

2017

# **State Journalism Champions Class B**



## Theme – Doors Wide Open

### Opening –

“Excuse me sir, the door is locked. I can’t get in.”

“Of course you can get in; the DOORS are WIDE OPEN.”

“Sir, I don’t understand the door is closed.”

“No, you see *this* door is closed, but the door of life is WIDE OPEN.”

Throughout the years of high school, students come to many closed doors. These doors don’t stand in your way though; they carve the path of life you choose to take.

City High is all about pushing through barriers. The new year will consist of many changes. One being all students will receive their own laptops. The 488 students in attendance will now have better resources to accomplish their work.

Another change at City High will be the 10 new staff members and assistant principal that will be joining the flow of the Bugeaters. The new members of the City High program will work to remove any closed doors from the students’ paths. Together students and teachers will work to open doors and provide opportunities that were blocked before.

The changes in ethnic backgrounds this year will better the cultural understanding and acceptance of students that differ from themselves. With better understanding of others, students will open new doors for themselves that can further their appreciation for others.

As students grow, more doors will open up and allow them to take that path. Each path can lead students to a new place and new experiences. When closed doors block the path, push forward and open it. Don’t let closed doors block out the light. Light can shine through even the smallest of spaces.

Together as Bugeaters, we will force our way through and find that there are DOORS WIDE OPEN.

Haley Herman  
Yutan High School  
Yearbook Theme Copy Writing

# SUPER LICE



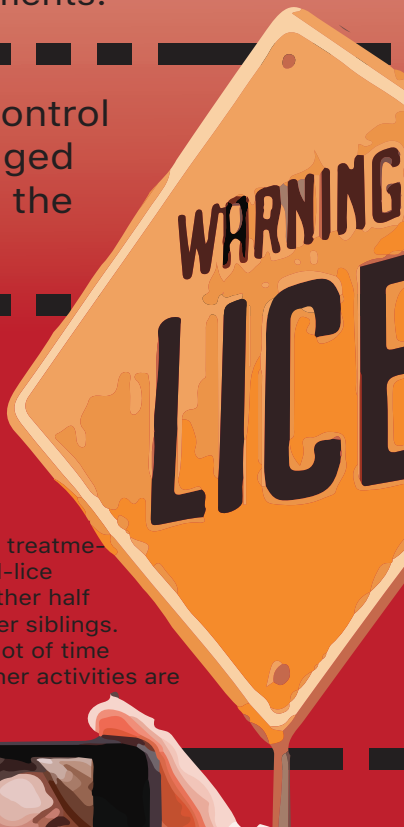
Alisha Schnakenberg  
Sandy Creek High School  
Info Graphic

- A recent study shows 99% of head lice have developed a genetic mutation allowing them to resist over-the-counter lice shampoos and prescription chemical treatments.

- The Centers for Disease Control says six to 12 million kids, aged three to 11 years, get lice in the U.S. each year

**MYTH NO. 1:** Lice can jump and fly. Lice crawl. Period. They move from one head to another by grabbing onto a passing hair with one of their six claws. In order for that to happen, two heads have to be close enough for hair to touch.

**MYTH NO. 2:** Only kids get lice. Based on treatments at Lice Clinics of America, just half of head-lice infestations happen to school-age kids. The other half happen to parents (usually the moms) and older siblings. Teenagers and college students who spend a lot of time putting their heads together for selfies and other activities are also not immune.



**LICE CAN TRANSFER  
HOSTS AS QUICK AS IT  
TAKES TO TAKE A SELFIE**

Arielle Wiedenbeck, Aelyn Thompson  
Waverly High School  
Yearbook Theme Development





# jubilee

noun {jōōbə - lē} an occasion worth celebrating

## Granting the Wishes of Graduating

Graduation Sunday in high schools across the nation is a sight to see. For Leaguetown High School, 72 seniors will walk the stage to receive a diploma and begin the next chapter in life.

Except for one senior who will have an experience that came one month early in a hospital lobby, instead of a high school gym.

Benjamin Valle, an A honor roll student, will be the first in his family to wear a cap and gown. Valle's mother, Lydia, wanted to make sure he had opportunities she didn't.

"My mother has always pushed me in school," Valle said. "Since I was little, education was the top priority in my house."

His mother, Mrs. Valle, was diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma, a rare blood cancer. In early April, the family was informed that she had only a month to live.

"My mom first got sick when I was in ninth grade," Valle said. "During my sophomore year, she went into remission, and life was normal again. Then the cancer returned with a vengeance."

One month was not long enough to witness her first born graduate with honors. Her strongest desire was about to be taken away from her.

"Lydia spent her life loving her children and teaching the to love education," father Antonio Valle said.

Everything changed when principal Kendall Lindares granted Valle's wish of holding an early graduation ceremony.

"I was so touched that I could hardly speak," Valle said. "In the 20 minutes I was in his office, he arranged for me to get a graduation cap and gown, spoke with my teachers about my completing my work early and even ordered my diploma."

Valle's teachers and administrators whole heartedly supported his dream of having his mom attend this milestone.

