



WALL TO WALL OPS high schools to become wall-to-wall academies News pg. 4	MOVING OUT Preparing to go out on ones own proves expensive Focus pg. 6-7	TAKING IT TO THE MAT Four make it to State Sports pg. 8
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An end to a Mad year

School moves forward with plans for outdoor prom

Keyana Burries
Editor-in-Cheif

Prom is going to be on the football field. That has been the rumor going around school since the district announced there would be an outdoor prom, but it is time to hang up the cleats because while that may be the case for some high schools, it won't be for Bryan High.

Prom 2021 will be held on May 8, from 7-11 p.m. at the River City Star, an outdoor event center located at 151 Freedom Park Rd., in between downtown Omaha and Eppley Airport.

Juniors and seniors will have to be registered as in-person students by March 15, the start of fourth quarter, and remain in-person students throughout the quarter to attend. They will be allowed to bring underclassmen and other Omaha Public Schools students as dates but will not be permitted to bring a date who has graduated already or goes to a school in a different district. Bryan High students who graduated this December will be allowed to attend.

While the event will be free, students will have to reserve their tickets the week before prom to get their ticket(s). To do this, juniors and seniors will need to pay \$5 at the time of registration per ticket they reserve. Each student is only allowed to reserve their own ticket and their date's. However, when they arrive and check in at prom, they will be given that money back. The reason for the reservation fee is so that there is a proper head count of who will be attending, so the coordinators can plan appropriately.

"It's tough times for many students and families," principal Dr. Rony Ortega said. "We want all juniors and seniors to participate without worrying about coming up with cost."

The theme will be "An End to a Mad Year," and will be inspired by "Alice in Wonderland," which prom coordinator Ranae Duncan says will fit perfectly with the venue.

"It's an awesome venue that isn't far from our students' neighborhoods and it is like no other venue in the area for an outdoor event," Duncan said. "It not only is outside, but it has the event tent already, it has a beautiful view of the Omaha skyline, an outdoor concert area and a riverboat."


Each section of the venue will be decorated with a different theme relating to "Alice in Wonderland."

There will be light snacks and drinks provided and that area will be decorated like the doorknob chamber to play off the 'eat me' and 'drink me' part of the story. The event tent will be themed as the Mad Hatter's tea party and will have live entertainers from Omaha Circus Arts performing. The outdoor concert area will house the DJ and dance floor and will be decorated to resemble the Red Queen's garden. The pathway to the riverboat and the riverboat itself will be the enchanted forest like where the Chesiree cat and the talking flowers are at in the film. The boat will also have performers and, Duncan and co-coordinator Jodi Hazuka hope, a live cover band.

DJ Devon Dupree will be the DJ for the main dance floor. His combination of smooth mixing and innovative music selection helps energize the dance floor. He has mixed in many types of venues from nightclubs and radio stations to concerts and festivals. He regularly DJs at a few dozen bars and nightclubs in the Midwest, and holds residencies in about half of them. "The venue is quite large and has several different areas already," Duncan said. "So, it fit really well with our Alice in Wonderland styled theme, to use that to our advantage and display several of the iconic parts of the story."

Duncan and Hazuka ar putting the event

SEE PROM | PAGE 3



BIDEN'S FIRST MONTH IN OFFICE

Amber Roth
Copy Editor

<p>A president's first month in office can tell a lot about the type of impact they may have on a nation. It shows what issues are important to them will often set the pace for the rest of their presidency. Here is a look at the key executive orders the 46th president has made so far.</p>	<p>Jan. 20</p> <p>On President Biden's first day in office, he signed an executive order that would revoke the permit needed to start the Keystone XL Pipeline Project. The pipeline would've carried crude oil from Canada to the US.</p> <p><i>"Cancelling the pipeline was a good thing, because, for one, it was crossing over indigenous land and two, it would've caused significant climate changes to the world climate," junior Emma Cramer said.</i></p>	<p>Jan. 25</p> <p>The ban on transgender people in the military went into effect on April 12, 2019 during the Trump administration, and on Jan. 25, 2021, Biden signed an executive order that reversed this policy.</p> <p><i>"It's good, because there really isn't a valid reason to keep someone who's trans from serving in the military, unless they have some other issue that is valid," senior Alexis Poledna said.</i></p>	<p>Jan. 28</p> <p>President Biden signed an executive order that would reopen Obamacare marketplaces and lower the recent barriers put in place for people trying to join Medicaid.</p>
<p>Feb. 2</p> <p>President Biden signed an executive order that would address the economic and political reasons behind people immigrating to the US. It would also give protection to people seeking asylum in the country.</p>	<p>Feb. 4</p> <p>Biden released a memo that would expand the protection of people a part of the LGBTQ+ community all around the world.</p> <p><i>"It is important because everyone should be able to feel safe in this country no matter who they are," sophomore Natalie Besta said. "It should be a fundamental right to be safe and secure."</i></p>		
<p>Feb. 11</p> <p>Biden created an executive order that would put sanctions on Myanmar leaders and not allow ownership of any property in the US for any foreign person associated with those leaders, or their business interests.</p>			

