

2019
Class A
State
Journalism
Champions



Newspaper News Writing Champion: Ainsley Nichols, North Platte

Ainsley Nichols

They say that if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. Public Safety Director Shane Weidner is a beaming example of this. Though he holds a high position of power and responsibility in Norfolk, he loves his city and he loves his job. "The atmosphere in Norfolk is solid in all aspects. Everyone helps everyone here, that's why I've been here for 29 years," he said.

His career began as an infantryman in the United States Army, which involved a lot of small unit tactics. From there, he became a firefighter in April 1990 and the fire chief in 1996. Weidner credits his time in the Army for his current role in society. "[The Army] had a major impact on my leadership style," he said, "your ability to work as a team is honed pretty tightly. It was a great transition for firefighting." From there, he was appointed by the mayor of the city of Norfolk to become the public safety director.

Weidner carries a lot of weight on his shoulders in his position. From merging the police and fire department to the construction of a natural gas pipeline, he is in charge of managing essentially all issues that are public safety-related: the police department, the fire department, and risk management. "As city administrator, you are the top executive officer. You've got a lot of great folks who work with you to manage the city, but you've got to manage the whole pie," Weidner said.

The most recent issue Weidner faced was the historic Nebraska flooding about a month ago that wreaked havoc in the eastern part of Nebraska, including Norfolk. Both the north part of the Elkhorn River and the Elkhorn proper flooded, causing proactive evacuations for about a third of the city. "Our forefathers decided to build a levee which protected Norfolk from a vast majority of the flooding concerns. We were very fortunate because of the forethought," he said. Having never been at capacity, Weidner feared a potential breach in the levee, which could have caused significant flooding. However, that never happened.

Though his own home and family weren't affected by the floods this year, Weidner has felt the impact of floods before. "There was another flood on the main Elkhorn River in 2010," he said, "we saw historic flooding of the Elkhorn that year." His own home was flooded by groundwater, totaling about two feet of water in his basement. "I understood pretty firsthand during this flood what people were dealing with. It's a real pain in the backside when you have water in your house," he said.

Weidner's empathy extends to all aspects of his job. The amount of power that he has could be dangerous to some, but not him, because he understands the level of pressure that is attached to the job. "It's humbling. I'm thankful for it in a lot of ways because of the people I get to work with," he said. However, when it comes down to the wire, his position can be tough, and that's why he tries to remain grounded. "You have to sometimes make challenging and difficult decisions," he said, "sometimes the call you make is the difference between life and death."



Advertising Champion
Ashley Hedrick, Millard West

CARS
642 Main Street

AFFORDABLE NEW AND USED CARS

Mon.-Sat: 9AM-6PM Sun: CLOSED

**TEST DRIVE BEFORE MAY 30 AND GET A
CHANCE TO WIN \$500 SCHOLARSHIP**



MORE THAN 100 USED CARS

Winning Streak

The Cornhusker High School Softball team takes home the Class J Trophy and to their surprise, a new state record

Hungry for the feeling of victory, the Cornhusker High School softball team put everything they had into the 2018 NSAA Class J State Championship game. Finishing last season with a record of 36-2 and a 2017 NSAA Class J State Championship title, the girls were determined to maintain their status. Little did they know that all of the determination would consequently drive home a new state record.

Class D Prairie High School set the previous state record of winning 50 consecutive games from 2003-2005. Despite having appeared at State 27 times, the Cornhusker team had never surpassed that 50 game winning streak. With the help of Head Coach Susie Baker though, the team broke slowly crept up to that mark.

“I didn’t tell the girls we were closing in on the state record,” Baker said. “To be honest, I don’t think they knew. We were so focused on this season and winning the state tournament.”

Baker had been the coach for the Cornhusker team for 15 years, and aided in last year’s championship title. Her dedication to the team played a huge role in the success of the team this season.

“Coach Baker has done an outstanding job of building a program that focuses on developing a complete student athlete,” Cornhusker High School Athletic Director Jerry Ryan said. “Her expectations of the girls are very high, but I’m so proud of how the girls handle themselves on and off the field. They worked really hard to represent the core values of the Cornhusker High School Community, and they finished the season as true winners!”

Even though the girls had the support from their coach, how they performed at state was ultimately up to them. Each girl had to have their head in the game if they wanted to come home triumphant. This last game for senior center fielder Graci Kolber was a significant one. It was her last chance to contribute to the legacy of the softball team.

“Our main goal all season was to win back-to-back state championships and we were not focused on the streak,” Kolber said. “Coach told us all season to trust our teammates and to remember to smile, have fun and enjoy it.”

Putting trust in their teammates and remembering to have fun, the girls got what they came for and a little more: a Class J trophy and a new state record of a 51 game winning streak. The legacy of the Cornhusker High School softball team lived on.

**Yearbook Theme Copy Writing Champion:
Brooklyn Armstrong, Omaha Westside**

Brooklyn Armstrong - Yearbook Theme Copy

Theme:

Glad You Were Here

Opening:

As we study all school year for what seems like eternity, we sometimes forget what high school is all about. These torturous but amazing four years of our lives are about finding who we are and how to interact with others. This year, we have taken risks, studied hard, and interacted with people who come from many different backgrounds.

Each of us were a part of making Far Away an outstanding and inclusive school where each of us were excited to come to school and to be a Proud Rebel. In our school's tenth year, we have achieved great strides toward the improvement of the future. Our administration worked hard to get new staff eager to teach us and new technology to make us strive toward the future.

Individually, we learn and have fun with our friends but together as Rebels we are so much greater. Together we cheered on our basketball team, gave a standing ovation to our classmates in each musical and watched in awe as the engineering students made functioning robots. Together, we supported everyone and grew as people because of it.

We are proud to be Rebels and Glad You Were Here!

Student Life:

Whether we were athletes or drama queens, this year we came together for so many different and exciting events. Each of these events helped to transform our high school experience into more than studying, but into part of our lives that we will never forget.

This year we started getting to know each other at the Back to School Car Bash where we ate food off of Principal Solo's grill and danced like nobody was watching.

We got the courage to ask our special someone to Homecoming and spent the night laughing with friends and doing what our parents say are "silly teenager things."

Each of us gave back to our community by donating to the Blood Drive sponsored by the Medical Club or bringing in food to donate to the local food pantry.

Some of us competed in many Marching Band Competitions and brought home some trophies to make the Rebels proud.

A lot of us cheered on our football team in our game against the Emporia High Destroyers, and did not get destroyed.

Every one of us learned that we are better together and that our lives will never be the same. We know that our lives will be full of laughter, excitement and support. This year is a celebration of not only ten years of teaching and learning, but ten years of smiling and cheering!

Closing:

When we were little, we asked our parents to tell us stories and sometimes they would be about a princess in a castle or a pirate looking for gold, other times they would be about when they were young and making memories with their friends. This year we made memories of our own so one day, we can tell our stories.

This year we have had so many new experiences and have learned from our “silly teenage mistakes.” We will always remember when our student section leaders painted each other and rolled down the hill at our homecoming game and that our sweet Prom Queen broke a heel on the way to get crowned.

These, among many, will be funny stories that we tell because they have left a fondness in our hearts. We may not remember our entire high school experience, but the memories we have will last a lifetime.

This year has been a big step and an exciting ride. Whether you have been here for four months or four years, we are all so Glad You Were Here.

**Headline Writing Champion:
Casey Downing, Gretna**

Headline Writing – Casey Downing, Gretna, Class A

Article #1:

Headline –

Boosting Confidence Boosts Attendance

Schools aim to wash away absences

Article #2:

Headline –

Moving in the Right Direction

Teen takes steps to ensure his health

Lawmakers draft action to curb an epidemic

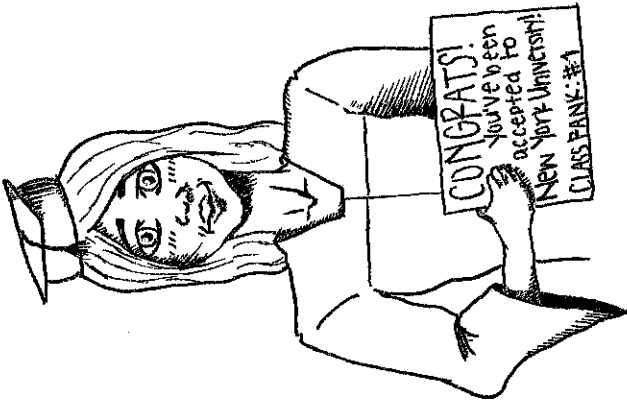
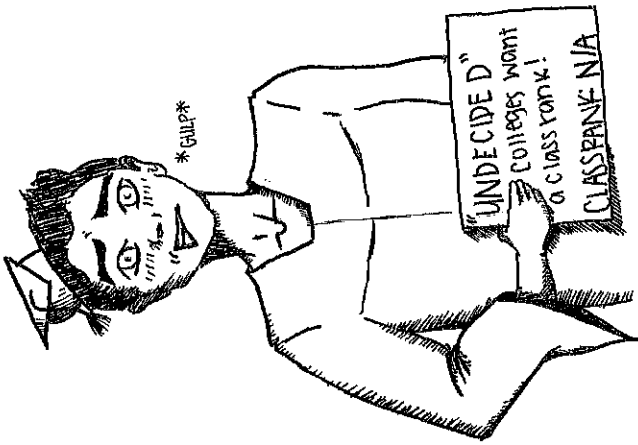
Article #5:

Headline –

Social Media Leads to Donut Shop Success

Son's internet plea invigorates father's business

Editorial Cartooning Champion:
Victoria Barkus, Millard South



**Newspaper Column Writing Champion:
Jessica McKee, Gretna**

Public Schools Can Create a Better Tomorrow

Encourage Students to Pursue Their Goals

The first day of school is filled with the voices of students, fresh off summer break and eager to catch up with their peers. Schedules are handed out, syllabuses exchanged and fall sports spring into action. Some students opt to enroll in classes that fuel their creativity, while others pursue Advanced Placement (AP) courses, believing these will give them an academic edge.

Sitting at the counselor's desk, year after year, I remember flipping through class catalogs, as my eyes gravitated towards electives I thought I could never take. The aromas of spices filled my nose at the thought of taking a culinary class, and shaping clay with my bare hands offered an opportunity to craft a new skill for myself. However, as the prospect of college loomed closer, the pressure to take harder classes hovered over me. I feared that if I did not challenge myself academically I would suffer after graduation. The world of creative electives became a distant dream, always out of reach. In my mind, those classes were only schedule fillers because they would not allow me to explore a pre-med major.

However, I have looked back on my high school career with regret. While I participated in music and journalism classes that allowed me to develop my individuality, I missed the opportunity to explore a variety of electives. I allowed myself to become too focused on developing my college resume with dual credit courses to explore a variety of electives.

While pursuing dual credit courses does challenge an individual to think critically and develop intellectually, it limits their ability to build a creative outlet within themselves. Their

ability to develop a student intellectually should not take precedence over an individual's need to develop artistically or vocationally.

The world is full of individuals who graduate and pursue education at a trade school or a career in the fine arts. Without their influence on our daily lives, music would not be a universal language. Without vocational jobs, our cities would crumble, structurally unstable and electrically unsound. The world needs its doctors, lawyers and teachers to heal, defend and teach its citizens. However, it also needs its fire fighters and police officers to keep us safe, and maintain order in every city.

