

2018
Class A
State Journalism
Championship
Entries



Class A Broadcasting Event Winners:

Class A Broadcast PSA – Alec Rome, Omaha Central

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFgD5x9yXI4>

Class A –Broadcast Feature – Christopher Speeks, De’Andre Hill, Omaha Westside

*Link has been removed by the user.

Class A – Broadcast News – Kaitlin Kocis, Annaliese Punt, Millard West

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peTJDF5Yg-E>

Class A – Broadcast Sports – Evan Dondlinger, Omaha Westside

*Link has been removed by the user.

Photo Illustration
Ramya Iyer, Omaha Westside





WHEN A MAN HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN POWER,
HE WILL USE IT ACCORDINGLY.'

Sydney Cole
Editorial Writing
Class A

With the introduction of food and drink into a classroom also comes liabilities. The spilling of fizzy beverages and constant crunch of snacks not only causes issues for the staff, but for other students as well. Between the distractions, unnecessary harm, and cleanups that food at school causes, it should not be allowed. In the classroom, the expectation is that the students should be learning, not eating. The institution of a new food and drink policy will allow this to happen.

When food comes into the classroom it removes a student's attention from the lesson to the snack in front of them. By removing this from the classroom, students will have a productive learning environment, not a cafeteria. Junior Sarah Jones, a proponent of this new policy, stated, "I think this is a good change. I eat a full breakfast and am not hungry until lunch. When people are crunching away in class or rustling trash in my ear, it's annoying." When considering this new rule, it is important to take into account the education of students as a whole. Although a student may not have the intention of disrupting class, it is best that food is removed altogether in order to establish a distraction-free environment. In the classroom, their first thought should be education, not their stomachs.

The removal of food from class time will not only allow students to focus in class, but it will also force them to eat breakfast before they come to school. By minimizing snacking between meals, it encourages students to develop healthy eating and drinking behaviors, something they can benefit from later in life. Pluto High School principal, Kim Johnson, said, "I hope students will see this new focus on health as a positive change to the school environment and will think twice before grabbing junk food before leaving the house." The institution of this policy causes no harm or disruption to their daily lives, it simply reinforces student behavior within school. It is through these changes that both staff and students will see a positive change throughout the school.

Food in classrooms is not only distracting, it's costly. With food and drink comes spills, wrappers, and crumbs. Having food in school makes the lives of both the teachers and the janitorial staff more difficult. Far too many teachers have spent time after school picking up after student's leftover trash. David Francois, a freshman English teacher, said, "This year alone I've been forced to spend time after each class picking up trash that's been left on the floor. The janitorial staff isn't responsible for this kind of mess, but neither am I." A similar complaint was issued by janitor, John Wilke, saying, "I get that kids need food and drink, but someone spills sticky soda or staining coffee on the carpet daily. We are spending a fortune trying to keep the carpets clean looking, and we've even had to change out a number of carpet squares." Recently, the school has had to spend \$15,000 on classroom remodeling projects that included new carpeting. All the money spent on fixing food disasters could have been better spent on the students. Food should not take a priority over education.

Overall, food and drink time during class is more of a hindrance than anything else, with the positives of removal outweighing the negatives. In getting rid of these distractions, it is allowing the students to focus on the lesson and learn effectively. The distractions, unnecessary harm, and cleanups that snacks at school causes will no longer be an issue with the creation of a new policy. By getting rid of food and drink, the classroom becomes a place of learning.

Entertainment Writing
Isabella Luzarraga, Millard North

Turning your heart "Upside Down & Inside Out"

OK Go's vivacious, colorful song has a deeper meaning

By: Isabella Luzarraga

"What you are about to see is completely real." These words accompanied by an ominous black screen are the first things the eye sees.

You would never guess that 20 seconds later acrobats would be swinging from luggage racks, creating an unexpected introduction to a less than ordinary music video.

The band OK Go has been notoriously known as a one hit wonder since their release of their hit song, "Upside Down & Inside Out." But some may fail to grasp the true meaning of the song until watching it come to life in their music video.

Before the music begins, the four band members: Damain Kulash Jr., Timothy Nordwind, Andy Ross, and Dan Konopka relax in four airplane seats typing on their matching computers. But as soon as the first sweet notes of the electric guitar pierce the overwhelming silence, everything changes.

Gravity is switched off, and everyone and everything starts to float. The members of OK Go flip and fly through the air proving their song lyric, "Gravity is just a habit that you're pretty sure you can't break," false.

As balloons, acrobats, and bright paint are suspended in the air, the band's facial expressions match their lyrics perfectly. An understanding smile (and some lilac paint) accompanied the line, "Don't know where your mind is, but you're better off without it."

Their crystal clear vocals complimented the color, choreography, and music perfectly. All of the members of the band expressed real emotion in such a refreshing way, showcasing their acting chops and musical ability.

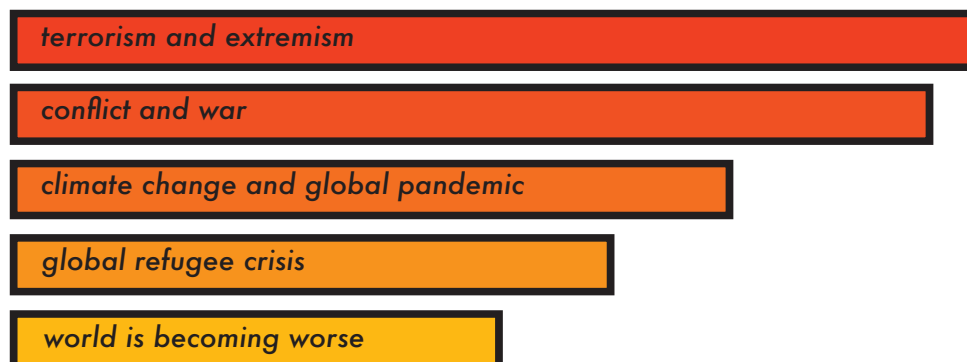
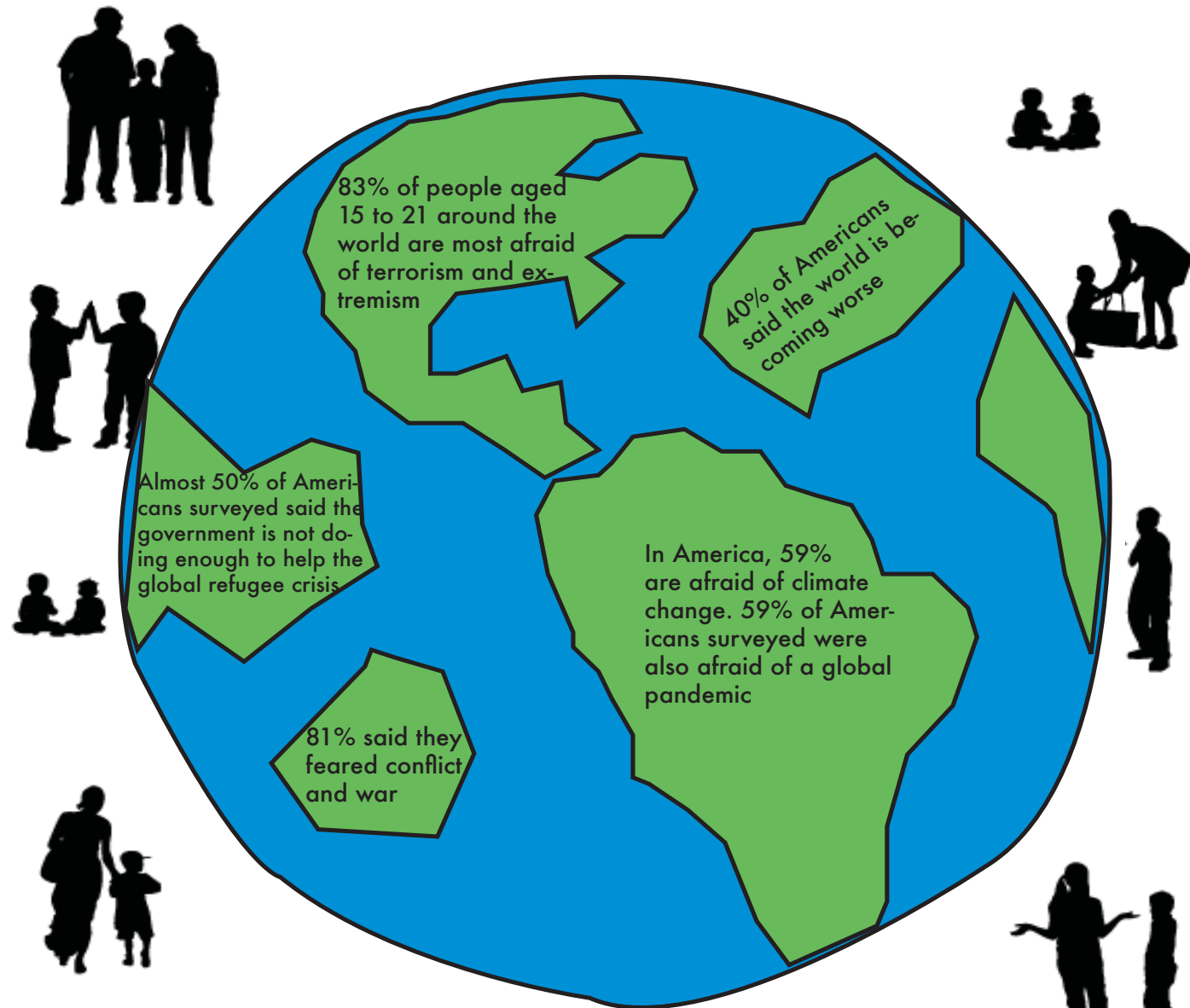
In addition, the cinematography was breathtaking. Filming in an airborne plane, is a brilliant creative choice by directors, Damian Kulash Jr. and Trish Sie. Lime green, sunny yellow, deep blue, all these colors made the plane's bland interior look like an artist's palette.

All of these elements pieced together created an absolutely breathtaking performance with a thoughtful message. Through expertly phrased lyrics, OK Go explains the complicated message of the balance of life. Because in life we, "Can't stop moving, it's like a freight train."

Their lyrics also highlighted self-discovery, "So when you met the new you, were you scared, were you cold, were you kind?" These words shine light on the process of changing in different stages of our life; changes that for most are very frightening.

This music video expresses understanding towards all the obstacles that may stand in our way. It reminds us that we may feel like we are turning "Upside Down & Inside Out", but everything will still be okay.

Fears of the Future



Statistics compiled from study by Varkey Foundation

Headline Writing
Casey Downing, Gretna

Headline #1:

A Titanic Revival

A Building Once Down With The Ship
Now a Pinnacle of Modern Design

Headline #2:

Can't Reach a Concensus

Lawmakers Battle Over a Polarizing Question

Headline #3:

Sports Anytime, All The Time

New Service Indulges Both the Fan and the Fanatic

News Writing
Abigail Kegley, Millard North

Jim Scheer, the current Nebraska Speaker of the Legislature has held many different jobs throughout his life, from working as an auto-parts store owner to State Senator, and now acts as one of the deciding votes of which bills see the floor of the Legislature and get passed. Pretty good for someone who never planned to serve as Speaker.

Scheer, born and raised in Norfolk, has had a long and affluent career both in and outside of public office. Elected in January of 2017 as Speaker, he replaced then Speaker Mike Flood, who was unable to run due to term limits. Scheer represents District 19, which consists of the entirety of Madison County as well as a small portion of northwest Stanton County.

As Speaker of the Legislature, Scheer's main purpose is to serve as a voice of reason between the two dominating political parties, as well as set the agenda for the day's session, weeding out bills from both sides so as to focus on the most important legislation. Right now's main focus: property tax.

"In 2011 there were 110 school districts that didn't receive school equalization... six years later there are 174, 65 more school districts that have stopped receiving school funding from the state for K-12," Scheer said.

