



**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

Chase County Schools (CCS) speech students Emily Johnston and Blair Hartman will head to the state speech tournament in Kearney next Thursday, following district competition in Ainsworth Monday.

Johnston, a senior, placed first in Serious Interpretation of Prose Literature with “My Left Breast” about a woman with breast cancer.

Hartman, a junior, placed third in Persuasive Speaking concerning donating blood.

Overall CCS placed fifth with 79 points. Ainsworth took first with 125 points, followed by Kearney Catholic, 94; Gordon-Rushville, 92; Bridgeport, 91; Hershey, 50; Southern Valley, 50 and Kimball, 45.

CCS had just six total events in finals. Besides Johnston and Hartman, they were:

Anna Bauerle, fourth in Persuasive Speaking; Emma Bauerle and Ryan Moline, fourth in Duet Acting; Andrea Hogsett, fifth in Poetry, and Moline, sixth in Entertainment Speaking.

Coach Jill Bauerle said “There were several members of our speech team who worked hard, were dedicated to improving, had quality speeches, but didn’t qualify for state. It’s disappointing that their hard work was not rewarded with a trip to the state competition.”

Bauerle said there were some preliminary rounds where both the students and she thought they had performed at a state level, “but the judges saw it differently.”

She said her students will apply what they learned this year to next year’s competition.