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If you weren't always on that darn phone...

By Grayce McCormick

"Back then, we didn't *have* internet!" "Back then, we had to send letters back and forth to our friends." "Back then, we actually went *outside!*"

These phrases are all too commonly directed toward teenagers today. For most, they just go in one ear and out the other. But sometimes, it hits a point where it's too much.

Yeah, Grandpa, we get it. You had to walk five miles to school, uphill both ways. Yes, Mom, we understand you couldn't just send a simple text to your friends when you wanted to hang out with them. And yes, today's adults, we know that you didn't spend your childhood with your faces glued to a phone screen.

So that raises the ultimate question that everyone seems to have the answer to. Are teenagers today lazier than decades ago?

There are really two sides to this argument that people tend to pick.

If you're retired or an adult approaching retirement, you scoff at today's generation and pick the side that sees teen-

agers as lazy couch potatoes.

On the other hand, if you're a teenager, college kid, or young adult, you're speaking for yourself when you defend the side that proves teenagers aren't, in fact, any lazier than they were before.

The main factor considered in this debate is what our world revolves around: technology. All the small contraptions every teenager is seen carrying around are supposedly the Devil's work and suck the young lives right out of teens. This is something you'd hear from an old farmer, Hank, at the gas station drinking his coffee.

What Hank and his friends don't consider, though, is how technology enables today's youth.

Social media allows for every person to get connected to anything they could ever want. Endless information floods the internet and can help in any type of situation. Basically any type of business, any famous person, any entrepreneur, probably got their start on the internet. Yes, they didn't have it back then. But, they have it now. If they would've had it back then, they wouldn't have hesitated

to take advantage of the opportunities it provides.

That's not to say teenagers don't misuse it, however. Real life experiences such as concerts, plays, sporting events, and movies, aren't being experienced because of the majority of the faces are buried in their phones.

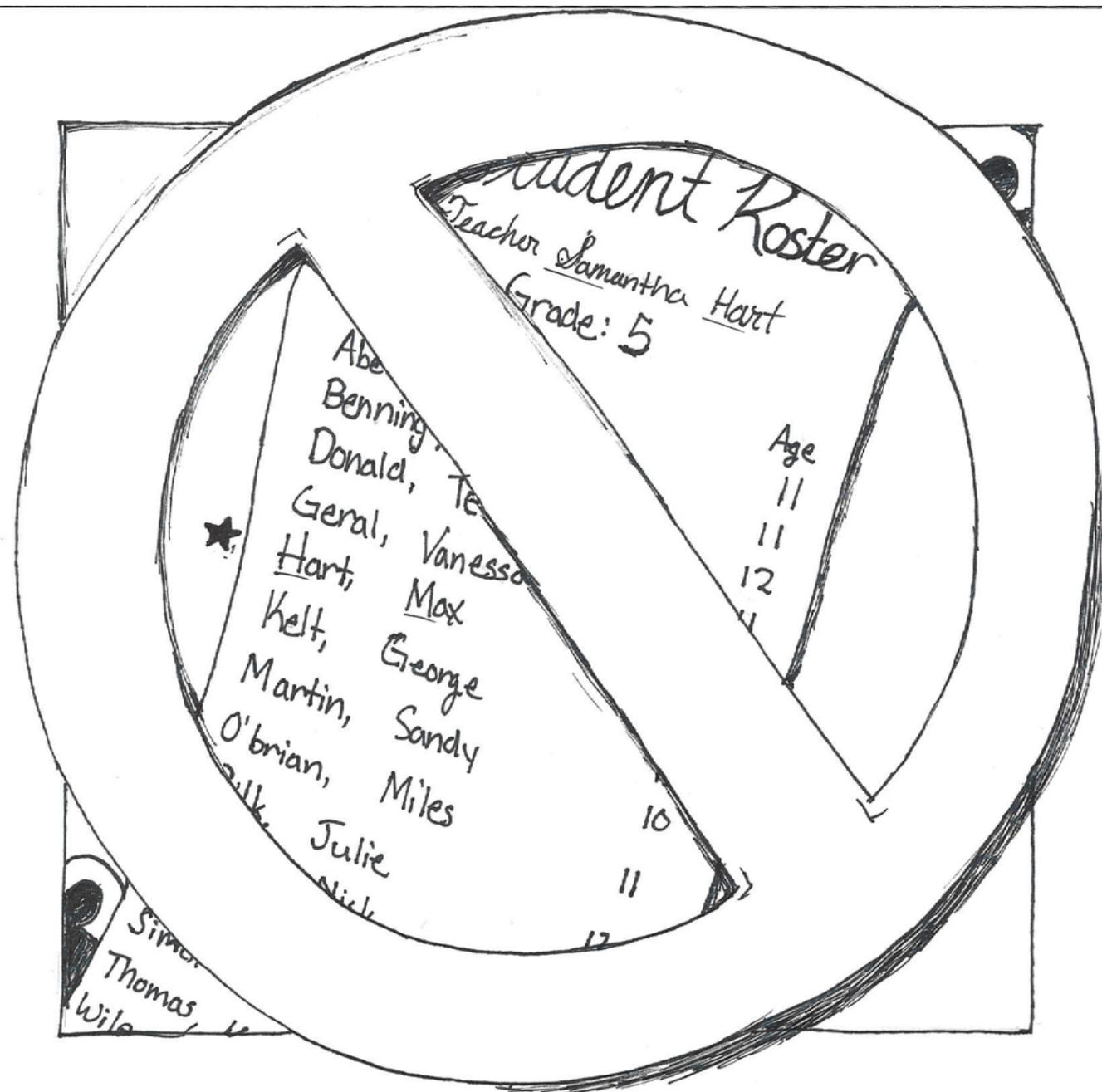
But that's just a majority. Of course there are people that will waste their lives away on their technology. But there are also those that won't. There are many, many teenagers that know balance and take technology in small doses.