Brianna Gable  
Waverly High School  
Newspaper Feature Writing



Jessica Buhman  
Columbus Scotus High School  
News Feature Photograph



## Setting a New Standard

While some use their winter break to get caught up on sleep, relax with friends, or socialize with family over the holidays, others have different goals in mind. Social Studies teacher Hank Bettina spent his two-week break doing something extraordinary – converting a used school bus into his new 225 square-foot home.

After seeing an ad on Craig's List for a used school bus selling for \$3,000 one Saturday, Bettina decided to take up the offer. Bettina then committed his winter break to converting the bus into a unique and interesting style of living.

"The bus was in decent mechanical shape, but the inside was pretty beat up," Bettina said. "That's when the idea of converting it into a home just popped into my head."

Taking each detail into consideration, Bettina spent hours restructuring the bus. He removed all of the traditional seats, except the driver's seat, and added areas such as a bathroom, kitchenette and even a storage area. Bettina committed his entire being to the project, sometimes staying awake for 36 hours designing over the course of one weekend. He also recruited friend and fellow teacher, Matt Wittmer to assist him with the construction.

"The toughest part was running electricity and getting a small water tank attached to the back of the bus," Bettina said. "I have to admit, it's pretty cool inside. We got carried away with the colors, and this might be the brightest home I've ever seen."

Bettina's project cost about \$6,000 to reconstruct, but saved him more money in the long run. Over spring break, Bettina moved out of his apartment and settled in the bus. Living inside the renovated bus saved Bettina more than \$500 on rent and \$200 on utility payments each month. He also plans to use the bus as a form of transportation to travel his way along the infamous Route 66 during the summer months.

"A few people have questioned why I am doing it," Bettina said. "And I guess my best answer is, 'Why not?' I am 25 years old, single and don't have a need for a lot of material things. With the money I save on rent and utilities, I will be able to travel more."

The strenuous hours spent remodeling the bus paved the way for Bettina's future adventures. Bettina plans to live in the bus for a little more than a year and travel with it for two summers. He then hopes to install the bus as a vacation home at his grandparents' acreage in Colorado.

"For years, my grandfather and I talked about building a small cabin on his land, but the building codes for that area don't allow homes under 800 square feet," Bettina said. "A big cabin is too expensive for us. We heard that if the home was on wheels, we could get away with anything we wanted."

Bettina's determination and dedication showed Leaguetown students and staff that putting their skills to the test can impact their lives, guiding them to follow their pursuit of happiness and their wandering passion for adventure.

Ashly Helfrich  
Bennington High School  
Yearbook Feature Writing

Adolescent Addiction  
Cell Phones are taking over young lives  
By McKensi Uecker

BUZZ. BUZZ. BUZZ. There it is again, your cellphone interrupting yet another English lecture. Your teacher glares at you, possibly taking your phone away, or as mine usually does, ignoring the interruption completely because it has become such a regular part of their day. But why is your phone on in the first place? Did you really need to take it to class? What a silly question, of course you did! It's the only way you can know what your friend just posted on Instagram, or maintain your oh so important Snapchat streaks.

While cell phones are great for emergencies and aiding in communication with friends and family, many adolescents have formed an addiction to their phones. This absolute dependence has eliminated many skills that past generations took for granted. A great example of this happened to me last week. I was driving in Lincoln with a friend, and we were attempting to find a clothing store. We didn't have any GPS signal at the time (you all know the struggle), and without Google Maps we were completely and utterly lost. She pulled a paper map out of my glove compartment and tried using it to find the street where the store was located—but she couldn't decipher a simple map. I know, crazy right? But think of the last time you attempted to find a place using a foldout map. It's probably been awhile (if you've used one at all).

While our navigational skills have been almost entirely erased, the impact can be seen in nearly all aspects of adolescent life. Kids these days aren't living "in the moment," their living through cameras. Their biggest fear isn't heights, their biggest fear is running out of data every month. I'll condone that there are obvious benefits to cell phone usage, but instead of enjoying life, adolescents are spending all of their time attempting to capture it, so that they can post it on their social media and "flex for the 'gram" (referring to Instagram of course). As a generation, we need to stop obsessing over what our social media accounts look like. Don't worry if your Twitter feed is running dry, the only person that really notices is you. Instead of trying to think of a clever post, go make some memories and stop worrying about the number of likes you got on your most recent selfie.

So please, put down your phones and look around. Maybe talk to that cute person from class that you've been dying to meet, instead of sliding into their DMs. Rather than Face-Timing your best friend every evening, go out to eat and have a actual face-to-face conversation. Quit avoiding life behind the screen of your smart phone. Venture outside for once and stop limiting your life to where the Wi-Fi signal ends.

McKensi Uecker  
Sandy Creek High School  
Newspaper Column Writing





Savanah Ellis  
Southern Valley High School  
Photo Illustration

## Heart, Fight, and Football

Making the football playoffs is always a major highlight of any team's season. Making the playoffs consistently is something that is expected of powerhouse football teams. After all the playoff rounds have been completed and the championship game is set, fans are expecting a great, competitive treat. This year's championship game did not upset those expectations.

