



2015

NSAA CLASS A

JOURNALISM

CHAMPIONSHIP

Learning?

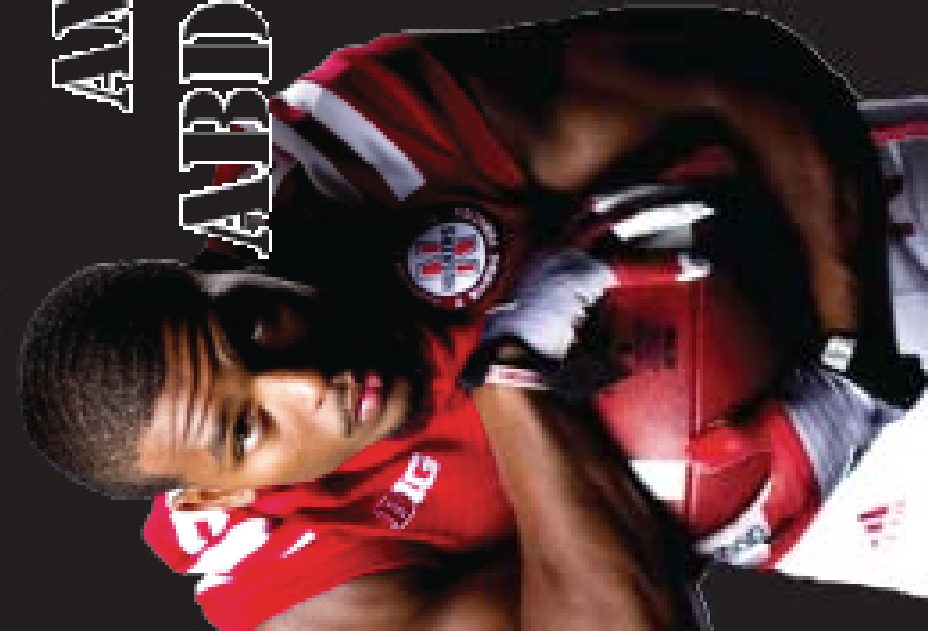


Diane Naughton

Editorial Cartooning
Diane Naughton, Fremont

MEET AND GREET NEBRASKA RUNNING BACK

AMMER ABDULLAH



Friday, July 9th
2-6 PM
Memorial
Stadium
One Stadium
Drive, Lincoln,
NE. 68588

Advertising
Jasmin Jimenez, Omaha Bryan

The Not-So Breakfast Club

In the 1980's the innovational film, The Breakfast Club, came out and stunned people everywhere and continues to stun me as well.

One of my most favorite scenes consists of the teens eating their lunch. Seems pretty mundane at first, but it holds a lot of truth concerning teen eating habits.

While Bender critiques Claire's lunch of sushi, Andy Clark unloads his grocery bag and Brian Johnson makes a face at his lunch, which looks like it was made for a first grader.

But behind Johnson, the basket case, otherwise known as Alison dissects her own lunch.

She peels the unnaturally round, slimy, sticky bologna out from in between the Wonder bread and replaces it with about three sugar sticks and a handful of Cap'n Crunch.

I myself have tried this concoction, and let me just say, it's not as bad as it sounds. However, I did warrant an array of odd expressions at my lunch table.

I don't consider myself a basket case, but I did show the basic signs especially where Ally Seedy is concerned.

However, I do think my motivation to try new things (including food) is completely and utterly positive. As opposed to the everyday: "there's-nothing-in-the-cafeteria-so-I'm-having-the-leftover-pizza-they-served-yesterday" outlook.

Frankly, a one-time sugar sandwich has got to hold more nutritional value than a greasy day-old pizza where the cheese slides off with the first bite.

I'm pretty sure Michelle Obama wouldn't like the look of that.

Yes, I realize the crust may consist of whole grains and a bunch of other stuff to scare kindergarteners off, but the pepperoni-shaped oil bowls have got to cancel out the "good stuff."

And, they probably wouldn't even stick if I threw them at the wall like Sheedy's bologna. So along with a completely non-nutritional lunch, it also has no fun aspects whatsoever.

But the most interesting part of all: most teen boys continue to eat it.

Taking a bite of those food experiments would take off at least twenty years of my life... I think jumping in front of a bus would accomplish the same thing. And honestly it would be less painful than watching teen obesity rates continue to grow and people asking the same question of how to stop it.

The answer literally sits right in front of our noses. On our plates. Scooped so fast, a good, hard look at it is almost impossible.

"Growing children" of the world need a variety. They need the sushi, the soup AND the Cap'n Crunch, but only on occasion.

Yes, I admit, I have had the sporadic turkey bacon, dipped in Nutella and downed with orange juice. But what else am I supposed to do? Go against the norm? Impossible.

I suppose I could eat more like the teen girls now-a-days. Or, I stand corrected, not eat more like teen girls.

I hear an endless,

"*I'm not hungry.*"

"*I had a big breakfast.*"

"*I have a stomach thing.*"

If there's a way to have a time-release breakfast that refills up my stomach when lunch comes around, sign me up. Maybe then I wouldn't have to deal with growling stomachs interrupting my math tests.

I hate to break it to the other girls of the world, but skipping lunch and then bingeing when arriving at home does not help to fit in the new super-skin-tight-skinny jeans.

In most cases, I would not recommend following in the Breakfast Club's footsteps, considering the movie takes place during Saturday school, but in one way, they provide good role models for the public.

Eat what's good, and eat what's good for you.

If the princess, the criminal, the brain, the jock and the basket case all do it, I don't see who wouldn't fit in with this timeless advice.

Column Writing
Kassidy Arena, Millard West

When I was four years old, my daycare left me out on the playground for three hours because they "forgot me". When my mom came to pick me up that day, and I was still sticking gravel up my nose outside, the daycare assistants acted as though this sort of thing happened "all of the time" (not the gravel thing, that was one time) and that my mom really should let go of Ms. Peterson's neck. Nevertheless, my mom is not a violent woman. But, when it comes to major achievements, major failures, or major bleeding from my sinus; my mom is there.

This year, I want my mom to see me soar across the stage like the shining bundle of stardust that she has raised me to be because I have worked hard this year. Let me, if you will, list a few of my stellar qualifications, if by chance they will not be cheered loudly over the speakers in May in front of thousands of fans.

I wake up at 6:00 am every day to come to Husker High School, say hello to my teacher that holds eye contact with me for at least 3 seconds in the hallway, and by 3 pm I am wiping beads of sweat off of my forehead from a hard day of academic integrity. I have a 5.0 GPA, I do not do Mary like those hooligans at the ceremony last year, I work charity events every weekend to raise money for the school, and I'll be darned if my mom isn't going to see me walk across the stage with 200 other students to get a clap on the back and a certificate for it.

It pains me that my teachers do not agree with me and I call on them to open their hearts and remember that chocolate bahka I brought to the parent-teacher association meeting last month. Sure, this deed will be done solely for a monetary reward, but the joy of seeing hundreds of parents blush at their successful parenting and thank their children's teachers for the hard they've had in it is what being a teacher is all about. Plus, in case this MAJOR detail was overlooked, having hundreds of helicopter parents together in the same room watching their adolescent's every move means 10x times less work for each and every teacher. It all makes sense.

My dearest readers, I know that you share this dream of mine. Please, send a bahka (not chocolate, those mean apparently nothing) to each and every teacher that belongs at the ceremonies. One bahka, a fruit bahka maybe, is the single match to light the bonfire of change; sweet, gratifying, parent-supervised change. See you May 9th, 7 pm Husker High School.

When I first began watching student Paul Cline's speech, I was honestly a bit skeptical. Was this going to be yet another social justice rant? As if I hadn't seen a million of those before, I braced myself for the reverberation of every other controversial speech I had seen, only to be pleasantly surprised when Cline humorously transitioned from a vague introduction into his ironically hard-to-admit confession—he is Italian. The change in pace piqued my interest, but it was his vibrant, loud, and engaging tone throughout the dialogue that truly kept my attention.

Cline, clearly an experienced public speaker, seamlessly integrated humor and sarcasm in a well-performed critique on Italian stereotypes. Self-proclaimed heir to the "luddest, hungriest, yet greatest culture known to man," Cline debunked several myths about what Italians are like by presenting a how-to guide on becoming an Italian. Get a tan, gain 50 pounds, terrify people, talk with your hands, grow a mustache, but never condescend to the ludicrous Italianism that is Jersey Shore. Pastafarianism is also an acceptable religion, as Italians evidently cannot get enough pasta. Of course, the tell-tale signs of a true Italian include being chubbily, family-oriented, insane, and always outspoken.

Throughout the speech, which was very organized despite Cline's swift transitions from topic to topic, there was never a dull moment in which I lost focus. His use of amusing visual aids (I seem to recall a picture of Snooki, which he later replaced with a headshot of himself) kept the audience engaged and laughing. Although at times his flamboyance in dialogue was almost so comical that it became clear that his purpose was much deeper than it may seem on the surface. Concluding his speech by telling the audience they "became one with our culture as you became an Italian yourself," Cline brought light to his observation that stereotypes are very evident in his culture, and by making fun of them, hoped to demonstrate how outlandish they can be.

Cline, a seasoned high school speaker, displayed his talents in this engaging take on heritage-based stereotypes. While oftentimes social justice speeches can become repetitive and difficult to pay attention to, Cline's use of humor and satire made the dialogue well worth listening to. I hope not to perpetuate one of his stereotypes by giving his speech two very vibrant and enthusiastic thumbs up.

Entertainment Writing
Desiree Wilson, Bellevue East

Editorial Writing
Rachel Dweikat, Lincoln East

Can homework cause depression?