Guns don't kill people; people kill people. Technology doesn't kill teenagers; teenagers kill teenagers. The deciding factor of the ambition and productivity all depends on the personality of the teenager. If someone wants to be lazy, they'll find a way. That holds true to all ages, even the grandmas and grandpas.

It might be true that teenagers are lazy today, but if it is, it would also be true in the past and future. Teenagers will be lazy, whether their eyes are glued to an iPhone 6 or a VHS tape.

Column Writing

Grayce McCormick, Logan View



Students should NOT be taught by their Parents

Editorial Cartooning
Haley Herman, Yutan

The grand opening of Granola House & Bakery boasted a packed interior and a single-file queue that ran down the length of Benjamin Ave. on Thursday, April 21. The long awaited granola factory and bakery hybrid had been in the process of renovations for over a month in the old firehouse building, promising a broad selection of cheap but healthy food that customers would love.

These high expectations were met with an outpour of compliments from the general public that surfaced over various social media platforms and review sites. By the time I reached the counter, many of the baked goods were picked over, but I luckily managed to grab a warm cookie that came straight from the oven and a yogurt parfait topped with the anticipated homemade granola.

The monster cookie, boasting a peanut butter batter filled with M&M candies, Reeses Pieces and chocolate chips, showcased a lovely pairing of flavors that seemingly melted in my mouth. The edges were crispy, and the middle was soft to the touch, a delicate balance that every dessert lover dreams about.

The granola that topped my yogurt parfait won over my heart in the first bite and beats any store-bought wannabe that is available at the local grocery stores. With flavors such as Honey, Maple and Cane Juice, there are enough varieties of the topping to please any taste bud, convincing me to return to the store the following day to purchase a bag of Maple for myself.

Cookies and granola are not the only offerings of the small shop. Instead, they sit alongside pastries such as Danishes and turnovers as well as the usual donut selection of muffins and long johns. There was even a separate area with customizable cakes for birthdays, graduation parties and weddings.

Owner and sole employee of the business Louis Onate was born in Mexico and came to America to acquire a master's degree in business management at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. Onate became a skilled baker working at Hy-Vee and combined this experience with the knowledge Onate gained from his uncle who has run a granola factory in Mexico for the past six years.

Onate says that his creativity allows him to be able to tailor his original granola recipes to customer needs, especially to accommodate for any allergies. He also hopes to cater to local schools in the coming year.

Granola House & Bakery is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Entertainment Writing
McKenna Copsey, Gering

Editorial Writing

Mckensi Uecker, Sandy Creek Fine arts bear the brunt, again

Budget cuts concern many Leaguetown students

By McKensi Uecker

Arts play a major role in many students' lives, whether it is fine arts, theater, or band. But sadly, when budget cuts roll around the arts always take the hit, and our school is no exception.

Early this April, Superintendent Bernat proposed her budget cut to eliminate travel for the band, and drill team, to away football games. While it may not sound too bad at first, this would mean less practice for the band. And as everyone knows, practice makes perfect. Without these opportunities to practice before the UIL Marching Band Contest, band members are concerned about their chances to excel at the competition.

An Nguyen, Leaguetown junior and drum major, is also concerned about the lack of practice affecting their performance at UIL, "Playing at different sites is vital to our program."

Without these practices at away games, it would be difficult for our band to get the practice that they deserve. The band has a real chance of bringing home the first place trophy from UIL this year, but this could prove difficult without these practices.

The band, which aside from the spelling and science team, is the only team to have placed top six at a state event last year. No athletic teams even came close to the success of the band, so many people are wondering why the cuts are coming from one of the most successful organizations that our school has.

Parent and band booster president, Jenny Flores, opposes the budget cut, "Our students give everything to this band, and I can't believe we are going to jeopardize their

chances at winning the 5A UIL State Marching Band title. The school board needs to rethink this proposal and look elsewhere to save money."

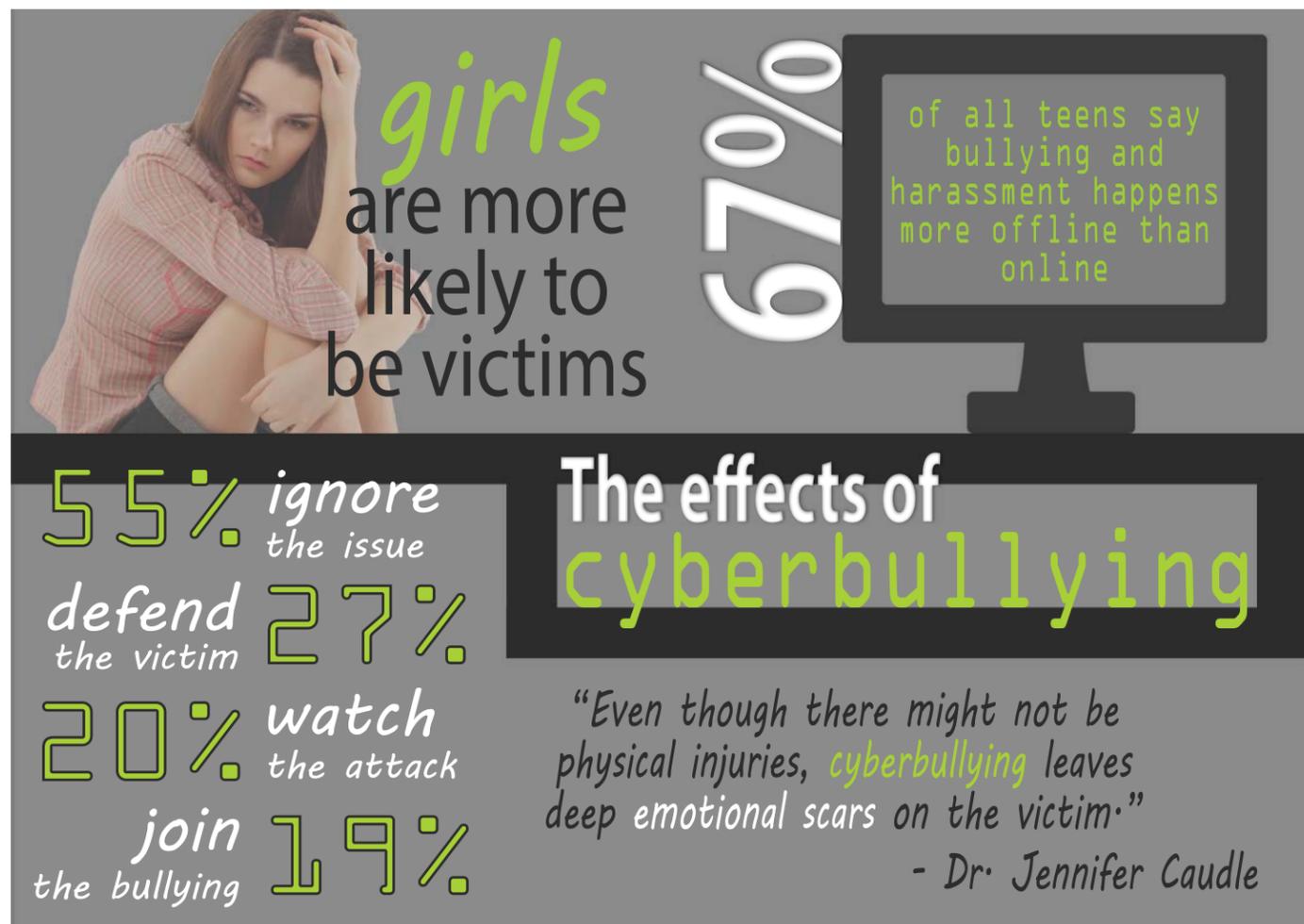
Not only does the lack of transportation affect the band's ability to practice, but it will also damage the morale at football games. Many of our students do not attend the football team's away games, and it is very discouraging to our players to look over and see empty bleachers.