Facing off in this year's championship game, was the Jackson High Rabbits (11-1) verse the Summit High Hawks (10-2). The Rabbits defeated Lincoln, Adams, Jefferson, and Fillmore on their chase for their first ever appearance in a championship game. They had qualified for the playoffs for five straight seasons, but were never able to finish with the biggest game of the year.

On the other side of the field were the Summit High Hawks. They beat Browning, Greenville, Bluestem, and Redville during their playoff run. They have qualified for the payoffs ten times, but have not won a championship since 2002. The only thing that stood in the way of earning another title was the tough team of the Jackson High Rabbits.

The Class B state championship game was held at Memorial Field in Lincoln, Nebraska. When the teams arrived at the venue, they were in the zone, listening to music and getting in the right mindset for the competition. The game kicked off at two in the afternoon, and there was a large, rowdy crowd ready for some great football.

After choosing to punt on their first possession of the game, the Hawks gave the Rabbits the ball at the twenty-seven yard line. The Jackson Rabbits were able to take that opportunity, and drove the ball seventy-three yards in eleven plays to make it in the end zone, and put the first points on the board. The star of the drive was senior running back, Dan Smith who carried the ball seven times for fifty-six yards. At the end of the first, Jackson led seven to three after Summit was able to score a field goal.

During the second quarter, the Rabbits were still running strong. Their defense held the Hawks to no points, and even caused a fumble. After the Rabbits got the ball back, they were able to score with another drive led by Smith.

Although they were losing, fourteen to three at halftime, the Summit High Hawks were still confident. They knew if they just relaxed and played without their nerves, they would be right back in the game. "We were disappointed at halftime, being down eleven, but we were still confident," said Larry Brown, the Hawk's junior quarterback.

The Hawks came out with a renewed excitement during the third quarter, and held the Rabbits to fourteen points. The Hawks were able to score on a field goal after a rabbit turnover as well as a touchdown drive. "We were finally able to stop them the second half and got our offense going a little better," said Brown. At the end of the third the score was fourteen to thirteen with the Rabbits still in the lead.

Then came the daunting fourth quarter. The fans were on the edges of their seats waiting in anticipation for what was sure to be a great finish. The Hawks scored a field goal early in the quarter, on a drive that was led by Brown.

Brittney Zoubek  
Dorchester High School  
Yearbook Sports Feature Writing

Walking into the front doors of Hawk's Point at Path Hall was anything but remarkable. I was greeted with no hello from the front desk and the rudeness of college students, understandably so, considering an oh-so-young high school student just invaded their lounge center.

Hawk's Point is an area on the first floor of the Path Hall dormitory where the students attending Northeast Community College can go to play games, relax, or grab a quick bite to eat in-between classes or sit down for a meal.

In my opinion, Hawk's Point is the exact opposite of a friendly relaxation area.

The cafeteria was inadequate for anyone coming to quench their thirst or subdue their hunger. The tables were littered with trash and crumbs from the messy people eating their meals. There was nobody working towards cleaning the spilled macaroni and cheese noodles on the tables. There was a salad bar with deli meat, hard boiled eggs, and salad dressing just waiting to warm up and collect viruses as the day went on. If I wanted packaged, pre-cut fruit, I came to the right place. There was only one person I saw working who looked less than willing to assist me with any questions or concerns I might have had. I was truly concerned for the immune system of anyone wanting to eat at Hawk's Point.

The dining area was no better than the cafeteria. I sat alone at a table and took in the environment of the hall. There were four college going students eating their breakfast sitting at a table a few feet away, laughing and swearing at each other as they shoveled eggs into their mouths. When they left, nobody came to clean their table off which made me question the obscure amount of bacteria that could possibly be growing on the tables. Crumbs littered the counters and floors making the area a literal dump.

The game room, which is supposed to be a friendly area where students can unwind and relax, was not inviting due to the fact the lights were off. The door was open, sending a not-so-welcoming invitation to anyone who wanted to play pool or ping-pong in the darkness. Unwinding should not cost money, yet there were coin slots waiting to steal the already financially unstable college student's money.

Although the atmosphere is uninviting, the cafeteria and dining hall are infested with food scraps, and the game room felt more like a cave, the students eating told me that Hawk's Point is more enjoyable on the weekends. One student told me that he stays at college over the weekends only so he can enjoy the lasagna offered in the cafeteria twice a month. A Monday morning was not the best time to review Hawk's Point because everything on the first day of the week is duller compared to the remaining days of the week.

Hawk's Point at Path Hall failed to meet my expectations. The area was truly disgusting. If faced with the option on where to eat breakfast, lunch, or supper, choose anything but Hawk's Point. Disappointment is plastered on the walls of this failed attempt at a relaxation area.