The facts

Studies show that the best performance levels are found when adults and children adopt the 8-8-8 circadian rhythm of life, meaning

8 - 8 - 8

hours of work hours of play hours of sleep

The average school day lasts from 9am to 3:15pm,

a total of **7 hours and 15 minutes**

Less than 30 mins

23%

On top of school, students have reported spending over

30-45 mins

32%

three hours on homework alone

1 hour +

45%

Headline Writing

Story #1

1. Texting technology now leading to more than just social stress
2. Text Neck:
Smartphones at hand for spinal pressure
3. Texting Trouble:
With increase in cellphone usage, neck issues become more frequent

Story #3

1. Make-a-Wish Foundation produces powerful joy to ill girl
2. Making Memories:
Donations provide happiness to sick child
3. Dreams do come true:
As youthful girl fights illness, Make-a-Wish delivers hope

Story #4

1. Educator alters attitude towards students following shadowing sessions
2. Teaching Tactics:
Shadowing students cause new look on learning
3. The Master becomes the student:
High school teacher shadows pupils, To gauge life as learner

Graphic Illustration
Megan Smith, Omaha Marian

Headline Writing
Joseph Covolo, Millard North

YOUNG IMMIGRANTS FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN NEBRASKA

In-Depth Newspaper Coverage
 Kayla Sullivan, Charlotte Elsassner, Erin Carollo, Emily McMinn, Omaha Marian

In Omaha, Nebraska, students are being brought to American schools by their parents. DACA, a program that grants these immigrants legal status and jobs, has become an important issue. The DACA bill is trying to give these immigrants the same rights as citizens, so they can get the same education and job opportunities as everyone else. This means that these immigrants can get the same education and job opportunities as everyone else.

How DACA and DACA recipients benefit Nebraska

DACA, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is a program that allows young immigrants to live and work in the United States. It was created by the Obama administration in 2012. DACA recipients are eligible for federal financial aid, including grants and scholarships. They are also eligible for federal student loans. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

Benefits of DACA

The DACA program has many benefits for young immigrants. It allows them to live and work in the United States. It also allows them to get federal financial aid, including grants and scholarships. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

A personal perspective

I am a DACA recipient and I have many benefits from the program. I am able to live and work in the United States. I am also able to get federal financial aid, including grants and scholarships. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

THE OPPOSITION

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

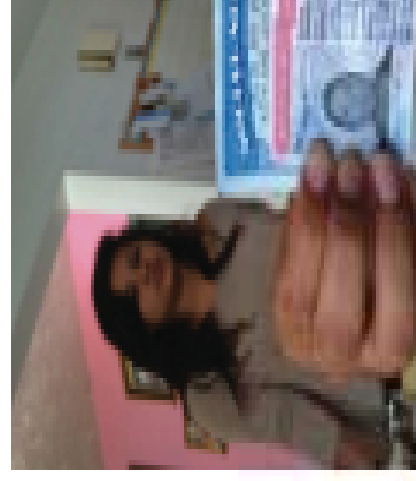
Politics and opposition

The DACA program has become a major political issue. There are many people who support the program, but there are also many people who oppose it. The DACA program has become a major political issue. There are many people who support the program, but there are also many people who oppose it. The DACA program has become a major political issue.

The DACA program has become a major political issue. There are many people who support the program, but there are also many people who oppose it. The DACA program has become a major political issue. There are many people who support the program, but there are also many people who oppose it. The DACA program has become a major political issue.



Protesters in Omaha, Nebraska, gathered to support the DACA program. The banner in the background reads 'DACA'.



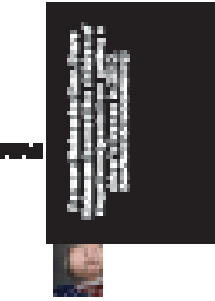
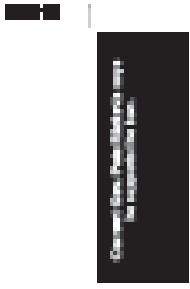
A young woman speaking at a podium during a protest in Omaha, Nebraska. She is wearing a grey shirt and has her hands clasped in front of her.

THE SUPPORT

There are many people who support the DACA program. They believe that it is a fair and just program. They also believe that it is a way to help young immigrants who have done nothing wrong. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.

THE OPPOSITION

There are many people who oppose the DACA program. They believe that it is unfair to give special treatment to young immigrants. They also believe that it is a waste of money. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs. DACA recipients are also eligible for federal job training programs.



The generosity in this society grows increasingly each day. Whether it is a young scout helping a senior citizen cross the street, or an adult volunteering in their free time, the amount of good in this town is at an all time high.

Due to an anonymous donation from a local business, all school buses in the transportation route for Husker High School will be equipped with free Wi-Fi to allow students who have long travels home Internet access for homework.

Superintendent Dr. Reid Nation announced his idea of wireless capabilities in November. Since then the community has worked together to give these students the opportunity to use their time wisely by starting their homework prior to their arrival at home.

"Giving free Wi-Fi to our students will enable them to do research, read the news or even watch educational videos each day," Nation said. "That time will no longer be wasted."

Although the parents may have some concern with this new accessibility, Nation clearly states the bus Wi-Fi will offer the same security features as the school's Internet access.

"Students cannot access any games unless they are educationally-sound, and they can't access social sites or other sites unsuitable for young adults," Nation said. For some students, doing their homework online is not an option simply because their families cannot afford or choose not to have Internet service in their homes. This limits students to do their schoolwork and puts them at a disadvantage in their classes.

"Adding Wi-Fi in our buses should level the playing field for our students," Nation said. "This change will positively impact academic productivity."

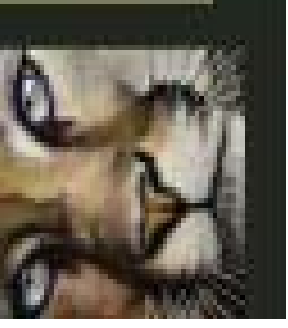
The anonymous donor who contributed in this advancement is greatly appreciated by these students and this community. Not only did this person improve learning capabilities, but also displayed what true affection is to the students of Husker High.

"We are fortunate to have a local business person who believes our students deserve every opportunity to learn," Nation said.



News Writing
Allyson Sargus, Papillion-La Vista

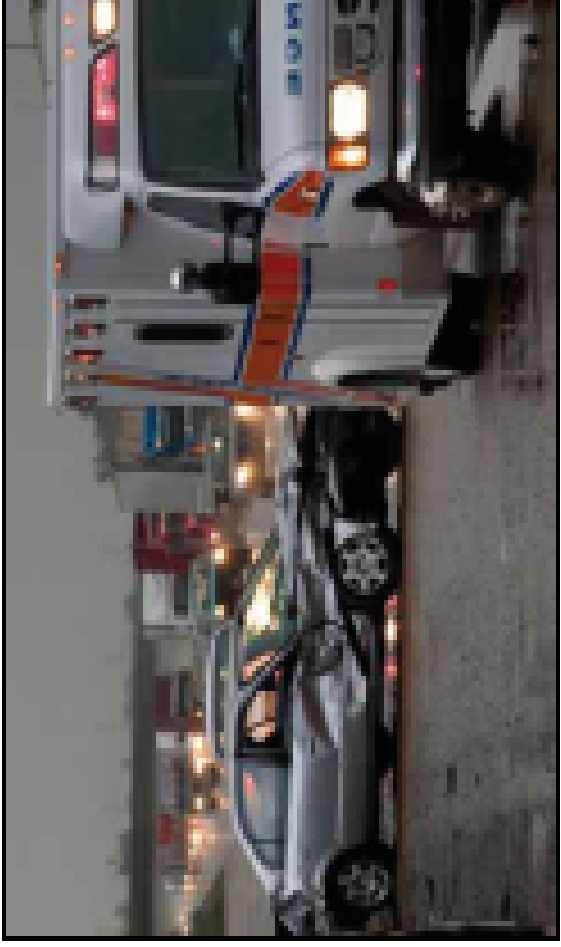
News Feature Photography
Lauren Myrberg, Elkhorn



ION'S ROAR

Newspaper Layout
Natalie Nepper, Omaha Central

THINK TWICE BEFORE TEXTING AND DRIVING



BY NATHANIEL

Being able to text and drive is a common habit for many people. It is a convenient way to stay connected, but it can be dangerous. Texting while driving is a leading cause of car accidents. In fact, it is the most common distraction while driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2013, there were 28,000 crashes involving cell phone use while driving. This resulted in 13,000 injuries and 2,000 deaths. The risk of an accident is significantly higher when a driver is distracted by a text message. Even a momentary lapse in attention can have severe consequences. It is important to be aware of the risks and to take steps to reduce them. One way to do this is to avoid driving while using a handheld phone. Another way is to use voice-activated features whenever possible. Finally, it is crucial to understand that the law in many states prohibits driving while using a handheld phone. Violating these laws can result in fines and license suspension. The bottom line is that texting and driving is a dangerous activity that should be avoided. Staying focused on the road is the best way to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

BY NATHANIEL

Being able to text and drive is a common habit for many people. It is a convenient way to stay connected, but it can be dangerous. Texting while driving is a leading cause of car accidents. In fact, it is the most common distraction while driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2013, there were 28,000 crashes involving cell phone use while driving. This resulted in 13,000 injuries and 2,000 deaths. The risk of an accident is significantly higher when a driver is distracted by a text message. Even a momentary lapse in attention can have severe consequences. It is important to be aware of the risks and to take steps to reduce them. One way to do this is to avoid driving while using a handheld phone. Another way is to use voice-activated features whenever possible. Finally, it is crucial to understand that the law in many states prohibits driving while using a handheld phone. Violating these laws can result in fines and license suspension. The bottom line is that texting and driving is a dangerous activity that should be avoided. Staying focused on the road is the best way to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

BRIEFLY WHAT'S INSIDE?

Nature hike started at Riverbend Park
A group of about 20 people from the Omaha area participated in a nature hike at Riverbend Park in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Saturday, April 18. The hike was led by a local naturalist and lasted about 2 hours. Participants enjoyed the scenic views and the fresh air. The program is sponsored by the Omaha Area Audubon Society. For more information, call the park director at 402-441-7373. Reservations will appreciate that at 402-441-7373, please check the requirements.