In his younger days he served on the Norfolk Board of Education, and was elected mayor of Norfolk in 1984. After serving as mayor he was elected to the State Board of Education, serving as president from 2004 to 2012. From there was elected State Senator in 2012 and re-elected in 2016.

Now, as Speaker of the Legislature, Scheer's commitment to his position leaves little wiggle room for time with family.

"...There were probably 14 days in the past three weeks where we started at 9 in the morning and we wouldn't get done until after 10 o'clock at night. You lose out on a lot of family time... I have a daughter that lives down in Texas that I haven't been able to visit since she announced she was pregnant," Scheer said.

Serving as a public official for almost 40 years, Scheer understands the importance of honesty and character to his constituents as well as his colleagues.

"Your word as a public official is a gold standard and once you lose the confidence of those you work with, you're probably not going to be very successful," Scheer said.

As Scheer plans his run for re-election in the coming years, he uses his experience as State Senator and his newly-found understanding of his position to aid his campaign as an incumbent.

"When you first run you assume one thing, but as time goes on you learn that it's actually something quite different. You actually know what you're getting into the second time," Scheer said.

Yearbook Feature Writing
Ana Bellinghausen, Elkhorn South

Palm trees, sandy beaches, and crystal blue ocean water of St. Augustine, Fl. has been junior Colin Royce's second home since he was five. After plenty of summer visits to his grandparent's home, the sunshine state has always had a special place in Royce's heart. Although once Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc on this coastal city, the grandeur of St. Augustine turned to upturned lawn furniture, flooded streets, and uprooted trees. This junior felt the devastation from hundreds of miles away.

"I knew right away that I wanted to be involved in helping the community," Royce said. "It really is my second home."

Rather than spending time watching TV or competing in fall football, Royce took the initiative to raise money through neighborhood cleanups, dog walking, and asking local businesses for donations. After a season of fundraising, he rounded up \$10,000 to aid hurricane relief. Royce figured sacrificing his time now would save those in need to years to come.

"Some people lost everything," Royce said. "I could lose a few hours of free time on a Saturday and Sunday."

Once the funds were received, Royce was able to get into direct contact with the victims of Irma. A portion of the money was used for his travel expenses to the city. Alongside two of his cousins, this junior took to raking, shoveling, and cleaning up the devastated neighborhoods for a full week in Sept. Even just planting flowers for a lady in the community seemed to make all the difference. Finally, some light was brought back to the once overcasted sunshine state.

"One of the ladies we helped just wanted us to fill a few planters with flowers, she wanted something to brighten her day," Royce said. "Sometimes the little things can help the most, I guess."

Once the winds and water calm down in Florida, St. Augustine and its people can restore their city fully. Thanks to this junior's efforts, they are closer to restoration than ever before. In the future, Royce aims to continue his volunteer work and join a disaster response team. With a natural catastrophe striking his second home, Royce found out just how important helping those in need is.

"People need help all the time," Royce said. "But there is something about going into a community that just experienced a disaster and just taking action."

Newspaper Feature Writing
Olivia Bertino, Elkhorn South

News/Feature Photography
Anna Kilzer, Omaha Marian



Water floods past senior Callie Upshaw's knees. The river gunk squishes underneath her feet as her and her five other teammates wade through the stream to find a dip in the surface. Upshaw feels a divot in the ground and sticks her leg in. A seething movement tells her she found one. Her teammates circle her as she reaches her hand down into the hole and waits. Seconds pass slowly, until suddenly teeth scrape her wrist and she pulls up, while the other five girls tie the wriggling creature. What sounds like survival is actually sport. Callie Upshaw and her group successfully caught another catfish in their game of noodling.

Noodling is a type of fishing using bare hands and a little bit of grit to capture catfish hiding in holes in riverbeds. Just two years ago, noodling was illegal in the state of Texas. Last fall after the law reversed, Upshaw created the Fat Cat Ladies at Leaguetown High due to her experience noodling with her father at just five years old.

"My daddy has been noodling since he could walk, and he taught me before I even started school. It's a total rush to catch a catfish with your bare hands," Upshaw said.

The Fat Cat Ladies hope to attend the East Texas Noodlin' Competition on April 19th. The team planned a fish fry at Community Park on April 5th to raise money for the \$1,000 of entry fees and travel expenses.

"The students need to throw their support behind these ladies. I wouldn't be surprised if they come home with some 30-pound trophies as well," senior Josh Randall said.

Despite the current praise the girls receive, the sport does not come without criticism. Originally, Randall's rapport was more sarcastic than supportive.

"A lot of guys at school have given us a hard time about the Fat Cat Ladies, but we don't care. We prove women can do anything. Anytime a guy snickers at us or makes fun of us, I invite him to join us," Upshaw said.

After making a few hard comments, Randall and senior Riley Rouse agreed to go out with the girls for an afternoon of noodling.

"I only lasted about five minutes in the water with them, and I certainly didn't put my hand in a catfish hole," Randall said. "Most of the girls had cuts on their hands, but I never heard one whine or complain the entire time I was there."

Because of the rawness of noodling, most of the girls come home battered and bleeding. Although the group always stays together in still and familiar rivers, the nature of the game remains brutal.

"Every sport has its risks. For me, the risks are worth it," senior Brooke Frio said. Senior Sierra Villalobos agrees with both Upshaw and Frio that the risks are worth the reward. Originally, 98 pound Villalobos felt unsure of her abilities.

"I didn't know if I had the strength or bravery to do it. I surprised myself, though. Callie is right when she says noodling is a rush. It's like nothing I've ever done," Villalobos said. Despite the minuscule attendance of women at noodling events, the criticism of parents and peers, and the bloody outcome of the sport, Upshaw feels confident in her competition of choice.

"This isn't an easy sport. I usually come home with cuts all over my hands and bruises on my legs and arms, but it's totally worth it. People think we are crazy, but that's because they've never tired it," Upshaw said. "I don't think many girls noodle or even know what noodling is, but I have always been a little different. And I am proud of that."

FEATURED STORY

Newspaper Layout
Devon Walter, Lincoln East

Nautilus has managed to transcend the struggles that many young musicians and groups face, such as creating music that is enjoyable to listen to and selling themselves and their work to venues so that they can share their creations with the world. The group performed their first show at Shamrocks Pub and Grill on Aug. 26. "Nick and I used to be in a band when I was in high school a couple of years ago," Miller explained. "He eventually came to me and said he

NAUTILUS' DEBUT SHOW LOCAL BAND

ALYSSA SOPPE

LOCAL BAND

needed a drummer for a new band starting up and I was interested." Kizlin recruited Stull in a similar manner.

After all of the members had become a part of the band, the name "Nautilus" was chosen. Nautilus rehearses one time per week as an entire band for anywhere from one to five hours at Ritonya's house, and each band member practices on his own every day. Nautilus raised their number of group rehearsals to 3 times throughout the week before their first show, attempting to perfect their set list as much as possible.

"The first show was fun," Stull said. "It sounded like we did better than the guys doing sound and everything were expecting based off of their responses afterwards," Stull said.

Miller expressed his enthusiasm about their first show as well.

"My favorite song to perform is probably Orion's Nebula," Miller explained. "There are lots of dynamic changes and I get to do some cool drum things."

Nautilus has a purely instrumental sound, meaning that there are no lyrics to any of their songs.

"Our sound is a mix of several things," Miller said. "Nick and the guys are interested in a lot of progressive, harder metal that I generally don't listen to. I mostly play Metallica or music of the like, so my drum patterns are reminiscent of more classic metal, while the guitars are doing a lot of melodic metal and some really cool modal stuff. So our sound comes

out to be mostly guitar driven. I play pretty simple beats in order to give the guitars the attention."

However, this interesting tidbit of information about the band is also one of their biggest challenges as artists.

"Creating music that people want to listen to without using lyrics is one of our biggest challenges. Sometimes it's harder to connect to songs when you can't sing along, but I think the guys are doing a good job," Miller stated. Nautilus finds most of their inspiration from artists like Periphery and Tremonti, but the members also enjoy listening to bands such as Daughters of Mara, Metallica, and 10 Years.

In the near future, Nautilus plans on recording their first EP together using Miller's own recording equipment before the members split off for college. "I just want to keep playing with these guys," Stull said.

SOUL SISTERS

SCHYLER CRUSE

Some sisters bond by going shopping or watching a movie. But twins Camryn Hirschfeld (10) and Casey Hirschfeld (10) spent time together at show choir.

The Hirschfelds have been singing together since they were able to talk. Since then, they participated in both choir and show choir together over the years.

This year, the girls were both members of Heart and Soul and had joint solos during the song "You'll Be in My Heart."

"I have never had a solo before and I was terrified," Casey said. "Having my sister be the one I was singing with made me feel a lot more confident in myself."

Heart and Soul director, Mrs. L'Heureux, put the twins together for the "cheese factor."

"When I found out we were together it was funny," Camryn said. "I remember L'Heureux saying 'this is really corny but I just had to do it.'"

With both girls putting in the effort to make the show the best it could be, they had to spend some extra time together.

"I do feel like we have gotten a bit closer through singing together," Camryn said. "Because it involved us having to work together."

The girls will cherish the memories that this show choir season has brought for years to come.

"It was really funny to have other show choir kids from other schools complimenting you about you about your solo and then asking you who was singing with you," Camryn said. "The best part is seeing their reaction when you say 'my twin sister.'"

PROFESSIONAL SINGER GOES LOCAL LACIE NELSON

Attending local entertainment events is usually inexpensive, and often quite enjoyable. Though not all local performers are worth your time, many offer good entertainment at an affordable price. Just recently, to test this theory, I watched professional singer and actress Mary Carrick put on a performance at the Wood River High School Theatre.

The performance was completely free [but did have freewill donations for those who were interested] so the affordable part was covered. As for whether or not it was "quality entertainment," I was thoroughly impressed by Carrick's fabulous vocals, dynamic acting, and all around captivating performance. Carrick chose to perform a number of songs--many of which were from bygone eras such as the 40's 50's and 60's--and in a number of genres. The one thing they all had in common? Love. Through a love-themed show,

Carrick told countless stories of courtship and heartbreak with song, each one drawing the audience in a little more than the previous. But just as important as her performance was her singing, which was beautiful.

Carrick's gorgeous tone and vocal quality paired with her ability to modulate her voice for stylistic effect made for a sensational sound. Each one of these factors alone is good, but together they create a richer, fuller experience.

Now, don't get me wrong, Carrick isn't some random person with phenomenal talent who has yet to be discovered. Mary Carrick is an Omaha-based professional singer and actress. She performs throughout the midwest in cabarets, musicals, operas, and concerts--not to mention that she also has an album that was released in 2014. So, of course she's going to be good.

However, for being a local singer doing a free show in a high school theatre, she's much better than some would expect. In fact, I gave her a solid five stars out of five because I was pleased by everything from her song selection to her diction.

So the next time you're itching to get out but find yourself with little in the way of cash, try out something local. Many of the performers -- such as Mary Carrick -- offer low-cost, high-quality entertainment.

DESIGN DEVON WALTER

01

A Life Coach

Field lights blare across fresh cut turf. Football players from Norfolk Catholic High School strap up and prepare to go to war. The army of young, inspired athletes storm out of the tunnel, led by none other than head coach Jeff Bellar.

You can tell by his keen smile that this man has been places. If you would consider a state championship nothing short of a life achievement, than try repeating it 8 more times. Bellar is without a doubt the most winningest coach in high school football history.

Starting his coaching career in 1982, Bellar coached for Beaver Valley High school. He coached for three seasons before taking the job where his legacy was created at Norfolk Catholic High school.

“My purpose of coaching is to help young people become adults through our program,” Bellar said.

He has now been coaching for 35 years sitting at a career record of 349-64, the most wins by any Nebraska High school football coach. With 80 playoff wins and numerous championships under his belt (9), you could say he’s been around the block a few times.

“I’ve always had a great experience playing ball as a high school student,” Bellar said. “I also loved playing college ball and those experiences led me into coaching.”