Advanced Placement is a two-word phrase, but its purpose serves more than one meaning. To some, advanced placement means being top of the class, and serving as CEO of a popular company. To others, advanced placement means being in the line of duty, receiving a rank of honor because of their strong desire to serve their country. The public-school system has become so focused on creating the doctors of tomorrow that they forget to support the builders of today.

Students will imitate the standards that society places upon them. If they are told that the only way to be successful is to pursue a college career, many will lose sight of their interests to pursue this ideal. While encouraging college success is important, it should not be allowed to swallow the desires of students who want to serve in other capacities. In order to build a better tomorrow, students should feel encouraged to pursue what makes them happy. It is okay to have future goals, and everyone's career journey will look different. Each individual deserves a chance to shape their life and pursue their interests. Whether they choose to become a neuroscientist or a construction worker, each student's future creates the world of tomorrow.

Sports News Writing Champion: Jonathan Snover, Omaha Westside

On a cold and rainy day in Plainville in early May, Victoria seniors Shelby Schister and Betty Bonker, who have been primary scorers for the Victoria High School girls track and field team in the 2012 season, were set to take on their final East-North-West-South Conference Girls Track Championship meet.

But, with crunch time fast approaching and a close team race on hand, neither were healthy enough to run the 400 and 1600 relay races due to injuries earlier in the meet.

That's when freshmen Ally Williams and Bonnie Blue stepped in. Williams, who had never run in a varsity meet until the championships, said that running in front of roughly 1,000 fans was nerve-wracking.

"I was so scared for those two relays that I almost forgot to take my earrings out," Williams said.

The races were run in the latter portion of the meet, and Victoria had earned a total of 98.5 team points leading into, placing them in contention for their seventh straight conference title. Head coach Doug Moeckel, who has been coaching the program for 25 years and is set to retire after the 2012 season, said that he was in doubt heading into the final races.

"Once Shelby and Betty became injured, I did not think we could win the championship," Moeckel said. "Those two freshmen had not run in a varsity meet before and I didn't know how they would respond."

The two newcomers did not slow the Knights' relay teams down. They earned ten team points when they won the 400 relay in a time of 50.8 seconds after Blue anchored out the hard-fought win. Victoria sprint coach Chris Fontaine stated that the relay took extra preparation, but the freshmen's junior varsity experience paid off in the race.

"Since the two freshmen hadn't worked handoffs very often with the other girls, we practiced quite a few during the 800 and 1600 meter runs," Fontaine said. "You could tell they've run that 400 relay several times because they both did a nice job."

But the 1600 relay, unlike the earlier race, took more work from the Victoria girls. After three runners, Stockton High School, who was also in contention for the team title, led the race. Freshman Ally Williams was set to anchor, and she did just that to come back and win it for the Knights, who finished with a time of 4:03.8. Williams said that the final leg was tough, but she felt as though she had to persevere.

"In that 1600 relay, I just ran as hard as I could," Williams said. "My legs got tired, especially since I had just run the 400 relay, but I didn't want to let my teammates down, especially the seniors."

The win in the 1600 relay sealed a half point victory for Victoria, who finished the day with 118.5 points to conference rival Plainville's 118. The championship is good for Coach Moeckel's 18th of his career. He said this one is special for him and his team.

"This title is definitely a team title," Moeckel said. "I'll always remember my last ENWSC championship for the way we won it."

The championship win is good for the team's seventh straight title, and it is their 10th and in the last 11 years.

Newspaper Sports Feature Writing Champion: Joshua Siegel, Omaha Westside

Spiking for Schultz

For many, volleyball is a challenging sport, not only on the players' end, but also the coaches'. However, for Northeast Head Women's Volleyball Coach Amanda Schultze, the sport is just another part of her life.

Playing volleyball for as long as she can remember, Schultze considers it to be one of her greatest passions. The enjoyment of the game combined with her involvement makes it quite easy for her to remain excited for each season.

"[I love] Just being part of a volleyball program," Schultze said. "Growing up, always being part of a volleyball program. Just my love for the sport drives my motivation."

The volleyball program at Northeast was reinstated in 2013, leaving the athletic director at the school searching for a coach to lead this rising sport. The school decided to go with Schultze, who was a former player at Central Community College and went on to Morningside College in Sioux City. The move proved to be a smart one, as Schultze has experienced tremendous success since the hiring.

Schultze is embarking on her seventh season for the Hawks, with each season bringing more accomplishments than the last. This past season, Schultze coached an extremely successful team here at Northeast, going 21-15 on the season and finishing ninth at the national tournament. This great run earned Schultze the District 'C' Coach of the Year honor after the season concluded.

When asked about who she points the success towards, Schultze mentions her “new-school” method of coaching and recruiting.

“I really try to connect with the players as I am recruiting them,” Schultze said. “Some coaches try to connect with the parents first but I like to go with the players.”

It is always tough to build a strong sports program at any community college, as the athletes can only play for two years. However, Schultze has always searched for players that will definitely be worth the short two years that they spend at Northeast.

Getting more specific, Schultze remarks that she looks for the players who are willing to put in the most work and effort, not those who have been given everything that they have in their young career.

“As long as I am recruiting the kind of kids I want to be on my volleyball team we will be successful,” Schultze said. “There are kids that haven’t always had to work hard to earn something in their life. I try to get the kids that have had to work hard to get where they are.”

As Schultze has grown her coaching abilities throughout the past six years, she is starting to notice that she is more attracted to recruiting players that remind her of herself. Coming from Wakefield, Nebraska, Schultze considers herself to be a hometown, hard working person. This background combined with her abstract recruiting style has resulted in quite a few players coming to Northeast Community College.

“In the past, I have gotten a lot of girls that have grown up on a farm,” Schultze said. “They all played a lot of sports and had to work hard to be the best in their town.”

Competing in basketball, track, and volleyball during high school herself, Schultze remarks on her days as a three-sport athlete using characteristics that she looks for in her players now. She says that while she wasn’t always the best at basketball and track, she worked hard enough to be the “star” of her town. Today, Schultze expects the same out of her athletes.

“I never promise anybody a starting position,” Schultze said. “They have to work for it all season long. One thing that I have warned my college athletes about is that it’s tough. It will take a lot of work. I am not going to put in the time for them. It’s their choice to be successful.”

Not only is this mindset expected on the court from Schultze, but it is also required in the classroom. Schultze always makes sure that her athletes know what the priority is when they come to play for her.

“Just having everybody on board with the academic side is huge,” Schultze said. “That’s the number one reason that they come to college. To get an education. We really strive to get good grades in the classroom.”

This expectation has been drilling into the heads of all of Schultze’s players and is quickly showing results both on and off of the court. This past year, the team finished the season with a 3.76 team GPA, the highest out of any sport here

at Northeast. Along with that, Schultze has coached a combined 49 First Team and 16 Second Team Academic All-Region players.

Although the team has taken massive strides in terms of its improvement since 2013, Schultze is sure to never look back at past accomplishments and to only focus on the goals for next year. More specifically, Schultze is aiming to finish higher than the team's ninth-place finish at nationals that they achieved last year.

While this may seem like a tough goal for any person to reach, Schultze just thinks about it as another stepping stone on her path to making Northeast a powerhouse volleyball college. And with a mindset about coaching as great as hers, it would be no surprise if the Hawks one-day reach their highest goals.

"I just love the sport," Schultze said. "It doesn't feel like work and I really enjoy doing it."

**Yearbook Feature Writing Champion:
Kinsli Auman, Gretna**

Change is uncertain. It either leads to a joyous conclusion, or results in disaster. For the current seniors, they watched their high school be born, and eventually played their own hand in its development. Although school shapes its students tremendously, it is also true that the students form the school as well, an idea that is equally important. Although the students sporting their red, white and yellow with pride remained a constant throughout the years, both the school and Tomorrowton grew over time, leaving room for change just waiting to happen.

The seniors watched as third graders as Far Away High was first opened, and it was their spirit that helped to continue to develop the school. A school's atmosphere cannot be determined by a single student, and it took the combined enthusiasm and determination of the students to create a place they could be proud of. Having a united student body speaks volumes about the success of a school, and as the number of students grew to 1,000, an increase of 250 students, it created the opportunity for growth and new connections.

"My favorite part of Far Away High is the people here," senior Laya Orgona said. "Most of us have been here since day one, so we all know each other pretty well. Even the students that came later and have been here for nine years, four years, or even one year, feel like they have been a part of our classes since day one. We aren't a tiny school, but we aren't huge either, so we all get along well and can respect each other without a problem."

Orgona was one of the seniors who had been there for the past ten years, and she watched the high school slowly transform into one of the town's greatest prides. She loved seeing where they had come with everything, and her thought was not alone. When the elementary school, middle-school, and high school all joined together in the same town, its residents and students adjusted to the change. Embracing the new perspective, the Rioters mascot was replaced with the

Rebels, signaling a time of rebel against the past way of life. Aiming to keep the interactions between a teacher and its students a priority, 13 new teachers were also hired to combat the climbing student enrollment.

“The biggest change I noticed in my time here, other than all the schools moving to one location, would have to be the number of students here,” Orgona said. “We have had a large number of students come in since opening. This also made it so we have gotten more teachers to try and combat that, but the class sizes have slowly started to get larger, and the ratio for teachers to students has started to change, and one-on-one interaction with students has begun to down a little, but not a ton.”

Despite the adaptations, many traditions remained constant. The school colors, red, white and yellow continued to bleed through the halls of the schools and into students’ never-ending spirit. Additionally, the Back to School Car Bash was originally used to kickstart the year and ignite excitement among the students, and that tradition remained a highlight of the year. Along with showing support for the school, the marching band continued to compete in the state marching band completion for the past ten years, showcasing student spirit.

“Three things I have noticed to stay consistent in the ten years of Far Away High’s existence would have to be the Back to School Car Bash, that’s always exciting,” Orgona said. “Second, the colors, even though the mascot changed, that’s an obvious one. And Third, Mystery Meat Monday. This is something we students have come up with over the years. There is this meat that is served breaded, but no one knows what it is for sure. Some people claim it is Salisbury steak of some sort, but it’s never been confirmed.”

During the span of a decade, the high school grew in tremendous ways. However, despite the changes, several ideas remained the same, including the students' pride in their school. From the five smaller schools that combined to form one, it was not without its challenges. However, it created an atmosphere for students to come together and show their rebel colors proudly. Brick by brick, they built their school into a legacy that would stand for years after they had left. Although the student body would continue to expand, the students would adapt alongside it, continuing to shape their school into one that stands loud and proud. After all, a rebel will never stop fighting for something that it is passionate about.

**Editorial Writing Champion:
Mollee Swift, Papillion-La Vista**

The norm of our school has become the whispering you hear in the hallways, the suggestive rumors, and the acknowledgement of drugs and alcohol intoxicating the school, but never any action.

We hear the administrative warnings, sit in on the presentations over the truth about drugs, and are told time and time again about the dangers of these intoxicants, but never see any action or repercussions.

Due to the recent increase in local drug busts, Principal John Kim is here to change the inaction to a tangible policy at Cupcake High School.