Varsity quarterback, Harry Gundy also shares this opinion, "The band keeps the fans cheering, and they help us too. At some of our away games, we don't have many fans, but if the band is there, we have a huge cheering section."

The total cost for the band to be bussed to the six away games is \$32,000, but Bernat thinks that they will be able to fundraise enough money to be able to attend these games. She's not looking at it from a practice viewpoint though, and many school members disagree with her idea. Raising that much money off of students based on fundraising is a daunting task; it's just not a practical option. Aside from that, the band was planning on using their fundraising money to purchase new uniforms.

But perhaps the solution lies elsewhere, four of the six away games are within 20 miles of Leaguetown, so band members would be able to drive themselves, or ride with family member to the games. The other two games are 50 miles away, so either the band could earn money to use busses as the transportation for just these games, or they could continue to carpool.

While this might not be the most comfortable solution, our football team would be able to have an ample student section, and more importantly, our band would be able to get the practice that they deserve



Graphic Illustration
McKenna Copsey, Gering

District gets wild with words

New, expressive writing class to be offered

To expand the district’s continuing education classes, English IV teacher Rachel Turnel will teach “Writing Your Wild Life” at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 4 – May 9. Anyone who is 18 and older can enroll.

“I am going to focus on taming the inner critic so writers can get busy and write,” Turnel said. “Participants also will learn techniques for mining their own life for details and inspiration in their writing.” Turnel said the two-hour class

will focus on autobiographical narrative. “Everyone has a story to tell,” Turnel said. “Some just need a little coaxing to get it on paper.”

Parent Shelli Goad said she and her sister have signed up for the class. “The title of the class inspired to me,” Goad said. “When I was younger, I wrote in my journal every day. That all stopped when I had kids and got a full-time job. I hope to jumpstart that passion again.”

Headline Writing

Amy Huesinkvelt, Columbus Scotus

The Palace

In-depth Newspaper Coverage
 Matthew Dugick, John Morrissey
 Mount Michael Benedictine



JIM "KILLER" KANE

JIM MAYBERGER
YEARS COACHED
 2002-2006
TOTAL RECORD
 65-47
PLAYOFF APPEARANCES
 2004,2005
STATE RUNNER-UP
 2005

JIM "KILLER" KANE
YEARS COACHED
 1964-2002
OVERALL RECORD
 531-254
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
 1983,1985
STATE RUNNER-UP
 1968,1984

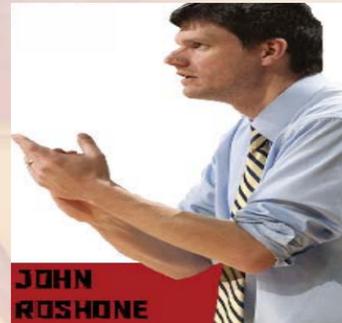


JIM MAYBERGER

JOHN ROSHONE
HEAD COACH
 2008-2015
OVERALL RECORD
 63-94
ASSISTANT COACH
 2003-2008
PLAYOFF APPEARANCES
 2015



DERRIK SPOONER



JOHN ROSHONE

DERRIK SPOONER
HEAD COACH
 2015-????
OVERALL RECORD
 ?-?
EXPIERENCE
JV COACH
MILLARD NORTH

Graphic By Kevin Arul and Cade Johnson

Coach Jim "Killer" Kane : A Look at The Man Behind The Name

John Morrissey | Editor In Chief

The basketball court's namesake is somewhat legendary not only on our grounds but in the entire state of Nebraska. Coach "Killer" Kane was the first coach to practice on the court beginning in 1964 and finishing his career in 2002. That's a 38 year long stretch with the Knights, the longest in the school's history. Current students will never have the privilege of meeting him, let alone being coached by this man.