Astronomy club program planned
The members of the Midwestern Astronomy Club will present a public event and program on Friday, April 24, at 8 p.m. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The program will feature a presentation on the latest in astronomy. Participants should bring binoculars if available. Admission is free. For more information, call the club director at 402-491-7373.

Helping children
The Omaha Area Children's Home Society will host a public event on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. at the Omaha Convention Center. The event will focus on helping children in need. For more information, call the club director at 402-441-7373.



HELPING CHILDREN

PAGE 7

Roughly two years ago, beloved Centerville High School English teacher Sam Smith was diagnosed with leukemia. For him, his family, and the Centerville community, the times following the diagnosis were tough. But things turned around this January when Smith received a clean bill of health.

The good news came to an anxious but hopeful Smith family. "It was the first time in two years that I had tears of joy. It was the best day of my life," shared Smith's son, Seth.

Smith will have to be monitored closely for the next five years, but as the recurrence rate for this type of leukemia is low, doctors are confident that his fight with cancer is finally over.

Overjoyed with the news, Smith and his son wanted to give back to others fighting the same battle. The pair decided to embark on a 400-mile ride from Scottsbluff to Omaha to fundraise for leukemia research.

"My dad and I used to go for long bike rides before the cancer so I suggested we ride across the state, and he loved the idea," said Seth with obvious pride.

With the help of their blog and others in the community, word spread about what they were doing. Before even beginning their ride, they had already raised over \$12,000 for the American Cancer Society.

"Seth and I called our ride the 'Push for a Cure' because we knew we would have to push ourselves to our limit to reach the goal. Seth has been an athlete all of his life so I never worried he would finish. I was a little worried about me," Smith said with a laugh. But after months of training, the two felt prepared for the 400-mile ride.

Over spring break it was finally time to make the trek across the Nebraska countryside. Their journey took 7 days, with stops about 70 miles. They were fortunate to have the Nebraska weather on their side, with perfect sunny days for the entire trip.

Smith and his son were continually amazed with the support they received. Over 200 cancer survivors joined them for parts of their ride, some of them even welcoming them into their homes to stay the night.

"Dad and I had budgeted for hotels every night, [but instead] we were able to donate our hotel budget," said Seth.

Seth and his dad kept supporters that couldn't join them in the loop with their blog, where they shared stories from each day of their ride and where people were able to donate money for the cause.

"At the beginning of the ride we had about 100 hits, but then traffic on the site went through the roof," said Seth.

By the final day of their ride, the site was averaging 4,000 hits per day and they had raised \$50,000 for leukemia research.

"I never imagined we would raise so much money. People have been incredibly giving. I pray this money will help find a cure," said Smith.

"We must find a cure."

Newspaper Feature Writing
Anna Holmquist, Lincoln East

Photo Illustration
Kelsey O'Connell, Omaha Marian

SPORTSMANSHIP BEHIND THE TRADITION

Sportsmanship is a great tradition in sports and competition that means playing clean and handling both victory and defeat with grace, style, and dignity. This is the reason why you guys line up after each game to shake the hands of your opponents at the end of each game... win or lose. Sportsmanship includes playing fair, following the rules of the game, respecting the judgment of referees, and treating your opponents with respect. As a general rule of thumb, it makes sense to look at sportsmanship in a similar way that we view friendship... treat the people you play with and against as you would like to be treated yourself.

You demonstrate good sportsmanship when you show respect for yourself, your teammates, and your opponents, for the coaches on both sides, and for the referees, judges, and other officials.

But sportsmanship isn't just reserved for the people on the field. Cheerleaders, fans, and parents also need to be aware of how they behave during competition. Sportsmanship is a style and an attitude, and it can have a positive influence on everyone around you.





Sports Action Photography
Chloe Kreikemeier,
Lincoln Pius X

The repetitive bounce of the basketball halts. The roaring cheers from the exhilarated crowd ends. The anxious hum of players right before their game comes to a stop. This is what girl's basketball will come to.

As people live their everyday lives they do not see the sad death of this traditional sport. It could arguably be the soul of the United States itself. Entertaining the bored country child and the neglected city child alike. This sport has connected generations of individuals, families and communities. Girls basketball has intertwined a nation of people in harmony, but this sport will be no more.

According to a Post-Gazette survey out of 112 high schools 20 percent said they do not acquire enough players to form a freshman or even a junior varsity team.

Schools in small minute towns are not only suffering from this epidemic, but also the main-stream large schools.

The causes for the decline in girl's basketball participation vary. Senior Olivia Darling had to quit the sport: she loved due to economic pressures.

"I loved playing basketball when I was younger, but now I have to think about money for college, so I work after school," Darling said. "It has nothing to do with [not liking] the sport; I just need to have a job."

Money is scarce for many students and Darling's not alone. Students all over the country have to make the tough decision of giving up activities they love, not because they want to, but because they have to.

This was the case for junior Laura Long whose parents couldn't afford the cost of elite summer basketball programs.

The trials of life have interrupted the classic sport that is meant to bring people together while having them enjoy it. Another cause for this decline could be the pressure to be great or go home. The motto of "why play if your not going to win?" has become more prominent rather than to just have fun.

Opinions vary on this topic, but facts are facts and girls basketball is being assassinated and the people and stereotypes are the culprits.

A study done by the National Federation of State High School Associations showed that in 2013-2014 the amount of females playing basketball declined by almost 25,000 thousand from ten years prior.

Coach Peter Serio thinks that parents push they're children when they're in amateur level sports in hope that they will become a basketball success by the time college hits.

If children felt like they could play a sport for the pure enjoyment, not because they are insanely talented more and more girls would be interested.

"I think this is more about the kids who aren't great players, the peripheral kids were losing," said Serio.

The decline in girl's basketball shows that many students who are under immense pressure to be great will cave under this pressure and quit. Girl's basketball isn't about winning or even state championships. This is about a group of individuals who lead totally separate lives coming together and uniting. To prevent the slow death of basketball people need to lead by action. Form intermural teams. Make girls basketball alive again. Overcome the obstacles, lose the pressure and play for the satisfaction of the carss of the orange rubber ball as it meets your hand and the ground rhythmically. Love for the game: this is what girl's basketball is all about.

Dreams of a Smarter Tomorrow

Many adults encourage high school students to think about their future. But five students chose to take these words of wisdom to a whole new level this year.

Tom Hanzl, Jacob Hotovy, Brody Rolfes, Andrew Sbonka, and Nick Corta from Lincoln Pius X High School, won the Windstream competition, "Smart Tomorrow" this year, winning \$20,000 to split among themselves and another \$20,000 for their school's foundation.

Created by Windstream, this competition challenged students to express their visions of a more connected world in the year 2025. Windstream's senior vice president for consumer and small business marketing Sara Day says that "The company focused on high school students because they will be innovators of the future."

Referred to as the 'Big 5' or 'Straight Cash Homies' by fellow classmates, these five students decided to create a short video for the competition. Senior Jacob Hotovy said that he and his mom sat down and brainstormed some practical ways to use technology to make life easier for the competition. These practical ideas were what helped the students to win the first place title.

Lincoln Pius X Principal Tom Kortz said that he asked teachers to encourage students to participate because of the local nature of the competition. He went on to express that since it was more local, it seemed like a good bet. Looking back at it now, he says that "It was definitely worth their time and energy."

Not only did the students win a large sum of money, they will also be provided with a virtual learning session with a venture capitalist who will provide feedback on the video and offer some career advice.

Although these students are still in high school, it will soon be back to the future for them in order to implement the many practical and innovative ideas they have for a more connected world.

Yearbook Feature Writing
Erynn Dahlke, Kearney

Eagles get revenge on Spartans: Centerville brings home a State title
Maggie Mainelli

The boys soccer team's record against the Ipswich Spartans ends as 1-2. A losing record, but the one win came when it mattered most, the State Championship.

The Eagles knew they were in for a tough game, as their only two losses of the season came from close games with the Spartans. Head coach Jack Majors says that despite having already lost to the Spartans, they were confident leading up to the game. "These guys just played with a lot of confidence and a lot of heart the entire season," Majors said.

The Eagles took their confidence and heart to the Ipswich field, won a nail-biting game, and ultimately soiled the Spartans' undefeated record.

The game remained scoreless until Centerville freshman, Tamba Kamara, scored with 21:18 left on the clock. Kamara, a 19-year-old Liberian native who came to the U.S. three years ago, was the team's top scorer this year with 22 total goals. He was a vital component of the victory, as he proved later in the game.

After 10 more minutes of play, Ipswich's Jason Beardsley scored, tying the game 1-1. But with only 2:38 remaining, Kamara connected ball to net again, again putting his team in the lead. Though this time, there was no retaliation, and the Eagles fought to a 2-1 victory, the team's first State Soccer title in six years.

Kamara, arguably the game's hero, was ecstatic about the win, but he understands that it came from a team effort. "I'm so grateful for this victory," he said. "The whole team came together to win." Majors agrees, adding that "everyone contributed this year."

Though the Spartans fell to the Eagles, they can still be commended for a great season. "It's a tough loss for our guys, but they played great all year," Spartans head coach Mike Ellsburg said. "They have every reason to be proud of this season."

Both teams concluded an amazing year with the State Championship, but Centerville High came out on top and ended its season 14-2.

Sports News Coverage
Maggie Mainelli, Omaha Marian

FIELD DAY

EMERSON UNITED ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GET ELECTRIFIED AT FIELD DAY

All Emerson United Elementary students and their families gathered for a fun-filled day of activities and games on the school's field. The day was filled with excitement and friendly competition as students participated in a variety of field games and activities. The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together. The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together.

The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together. The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together.



What has been an event, and our parents thank you for a successful event!

EMERSON UNITED ELEMENTARY
 1400 PLEASANT ST.
 OMAHA, NE 68104



The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together. The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together.

The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together. The day was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for students and families to spend time together.



Opening

Haven't you ever wondered your future and purpose at Midstate High?

Being a part of Midstate High means not only looking **back** on the memories, It means looking **forward** to those to come.