It is without a doubt that the head coach found his calling. Although his success is astonishing, there’s more to the game, in Bellar’s eyes, than just winning.

“In any sport, you are always judged by wins and losses,” Bellar said. “But there are bigger things in life that people must learn to be successful.”

Not only was Bellar an extraordinary coach, but an excellent role model to his players. With the years to back up his experience, Bellar has seen many faces walk on and off the team as changed people.

One experience the coach had in 1990, was at one of his middle school camps where a small kid, with an obvious lack of ability, was struck in the face with a football, before leaving shortly after, discouraged and broken hearted.

Fortunately, the child grew as he stuck with the program and coach Bellar. The minute he arrived on the high school field the coach knew he was special. The kid who was once incapable, became a starter on the defensive line.

During the state championship that same year, the game was close as Norfolk Catholic held a small lead. It was time for the defense to make a stand. On one of the plays the ball was thrown only to end up in the arms of the comeback kid. Storming 50 yards the other direction, scoring.



Nothing is ever for sure at Pinnacle Bank Arena, and the Inland Bluejays volleyball squad learned that lesson the hard way.

After holding a two games to nothing lead over the Swanton Mustangs in the Class B State Championship Match, the Bluejays lost the next three in a November match to remember, with those games only decided by five points or less.

The Mustangs made only their third state appearance, and the first since winning the Class B title in 1999. The title capped a 20-win streak from Swanton after starting the year 7-7.

Inland head coach Julie Wortman – who has felt both the joy of victory and sting of defeat at the state tournament – credited the Mustangs for a valiant comeback. “Our passing let us down in the end. Their aggressive serving finally took its toll and our youth showed up,” Wortman said. “Despite all of our success – this year and in our history – nerves still crept into play. Swanton never gave up and they deserved to win.”

A smorgasbord of key moments needed to happen for Swanton to pull off the victory. It was all Bluejays during the first game as Inland junior Amy Eckmeier blasted nine of her match-leading 24 kills on the night. Inland never trailed in that game, and that dominance continued in the second game. Eikmeier had seven more kills along with sophomores Natalie Bik and Kassie Zabrocki both picking up five.

At that point, Swanton head coach Bobbi Leahy thought the Mustangs were about to ride back home with a crushing sweep defeat. “I thought we were dead in the water,” Leahy said. “[Inland’s] size and strength at the net were overwhelming for us. And we kept missing serves; normally that’s our forte.”

Misfortune at the service line quickly flipped for the Mustangs, as the third game yielded seniors Sally Black and captain Christie Alloway two aces a-piece. Swanton rallied from an 18-11 deficit to win its first game of the affair, and had to do the same in the fourth game down 10-7. Inland felt the pressure, hitting only .154 in the game while Mustangs senior Robin Henkel served up five aces.

Everything came down to the final game, as Swanton carried the momentum of an 18-10 run at the end of the fourth game. Ties on three separate occasions kept things close, until after the score was 9-9, Swanton freshman Penny Henkel hit five straight aces to put the Mustangs within a point of hoisting the trophy. Inland called two timeouts during Henkel’s run, but she simply could not be thrown off her game.

The Bluejays’ impressive season of 33 wins and their 5th straight state tournament appearance ended on a hitting error. After the thud of the final point hitting the hardwood, Eikmeier felt that the game slipped out of Inland’s grasp. “We had them. They couldn’t handle our height and hitting in those first two games and we thought we were going to win,” Eikmeier said. “And

then they had that come back in the third game. We kind of lost our confidence a little and then their serving got us.”

After the game, Henkel was beyond elation. “This is so awesome. I can’t believe it,” Henkel said. “I was shaking so bad I could hardly serve those first couple of times. In the last game, I got on a roll,” Henkel said. Her teammate, Alloway, could see that the Henkel duo had turned it on in the last two sets. “When they’re on, no one can pass their serves. In practice, they’ll serve 10 points in a row all the time.”

Coach Leahy was astonished at how the freshman handled the stage at Pinnacle Bank Arena. “I can’t believe how Penny handled the pressure. She’s cool for a freshman – and Robin is so encouraging to her,” Leahy said, who was also a freshman coach at the state tournament. She played on the Mustangs’ 1999 championship team, but felt this game was like no other. “That was the greatest comeback I’ve been associated with. I still can’t believe we won.”

The Inland Bluejays hope they can return to the state tournament again, as they will lose only one senior, Chris Barta. “We’re young so maybe we can get back here next year,” Eikmeier said. “I just feel bad for Chris (Barta). She deserved to win a state title.”

Yearbook Layout
Claire Aken, Millard South

LEAD IN

This is the first sentence of the caption: it is written in present tense and tells who, what, when and where. This is the second sentence of the caption, telling the why or the how. "This is the third sentence of the caption," said Your Adviser. "It might be a good story-telling quote from the person in the photo."



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Make Your MARK



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This is the story for the spread on the sports highlights of the year. You can use as much or as little of this copy block as you need to design your spread. You will pick the font, size and style of copy. You can chose to design with dropped caps or special leading. It is all up to you.

You might also want to consider the initial tab space and the justification, as both can greatly enhance the design of the spread.

"You can use this as a pulled quote if you'd like or if you need it for the design element of your spread," Herbie Husker, junior, said.

Concentrate your efforts on the design of the spread. Utilize a dominant image and the design elements that you have used throughout the year on your own yearbook. You can use as much or as little color as is appropriate. You do not need to use photoshop effects on any photos unless that is your choice. This is not a photo category, but a design category.

For the captions, you may use as much or as little of the info as you'd like. You can add creative headlines for the photos if you'd like and it enhances your design.

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In-depth Newspaper Coverage
Kayleigh Ryan, Trevi Ray, Madeline Mulder, Elkhorn



UNDER FIRE



Rising gun violence sparks
mounting controversy

By Kayleigh Ryan & Trevi Ray

“There is obviously something wrong with the regulations that are in place now...We can't continue to sit and watch people get murdered.”
-Christine Jacha

307 Three hundred and seven. 307 is a prime number, a chen number, the temporary redirect code, and an area code in Wyoming. It also happens to be the number of mass shootings that have occurred in the United States as of November 5th, 2017.

Sutherland Springs, Texas: 26 dead, 20 wounded. Orlando, Florida: 49 dead, 53 wounded. Las Vegas, Nevada: 59 dead, 527 wounded. The numbers should show that the United States has a mounting issue with gun violence.

The gun debate has been prevalent especially recently in the United States, but it seems that the conversation became even louder after the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary shoot-

ing in Newtown, Connecticut that left 20 children and six adults dead. The event left many, adults and students alike, questioning the level of safety in schools.

Senior Christine Jacha revealed how she felt about Elkhorn's security. “Anyone could have a gun at our school. Yes, we have cameras, but we don't have metal detectors,” Jacha said.

While people may not feel completely safe in today's society, they each react differently. Some take solace in the fact that they can protect themselves. Owning weaponry is their resolution.

“The second amendment gives us the right to bear arms. Nowadays the world is getting a lot more dangerous, I'd feel a lot safer if I had something

on me,” junior Jacob Vyhlihdahl said.

Senior Zoe Larson said she is uncomfortable with the concealed carry of firearms. “I feel like if you have a gun, people should know...That's a threat to the people around them,” Larson said.

Larson said she felt no better about the open carrying of weapons. “I don't like [the carrying of large weapons in public]...I don't know why you would be using a large automatic gun unless you were going out to either hurt people or you think you could stop someone else from hurting people, which I don't think...is really an option in many scenarios,” she said. “If three people have guns and only one of them is the bad guy, then what if you shoot the wrong person who's trying to shoot at the bad guy? It can

One Last Set

Venango High School's volleyball coach, Sandy Green, stepped out onto the court one last time after 35 years of coaching the team. Through the 5 consecutive losing seasons, the 2 ½ hour practices, and the 14 district titles, this was the match that would make it all complete. After many hard years of coming up short in the state tournament, the team came through with a win, beating Oak High School in the fifth set 17-15.

"I couldn't ask for a better way to end my career. Not that I was always about winning, but who am I kidding, that was wonderful," Green said.

Green had no idea the impact that Venango would make on her. After graduating from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1976 she met her husband Terrence and had one child named Cyndi Green. She began teaching and coaching at Wallace High School, but in 1982 moved to Venango, which would later change her life incredibly.

"I wanted to try small-town living and Wallace had an opening so I moved out west. I thought I would only stay for a year or two but I fell in love with western Nebraska and decided to stay. I'll probably die here," Green said.

Cyndi Green later got the chance to share the love of volleyball with her mom and played for Venango all four years, she even got the honor of being the team setter. Her senior year the team, yet again, came up short in the 1997 state finals. This was one of Green's harder losses, as it was difficult for her to let her daughter go.

"I love my mom, but when I played for her, she didn't give me any breaks. She was very tough on me, but she made me into a good volleyball player and I will always remember out times together," Cyndi Green said.

Green spent most of her life passing on her knowledge and love for the great sport of volleyball. Between the 29 winning seasons on the 700th career win, she continued to strive as a coach, a role model, and a teacher. The lessons she taught were ones that will never be forgotten, nor will her last set as Venango High School's volleyball coach.

"The thrill of coaching comes from turning those tough times into learning experiences and character building," Green said.

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At Westside High School, one of our required classes is Information Technology. And it's a joke.

For many of the freshmen taking the course, it's just something to get over with. Paying attention isn't really on the agenda. The teachers and administration know this as well. They make the class so easy that the only way you could fail, is to not show up at all. However, we are growing up in a world where technology rules, and not understanding it could result in dangerous consequences.

So, while traditional public schooling will teach us math and English, it's not really preparing young people for what the future will demand of them. That demand is being able to keep up with technology.

We are growing up in an age of exponential development in STEM fields. Elon Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, is credited to starting the next space race. Amazon and online shopping continues to spread and take root in our culture. Coding is now at the front seat in employment. Despite all these advancements that are taking place, public schooling seems to be disconnected. Instead, it feels like school is a different world, where you check in your technology at the door. Once you're out, it's almost like Dorothy first going into the Land of Oz and everything is suddenly in color.

Westside is known for being very technology friendly. Students get the newest MacBook Airs every two years and Apple T.Vs are revolutionizing teaching. But, our school is only giving us these tools, and it can be compared to giving babies a new shiny toy. Westside gives us these new gadgets to play with but doesn't incorporate them into the curriculum. Instead, the students are stuck with learning how to color boxes in Pages, again.

Recently a scandal involving Facebook and the collection of data has been in the headlines. Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook, testified before the senate about how Facebook collects data on its users. Social media, something that is used often by Westside students, seems to be tracking private information about us.

Sophomores learned in their English Honors classes that apps like Instagram and Facebook cater their ads to each person using algorithms. This isn't surprising. How often have you looked something up on Amazon and then go on Instagram and see an ad for that exact thing? The scary part is that those algorithms then make a profile for the type of person we are, even documenting if we have a mental illness or not. This information is sold to private companies and we have no say in it.

This massive collection in data isn't like anything any generations before ours have seen. Public schools aren't prepared to teach students about being safe on the internet. While we are told time and time again that anything we put on there stays forever, we don't learn what to do if our data is collected without our permission because schools don't know either. This is a problem because these schools are suppose to make its students successful. They can't do that if they don't give us a comprehensive education that includes technology.

The future will demand that generation Z, our generation, is prepared to overcome challenges in privacy, and that we can understand what our rights really are when it comes to internet

Column Writing

Maryam Akramova, Omaha Westside

Yearbook Theme Copy Writing

Andrea Mikuls, Omaha Marian

Opening

All these years we have been City High.

We have walked these same hallways.

We have entered those one-thousand-pound, red, double doors countless times.

We have crammed our cars into the too small parking lot on 2016 High School Blvd.

All these years we have been proud.

We have shaken the bleachers and screamed until we had no voices left.

We have stood under those Friday night lights, painted red and white from head to toe.

We have done anything and everything to beat the Leaguetown Rams,

To be the last ones on the dance floor,

To be the first ones to high five Mr. Butler on Monday mornings.