Kane's early years at Mount Michael were some of his most influential. "He really got our sports programs off the ground," Fr. Richard Thell said. Back in 1964 Kane began as the athletic director as well as the head coach to cross country, football, basketball and track. That's four sports to manage and teach along with the demanding rigors an AD faces. "He was a special type of Athletic Director, he demanded a lot out of coaches," said John Gathje, who originally met Kane when he first came to Mount Michael and took the role as head Cross Country coach.

"I first met him at a faculty meeting and you could tell right away what type of guy he was," Gathje said. Kane had a reputation for being quite intense. "Oh he was intense," Gathje said, "but he was also calculated. Like Coach

Borer, he was a yeller but it was never a knee jerk reaction." Kane always knew exactly what he was about to spout. "He was very funny, comparable even to Bobby Knight!" Gathje said.

ever lost a home basketball. We just didn't lose," Abbot Michael Liebl said. Kane brought excellence to every program he coached. His career basketball record



Coach Jim Kane posing for a picture with his 1972 basketball team.

Kane had a very close attachment to Mount Michael and indirectly represented it throughout his coaching years. He even lived out on campus for a number of years. "He would stop in and talk with us about how the seasons progressing," Thell said, "he especially enjoyed talking to Br. Robert." Monks, players, and faculty alike all shared respect for this man and his legendary status was present before and after his death in 2003.

"There was a time starting in 1979 going all the way up to 1989 that we hardly

was 531-254 with two state titles, and he is one of 10 coaches in Nebraska high school history to win over 500 games. In football his record was 173-93, again with two state titles. "Track was probably his favorite sport to coach," Gathje said. Kane is the only Mount Michael coach to lead a track team to a state runner up title.

No current student has felt the pressure and gained the experience of learning under Killer Kane. However, many were privileged enough to play for John Roshone, former head basketball coach and Mount Michael alumnus. Roshone

played for Kane in both basketball and football from his freshman through senior year, and brought this experience into his own coaching persona in his time as the leader of the basketball team. "My dad was an assistant coach for him for around 23 years," Roshone said, "I had a lot of exposure to Kane from an early age."

Roshone explained how the largest component of a successful team that Kane emphasized was discipline. "He made bad players decent, decent players good, and good players all staters," Roshone said.

"We found it only appropriate that something like the court be named after him given the impact he had here," Liebl said.

Killer Kane Court is a staple of Mount Michael. Not only are some of the school's largest sporting events held there but also its where students have fun, practice, hangout, play warball and be Knights and brothers in general. Now with the D.J. Sokol Learning for Life Center coming to fruition, Killer Kane Court will be one of three locations at the Mount to be named after someone of honor, and this alone testifies Kane's love of the game, love of the job, and most importantly love of the school Mount Michael.

The History Of "The Palace": How An Idea Became A Reality

Matthew Lee Dugick | In-Depth Editor

It all started with one man. Fr. Benedict O.S.B., came up from Conception Abbey to Saint John's Seminary and saw there was a need for a special place for the boys to bond and grow on the campus. No, it wasn't a chapel, it was an intramural gym; that is what it all started out as at least.

Just like today, there was the Fall Festival to help raise funds for much needed projects. In 1958, that festival took place on Sept. 21. It was estimated that 11,000 people attended the event. On that day, the festival grossed more than it had the last two years prior. They made about 17,000 dollars. With inflation, that would be equivalent to making 137,000 dollars today. This \$17,000 was enough to start the building of the gymnasium. Excavations for the gymnasium began the day after the festival of 1958.

The original floor plan provided a space of 90' by 70', with two cross court intramural basketball hoops and an interior made for an auditorium. The next phase of the plan was to add bowling alleys and hobby rooms, as well as a stage. After adding in cost for the floor covering and seating, the gym ended up costing \$100,000. St. John's, as the school was known then, had been granted permission by Conception Abbey to borrow the funds needed to finish the gym. The gymnasium would be named in honor of Archbishop Bergan, who was a large contributor in making the dream a reality for the monks and priests of Saint John's.

In the February, 1959 "Michealeen", they

announced the dedication ceremonies for the new Archbishop Bergan Gymnasium; Mar 22, 1959. At this time they were still missing paint, floor coverings, bleachers, and equipment for movies and public speaking.

A tradition that has since passed is the Mardi Gras get-together. The senior class led the event and they had games and dancing for the whole community. This event was typically held in the crypt and each class prior to that of 1959 raised money and put it towards the gym. The class of 1959 raised 1000 dollars for the gym fund.

On Mar. 22, 1959 at three o'clock in the afternoon, Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan blessed the new gymnasium named in honor of him. On hand for the celebration was Ab-

bot Stephen Schappler, O.S.B., of Conception Abbey, Dr. F.P. Decker of the Nebraska Commissioner of Education and finally all the friends and family of the St. John's community.

The final floor plan measured at 104' by 70'. As one entered the gym there were bathrooms on the left hand side and athletic rooms on the right hand side. Above you, there was a balcony that stretched all the way across the gym running north to south. In the middle of the balcony there was a projection booth that housed a

35 mm. camera for student movies. The student weight room was located first on the northern side of the bottom floor and then it would move its way up to the southern side of the bird's nest.

Things would stay the same for the newly built gymnasium until in 1978, the new stage and student union were added to the north side of the gym. The plans always included adding a stage in the future, therefore, when they were building the gym, they made it easy to add on the stage as soon as they found the funds to do so. The student union was added at the same time to give the students another place to hangout without having to be in their rooms. The old garage for the monastery, which is now the new weight room, was added shortly after the stage.

The next important improvement to the gym was the wood floors. When the gymnasium was originally built, they never had in mind that it would be used as an actual gym, rather an intramural gym for the students. In 1981, Bro. Mel Tichota, O.S.B., and Fr. Daniel Lenz, O.S.B. removed the tile floors and added the new wood floor in eight days. This job would typically take another group 14 days to complete.

In 2001, thanks to the generous donation of the Sokol family, the student union received a facelift and a received a new name: "The Armory."