This “NO TOLERANCE policy” is meant to clarify, inform, and communicate the standards of expectations to students along with allowing a random drug test in the school.

It is the right time to implement a factor that could deter kids from using drugs and alcohol with the belief that they will never get caught; a policy that as long as it maintains randomized, could fulfill Kim’s initial objectives.

“The overall goal of this policy is to promote a safe, drug-free environment, not to serve as a witch hunt or a way to legally profile our students,” Kim said.

Junior Oliver Taylor exposes the possibly problematic sources affecting the policy: “I think this policy is a good idea, but I think the administration already knows who’s using drugs and will just test those kids, making the process a lot less random than advertised.”

The policy directly mentions that the tests must be randomized, preventing any profiling that could be a hindrance to the student’s safety and rights. Instead it has been introduced to enable a healthier environment and make the students think twice about bringing illegal substances onto school grounds.

Teenage years are loaded with new introductions to the world of drugs and alcohol and even if those attempts are outside of school and in their free time, it still can cause issues inside the learning environment.

“A lot of students don’t fully comprehend the long-term consequences of drug and alcohol use,” freshman English teacher Mr. Will Williams said. “Anything that the school can do to discourage drug and alcohol use and promote a healthy environment is a good idea.”

Although this policy will not stop the consumption of drugs and alcohol to the fullest effect, it will make a school wide difference by discouraging even the smallest uses of such drugs.

Parent Damon Baumert struggles with this new policy’s zero tolerance, noting that “[he doesn’t] think the school realizes what impact this can have on certain sporting programs.”

This is what is so vital to the policy, it implements a wall that certain individuals are unable to slide under. Everyone is treated the same and must represent our high school in the right way. There are known consequences set in stone if they do not abide by the rules and it is the student’s responsibility to follow them, no one else’s.

Kim has made it clear what Cupcake High School stands for and this policy is meant for the bettering of all 1,300 students.

We are a learning community that will stand for no more drug or alcohol use.

We are a building that aims to keep our hallways clean and uncontaminated from such intoxicants that can threaten the teenager’s school experience.

We are a school that is now implementing action against drugs and alcohol.

Entertainment Review Writing Champion: Molly Ashford, Omaha Central

Lighthearted primetime television is a long-running staple of American popular culture. *The Carol Burnett Show*, a variety sketch and comedy show running from late 1967 to early 1978, is an impeccable example of the humble beginnings of female roles in sketch comedy.

The show, while cheesy at times, immersed women into the world of comedic entertainment while captivating viewers of primetime television around the nation. The show ran on a platform of relatability, touching on everyday issues and turning them into skits. While the comedic value inevitably becomes somewhat lost in translation over time, *The Carol Burnett Show* is timelessly witty, occasionally exaggerated and a truly funny program.

To begin with one of the greatest bits, the six-minute skit titled “Riddles” follows the quest of employees in an office building who desperately try to uncover the answer to the following riddle—“If a bear walks by a room with all southern exposure, what color is the bear?”. When one character fails to figure out the answer, she begins to rage and eventually ends up punching a man who brings up the riddle.

This skit shows some of the best that *The Carol Burnett Show* has to offer, as the amalgamation of a typical and well-mannered office setting and the immense rage from the character of Marge at her friend for bringing up riddles adds to the comedic value. While the acting is not overly realistic, it is relatable enough to the audience that the entertainment factor is not brought down by the slightly cheesy expressions.

“A New Leash on Life”, a similarly funny bit, follows the trials of a dog trainer, three misfit dogs as well as their owners through a very basic obedience class. The twist? There are no real dogs present on the scene, and actors instead stumble around with their pretend dogs on invisible leashes who cannot seem to stop knocking things over.

The acting in this piece is much less focused on dialogue and more on ‘body comedy’, as the actors flail around as their invisible dogs throw them to the ground. It is traditionally funny but lacks the wit and relatability that makes the show unique.

However, *The Carol Burnett Show* is specifically a variety show. Having different sub-genres of comedy within a variety show can appeal to a broader audience and lead to a much more successful program—and successful it was. The variety show went on to win 25 primetime Emmy awards, be ranked on *Time Magazine*’s 100 best shows of all time, as well as place #17 on the *TV Guide* rankings of all-time greatest shows. Many of these awards were given decades after the show stopped running.

What makes *The Carol Burnett Show* special is Burnett’s personal persistence as a woman in the entertainment industry back when men dominated the market of comedy and variety shows. It is even noted that the director of CBS told Burnett that variety was a “man’s genre”, offering her a sitcom instead.

Instead of accepting this offer, Burnett used her contract to her advantage and paved her own way to success without conforming to what female entertainers were expected to do at that time.

Burnett’s wit, charm and humor led her to be highly regarded as an extremely talented comedian and actor. As she continues her endeavors in entertainment in the present day, it is important to remember her roots as a truly revolutionary woman in the comedy genre before it was saturated by a myriad of powerful, funny women. *The Carol Burnett Show* both paved the way for future women in comedy and made many laugh in hysteria around the nation.

Newspaper Feature Writing Champion: Sarah Altman, Papillion-La Vista

It's a lazy Saturday morning in Smithtown, and Julie Jorgensen is sprawled haphazardly across the couch in her living room. The area around her is markedly absent of the Barbie's and pink accessories which typically alert an observer to the presence of a bodacious 4-year-old girl. In remarkably stark contrast, the soft hum of the television receiver has captured her attention.

The TV today broadcasts Speed Racer cartoons to Jorgensen's house. In the bustle of the weekend, she has found her sacred time, her safe haven. You can see it in her elementary eyes as she clings to every sharp turn and gasps at every near-crash. In this early-set domestic scene, it's hard to imagine the young Julie as anything but the daring amateur driver she has become.

From her childhood, not much has changed. One can barely conceive the passage of time since those lazy Saturdays by looking at Jorgensen's 100-pound frame. Standing at 5 feet 2 inches, she appears unimposing to any casual passerby. To anyone who knows her, however, Jorgensen is the definition of daring.

Since year nine, her life has been filled with the heart-pumping prospects of professional racing.

"My first go-cart race was when I was 9 years old," Jorgensen said. "My brother and I built the fiery red single seater. Unfortunately, it looked better than it ran."

Halfway through the rough-and-tumble turns of the course, Jorgensen's race quite literally went up in smoke. Bugged down by the capricious failings of her engine, her go-cart broke down. The grey smoke from her cart, however, could not cloud Jorgensen's vision for the future.

"That's when I got serious about racing," Jorgensen said. "I told my family I didn't want to race in anything without a real engine, a good engine."

Jorgensen's persistence and adoration for racing present at nine years old has persisted throughout her life. Now, nearly seven years later and just four days shy of her 16th birthday, her racing prowess is on full display.

It started only a year ago. Jorgensen won three hotly contested amateur races in Missouri. In February, her astounding ability was chronicled nationally in *Race*, a magazine whose readers love racing almost as ardently as Jorgensen.

While mind-bogglingly impressive, Jorgensen's list of past accolades pales in comparison to her newfound prospects for the future. This month, she was notified of her acceptance in to NASCAR's legendary training camp.

As she prepares to venture to Daytona Beach in June, her driving isn't the only thing garnering attention. As she travels to Florida, all eyes will be on the path that she takes into camp. Remarkably, this is the first time the path has been trod.

As the first female driver accepted and a 16-year-old surrounded by drivers of an average age of 23, Jorgensen truly is the first of her kind.

“The camp directors usually select male drivers who have started their professional careers but are not performing to their potential,” Jorgensen said. “When I received my acceptance letter, I had to read it twice to make sure it was true.”

As sophomore Molly Carlos can attest, Jorgensen receiving her acceptance letter was a sight to behold.

“I was with Julie when she received the acceptance letter for the camp,” Carlos said. “She went a little crazy and almost hyperventilated.”

While Jorgensen’s initial reaction to the news merits nothing less than a description of utter pandemonium, her driving is in stark contrast.

“She’s incredibly focused and fast,” Carlos said. “She’s often the only girl on the course, but you would never know it.”

The only thing that distinguishes Jorgensen’s racing on the course from that of her male peers is that her racing is undoubtedly better. Always the competitor, Jorgensen is invigorated by the prospects of dominating on the track, regardless of her gender.

“People ask me all the time why a girl would want to race cars,” Jorgensen said. “I say, why not? The speed helps me to forget about everything stressful in life.”

Admittedly, Jorgensen’s attempts at stress relief are possibly the most conducive sources of stress for those around her.

“It’s scary every time she gets behind the wheel for a race, but this is her dream,” Julie’s mom Missy Jorgensen said. “I wouldn’t be a very good parent if I didn’t support her.”

The unconditional support is felt by Jorgensen every time she steps into steps into her racecar and securely fastens the belt. Even though the path ahead of her is uncharted, she is flooded with the assurances that her daring spirit can handle anything the course might throw at her.

“I’ve been waiting for this moment most of my life,” Jorgensen said. “I want to set the records like Danica and continue to open the field to women.”

The field will undoubtedly be opened as Jorgensen cuts swaths through the United States on her journey to Florida. With each turn she hugs and finish line she crosses, she will be breaking ground for women everywhere. While she no longer races in the fiery red single seater, her fighting nine-year-old spirit is alive in her. As you look into her eyes, you can still see the wonder that sat there 12 years ago on that lazy Saturday morning.

2019
Class B
State
Journalism
Champions



Editorial Writing Champion: Adrienne Labay, McCook

Drugs have been a long-standing problem for decades, starting in the opium dens of Victorian London, all the way to the pot-laced brownies so popular at today's parties. Many programs, like D.A.R.E., have risen and fallen in an attempt to stay the tide. Last week, our own high school set forth a new policy in their attempt to contribute to the fight. The policy calls for random drug testing on students. This means that at any point in the day, a teacher can ask a student to take a drug test proving they're not on something 'recreational.' While I'm sure teachers won't abuse this ability and conduct drug tests on students during class, other concerns have been expressed about the new policy.

The main fear seems to be that the school will start profiling students in order to determine who to test. This could lead to an influx in racism, sexism, or elitism. "The overall goal of this policy is to promote a safe, drug-free environment, not to serve as a witch hunt or a way to legally profile our students." Principal John Kim assures. His statement, while well-intended, is not a promise though. He can only account for his own actions after all. What promises does the policy hold that can protect African American students from having their bags searched every day? What will protect low-income students from being tested repeatedly?

The problem with 'random' is that when it comes to looking for wrong-doers, it's never random. There will always be some underlying reason for why a particular student is picked. Maybe it's not something as harmful as racism or elitism, but there is always a certain reasoning behind why a person decides a student should be tested. It's just an impulse to them, with no rhyme or reason to it, but it will be there.

Many students in our school have reacted to this change with indifference or outright approval though. "I think this policy is a good idea, but I think the administration already knows who's using drugs and will just test those kids, making the process a lot less random than advertised." Oliver Taylor, a Junior, comments. Others seem to share this opinion. Mercedes Cardenas, a Senior, expressed the thought, "A lot of students do drugs. We all know who they are. Maybe these students can actually get caught now and be in trouble." The implication here is that the school will only test those they strongly suspect. If that's true, then why bother saying 'random' in the first place? Wouldn't it be much better to implement a policy saying suspected drug users will be tested randomly?