Information from | [usatoday.com](#)
[apnews.com](#), [transequality.org](#)
[cnn.com](#), [whitehouse.gov](#)
Portraits courtesy of | [Interstate Studios](#)

Keystone XL Pipeline expansion cancelled

Amber Roth
Copy Editor

On his first day in office, President Joseph Biden signed an executive order that would revoke the permit needed to begin the Keystone XL Pipeline expansion project and many Native Americans are happy because they consider this a victory in their plight.

The Keystone XL Pipeline would have expanded on the already in place Keystone Pipeline. It runs from Canada to the US, running through indigenous lands in some states. The pipeline carries tar sands oil, a form of crude oil. According to the -Canadian Broadcast Corporation, there are 15 native American tribes in the path of the proposed pipeline.

"This pipeline would've crossed the ancestral lands of the Northern Ponca tribe, the Winnebago and Omaha tribes of Nebraska," cultural specialist for the OPS Native Indigenous Centered Education (NICE) program Steve Tamayo said.

Since it was first built in 2010, there have been over 21 oil spills across the US and Canada. Tar sands is a corrosive oil, so the chance of a leak is higher, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"I live on the Cheyenne Sioux River reservation and Keystone XL would have gone less than half a mile from the southern border of my reservation," frontline community organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network Joye Braun said.




"Should it have leaked at that crossing, it would've taken 33 minutes to get to our brand-new water intake."

Braun also stated that the pipeline would've crossed unceded treaty territory, land that First Nations people never legally signed away.

"Those treaties are ratified by the US Congress and under article six of the United States Constitution," Braun said. "Treaties are supreme law of the land. We never got free, prior informed consent from the government to cross our unceded treaty territory."

The pipeline would've affected local areas as well.

"They're trying to build that pipeline right next to the Ogallala Aquifer and if the pipeline leaks, that's going to leak into [our] water," junior Robert Edwards said.



Left: The Keystone Pipeline was in 2010. It carries tar sands from Canada to the US. Tar sands is a form of crude oil. Top Right: Indigenous people from the Cheyenne Sioux River reservation in South Dakota protested in front of the beginning stages of construction for the Keystone XL Pipeline. Bottom Right: The southern border of the Cheyenne Sioux River reservation is half a mile from where the pipeline would've been. It would take 30 minutes for the water supply to be contaminated by a leak.

Photos courtesy of | Joye Braun



Supervising the Urban Agriculture Academy's turtle, Oogway, daily walk in the greenhouse on Feb. 19, senior Jordan Wattles stays close to ensure his safety as he could fall off the table and injure himself or get lost.

OPS high schools to become wall-to-wall academies soon

All students will be required to select, be in career academy

Justin Diep
Copy Editor

Omaha Public Schools will implement "College and Career Academies and Pathways" into each of the seven high schools starting this fall to better prepare students for their life after high school. They will also be implemented at the new schools when they open.

"What students learn today will more directly affect what they can do tomorrow and beyond," OPS Coordinator of K-12 Career Education and Programming Delayne Havlovic said.

Starting next school year, incoming freshmen will be required to be in the freshmen academy.

"Students will be allowed to transition to high school but also pick their academy or pathway

focus," Havlovic said.

Schools will have two to five academies/ pathways, including the freshmen academy. Pathways are a series of four or more classes focusing on related careers. Academies will be smaller learning environments with a career focus.

"I think these will be good for people that are interested in those job areas so they can learn more and could be good on a resume," sophomore Emma Loftus said.

Bryan will expand its transportation, distribution and logistics (TDL) and urban agriculture academies. New academies in design and construction, teaching and leadership and Cambridge will be offered in the coming years.

Benson will have academies in health professions, design and construction, business and entrepreneurship and Cambridge.

Burke will have academies in air and space, leadership and communications.

Central will continue its international baccalaureate program and introduce pathways in arts and leadership.

North will have academies in engineering and design, science and research and computer science and technology.

Northwest will have pathways in public and community service and early college programming.

South will have pathways in performing and visual arts and technology and media arts. South will continue their dual language program and will add the Cambridge program.

The new high school at

60th and L Street will have pathways in smart technology, health and education and Cambridge. The new school at 156th and Ida Street will have pathways in health, sustainability and business. These schools will open during the 2022-2023 school year.