Emma Ruskamp  
Columbus Scotus High School  
Entertainment Review Writing



## Shelby Fenner Yutan High School Yearbook Layout

**CUTLINE GOES HERE (RIGHT)**- 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."

**CUTLINE GOES HERE (BELOW)**- 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



# EXPERIMENTS BRING NEW LIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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## Bluejays Bounce Tigers for First Title

The storyline of the Class B boys basketball state championship game was downright biblical. In a traditional David vs. Goliath matchup, the Norton Bluejays defeated the Stockton Tigers 78-75 to capture the school's first ever Class B boys basketball state championship. Playing in front of a crowd of 12,860 at Pinnacle Bank Arena, Norton senior Mike Davis sank a buzzer-beater three to clinch the win for the Bluejays.

"That's my favorite shot—I practice it a hundred times a day," Davis said. "I was excited once it left my hands."

Davis' three capped a twenty-nine point fourth quarter for the Bluejays, who came into the final eight minutes trailing 60-49. Normally a zone defense team, coach Rod Johnson switched the Bluejays to a full-court man-to-man pressure defense for the fourth quarter.

"I knew we had to do something differently defensively and the man-to-man pressure was the answer," Johnson explained. "We hadn't played it much this season so maybe they weren't prepared for it."

Stockton and Norton took very different paths to reach the state championship game. Stockton, a traditional Class B powerhouse who has played in five state finals since 2005, came into the state tournament with a record of 20-3. They defeated Spring City in the first round 75-68 and took down Newsbruck 64-53 in the semifinals. Norton came into the state tournament with a record of 18-5, having lost in the state semifinals the previous two years. They were able to get by West Lincoln in the first round with score of 59-52, then handled Siouxland 81-68 in the semifinals to reach their first ever state championship game. Senior Rod Green led all scorers with 24 points.

"It's so cool to beat Stockton because of all the tradition they have," Green said. "We seniors have wanted this for so long and we had come close the last few years."

After falling into foul trouble in the first quarter, Green was able to find his rhythm in the second, scoring 9 points in the last 2:30 of the half. However, with the 6'9" Green on the bench, Stockton was able to pick apart the Norton defense for baskets in the paint. They maintained a steady lead throughout the first three quarters, led by sophomore Brent Hansen's 24-point performance.

"We had that won. We had a good lead and then they started coming back," Hansen said. "I think we got nervous and made mistakes we don't usually make."

If the first three quarters were quietly marked by Stockton's steady and solid performance, then the last quarter was struck with a bolt of Bluejay lightning, as Norton was able to force 11 Stockton turnovers in the final period. Stockton coach Jeff Wittry has been the head basketball coach since 2005.

"We played so well for three quarters and then we couldn't handle their pressure. I think we panicked a little and once we started turning it over, everyone started turning it over," Wittry explained.

With just eight seconds remaining in the game, Norton was able to force a jump ball on defense to gain possession. Senior point guard Dan Tietjen received the inbounds pass and immediately got the ball up the court to Green. Forced to pass by a Stockton double-team, Green found Davis for the game-winning shot.

"I was supposed to take the last shot, but I couldn't get a shot off [due to the double-team]. I have all the confidence in the world in Mike and I knew he could make it," Green said of the last play. His coach agreed.

Tate VunCannon  
Columbus Scotus High School  
Sports News Writing







Haley Faust  
Columbus Scotus High School  
Newspaper Layout

# SPORTS

## Wiedel takes over high jump program

Naomi Kosch  
Staff Reporter

Kristin Wiedel is a new coach and teacher at Pius school year. Wiedel teaches chemistry and helps with the Pius MD and STEM clubs.

She also will start coach-

ing track this season. Wiedel competed in track in high school because she loved being outside and running.

Wiedel said, "To help create a team attitude she would hold group meetings or have a prayer before meets."

Previously she has coached swimming at Nebraska Aquatics

and basketball in college.

Events that Wiedel participated in when she did track were the mile, 2 mile and the 4 by 800 meter relay.

Wiedel said that she wants to bring to the team her energy and enthusiasm for track for this season.

She will be coaching the

high jump

As a new coach she wants to help kids improve in their abilities.

Wiedel said she has loved to run since high school.

She says that when running the weather doesn't bother her because she loves being outside. To keep the team safe from

injury she said that the coaching staff at Pius is quite knowledgeable in the area of safety and already has a lot of experience. Freshman Sam Duchesneau said, "It's exciting getting a new coach. It's good to have the old coaches because they know what they're doing but having a new coach is great because of the new energy."

## Tennis team swings for gold

Joey Covolo  
Editor-In-Chief

The common cliché among American citizens is the youth is the future of this country. For the MN girls tennis squad, not only is youth the future, but it has also become the present state of the team.

After entering the 2015 season with high expectations, and hopes of a state title in the works, the girls team snagged a slightly-disappointing fourth place at the state matches, with seniors Libby Koukol and Christina Ternent claiming the crown as the top doubles team in Nebraska.

However, with those two seniors as well as a few others departing for college, there were some much-needed holes to fill. Lacking a senior class heading into the 2016 slate, the team is looking towards some reliance on freshman and sophomores in a youth movement.

Freshman Josie Friedman will be filling the role as the number one singles player on the team. In her first year at MN, Friedman is being thrown straight into the fire, but has garnered three consecutive wins to start the season. "I'm kind of nervous because I don't know what to expect, but I think it's really exciting. I know I can get so much better and there's not much pressure since I am a freshman," Friedman said.