All these years we have been confident.

We have thrived in the spotlight during One Act.

We have popped and locked in those dance circles at Back to School Dance.

All these years we have been unique.

We have worn full denim outfits and clothing made out of duct tape for spirit week.

We have covered each others lockers in sticky notes with funny sayings.

All these years have come and gone.

Old Traditions have stuck and new traditions have began.

All these years, and we are still City High

Sports

We have spent all these years preparing.

Preparing for battle,

To take on the rival,

To beat Eastern Valley,

To beat the Leaguetown Rams.

We have spent all these years dreaming.

Dreaming of the feeling of victory,

The feeling of the ball going into the corner of the goal,

The feeling of the club coming in perfect contact with the golf ball,

Of having the highest jump, the most graceful dive, or the toughest block.

We have spent all these years working.

Mornings sprinting up and down the Hill of Doom,

Afternoons spent in the training room, sweat pooling at our feet.

We have spent all these years competing.

We have never let down and we never will.

We have memorized the Bugeater Oath and will live it out until the end.

We have spent all these years pushing ourselves.

Pushing ourselves to be better, go further, run faster, be stronger,

Pushing ourselves to be better than we ever though we could.

We have spent all these years and it has finally paid off.

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Yearbook Theme Development
Schlyer Cruse, Megan Hicks, Papillion-La Vista

2018
Class B
State Journalism
Championship
Entries



Class B Broadcasting Event Winners:

Class B - Broadcast PSA – Tyler Schweer, Sandy Creek

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjHUNqWVb5o>

Class B – Broadcast Feature – Tyler Schweer, Sandy Creek

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrY0ibO2xoo&feature=youtu.be>

Class B – Broadcast Sports – Alexis Crawford, Hanna Graff, Southern Valley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z8ZCT6CI5o&feature=youtu.be>

Class B – Broadcast News – Dylan Schweer, Dillon Schiermeyer, Sandy Creek

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tiqkOcsD20>

Photo Illustration
Joseph Ackerman, Sandy Creek



The Norfolk Tribune

Norfolk Nebraska 2703 19th Street 68601

Volume I

Issue 2



Newspaper Layout
Abe Perault, Columbus Scotus



Statwide art project comes to local area

By Alyssa Soppe

"I love to paint and getting kids [students] involved," said Mrs. Roberta Barnes, art teacher. This is one of the many reasons she decided to get Broken Bow Art Club involved in *Nebraska by Heart*, a public art project.

Throughout 2017 Nebraska will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary and many schools will add to the celebration by participating in *Nebraska by Heart!* Somewhat like the Lightbulbs that were designed and placed all around Lincoln, this project will feature large, six-foot tall fiberglass hearts displayed at random locations in Lincoln. They will feature different styles from many artists.

Mrs. Barnes said that Broken Bow submitted four proposals to be a part of *Nebraska by Heart* and three out of the four were approved. Abby Olson, senior, created two of the three heart designs and Mrs. Barnes designed the other. The fiberglass hearts should be arriving in a couple of weeks, said Mrs. Barnes, so they should be able to begin work shortly.

Design approval is the first step in the process. Next, the heart is painted and finished by the artist(s) prior to April. Then the finished hearts are sent to Lincoln to be displayed throughout the city in random locations along with everyone else's hearts. Finally, the large structures are auctioned off in October. A third of the profits from Broken Bow's hearts in this auction will be given to the Broken Bow Art Club, a third will be used to benefit homeless animals, and the final third of it goes to Nebraska Boys and Girls Hope which is a program for kids in need some extra help for college expenses said Mrs. Barnes.

This event does come with a price tag; luckily the art club and Mrs. Barnes raised enough to get involved. Mrs. Barnes said that the art club met their goal of \$3,000 from with the help of many patrons. The two biggest patrons that have supported this event are Security State Bank and Thomas Livestock.

Mrs. Barnes said that the reason why she wanted to get involved in *Nebraska by Heart* was because she has done projects similar to this before and that she said she loves to feel a sense of accomplishment when finishing amazing projects like these.

"It will look overwhelming once we see the giant hearts; they will look huge, white, and empty. Once finished there's a wonderful sense of accomplishment," said Mrs. Barnes.

See ART Page 2



KENDRA WIESE/TRIBUNE STAFF

Nautilus' lead guitarist Nick Kizlin and bassist Austin Stull sit down and chat before their performance. Both are seniors at Millard South, and they take Zoology together.

Local band 'Nautilus' plays debut show

By Alyssa Soppe

It was an interest in zoology and a love of music that brought together instrumental progressive metal band Nautilus.

"I took Zoology and the nautilus was my favorite cephalopod. You'll notice that a lot of our music has to do with astrophysics because Austin and I took Astronomy and it blew our minds," guitarist Nick Kizlin explained. After forming only five short months ago, local progressive metal band Nautilus has penned more than eight original songs with titles such as "Orion's Nebula" and "Dark Matter". The scientific implications are very clear.

Composed of Millard South seniors Kizlin, Austin Stull (bassist),

Eric Ritonya (guitarist), and UNL student Shaun Miller (drummer), Nautilus has managed to transcend the struggles that many young musicians and groups face, such as creating music that is enjoyable to listen to and selling themselves and their work to venues so that they can share their creations with the world. The group performed their first show at Shamrocks Pub and Grill on Aug. 26.

"Nick and I used to be in a band when I was in high school a couple of years ago," Miller explained. "He eventually came to me and said he needed a drummer for a new band starting up and I was interested." Kizlin recruited Stull in a similar manner.

After all of the members had

become a part of the band, the name "Nautilus" was chosen.

Nautilus rehearses one time per week as an entire band for anywhere from one to five hours at Ritonya's house, and each band member practices on his own every day. Nautilus raised their number of group rehearsals to 3 times throughout the week before their first show, attempting to perfect their set list as much as possible.

"The first show was fun," Stull said. "It sounded like we did better than the guys doing sound and everything they were expecting based off of their responses afterwards," Stull said.

Miller expressed his enthusiasm about their first show as well.

"My favorite song to perform

is probably Orion's Nebula," Miller explained. "There are lots of dynamic changes and I get to do some cool drum things."

Nautilus has a purely instrumental sound, meaning that there are no lyrics to any of their songs.

"Our sound is a mix of several things," Miller said. "Nick and the guys are interested in a lot of progressive, harder metal that I generally don't listen to. I mostly play Metallica or music of the like, so my drum patterns are reminiscent of more classic metal, while the guitars are doing a lot of melodic metal and some really cool modal stuff. So our sound comes out to be mostly guitar driven. I play pretty simple

See Band Page 2

Stealing the show: Theatre puts on all-female play

By Cass Cosgrove

The auditorium fell quiet as senior Maddie Pressler walked onto the stage as M'Lynn Eatenton to share the story of her daughter Shelby's (played by sophomore Violet Hudson) death. The only noise heard by Pressler was the quiet sniffling of the audience. "To really get into character for that scene I usually had to think of something that made me super sad like the loss of somebody I really cared about. I loved getting to share those emotions on stage. Performing and art is about connecting with the audience and sharing an emotional connection," said Pressler. "I often couldn't tell what the auditorium was like until after I finished my long monologue."

"Steel Magnolias" was based off of the events from the play's author, Robert Harling, and his sister. The play was about a female who passed

away due to diabetic complications after giving birth to her son. The play was written in 1985. Since the play only had six characters, auditions were very competitive.

"When I found out I got the role as Shelby, I was really excited and grateful," said Hudson. "I was also very surprised and shocked because there was a lot of competition and everyone was very talented."

The girls were friends before the acting, but rehearsals helped the cast come together more and know one another better, as many hours were spent preparing for the debut.

"The rehearsals were the highlight of my day because we would just go in and laugh all the time," said junior Lauren Hinton. "Getting to the performance we obviously couldn't laugh, but we knew all the jokes."

See Play Page 2



GRACE WICKHAM/TRIBUNE STAFF

Senior Maddie Pressler points at Violet Hudson during their performance of "Steel Magnolias." They performed the play last night at 7 p.m. for the whole town of Norfolk at the Norfolk High.

Of all of OK Go's repetitively familiar music videos, "Upside Down & Inside Out" ranks among the worst. The band offers nothing—besides the undeniable cool factor of filming in an anti-gravity environment—they have not already done before. Even with the use of gravity defying technology, they still manage to bore an audience by choreographing utterly predictable scenes like jumping across an airplane cabin or throwing around a load of disco balls.

OK Go is a tired remnant of an older version of YouTube, achieving their height of fame at a time when top searches consisted of "people are awesome" compilations and Harlem shake videos. Their outdated format of visually extravagant, irresistibly shareable music videos is no longer a novelty.

Additionally, the single itself is brutally underwhelming, a result of lacking new innovation years into the band's seemingly successful career. Without a decent, visually lavish feature as a crutch to their overwhelming musical and lyrical mediocrity, OK Go has underperformed. The concession of a neat visual experience for unimpressive electronic pop fans once enjoyed is no longer present.

The band, like too many breakout "indie" pop-artists, identified and isolated which part of their work drew the most attention and franchised it. OK Go has become more of a YouTube channel than a group of accomplished musicians.

Years prior to the release of "Upside Down & Inside Out," OK Go drew mainstream attention with their breakout music video featuring a whimsical stop-motion masterpiece. Shot on a cheap camera, the quartet took thousands of frames shuffling around a city park, giving the impression that they were moving incredibly slowly while everyone else whizzed about them. With such a novel idea and intriguing music backing the video, OK Go gave significant promise for potential.

However, despite greatly increasing their production budget and viewership since the debut, the quality of their work has not necessarily done the same.

Additionally, this model of churning out repetitive music videos has backed the group into a corner, allowing them only to move forward in one direction. Despite being geared toward an easy listening, pop music audience, the band's output does not quite land them dominant radio slots, nor does it rank them anywhere near the thrones of streaming heavyweights like electronic pop rival Marshmello.

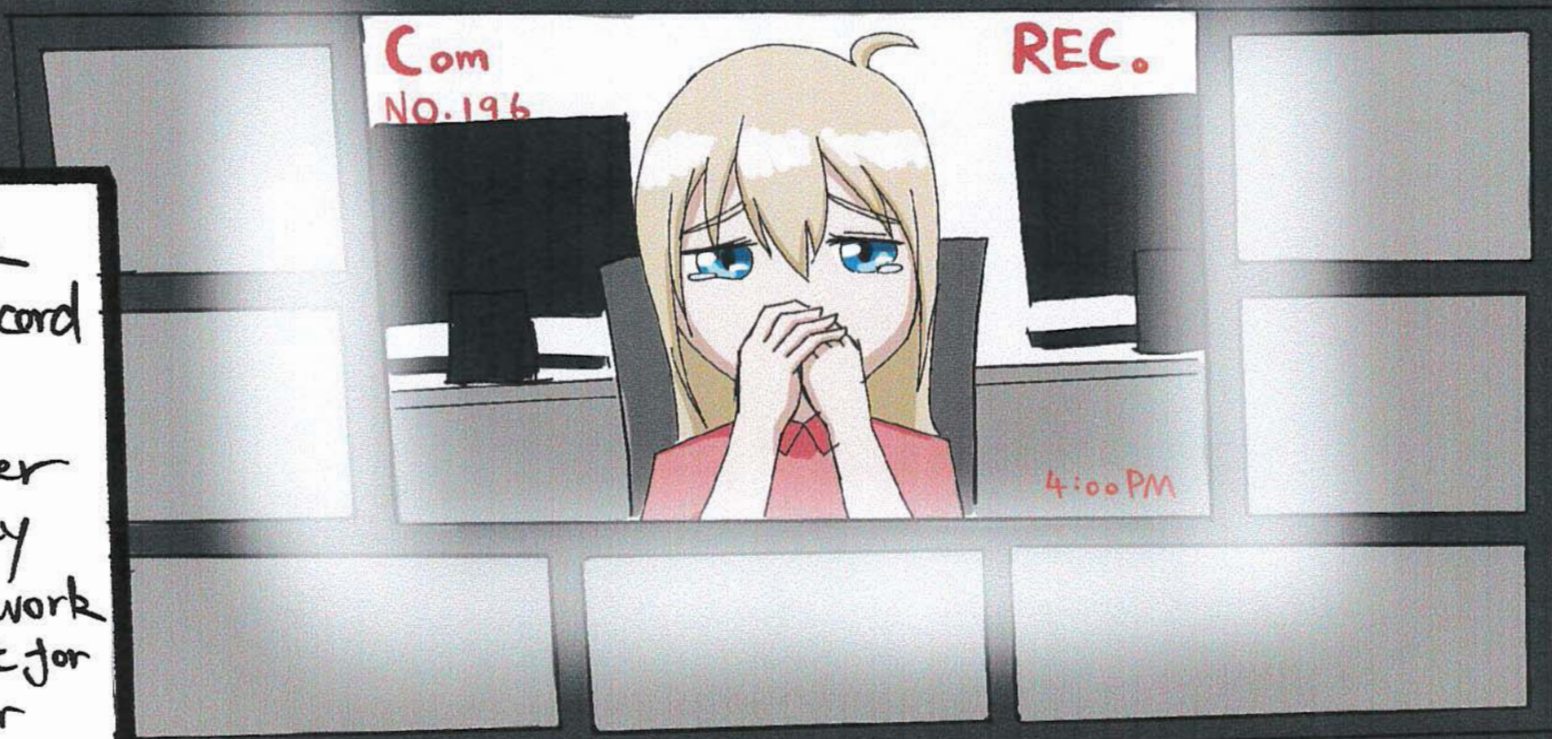
Nothing about their music stands out, nor is it the best in its lane by a long shot either. Anything they created has already been done far better by the likes of Passion Pit, MGMT, and Alt-J. They do not have much of a festival presence either, something that greatly helps propel artists of their genre.