Some might argue that this would lead to more extreme profiling, or that it would start a witch hunt, but that's why you implement safe guards against this possibility, like cops have. This is my main problem with the policy as it is right now. There's no guarantee, no promise. It doesn't even say how many times a student can be tested, or how frequently. I would suggest revising the policy now, styling it after our local police force's own regulations, before it does become a problem. Innocent until proven guilty, remember?

Newspaper Feature Writing Champion: Alex Schrier, Mount Michael Benedictine

While most drivers preparing to make the jump from amateur to professional racing at NASCAR's legendary training camp are age 23, Jorgensen, at 5 feet 2 inches and weighing less than 100 pounds, ages just 15.

She is the first female and the youngest driver to be invited to the three-day training camp held June 12-14 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"This camp is the opportunity of a lifetime for me," Jorgensen said. "When I applied to this camp, I didn't think I had a chance at being accepted. The camp directors usually select male drivers who have started professional careers but are not performing at their potential."

Jorgensen is no stranger to fielding questions about her passion.

"People ask me all the time why a girl would want to race cars. I say, why not? It's the ultimate thrill," she said. "The speed helps me forget about everything stressful in life. It's just me and the car."

Jorgensen's love for competitive racing started at a young age.

"When I was just 4 years old, my dad and I watched Speed Racer cartoons on Saturday mornings. Soon, I was asking for cars instead of Barbies, and my love for racing developed," she explained.

Jorgensen looks up to a hero who blazed the trail she's travelling.

"It's pretty obvious who my hero is. It's Danica Patrick," she said.

Like Jorgensen, Danica Patrick also started her career with go-cart racing, and she became the first woman to win an Indy car race in the 2008 at Indy Japan.

"I want to set the records like Danica and continue to open the field to women," she said.

As passionate as Jorgensen is about racing, adjusting to regular weekend competitions and training camps was hard for her family.

"My dad is definitely not a racer. He's probably the slowest driver I know. He's super cautious and hates getting on highways. I don't think it was easy for him to support me, but my dad has always been a believer in dreams," Jorgensen said.

Even though it might not be easy, Jorgensen's mother, Missy, feels her support for Julie is important.

"It's scary everytime she gets behind the wheel for a race, but this is her dream. I wouldn't be a very good parent if I didn't support her," Missy Jorgensen said.

Molly Carlos, Jorgensen's best friend, is also Molly's best supporter.

"Before becoming her friend, I had never seen a car race. Now, I spend most of my weekends at the race track," Carlos said. "At one of her practices, Julie let me drive her car around the track ... I understand why she is hooked. It was so liberating."

While she may have the skills to race on the track, Jorgensen, who turns 16 on April 27, will have to prove she has what it takes to be a driver on the road.

"It's going to be embarassing if I can win a car race but fail my driving test," she said.

According to Jorgensen, street cars and race cars, while seemingly similar, are actually entirely different beasts.

"In the street, everything feels a little looser. You have to push harder on the brakes to stop, and you have to turn the wheel a lot more. A [Volvo station wagon] doesn't handle as well as my race car," Jorgensen said. "Plus, I never have to parallel park during a race."

Until then, Jorgensen prepares to race against professional drivers.

"I've been waiting for this moment most of my life," Jorgensen said.

Yearbook Sports Feature Writing Champion: Amber Buhman, Columbus Scotus

A Grand Slam of a Season

Twenty-seven state championship tournament appearances, back-to-back Class J State Champions, an undefeated season, and a state record for most consecutive wins are all titles held by the Cornhusker High School softball team.

The team, which consisted of fourteen girls, began their winning streak in September of the 2017 season, and it carried over into the 2018 season. In the state semifinals, the Cornhuskers swung their way to their fiftieth consecutive win. With this win, they tied Prairie High School's record previously set in 2005.

"I didn't tell the girls we were closing in on the state record," head coach **Susie Baker** recalled. "We were so focused on this season and winning the state tournament."

Winning the state tournament was exactly what they did. Win number fifty-one not only achieved a state championship, but it also earned the team a spot in the state record books.

"I can't believe we won fifty-one games in a row and number fifty-one was the state championship!" exclaimed senior pitcher **Holly Rowe**.

The team consisted of seven seniors, who had been a part of every single win of the streak and both state championships.

"Our main goal all season was to win back-to-back state championships, and we were not focused on the streak," senior center fielder **Graci Kolber** said. "Coach told us all season to trust our teammates and to remember to smile, have fun, and enjoy it."

With this mantra, **Baker** has led the Cornhuskers to many successful seasons in her fifteen years as head coach. She has instilled a tradition of winning into the softball program.

"Coach Baker has done an outstanding job building a program that focuses on developing a complete student-athlete," Cornhusker High School Athletic Director **Jerry Ryan** stated. "I'm so proud of how the girls handled themselves on and off the field. They worked really hard to represent the core values of the Cornhusker High School community, and they finished the season as true winners!"

The true winners' season may have come to a fairytale ending, but the streak is still alive. With seven players graduating, there will only be seven returning players who all hope to continue the winning streak into the 2019 season.

"I'm sad that I will not be part of the team next year," **Kolber** said. "My hope is that they will keep it going!"

Theme: All These Years

Opening

The value of tradition runs deep in the Rebels' veins. Far Away High is a place for students to let go and be themselves.

From the annual Rebels versus Destroyers game to the Back to School Car Bash, we know how to keep a tradition alive. For ten years running, the Rebels have proven that we will remain in the top.

Although there are new additions to our school, such as the new superintendent and the thirteen new teachers we gained, we still remain the same.

We've grown into a technology driven school, with our new 1:1 laptops and our cell phones in class, but we still are the same Rebels we were ten years ago, wearing red, yellow, and white with pride.

We are proud of our school and our long running traditions. We have, and will keep, the spirit of the Rebels alive for **All These Years.**

Division Page (Student Life)

As Far Away High comes up on our tenth-year anniversary, we reflect over all these years and all of the long-standing traditions our school has held for so many years.

Prom comes to the mind of a Rebel when they think of timeless tradition because it carries the memories we cherish the most when we walk across that stage on May 17th.

“Prom season is my favorite part of the year,” senior Catherine Roitman said. “I love shopping for my dress, getting my nails and hair done, and spending a relaxing night with my friends away from the stress of school.”

Catherine’s mother, Amy reflects on her days as a Rebel. “I remember feeling the exact same way fifteen years ago when I was in school. It’s an outstanding tradition that I am happy to involve my daughter in after all these years.”

Closing

“Perseverance and consistency are the keys to success,” Scott Frost said when he visited Far Away High in September.

Rebels are success-seekers, risk-takers, and hardworking individuals that stand for tradition and pride.

Rebels are still the same today as they were ten years ago when Far Away High first opened its doors.

We are still the same after the victory over Emporia High School under those stadium lights.

We are still the same when nothing in our school is.

We are still the Far Away High Rebels, after **All These Years.**

**Yearbook Feature Writing Champion:
Celia Wightman, Lexington**

In the ten years that Far Away high has been open, some things have simply never changed. From the annual Back to school Car Bash and the school colors of red, white, and yellow to competing in the state marching band competition every year, students have been able to count on several traditions to remain consistent throughout the last decade.

Even the weekly 'Mystery Meat Monday' has been a mainstay in students' lives, as senior Laya Orgona pointed out.

"This is something we students have come up with over the years. There is meat that is served breaded, but no one knows what it is for sure. Some people claim it is Salisbury Steak of some sort, but it's never been confirmed," Orgona said.

Having been in third grade when Far Away high opened in the academic year 2008-2009, some seniors were around since the beginning to see the progress the school has made in the previous ten years.

"My family has been in Tomorrowtown my entire life, so I didn't really have much of a choice. But I would say I loved being here for all ten years and seeing where we have come with everything," Orgona said.

Although much has remained the same, many changes have also been made. First, the school mascot changed from the Rioters to the Rebels. Moreover, rather than the elementary, middle school, and high school all being in separate towns, they all came together to a single location in Tomorrowtown.

"The biggest change I noticed in my time here, other than all the schools moving to one location, would have to be the number of students here," Orgona said.

Since the opening of the school, it has grown by approximately 250 students. It now has an enrollment of 1,000 students from grades 9 through 12.

"They also made it so we have gotten more teachers to try and combat that, but the class sizes have slowly started to get larger and the ratio for teachers to students has started to change, and one-on-one interaction with students has begun to go down a little, but not a ton," Orgona said.

In fact, the school added 13 new teachers in order to accommodate the rising number of students and lower the size of each class.

Despite the school's growing numbers, Orgona still feels close to her classmates.

"Most of us have been here since day one so we all know each other pretty well. Even the students that came later and have been here for nine years, four years, or even one year feel like they have been a part of our class since day one," Orgona said.

CLASS RANKINGS

1



2



3



4



Sports News Writing Champion: Grady Corrigan, Bennington

Grady Corrigan// Staff Writer

Freshman Step Up to Win Doug Moeckel's 17th Conference Title

Around 1,000 fans packed Buresh Stadium on May 5, to watch the highly anticipated ENWSC conference track meet. Victoria High has dominated the conference tournament and they looked towards extending their winning streak to seven straight years. Plainville is not going to sit back and watch it though because they know they are going to have a chance with being strong in multiple events. Cross-town rivals, Stockton, also has a pair of athletes that have potential to win multiple events. This will all be settled out on a slightly windy and rainy night in Plainville.

First up was the field events. After winning in high jump with a distance of 5-4 and later on winning pole vault with a height of 10-8, senior Betty Bonker was not yet satisfied. Bonker wanted to set a new meet record in pole vault. The bar stood 11ft and 2in off the ground and Bonker sprinted with her pole with all of her force but before she could not get a chance to clear it, she slipped on the rain, injuring her knee. That put her out for the day and she would have to miss the 400 and 1600 relays. Bonker was not the only Victoria athlete to go down though.

Victoria's other senior stud, Shelby Schister won the long jump at 17-8 and was looking forward to dominating triple jump as well. Rain also played a factor in this event and Schister wiped out on the board, ending her day with a pulled leg muscle. Schister still finished second with a distance of 35-10. She would also have to miss out on the 400 and 1600 relays.

"I started crying because I thought there was no way we could win the championship and that's one of our major goals." Schister said.

That was a valid assumption as their replacements were two freshman, Ally Williams and Bonnie Blue. This duo has never ran in a varsity meet yet but they were going to have to come up big to pull the Knights in first place as they were down. Ally Williams did not even show up to the meet with a jersey. The 400 relays were up first followed by the 1600.

Victoria's 400 team blazed their way around the track in 50.8 seconds and won the event and recieved 10 points. The young Bonnie blue finished out the last 100 meters for the Knights. Sprint coach Chris Foutaine, knew the freshman needed to work on their chemistry with the other varsity runners and gave them some good advice.

"Since the two freshman hadn't worked handoffs very often with the other girls, we practiced quite a few during the 800 and 1600 meter runs. The last thing I told them was we'd rather have you go too late than too early. You could tell they've run that 400 relay several times because they both did a nice job. It's nice to have a couple of substitutes like Ally and Bonnie. They're pretty fast." said Foutaine.