KEATON KUDRON/THE TRIBUNE STAFF

Senior Kendra Wiese hits the ball at a home tennis dual. The Minnesota girls' tennis team is aiming to win their first conference championship with year.

As the number one singles, Friedman will frequently face some of the best players Nebraska has to offer. She will be paired up with the top singles player from each of the other high schools.

"I think I'll do well, but I know there will be a lot of com-

petition. I just want to improve, gain more experience and have fun doing it," Friedman said.

The strong play of Friedman in the preseason has the coaching staff excited at the potential for this team. The team has complete confidence in their new number one singles player.

"I think Josie is a very young talented player, and she will play matches tough and give the older number one players a run for their money. It's always nice to have a young player come in and play number one singles for you, as she will just improve that much more and gain much more experience

at that position this year," head coach Josh Raymond said.

Another contributing factor to this inexperienced team is a complete lack of a senior class, as well as losing one of

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## Track stars run circles around competition

Nathan Hiemer  
Editor-In-Chief

Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose. Marian track athletes huddle up before their races. The team values friendship just as much as winning.

Out of the 38 girls on the 2016 Track and Field Team, two seniors stand alone. Seniors Mary Kiscoan and Emmy Witzenberg made the decision to run this year despite knowing that many of their fellow classmates would not.

"I knew that it was just

going to be two of us this year, but I didn't mind because I love track. I really enjoy having something to do after school," Witzenberg said.

Both Kiscoan and Witzenberg say they enjoy running track because of the team atmosphere. "I love the environment at track meets and practice. Since I'm one of the only seniors, my team pushes me to be the best 'track mom' I could possibly be. Running, for me, is a great stress reliever, and I even better when I'm surrounded by underclassmen who enjoy it as much as I do," Kiscoan said.

As seniors, the two act as big sisters to the team, carrying many responsibilities on their backs ... or their spikes for that matter. "It was really important to us to build a team atmosphere because it's such an individual sport. We planned team bonding activities like team dinners where we played games together," Witzenberg said.

Racing for the finish Lucy Boever '17 sprints toward the finish line in the 400m at the Benson invite. photo by mary-kiscoan

Head Coach Mr. Greg Polka was happy to see the seniors come back for another year and work with the juniors to lead the team. "The seniors are wonderful people and add to the flavor of the team. The juniors have stepped up with the seniors to take ownership of the team. It was neat to see the seniors recognize the juniors as leaders and to work in tandem with them," Golka said.

Kiscoan and Witzenberg are content leaving the team in the hands of the juniors next year. "I am really proud of everything the underclassmen have achieved this year. The juniors showed great leadership qualities this year, and I know they will only continue it next year," Kiscoan said.

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## Men's soccer sees success

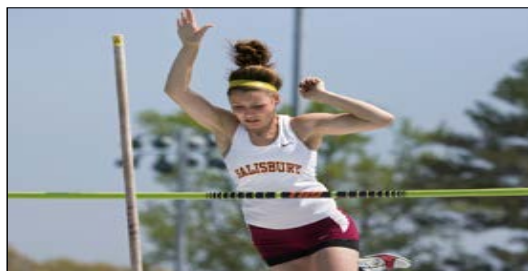
Kori Christensen  
Staff Reporter

Last year the boy's varsity soccer team swooped in and made it all the way to the state semifinals. With the soccer season starting up there's one thing weighing on all the boy's minds: winning state.

MN boys soccer has only won the state championship twice: first in 1995 followed by a win in 2007. After that last win, making it to last year's state semifinals was the first real excitement for the team.

"Before last year we were quite young and it is one thing to have skill to play varsity and another thing to handle the speed, rigor and mental and physical demands of playing so many

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ALYSSA KUTA/THE TRIBUNE STAFF

Junior Jessica Buhman clears eleven feet, six inches in the pole vault competition at the Marian Invite on Thursday, April 20. Marian won the invite for the third year in a row

In 1988, the State of Nebraska made a promise to Northeast Nebraskans to connect each major community to the interstate system via a four-lane highway, strengthening the state's infrastructure. In 2017, the one third of the project is still untouched. However, one group of Nebraskans hopes to change that.

4 Lanes 4 Nebraska was formed by a coalition of business and industry leaders in Northeast Nebraska which promote the modernization of Nebraska's infrastructure.

"We've come together to make a simple point: Northeast Nebraska deserves 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure," Executive Director and Mayor of Norfolk Josh Moenning said.

The group has placed most of their attention on the expansion of Highway 275, a major highway connecting Norfolk to Omaha.

"There are 48 miles from Norfolk to Omaha that are only two lanes. By adding four lanes, we think it will bring multiple economic opportunities to the area and assist in the efficiency of the flow of commerce," Moenning said. "With 1940s roadways, our steelmakers, manufacturers, cattle feeders, farmers, and small businesses remain isolated from major markets. We have tremendous potential for our new growth and increased quality of life, but outdated infrastructure is costing us countless opportunities to help the state move forward."