For a populist art form, they are not very popular, and it is evident music was never at the forefront of their concern.

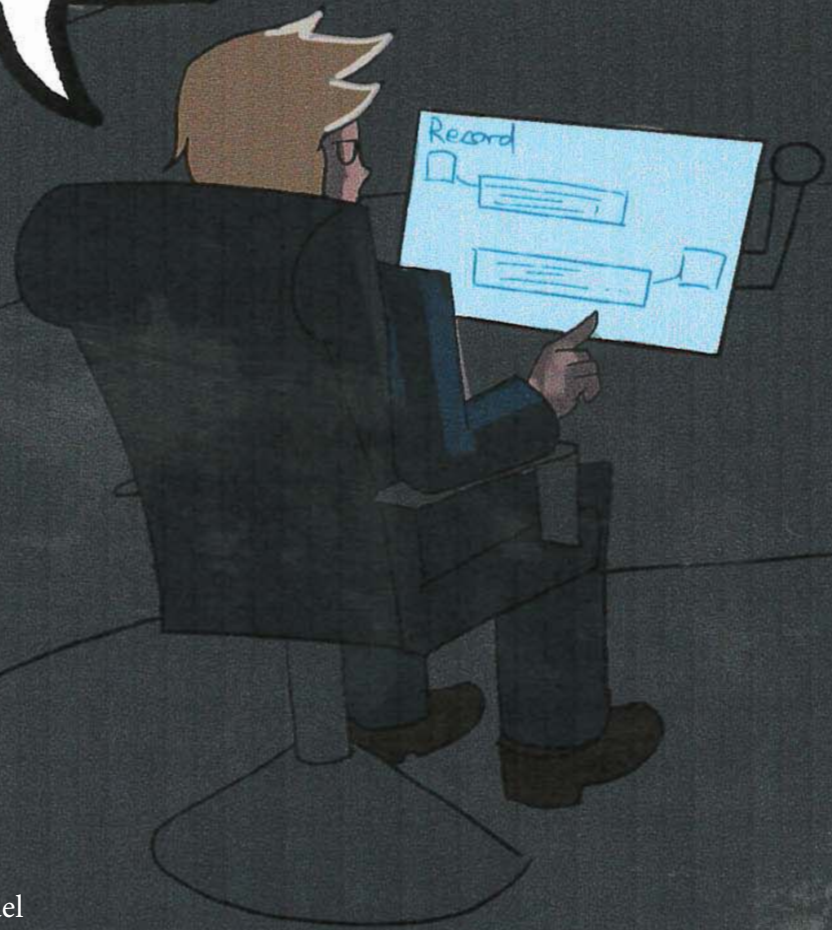
If there are any redeeming qualities about the video, it might simply be the click-worthy experience of witnessing their same old choreography tricks repeated sans-gravity. The acrobatic stunts performed by snappily dressed flight attendants are not terrible either.

Unfortunately, the video closes out with a mass release of slime filled water balloons, an unbearable cliché used in nearly every one of their videos that nixes any value the video could have had. It is almost as if the band is telling their fan base that they are perfectly okay with unapologetically copying the same video over and over again as long as it gets enough views.

Let me check
her message record
Oh...
Her grandmother
just passed away
So, NOT Schoolwork
One more demerit for
misusing computer



Why is she crying in
front of a Computer?
That's not schoolwork!
SUSPICIOUS!



A new Pluto High policy divides students and faculty

Principal Kim Johnson of Pluto High School has recently introduced a new schoolwide policy that will be put into effect immediately. The new rule states that any outside food or drink shall not be permitted inside the school building with the exception of water in clear containers. The rule has been met with varying reactions from students, but perhaps students should be open-minded when it comes to this particular rule.

Food in the classroom setting provides more problems than it does in student aid. When food is eaten in the classroom, it can lead to distractions for fellow classmates trying to learn, especially if the food happens to be crunchy.

“I think this is a good change,” junior Sarah Jones said, “When people are crunching away in class or rustling trash in my ear, it’s annoying.”

Alternatively, sticky drinks such as pop or sports drinks can lead to sticky messes. Pluto High recently spent \$15,000 on classroom remodeling projects, which includes new carpet throughout the school. That price tag will continue to grow when one factors in how much it actually costs to clean out sticky stains or replace carpet.

“I get that kids need food and drink, but someone spills sticky soda or staining coffee on the carpet daily,” janitor John Wilke said, “We are spending a fortune trying to keep the carpets clean looking, and we’ve even had to change out a number of carpet squares.”

It is also important to remember that with Pluto High’s 1,300 students, the mess that accumulates in classrooms is exponential. Teachers have found that their classrooms have grown messier and messier throughout the year due to students’ lack of responsibility.

“This year alone I’ve been forced to spend time after each class picking up trash that’s been left on the floor,” freshman English teacher David Francois said, “The janitorial staff isn’t responsible for this kind of mess, but neither am I.”

In addition to the mess they leave, the teachers have pointed out the lack of attention they receive in class. Students find themselves too busy eating or drinking to pay attention to the lecture. While this may not be intentional on the students’ part, the teachers believe that removing food and drink from the classroom will help alleviate this issue.

“Many teachers are complaining that the food is becoming a distraction to students who are focusing more on their chips than the lesson,” Johnson said.

As students and faculty become divided by this policy, perhaps they should stop and weigh the reasoning behind the school’s push for this policy. The main push for the policy was due to students’ abuse of the food privilege. Perhaps if the student body was more respectful about cleaning after themselves or focusing more in class, this policy would not be in place.

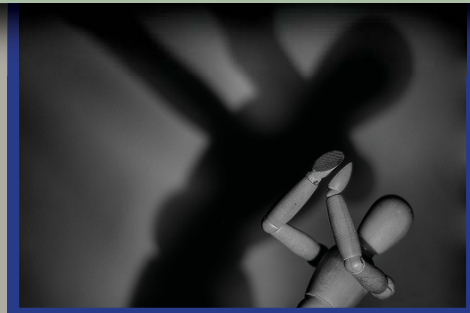
“The students seem upset by the change, but they have been irresponsible in the disposal of their trash,” Johnson said, “They will learn to adjust to this new change in time.”

Maybe after learning this valuable lesson, the students will learn to earn their food privileges back. In the meantime, students will just have to find ways to adapt to the new policy. Whether that be eating more fulfilling meals during the day or finding the time to eat a snack after school, students will find that this policy may end up being better for them after all.

Too Young to Be Afraid.

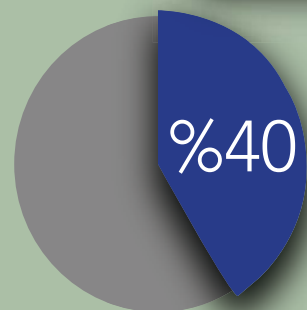


Terrorism and violent extremism are the top concerns among the world's youngest people.

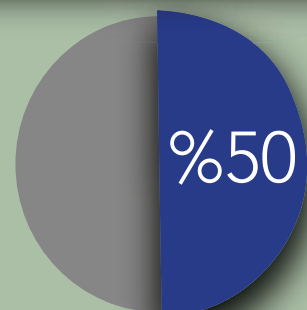


More than 20,000 members of Generation Z—those born between 1995 and 2001—across 20 countries were surveyed between September 19 and October 26 for the poll.

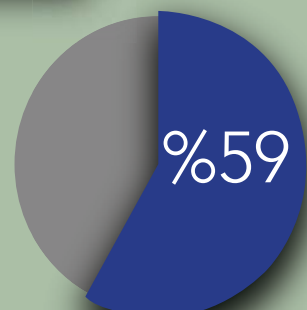
In a survey of
20,000 young people



40 percent think the world is becoming a worse place.



Nearly half of young Americans don't think the government is doing enough to help with the global refugee crisis.



59 percent said climate change made them fear for the future.

Headline Writing
Benjamin Bies, Mt. Michael Benedictine

Headline #1:

UNSINKABLE

House Strives Decades of Turnover, Converted into Elegant Suites

Headline #2:

Paris Cracks Down on Unregistered Listings, Airbnb Faces Millions in Losses

Headline #3:

No Consensus

Democrats Accuse Census Citizenship Question of Favoring GOP, Administration Defends Decision

Jim Scheer has been in the public eye most of his life. Working as an insurance agent, a member of the Norfolk School Board, the State Education Board, and even the Mayor of Norfolk in 1984, Scheer held a life of policy and public approval. So, when he ran for the Nebraska Unicameral in 2012, he was planning to serve the citizens in District 19. He had no plan to become the Speaker of the Legislature.

“I actually didn’t [intend to become the speaker],” Scheer said.

In January of 2017, Scheer was elected speaker after colleagues convinced him to run for the position. After being elected, he turned his focus to property taxes, a debate in the State of Nebraska. Property taxes are high in Nebraska. Scheer pointed out that when he began working in the unicameral, 110 school districts were non-equalized, meaning they did not need to receive extra funding from the state because the property taxes in the area covered the costs. Now, there are 174 out of 245 school districts that are non-equalized, showing the increase in property taxes.

“Anyone in the legislature would like to do something about property taxes,” he said.

Along with attempting to pass bills, Scheer mediates issues between fellow senators when they disagree on issues in a bill. He also plans the agenda when the unicameral is in session. In each session, 107 priority bills must be discussed. These bills come from committees and others which Scheer hand picks. Because of this, Scheer says the job is a huge time commitment, sometimes staying at the capitol from 9:00am to as late as 11:00pm, Monday through Friday, when the legislature is in session.

“It puts a big time commitment on you but the thing that probably affects me the most is the loss of family time,” Scheer said.

His time in public office has given him insight into how to be a respectable public figure. He says that when communicating with other colleagues, when you give a promise to vote yes or no, it is your obligation to keep that promise or tell them you have changed your mind.

“Success for anyone in the public arena is [based on] your character and honesty,” Scheer said.

Scheer enjoys his position as speaker partially due to the connections he makes with other senators. Through mediation, meetings, and seeing them on the floor, he has connected with many people from around the state that he would not have otherwise.