Stockton finished second and Plainville was third, setting up an exciting finish for the 1600 relays.

Stockton led the way after the first three runners and Victoria was back in third. Ally Williams was going to have to turn on the jets to bring home a victory. Her face looked tired but her legs did not as she caught Plainville's anchor and finally passes her before the finish line, winning the 1600 relays (4:03.8) and the whole conference meet.

"I still can't believe we won. In that 1600 relay, I just ran as hard as I could and tried to catch the Plainville girl. My legs got tired, especially since I had just run the 400 relay, but I didn't want to let my teammates down, especially the seniors. This is awesome." Williams said.

Victoria won the meet by just 0.5 points. The finals standings are first place Victoria (118.5), second Plainville (118), and third Stockton (114).

What a dramatic way to end head coach Doug Moeckel's coaching career as he has decided to retire after this season. With that last conference title that brings his total up to 17 in just 25 years.

"I did not think we could win the championship. I am so proud of how they didn't seem to let the pressure bother them and they simply performed. This is definitely a team title. Aren't these girls amazing?" said Moeckel.

We will see next season if the Knights will still be the powerhouse of the ENWSC with losing Doug Moeckel but fans have a lot to be excited for with being able to watch Ally Williams and Bonnie Blue run for the next three years.

Headline Writing Champion

Headline Writing – Jacob Gathje, Mount Michael Benedictine, Class B

Article #5:

Headline –

A simple treat turned to something sweet:

Posting on social media platform leads to booming business for new doughnut shop

Article #1:

Headline –

Washing out truancy:

Schools provide laundry facilities to combat student absences.

Article #4:

Headline –

PGA commissioner responds to criticism, again endorses USGA rules

**Newspaper News Writing Champion:
Julia Salerno, Columbus Scotus**

Weidner manages more than known

Julia Salerno

As the city of Norfolk deals with many changes and problems such as expansions and flooding, they do not struggle one bit with making sure that the city is as safe as it can be. With the mayor and city council working together to keep things running smoothly, a lot of responsibility lies in the hands of one man. This man is Public Safety Director, Shane Weidner.

Weidner was appointed by the mayor as the first Public Safety Director for the City of Norfolk, Nebraska after serving over six years as Norfolk city administrator. Weidner is 51 years old and has been working for the City of Norfolk for 29 years. He grew up just outside of Norfolk and is married with two kids and has four grandkids.

Weidner has had a great amount of experience in his past. He had been a police officer and firefighter for the city of Norfolk. He was chief of the Norfolk Fire Department for 15 years. He had also been in the U.S. Army for four years.

“The Army had a major impact on my leadership style,” Weidner said. “It was a great transition into firefighting.”

Being the Public Safety Director has lots of responsibilities. He oversees the city’s fire and police divisions. This is the first time both divisions have come under one banner in Norfolk.

“It is different than just being a police officer or a fire fighter because now I have to deal with the whole pie and everything about each of them,” Weidner said.

There were many differences from his position as fire chief to now city administrator. He no longer got to fight the fires or cruise in the cop cars. Weidner now had lots more responsibility in his position.

“The biggest difference is that now it is not only about one part. I have to be a generalist in all of the city’s movements and departments,” Weidner said.

During his years as city administration, Norfolk dealt with the Elkhorn River flood, a library expansion, the opening of AquaVenture water park, and many more involvements.

Almost one month ago, Norfolk had been affected by the flooding of the Elkhorn River. Thanks to a levee built over 50 years ago, it helped stop most of the water that could have majorly destroyed the city. Almost one-third of the city would have been underwater if it weren’t for the levee.

“There was a breach in the levee because it had reached full capacity. I never thought I would see it at full capacity,” Weidner said. “Overall, I would say that besides the damage on the outskirts of town, we survived pretty well.”

Some of Weidner’s main focuses as Public Safety Director are to keep his employees’ skills sharp and to try and incorporate the use of technology to enhance the performance of teams.

“Not all, but some of the decisions I make on a daily basis could be considered ‘life or death’ and I want to make sure that every decision I make is the right one and is made with confidence that it will be completed successfully by my employees,” Weidner said.

Through his many years of working for the city, Weidner has dealt with many issues and had learned lots from his authoritative position.

“Its not too sexy, but I really love it,” Weidner said. “It’s pretty much been a dream job for me.”

Newspaper Sports Feature Writing Champion: Kendra Paasch, West Point-Beemer

Amanda Schultze, head coach at Northeast Community College, is not only a decorated volleyball coach but also a firm believer that hard-work plays into becoming a talented student-athlete.

Schultze grew up in Wakefield, Nebraska. She attended Central Community College, Morningside College, and Wayne State College while always being a part of the volleyball program whether it be through playing or coaching.

She set multiple records as a setter at Central Community College and helped the Wayne State Wildcats to a 71-22 record in her time assisting there.

She now transfers her knowledge to her current role of being a head coach. The Northeast team record is an impressive 115-98 in Schultze's time coaching. This is attributed to Schultze's recruiting.

Throughout recruiting players for her team, Schultze has found that players who grow up on a farm work harder both on the court and in the classroom. Players who achieve more in the classroom also achieve more on the court.

This past year, the Northeast Community College team had a cumulative GPA (grade point average) of 3.76. This was the highest it has been in years.

In the words of Coach Schultze, "Academics is huge; that's the number one reason they (the players) come to college. We really strive to get good grades in the classroom."

In addition, this was one of the best years for the team on the court. At nationals, the girls took home the 9th place title.

The volleyball team has also participated in a team retreat and leadership training to make important family-like bonds.

On the court, Schultze coaches with a few different aspects in mind.

Schultze states that she always tries to be positive and find the best in players. She doesn't want to tear them down but rather build them up.

Having two girls of her own, she knows how important it is to be positive but yet tough on the players at the same time.

She tells her daughters that it is tough and they will have to put in the time. But at the age of two and five, they don't quite understand the complexity of the sport yet.

Schultze enjoys coaching "old-style" by connecting with the players instead of only their parents. She finds that she connects better to the girls, since she is a younger coach.

"I never promise anyone starting positions because they have to earn it."

Schultze always starts the year a little nervous because she has lost and gained a lot of players. Her hopes are that they are just as good if not better than the year before.

Going into her seventh season at Northeast, she hopes that they can come home from nationals with a place higher than 9th. She knows her team has the potential and is eager for the season to arrive.

Entertainment Review Writing Champion: Mitchell Lierman, West Point-Beemer

The Carol Burnett Show: Masterful performances, appealing messages

The 1960s classic television series *The Carol Burnett Show* was a revered comedy sketch variety show frequently offering wholesome, irreverent takes on the frustrations of daily life for average people. The talent pool offered on a typical viewing was staggeringly brilliant, with stars such as Harvey Korman, Vicki Lawrence, Lyle Waggoner and of course Carol Burnett, the dazzling eponymous actress.

The range of Burnett's talent knows no bounds; she is a master of the physical mode as well as a committed actress capable of making any character believable. This is perhaps best demonstrated in the sketch "Riddles," in which she combines a biting, sarcastic attitude with tremendous facial expression to convey the pure frustration that her character has inflicted on her by Carla's "southern exposure" riddle.

In "Riddles," Burnett provides a masterful performance as her character goes from civil, professional composure to disturbed, hysterical frustration over a riddle she receives from a co-worker over break. The audience could never expect the melt-down she has at the end of the skit from the opening set up as Carla first sits down, which serves as a straight that brings the contrast between the first twenty seconds and the last twenty seconds to the forefront of the mind.

Truly, the audience can only find themselves on Marge's side as the sketch continues, with all sides seemingly conspiring to prevent her from knowing the answer to the riddle. And while in a setting where we witness such an outburst we tend to hold our sympathy aside, in this case we know the context of Marge's outrage. Marge becomes a character for us to project ourselves onto, and in the real world we oftentimes do the very thing that Marge does- if not so drastically- in getting upset at the frustrations that life has to offer. Burnett offers a window into this aspect of humanity that is hilarious, acute, and resonant.

However, one of Burnett's less spoken to talents was her ability to let others be the star. In "A New Leash on Life," Burnett's character, Mrs. Gilberhaven, takes a back seat in the sketch to Mr. Cranston, a man with a huge, unruly dog. The sketch follows three pet owners and their hounds as they undergo obedience training, with two of the owner's able to mostly control their pets while Mr. Cranston is completely controlled by his pet.

This sketch differs from "Riddles" in that nobody- other than the instructor and his aide- ever says a word. But the physical comedy and outstanding pantomiming more than account for the story's lack of dialogue. Props fly around as pantomimed dogs knock them over (and, rather unfortunately for the poor obedience trainer, occasionally relieve their bladders on them to boot).

The costuming also provides a straight contrast with the action- all of the masters are adorned in clothing that could mislead an audience into thinking they were well put together. But when the chaos ensues as the dogs have their day, the incompetence of their owners, and especially Mr. Cranston, is clearly seen.

The commentary of the sketch seems to be that our pets control us more than we them, and that really hits the head of it. As any pet owner can tell you, training an animal is a lot of work, requiring persistent effort or the risk of complete regression. The rewards the characters give their animals function more as a bribe for good behavior than a legitimate condition tool.

This message is another example of *The Carol Burnett Show's* appeal to the average audience. Everyone knows somebody with a pet, and we oftentimes can see exactly the ways in which the pets sometimes become the masters.

The show's range of comedic exercises is unparalleled by any of its contemporaries, and for this reason, it has earned its due. Winning 25 primetime Emmy Awards and frequently finding itself placed on lists of the greatest television shows of all time, with notable examples being *Time* magazine's 100 Best TV shows of all time in 2007 and *TV Guide's* 2013 60 Greatest Shows of all time. Burnett continues to work even in her advanced age; just last year she hosted 12 episodes of Netflix's *A Little Help with Carol Burnett*, a show that brought children together with adults to help the adults handle their problems. Undoubtedly, Burnett has earned her spot in television history among the greats, and certainly she will go down as one of the most influential actresses of the twentieth century.

**Newspaper Column Writing Champion:
Nathan Cantor, Scottsbluff**

When I was nine years old, I understood what a crime was.

A childhood spent reading *Spider-Man* and playing *Grand Theft Auto* meant I was completely aware of what was bad and what was good.

After all, why would Spider-Man beat down a law-abiding citizen?

Crimes were bad things. If I wanted to be a kid Spider-Man would be proud of, I had to make sure I wasn't doing anything bad or taking part in anything bad.

When I was nine years old, I had been in the United States for six years and my brother had been here for five.

My brother did not read American comic books. He felt they were too *gringo*—too disgustingly American for his proud Colombian blood.

My brother understood what a crime was as well.

Rural Missouri was a beautiful place to spend three years of my life. It was peaceful, idyllic, and if I was lucky I would wake up and catch a glimpse of the clouds parting to make way for the sun.

Verona, Missouri was nothing like my family's native Colombia. It was too small.

In a town of 600 people, what was there to do on weekends or outside of class? What could kids and teenagers do for fun?

There was trespassing, of course. It was fun sneaking onto farms and messing with hens as they were roosting.

There were also other prospects.

Verona, Missouri was roughly 30 minutes away from Springfield, Missouri. Unlike Verona, Springfield had 250,000 people in its limits.

