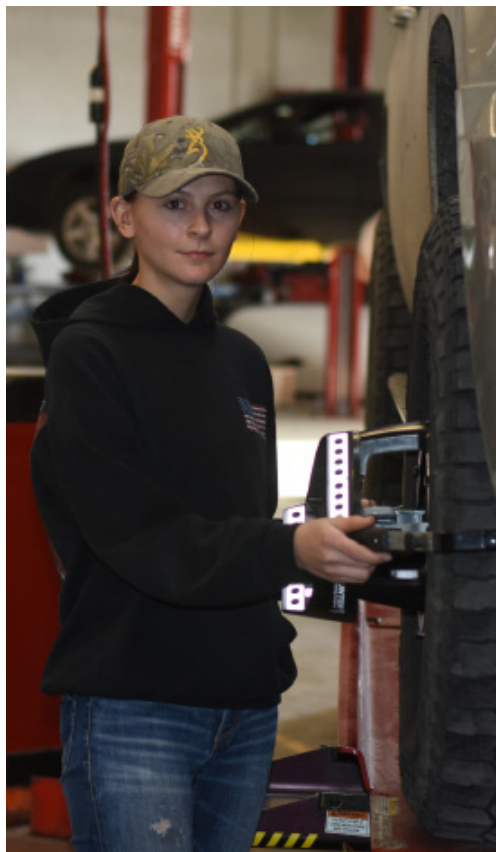


# Saints STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ashlynn has a knack for fixing vehicles.

## Ashlynn and automotive go together

For Ashlynn Wagenseller, her passion for automotive maintenance came more out of necessity than curiosity.

According to the 19-year-old SCCC freshman, if she wanted to ride her four-wheelers, she had to take care of it.

“We just grew up riding four-wheelers and going to the sand dunes a lot, so we had to change sand tires to dirt tires. If we wanted to ride them, we had to keep them maintained. If it broke, we had to fix it,” said Wagenseller, who noted her first tire change came in the sixth grade.

Wagenseller, who was born and raised in Liberal, decided to take an SCCC Career Technical Education class during her senior year at Liberal High School. Not surprisingly, it was automotive technology.

“I’ve worked on four-wheelers and stuff all my life,” she said. “It’s something that I enjoy so I decided to try automotive and go from there.”

And from there it went. Wagenseller found that working in automotive tech-

nology was a perfect fit.

“It just came naturally to me,” she said. “I see something, and it comes easy. There were things that I still couldn’t do or didn’t know, but I tried to get it fixed.”

Wagenseller’s hard work and ability paid for almost immediately.

After graduating from Liberal High School, she was hired to work at the USD 480 bus barn. She started attending SCCC and enrolled in the Automotive Technology program.

Through school, she managed to get an apprenticeship with Foss Ford Motors this year. And so far, she has excelled at Foss. She has already been promoted twice, first as a lube technician and now changing oil and working on brakes and struts.

And it’s no wonder, since she takes a lot of pride in her work.

“I just want to make the customer happy,” she said. “It should be done right, and the customer shouldn’t come back unless something else wrong.”

*Ashlynn Wagenseller*

*Age:* 19 years old

*Hometown:* Liberal, Kan.

*Major:* Automotive Technology

*Gaining experience:*

- Working at the USD 480 bus barn was a great opportunity to gain some more work experience. Little did she know how much experience she would gain.

A short time into the job, an unfortunate circumstance thrust Wagenseller into a situation where she was running the bus barn.

“It just kinda got all put on me,” she said. “At first it was overwhelming. I had just started there about two months and still learning. It took a while, but I got



The future looks bright for Ashlynn.

the hang of it.”

Wagenseller worked on both buses and fleet vehicles, but mostly buses.

“I was still learning everything, but I didn’t know too much about diesels, but I got the concept,” she said. “I was able to do it, but it took me a little longer.”

*What’s next:*

- Wagenseller plans on getting her associate degree from Seward and is

on track to graduate in 2025. But don’t look for her to stop there.

“I’d like to go on to diesel,” said Wagenseller, who may head to Pittsburg State or go through Foss Ford Motors. “Foss is talking about sending me to Ford diesel training,” she said.