“There are 48 other people I probably would not have met in my lifetime,” Scheer said. “It is a remarkable opportunity for anyone.”

Scheer enjoys his time in Lincoln, and because of this, he plans to run for another term as speaker.

“I haven’t announced that I am going to seek that, but here is your scoop, I am,” Scheer said. “That will be my obituary because it is likely nothing will come after that.”

Student Sacrifices for Hurricane Victims

Water levels rising rapidly. Torrential winds snapping trees and rending buildings into piles of bricks and wood. Families left homeless. Hurricane Irma produced these horrifying scenes of destruction.

The brute force of Irma left a path of destruction through the Southeast United States, including St. Augustine, Fla. While many people found the news disturbing, it hit home with junior Colin Royce. He raised \$10,000 throughout the fall to go to St. Augustine and help those affected by the hurricane.

“When I saw the damage from flooding in Houston, and then the impending damage from Irma in Florida, I knew right away that I wanted to be involved in helping the community,” he said. “I’ve spent a week visiting my grandparents in St. Augustine every summer since I was five, so it really is my second home.”

The pain of having most of his “second home” demolished is what motivated him to raise money for hurricane relief. His friends worked with him in spending countless hours doing fall cleanup for neighbors, walking dogs, and asking for donations from local businesses in order to get the money needed.

“I didn’t think it was a burden at all to do all the work my friends and I completed throughout the fall,” he said. “Some people lost everything, I could lose a few hours of free time on Saturday and Sunday.”

The hours spent working gave him many ways in which he could help out. A portion of the money he raised went to funding his flight to St. Augustine and materials to help those people there. Two of his cousins flew with him to Florida for a week in September. When they arrived, their grandparents set the trio up with other elderly families in order to help them get back on their feet. What he experienced there left him wanting to help out even more.

“We mostly helped people to clean up their yards and remove ruined furniture and debris from their homes,” he said. “Everyone was so grateful for our help, but I wish I could have stayed down there longer and made more of an impact in other communities.”

He helped the elderly out with tasks big and small, and one of his smallest tasks stuck with him the most.

“One of the ladies we helped just wanted us to fill a few planters with flowers; she wanted something to brighten her day,” he said. “Sometimes the little things can help the most, I guess.”

Once their time in Florida was up, the group flew back to Nebraska. All of the money they did not use, which totaled around \$5000, was donated to the St. Augustine community. He was not sure what the community would do with the money, but he hopes it will encourage people to “get back on their feet and start moving on with their life.”

The unique trip did not just encourage those he helped. It also encouraged him to look toward a future in assisting those in need through careers such as working for a non-profit or a disaster response team.

While his trip is complete, he still feels a call to help those in need on a personal level. He senses that a connection was built between himself and those he assisted that cannot be found in regular day-to-day life.

“People need help all the time, but there is something about going into a community that just experienced a disaster and just taking action,” he said.

Students host fish fry fundraiser for fishing competition



Fishing is no longer reserved as a leisurely activity for a summer afternoon. For a few senior students in Leaguetown, Texas, fishing has become about getting your hands dirty to catch the big ones.

A group of senior girls from Leaguetown Highschool in Texas start up a new group, the Fat Cat Ladies, with a special way of fishing, noodling. The group fishes competitively for the largest catfish but do so with their bare hands.

“To noodle, you have to find a catfish hole and then stick your leg in the hole to feel around for a catfish,” founder Callie Upshaw explained. “Once we know we have a catfish, we surround the hole so the catfish cannot escape. Then, one of us sticks our hand in the hole and gets the catfish to bite our hand. Once it’s latched on, we pull our arm up, and the rest of us tie the fish up.”

Due to risks along with bites, cuts and bruises left behind by catfish jaws, noodling was illegal in Texas up until two years ago.

“My mom wasn’t thrilled when she heard I joined the group,” senior Brooke Frio said. Noodling can be dangerous. That is why we put safety first. We never noodle in moving waters, water deeper than three feet, or in unknown rivers.”

The group consists of six team members. These girls often noodle together on the weekend in local rivers.

“I gave the girls a hard time when I first heard about their group. When Callie and Brooke invited us out, I thought I would watch six girls scream and squeal in the river. That is not at all what I saw. That group is a well-oiled, powerful machine,” senior classmate Josh Randall commented.

The group has caught more than 100 pounds of catfish, thus far. The group only keeps fish larger than five pounds.

Senior Sierra Villalobos is also a member of the Fat Cat Ladies.

“The first time I went noodling, I wasn’t sure I could do it. I weigh 98 pounds, and Callie caught a 30-pounder right in front of me,” Villalobos said. “I didn’t know if I had the strength or bravery to do it. I surprised myself, though.”

Members Frio and Upshaw will be competing at the East Texas Noodlin’ Competition on Saturday, April 19th.

“We are excited about going to the East Side tournament. We need to raise about \$1000 to get the whole group there and pay our entry fees. We don’t expect many girls at the tournament, but that won’t stop us. We are ready to bring home some trophies,” Upshaw said.

To help fundraise for the competition, the Fat Cat Ladies will be hosting a fish fry Saturday, April 5th at noon. Fish will be served alongside coleslaw and fries. This event will be hosted at Community Park with cost being \$10.

Randall supports his fellow classmates but does not wish to join them in this activity.

“I don’t have any plans to join them again at the river, but I will attend the fish fry. The students need to throw their support behind these ladies,” Randall concluded. “I wouldn’t be surprised if they came home with 30-pound trophies as well.”

By Breanna Smith

Jeff Bellar has been a football coach for 36 years. Those years have been spent exclusively in the Norfolk area, and throughout this time Bellar has seen tremendous success.

Bellar was first inspired to begin coaching when he began playing football himself, both in high school and at the collegiate level.

“I always enjoyed sports, and at some point I decided I wanted to be a teacher. Teaching and coaching was kind of a natural fit,” said Bellar. “I don’t know if many people ever plan on staying in it as long as I have, but it’s seemed to work well for me. I’ve had some success and just stuck with it and that’s where I’m at right now.”

“Some success” is a bit of an understatement. In 2016, Bellar was named the National Coach of the Year. Throughout his career, Bellar has earned his teams 14 NSAA State Championships. His career record is 394-64, which earns him the title of having more wins than any other Nebraska high school football coach.

Bellar believes that this success can be attributed to many things, many of which don’t actually have much to do with him.

“I’ve never been afraid of hard work and I know that coaching takes a lot of time in terms of planning. I’ve been very blessed because it hasn’t just been about me. I’ve had some great athletes and very good coaches to work with as well.” Bellar said. “Our staff has stayed together for a long time - I’ve had guys that have coached with me for twenty-five years, which is sort of unheard of, but all of us staying together has helped me.”

Three of Bellar’s State Champion titles were earned while his son was one of his players, and these years are something that Bellar looks back on as some of his favor-

ite memories as a coach.

“I had the opportunity to coach my son throughout his four years of high school, and during those four years we were very successful. We had several tremendous athletes at that time. It was a very enjoyable time for him and I, and I think it drew us closer together,” Bellar explained.

In a world where it is becoming increasingly common for parents to refuse to coach their children, Bellar said he can understand why this might be the case, but he never saw it as an issue.

“I was probably a little harder on him than I needed to be. I never meant to be, but I always felt like the other athletes were looking to see if I was going to give him a break because he was my son,” said Bellar. “At the end of the day, though, it didn’t affect our relationship that much.”

Thirty-six years is a long time for anyone to continue coaching, but Bellar has had few issues regarding the length of his career.

“I think the reason I’ve stayed coaching for so long is because of the relationships. Relationships with students, coaches, and even with parents are what make programs work. When those all fit together the best, you have the opportunity for success,” said Bellar.

Clearly Bellar has had a great deal of time to influence the lives of several athletes. This is a responsibility that he takes incredibly seriously and is something that he says has always affected the way that he coaches.

“Too often we rate our success on whether we win or lose the game. Obviously that’s important, but there are many things that are more important than wins or losses,” said Bellar. “I want to teach my players to be good sons and, if they want, to someday be good husbands and

fathers. We’re going to work hard and we’re going to try to be successful, but I think becoming a better person through the program is what’s really important to me at this point in my life.”

Because he has been coaching for so long, Bellar has had to find a balance between some of the most important milestones in his life and his coaching responsibilities.

“During my coaching career, my kids were born and raised and now they’re out in the work force; I have two daughters and a son. It was hard when they were growing up because there are times that I would miss things that were important to my family, but for the most part I think I was able to find a pretty healthy balance,” said Bellar.

As Bellar said before, many people do not continue coaching for as long as he has. While he knows that there will be a day when he has to give it up, he does not see that day coming any time in the near future.

“Right now I feel very well health-wise. I think I still have a lot to offer for our athletes. I haven’t gotten to the point where I think, “I’ve done enough of this, I want to be done.” It could be another five years, another ten; I really don’t know.”

While Bellar’s health is not something he is concerned about for the time being, the biggest sign that he believes will tell him it’s time to be done can be found in the relationships that he holds to such high esteem.

“I think the biggest challenge is that every year I grow older and there gets to be a bigger gap between myself and the young people that I’m working with,” said Bellar. “If I ever start missing on that, then it will be time to say, “That’s enough.””



Mustangs Gallop Past Bluejays

The Class B state volleyball championship finished with a shocker, with the Swanton Mustangs stunning the Inland Bluejays in five games. Swanton trailed two games to none until sisters Robin and Penny Henkel led a rally to claim the program's first championship since 1999.

After an exciting finish to the third game, Inland, who had lost only three games all year, looked like they taken control once again. They led the fourth game 10-7 until Swanton senior Robin Henkel led a rally, totaling five aces as the team outscored Inland 18-10 to take the game.

The match came down to the final game. It seemed like neither team could pull away, with the game being tied at 4, 6, and 9. After the tie at nine, Swanton freshman Penny Henkel served five straight aces despite two timeouts from Inland to try to stop the run.

"In the last game, I got on a roll," Henkel said. "Coach told me to just serve between the girls in back row and I hit my spots."

Henkel's sixth serve went into the net, but Inland committed a hitting error to end the match, giving Swanton a championship in its third appearance ever at state.

"I thought we were dead in the water," Swanton head coach Bobbi Leahy said. "[Inland's] size and strength at the net were overwhelming for us. We finally got some serves to drop in our game 3 rally and then the Henkel sisters were on fire in the final two games."

The matches first two games did not portray the Mustangs as eventual state champions. Inland took the first game by a commanding score of 25-15. University of Illinois recruit Amy Eikmeier slammed down nine of her match-high 24 kills as the Bluejays hit .414 to dominate game one.

Game two was not much different, with the Bluejays dismantling Swanton. Eikmeier led the charge once again, smashing down seven kills. Swanton struggled from the service line in the game, committing four service errors.

"We couldn't get any touches those first two games and our serving was off," Swanton captain Christie Alloway said. "Normally, we don't have as many errors. We have to serve aggressively because we're not the tallest team and so sometimes we have errors."

The turning point of the match came in the third game. Inland had cruised to a 18-11 lead thanks to four kills each from sophomores Natalie Bik and Kassie Zabrocki along with Eikmeier. The Bluejays did not do much from there, however, as Swanton outscored them 14-5 to force game four. The run included six aces from the Mustangs, whose serves finally began to drop.

"We had them," Eikmeier said. "They couldn't handle our height and hitting in those first two games, and we thought we were going to win. We kind of lost our confidence a little and then their serving got to us."

From that point the Henkel sisters took control of the match, combining for ten aces in the final two games. The Mustangs finished the season on a 23-game winning streak after beginning the season 7-7.

"That was the greatest comeback I've been associated with," Leahy said. "I still can't believe we won."

TIE DYE AND TOUCHDOWNS

Students find ways to get involved outside the classroom

AND THE CROWD GOES WILD This is the first sentence of the caption: it is written in present tense and tells who, what, when and where. This is the second sentence of the caption, telling the why or the how. "This is the third sentence of the caption," said Your Adviser. "It might be a good story-telling quote from the person in the photo."