With that many people, surely *someone* knew how to cut loose and have a little bit of fun.

My brother took advantage of that. His friends would ride in to Springfield on the weekends and gallivant around the city.

“We’re going to Cartoons,” my brother would tell me. “Don’t tell mom it’s a bar, okay?”

“We’re headed to the club,” my brother would tell me. “If you don’t tell mom, I’ll buy you a GameBoy game, okay?”

Eventually, my curiosity got the best of me. While I was stuck at home on meandering playdates and walks in the countryside, my brother was having the time of his life with his friends.

I begged them to let me join in. “I’ll be good, I promise!” I squeaked to him one day, tears streaming down my face.

But my brother wasn’t an idiot. He knew if I joined him and his pals I’d be telling our mother everything.

Finally, he cracked.

“Fine, you can come, but don’t tell mom anything that happens or I’ll beat you up.” I was elated to finally get the chance to roll with the big boys.

The night was fairly uneventful. My brother drove me to his friend Angel's house, in Springfield, where we played *Mortal Kombat* and watched *Child's Play*. It was remarkably grown-up and mature.

Just as we were leaving, Angel motioned for my brother to come back to his room. I tagged along, only for my brother to tell me to wait at the car.

A smell came from under the door. It reeked like burning plastic.

My brother came from behind the door, a lazy smile on his face. Angel was close behind, the same dopey grin plastered across his.

"Let's go home. Angel will drive," my brother informed me.

I knew enough about drugs thanks to the DARE program visiting Verona for a week. I knew something wasn't quite right. I just couldn't place it.

Angel dropped me and my brother off at home. We thanked him and he sped off towards his house.

We went to sleep, my brother urging me to keep everything under wraps from our mother. I nodded and obeyed.

The next day, Angel wasn't at school.

As it turned out, Angel wouldn't ever be at school again. Barreling down a dirt road at 90 mph in a rickety Dodge with no seatbelt does that to people.

My brother told me when I was older that he didn't want to go to the funeral because he couldn't stand to face Angel again.

I felt a sense of responsibility for what happened. After all, I was present when Angel and my brother did what they wanted to.

I could have easily informed Angel's parents or his brother—I could have easily done something myself in order to save his life... but I didn't. I wanted to be cool.

If I had any guts, I would have done what was right. Would my brother be angry? Of course, but it would have saved Angel's life.

Whenever people in television witness crimes and do nothing to stop them, it hurts my heart because it reminds me of myself. At least I had the excuse of being nine years old.

We are all humans. We all deserve help whenever its necessary.

When people refuse to help even if they have the ability to, it means they're nothing but accomplices to the crime at hand. They are lower than pond scum, lower than the salt in the earth.

I quit reading *Spider-Man* after I turned 10.

(402)140-4444

OK

FAMILY OWNED FOR 30 YEARS

CARS

642 Main Street
Open M-Sat. 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER!

WIN A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP!

**TEST DRIVE BY MAY 30 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
OR
BUY BEFORE MAY 30 FOR 10 CHANCES TO WIN**

Advertising Champion:
Sierra Kile, West Point-Beemer



FINANCING AVAILABLE

100+ NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS

2019
Class C
State
Journalism
Champions



**Editorial Writing Champion:
Bianca Diaz, Doniphan-Trumbull**

Cupcake High School has decided to implement a no tolerance, drug-testing policy. There are pros and cons to this, but overall, I support the school's decision and believe that all schools should follow suit. Drugs and alcohol lead to lifelong addictions, emotional turmoil, physical or internal diseases, and even death. The policy that Cupcake High School has enacted is a great start that could help get rid of these terrible habits.

"Administration has approved the use of randomized drug testing as a deterrent to the use of drugs and alcohol. This policy is designed to be preventative in nature and is intended to help any student having problems with alcohol or drugs," the policy reads.

This no tolerance policy is being established not to punish the students for doing drugs or alcohol, but to instead aid them in recognizing the problem that they have and how to combat it healthily. The randomization of the drug test also helps to ensure that no students are being selected based on rumors or a teacher's input. The school does not want to call out the teenagers who may or may not be using illegal substances.

"The overall goal of this policy is to promote a safe, drug-free environment, not to serve as a witch hunt or a way to legally profile our students," states Cupcake High School Principal John Kim.

As with any new policy, there is backlash. The school can never please every single person in the community, but they try. Some students and parents claim that this takes away the freedom of choice outside of school, while others are concerned about how this will affect athletic or academic events.

"I don't think the school realizes the impact this can have on certain sporting programs. What is going to happen to the teams if too many students can't play because of the so-called randomized drug testing?" questions senior parent Damon Baumert.

I do agree that the policy should highlight the consequences if an individual fails the drug test, such as required community service or drug and alcohol classes. Ultimately it is on the student if he or she does not test positive, and most, if not all, NSAA programs require that students be drug and alcohol free in order to compete. Teachers, coaches, and other staff of Cupcake High School seem to be on board for the new policy because they want to ensure that their students are going to receive the best education possible.

“Anything that the school can do to discourage drug and alcohol use and promote a healthy environment is a good idea,” says freshman English teacher Will Williams.

Despite all of the commotion surrounding this new development at Cupcake High School, the action will still take place. Principal Kim believes that this will encourage students to learn and grow, while also helping to shed a light on the problems that come with consistent drug and alcohol usage. I support this decision wholeheartedly and hope that my fellow classmates can see the good in this policy as well.

Editorial by: Bianca Diaz

Yearbook Sports Feature Writing Champion: Breanna Muff, Dorchester

The bright lights shine overhead and sweat drips down your face. The smell of freshly cut grass and leather from the gloves mended to the shape of your hand is unmistakable. One strong follow-through swing with the aluminum bat is all it will take to win the game.

The Cornhusker High School softball team had a very eventful season. The team of 14 broke the state record for consecutive wins by winning 51 straight games, beating the previously set record of 50 games set by Class D Prairie High School from 2003-2005. “I can’t believe we won 51 games in a row,” said senior pitcher Holly Rowe. The Cornhusker softball team won the 2017 and 2018 NSAA Class J State Championships, and appeared in the last 27 state championship game. “I’m so proud of the girls. Their commitment to each other and their competitive drive made this season so very special,” said Head Coach of 15 years Susie Baker.

Coach Susie Baker encouraged the girls to do their best on the field. “Our main goal all season was to win back-to-back state championships and we were not focused on the streak,” said senior center fielder Graci Kolber. “Coach told us all season to trust our teammates and to remember to smile, have fun, and enjoy it.”

Many of the girls did not know about being so close to breaking a state record until they broke it. “I didn’t tell the girls we were closing in on the state record, we were so focused on this season and winning the state tournament,” said coach Susie Baker. The girls worked hard by winning every game they could, but had fun too. “I’ve been having so much fun playing and being with my teammates, I didn’t even realize we had won that many games in a row,” said sophomore catcher Rya Rascall.

After the state record was set, the girls got recognition for their outstanding performances and leadership skills on the field. “They worked really hard to represent the core values of the Cornhusker High School community, and they finished the season as true winners,” said Athletic Director Jerry Ryan.

Although many of the core players for the team are leaving, as it is their last year attending Cornhusker High School, their spirits, hopes, and beliefs for next season are held high. “I’m sad that I will not be part of the team next year, but my hope is that they will keep going,” said center fielder Graci Kolber.

As the lights are turned down and the parking lot empties after a hard day of play, one thing is for sure; the girls are ready to capture another state championship. “I can’t wait for next season,” said catcher Rya Rascall.

Headline Writing Champion

Headline Writing – Cade Sterner, Doniphan-Trumbull, Class C

Article #1:

Headline –

Washing away Bad Attendance

Sub headline- Schools Offer Free Laundry Services to Low Income Students

Article #6:

Headline –

Musicians Tuning In for Online Lessons

People Use Online Resources To Learn How To Play Instruments

People With No Time For Personal Teachers Can Now Use Apps

Article #5:

Headline –

Twitter Users Go Nuts For Donut Shop

New Donut Shop Overwhelmed With Support After A Tweet

**Entertainment Review Writing Champion:
Christian Dames, Scribner-Snyder**

An escape through comedy

Beginning in 1967 on CBS, *The Carol Burnett Show* has been a staple of American television. Winning 25 primetime Emmy Awards and listed in various magazines as one of the best shows on television, *The Carol Burnett Show* offers an escape from the burdens of everyday life through the witty and oftentimes whimsical nature of the sketches.

In the sketch “A New Leash on Life”, three characters bring their dogs of varying sizes to the “K-9 Obedience School”. Only narrated by the unseen instructor, the actors are forced to remain silent for this sketch as they interact with each other and their invisible canines.

“A New Leash on Life” completely adheres to the actions of its actors, which may just be the reason it works. The actors completely embody their roles, proving that physical comedy can be just as entertaining as spoken comedy. The actions the actors make to showcase each of their dog’s unique personalities and sizes is phenomenal and well-acted. Equally as phenomenal is the actors’ interactions with each other. Their reactions and facial expressions sell the humor and allows it to make its mark.

Although it is a mute sketch that does not mean “A New Leash on Life” has nothing important to say. The symbolisms are present and are used to great effect, allowing the sketch to truly represent a deeper meaning of thought and enhances the comedy further by proving a point.

There is a notion to be made that the rich woman with a palm-sized dog can represent the seemingly comfortable, privileged life often associated with the rich as the small dog literally represents a life that can be handed off. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the seemingly dim-witted man with the giant dog may represent the larger than life aspirations people struggle to properly control. However, with the giant dog and the man quite literally breaking down walls in

the face of naysayers, the sketch provides the message that anyone can accomplish their dreams. The average-joe character with the regular sized dog represents the happy medium, providing the perspective that it is alright to be cautious, but it is important to remember not to grow too comfortable with our lives. Through each of these characters, the sketch works to break down societal stigmas, which only helps flesh out the comedy in an effort to make a point.

While “A New Leash on Life” showcases what well written, physical humor looks like, “Riddles” displays what spoken comedy is capable of. The sketch presents a simple concept of two women sharing a riddle they do not know the answer to and then they are joined by a gentleman who is proficient in riddles.

What “Riddles” does exceptionally is its use of witty dialogue and developed character interactions that showcases a situation everyone has found themselves in at one point. The slapstick humor takes off from the moment the first riddle is recited and it does not skip a beat throughout the sketch. The pacing in this sketch is superb as the comedy fails to drag once it begins.

