

ROTARY CHAMPIONS

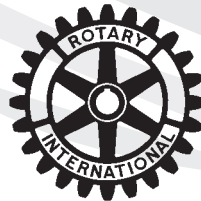
37TH ANNUAL AWARDS

MAY 7, 2024

5:30-8:30

PIKES PEAK CENTER

Rotary



Rotary Champions Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1012, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Rotary Clubs of the Pikes Peak Region

Broadmoor

Meets Thursdays, 11:59 am at the Double Tree by Hilton

East

Meets Mondays, 12:15 pm at the Patty Jewett Golf Club

Colorado Springs

Meets Fridays, 12:15 pm at the Doubletree by Hilton

Garden of the Gods

Meets First Tuesdays, 12:15 pm and Third Tuesdays, 5:30 pm at the Texas T-Bone

North

Meets Wednesdays, 12:00 pm at the Patty Jewett Golf Club

Pikes Peak

Meets Wednesday, 7:00 am at the Woodland Park Library

Rampart Range

Meets Wednesdays, 7:15 am at Academy Vision Science Clinic

Tri-Lakes Rotary

Meets via Zoom 1st Thursday and in-person 3rd Thursday at Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce

C.S. Impact Club

Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Black Bear Diner GOG at 7:30 am

For more information about Rotary and links to the above clubs' websites, please visit www.Rotary5470.org.

WHAT'S ROTARY?

Rotary International is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotary club members belonging to 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Founded in Chicago in 1905, Rotary celebrated 100 years of service in 2005. The Rotary Foundation has awarded more than US\$ 4 billion in grants which are administered at the local level by Rotary clubs.

What is the purpose of Rotary?

Rotary clubs exist to improve communities through a range of humanitarian, intercultural and educational activities. Clubs advance international understanding by partnering with clubs in other countries. Rotary also encourages high ethical standards in all vocations.

What do Rotary clubs do?

Rotary clubs address critical issues at home and abroad by providing health care and medical supplies, clean water, food, job training, youth development, and education to millions of people in need. Examples of Rotary's focus areas include:

- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Water and Sanitation
- Environment

Rotarians have donated over \$2 billion to polio eradication since 1985.

Rotary



Rotary Champions Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1012, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Welcome to Champions 2024!

This year's award ceremony marks the 37th year that Rotary Champions has honored the finest scholar-athletes in the Pikes Peak region. The purpose of this event is to celebrate, recognize, and reward those young men and women who embody the spirit of Champions - excellence on the playing field, excellence in the classroom, and excellence in the community.

All the Student Champions honored tonight are winners. In addition, one scholar athlete from each sport will be recognized as a medallion winner, tops in their respective sport. Two of our Medallion Winners will be presented with the Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, which includes a \$10,000 college scholarship.

In addition, we will present the Ian Weikel Champion of Service Award to a deserving student who exemplifies "Service above Self." This award is named after Rotary Champion Medallion Winner Ian Weikel, who was killed in action in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006. We are proud to honor Captain Weikel by selecting a Champion who excels in community service who will make a \$1,000 gift to a charity of their choice in the name of both Ian Weikel and the award winner. We would like to give a special thanks to the Pikes Peak Area Rotary Endowment for funding this award.

Finally, one of our Champions will be presented with the Spirit of Champions Award. This Award recognizes the student athlete who has

overcome tremendous obstacles to become one of our community's finest student athletes.

We Rotarians are honored to be in the presence of such outstanding young people this evening. This program exists because of the eight Rotary Clubs in the Pikes Peak region. The purpose of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service above self as a worthy enterprise, both at the local and international levels. Rotarians around the world work to promote education, which we believe is the most integral component in the development of world peace and understanding.

Of course, an event of this scope and size requires support beyond that of local Rotarians. Without our generous financial supporters, this program would not be possible. We give our sincere thanks to each of those supporters for making this program successful.