Schools with the Cambridge program will join over 1000 other schools around the world in teaching curriculum by the University of Cambridge.

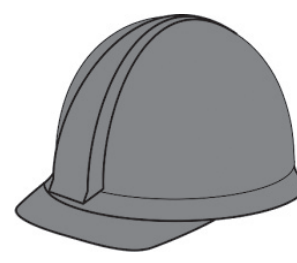
"It is an internationally recognized program with a high level of research-based rigor," Havlovic said. "Cambridge provides high level and globally recognized programming."

OPS plans to implement these programs in phases. The new programs and improvements to existing programs will start in the 2021-2022 school year and


will be finished in the fall of 2024. The classes of 2022, 2023 and 2024 will have the option to enroll in the academy elective classes and pathways for the remainder of their high school career.

"Every part of this is designed to grow student's success, to engage and motivate students in high school then connect the dots to a high skill high wage and in demand job after graduation," OPS Chief Academic Officer Melissa Comine said.

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), music, world languages and visual arts will continue to be offered. Dual enrollment and advance placement (AP) classes will also be offered still and students will still be able to take non-academy related electives.



Architecture, Construction and Design Academy
Pathway(s): Interior Design, Architectural Design and Residential and Commercial Construction Technology



Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (TDL) Academy
Pathway(s): Logistics and Supply Chain Management, International Business, Marketing and Management

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

PROM | Event set to wow attendees

together with a budget provided by the district which has allowed them to plan several special touches, including patio lamps to keep students warm if it gets chilly, intricate decorations and riverboat cruises that students can take throughout the night.

"This prom is going to be a once in a lifetime type event," Duncan said. "I know there has never been a prom this elaborate at this school and I'm not sure there ever will be one of this caliber again. It will be like the stuff you see in the movies."

Students who wish to take the 45-minute


riverboat cruise will have to get a waiver when they reserve their ticket(s) and return it signed by their parent(s)/guardian(s) when they check in to prom. Then they will get a colored wrist band which will coordinate with their assigned cruise time. They will only be able to ride once.

In addition to picking up a waiver when




The River City Star has many different features, including a giant waterfront tent for outdoor events, a grill area for people to enjoy food, an outdoor stage for performances and even a boat that takes guests on trips on the river.


5 The BRYAN HIGH ACADEMIES



Freshman Academy
All freshmen will be required to be in this academy. It will help freshmen to explore the other academies.



Teaching and Leadership Academy
Pathway(s): Teaching as a Profession



Urban Agriculture Academy
Pathway(s): Food Science, Natural Resources, Plant Science and Animal Science

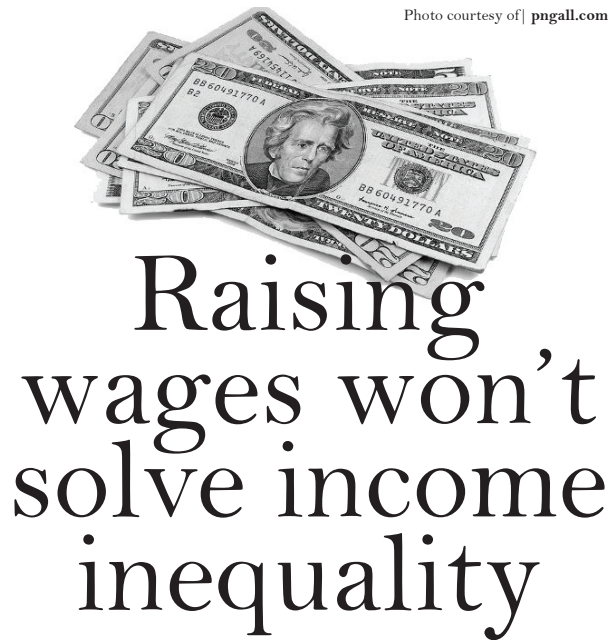


Photo courtesy of | pngall.com

Raising wages won't solve income inequality

Justin Diep
Copy Editor



Under the Raise the Wage Act of 2021, dem-

ocrats in the House and the Senate are calling for a \$15 federal minimum wage so work-

ers would be paid "living wages." Doing this would be terrible for Americans. Addressing the income inequality and poverty in our country is impor-

tant, but this, more than doubling the minimum wage, would only worsen the problems it is trying to solve.