Being a part of Midstate High means **taking** your abilities, and **challenging** them academically and socially.

Being a part of Midstate High means **falling down**, then **learning** from your mistakes and **thriving** from them.

Being a part of Midstate High means **understanding** all the knowledge you gain **today**, To make a **bright future** for **tomorrow**.

Being a part of Midstate High means being a part of a **small community**, That is prepared to **grow** into a plethora of leaders.

Being a part of Midstate High means being a part of something that is **not just a student body**, But being a part of a **family**.

Being a part of Midstate High means you are in the **right place** to make a **difference**, And become something that will be the **NEXT big thing**.

Division people section

For four years all the insightful people you **meet** are right next to you.

Every bus driver on the street are bringing the **smiling faces** of Midstate students, Right next to you.

Every homeroom teacher who continues to **guide you** through your daily routine, Right next to you.

Every lunch prepared by the cafeteria staff and spent surrounded by friends talking and laughing and being filled with not only delicious lunches but **heartfelt memories**,

Right next to you.

Every single small classroom with teachers ready to **educate you** and give you the resources to be **successful** community members,

Right next to you.

Every **step you take** on those hallway floors cleaned by the custodial staff, Right next to you.

Every single administrator and counselor who **helps you** through all the tough times transitioning into adulthood,

Right next to you.

Every single student **bringing joy** into the most **memorable and developmental** years of your life, Right next to you.

Closing

As all good things come to an end, no one can help to wonder what's next?

For a Midstate student all doors of **opportunity** have been opened.

A Midstate athlete, will take the **pride** from these years and use it to become a confident and powerful person.

A Midstate

Field lights flood the stadium with an illuminating glow, and an electric tension weaves its way through the cool Friday night air as the Box Turtle football team rushes onto the field.

A sudden, ear-bursting uproar of cheering shatters the general calmness of the evening. Students stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the bleachers, jumping and screaming. They are dressed as various characters ranging from Ninja Turtles to Yoda. This is the result of none other than the Ninja Turtle cheering section.

Beginning in 1991, a small group of upperclassmen founded the group. It consisted of a total of 22 students, all of which were more than ready to get up on their feet and cheer.

Twenty-two football seasons later, the Ninja Turtle cheering section is bigger and louder than ever. This year, 75 students dedicated themselves to becoming a part of this lively group.

"The Ninjas are a source of motivation to play the game. We get so fired up with the 'Shell 'Em' cheer, we just want to rip the other team's heads off" senior football player Ross Glasad said.

Each year, four seniors are selected to be the designated Ninja Turtles: Raphael, Donatello, Leonardo, and Michelangelo. They take on this responsibility with enthusiasm; they even wear their costumes to school on game days.

"The seniors control what the Ninja section does, but everyone participates equally. The seniors start off what we are supposed to do, and then everybody follows" senior Isaca Piatkowski said.

And by everybody, that means everybody. The students even permitted their principle, Emorylan Harris, to join in on the craziness at the homecoming game this year.

"It's a safe display of school spirit, they're just trying to encourage the team and not disrupt anybody – teachers or parents, so I think they have done a good job with that" Harris said. "Plus, they didn't mind an old lady joining them for 'Shell 'Em'. I had a blast."

The students involved in the cheering section also participated in tailgates before each game.

"We have been doing the tailgate at about 5:45 or 6 p.m.", senior Bruce Cimbrick said. "It lasts to about 6:45 and it's just where everybody gathers before the game. We grill hotdogs, hamburgers, have some drinks."

The cheering section definitely made some noise this on and off the field. This year, the senior leaders organized a chili feed at the tailgate in order to raise money for the Piatkowski family, whose father had recently lost his job.

"This year we sold Mom's chili, too. Then we pack up and all head out as the Ninja section into the game together" Cimbrick said.

After an intense season of cheers, the field lights flickered off. Costumes were hung up, but they will be ready for action when the Ninja Turtles come back for more.

Including the unexpected

the unexpected

Together we are stronger.

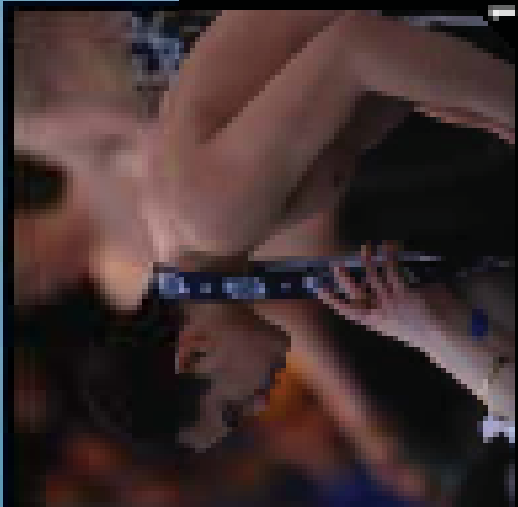
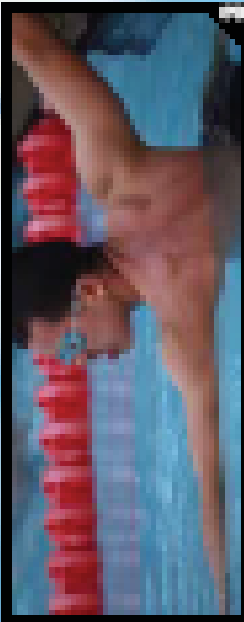
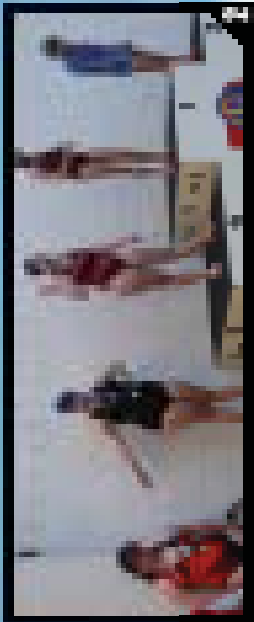
Throughout the year we experienced the best of the world. It wasn't just the people we met, but the unexpected moments of our year that made the year so special. It's not just the people we met, but the unexpected moments of our year that made the year so special. It's not just the people we met, but the unexpected moments of our year that made the year so special.

The unexpected was our greatest friend. It was the unexpected moments that made the year so special. It was the unexpected moments that made the year so special. It was the unexpected moments that made the year so special.

Our goal was to find a balance between the unexpected and the expected. We wanted to make sure that everyone was included and that everyone was heard. We wanted to make sure that everyone was included and that everyone was heard.

We believe strongly through the inclusion of each and everyone one of us.

With every step we take, we are growing. We are growing as a community, as a school, as a city. We are growing as a community, as a school, as a city. We are growing as a community, as a school, as a city.





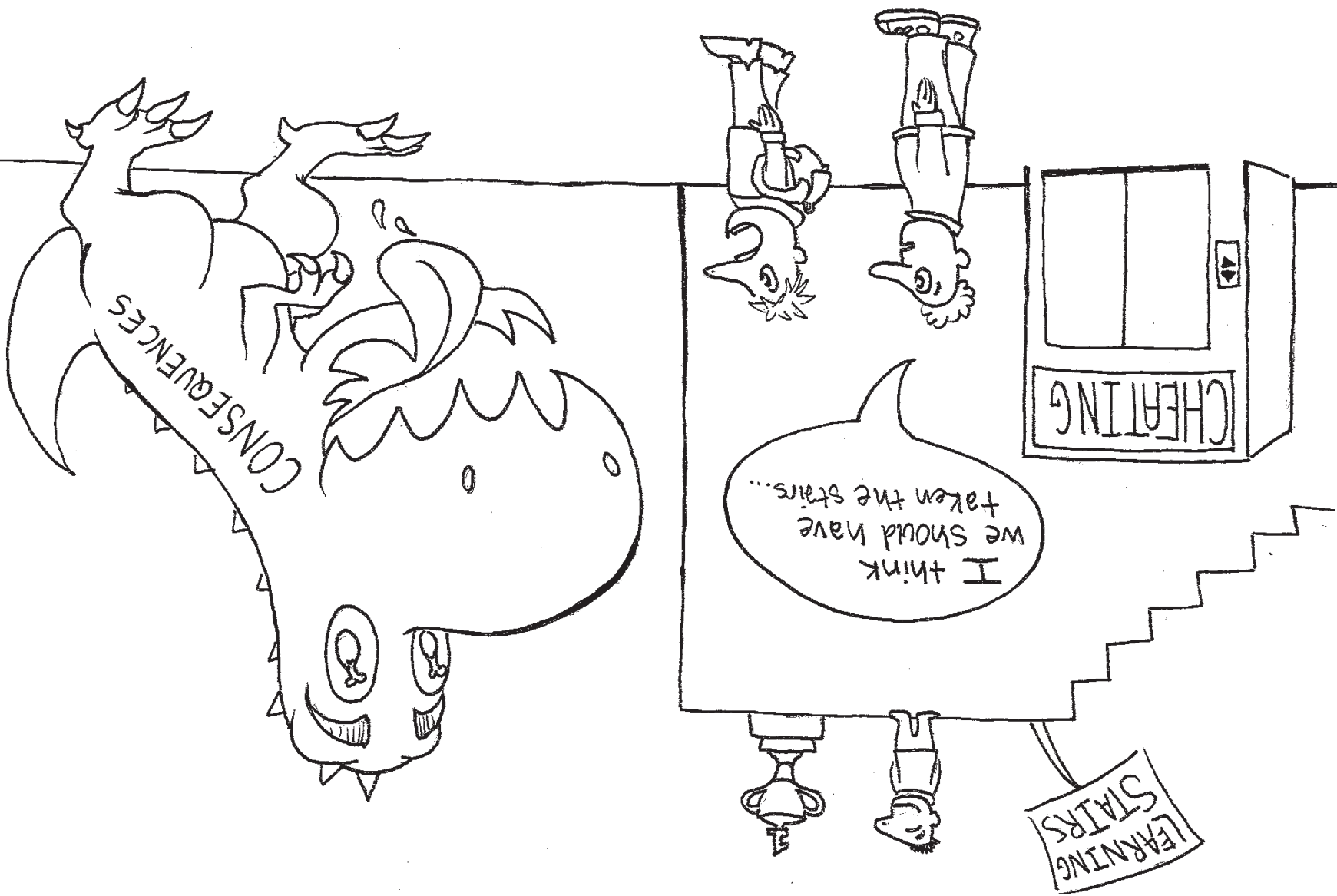
2015

NSAA CLASS B

JOURNALISM

CHAMPIONSHIP

MAX



Got some **Blank Space** on your calendar?