We also want to thank the other important people whose efforts have combined to make these young people Champions - the parents, teachers, coaches, athletic directors, and administrators. We applaud your hard work and dedication without which these young men and women would not have been able to achieve at such a high level. We hope you enjoy this evening's program, and we wish each and every one of you continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,
Dave Lawyer
Rotary Champions Chairman



Champions 2024

37th Annual Awards, May 7, 2024

Pikes Peak Center

Parade of the Athletes and Introductions

Welcome..... Dave Lawyer

March On.....Mike Finn

National Anthem Russell Middle School

Service Above Self..... Mike Finn

AD Recognition Mike Finn

Masters of CeremoniesJesse Kurtz & Jessica Mendoza

Medallion Winners.....Jesse Kurtz & Jessica Mendoza

Spirit of Champions..... Jesse Kurtz

Ian Weikel Champion of Service Award..... Tom Tudor

Scholar-Athletes of the YearJesse Kurtz & Jessica Mendoza

Master of Ceremonies

37th Annual Awards, May 7, 2024
Pikes Peak Center



Jesse Kurtz

Jesse Kurtz is a 25-year veteran sportscaster based in Colorado Springs. For the last 12 years he's served as one of the radio broadcasters for Air Force Football. In addition to his role as "The Voice of the Falcons", Kurtz is the lead anchor/host and Executive Producer of the Mountain West Network where he broadcasts college sports content all year long.

Prior to heading up the Mountain West Network, Kurtz spent more than 15 years as a television sports anchor/reporter, including ten years at the CBS affiliate (KKTV) in Colorado Springs. During that time, he also worked as a sideline reporter for nationally televised NFL games and college basketball contests.

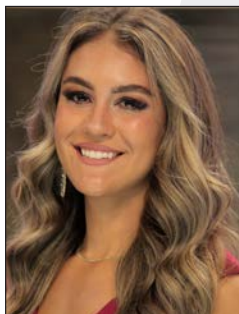
Widely respected by his peers, Kurtz has been recognized on a local, regional and national level with the following awards:

- Four-time Emmy Award Winner (2014, 2015, 2016, 2020)
- National Edward R. Murrow Award recipient for Sports Reporting (2010)
- Four-time National College Sports Video Award Winner (2022, 2023)
- Two-time National Telly Award Winner – Sports Feature Story Telling (2020, 2022)
- Seven-time regional, Edward R. Murrow Award recipient for Sports Reporting (2005,'07-'10, '12-'13)
- Five-time Best Sportscaster the Colorado Broadcaster's Association (2005-'06 '08-'09, '11)
- 17-time Associated Press Award winner (2004-11)
- Colorado High School Athletic Directors Association Media Person of the Year (2006, 2012)
- Society of Professional Journalists National Mark of Excellence for Sports Reporting (1999)

A native of Arvada, Colo., Kurtz graduated Cum Laude from Colorado State University with a double-major in Technical Journalism and Speech Communication.

Master of Ceremonies

37th Annual Awards, May 7, 2024
Pikes Peak Center



Jessica Mendoza

As a Colorado native, Jessica is proud to be a Thompson Valley High alum. She started off as a writer but fell in love with broadcast after joining CSU's television station where she anchored sports and traveled to cover CSU athletics. Jessica is an avid Broncos and Nuggets fan.

Her internship in Denver solidified her passion for journalism and pushed her to pursue a career in reporting.

She started her professional career in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and after two years reporting on news and sports in the Chippewa Valley returns home to run the sports department at KKTV. During her first week at KKTV, Jessica had the chance to experience covering the Colorado Avalanche hoisting the Stanley Cup for the first time in more than 20 years!

Jessica loves following the professional teams out of Denver, but also loves covering local sports from the high school level to the RMAC.

In Memory of our Founder



Dick Powell

Richard “Dick” Powell was a member of the Garden of the Gods Rotary Club in the early 1980s when he had an idea about honoring the kind of fabulous high school students he saw daily as assistant principal at Coronado High School. He was tired of the negative press young people were receiving. He took his idea of an event to his Rotary club’s Board of Directors, thinking they would surely embrace it. They did not. Soon, Dick became president of his Rotary club and succeeded in convincing his board to create a first-class event to recognize the outstanding community minded scholar athletes in the Pikes Peak region.