There is another reason the group supports the expansion of the highway: saving lives. The group conducted an impact study on the highway's expansion and discovered that accident fatality rates in Highway 275 counties are 152% higher than other counties across the state of Nebraska.

"We think there is a significant public safety benefit by expanding the highway," Moenning said.

LB 980, the Transportation Innovation Act, was introduced in the state legislature by Senator Jim Smith, the chairman of the Transportation Committee. The main components of the bill are to create a bank for the state's infrastructure and to allow a "design-build" of the project, a first of its kind in Nebraska. This would allow the Nebraska Department of Roads to accelerate road work on stalled expressway projects, like Highway 275, and others.

"The Act allowed the Nebraska Department of Roads in September of last year to announce eight new construction projects. Highway 275 will begin in 2019 and the other projects will begin in 2024," Moenning said.

Moenning said that the project is being backed by many residents of Northeast Nebraska towns because of the positive impact it will have.

"The promise was made in 1988 that this roadway would be completed by 2003, so there is a high level of frustration that the state of Nebraska did not fulfill its promise to expand the highway. Because of this, there is tremendous support in the region for its expansion," Moenning said.

Nicholas Orr  
Mt. Michael Benedictine High School  
News Writing





Brecken Preitauer  
Southern Valley High School  
Sports Action Photography

What's in a pledge? Is a pledge a binding vow that holds people to their word with iron chains? Or is a pledge nothing but a hollow promise, words on paper that are ultimately meaningless?

That is the question at stake at Lunar High School, as the administration pushes out a pledge that clearly outlines the school's policy on cheating, and the punishments for doing so. Even as it gains support, the policy also gains its detractors, those who refuse to follow through on the requirement to sign. But, in reality, what *are* they refusing?

The pledge states, "I agree that I will not give or receive unauthorized help during a test or assignment. I understand that giving or receiving such help is cheating and will result in a zero on the test or assignment."

That, too many, seems inoffensive in nature. What about it exactly do students not like? According to some, refusal to sign is an indicator of misconduct. Sarah Contreras, a junior, signed the pledge and says, "I don't cheat, so it didn't change anything for me. It wasn't a big deal. I can't imagine why students would have a problem with it, unless of course, they cheat often."

But many seem to question the need for it. As junior Connor Ybay says, the schools policy on cheating is already in the handbook, and shouldn't need to be backed up through what he sees as a "waste of paper and time."

However, according to teachers, many students seem unaware of the policy entirely. Freshman English teacher David Francois says, "This year alone, I've caught more than 20 students cheating, and almost every one of those caught was shocked when I gave them a zero." In a survey done of Lunar High School teachers, cheating was listed as one of the top things they worried about in their classrooms, second only to bullying. To teachers like Mr. Francois, the pledge leaves no gray area, and that is the true reason behind the new pledge.

Joshua Andersen  
Johnson-Brock High School  
Editorial Writing





# ACT

Stress Creator

Scholarship Winner

Admissions Qualifier

Math\*Science\*English\*Reading

High School Student Obsession

## Students feel pressure to perform well

By NOELLE JOSOFF

This is probably the biggest test you will ever take. Your whole life depends on how well you do on this one specific exam. Most students at Yutan High School think that the ACT is stressful and hard, yet others love to take on a challenge.

"I like taking the ACT because I get to use all of my education from the past on this one test," senior Nathan Miller said.

While Miller is one of the few who said he enjoyed taking it, other students at Yutan say otherwise.

"I think that it is a waste of time," senior Ashley Stevens said. "If you aren't very good at reading and you aren't a very good

test taker you probably won't get the score that you want."

For Stevens to attend the college that she wants to, which is Wayne State, she will need to score a minimum of 17 on her ACT to be accepted.

"I felt indifferent about taking the ACT because it helps you prepare yourself for college, but it isn't a very fun test to take," senior Michael Kelly said.

While students say that the test isn't very "fun," there are also different aspects of the ACT such as pressure and stress that most people feel.

"I feel a lot of pressure because I know that my future and pretty much the rest of my life depend on how good I do on this

test," Miller said.

Besides feeling a lot of pressure, students also think that there are some good aspects of taking the ACT.

"Taking the ACT also has some pretty good benefits," Stevens said. "If you get a good score and you apply for scholarships, you could get yourself a big chunk of money to help pay for expenses."

Scoring high on the ACT could enable a student to enroll at a more prestigious school. For Miller to be accepted into the Colorado School of Mines, he will need a minimum of a 26 on the ACT.