Come party with **Taylor Swift!**

May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
				7	8	9
3	4	5	6	13	14	15
10	11	12	19	20	21	22
17	18	19	26	27	28	29
24	25	26				30
						31

Century Link Center Omaha

Friday, May 22

8:00 p.m.

Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.

Reserve Your Seats Today!

ticketmaster.com



ticketmaster.com



centurylinkcenteromaha.com

Advertising
Tiffany Schweer, Sandy Creek

The future can hold many things. From hover cars to robots, we all have ideas about future technology. Five Lincoln Pius X seniors turned their vision of future technology into a video that won them \$20,000.

Seniors Tom Hanzl, Jacob Hotovy, Brody Rolfes, Andrew Shonka and Nick Corta, or the “Straight Cash Homies” as they call themselves, created a video for Windstream’s “Smart Tomorrow” competition.

The competition was created to challenge students to illustrate their visions of the connected world of 2025 through a short video.

“The company focused on high school students because they will be innovators of the future,” Windstream’s senior president for consumer and small business marketing Sara Day said.

The senior’s video focused on practical ways to use technology to make life easier. They won \$20,000 to split amongst themselves and another \$20,000 for their school’s foundation.

Principal Tom Korta said that he asked teachers to encourage students to participate because the local nature of the competition made it seem like a good bet. “It was definitely worth their time and energy,” Korta said.

Along with the money, the students will be provided a virtual learning session with a venture capitalist, who will give feedback on the video and offer them future career advice.

Yearbook Feature Writing Megan Wade, Yutan

I am surrounded by loads of people who are not like me. They range from steak eating hicks who help my dad farm to papusa making Hispanics who teach me Spanish curse words to give me street credit and shout at soccer games. My best friend Tram Tran’s Vietnamese family feeds me pho and plays billiards with me on Fridays.

I’m lucky to live in a diverse area where I’m exposed to these different cultures and have gained unprecedented insights from them, but the one thing that connects us on a deeper level is food. Eating is my thing, and I’ve seen the relationships that can be formed from sharing food. Unfortunately, teenagers are usually close minded towards new tastes and miss out on these opportunities to grow. Instagram is saturated with photos of Starbucks Lattes, and I have never been in an empty McDonald’s. Even in the era where *hipsters are the rage*, we are conforming to mainstream eating habits. This is a problem.

For nearly three years, I taught an afterschool program to middle-schoolers on healthy eating. I’m an advocate for not making terrible decisions on how to expend your daily caloric intake, but there was a more insidious problem that I faced. The problem of trying new things. I’m happy to be graduating soon so I never have to feed another tween hummus, but I still see these reactions every day from my own peers. We are stunting ourselves by resisting new opportunities. Most teenagers would jump on the opportunity to travel the world, but what happens when there isn’t a McDonald’s in a 10 mile radius?

I’m not saying I’m the worldliest person on earth, but I spend a good part of every day in a house where the language spoken is not my language. I understand maybe two words of Vietnamese and am still welcome in a house where there is an extreme language barrier. Tram Tran’s mother moved from Vietnam just six years ago and speaks a few words of English, but I am still completely welcome in her household. This can all be traced back to eating squid. After trying it and eating a whole plate, her mother started clapping and rubbed me on the stomach. I am not a dog, but I am now a fan of squid and am fed rice, tofu, duck, fish and lo mein on the daily.

Not everyone may see the same opportunities to gain relationships like this, but it is completely possible. Even trying vegetables could build a better relationship with our moms. Teens drinking too many energy drinks and eating hot Cheetos at two in the morning may be an issue, but it isn’t the largest one we face. We have to open ourselves to new opportunities. By missing out on food, we are missing out on conversations, relationships or even funny stories. My grandpa threw up and had explosive diarrhea after eating some Mexican food, but now we have a better Christmas story than anyone I know. I lost a tooth after not realizing cherries have pits, but now I know, and now I love cherries.

By eating some questionable items, I have opened several doors. Tram’s door is always open, and I get a lot of free food. These doors can lead to conversations in the future and countless networking opportunities. Just last week, I was paid five dollars for eating a hot dog off the floor – I didn’t even get sick. The opportunities are literally endless.

Column Writing Grace Kraus, Crete

What is an award? A piece of paper or small metallic disk? No, of course not. When students study late at night, hustle through the final sprint or work to make Husker High School a better place, they don't do it for the certificates or medals. What those students do truly appreciate however, is recognition for their hard work. Recognition that can only be attained through an evening awards ceremony.

No matter what award they receive, no student at this school could achieve anything without others helping and guiding them along the way. The most important of those benefactors and mentors are parents. And so, although that certificate may bare a single student's name, it also truly honors the hard work and contributions of parents and others who, in many cases, can't see the fruits of their labor due to the downright archaic scheduling of the awards ceremony. Parents, friends and coaches simply can't afford to put holes in their working lives in order to attend this event that could quite easily be scheduled at another time. Moving the awards ceremony to the evening would make it a far more accessible event for hundreds of working parents. Hosting it during the day, in fact, condemns the labor of those parents two-fold. Not only are they asked to put their own work on hold so that teachers don't have to, but many are also unable to witness and give recognition to their children who they have worked to cultivate for so many years.

It is true that teachers have lives as well. And although its unfortunate that awards night takes 90 entire minutes (gasp) out of their undoubtedly busy lives, it is simply a matter of numbers. In order to watch 700 students, 20 or so teachers are probably needed. In exchange for their time however, hundreds of parents would be able to attend, certainly a fair trade as far as numbers are concerned.

In addition, teachers should need no extra incentive to recognize the accomplishments of their students. After all, teachers do spend their entire working lives trying to better those whom they teach. They should feel obligated both to appreciate the hard work of their students, and to feel rewarded themselves for helping them reach their goals. At the very best, they could attend this simple 1 1/2 hour long ceremony.

As a student, it would be incredibly demoralizing to spend hours typing papers, practicing in the gym, or volunteering for others only to receive limited recognition from those who they care about most. By holding the awards ceremony during the day, Husker High School is failing both students and parents, both of whom spend countless hours improving themselves and others. Giving the awards themselves means nothing. Giving the students the chance to be truly recognized however, could mean the world.

Editorial Writing
Harrison Hohman, Mount Michael Benedictine

As a little girl, my mother always told me that I could be anything my little heart desired. I told her that I wanted to be a doctor, or maybe even a lawyer. But, after listening to Paul Cline's Entertainment speech, I finally know what I want to be: an Italian.

I mean, why not right? Everyone loves spaghetti. Everyone looks ten times hotter with a moustache similar to Mario's. After watching this speech, there's no way in Italian hell that you won't want to embrace the Italian heritage, too.

Thanks to this hilarious and animated speech, Paul will so generously give us the 411 on becoming the most amusing and appealing heritage known to man.

He starts off by sharing his life story, specifically about how he realized that he should embrace his Italian background while visiting the country at a young age.

He then goes on to say that Italians have hidden secrets and demeanors that average, lame people like us don't know about. Did you know that most stereotypes about Italians are, in fact, true? I surely didn't. Cline lets us in on the fact that all Italians can cook and are all crazy.

All of this already sounds intriguing enough to take part of, but wait- there's more! I bet you didn't know that Italians HAVE to talk with their hands and believe in the Spaghetti Monster. Yes, THAT Spaghetti Monster.

Now, for the moment we've all been waiting for. How in the world can one possibly become an entirely different heritage? Aren't we just born the way we are and kind of just have to accept

Entertainment Writing
Brenna Parry

Studies have shown...
too much **HOMEWORK** leads to
LOWER GRADES, STRESS,
and even **DEPRESSION!**

Solutions: Balanced
schedule

30	0	8	8	8
min.	min.	hrs work	hrs play	hrs rest
per	per			
night	per			
weekend	weekend			

Circadian rhythm

Graphic Illustration
McKenna Copsey, Gering

Improv Group Proves New Creative Outlet

Acting the Part

Students thrive in school improv group

No Script, No Problem

Improv group teaches students to think on their feet

Teacher Learns Lesson While Taking on the Role of Student

Not as Easy as It Looks

Teacher tested while shadowing students

An Educational Experience

Teacher sees first-hand the struggles that students face

Make-a-Wish Foundation Funds Chances of a Lifetime

Turning Dreams into Realities

Make-a-Wish Foundation cures kids' tears

Change Wars for a Cure

USA Stu-Co raises money

For Make-a-Wish Foundation

Headline Writing
Paige Ourade, Omaha Skutt Catholic

Morgan Wallace
Class B
In-Depth Coverage
Editorial

Nebraska is currently the only state which does not allow children of illegal immigrants to obtain a driver's license. There are currently 2700 young immigrants in Nebraska who call themselves Dreamers.

These Dreamers desperately seek the approval for a chance to have a driver's license. Many have commented on the situation and said that if they were granted the legal status of holding a license it would help to be able to succeed by giving them a way to get to school and work.

Comments from the Dreamers also include wanting to contribute, not wanting to leave where they have established a home and a family and wanting equal rights regardless of their parent's immigrant status.

Speaking for the children of parents of illegal immigrants and speaking on behalf of the 2014-2015 journalism staff's opinion, the children whose parents illegally traveled to the United States but who have personally made the decision and taken the time and dedication to become a citizen of the US should be allowed to obtain a driver's license.