It all started with one man who had a very small idea. But over the years, this small idea has become an important part of Mount Michael. Today, the student section's roar can be heard all about campus during basketball games as we cheer on our fellow knights, just as Fr. Benedict intended.



Students enjoy some downtime in "The Palace." The gym was originally ment to be used as an intramural gym but it has turned into a trademark for The Mount.

6



1959 Construction of the gym is finished



1959 The Palace is blessed by Archbishop Bergan



1978 Stage and Armory are added



1981 Tile floor is replaced with wood



2015 John Roshone retired from coaching



2003 Over 800 people attend Jim Kane's funeral



2015 The floor is resurfaced with the cross at half court



2015 Derrick Spooner is named the new head coach

7

Welcome to Your Worst Nightmare : Why Students Love "The Palace" and Opponents Fear It

Sam Van Haute | Guest Writer

One who has never been in "The Palace" during a home basketball game may ask themselves, "Can we even fit all of the students into this gym?" Although the infamous "Palace" is small in stature, it is one of the top venues for high school basketball in the state of Nebraska. The gym itself is a very special place because of its history of reaching full capacity, however, it would be irrelevant without the atmosphere created by the student section, often called "The Sixth Man."

In December of 2013, the knights played Knox Grammar, an international team from Sydney, Australia. The coach of the varsity team, who had traveled the world coaching and playing professionally said, "I have never seen that sort of small crowd generate that much energy in my life."

Being a part of "The Sixth Man," can be an incredible experience. "We expect everyone to participate in the chants, create energy and noise, and simply go crazy," senior yell leader Matthew Dugick said.

For players on the basketball team, the screaming crowd makes all the difference during the game. Year after year this mission is accomplished and Mount Michael's student section has rightfully achieved its notoriety as one of Nebraska's best, making "The Palace" one tough place to play.

"The crowd brings in so much energy that it feels like we have an extra guy out there," sophomore point guard Jacob Ira said.

For opposing teams, playing at Mount Michael is a nightmare. They mark their calendars for the day when

they have to get on a bus and travel to the peaceful outskirts of Elkhorn, to be continually pressured by a loud and rowdy crowd for 32 minutes of basketball. 2015 alumnus and former starting forward Jake Batenhorst said that the louder that "The Palace" got, the better the team played.

"Although I can't say the same thing for the other



David Cormier, Dean Of Students, gathers the student section together to make an announcement to the student body.

team," Batenhorst said. The unfortunate truth for the opposing team is that they can bring along fans, but they will be muted by the yells and screams of "The Sixth Man," deeming them ineffective.

On the other hand, the knights are fueled with passion, encouragement, and intensity. The support that the team gets is unrivaled.

"I have never felt anything like that before, even being able to play at the college level. At Mount Michael, you can actually tell that the fans care about our success," said Tommy Farhart, 2015 alumnus and former guard.

"The Sixth Man" ultimately reveals the upmost potential of the team.

"The crowd at home games brings the best out of us on the court," explained senior guard Ray Dorsey.

The most special part of the Knight's student section is that, despite the atmosphere being so energetic and wild, "The Sixth Man" is always a class act. When a player is injured, no matter the team, every corner of the gym is filled with silence. When the other players are announced, a round of applause can be heard from both sides of the gym. And when the Knights are defeated, "The Sixth Man" is always there to support the Knights and congratulate the victors. Farhart says that the feeling he got while playing in the palace was one he doesn't feel anywhere else. "It is like a brotherhood that cares about you and that's pretty awesome."

This unique atmosphere is why the Palace and especially "The Sixth Man" give the Knights one of the best home court advantages in Nebraska high school basketball.

Graphic By Joe Budd and Michael Ecker

The push for Unified Sports has made headway and Unified Bowling will make its appearance in the 2016-2017 school year.

A bylaw passed in the spring of 2014 allowed for Unified Sports to eventually work their way into the school system. This law states that “Special Olympics Unified Sports is an inclusive activity.”

Unified Sports is a special concept where there is an equal amount of Special Olympics individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals who do not have intellectual disabilities. By combing these teams, the Special Olympics participants can feel more a part of the school and can gain social and personal benefits.

Dan Masters, NSAA Assistant Director is thrilled to get the Unified Bowling up and running so that more students can participate in sports.

“This is the first time that Unified Sports will be in the schools sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA). The schools that have signed up to participate have been giving mostly positive feedback,” Masters said. “Students with intellectual disabilities will now be participating in a school sport. Where they haven’t been able in the past to really dive in to a sport, they now have the opportunity to compete.”

A meeting of six Special Olympics personnel, Dan Masters, the Executive Director, different board members and athletic director’s from across the state ended in excitement and a decision to implement Unified Bowling.

40 schools have signed up to take part in the NSAA sanctioned Unified Bowling. For this sport, there will be only one classification and the season will run from mid-October through early December. The team will consist of five student athletes, two of which will be substitutes.

Masters is looking forward to what the Unified Sports program will offer students. “One of the best things about Unified Bowling is that students will take on lessons that can’t be taught in the classroom,” Masters said. “Lifelong lessons that students can take and apply after high school and into their future is just one of the many things we are hoping will be conveyed through Unified Bowling.”

Bowling was chosen to be one of the first Unified Sports by the athletic directors and others throughout the state of Nebraska. The organization for Unified Bowling started in July of 2015 and the committee was formed afterwards.

The Baker trio format of one person alternately bowling each frame will be used. The student with intellectual disabilities will both start and finish the game.

News Writing
Brianna Eckerberg, Gering



News Feature Photography
Jessica Brockhaus
Columbus Scotus



As she jogs along the streets of Norfolk, three miles a day assuming the weather is on her side, one would never assume the life she's had, the hole in heart that nearly killed her before. Maybe it's her Teflon heart that keeps her going, but to this day, Norfolk Mayor Sue Fuchtman keeps on pushing, despite the challenges and obstacles she's had to overcome to get to where she is today. And she has no plans to stop.