Rotarians held the first Rotary Champions event in the spring of 1985 and the tradition continues to this day.

Dick Powell passed away peacefully on May 27, 2021, at the age of eighty-nine. Dick was a well known and respected educator for 40 years in Colorado Springs.

In Memory of Donna Sawaya



Donna Sawaya became a member of the Rotary Club of the Garden of the Gods in 2001. The Garden of the Gods Club is the original founding Club of the Champions program and is now one of the seven area Rotary Clubs that govern the activities of the Rotary Champions Foundation nonprofit organization that puts on the annual Rotary Champions event. Donna served as Garden of the Gods club president in 2004-2005, becoming the first female president of the Club. Donna also co-chaired the Rotary Champions event in 2012. Donna was always positive and energetic, and she personified service above self during her tenure as a Rotarian. Donna always had time to support any Rotary initiative, particularly those efforts that addressed the needs of children. Donna often made considerable donations to projects for low-income children, specifically Rotary projects intended to promote higher attendance and academic performance, including frequent contributions to an annual year-end trip to the zoo rewarding the academic efforts of 50 children at John Adams Elementary school. Donna Sawaya represented the best of Rotary and willingly supported a wide range of programs. Donna was especially taken with the goals of the Rotary Champions program, and she has made a very substantial bequest to the Rotary Champions Foundation to ensure that Champions remains financially viable well into the future. Her generous gift has been established as an endowment gift of the Rotary Champions Foundation that can be used by the Foundation to match funds raised from other sources up to an annual limit that preserves the endowment fund and assures the long-term success of the Champions program. We as the board of directors of Rotary Champions will forever be grateful to Donna Sawaya, a friend, and a tremendous Rotarian.

Rotary Champions Board of Directors

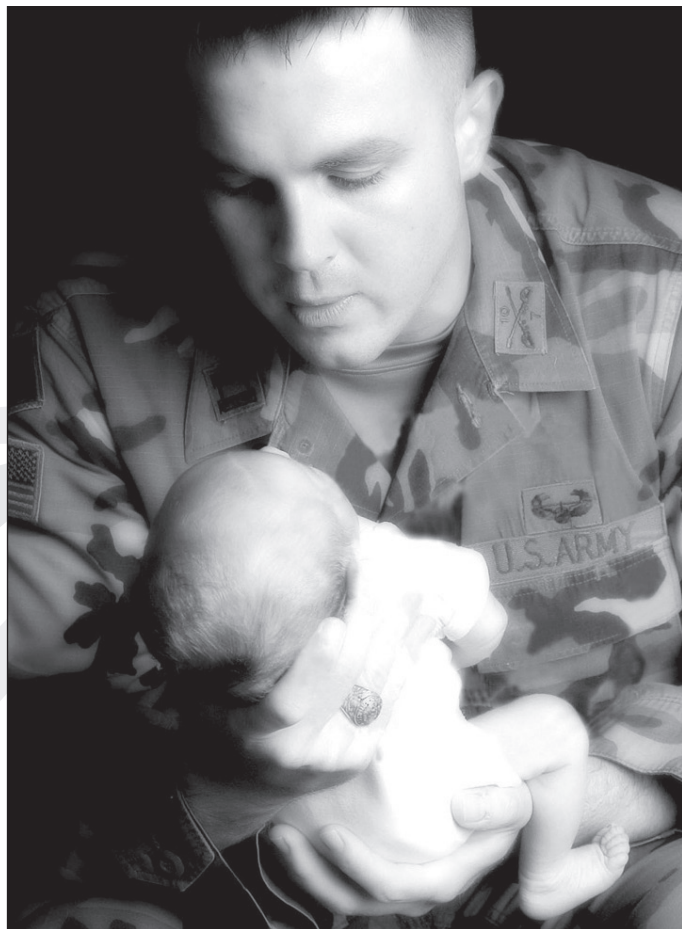
Judy Levy.....Broadmoor Rotary Club
David Peak.....Broadmoor Rotary Club
Kelly SteeleDowntown Rotary Club
Chip FrazerDowntown Rotary Club
Dave LawyerEast (Chair) Rotary Club
Nicole RaeEast Rotary Club
Mike Finn.....East Rotary Club
George NehmeEast Rotary Club
Steve Gaines.....Garden of the God Rotary Club
Willie Breazell Sr.....Garden of the God Rotary Club