The staff agrees that if they were not able to obtain a license, they would have a hard time finding a ride to school in the morning because of their working parents schedule. Also, while there is a bus system for school, those who are in sports or who would like extra help before and after school commented that they would not be able to stay as long as they would like because they would have to depend on means of transportation.

Many students are required to work for personal spending money and some are required to work in order to support their family or to save up for their future education. Work hours can sometimes be awkward, starting shifts in the middle of the day, or early in the morning and ending late at night.

If these working students do not have a ride to their place of employment, they will receive a bad reputation and will have a smaller chance of being hired again by the same employer or those of similar trade within the same town or area.

The Dreamers want to succeed in order to have a better life than their parents led and to make sure that their posterior have a greater chance of succession in the future. If they are not granted the opportunity to have a driver's license, we, as Nebraskans, are denying them of their wish to succeed by taking, possibly, one of the few means of transportation that is available to them.

In agreement of denying their will to succeed by taking away their means of transportation, the staff also agreed that many students of the school personally use their means of transportation to run errands for their family.

More than half of the staff has a younger sibling and three-fourths of the staff has a younger sibling or a family member that needs to be taken care of or transported on a regular detail, working parents sometimes do not have time to run to the store and pick up necessities for the family because of their own personal schedule.

The journalism staff and school has been discussing the outcome of the current bill that is against the ban of young immigrants obtaining a driver's license and is looking to follow the rest of the policy. A majority of those discussing the issue believe that children of illegal immigrants should be granted the right to have a driver's license.

Morgan Wallace
Class B
In-Depth Coverage
Feature

As teary-eyed nine year old, Ray Aguilera, took his first step on American ground he was greeted by a group of people who had gone through similar circumstances. They told Aguilera that the United States was free and had a nicer, more understanding government than that of his home country, Spain.

Now, Aguilera lives in South Sioux City, Nebraska and is being denied the right to have a driver's license because he was not born in the United States. Nebraska is the only state that denies licenses to those that fall under the DACA Program.

The DACA Program, which stands for the deferred action for childhood arrivals, allows certain individuals, who meet specific guidelines, to request consideration of deferred action from the USCIS, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. This applies to those who came to the United States with their parents illegally when they were young.

Some of the guidelines, according to the USCIS webpage, include coming to the US as a potential citizen before reaching 16 years of age, continuously residing in the US since June 15, 2007 up to the present time and also being under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012.

Those who are looking to obtain deferred actions must not have been convicted of any crime or felony.

Former Gov. Dave Heineman had started the ban on the children of illegal immigrants from getting a driver's license and current Gov. Ricketts says that he plans to support the ban but has not indicated if he will veto the bill if it passes. Nebraska will not support the immigrants even if those who are looking to obtain a license are granted legal status through an executive order issued by President Obama.

Within Nebraska, there are about 2700 of these young immigrants who call themselves "Dreamers".

Currently, there is a bill which has been proposed to end the ban of young immigrant driver's licenses. The bill was proposed by State Senator Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha.

"Support keeps building. Momentum is clearly on our side," Nordquist said.

This being considered under Legislative document as LB623 which provides issuance of motor vehicle operator's' licenses and state ID cards to persons with lawful status.

It states that to obtain a license the participant must have graduated from a Nebraska High School or currently be enrolled in college.

Aguilera does not think highly of the ban.

"This is where I call home. This is where I want to establish my future," Aguilera said.

Several businesses support the bill to end the ban as they see it as a way to ease the shortage of quality workers.

Along with Nordquist's push for the bill to be passed, State Senator Al Davis of Hyannis said Nebraska's status as the only state denying driver's licenses to those immigrant children "doesn't make it look like a friendly place to locate and do business."

cont...

In early March there was a hearing held in the state capitol hearing room where dozens of Dreamers told the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee that they want to stay here and they want to be able to succeed. The Dreamers believe that having a license would help them to do that.

The America Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska has sued the state over the policy. The Lancaster County District Court civil trial will be held on April 29 to discuss the policy that will determine a large portion of Ray Aguilera and many similar immigrants who are looking to obtain a driver's license from the state of Nebraska.

Sydney Havengar Class B In-Depth

DACA, the deferred action of childhood arrival, is a program that helps immigrants who came into America as children of illegal immigrants obtain permission to temporarily live in America. The only state that does not support the program is Nebraska.

The former Governor of Nebraska, Dave Heineman, banned these children of illegal immigrants the opportunity to get a driver's license, the ban is also supported by Governor Ricketts.

"They shouldn't be here if they're not here legally," Heineman said about his opposition of the program. "When you don't secure the border, have a speedier technological way to legal immigration, and you won't address the issue that we've got fifteen million illegal immigrants in the country right now, we end up with these situations."

Nebraska's state Senator, Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha introduced a bill against the ban of young immigrants brought into America illegally getting driver's licenses. There are business groups such as Greater Omaha, Lincoln, and Nebraska Chambers of Commerce, Nebraska Cattleman, and the Nebraska Restaurant Association that support the bill as well as Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert.

Clark Lauritzen, the chairman of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce said that he thinks it is crucial that Nebraska is known as a welcoming and open place to do business. Also, Senator Nordquist said that support keeps building and that he thinks they are gaining momentum in support for the bill.

A hearing, which occurred in early March after the American Civil Liberties Union sued the state, was held in the state Capitol hearing room. Dozens of the children of illegal immigrants, who call themselves "Dreamers" gathered in the hearing room to tell the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee their needs and wants for having a driver's license.

They said that they want to stay in America and succeed in their lives by going to work and school, both of which would require means of transportation.

Some of the Dreamers said that they want to contribute to society and others said that they have already established a home here alongside their friends and family.

The civil trial in which the American Civil Liberties Union sued the state over the policy will be held April 29 in Lancaster County in district court.



**News Feature Photography
Zhaoliang Xu, Mount Michael Benedictine**

Husker High offers Wi-Fi to school buses by Hannah Thomazin

Paper airplanes zoom across the bus, chats of the school song echo in the students’ memories, and, if it is early enough in the morning, some students sleep on their way to school.

Husker High provides transportation to many of its students throughout the school year; however, the bus ride for some is almost an hour long.

The idea of free Wi-Fi on the buses for students to be more productive with their time on commute to school was offered in late autumn. Superintendent Dr. Red Nation officially proposed the idea in November.

“[Offering Wi-Fi] will positively impact academic productivity. I know some students will goof off, but our district computer security severely limits where students will go,” Nation said.

Over 700 students, or around eighty-five percent, of the 900 students enrolled at Husker High School depend on the buses for transportation every day.

Nation said, “Our school district is very large, and because of this, many of the students have very long bus rides. Some sleep on the bus, but most don’t use their time wisely. Giving students free Wi-Fi will enable them to be more productive.”

However, the free and available Wi-Fi doesn’t allow students unlimited access to the internet. Sites that are inappropriate will be blocked. On top of that, all social networking sites—Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, etc.—will also be banned.

“Students cannot access any games unless they are educationally sound, nor social sites or other unsuitable sites for young adults,” Nation said. “Our students will be able to do research, read the news, or even watch educational videos each day with the Wi-Fi we will offer.”

The school district equips all juniors and seniors with their own laptop at the beginning of the school year to encourage turning in essays and other homework in on time. This offer does not include the underclassmen or students unable to afford essential electronics used in school.

“Several of our families cannot afford to have internet service in their homes. This can be hard on a student who is expected to research or communicate with another classmate in the evening. It puts those students at a disadvantage,” Nation said. “Adding Wi-Fi to our buses should level that playing field.”

Free Wi-Fi services will be in effect March 1st. The Wi-Fi access in Husker High’s school buses would not have been possible without the help from a local business’ anonymous donation.

“We are fortunate to have a local business person who believes our students deserve every opportunity to learn. This \$25,000 donation will allow Husker High to continue offering Wi-Fi service for three years. We [Husker High] are very grateful to the donor for being so generous,” Nation said.

News Writing

Hannah Thomazin, Columbus Scotus

After receiving a clean bill of health, Centerville English teacher and leukemia survivor Sam Smith partnered up with his son, Seth, to complete a 400 mile bike trip to raise money for cancer research.

Smith, who was pronounced cancer free in January after a two-year battle with leukemia, is the one who originally came up with the idea of hosting a fundraiser for cancer research. While he planned to do something big, Seth wanted to do something small within the local community.

“I suggested a race of some sort in the community, but dad shot down the idea because of so many races that are already happening in the community,” Seth said. “Dad wanted something unique.”

Eventually, the two decided to raise money by riding their bikes across the state of Neb. since, according to Seth, bike riding was something that they loved to do together before Smith became ill.

“We spend the next couple months planning the trip and training,” Seth said. “I wasn’t sure dad would be ready for a long bike trip, but he insisted.”

Before they left for their trip, Seth set up a blog where people could donate money. They were able to raise \$12,000 before they had even left Scottsbluff.

“The local and regional newspapers both ran small stories about our ride to promote the fundraiser,” Seth said. “We were amazed at the amount of support.”

The father and son team left for their trip over spring break. It was a seven-day journey, and the two had to bike an average of 70 miles a day. They, however, were not alone.

Over 200 cancer survivors rode alongside the duo for parts of their journey. Others even invited the Smiths into their homes.

“Dad and I had budgeted for hotels every night, but in every town, a cancer survivor offered us a place to stay,” Seth said. “We were able to donate our hotel budget.”

Seth and his father posted stories about the people that they had met on their blog. The longer their bike ride went, the more hits their blog received.

“The first two days, we had about 100 hits, but then traffic on the site went through the roof,” Seth said. “By the last day, we were averaging 4,000 hits a day, and the donations and comments were pouring in.”

Overall, the duo managed to raise \$50,000 by the time they arrived home. A representative from the American Cancer Society will come to Centerville High School on Friday to accept their donation during a school assembly.

Smith was amazed at the amount of money he and his son were able to raise. “People have been incredibly giving,” Smith said. “I pray this money will help find a cure. We must find a cure.”