Yearbook Layout
Paige Livingston, Fairbury

This is the story for the spread on the sports highlights of the year. You can use as much or as little of this copy block as you need to design your spread. You will pick the font, size and style of copy. You can chose to design with dropped caps or special leading. It is all up to you.

You might also want to consider the initial tab space and the justification, as both can greatly enhance the design of the spread.

"You can use this as a pulled quote if you'd like or if you need it for the design element of your spread," Herbie Husker, junior, said.

Concentrate your efforts on the design of the spread. Utilize a dominant image and the design elements that you have used throughout the year on your own yearbook. You can use as much or as little color as is appropriate. You do not need to use photoshop effects on any photos unless that is your choice. This is not a photo category, but a design category.

For the captions, you may use as much or as little of the info as you'd like. You can add creative headlines for the photos if you'd like and it enhances your design.

This is the story for the spread on the sports highlights of the year. You can use as much or as little of this copy block as you need to design your spread. You will pick the font, size and style of copy. You can chose to design with dropped caps or special leading. It is all up to you.

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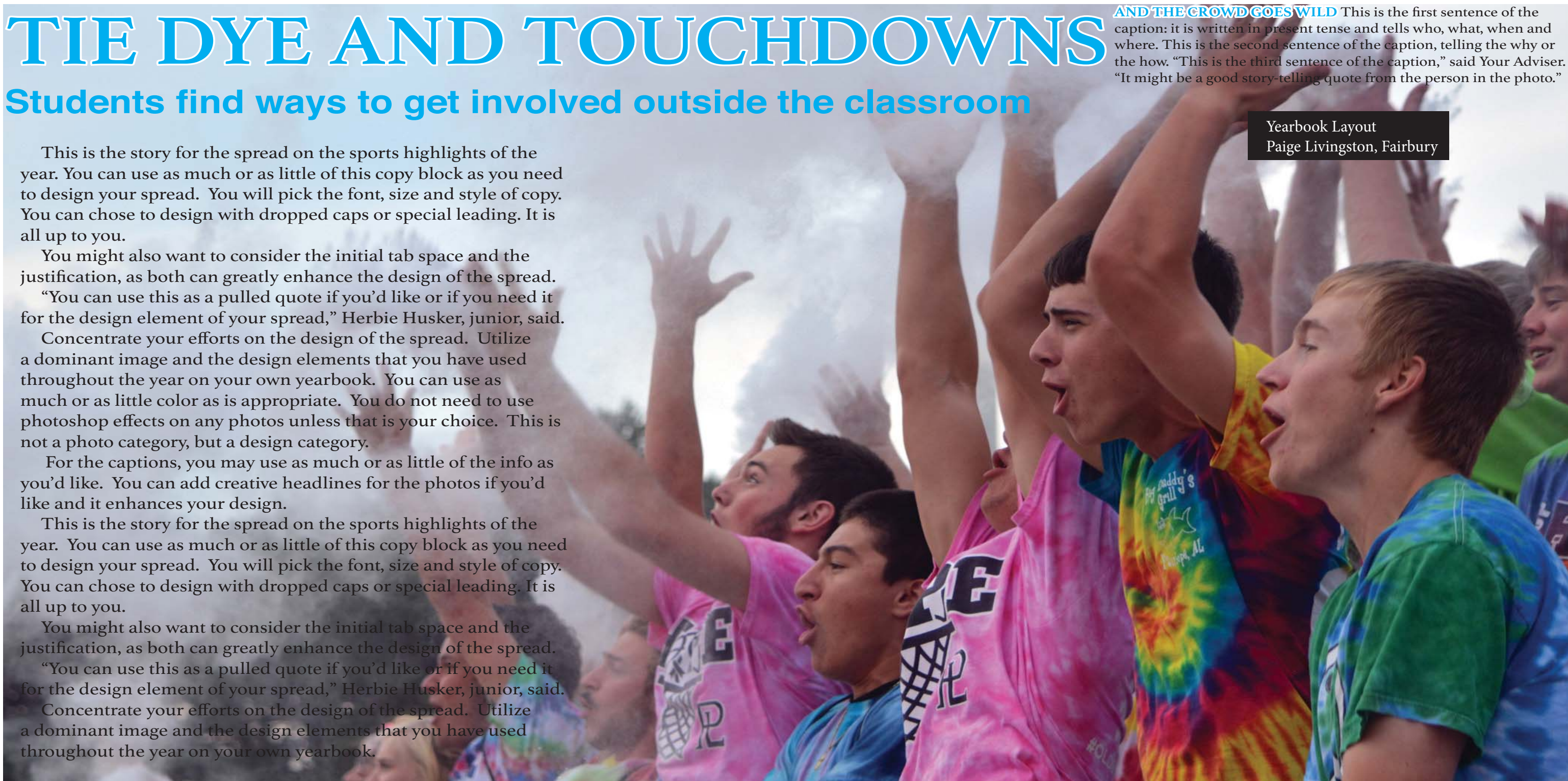
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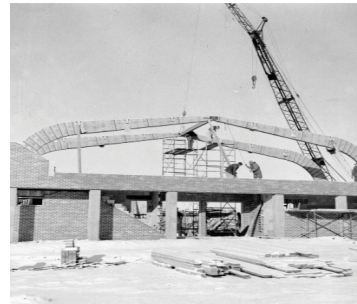
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THE MONASTIC COMMUNITY PROVIDES A LASTING LEGACY

Monastic Roots Revealed

Jimmy Crotty | Lead Photographer



The gym's iconic structural beams are constructed. The Archbishop Bergan Gym was one of the first major additions to the school in 1958-59.

Abt. Theodore reminisces of his days at Conception Abbey in Missouri and St. John's Seminary. His eyes search for those days long ago as a dean, teacher, and, eventually, Abbot of Mount Michael Abbey.

"The Abbot of Conception told me that I needed to go to Mount Michael Abbey for a year while Fr. Edward Malone went to Europe to document the history of Conception," he said.

Abt. Theodore came from Conception Abbey, the motherhouse of Mount Michael. "There wasn't much difference at that time between here and Conception, except that Conception was bigger," he said.

Abt. Theodore started out as a dean for the college when Mount Michael was still Saint John's Seminary.

According to Fr. John Hagemann '67, Conception Abbey had approximately 400 students in its 12 year seminary in 1953. They had decided to look for a location to move the high school portion of the seminary.

Providence provided for Fr. Dominic Lavan, a priest from Conception Abbey, who was sent to investigate. After saying mass at St. Cecilia's Cathedral, insurance agent William Barmettler introduced himself to Fr. Dominic. Fr. Dominic explained to Barmettler his purpose in looking for the location of a new high school for Conception Abbey. Barmettler listened to Fr. Dominic, who described his search for the location of a new seminary high school and for someone who would "be willing to serve God freely and totally unselfishly." These words struck a chord in Barmettler's thoughts, and the name Rex Olson came to mind.

Olson was the owner of Journey's End Farm, over 250 acres of land overlooking the Elkhorn River Valley. Fr. Dominic was introduced to Olson, and on surveying the land, Fr. Dominic said it was "most ideal."

"Ideal for what?" Olson asked.

Fr. Dominic relayed his mission. Olson found the idea delightful, but he was hesitant to sell his land.

"I use this land to raise prize winning Poland China pigs," he said.

Fr. Dominic replied, "Perhaps it could be used to raise prize priests instead."

Olson requested time to think and sought the counsel of his friend, Fr. John Paschang. The result was that Olson donated all of his land, farming equipment, and livestock to the monks from Conception.

Land in hand, Fr. Dominic set out to find funding for the monastery. He found his source in Archbishop Bergan of the Omaha Archdiocese.

"The idea of a minor seminary in the archdiocese intrigued Archbishop Bergan, and he granted the monks 500,000 dollars to build their school and monastery," Fr. John said. "The funding for the chapel however, came from the priests and parishioners of Omaha."

Abt. Raphael Walsh, the first Abbot of Mount Michael Abbey, also came here from Conception.

"The prior of Mount Michael at the time was elected Abbot of Conception, and I became prior of Mount Michael," Abt. Raphael said. "When it separated and I stayed here, I stayed as Abbot."

In time, St. John's Seminary was closed due to disagreement in the archdiocese and a lack of vocations.

"Lots of priests... thought it was too young to make that decision [of becoming a priest]," Abt. Raphael said.

Although he enjoyed the challenge of trying to form high school kids spiritually, he noted there was also a push for "seminarians to learn at a college level." Abt. Raphael had the opportunity to go back to Conception Abbey. However, he decided to stay at Mount Michael.

"Challenges are good for you," he said.

As the seminary was closed, it reopened as a high school with the new name of Mount Michael Benedictine. "When the name of the high school was changed, it was to match the name of the Abbey, which had always been Mount Michael," Fr. John said. "The name 'Mount' comes from the commanding view of the Elkhorn River that can be seen from the monastery that seemed to fit the Archangel Michael."

Whether under the name of Saint John's Seminary or Mount Michael Benedictine, the school and the community is the favorite part of the Abbey and campus for Abt. Theodore. "[I like] the community life," he said. "We all pitch in, do our work, and come together for prayer."



Rector of Saint John's Seminary, Fr. Edward Malone (left) and Archbishop T. Bergan (right) admire the progress made on the gym fund. The creation of the gym was funded with the help of the St. John's Seminary Association, which started the fall festival with a profit of \$8,000 in 1960.

21 Monks
 400 Acre Campus
 6 Monks Still Teach



School Building Built in 1956
 First Graduating Class 1956-57
 St. Johns Until 1970

Monks Look to Younger Generation

Benjamin Bies | Copy Editor

The monastery has a long history at the Mount, and this is also true of the monks. According to Abt. Michael Liebl '68, they are an "aging" group.

Originally, four monks came from Conception Abbey, and there are only two remaining that came from there: Abt. Theodore and Abt. Raphael. Since then, the monastery has evolved, currently consisting of 21 members.

A lack of recent additions to the monastic community has resulted in an older group.

"[The age of the monks is] higher than I would like," Abt. Michael said. In the past, they admitted new members through several ways.

"Some of the monks that came here were from Conception," Abt. Michael said. "Some of them went back [to Conception], some of them transferred their vows here, and some of the students who were seminarians eventually became monks here in the monastery."

He acknowledges that the monastery needs vocations to support the increasingly older group. According to him, they hope to return to acquiring new members through the students.

"Over the years, traditionally our source of vocations has been from the students, predominantly," Abt. Michael said. "But we haven't had any students either apply or remain with us after they started."

One active measure to recruit new members is the Benedictine Oblates led by Bro. Jerome.

"We are hoping [the Oblate program] will encourage some of our students to think about eventually joining the monastery," Abt. Michael said.

The number of vocations for the priesthood has been in decline in the United States for several decades, and the numbers continued to drop from 39,993 in 2010 to 37,181 in 2017 or total priests according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

"I bet you if somebody had an answer to that, they would be worth a million dollars," Abt. Michael said. "I attribute some of that to people becoming comfortable with a pretty comfortable lifestyle, so... the resolve to do something with one's life with a religious commitment seems less necessary... There are probably also other factors."

The monastery is welcoming to new members, and it would be pleased to see an influx of new candidates.

"Right now, we would be lucky to get one guy at a time," Abt. Michael said. "If we had four vocations who showed up at our door tomorrow, we would be absolutely thrilled."

If a monastery becomes low in numbers, there are a couple options open to them: joining another or closing the current one.

"I don't think we are at that stage yet," he said.

According to him, the monastery originally consisted of only four mem-

bers when the monks first came from Conception.

"The difficulty becomes when you have no one who can assume leadership roles or take on responsibility for tasks that need to be done," he said.

In spite of the declining vocations numbers, Abt. Michael believes that the religious life is rewarding.

"For me personally, it has been a great life," he said. "It has been very rewarding and a fulfilling way to do something with the gifts that you have been given in this world. I think in general people appreciate and enjoy the example that monks provide to them."