Mary Cavanaugh... North (Exec Admin) Rotary Club
John HammondNorth Rotary Club
Cathy Skiles.....Pikes Peak Rotary Club
Max Levy.....Pikes Peak Rotary Club
Roger Kort.....Rampart Range Rotary Club
Tom TudorRampart Range Rotary Club
Christy SmithTri-Lakes Rotary Club
Terrance (Shun) BeasleyTri-Lakes Rotary Club

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Cafe & Bakery

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Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Ian Weikel Champion of Service Award



Awarded to the champion who best demonstrates "Service Above Self" in their daily life, this award is named for former Rotary Champion Medallion Winner, Ian Weikel, who was killed in action in Iraq while serving his country. The Pikes Peak Area Rotary Endowment Trustees are pleased to partner with the Rotary Champions Foundation to provide a \$1,000 cash award to an El Paso or Teller County 501(c)3 organization of the recipient's choice.

Pikes Peak Area Rotary Endowment (PPARE) is supported by the seven Rotary clubs, and over 400 male and female Rotarians, in El Paso and Teller Counties. The primary purpose of PPARE is to provide financial support to local 501(c)3 organizations and their projects within the Pikes Peak Region. The PPARE Trustees give particular emphasis to youth programs that focus on the prevention of a problem rather than a cure for it. In addition, funding for new projects rather than for existing programs and projects that satisfy a current unfulfilled need are of primary importance to the Trustees.



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Champions 2024 Sponsors

Below is a list of very special people and companies who have made this program possible by sponsoring Champions. Many have contributed every since Champions began in 1985!

Rotary District 5470

Rotary Club of Colorado Springs

Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs

Pikes Peak Rotary Club

Rotary Club of North Colorado Springs

Broadmoor Rotary Club

Rampart Range Rotary Club

Marigold Cafe & Bakery

The Nehme Team

Rotary Club of Garden of the Gods

Mr. Steve Gaines

Mrs. Cathy Skiles

Mr. Jack Hammond

Thank you to our in-kind contributors

InBank

Antares Choir - Russell Middle School

Thank you to those who contributed to the 2024 Champions Scholarship Program. Your contributions help recognize Outstanding Academic and Athletic Achievement and Community Service among Southern Colorado's high school students. We look forward to your help to honor Rotary Champions student athletes in 2025.

Where Are Our 2023 Champions Now?



Chay Neumeyer

I am currently in my second semester at Colorado State University-Pueblo, where I am studying accounting. I am on track to graduate in four years with my bachelor's degree in Accounting as well as an MBA. After completing my first semester with a 4.00 grade point average, I was selected for the Dean's list.

My first year of college has only seen an increase in my involvement with my school, where I have joined Cru and The Navigators, two collegiate ministry organizations on my campus, as well as the Dean's Advisory Council, an elite group of motivated business students aiming to recruit to, improve upon, and volunteer on not just the campus but the business college itself.

My devotion to volunteering in my community has not waived where I hold the role of a volunteer tutor in English, Accounting, Math, Writing, and Business. I have continued my involvement at Care and Share where I am still an active partner and donor in aiding the fight against hunger and food insecurity. Furthermore, I have continued to give back to the high school from which I graduated, Doherty, where I aid sponsors and mentor students from the organizations I loved most, Colorado Youth Outdoors, DECA, SkillsUSA, and Future Business Leaders of America. I am so grateful for the opportunities I have had and cannot wait to continue to represent the Rotary Club!