On May 13th, 1952, Fuchtman was born with a hole in her heart. Her parents were told to go home and enjoy their three sons, because she would not live past three months. "You had to know my dad, though," Fuchtman remembers. "He was so determined, and there were many adults in my life that stood by me. But my dad was a big part of that. He was determined, and maybe that's why I'm so determined, too."

Despite the doctors' estimates, Fuchtman lived past three months, but it wasn't always easy. "My heart condition limited me, but I don't think it ever held me back," Fuchtman recalls. "I became the world's best babysitter, because I couldn't do any of the physical activities." She couldn't do any truly physical activities, and she remembers that something as simple as going up the stairs could leave her winded.

Luckily, though Fuchtman received open heart surgery at the age of thirteen. "My mother was very much the strength in my family. My father would've done anything for me, but my mom..." On the day here surgery was supposed to take place, Fuchtman began to panic. "I started saying, 'I don't want to do this,' and my dad said, 'We go home then.' But my mom said, 'We're doing this,' and looking back on it, she was very much the strength of my family.

The hole in her heart was filled with Teflon, and, from that day forward, she was instilled with a lesson from her father, Wayne "Smokey" Stover, that drove her. "After the surgery, my dad always said 'You have a purpose, young lady,' and that I should appreciate that I have received this gift. And that was very important to me."

Fuchtman decided that her purpose would be service. When she graduated high school, she became a telephone operator. Eventually, she got involved in Dayco, a company which develops invoices for moving companies that move service men across the country. As she got older, she got more and more involved in her community, serving as President of the Women's Division of the Chamber, and received many rewards for her service. She has had 13 years of service on the Norfolk Planning Commission, and was re-elected as Chair on a yearly basis from 2001 to 2008.

In 2008, she was approached by a friend in the community and asked if she wanted to run for Mayor. "At first, I looked at him like he had lost his marbles." A few weeks later though, she was approached by a few others, who also asked her to run. "In that moment," Fuchtman says, "I knew this would be difficult, and I knew I wouldn't be able to do it alone."

Newspaper Feature Writing
Joshua Andersen, Johnson-Brock

THE TELEGRAM

Issue 1 | Volume VI | 25 April 2016 | www.issuu.com/thetelegrampublications

Students spend the day helping

ALEXA ANDERSON
Gering Courier

The Gering senior class got to take the day off from school on Friday to help serve the community with several projects throughout the area.

Seniors from Gering High School were seen all throughout Gering and Scottsbluff doing community service Friday morning.

The seniors were given the opportunity to choose what job they took on whether it was cleaning up trash along the highway, or helping out animals at the humane society.

Senior Cassidy Cooper chose to help pick up trash along U Street all the way to Country Club Road.

"Picking up trash was not

as bad as it sounds," Cooper said. "I actually enjoyed it because for once it was a nice day out and everyone helped out."

After Cooper and her group of other seniors finished cleaning up trash, they moved on to help out the Humane Society.

"The Humane Society was the best experience because we actually got to interact with the animals even if it was just cleaning out their cages," Cooper said.

Cooper and her group at the Humane Society helped bathe the newborn kittens, walk the dogs, and clean out the cages of the animals. Justin Wallace and Brandon Gable, also in Cooper's group, did not necessarily interact with the animals but they helped with the Humane Society's renovation.

In another group was



PHOTO COURTESY // GERING HIGH SCHOOL
 A senior from Gering High School rakes up leaves in a park. The Gering High School seniors cleaned houses, raked leaves, and helped out in the community.



PHOTO COURTESY // GERING HIGH SCHOOL
 Senior Cassidy Cooper cleans a kitten at the Humane Society. The seniors from Gering High School took advantage of Friday to help around the community.

senior Dakota Gellner, who signed up to work at the monument.

"I chose to work at the monument because I knew it was going to be a beautiful day outside, and I enjoy doing work when it was as nice as it was," Gellner said.

Gellner and her group worked out by an old dump site next to the monument. They began by picking up all kinds of debris to clear

the site so they could begin to replace the prairie. When they were finished raking and planting seed, the area they were working on became a part of the prairie once again.

"I was not sure what we were going to do that day but I had fun digging the trenches," Gellner said, "I would do it all again if I had to."

Other groups also helped around the community with

cleaning houses, raking at the zoo, setting-up the senior picnic, working at local parks, and helping out at the museum in Gering.

After their community service, the seniors got to lay-back at a picnic teacher Janelle Schultz help set-up and play games such as volleyball and badminton.

"The whole day was great," Senior Bret Orozco,

HELPING Page 2

Distracted driving Honoring Mr. Schlothauer

TEDDI DINELEY
Staff Reporter

It's 8 a.m., and you jump in your car to drive to work. You have every intention of driving safely, but within minutes of merging onto the highway you've already checked your makeup in the mirror, fiddled with your car's radio, programmed your GPS for a meeting location, made two calls on your cell-phone and sent a text message to your sister.

You might not realize it, but you're a distracted driver.

Each time you take your focus off the road, even if just for a split second, you're putting your life and the lives of others in danger. An emerging and deadly epidemic on the nation's roads, distracted driving-related crashes caused at least 5,500 deaths and nearly 450,000 injuries in 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. However, since many local law enforcement agencies don't routinely document distraction factors in crash

DRIVING Page 2



PHOTO COURTESY // LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 Lincoln elementary teacher Mr. Schlothauer holds up a picture for the camera. Mr. Schlothauer will be leaving next year.

BRAD STAMAN
Editor

The snow fell Wednesday morning as the students headed into Lincoln Elementary School, there was one thing a little different than other days and a number of students were wearing neckties.

Why?

"It's Mr. Schlothauer Day," fifth-grader Keon Booker said, wearing his necktie. "We get to dress up like our principal."