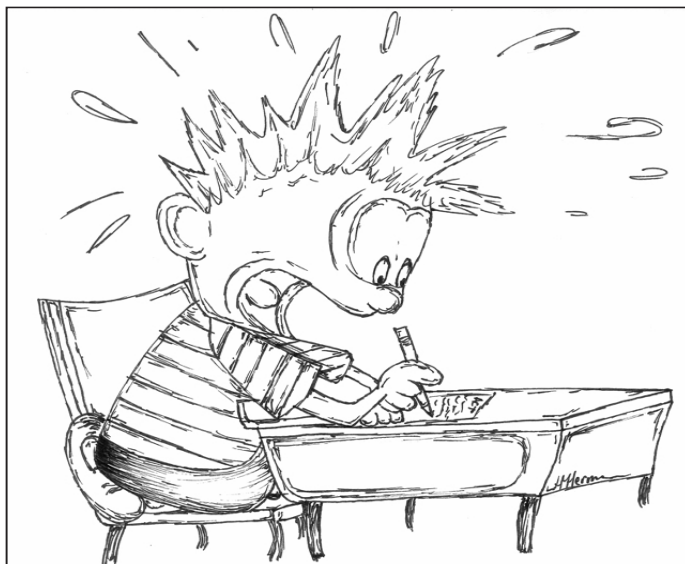
"I don't think anything is harder in the categories of math, science, reading and English," Kelly said. "It just depends on

what your strengths and weaknesses are. If you are good at reading and have been doing it for a long time, you will do good but if you don't read very often you will struggle."

For Kelly to be accepted into the college he wants, which is the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, he will need to receive a minimum score of 17 on the ACT.

Some students would like to change some parts of the test just to make it a little more bearable.

"I would definitely change the reading topics," Stevens said. "Maybe if the topics were more interesting to the kids in this generation we would engage ourselves a little more and the outcome would maybe be a little better."



### Facts About the ACT

+ 59% of U.S. students in the 2015 graduating class took the ACT. That's an increase from 2014 (57%) and 2011 (49%)

+ 88% of 2015 Nebraska graduates took the ACT, with an average composite score of 21.5

+ Connecticut had the highest average composite score: 24.4 (with 32% of seniors taking the test)

+ Hawaii had the lowest average composite score: 18.5 (with 93% of seniors taking the test)

#### National Averages

Composite: 21.0    English: 20.4    Math: 20.8

Reading: 21.4    Science: 20.9

\* - act.org: "The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2015"

#### Yutan Composite Averages

2015-2016: 23.5

2014-2015: 23.2

2013-2014: 23.0

2012-2013: 24.3

Students do nothing, time themselves, practice, hire tutors

## ACT preparations differ from student to student

By SHELBY FENNER

The main goal of taking the ACT is receiving the highest score possible in order to be accepted into a college and receive higher scholarships. Although the main goal is the same for everyone, how students arrive there is significantly different.

Senior Haleigh Wuster benefits by having a twin brother. Being able to practice with Scott helps her, she said.

"My brother and I are like study buddies," Wuster said. "We time each other and then go through the ones we missed in our practice test booklets. It's made me get a lot faster."

Sometimes students don't prepare at all for the ACT, which can seem like a bad idea in most cases. But for senior Jenny Ostblom, it proved to be the complete opposite.

"I feel like I just went into the ACT and wasn't stressed out about it for weeks and weeks and I just went in and took it," Ostblom said. "And I ended up getting a better score."

Senior Nathan Miller said he didn't prepare for his first two attempts, but he prepared for his third and feels he will have done better with the preparations.

"I do pretty well not preparing," Miller said, "but I think that if I prepare better I will do a lot better and boost my score by three or four points."

Some students identify good time management and reading skills as the key to success on the ACT.

"My first test of the ACT, I didn't finish any of the tests because I didn't have any of the timing right," Wuster said. "After

**"My first test of the ACT, I didn't finish any of the tests . . . After practicing with the timer a lot, it got way easier."**  
Senior Haleigh Wuster

practicing with the timer a lot, it got way easier."

Preparing for the ACT can be hard for some students in certain subjects, or areas.

"I think I need to read more books to improve my reading score," Miller said. "My math and science scores are pretty good, but I need to

improve my English and reading scores."

Some students even hired a tutor to help them prepare better for the ACT.

Senior Katrina Devish can argue that it didn't help her at all, while twin sister Tatum Devish said it was beneficial to her.

"She (tutor) made sure that I practiced my tests frequently and we went through questions I didn't understand," Tatum Devish said. "She helped me improve six points on my ACT."

Although students might have different opinions on whether or not preparing actually helps them score better on the ACT, most agree that the ACT is an important test.

"It's important to get a good ACT score because there are certain score requirements for things like applying to colleges," Tatum Devish said. "It helps when applying for scholarships, too."



Siske shows coaching dominance with state title.

A buzzer beater from a 6'8 post player from the opposite free-throw line was only the beginning of what the Class A NSAA State Boys Basketball Championship game had to offer.

The third and final day of the state championships was highlighted by a dominating performance from the Norfolk High Panthers led by head coach Tony Siske.

The Ralston High graduate brought the Panthers their first state basketball title in 20 years knocking off Class A powerhouse Papillion LaVista.

"I was extremely happy for our players," coach Siske said. "We are a really close-knit group and it was great to see our previous coach and now athletic director, Ben Ries' hard work in the past pay off for them."

Although it was his first year with the program, Siske found no problem in getting to know his players and leading them to a state title. Activities such as having breakfast with his seniors once a week helped him feel right at home.