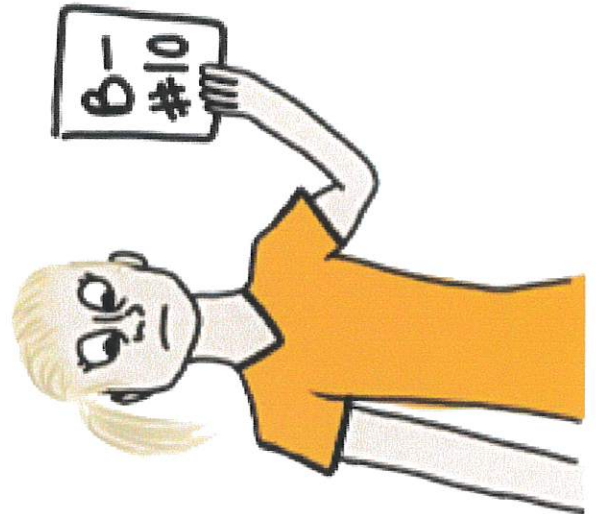
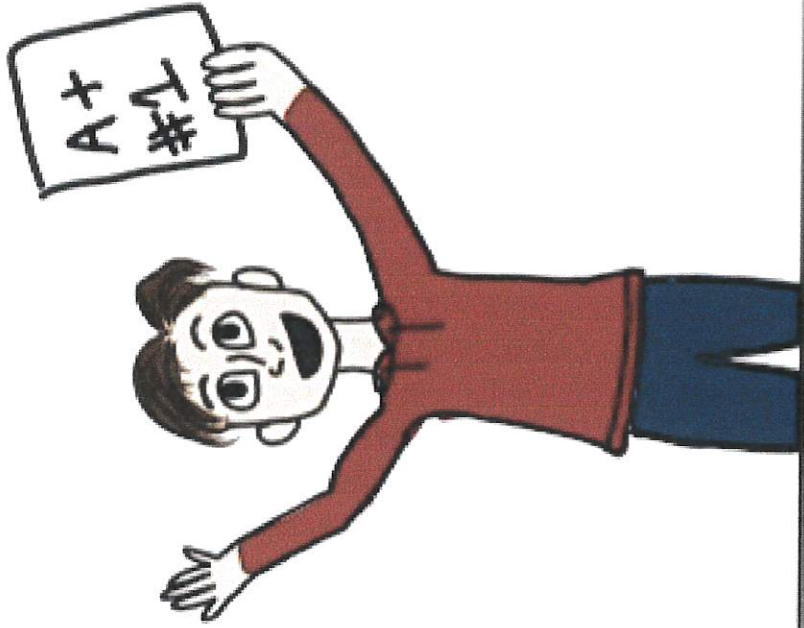
While the witty dialogue is entertaining, it is only solidified by the actors’ performance. Each character is fully realized in the six minute scene and audiences can truly feel the frustrations Marge has when her two companions figure out the answer. It is a situation that is relatable to viewers and “Riddles” capitalizes on that.

Even though “Riddles” may not have a truly deep and underlying meaning beneath it in the same way “A New Leash on Life”, that does not make the humor any less effective. While “A New Leash on Life” presents an instance where comedy can address societal issues to mass effect, “Riddles” presents an instance where comedy is simply there to alleviate the struggles of

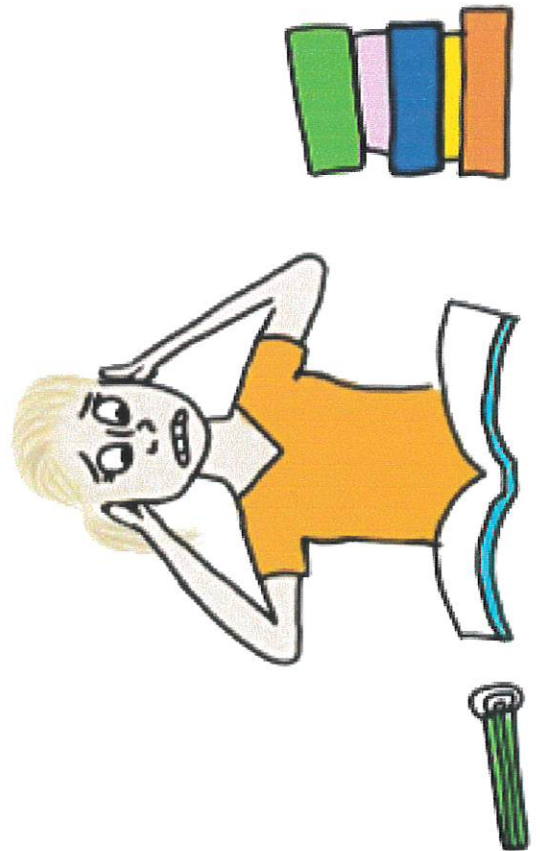
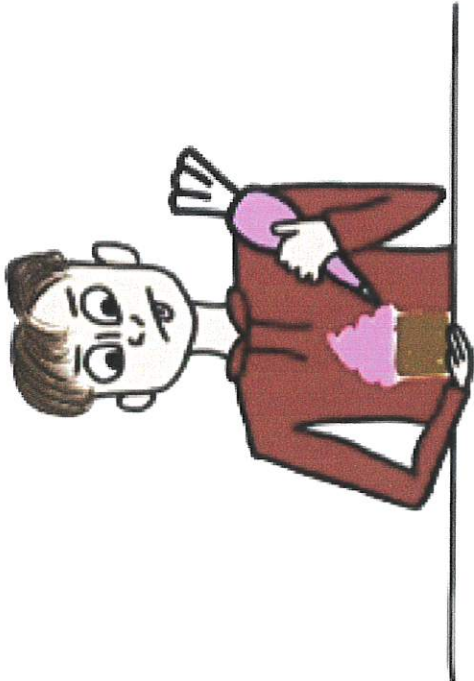
life. It is a balance that both sitcoms and variety shows work tirelessly to achieve and these two sketches prove that *The Carol Burnett Show* has perfected it.

Together, these two sketches work strongly together. With the physically oriented comedy in “A New Leash on Life” offering subtle representations of society and “Riddles” simply leaving viewers with a good time and slapstick dialogue, both sketches showcase two distinct sides of comedy and concurrently prove why *The Carol Burnett Show* is a beloved chapter of television that it will stand the test of time.

Editorial Cartooning Champion:
Kinzee Derr, Harvard



Kinzee Derr



Advertising Champion:
Elissa Dames, Scribner-Snyder

TEST DRIVE BEFORE MAY 30TH FOR
A CHANCE TO WIN A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP!

OKCars

NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS!
AFFORDABLE FINANCING!

642 MAIN ST.
402-140-4444
OPEN M-SAT 9AM-6PM



Newspaper Column Writing Champion: Emily Fisher, Yutan

We all knew of the bully on the playground while growing up. Maybe you were the one being bullied, or maybe you actually were the bully. But what's worse than being either of these is identifying as the bystander.

A bystander is typically known for being a witness to trouble. They are capable of doing two things: standing by and watching or doing something to help. However, a decent human being would definitely try to intervene.

Proven in many studies, it's only human instinct to help one another. That's why a mother can lift a car in order to save a child. We are full of emotion, sympathy and empathy for a reason. So when a child sees a classmate pushed down by the monkey bars, their first instinct will be to go help them.

And maybe the kid who pushed their friend down is a big, scary fourth grader. "He'll push me next." But having an "I can't do it" attitude is just selfish.

Though it seems scary to stand up to someone bigger and stronger than you, you can't deny the fact that you wanted to do something. You wanted to help, but you were just too scared. And we've all been there; we're all afraid. But eventually, the cycle has to stop.

It just takes someone brave to step up. And it's our responsibility as human beings with human instincts to be brave for the ones weaker than us, to help the ones who need it most.

Being brave can be tough, possibly one of the toughest things for humans to do. It's easy to just put your head down and pretend that you didn't see anything, but think about your mother. Would she be proud of you? And your father. Didn't he teach you to be the good in this messy world we call our community?

Sometimes, you just have to hold your breath and dive in. Call them out. Intervene. Stand up for the kid at the monkey bars. Facing your fears and being brave would start an avalanche as others start to dive in after you. You can't be afraid of getting hurt when there are others already hurting. And let's face it, nothing would feel better than knowing that it all started with you.

Humans learn by example. You can't expect a kid to learn how to tie their shoes just by telling them to. You have to show them over and over again. Standing up to the bully goes the same way. It will open the door for all other bystanders who witnessed you doing the right thing.

Witnessing trouble is inevitable. Trouble crawls through our society every single day and right under our own noses. But starting with the bystanders, we can draw out this trouble and put an end to it for good.

Column by Emily Fisher

Newspaper News Writing Champion: Heidi Krajicek, Yutan

Going from the U.S. Army to Public Safety Director of the City of Norfolk, Nebraska, can be a bit of a change from how you look at it. However, from Shane Weidner perspective it was an easy change to go through. Weidner was appointed as Norfolk's first public safety director.

Weidner is a 51 years old with a wife, two kids and four grandchildren. He served more than six years as the Norfolk city administrator after being in the U.S. Army for four years.

According to Weidner, the transition from the Army to the Public Safety Director was a long transition, but it was not a very hard one for him to make.

"It wasn't very different because both jobs were similar in aspects," Weidner said. "I wanted something similar moving forward in a new job."

Weidner says he has always been into public safety.

"It has always been a perfect fit for who I am and it has been a natural progression for me," Weidner stated.

Weidner said that his favorite part about his job is the problem solving and being able to make a connection with the community.

"We get to interact with people and help solve their problems," Weidner said.

The fire and police department always had a connection, but Weidner wanted to make that connection larger.

“Since I was in the fire department, I already had a connection with them,” Weidner stated. “It took time to fully understand the police department and achieve a greater connection.”

Weidner is still trying to connect the two departments even more so when trouble comes they have an easier chance of working together to solve the problem.

The floods caused a great amount of stress on Weidner and the community. It was a situation that the community wasn't used to dealing with. Weidner stated that it was the most difficult and largest event he has dealt with while he has been Public Safety Director.

There was a lot of concern throughout the entire town about if the levee would hold up. The water reached farther than it had in the 1960's, when the last major flood happened.

According to Weidner, the fire department had rescued 32 civilians by boat, truck and helicopter. However, one man did drown because the fire department could not reach him because of the intense water current speeds.

“With the floods, you take all of that to heart when you can't help someone,” Weidner said.

Weidner stated that about a third of the town had to evacuate the day the water levels were rising.

“This job may seem like the situations sound like simple things, but they are not simple things.”

Coach Shultze Continues to Push the Boundaries of Excellence

By Jenna Ebbers

Amanda Schultze has never known a life away from the volleyball court. Starting at a very young age, her passion for the sport has never faltered. Years after picking up her first volleyball, she is looking forward her seventh season as head coach at Northeast Community College.

Schultze is originally from Wakefield, Nebraska and has remained somewhat close to the area her whole life. After a notable high school career, she continued on to play for Central Community College in Columbus. There, she conquered the school record for both the most season and career assists along with earning Academic and Athletic All-American Honors. Once she graduated from CCC with her Associates degree, she moved to Sioux City, Iowa and played for Morningside College. As a Mustang, she switched positions from setter to libero and helped lead her team to NAIA National Tournament twice. After the completion of her Masters from Wayne State, Schultze became an assistant coach for WSC and helped coach the team to three straight NCAA Regional tournaments and maintain a winning record.

Last year, Schultze was named the District 'C' Coach of the year for her outstanding season as a coach and for having a vast amount of honorable players, athletically and academically. The Hawks also completed the 2018 season with a ninth place finish at the national tournament, Region XI-B Champions, and holding a winning record of 21-15. Heading into the upcoming season, expectations remain high for the Lady Hawks.

As a role model and mentor for young women, Schultze strives to set good examples and influence her players to be the best versions of themselves. Good core values are just one of the

aspects to team members that she looks for. To her, the most important character traits are determination and drive. The key to success on the volleyball court is working harder than the competition and simply having more heart. She constantly reminds her players that being part of the team will be tough and that success won't come easy, it's going to take a lot of time and effort.