"It's awesome," fifth-grader Adam Flowers added, wearing his necktie. In the morning assembly Gering City Council member

Don Christiansen read a proclamation from Gering's Mayor Ed Mayo declaring May 1, 2013, as Principal George Schlothauer Day.

The students wore neckties because Schlothauer "always wears a necktie," Lincoln second-grade teacher Deb Schild said. "When I saw it was

snowing today, I almost, didn't wear a tie." Schlothauer told the students after being honored. "But I decided I'd wear one."

Throughout the day, the students, teachers and staff organized ways to honor Schlothauer.

The students dressed up and sang him a special song. They also each wrote him a letter and gave him gifts.

Schlothauer will leave the school after seven years as the principal to become the Director of Alternative Education at VALTS.

The Gering graduate worked at the Gering Junior High School for four years before taking the principal position at Lincoln.

With him leaving, "we wanted to give him a great send off from the kids and staff," Schild said.

When the day was first planned the students took a pledge to keep the information secret, and for the most, they succeeded.

"I was definitely surprised," Schlothauer said. "Very surprising and touching."



Sports Action Photography
Emily Fehringer, Columbus Scotus



"I don't care what other people think of me. I know what I want, and I know who I am."

Photo Illustration
Hope Svoboda, Sandy Creek

Local Basketball Coach creates a Community of Success on and off the court:

Randall Esquivel - Class B

He is a developer, an inspirer, the man that can unite a community through basketball. You can call him whatever you want but he sees himself as just a coach for the Norfolk High School boys basketball varsity team.

Head Coach Ben Ries has around the game of basketball for nearly his whole life. Growing in Norfolk, Ries was very active and participated in sports ranging from football to running. "It wasn't until I entered junior high that I started to love the game of basketball," Ries said. "I just had a feeling that this sport was going to be a very important part in my life."

There was no denying this. Ries participated in basketball for Norfolk High School until he graduated in 1996. He would begin his collegiate basketball career that same year for the University of South Dakota.

"I was very blessed to have been surrounded by such quality teammates and a terrific coach," Ries said. "I have had some of the best memories of my life around my teammates not only in games but off the court like in trips and hotel stay-ins."

Every moment was cherished and invaluable to him during his time at South Dakota. His love for the game would lead him into the life of coaching. Coaching was definitely a different ball-game from being a player but it, nevertheless, proved to be something he would love.

After working as a Graduate Assistant Coach for his university, Ries returned to his hometown Norfolk. There, he would take on the task of developing young adults in the education department and in the athletic department as well.

Success is no unfamiliar face for Ries. He has now a 244-95 record for the Norfolk basketball program. Ries led the Panthers to a staggering list of achievements that include various GNAC conference championships, district championships, and even state appearances.

"Making the run to the state championship game in 2010 was no doubt one of the greatest highlights of my career," Ries said. "The season was terrific and we have had moments that I would never forget."

Despite losing to Omaha Central in the final, Ries admires the quality of the men he had in his team and remembers moments of this particular season vividly. "Beating Omaha Creighton Prep off a buzzer in the district semi-final game was incredible," Ries said.

They say that success is no accident. Ries faces the struggles of competing against Omaha Metro schools. Schools that have enrollment much larger than that of Norfolk.

"Our youth program has been a key aspect to the success of the Norfolk basketball program," Ries said. "There we can see our aspiring players at an early age."

Though, he uses this system for evaluating potential stars, he makes it clear the overall goal and mission of this program. "Before we even develop them as players, we want to develop them as young adults who are well educated and willing to serve for their community," Ries said. "I look for respectful, hard-working, and confident people for my team."

When people ask him what makes basketball so special to him, he smiles. "Basketball has been an important part of my life," Ries said. "I have met so many wonderful people and I have been blessed with so many opportunities because of it."

These reasons have continued to inspire and motivate him to coach and develop the children of Norfolk. Above all, seeing the children he has affected grow assures him that he is achieving his purpose.

Ries now is still currently the Physical Education Teacher/Department Head of Norfolk High School and is Head Coach for the basketball program there. He is blessed with three children and has been currently married to his wife Amy for 14 years now.

A week ago, the Leaguetown Bombers won the conference championship by beating out rival Bay City 84-78. This is the Bombers' third conference championship in a row.

Sue Stuart led the bombers in points with 32, and Jane Jackson was the next highest scorer with 25. Jackson also had 14 rebounds giving her a double-double for the night. Natalie Combs was second in rebounding with eight.

"We really came together tonight. Mary was on fire, and you have to love the way Jane worked inside. Lewis is a monster, but Jane really went to battle down there," sophomore point guard Sue Stuart said.

Both Leaguetown and Bay City were 11-2 going into the conference championship game. Bay City had monster center, Luann Lewis. Lewis scored over half of Bay City's 78 points with 40 points. Lewis also had 16 rebounds earning her a double-double on the night.

"This was a great win for us. Bay City is an excellent team and we were fortunate to come out of here with a win. Their center is a one of a kind player: not the kind of player you plan on stopping, you just try to slow her down," Coach Jamie Bensen said.

For season stats, Sue Stuart leads the team in points with 914. Jane Jackson is in second for points with 681. In the rebounding category Jackson leads with 270 rebounds. Antonia Davis is in second with 103, and in close third is Sami Peterson with 100 rebounds.

Four years ago, Coach Jamie Bensen came to Leaguetown. Bensen improved the team's reputation, and their behavior. Bensen has helped the Bombers turn around their basketball program by winning three conference championships out of her first four years of being here.

The Leaguetown bombers returned to work Wednesday preparing for district competition next week. With a conference title under the Bomber's belt, they are confident to do well in the upcoming district tournament.

Sports News Coverage
Tanner Novotny, Fairbury

Sports Feature Writing
Randall Esquivel, Mount Michael Benedictine

By Breanna Smith - Class B

Most people have someone in their lives that they aspire to be like someday. For some of the students at Leaguetown High School, that person is Ms. Angela Munday.

