriculture. The pride they felt in their FFA jackets was matched only by their hope and ambition for the journey ahead. The solid bond formed among these members ensures that they will forever carry the spirit of FFA wherever they go.

The Next Step!

New West Point Elementary Principal position

By: Samantha Fehrer

Nikki Plemons, current West Point-Beemer PK-8th instructional coach has taken the next step into the elementary assistant principal position for the 2026-2027 school year! After her hard work and dedication, Plemons has been able to achieve her 5 year dream of giving back to the school and community in the best way possible.

Plemons educational background started at the University of Kearney where she double majored in Early Childhood Unified and Elementary Education. A few years later she wanted to get her Master’s degree in PK-8 School Administration alongside an endorsement of High Ability Learners from Wayne State College.

“Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my 5-year-old, reading, working on projects around the house, and watching baseball. Family and community are very important to me, and I try to make time for both whenever I can,” Plemons said.

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FAMILIAR FACES IN *New* PLACES



Mrs.

Nikki Plemons

Elementary Assistant Principal
2026-2027
West Point Elementary



Plemons first teaching career started in Houston, Texas, then later continued with multiple schools across Nebraska. She has been with West Point-Beemer for about 3 years. The first two years she was a 3rd grade teacher and now the current PK-8 instructional coach.

She is originally from Kearney, Nebraska, but she has always had strong family ties to West Point. With these family connections, Plemons found herself drawn to coming to the

for schools and students,” Plemons mentioned.

Plemons currently works alongside teachers and paraprofessionals to support high-quality instruction for all students. Some of the obligations of this position include brainstorming, coaching styles, modeling lessons, co-teaching, and supporting data-driven instruction.

“My goal is to help teachers feel supported and confident so they can provide

West Point community. Since she moved here, Plemons realized how strong the sense of community was, which made her stay in West Point for this long. “West Point is a place where people genuinely care about one another, and that is especially evident in the support

the best possible learning experiences for students,” she expressed.

This new position as assistant principal has been Plemons’ dream for around 5 years. Leadership has been a large portion of her life, which has always intrigued her. The influence and ability of support systems has inspired her to take this next step.

“I have always been drawn to leadership because I have seen firsthand how impactful supportive administrators can be for both students and staff,” Plemons mentioned.

Stepping into this new position Plemons has many goals she would like to achieve for the next school year. One of her goals includes strengthening the school’s vision and support. Plemons wants to create strong relationships with students, staff and families.

“At West Point Public Schools, we are committed to relationship-based education while also ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education,” she said.

Overall, Nikki Plemons is excited to step into the new position of elementary assistant principal and grow as a leader throughout her experience. West Point-Beemer already has

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many incredible aspects of the school, and being able to contribute to the success, inspires her the most. While she has been at this school for 3 years, this is just the beginning of a new chapter for Plemons.

The next generation of spirit!

West Point girls participate in try outs to win a spot on the Spirit Squad

By: Angeline Berganza

West Point Public Schools Cheer and Dance team hosted their annual try-outs! This tryout consisted of new members and previous members trying to win a spot on the team.

Throughout a week of tryouts, 8th grade through high school juniors learned the choreography and learned all kinds of chants.

“Participants are also asked to demonstrate jumps, kicks, or turns. Judges evaluate technique, energy, confidence, timing, and overall performance,” mentions cheer coach, Ms. Kylee Horst.

When looking for specific skill requirements, they look for the basic motions in cheer and dance considering the jumps, rhythm and turns. They keep a look out on

members who have a good work ethic.

“Results are usually announced within a few days after tryouts.” said coach Horst.



The goals for this team are building teamwork, improving individual skills, and showing off school spirit.

Camila Catalan is a returning member to the cheer and dance team. Next year will be her fourth year participating.

“I wanted to return because I genuinely enjoy performing and being part of a team. Cheer and dance gives me a way to express myself, stay active, and build strong friendships. I also love the energy and support that comes from working together toward a common goal.”

Her goals for this season include improving her skills and techniques and helping strengthen the team overall

Natalina Dominguez is a

sophomore who is starting her first year on the spirit squad! Her goals are to gain new friendships, improve individual skills, and also have younger kids get motivated!

“As a new member, my goal is to be able to have the younger generation look up to me as a role model for the school, since they can be the future generation of cheerleaders,” mentions Natalina.

Natalina has had inspirations for taking on this role of being a cheerleader!

“I would also say what inspired me first to join cheer

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were movies growing up. My other inspiration goes out to the girls that were or are on the team. They inspired me to try out with every cheer they have done,” communicates Natalina.

Congratulations to the new and returning cheerleader and dance members! We can't wait to see you all start performing!

To your marks...

West Point Beemer Track team kicks off season at Wayne.

By: Ethan Corrales

On Saturday, March 21st, our Varsity Boys and Girls Track and Field team traveled to Wayne State College to kick off their season. The team headed to the meet at 8:00 am. The first round of field events started at 10:00 and was followed by the running events starting at 12:30 with the first event being the 60m dash. Soon after arriving at Wayne State's indoor track, the team began their warmups and were given the rundown about how the day would be formatted. For example, before any athletes could compete in their events, they had to meet with officials to ensure that their spike length was legal for competition.

Individual placers at the meet include the following:

Senior Julianna Perez Ramirez placed 6th in the 2 mile, Juniors Hunter Doggett placed 4th in Pole Vault and Zaquria Leslie placed 6th in the mile, Sophomore Taylie Renner placed 5th in the 60m dash, and Freshmen Riley Kaup placed 4th in the 800m run. In addition, the boys 4x8 team placed in 5th overall. Runners that participated in the event included Senior Jesus Montoya, Junior Zaquria Leslie, Sophomore Ethan Corrales, and Freshman Hector Cabrales.

“I think I did pretty well. I definitely surprised myself. Coming from not running in so long to placing was very a shocking experience,” said Senior Julianna Perez when asked how she thought she competed.

The team began their first practice on Monday, March 9th, and were working hard to ensure that they were prepared for their first meet. The practices to prepare for the start of the season were hard and exhausting. However, due to the unpredictability of the weather, field events did not receive a large amount of practice time. The athletes however, ensured to make every second of practice count.

“It was a new experience, just being on a 300 meter track. I didn't know how

to pace it, but I think it went pretty well,” said Junior Zaq Leslie when asked how he believes the meet went.

The team went up against multiple schools including: Wakefield, Columbus Scotus, Bishop Heelan, Boone Central, Columbus Lakeview, Creighton, David City, Hartington-Newcastle, O'Neill, Osmond, Pierce, Lawton-Bronson, and Gehlen Catholic. Although many of the athletes had nerves arriving at their events, many ensured to push past those nerves and do their best despite whether the outcome was desired.

With the first meet done and dealt with, the team will be adjusting their practice format to ensure that any chance of improvement is taken full advantage of. The team will compete in their 3rd meet on Tuesday April 7th at North Bend. Congratulations to all the medalists and good luck athletes.