Jeth Fogg

Congratulations 2024 Rotary Champions! Wow, it's unreal how fast this year has flown by. Academic highlights from my first year in college included a rewarding Directed Studies program studying seminal texts within Historical and Political Thought, Literature, and Philosophy as well as Latin. I look forward to future courses and my current plan is to major in Ethics, Politics, and Economics with extra electives concentrated in Religious Studies.

Favorite campus activities consisted of playing viola in Davenport Pops orchestra, performing in a Yale College musical, being named a Buckley Program Fellow, and walking-on to our Varsity D1 ice hockey team as a reserve goaltender in relief for an injured teammate.

Community service involved efforts dedicated to improving environmental resilience, and coaching youth in sports. It has been a busy and fulfilling year, and these and other positive experiences exceeded my expectations in all realms.

A very special thanks to our Pikes Peak Rotary clubs for the meaningful Champions program and supporting excellence in academics, athletics, and service within our local student community. I hope all of you enjoy this special time in your lives, and best of luck as you begin your next chapter!

CHAMPIONS 2024

Champions 2024 Medallion Winners

Baseball _____

Men's Soccer _____

Women's Basketball _____

Women's Softball _____

Men's Basketball _____

Spirit _____

Women's Cross Country _____

Women's Swimming _____

Men's Cross Country _____

Men's Swimming _____

Women's Field Hockey _____

Women's Tennis _____

Football _____

Men's Tennis _____

Women's Golf _____

Women's Track _____

Men's Golf _____

Men's Track _____

Women's Gymnastics _____

Women's Volleyball _____

Hockey _____

Men's Volleyball _____

Women's Lacrosse _____

Women's Wrestling _____

Men's Lacrosse _____

Men's Wrestling _____

Women's Soccer _____

Spirit of Champions Awards

Ian Weikel Champion of Service Award

Champions 2024 Scholarships

Female Scholar — Athlete of the Year:

Male Scholar — Athlete of the Year:



Cheyenne Mountain

Bruce Archanbault IV
Football

Lila Blees
Girls Lacrosse

Spencer Cedrun
Boys Track

Sumner Davis
Girls Track

Austin Eilmes
Baseball

Cameron Ford
Boys Volleyball

Jimmy Hanson
Boys Basketball

Karsyn Hulen
Girls Golf

Ethan Ivany
Boys Golf

Jocelyn Kelly
Girls Tennis

Opal O'Rourke
Field Hockey

Anthony Porter
Boys Cross Country

Lauren Raley
Girls Cross Country

Jeremy Renholm
Ice Hockey

Jaylah Rivera
Softball

Tyler Roberts
Boys Soccer

Megan Sullivan
Girls Soccer

Alexandre Terhakopian
Boys Soccer

William Weinstein
Boys Lacrosse



Colorado Springs School

Abigail Perry
Girls Volleyball

CHAMPIONS 2024



Coronado

Owen Browen
Boys Tennis

Mackenzie Brown
Spirit

Jack Conley
Boys Swimming

Luke Diel
Boys Wrestling

Seth Enoch
Boys Basketball

Luke Diehl
Boys Wrestling

Mckenzie Finn
Girls Golf

Chiara Garcia
Girls Track

Trey Gregory-Alford
Baseball

Jaxon Gitowski
Football

Isabella Martinez
Girls Basketball

Daytona McCombe
Girls Soccer

Alexis Mead
Softball

Lille Ratican
Girls Swimming

Parker Shirola
Boys Golf

Bridger Steiner-Smith
Boys Track

Hannah Walters
Girls Volleyball

Macy White
Girls Cross Country

Adeline Williams
Girls Wrestling



Discovery Canyon Campus

Sean Bratowsky
Boys Tennis

Nate Fisher
Boys Soccer

Avery Hixson
Softball

Samuel Hoghauh
Boys Cross Country

Sydney Orth
Girls Cross Country

Tyler Peters
Football

Ben Shaub
Boys Golf

Ava Walton
Girls Volleyball

Nick Martidi
Boys Basketball

Meghan Storch
Girls Basketball

Anna Clayton
Girls Swimming

Ben Gruber
Boys Wrestling

Mia Hargrove
Girls Wrestling

Lauren Campbell
Girls Tennis

Alex Blais-Gregoire
Baseball

Brynn Makros
Girls Golf

Camryn Lundsey
Girls Soccer

Riley Varn
Boys Swimming

Chase Beckley
Boys Track

Kate Schimmel
Girls Track



Doherty

Elliana Adams
Girls Basketball

Cayla Baker
Softball

Zayna Brennecke
Girls Soccer

Paten Buckwalter
Boys Golf

Christian Clark
Boys Cross Country

Gish Delaney
Girls Volleyball

Chase Delbridge
Baseball

Sarah Eichmann
Girls Cross Country

Delaney Gish
Girls Basketball

Logan Hutcheon
Football

Lauren Kachel
Girls Golf

Solomon Latimer
Boys Track

Hannah Lawrence
Spirit

Thomas Lowe
Boys Tennis

Christian Olson
Boys Wrestling

James Pulliam
Boys Basketball

Mariah Serrano-Walton
Girls Track

Kai Sundermeyer
Boys Soccer

Vincent Tomberlin
Boys Swimming

Brayden Unseth
Boys Volleyball

Audrey Vanelli
Girls Swimming



Falcon

David Ada
Baseball

Kadence Baun
Girls Track

Kinley Black
Girls Volleyball

Caitlyn Cardenas
Girls Tennis

Base Cates
Boys Wrestling

Dylan Knaus
Track and Field

CHAMPIONS 2024



Fountain-Fort Carson

Ava Archuletta

Girls Cross Country

Daniella Bosmans

Girls Basketball

Tristan Freeman

Boys Wrestling

Eric Grider

Football

Tyshawn Miller

Boys Basketball

Leonel Perez-Echevarria

Boys Cross Country

Aryah Quintanilla

Girls Wrestling



James Irwin

Romance Burnside

Boys Volleyball

Jathan Busby

Boys Track

Talon Davis

Boys Wrestling

Jayla Higgs

Girls Volleyball

Jessi Huber

Girls Track

Romina Lazoya

Girls Basketball

Chloe Martin

Girls Wrestling

Baili McKim

Girls Cross Country

Logan Werner

Boys Basketball



Lewis Palmer

Omni Brewer
Softball

Cole Cordova
Boys Soccer

Skylar Thomas
Girls Volleyball

Cohan Edmondson
Boys Basketball

Brooke Lordino
Girls Basketball

Zachary Cantorna
Boys Swimming

Daniel Cook
Baseball

Meadow Humbert
Girls Tennis



Liberty

Mia De Klerk
Girls Volleyball

Kyle Pratt
Boys Wrestling

Camryn Simental
Girls Swimming

Megan Thomassen
Girls Cross Country

Ali Vohsman
Girls Soccer

CHAMPIONS 2024



Manitou Springs

Nate Gentzel

Baseball

Cody Wyman

Boys Cross Country



Mesa Ridge

Tyson Walton

Football

Tanner Widic

Boys Soccer

Jamie Williams

Girls Soccer



Mitchell