Newspaper Feature Writing

Cassie Wade, Yutan

ELLIOT
BOWL CUT

SUMMER
AROUND
THE CORNER

NEW
SPACE PICS

EMERSON UNITED LION'S
ROAR STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL 27, 2015

ISSUE 14 VOLUME 22

THINK TWICE BEFORE TEXTING AND DRIVING



Newspaper Layout
Rachel Podraza, Omaha Skutt Catholic

By: Britney Williams

Bourne High School's SADD and Interact club helped the student body recognize the annual safe driving month in April. The goal was to help show students the dangers of texting and driving instead of just telling them. Some students do not realize how dangerous this really is until they are shown images and true stories of accidents caused by sending and reading a text while behind the wheel of a vehicle. Students need to know the true dangers of texting and driving, no matter how "good" they think they are at it.

The BHS chapter of SADD held a safe driving assembly April 17th in the BHS gym to show the true dangers of texting and driving just to make the situation

real for teens. Every year SADD holds activities to help guide students to make the right decisions in life. SADD stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions. This club is run by Ms. Williams and students who want to help the student body and community at BHS. The group is small but does big things within BHS and the community.

SADD was on hand at all the lunches so that students could "Take the Pledge..." to not text and drive. Students were able to place their hand print on the SADD board with their name next to it showing other students that will not text and drive. This is just a small way to get other students involved in helping to make BHS and the community a better and safer place.

ing cause injuries to themselves or others but also their driving record can be jeopardized. An experiment has been done to show how distracted a person can be while texting and driving. The study showed that while driving with no distraction, the driver noticed a flashing light in 1 to 2 seconds. When the same test was done with a distraction reaction time was 3 to 4 seconds but some missed the light all together. Also, while trying to reply to a text or answer a phone call drivers had a hard time maintaining a steady speed and/or staying in their lane of travel. Teens who text and drive can lose their license and receive a fine if they are caught.

The assembly was an effective way to educated students and "drive home the dangers of distracted driving.

By: Taylor Hebb and Britt Malouin

Mr. Scott Ashworth has been an athletic director here at Bourne High School for the past four years, but has been a teacher for over twenty years. Little do many of his students know, he has a hidden identity on the weekends. Mr. Ashworth has been involved in wrestling matches dressed up as either "Doink the Clown" or "Sweet Scott Ashworth" for twenty two years now. On Wednesday April 16th, Mr. Ashworth and his entertaining team held a benefit wrestling event to help fundraise for the BHS Class of 2016. Many teachers, staff, co-workers and BHS students came out to watch the

"I've known Mr. Ashworth and have been close with him for a while, so four years, but he has been a family friend for years since he coached her brothers in baseball. "He's not only a colleague of mine but he's also a great friend. He gives good advice and he always makes me laugh no matter what. He brightens up my day as well as his students' day. His impact on students is really evident."

Even the most well known teachers in school can have a hidden talent or hobby that the student body doesn't know about. But the secret is out for Mr. Ashworth, a most funny and motivational Teacher of the Week.

SO how does his son, freshman senior Shelby Corsano. "I was really weird seeing my dad wrestle in front of everyone, and having all the other wrestlers picking me out of the crowd."

Mrs. Johansen is also a teacher here at Bourne who has had the pleasure

MR. ASHWORTH'S NOT-SO-SECRET LIFE AS DOINK THE CLOWN

ASTRONOMY CLUB PROGRAM PLANNED

Neil Stewart of the Millstream Recreation Area.

A handout will be available. Participants should bring binoculars, if available. After the presentation, there will be viewing with the club's telescopes. The program is free, with no registration is required, and is designed for all ages. For more information, call the park district office at 419-425-7275. The program will fulfill the Emerson United High requirement for Science Club.

of knowing Mr. Ashworth for many years. She's worked side by side with him for four years, but he has been a family friend for years since he coached her brothers in baseball. "He's not only a colleague of mine but he's also a great friend. He gives good advice and he always makes me laugh no matter what. He brightens up my day as well as his students' day. His impact on students is really evident."

Even the most well known teachers in school can have a hidden talent or hobby that the student body doesn't know about. But the secret is out for Mr. Ashworth, a most funny and motivational Teacher of the Week.

ASIDE FROM TEACHING, BEING A PART in Peter Pan, training for a marathon and volunteering her time to the students, Ms. Lima also coaches lacrosse and field hockey. She is an amazing person and teacher to have in our school and we students who have her are thankful to have the opportunity to know her so well. We wish her well as she takes to the Boston marathon route this Monday.

For the past couple months she has been training for the Boston Marathon, raising money with a group of local nurses for their charitable causes. "I remember her telling me she actually ran from her house in Sandwich to rehearsal," said Achstetter. She even ran from her house before the Seagull Six, and then did the Seagull Six on top of that. It seems safe to say she will be well prepared.

Aside from teaching, being a part in Peter Pan, training for a marathon and volunteering her time to the students, Ms. Lima also coaches lacrosse and field hockey. She is an amazing person and teacher to have in our school and we students who have her are thankful to have the opportunity to know her so well. We wish her well as she takes to the Boston marathon route this Monday.

Most recently she has dedicated her free time to be a part of the BHS's Drama Club performance, Peter Pan. Over the past few months, Peter Pan has given us the chance to see Ms. Lima on a different level. Added Achstetter, "seeing her inner-child come out when she danced at rehearsal was awesome."

For the past couple months she has been training for the Boston Marathon, raising money with a group of local nurses for their charitable causes. "I remember her telling me she actually ran from her house in Sandwich to rehearsal," said Achstetter. She even ran from her house before the Seagull Six, and then did the Seagull Six on top of that. It seems safe to say she will be well prepared.

Aside from teaching, being a part in Peter Pan, training for a marathon and volunteering her time to the students, Ms. Lima also coaches lacrosse and field hockey. She is an amazing person and teacher to have in our school and we students who have her are thankful to have the opportunity to know her so well. We wish her well as she takes to the Boston marathon route this Monday.

MORE THAN A GAME

“Sportsmanship is a style and an attitude, and it can have a positive influence on everyone around you.”

Photo Illustration
John Morrissey, Mount Michael Benedictine



Declining participation, leaves questions for girls' basketball teams

Length of season, economic pressure, and many additional factors lead to regression in numbers for girls' basketball teams as the wave of low numbers hits smaller schools as well as larger schools.

At the beginning of the twentieth century the number of girls participating in basketball was at an all-time high. According to "The National Federation of State High School Associations," in the 2003-04 season the number of girls in basketball reached 457,986, but since then the sport has taken a turn and has been declining. As of 2013-14 the number has plummeted all the way to 433,344. Girls' basketball itself has fallen from the number one sport for girls participating in, to the number two sport with the chance of becoming third in a few years.

What causes this drop? Now a days seasons do not last only three months. The length of a season has been stretched to cover the whole year. Whether it be off-season conditioning, summer club basketball, or a game every other night, it has taken over a student athlete's life.

"It got to the point where all the girls were playing club ball in the summer," Junior Laura Long said. "I didn't want to spend all summer planning my life around basketball."

This wasn't the only problem for Laura. She said that her parents couldn't afford all of the costs that went along with playing basketball all year long. From paying to be on the select team to getting those favorite basketball shoes, it can get expensive.

"I loved playing basketball when I was younger, but now I have to think of money for college, so I work after school," Senior Olivia Darling said. "It is nothing to do with not liking the sport; I just need to have a job."

Over the past year 112 schools took the Post –Gazette4 survey. 28 percent of the schools said they had a roster of fewer than 13 players. Additionally, 20 percent of the schools said they couldn't get any freshman to come out for the sport or come up with enough girls to arrange a junior varsity team.

"It can be overwhelming to a kid, I really believe kids get tired of it," coach Peter Serio said. "Parents force their kids to play AAU in sixth- and seventh-grade, thinking they might be seen by some college."

The problem does not lie with girls going right to college and playing basketball. Furthermore, the problem does not lie within schools funding sports. School board president, James Allen, said that if budget cuts are needed they will not pick on one sport. He added that budget cuts have not directly affected the number of girls out for basketball.

"If budget cuts are necessary, all sports will have to share the reduction of funds." Allen said.

The problem schools are having may not fall under: budget cuts, weeding out athletes, economic pressure on students, or overall falling enrollment. The problem might be within the student body.

"They have to go to practice while their friends are just hanging out," Serio said. "I think it is more about kids who aren't great players, the peripheral kids we're losing."

As for right now the sport might be declining, but, if other sports like track and field and volleyball are increasing is there really a problem? Girls are at least participating in sports. That is a step in the right direction for getting more girls out for basketball and we can only hope that more girls start to partake in basketball.

For the first time in six years, Centerville High School won the state soccer title defeating Ispwwhich 2-1. In a thrilling back and forth contest, the Eagles scored a late goal to win on Ispwwhich's home field, in Wardlysburg. The victory caps off a memorable season that saw the Eagles go 14-2.

Although their season ended with a state championship, Centerville did experience adversity on their way to the state tournament. Twice during the regular season, the Eagles lost to eventual runners-up Ispwwhich. The defeats however, motivated the team to reach new heights according to Centerville Head Coach Jack Majors: "These guys just played with a lot of confidence and a lot of heart the entire season, he said.

By the time the State Championship game rolled around, Centerville found that they would once again have to face Ispwwhich, but this time with the biggest stakes of all. The tension clearly showed as both teams failed to find a goal in the early stages. With 21.13 remaining, however, the deadlock was broken when Centerville's Tarriba Kamara scored, sending the away players and fans into raptures.

The Eagles failed to hold their lead for long however, with just over eleven minutes left on the clock, Ispwwhich's Jason Beardsley leveled things for the home Spartans. The goal meant that a single moment of brilliance for either team could win the title.

With only 2.23 remaining, that moment came. Kamara, already the scorer of the Eagle's first goal, found the back of the net once more. The goal gave the Eagles a 2-1 lead, which they preserved until the final whistle, despite Ispwwhich's best efforts. When the clock hit zero, Centerville were crowned as state champion on their rivals' home field, no less.

