

THE RAM PAGE

4th QUARTER EDITION

•DEVELOPING LEADERS ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

• May 15th, 2025

Football Rivals Unite!

By: Riker



The Rams & Red Devils face off in yearly competition.

I interviewed athletic director Mark Dannenmuller about Chaffee and Scott City combining high school football teams. I began the interview asking, “Why are Scott City and Chaffee combining high school football teams?” He replied, “Chaffee doesn’t have enough athletes to participate for them to have their own team. They only had 10 or 15 kids that were interested in playing, so they reached out to us; and that, in turn, will give us more kids to be able to play our JV games next season. We’re hoping in a year or two, if we begin having issues with our numbers declining, it will also help us. We wanted to help them out, and eventually we think it’s going to help us.” Next, I asked, “Are the teams going to stay combined, or will they change back later on? Coach D replied,

“Right now it’s on a year-to-year basis, so we’ll see how it goes next year, and then if they have enough kids to play, they can opt out any time. It’s basically a year-to-year trial. As of right now the main thing is to move forward, but honestly it’s up to Chaffee to decide if they want their own team or not.” Next I asked, “Will any of the current coaches from Chaffee help coach here at SC?” “Yes, so far there are two coaches that are going to be coaches that help out.” Coach D stated. My next question was, “What are the advantages for the participating schools in this endeavor?” Coach D replied, “It gives us numbers to make sure we have enough healthy bodies. We get 15 more athletes. It helps us make sure we have enough kids to play J.V. It gives us more kids to practice, and more kids to help us participate.” **(continued on page 2.)**

HS Secretary Says Goodbye

By: Julianna

I interviewed Becky Tapley regarding her retirement at the end of the school year. The first question I asked her was, “How long have you been working here at Scott City High School?” She responded with, “In total, 23 years. I worked as an aide in the elementary school for seven years. I stopped working at Scott City for a while to go to a doctor’s office, and then came back to work as the high school secretary for 16 years.” Then I asked to Mrs. Tapley to briefly describe her job duties. Mrs. Tapley answered, “I answer the phone, assist students, help with lockers, and assist parents with dropping stuff off.” The next question I asked was, “What has been your favorite part of your job?” Mrs. Tapley responded, “I enjoy seeing former students come in and they’re happy and living a good life.” Next, I asked, “Was there anything that you

didn’t like about your job?” She said, “The lockers are a pain to do!” Next, I asked, “Who were some people you enjoyed working with during your career here?” Mrs. Tapley replied, “I was blessed with wonderful people to work with, but the person I enjoyed working with the most was Sarah Blaylock.” I then asked what her favorite memory was working here. She said, “Probably when Mr. Amick crashed the symbols from the band in the office as a prank.” I then asked if she was going to miss working here. She shared, “Yes. I’m really going to miss it.” The final question I asked was, “What are you going to do during your retirement?” Mrs. Tapley responded, “I’m going to do things around my house that I haven’t been able to do, I’m still going to be active in my church, and I might go and volunteer somewhere to help the community.”



Mrs. Becky Tapley retires this year as long time high school secretary.



SC Alum New MS Track Coach By: Bella

I interviewed new middle school track coach, Megan Penrod. The first question I asked was, "What do you think about being the new track coach?" Mrs. Penrod answered, "I like it and I'm getting used to figuring out the system and what improvements are needed." The next question I asked was, "What made you want to become a track coach?" "I've been involved with track my whole life. I started running track when I was in elementary (either 3rd or 4th grade). I've helped my kids with track the past few years." After that I asked her how many students were participating this year. She stated, "We have 60 kids participating this year." Next I asked Mrs. Penrod what her overall goals for the season were. She said, "The overall goal is for the kids to have and to leave the season with more knowledge of track and reaching personal goals throughout the season." Next I asked, "What have been some challenges this season?" She replied, "The challenge so far has been the weather, we've had a lot of rain so it's not helping us. We've had a few track meets rained out and are trying to get those rescheduled, so our athletes have as much experience during meets as possible." Next I asked Coach Penrod who her assistant was this season. She said, "Gage Underwood. He graduated from Scott City a couple of years ago, and is currently in college." I asked Mrs. Penrod what her favorite event is and why. She answered, "I really like the hurdles because I held the record, so I really enjoy watching the kids do hurdles and feel like it's an area where I can give a lot of instruction to help them succeed and do better so they can keep improving and see themselves succeed in it." My final question was, "What makes track different from other sports?" Coach Penrod responded, "Track is different from other sports because they love to run or they don't. I feel it's a sport you have to want to be there, or if you want to do it, you have to enjoy it. It's also different because it can be looked at as a team sport, but also an individual sport where people compete individually, and as a team."

**CHAFFEE FOOTBALL CO-OP (continued from page 1)*

Then I asked, "Are there any disadvantages?" "The only thing that they will need to get up to speed with is to learn our system and plays, but they will learn those in practice. But they will be behind a little. They will catch up to speed through. I think that's the only thing that will make them a little behind. I wouldn't really call it a disadvantage.", Coach D replied. For my final question I asked, "Do you think more schools will be doing this in the future?" "It looks that way. There's already a few schools that do it. I think eventually it's going to be something that more schools will do, because participation numbers are going down across the state." Coach D explained.