Elijah Anaya
Boys Soccer

Caleb Curlett
Boys Basketball

John-Nya Demery
Girls Cross Country

Delilah Epps
Girls Track

Kayla Green
Girls Basketball

Christopher Horyczun
Girls LaCrosse

Ruben Losey
Boys Cross Country

Kuron Reed
Boys Track

Eliariz Rosado
Girls Wrestling

Anthony Soden
Baseball



Palmer

Alita Alvarez
Girls Cross Country

Walker Asp
Boys Basketball

Isabella Comiskey
Girls Lacrosse

Kelly Comiskey
Boys Volleyball

Kodie Hannula
Girls Soccer

Richard Kirchoff
Boys Wrestling

Leah Martinez
Girls Basketball

Lucy McIntyre
Girls Swimming

Olivia Sheridan
Girls Track

Charles Stevens
Boys Tennis

Quinn Tefertiller
Ice Hockey

Tyler Walker
Baseball

John Wallisch
Boys Swimming

Elena Withrow
Girls Golf

CHAMPIONS 2024



Palmer Ridge

Jake Ankrum
Baseball

Lucas Bossinger
Boys Cross Country

Lily Carter
Girls Cross Country

Chloe Catalano
Girls Soccer

Sidney Cowen
Gymnastics

Sean Eells
Boys Lacrosse

Conner Foutz
Boys Soccer

Cany Hogan
Girls Wrestling

Channing Howarth
Field Hockey

Kaya Kimmey
Girls Volleyball

Hannah Lawrence
Spirit

Thomas Mabe
Boys Track

Kylie Mayer
Girls Girls Basketball

Blaine Mischlich
Boys Wrestling

Gabriella Moraes
Spirit

Sofia Romero
Softball

Ben Theurer
Boys Golf

Kate Ulmer
Girls Tennis

Jett Ziegler
Football



Rampart

Myles Chavarria
Boys Basketball

Maya Deirick
Girls Lacrosse

Tegan Derickson
Boys Soccer

Isabella Difty
Girls Basketball

Shayla Gordon-Smith
Spirit

Tanvi Mharolkar
Girls Golf

Rosalyn Rabet
Girls Track

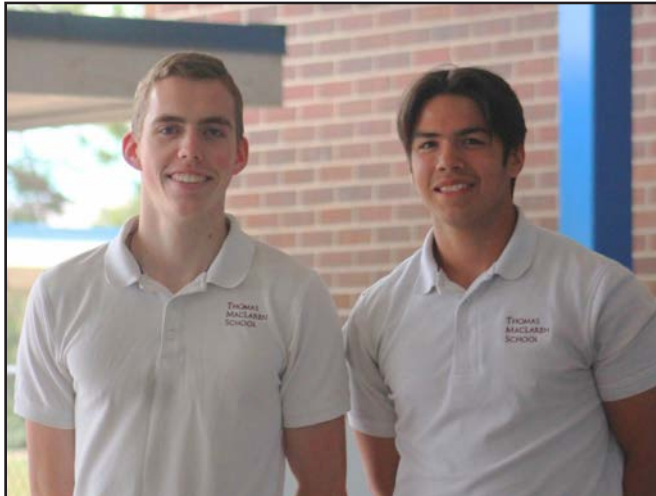
Bryn Schneider
Boys Swimming

Hailey Zeiner
Girls Soccer



The Classical Academy

Alaina Bonacquista
Girls Basketball



Thomas McLaren

David Shane
Football

Samuel Montgomery
Boys Soccer



Vista Ridge

Seth Fox
Boys Soccer

Annika Kane
Girls Volleyball

Breanna Rapplean
Girls Soccer

Alyssa Guiao
Spirit

CHAMPIONS 2024



Widefield

Telena Dillard

Girls Tennis

Ethan Braun

Baseball

Jamie Williams

Girls Soccer

Lei'Nani Fierro

Girls Wrestling



The 4-Way Test

of things we do and say:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

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Rotary Youth Exchange

The most powerful force in the promotion of international understanding and peace is *exposure to different cultures*. The world becomes a smaller, friendlier place when we learn that all people - regardless of nationality - desire the same basic things: a safe, comfortable environment that allows for a rich and satisfying life for our children and ourselves. Rotary Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to meet people from other lands and to experience their cultures. *This plants the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.*

For more information, go to www.mountainandplainsrye.com

RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) is a leadership development program run by Rotary. Secondary school students attend a 3 day weekend that includes presentations, activities, and workshops that cover a variety of topics, including:

- Leadership fundamentals and ethics
- Communication skills
- Problem solving and conflict management
- Community and global citizenship

For more information, go to www.Rotary5470.org

Interact

Interact is a club for youth ages 12-18 who want to connect with others in their community or school. Interact club members have fun while carrying out service projects and learning about the world. Interact clubs organize at least two service projects a year: one that benefits their community and one that encourages international understanding. While Interact clubs receive guidance from individual Rotary clubs, they govern and support themselves.

For more information, go to www.Rotary5470.org

And, did we mention scholarships?