Not only does Schultze preach hard work, but she has to show her players the importance of team work, playing selflessly, and lifting each other up. She believes that each girl on the court is as important as the next one.

"I teach the girls to be each others biggest fans," she said.

However, volleyball isn't the only thing that's on her players' minds. The most important piece of coaching student-athletes to Schultze is ensuring that grades and academics are a top priority. Even with Regional titles and National appearances under her belt, Schultze still says that her greatest accomplishment as head coach was when her team was honored for excellence in academics.

"Academics are huge for my team. There are a lot of life lessons that come from being on a volleyball team, but academics come first," Schultze said.

As she continues through life, she holds two things closest to her heart: her family and God. Faith has pushed her over obstacles and continues to guide her life. Outside of the gym, Schultze is a proud mother of two young girls. It's easy to say that she is raising her daughters with the same mentality that she preaches to her players.

Every season brings new possibilities for her and her team. As a new year begins, nerves from the pressure to be as good as the previous year arises. Thus far, under the direction of

Schultze, the Hawks have proceeded to get better year after year and finish at Nationals with a higher rank.

Looking to her future, volleyball will continue to remain an important aspect of her life.

“I just really love the sport and it doesn’t feel like work ever. It’s always fun and I love doing it,” Schultze said.

Victoria High girls overcame adversity

Wins their seventh straight ENWSC meet

On Saturday, May 5th, the Victoria High School girls' track team competed in the East-North-West-South (ENWSC) Conference track meet. The weather was not pleasant but the girls didn't let that affect them. It was 54 degrees outside and wet with some drizzle and light winds making it not the best conditions for a track meet.

Unfortunately, the weather caused some injuries for the two primary scorers for Victoria High. Seniors, Shelby Schister and Betty Bonker both suffered injuries that took them out of competition for the rest of meet.

Senior, Shelby Schister sadly uttered, "When I got hurt, and then Betty got hurt, I started crying because I thought there was no way we could win the championship and that's one of our major goals."

Not only did Victoria lose their two primary scorers, but also lost two runners on both the 400 and 1600 meter relay. This left Victoria's head coach in a stump. He knew that the team scoring was a very close race and that the deciding factor would most likely come down to the final two races: the 400-meter relay and the 1600-meter relay.

"Those two freshman [Ally Williams and Bonnie Blue] had not run in a varsity meet before and I didn't know how they would respond. I am so proud of how they didn't seem to let the pressure bother them and they simply performed," head track coach, Doug Moeckel stated.

Before entering the final two races of the meet, the Plainville Pirates were in the lead with a total of 104 points, second place was the Stockton Shamrocks with 100 points, and in third was Victoria with 98.5 points.

Steve Lampley, Plainville's head coach said, "After the two Victoria girls went down, I was optimistic about my team's chances of winning."

The two freshmen embraced their role in the 400-meter relay and stepped up big time for the Lady Knights. They crossed the finish line first with a time of 50.8 seconds and scoring 10 points for the team. Stockton came in second and Plainville received third place.

Victoria sprinter coach, Chris Fontaine thrilled, stated, "Since the two freshman hadn't worked handoffs very often with the other girls, we practiced quite a few during the 800 and 1600 meter runs. It's nice to have a couple of substitutes like Ally and Bonnie. They're pretty fast."

Now the team scores were Stockton in third, 108 points even; Victoria in second, 108.5 points; and Plainville still leading the way with 110 points. The final team standings came down to the final race of the day, the brutal 1600-meter relay.

Again, Williams and Blue had to replace Schister and Bonker in this relay. When the baton was handed off to the fourth and final runner, the order was Stockton, Plainville, and then Victoria. But, Ally Williams really stepped up for the Lady Knights and led her team to a victory in the 1600-meter relay.

"In that 1600 relay, I just ran as hard as I could and tried to catch the Plainville girl. My legs got tired, especially since I had just run the 400 relay, but I

didn't want to let my teammates down, especially the seniors," Williams said still trying to catch her breath.

The victory of the 1600 meter relay bumped Victoria up to first place winning the meet for the seventh year in a row. The final results of the team scores were very close. In fact, the final team scores were Victoria with 118.5, Plainville in second with 118 points, and Stockton, in third, with 114 points.

Lampley said, "Victoria proved again why they have been so dominant in our conference for so many years. Their program is so deep with talent."

The Lady Knights reached their desired goal of becoming conference champions once again. A perfect memory for head track coach, Doug Moeckel, to remember for years and years to come. He has decided that this will be his final season of coaching. Moeckel plans to retire after this season. He's been the Knight's coach for 25 years and has won 17 conference titles.

"This title is definitely a team title. The rain and cool temperatures made for a difficult day and the girls struggled to stay dry and warm. I'll always remember my last EWNCS championship for the way we won it. Aren't these girls amazing?" Moeckel stated with excitement.

Newspaper Feature Writing Champion: Taylor Arensberg, Yutan

Someone without a drivers license is probably the last person you would think is pursuing their dream of becoming a NASCAR driver, but Julie Jorgensen is defying the odds and following her dreams despite what others have to say.

Jorgensen was recently notified that she won a spot at NASCAR's legendary training camp. The camp lasts for three days in Daytona Beach, Fla., and focuses on preparing drivers to make the jump from amateur to professional racing.

The camp directors tend to lean more toward male drivers who have some type of professional experience. So Jorgensen was thrilled when she received her acceptance letter into the camp. "I had to read it twice to make sure it was true," Jorgensen said. "This camp is the opportunity of a lifetime for me."

Since she was 6, Julie has dreamed of becoming a NASCAR driver.

"When I was just 4 years old, my dad and I watched old Speed Racer cartoons," Jorgensen said. "Soon, I was asking for cars instead of Barbies, and my love for racing developed."

She began competitive races when she only was 10.

"Lucky for me, my family was supportive," Jorgensen said. "My mom found me a great car and began searching for races where I could compete, and the rest is history."

And even though Jorgensen might excel on the racetrack, her mother Missy admits that she lacks talent in the streets. "Julie really isn't a very good street driver," said Missy. "It wouldn't surprise me if she doesn't pass her test."

However, even without a legal license, Jorgensen has still managed to accumulate quite the impressive resume in her short time of racing.

In the past year, Julie has won three amateur races in Missouri. Julie was featured in the February issue of *Race*, a national magazine focusing on auto racing. The magazine named her the "Best Up and Coming Young Driver in the Nation." And she will be the first female and youngest participant the NASCAR training camp has ever had, the average age of drivers being 23.

Jorgensen's mother also explained how some friends and family members were unsupportive of her dream. "I catch flack from people sometimes because they think I am allowing her to participate in some dangerous sport," said Missy. "But it's no more dangerous than dangerous than playing football."

Jorgensen also explained how she wants to continue opening the field to women and show people that you can do whatever you set your mind to. "People as me all the time why a girl would want to race cars," Jorgensen said. "I say, why not?"

Jorgensen's small but mighty attitude is what's helped her stand out against her competitors and her doubters.

"Luckily, Julie doesn't listen to others," Missy said. "She listens to her heart."

**Yearbook Theme Copy Writing Champion:
Taylor Arensberg, Yutan**

OPENING

Walking into your first day of high school, there are many nerves and so many scary thoughts running through your head. *Will my classes be hard? Will I make friends? Will I find a date to the dance?* High school is 4 years full of happiness, stress, hopes and dreams. It's the start of a very exciting yet stressful chapter of your life. But it's not a story that is controlled by others; it's a story that you get to write. You get to decide what you will accomplish. You get to decide what you want to participate in. You get to decide what will make you a proud student at Far Away High. You get to decide what will make you GLAD YOU WERE HERE. Most outsiders won't even take a second glance at the rusty old sign that has "Far Away High" painted on the front. But to you, that's your home. It's a part of your story whether you like it or not. Your story will be great one to tell. It will make you GLAD YOU WERE HERE.

ATHLETICS

If our school is sure of anything about this year, the Tomorrow ton Rebels made a mark on the field, court, and in our hearts. There were so many moments that made this year stand out as one of the bests. Stealing the Football State Championship away from Emporia High Destroyers, and rushing onto the field after the victory was a moment that our school will never forget. Bobby Branson becoming the first male cheerleader on our squad was a historic moment for the red, white, and yellow. Maddie Burke beating the schools record for long jump was another proud moment for Tomorrowton. Scott Frost speaking on perseverance to our student body after the end of the baseball teams win streak brought us closer together than ever. Win or Lose, the Rebels were a team. All the victories our teams experienced made them proud to be a part of Far Away High. It makes you GLAD YOU WERE HERE.

CLOSING

High School is coming to a close faster than you would like and there's nothing you can do to stop it. The mental list of lasts in your head is almost all filled with checkmarks by now. The last Back to School Car Bash. Check. The last Homecoming. Check. The last Class competitions. Check. The last Prom Royalty. Check. The last Marching Band Competitions. Check. All the things you took for granted will soon be nothing but a ghostly memory come May 17. No more making fun of Mr. Solo's ties everyday. No more skipping lunch to drive to Shelly's Diner down the road. Far Away High has given us friends and memories that we will keep for the rest of our lives. So when you walk down the halls full of red, white, and yellow for the last time, and out the heavy brown doors, you'll look back at what was your home for four years and be GLAD YOU WERE HERE.

**Yearbook Feature Writing Champion:
Teagan Jacobs, Yutan**

Change can be hard. It can come in all shapes and sizes and can affect all people differently. But during change, it is good to hang on to the people around you to help you through it.

Seniors at Far Away High have witnessed a lot of change. All of the change started to erupt ten years ago when five smaller schools came together and formed one bigger school, Far Away High. During all this change the students have grasped to familiar faces for comfort.

“My favorite part of Far Away High is the people here,” senior Laya Orgona said. “Most of us have been here since day one so we all know each other pretty well.”

Although not all students have attended Far Away since day one, they still fit in like every other student.

“Even the students that came later and have been here for nine years, four years, or even one year, feel like they have been a part of our class since day one,” Orgona said. “We aren’t a tiny school, but we aren’t huge either, so we all get along well and can respect each other without a problem.”

Since the students all get along well, they say it has been easier for them to adapt to change. There are three major changes at Far Away High. The first change is having the elementary, middle, and high school all in the same town, Tomorrowton. The second change is in enrollment, which has grown to a total of 1,000 students 9-12. Along with all those students the school has added, there have been 13 new teachers added to help lower the number of students in each class.

“The biggest change I noticed in my time here would have to be the number of students here,” Orgona said. “The class sizes have slowly started to get larger and the ratio for teachers to students has started to change, and one-on-one interaction with students has begun to down a little, but not a ton.”

Through all this change, some things have stayed the same.

“Three things I have noticed to stay consistent in the ten years of Far Away High’s existence would have to be the Back to School Car Bash, that’s always exciting. Second, the colors, even though the mascot changed, that’s an obvious one,” Orgona said. “And third, Mystery Meat Monday.”

Although change can be hard, Orgona didn’t let this affect her high school experience.

“I would say I loved being here for all ten years and seeing where we have come with everything in these ten years,” Orgona said.