Munday, who was a 1999 graduate from Leaguetown, is now a math teacher there. She has recently begun planning to restart a program that has helped her to where she is today.

Munday had what most would call a difficult life as a child. Her mother was sent to prison when Munday was 12, so Munday and her three younger sisters were sent to live with their grandmother.

"My grandma did the best she could, but she was done raising children. She didn't have the energy or money to support all of us," says Munday.

Munday says this lack of stability contributed to where her path led next.

"During my ninth-grade year I was drinking alcohol and skipping school. I basically was just giving up. I was on the same path my mother took," she says.

In November of that year, Munday's school counselor assigned her a mentor named Beth Freckling.

"Beth talked to me about college, about having a career, about setting goals for my life. I had never thought about the future before meeting Beth," Munday recalls.

Freckling remained Munday's mentor throughout high school. During that time, the two became friends.

"My senior year, Beth helped me fill out my college applications and apply for financial aid. She even took me to my first college visit. She is my best supporter and best friend - still," says Munday.

While Munday was attending college, the mentor program was cut from the school. Munday made it her mission to get the program started again.

"I have several students who remind me of myself as a freshman. I believe someone can and will make a difference in their lives," Munday says confidently.

Freckling is still one of Munday's biggest supporters and is very proud of Munday for doing this.

"I am thrilled that Angela is reviving the mentoring program. She will change lives. She's that kind of person," says Freckling.

Freckling is not the only one praising

Munday for work in this project. Leaguetown high school's principal, Mr. Asher Price, says the school is supporting this program as much as they can.

"It will be a great addition to the school. I know many of our students could use a mentor. I am happy that Ms. Munday is doing this," says Price.

Munday is gaining respect from students because of this project as well.

"I hope that I can get a mentor on May 1. My mom didn't go to college, so she doesn't understand all the forms and applications. I hope my mentor can help guide me through that process," says sophomore Corey Small.

Freshman Ylise Ventura thought something similar.

"Maybe a mentor can turn my life around like Ms. Munday's life. If I could be a teacher like her, I would be so happy," Ventura says.

The mentoring program will begin with registration on May 1. Students who are interested in obtaining a mentor may sign up with Munday in Room 318. Faculty and staff may also suggest students for mentors.



Yearbook Feature Writing Breanna Smith, Logan View



Swooping in

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

Eyes on the prize

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Yearbook Layout Arielle Wiedenbeck, Waverly

Ever since she was seven years old, sophomore Roxanne Grant has wanted to become a NASCAR driver. That dream became a reality when she was the first female and youngest driver to win a spot at the NASCAR's legendary training camp. Her love for racing began when she started watching racing cartoons with her dad and grew into competing in amateur races.

"My first race was a go-cart race when I was 10 years old." Roxanne said. "After that I got serious about racing and lucky for me, my dad was supportive."

Ever since that day Roxanne has wanted to actually compete with a real engine and car. Her biggest supporter and dad, Bart Grant found her a car and began searching for competitions that she could compete in.

Not only has Roxanne won three amateur races, but she has also been featured in the February issue of *Race* where the magazine named her "Best Up and Coming New Driver in the Nation."

Roxanne has recently just turned 16 and weighs less than 100 pounds. She had taken her driver's test like all the other teenagers, but found a bit more difficult than racing.

Roxanne said that when she is in a race car she feels safe belted in, but when she is in the street everything is a lot looser and harder to control a station wagon rather than a race car.

When Roxanne first had the idea of racing many people told her that it was too dangerous and that she was a girl. Roxanne's dad and her best friend Elise Former have been there since the beginning and continue to cheer her on as she becomes a professional racer.

"I catch the flak from people sometime." Brant said, "But it's no more dangerous than cheerleading or football."

Former has dedicated her time to Roxanne and spends almost every weekend at the tracks with her and was the only person with Roxanne when she received the letter for the camp. Former said that she went a little crazy and almost hyperventilated.

The camp that Roxanne plans on attending in June will take place in Daytona Beach, FL., and has an average age of 23. She will be competing against male competitors and will be there for three days.

Roxanne's dad will be attending the camp with her where she will go from an amateur driver to professional racing.

"Roxanne has a dream and is pursuing it completely." Bart said, "It's scary every time she gets behind the wheel for a race, but this is her dream."

Before going out on the track, Roxanne and her dad perform a little ritual at every race.

"I kiss her cheek, and she gives me thumbs up." Bart said. "Then, I say a silent prayer for her to do her best and finish well."

**Yearbook Sports Feature Writing
Madison Davis, Yutan**

Theme: Can you see it?

Copy intended to look broken and resemble a bulleted list to demonstrate the excited, and often topic-altering, question of "Can you see it?"

Opening Copy:

Can you see it?

Can you see the quarterback ripping through the Tigers banner and the excitement and energy behind him, the students' eyes squinting from grins and cheers erupting from the crowd? Seeing isn't always believing.

Can you see the year spreading out before you, like your own orange carpet waiting to be graced with cheerleading uniforms and quiz bowl champions? Of course not; but you can see the doors of the school and hear the bell screaming that class has started. Can you see how the girls' basketball team will come together to take the conference championship in February? No, but you can feel the comradery between them in every lunch period and classroom.

There are things that you will see, and things you will hear. Things you will know and things you will wish you knew. Things you will feel and things that you will wish with all of your being that you didn't. But can you see it? Can you see the lessons that 2016 will teach you, and the lessons that wait just after that? Can you see that you're growing up, and that high school doesn't last forever? Of course you can; that one you don't need to see. Can you see the year bound within 400 pages and two covers? Can you see that more is in store for you? Can you see what it means to you?

Can you see it?

**Yearbook Theme Copy Writing
Aelyn Thompson, Waverly**

Yearbook Theme Development
Jerilyn Laws, Allison Wilson, Jade Melroy, Gering

Gering High School

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