Bro. Roger Mangels professes his solemn vows in the DJ Sokol Chapel while Altar Servers Levi Kicken '19 and Tony Tang '16 witness the ceremony.

Photo by Bro. Luke

MONK MAKING-PROCESS

- Guest**
 - Invited to visit for a while
- Postulant** 6 Months - 1 Year
 - Screening and application process
 - Come as a candidate
- Novice** 1 Year
 - Adopt habit, but do not take vows
 - Take on least appealing tasks to test vocation
- Simple Vows** 3 Years
 - After, if still interested, take simple vows
 - Vows of : Obedience, Stability, and Conversatio Morem (Fidelity to Monastic Life)
- Solemn Vows** Rest of Life
 - Lifetime commitment to monastic process

2000-Year-Old Tradition Alive and Well

Andrew Nigro | Staff Writer

The monks have been revitalizing their presence within the student body over the past few years. Their way of life as followers of St. Benedict provide a different perspective for how the Mount Michael community should live. As junior dean Jacob Connealy '11 observes, the student body has a unique aspect to its religious life, having a daily example of devotion to Christ in the monks.

"[The monastery] is part of Mount Michael's identity," Connealy said. "It gives a religious presence that other schools near it don't have."

The monastic community has become increasingly active within the school and student body over the past few years. When the seminary became a high school, the monastic community lost a vital connection to the students. Monks have recently started to create and participate in events such as the oblate program, the purpose of which is to learn about Benedictine spirituality and gain insight on how the monks live in their community.

"People of all different backgrounds and different religions come to these events," oblate Patrick Fayad '19 said. "We have a rare opportunity here to get to know the religious and... be around them."



Bro. Jerome shows Abt. Theodores Caligraphy that was later given to Archbishop Lucas.

The oblates in turn promise to live out the Rule of St. Benedict in their daily lives. One way they do this is by inviting and serving other students who come to monastic spiritual and social events, such as feast days, lectio divina, and vespers. According to Fayad, these events attract up to fifty people.

"It is just a time to socialize with people [and] ask questions to the monks," Fayad said. "A lot of the monks are a lot older than us and they say that age is wisdom." He also notices the way the monks act as

a living example of St. Benedict. "They show us the Benedictine value of hospitality all the time," Fayad said. "Every time I go over to the monastery, I am amazed by how generous they are."

Ora Et Labora, which is latin for Work and Pray, is a staple in the Benedictine life. The monks have jobs and time to spend on their own to either read, watch television, or interact with the students.

"Prayer, work, and study [are] the life of a Benedictine Monk," Bro. Jerome said. "That doesn't mean that you don't have time for recreation."

The monks do not retire at a certain age like most people. Fr. Dan Lenz '76 will be 60, but he does not think about age as a goal. According to Fr. Dan, the important thing is that people recognize and receive Christ in each person rather than think of themselves.

"The Benedictine life is a family and not a structural organization," Fr. Dan said. "When you have your aging members being sent somewhere else, then I think you miss out on the wisdom aspect of not having the elders around. I came when I was 19 and I did not know very much, and I am grateful for the information that I learned over the years from the different monks."

Q&A WITH THE MONKS

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT MOUNT MICHAEL?

FR. RICHARD "When Nate Lafave was killed in the middle of the night, his mother called and asked me to come to the chapel. She told me that Nate had died. When I arrived at the chapel it was overflowing with people. There were people standing under the arches. It was a great show of faith. People felt as though they had to come somewhere for comfort, and that place was Mount Michael."

BRO. MEL "I remember arm wrestling a football star on our team and dominating him."

WHY DID YOU BECOME A MONK?

FR. JOHN "I was inspired by my great uncle, Bro. Adrian Borer, I did not want to be a Benedictine. I wanted to be a Franciscan because my great uncle was Franciscan," he said. "He was a very impressive person, and he helped the poor."

BRO. MEL "Well, I tried to but it was not until I broke my leg cutting trees that the opportunity came up. A priest friend helped me get there when we talked in the hospital."

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO DURING YOUR FREE TIME?

BRO. MEL "I enjoy spinning ropes."

FR. LOUIS "I like to listen to music quite a bit."

Character Building and Career Winning By Makenna Bird

When a coach first steps into the gym, the future outlook is impossible to predict. Twenty-nine winning seasons, 700 career wins, fourteen district titles, and a state championship win are dreams that every coach wishes to have under their belt. However, this is a reality for the head volleyball coach at Venango High School in western Nebraska.

After finally reaching a state championship in 2017, Sandy Green's forty years of coaching will be coming to a close at the end of the school year. After moving to Venango with her husband in 1982 and having a daughter that she would later coach, Sandy has chosen the perfect time to retire.

With a record like Sandy's, every coach has to wonder, "What is her secret?"

Many believe her successes come from the close-knit bond between that she encourages amongst her team. Sandy is known for her after-practice activities, such as car washes, secret sisters, canoe trips, and Halloween trick or treating.

"I believe sports need to be fun because we, as coaches, require them to work so hard all of the time in practice. It's fun to see them interact with the various activities that we do outside of practice. Sometimes they forget all of the hard work when they're having that fun," said Green.

Others believe Sandy Green is a great coach because of her emphasis on accuracy and precision.

"We played Venango three times this year, and I always knew we would be in for a dog fight because Sandy's teams would scratch and fight for every point. Her teams were the complete reflection over her commitment to detail," said Wallace Volleyball Coach, David Schwartz. "I've always respected her demeanor even when they're pummeling us. She had a quiet confidence about her."

Although Sandy's record reflects her coaching talents and abilities, not every point, set, match, or season was perfect. Every day brought new challenges, whether it was on the court or off.

"There have been some tough times in my life for volleyball, and my players made it fun," she said. "The thrill of coaching comes from turning those tough times into learning experiences and character building."

Not only is Sandy known for her devoted time to coaching, but she is also known for her commitment to being a math teacher. At Venango, Sandy teaches Algebra I, Algebra II, and Calculus.

"Sandy may have a match 60 miles away, but that will not stop her from being in the classroom the next morning at 7am to answer questions," said Venango Principal, Rod Kalkowski. "She has always been the consummate professional."

Whether in the classroom or on the sidelines of the volleyball court, Sandy Green has an entire career to be proud of. After forty years and a finishing touch championship, it seems like the perfect time for Sandy to take a step back to acknowledge all of her accomplishments.

"I couldn't ask for a better way to end my career. Not that I was always about winning, but who am I kidding, that was wonderful!" said Sandy.

CHAMPION LANES

COSMIC BOWL
LEAGUE BOWL
OPEN BOWL

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M-Th. 9a.m-10p.m.
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PRICING

Open Bowling	Cosmic Bowling
Weekdays: \$2.99/game	\$3.99/game OR
Weekend: \$3.25/game	Rent the lane for \$60 from 9p.m.-1a.m.

SHOW YOUR STUDENT ID AND GET FREE SHOE RENTAL FOR COSMIC BOWLING AND 10% DISCOUNT AT SNACK BAR!

Opening:

As the linoleum squeaks under your sneakers as a freshman walking the halls of City High for the first time, you may think you are seeing ghosts.

Walking past the science lab, you see a girl with a bright orange scrunchy in her hair popping her gum while reading through the latest issue of “Teen Magazine.” Looking in the trophy case, images of the Bugeatear football team reflect off the glass. You see the crowd cheering with bags of popcorn and old-fashioned Coke bottles as the school storms the field after winning the 1994 state championship against the Eastern Valley Angus. As you walk by the bathroom, you hear seniors telling a frightened freshman the legend of the old janitor who lives in the boiler room. Walking into the gym, you see the first ever graduating class of City High throwing caps into the air, signifying the end of their high school careers. You see the worn-down floors, the squeaky vents, the outdated televisions in each classroom. You see the faded writing of students past saying, “Have a great summer.. Call me.. Good luck in college..” on the last page of the old yearbooks in the library. This is City High.

From the diversity in ethnic backgrounds in the student body to the addition of new technology programs, within the last fifty years City High has made improvements. But, with these new developments, City High has not backed away from the values that were made present on that very first day of school fifty years ago. This is City High, a time capsule housing the memories of students from all these years: past, present, and future.

Academics Division:

At City High, student spend all these years creating, building, and most importantly: learning. From the first day our building opened its doors to students at 2016 High School Blvd, we have been developing. Developing our curriculum, developing our community, and developing each and every student to be the best scholar they can be. As a push to get City High into the modern age, we have enacted a new device program. The presence of technology in school has proven well for high schools all over the country, so this year, City High has introduced a new device program. With this new program, all students are ensured a laptop to connect them to the outside world. Cell phones have also been allowed for usage in class as well. In order for students to succeed academically, it is our belief that they must be able to explore the world beyond the classroom. With these new developments, City High hopes to improve academic success in students this year and for all the years to come.

Closing:

Another homecoming pep rally. Another blood drive. Another powderpuff football game. Another senior prom. Another graduation.

Students have spent all these years itching and waiting for the chance to walk across that stage at graduation, and leave this life behind. All these years spent stressing over homework, homecoming dates, competitions, and college have once again flown by. Contrary to popular belief, at City High, the life of your average high school student does not end at graduation. When you leave a place like City High, its effect on your life is forever etched into your brain. From witnessing the Great American Solar Eclipse to celebrating the fifty-year anniversary of

Nyarok Lam

the school, when we look back at these last four years, we will see all the ups and downs that we have endured within this building. No matter where we may go, no matter who we may become, all these years at City High will forever be remembered.

Social Media: The Black Plague of the 21st Century

By: Safyre Yearling

It is the 17th century. Lifeless bodies fill the empty space surrounding you. Completely cut off from the human world, people are the walking dead.

Oh wait; that is happening now. The year is 2018 and everywhere where I look, I can see my fellow peers with their noses glued to dimly lit screens. All of them have the same dull look in their eyes and blank facial expressions. They walk at slow paces and often times stumble over any and every thing in front of them, making me feel as if I am attending a zombie boarding school rather than public high school.

Whether it be during passing periods, lunch, or even classroom lectures, students cannot seem to put the cellphone down. They just *HAVE* to check to see if John sent them a “DM” on Twitter or if Jane opened the Snapchat image they sent over an hour ago. No matter the location or situation, they are sure to find a way to quickly respond. Yet, if the person sitting right next to them were to ask them a question, what are they to do? There is no screen to hide behind and no ability to edit or reread what is coming out of their mouths. I once witnessed a fellow classmate of mine take out their phone and text their response to a statement made to their face. Seriously? Who have we become?

My father grew up in the 80’s where his version of a handheld device was a telephone connected to a wire. Like most people of the generations before us, he always feels the need to tell me the stories of the “good old days” when he would have to actually pick up the phone and call his friends to hear their status update. (Facebook couldn’t help him there.) Even phone calls

can prove to be very difficult for those infected with the social media virus. It is just *so* much easier and *much* more private to speak in emojis and memes, isn’t it?

Social media has given people an outlet — a way to escape the responsibilities surrounding them, a way to close themselves off from basic human interaction. It gives people a certain sense of “privacy” that can lead to deadly consequences for anyone who dares to invade it. It can be argued that one can completely control who sees what they posted on the internet, but this argument could not be more false. Your account settings may say “private”, but the web coding behind it is screaming “public”.

I too am very guilty of the social media problem. I cannot tell you how many times my English teacher has had to tell me to put my phone in my bag during class or how many times my Economics teacher has threatened to take it away until the end of the day. My teachers have to halt class simply because I was just *dying* to see what my BFFL had to LOL about. However, my own addiction to my cell phone has allowed me to see the issue as it really is: a disease.

Like any contagion, social media has spread like wildfire. The ability to connect with other people and the knowledge that can be gained from the internet is infectious. People walk around completely unaware of the world surrounding them. Take out the vomit and stomach issues, social media has become the new plague and everyone is infected.

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Alisha Schnakenberg, Margaret Rieckman, Genesis Ramirez, Sandy Creek