HS Girls Basketball Hires New Coach

By: Asher

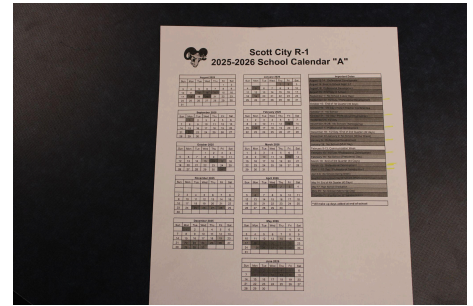
I interviewed new high school girls basketball coach, Ronald Watson. I asked him, "Why did you decide to take this position?" He replied, "Obviously I have a daughter playing, so that plays a pretty big role, but I also love working with these girls. During the summer when we first moved back, I saw them play so I know their capabilities and their talent. Coach Henry was the coach last year and she was amazing. We were so sad when she stepped down." Next, I asked, "What are some goals you have for this upcoming season?" Ron replied, "Always get better everyday! It's super cliché to say, but that's the biggest thing right now. A lot of these girls did not play when they were younger, and making sure they learn something new, making sure the girls are at least getting 1% better each day is a goal." Next I asked, "Will you have any assistant coaches next year, and if so, who?" He replied, "I will actually. Coach Henry will stay on staff, Coach Stine will stay, and Mrs. Clayton will also help me out from time to time. Next, I asked Mr. Watson to tell me about his coaching history." He stated, "I have coached for over 20 years now. I coached my children in everything since they were little until now; football, baseball, basketball, softball, and volleyball. I also coached middle school baseball and basketball at Murray when I lived there. I've coached National League travel baseball teams with the Canes organization and coached a nationally ranked girls softball team. I've coached a little bit of everything." **(cont. p.4)**



Ron Watson to coach HS Girls Basketball program next year.

New Calendar Updates By: Kendyl

For this quarter's newsletter, I interviewed high school principal Steven Hendricks about next year's calendar changes. The first question I asked was, "What are the changes in the school calendar for next year?" He responded, "There are several changes. Calendars change every year. Next year is a little different than the previous. There is a new law in Missouri that says we need to attend 169 school days. That is a couple more days than we usually attend. Part of our effort to attend those 169 days and not overwhelm anyone is to have some half days. A lot of the teacher development days are now going to be on said half days. Students will be dismissed and then the teachers will stay. What's good for students is that it still counts as a whole day, but they're only attending half a day. A lot of schools have started doing four day weeks, but they go for longer hours daily; so to give schools an incentive to stay with the five day school week, they gave us 169 school days as a target. If we do that, then the school's budget will increase for having 169 days of school." Next I asked, "What are some benefits to the new calendar, and are there any disadvantages?" Mr. Hendricks answered, "Some of the benefits are, once we begin to have PD days once a month, it will be a little easier to work in a half day for a teacher meeting schedule than a full day. It's also easier for parents to find child care for a half day than a full day. Some of the down sides are trying to figure out how to run school during these days and figuring out if you're going to see all your classes, or only half of them. We might alternate where one day you'll see your morning classes, and then the next time you'll see your afternoon classes." The next question I asked was, "Do you expect this to go smoothly?" Mr. Hendricks said, "I do. I think any time you try something new it takes some getting used to, but I think that as a school we are pretty good at trying new things, (which we have been doing a lot over the past few school years) We also communicated these changes really early which is super important. We made the calendar a couple months ago, so everyone would have a chance to see it really early on, which I think was a really beneficial part of the change." The final question I asked was, "How will these changes affect students and staff?" Hendricks replied, "It will be a little bit of an adjustment for the staff with those half days, because we will see kids for half the day and then have meetings afterward. For students, it will be sort of the same thing about going more days, but not more hours. They'll just have to get used to the half days. Right now, we have two half days which are "goof-off" days because they are the day before Christmas break and the last day of school. So how are we going to get kids to go to school on half days, and not act crazy? That will be part of the challenge for students and teachers; to show them that those half days are indeed work days." When asked about snow days for next year, Mr. Hendricks stated, "At this time no embedded snow days because state law with the 169 days does not include them. There is talk of changing/adding that though. As of right now, all snow days have to be AMI days, but that could change any day."