The victory was due in no small part, to Kamara whose two goals helped him finish the season with a team high twenty-two. Coach Majors, however, was quick to praise his entire team, noting that "This was a team effort. Everyone contributed this year."

Major's opposite number, Coach Mike Ellsburg of Ispwwhich, remained upbeat despite the heartbreaking result, saying "Its a tough loss for our guys, but they played great all year. They have every reason to be proud of this season."

Despite their two victories over Centerville earlier in the year, the result meant that the Spartans finished their season with a single loss and without a state title.

After the game, Kamara gushed "I'm so grateful for this victory." The 19 year old freshman immigrated to the country from Liberia only 3 years ago. He has come along way, however, and now has a state title to his name. None the less, he too praised his team's championship winning effort, saying "The whole team came together to win. This is a great day."

Sports News Coverage
Harrison Hohman, Mount Michael Benedictine

Sports Feature Writing
Jonah Scheffler, David City

swimming fast and hard in
a swallowing pool
heavy breaths keeping
them afloat,
they are
reaching towards inclusion

on the court with a pound-
ing heart
hearing chanting crowd
surrounding,
the team is
reaching towards inclusion

running circles after the
sound of a shot
trying to keep his legs
alive,
he is
reaching towards inclusion

cheering above the fans
on a Friday night
waving pom-poms and
uplifting signs,
leaders of cheers are
reaching towards inclusion

on a court, field, track, or in
a pool
pushing the limits and nev-
er giving in to negativity,
we are all
reaching towards inclusion





Using a 'super hero' theme the 300 youngsters enjoyed various inflated challenges as an end of the school year treat. Here, PE instructor Lance Landon leads third graders in an end of the day cheer.



Left: No Field Day is complete without a spirited tug of war. Here group Mrs. McGillicuddy's 4B class puts all their gumption into the pull that won them the ice cream prizes in this contest.

Below: Freezer pops capped off the warm day of activity. Third graders Jake Lockett, Shannon Marcheson and Lollie May (back to camera) enjoy the cool treat before heading home with their parents. Nearly three hundred students competed in the end of school play day.



Keley Dantonbauer can't help be smile after her second leg through the Limbo sticks. Dantonbauer said, "I can't believe we've all done so well. We wanted to win the Frozen sticker prizes Mrs. Davis showed us when we started."



Work Together With Staff

At Pittsburgh Phillips, Algims is in charge of field day and PTO members help him out wherever they can. He puts together all the activities and decides on the games and schedule, when lunch will be served, and which venue they will use. The PTO contributes money for the event. Parents also assist Algims by preparing and setting up for the activities and then monitoring them. "You need to have a strong person within the staff who coordinates field day,"

Margittai says. "If just the PTO organizes the event, you still need input from the staff because they know what's important and what the kids can and will do." The teachers also participate in field day at Pittsburgh Phillips. They walk their classes to the facility and rotate through the activities with their students. Some of them participate and some take photos. "It's fun to see the adults

hear parents interacting and building friendships," Igims says. Some activities are individual, some require teams, and some involve the entire classroom. "Make sure the activities or games chosen are age-appropriate," Igims recommends, "and that you have the space and equipment, and that they are safe for the children to do."

When hydrogen and oxygen are mixed with heat, they ignite in a flamboyant explosion to form water. In a similar reaction that consists of combining rowdy high school students, popular entertainment and Nebraska football, the Ninja Turtles cheering section was born.

Originally, the group began as 25 students in 1991 who simply wanted to show their school spirit for the Box Turtle football team outside of the traditional cheering methods led by the cheerleaders and band, and after 22 football seasons, the group has grown to a roster of almost 75 sophomores, juniors and seniors. Today, the Ninjas are almost a part of the team.

“The Ninjas are a source of motivation to play the game,” senior football player Ross Gload said. “We know that even when we have to go on the road, the first three rows-at least-of the student section will be at every game. That’s awesome”

Following tradition, four seniors are chosen as the four major Ninja Turtles - Donatello, Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo -- to lead the group. This year, Chris Torme led the Ninja Turtles as Leonardo with Bruce Chubick, Erica Piatkowski, and Emily Piatkowski. They were joined by other characters like Barry Gibbs, who wears a green “Where’s Waldo?” outfit, and Bo Mc Millan, who dressed as video game superstar Mario, and many other seniors, juniors and sophomores who wear costumes.

“The seniors control what the Ninja section does, but everyone participates,” Erica Piatkowski said. “The seniors start off what we are supposed to do, and then everybody follows.”

This special group of individuals adopted a proud and productive game day routine. Before every varsity home game, Ninjas raised money for the Piatkowski family by selling Chubick’s mother’s chili at a tailgate, and promptly at 6:45 P.M., the students would walk to their seats a single unit.

At half time, Torme would lead the student section in their traditional “Shell ‘Em” cheer, which is a cross between a World War II bomber taking off and a roller coaster. In this cheer, the section erupted with roars as they followed Torme’s directions when the team filed out for the second half.

“We get so fired up with the “Shell ‘Em” cheer, we just want to rip the other team’s head off,” Gload said.

When the third quarter began, two undergraduate Ninjas would deliver one dozen pizzas to all of the ninjas for “Pizza Power”.

All of these acts stick pretty closely to tradition, but this year the group really wanted to challenge people to get involved.

“I think the Ninjas of 2011 failed to show up to every game. They did a bad job of communicating with the younger grades, like not inviting them and making them feel welcome,” Torme said. “We have a lot of friends on the football team and we want to show up and support them.”

At the beginning of the year, they publicized themselves via Facebook, and they kept the fans on their toes with a list of new cheers that were added to the traditional ones.

Even with the changes, the original pride and purpose of the Ninjas remains clear, and they work hand-in-hand with the school even though they aren’t officially sanctioned.

“They’re just trying to encourage the team and not disrupt anybody - teachers or parents, so I think they have done a good job with that,” principal Emmylou Harris said. “Plus, they didn’t mind an old lady joining them for the “Shell ‘Em”. I had a blast.”

As a part of the team and the fans, the Ninjas will continue contributing to football atmosphere as much as they can to support their athletes.

“When you go out there and the whole crowd is jumping around, yelling and screaming and hating on the other student section, you feel like you have to win this game for them,” Gload said.

The beginning of any school year can be chaotic and hectic but every year students and staff are reminded to “**Keep Calm and Relax**”. With incoming freshmen excited to start off their high school lives, seniors already suffering from “*senioritis*”, and new teachers trying to decide if it was too late to pick another career, this year was already foreshadowing to be a very eventful year.

Seniors were especially hit hard with the reality that they would most likely *not* be having the calm senior year they envisioned for themselves. “With it being my senior year and all, I’m trying to hopefully have a calm relaxing year,” said senior Ashley Martinez, “but so far it looks like it will be the complete opposite.”

Seniors weren’t the only one struggling to “**Keep Calm and Relax**”. With the school expanding from their average of 1,200 students to a whopping 1,500 students, students and teachers alike struggled to “**Keep Calm and Relax**”. “Gaining so many new students has definitely been a struggle to adapt too, but with all the new school under construction it shouldn’t be hard to accommodate all of them,” said Vice Principal Andrew Sanders.

No matter what the future holds in store for them the students and staff of Midstate High School knew that they would have to “**Keep Calm and Relax**” to be able to face it head on. “I’m ready for whatever the future will try to throw at me,” said junior Meghan May. “after all I *am* the catcher for my softball team and let me tell you, I *never* miss a catch.”

Every student that attended Midstate High School knew that to stand out, you had to “**Keep Calm and Be Yourself**”. Being able to stand out in a crowd and be your own individual person helped Midstate High Students expand their views of the world around them.

To make themselves stand out students took a variety of classes such as: music, forensics, and honors and AP courses. By adding more classes students were able to “**Keep Calm and Be Yourself**”. “By joining choir I’m able to sing songs the convey my feelings and emotions without me actually having to say them,” said sophomore Jessica McKinley. “I consider myself a very dramatic person so joining the drama club was a no brainer for me,” said junior Chris Vanderson, “I get to pretend to be someone completely different and it’s a magical feeling.”

Students were also able to join multiple athletic activities to help broaden themselves. “I joined the basketball team so that I was able to show off my skills,” said senior Justin McAdams. “Joining tennis let me show my love of the game,” said junior Nixon Jeter.

With new faces and new names, students could become whatever or whomever they wanted. “I like to stand out,” said freshmen Danielle Price, “I wasn’t made to be the same as anyone else.”

With the 2014-2015 school year coming to a close students knew that they would continue to “**Keep Calm and Have Fun**” throughout the rest of the year.

With many of the students finishing up on their ACTs and others with their athletic teams, students knew that the fun wasn’t going to end here. “The fun doesn’t end with school,” said freshmen Bobby Robinson, “I’m still planning to enjoy myself.

Students in clubs and athletic activities won several state awards and finished the year with many blue ribbons and first place trophies and learned to “**Keep Calm and Have Fun**”. “I’m sad the year is ending but next year will be just as fun as it was this year was,” said freshman Brandon Pond. With the win of the Quiz Bowl state championship under his belt senior president Jeffery Waters felt that he ended his school year with a bang. “Winning state definitely was a good way to end my high school career. I couldn’t have asked for a better year but it doesn’t end here,” said Brandon.

With seniors leaving and new freshmen coming the life of Midstate High School was always changing but the fun never ended. “I plan to come back next year and continue on with the fun and excitement I was having this year,” said freshmen Lydia Woods.

With the brand new school under construction, the students and staff of Midstate High School knew that with a new school, came new ways to “**Keep Calm and Have Fun**”. Next year would be just as exciting, as eventful, and as fun as this year has been. “I’m definitely not going to stop having fun just because school is ending,” said sophomore Lisa Monroe, “it’s not a ending, it’s the beginning.

Yearbook Theme Copy Writing
Marivelle Magana, Dorchester

Yearbook Sports Feature Writing
Colton Leal, Yutan



Sports Action Photography
Chloe Kreikemeier, Lincoln Pius X