"We are a really balanced team," Siske said. "One of our strengths is how much we care for each other. No one cared who got the credit as long as we got the job done. Everyone wanted to be at their best for each other."

The Class A title game proved to be one of the most exciting games of the tournament with several division one recruits on both ends of the court. The Panthers brought senior sharp shooting Lane McCallum, who will play football at Air Force, and the senior big man Logan Strom, who will continue his hoops career at UC Davis.

"It's really a blessing as a coach to have guys on your team that are talented enough to be D1 athletes," Siske said. "Those guys are both great leaders, they have a winning mentality, and they love to compete at a high level and those are all qualities that show they are ready to compete at the next level."

The Papillion LaVista Monarchs brought their own group of talented athletes to the table in their explosive senior guard Ayo Akinwale and the dominate Ed Chang. However, the Monarch's game plan for the Panthers would have to be altered as Chang was forced to play on a badly sprained ankle.

"It was unfortunate for him that he was injured for that game," Siske said. "We were really unsure of what to do to prepare for him and didn't really know what he would do. We didn't change how we guarded him because he is still a very capable player. We showed him the respect he deserved as one of the best players in the state."

The bright lights and loud horns of Pinnacle Bank Arena were nothing new to Siske, as his coaching resume drips with success. Sixteen years a head coach, Siske led Scottsbluff High School to seven straight district championships (2011-2016), and three state championship appearances, winning in 2012 and falling just short back to back titles in 2013, then losing again in 2016. He holds a career record of 259-140.

"One thing I've learned over the years is to not talk about winning," Siske said. "The only thing we focus on is getting better every day. Sometimes we may not win but we will still be satisfied with the effort put forward by our guys, so we just try to get better each time we step on the court, whether that be a game or a practice."

The Panthers finished the 2016-2017 season in dramatic fashion with several sets of hardware and a seemingly never-ending highlight reel. Coach Siske however, was, simply put, proud of his boys from bringing home what the players, coaches, students, fans, and community so desperately craved: a state title.

Matt Strecker  
Columbus Scotus High School  
Newspaper Sports Feature Writing

# Recent Win for Gun Lobbyists is a Loss for Public Safety

In an alarming victory for the gun lobby, Missouri's Republican-controlled Legislature voted Wednesday to override Gov. Jay Nixon's veto and enact a wholesale retreat from gun safety in the state.

The law will let citizens carry concealed weapons in public without a state gun permit, criminal background check or firearms training. It strips local law enforcement of its current authority to deny firearms to those guilty of domestic violence and to other high-risk individuals. And it establishes a dangerous "stand your ground" standard that will allow gun owners to shoot and claim self-defense based on their own sense of feeling threatened.

The measure has drawn no great national attention, but it certainly provides further evidence that gun safety cannot be left to state lawmakers beholden to the gun lobby. Democrats opposed to the Missouri bill called it a "perfect storm" of lowered standards for the use of deadly force and an invitation for people to be armed without responsible controls. The measure was enacted by the Republicans, despite strong public opposition and warnings about the threat to public safety from the state Police Chiefs Association. Everytown for Gun Safety, one of the groups fighting the gun lobby, noted that

stand-your-ground laws result in disproportionate harm to communities of color.

Mr. Nixon, a Democrat, vetoed the measure in June, saying it would allow individuals with a criminal record to legally carry a concealed firearm even though they had been, or would have been, denied a permit under the old law's background check. Mayors Sly James of Kansas City and Francis Slay of St. Louis warned against restricting the power of the local police to deny guns to those who commit domestic violence. They cited sharp spikes in domestic violence homicides in their cities, and they noted that the police would be left at greater risk by this bill.

Republican legislative leaders, who cut short debate on the override vote on the last day of the session, were ebullient in overriding a variety of the governor's vetoes beyond the gun measure, including one that will force voters to show a government photo ID.

Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal, a lawmaker from Ferguson, which erupted in protests after the 2014 fatal police shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed African-American teenager, warned that enacting the stand-your-ground standard would mean another "bad Samaritan like Zimmerman." She was referring to the

shooting death in Florida four years ago of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, by George Zimmerman, who used a stand-your-ground defense allowed under Florida law.

Missouri is joining 10 other states that loosened gun laws to allow concealed firearms in public without the need for a permit. Federal gun controls still require background checks on buyers, but only at federally licensed dealers. Unfortunately, there is a separate and busy uncontrolled market where buyers at gun shows and on the internet do not have to undergo background checks.

In the presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton has called for extensive gun safety measures, including a ban on the assault weapons favored by mass shooters, closing background-check loopholes, ending the gun industry's outrageous protection from civil damage suits and denying guns to risky suspects on the government's no-fly lists. Donald Trump, endorsed by the National Rifle Association, favors more armed civilians ready to engage in what he calls a defensive "shootout." This is one of the most pathetic measures yet of his pandering, when he should be leading, on an issue of vital importance to the public.

Dillon Williamson  
Johnson-Brock High School  
Headline Writing

Alisha Schnakenberg, Sandy Creek High School, Advertising

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