2025-2026 School Calendar

ESports Begins Spring Season By: Mollie

On Tuesday March 25th, I interviewed new esports sponsor, Mr. Eric Shrum. The first question I asked was, "When and where does E-sports meet?" He responded with, "We meet in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays for middle school and Mondays and Fridays for high school." When I asked Mr. Shrum what an E-sport practice looks like, he said, "Esports practice looks like a bunch of kids getting together to play games, but essentially that's like their court or field. Like there would be in traditional sports, there are rules and officials who watch, and we scrimmage. I feel honored to be the coach." After that I asked, "How many students are in E-sports?" Mr. Shrum replied, "We have about 15 middle school students, and eight or nine high school students." Next I asked, "What made you decide to be the new coach?" Mr. Shrum responded, "I have coached it in the past, and it's something that I am pretty impressed with because it's something you can go to college for and it's a lot more than just playing video games." The next question I asked was, "Why did we get such a late start with it this year?" Mr. Shrum said, "There were some coaching issues, and it's hard to get up off the floor, but it's something I have done before." After that I asked, "Since there was such a late start, are there any changes?" His response was, "There will be. Mostly what we are going to do now is just play games, scrimmage, and build the team. So in that process it's more of building those relationships with the players and who can do what, because there are tournaments for other games. There will be a JV and a Varsity just like there would be for anything else." The next question I asked was, "What do you enjoy most about being an E-sport coach?" Shrum answered, "The excitement in the players and the growth because it's something they love to do already. This just takes it to a different level, getting to compete against different schools where they get to see where they stand in relation to other teams." Next I asked, "Are the students excited that E-sports has started back up?" Mr. Shrum replied, "Very, very excited!" I also can not wait for next year. There is already a lot of word out that next year there will be three seasons so they will have many opportunities to be able to get in there and play." Lastly, I asked, "What are the long term goals for E-sports?" Mr. Shrum stated, "To build it into a



HS Esports practising after school in the library.

stable program to see that kids understand what it is as a team, the surrounding events and activities that is to put on an event, to get into game design, and to get into coding, there is just so many things/opportunities within it for them.”

Community Spotlight- Amazon Distribution Center

By: Zoie

I interviewed our city administrator, Dustin Whithworth about the new Amazon Distribution center being built on the town’s outer road behind John Deere. My first question was, “How did the new Amazon distribution center in Scott City come about?” Dustin replied, “We have 30,088 acres up there owned by Greg Urban and his sister Carrie Warden, and the city. We’ve applied for some grants and some things and he subdivided all the property up there. Lorimont Realty had that piece of property for sale and put it out state wide so RFI’s and different developers may apply for pieces of the land, and that’s when Amazon bought part of the land.” My next question was, “Whose idea was it to try and bring it here?” He answered with, “We all would have loved for it to be brought here. They sought us out, we didn’t seek them out.” Then I asked, “Will people who live in the area get same day delivery?” Dustin said, “I was told with it coming to Scott City, it will be faster to deliver items and the center will hold 100 of the most sold items in our area. Those items will be same day delivery.” I then asked, “When will the construction begin?” He stated, “The construction has already begun.” Next I asked if there was an opening date. Dustin replied with, “Hopefully by the end of August, or the first of September.” I asked where the center is officially located. Dustin stated, “Semo Industrial Drive.” I then asked, “How many job opportunities will this open up?” He said, “70-100, or more.” My last question was “How will this new distribution center benefit Scott City?” Dustin said, “It benefits us in a lot of ways. We will get our packages faster, it’s a new piece of Scott City and will open up more jobs. Hopefully more people will move here which will also add property taxes, and the people who work at Amazon can drive into town and get food and stuff of that nature. There’s a lot of potential benefits.”



New Amazon distribution center under construction on the outer interstate road.

(Continued from p.2 New High School Girls Basketball Coach)

Then I asked, “What is your favorite thing about coaching?” Ron said, “I love being able to interact with the girls and see how their days are and see how I can help them in their everyday lives. But in the coaching element I just love seeing the kids get better; especially those who do not have a lot of self confidence and they come in and see after three or four weeks that they have gotten considerably better. A lot of people just remember the games, but that’s not what I remember. As I got older it was about taking care of and hanging out with your friends after games and all that. It’s just all of that and remembering how great it was to me. Those things are my favorite.”

New Teacher Feature - Mrs. Moore

By: Katelyn

I sat down with new to the district middle school Math teacher, Mrs. Melanie Moore for this quarter's new teacher spotlight. The first question I asked her was, “How long have you been teaching for?” Mrs. Moore responded, “I have been teaching for ten years.” The next question I asked was, “Why did you decide to become a teacher?” She said, “I was inspired by my first grade teacher Mrs. Seabaugh because she was nice and kind. wanted to be just like her.” I then asked Mrs. Moore why she decided to come teach at Scott City. Mrs. Moore said, “I wanted to be back in my hometown and the school where I graduated from.” I then asked, “Where did you previously work?” Mrs. Moore said “I worked at Kelly for the first nine years of my teaching career.” The last thing I asked was, “What do you like to do in your free time?” Mrs. Moore replied, “I like to spend time with my family, to be active, go to my husband's races, and just be outside.” Welcome back to Scott City, Mrs. Moore!



Mrs. Melanie Moore. SC alum and 5th grade Math teacher this year.

2024-2025 Publications Staff

Julianna -7th



Kendyl- 7th



Riker- 7th



Asher- 7th



Mollie-8th



Bella -8th



Katelyn-8th



Zoie- 7th