A raise in the minimum wage would not only affect those making minimum wage but it would affect everyone. If businesses have to more than double the pay for their employ-

ees, they will cut employ-ees and raise prices. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago found that fast food restaurants would pass 100 percent of the cost of an increase of the minimum wage onto consumers by jacking up prices. The Congressional Budget Office concluded that the Raise the Wage Act would leave 1-2.7 mil-

lion workers jobless. Workers who didn't get cut would see their wage in-

crease but, the checks they bring home may be the same or even less than before. CNN found when Target raised their mini- mum wage to \$15 many employees reported losing as many as half their hours resulting in a smaller check than before the rise in wages. A \$15 minimum wage does not make sense nationwide. Here in Ne- braska, the minimum wage is \$9, which turns out to

be about \$18,000 a year. If the minimum wage is in- creased to \$15, a teenager working at McDonald's would earn about \$31,000 a year which is close to a starting salary for a first-year teacher which is around \$35,000. A starting employee at McDonald's should not be making the same as a teacher.

Some would then say raise the pay for teachers so every teacher would get a raise, but then taxes will increase to get the money needed to increase their pay. This would happen in every industry, and the price of their products will increase. This increase in taxes and prices negates any benefits from raising the minimum wage.

The federal govern- ment should leave it up to local governments to determine what minimum wage is best for their area. It doesn't make sense to have California wages in Nebraska where the cost of living is way different with California, having one of the highest costs of living in the country and Nebras- ka having one of the low- est. The difference is even more dramatic in other states in the Midwest and the South where the cost of living is even lower.

Instead of raising the minimum wage, the government should aid in raising workers off the minimum wage. Higher wages only come with time, experience or educa- tion. It may only take a year or so to rise above the minimum wage as two- thirds of minimum wage workers earned a raise within their first year, ac- cording to the Employment Policies Institute. People making minimum wage should want to work their way up and make more money.

POINT Academies will help in post graduation plans

Keyana Burries
Editor-in-Chief



High school is the place where we are sup- posed to adventure out and try

a million things. We are supposed to be creating the path for the rest of our lives, and while some students do take the op- portunities high school has to offer them, most pass it up because "it is just high school and what can it really teach them about themselves?"

I joined the Urban Agricultural Academy my sophomore year, even though none of my friends went with me, because

they were too embarrassed to apply. They did not want to learn about "farm- ing."

If academies were required they would be normalized and more kids would find interests they didn't know they had.

I have learned way more than just farming and have had many hands- on experiences. Some of those things, I never would have seen myself doing, but I actually tried them and enjoyed them because of Urban Ag.

It's because of this that the Omaha Public Schools College & Career Acad- emies and Pathways will be a revolutionary way of making sure students are making the most of their high school experience.

I am aware it may be

annoying being required to participate in some- thing one does not want to do, but sometimes those experiences can push us to grow so much.

Getting hand's on ex- perience and the chance to explore different careers at an early age, and for free, will help students decide what they might be inter- ested in or what absolutely bores them.

These academies and pathways will even upgrade the experience for future students in compar- ison to what I had in my academy. Even though I loved my teachers and loved the things I learned from them, I often found the classes easy because I was used to my honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and now

with the academies OPS has created there will be an AP option for academy students which will be beneficial.

Students won't have to worry about being forced to chose from options they don't care about. The academies will not only upgrade the high schools, but it will also reform transportation for students because students will eventually need to pick what high school they will attend based on the academies that fit them and their interests.

If students actually take the academies seriously and attempt to make the most of the education they are being given, these academies could help stu- dents prosper in life after high school.

COUNTER-POINT Academies aren't realistic for age demographic

Amber Roth
Copy Editor



One in 10 college students switch their major twice at some

point in their college career according to the National Center for Education Sta- tistics, so if grown adults in college can't decide what they want to do, how can the district expect teenag- ers as young as 13-14 years old to decide something that could affect their entire future?

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) announced that they are going to be implement- ing new academies and pathways at every single high school in the district, including the two currently being built.

These academies were

created by OPS in order to help students be more prepared for post-grad- uation jobs and careers. The problem with them, though, is that it is a lot of pressure for a high school kid to figure out by sopho- more year.

Incoming freshmen for the 2021-2022 school year will be in a freshman acad- emy, where they will learn about the other academies so they can decide which one they want to join the following year. The catch: once students choose an academy, they will only be allowed to switch to a dif- ferent academy once. After that, they're stuck with the one they choose.

Teenagers are far too young to make a big deci- sion like that. Their minds are constantly changing. For example, when I was younger, before I got to

high school, I wanted to be a marine biologist. When I entered high school, at first, I wanted to be a doctor, then a writer and now I'm considering be- ing a forensic scientist or journalist.

The great programs we have here for forensic science and journalism are what made me interested in those fields, but students might not be able to fully explore those interests if another required class is added to their schedule taking up a certain block.

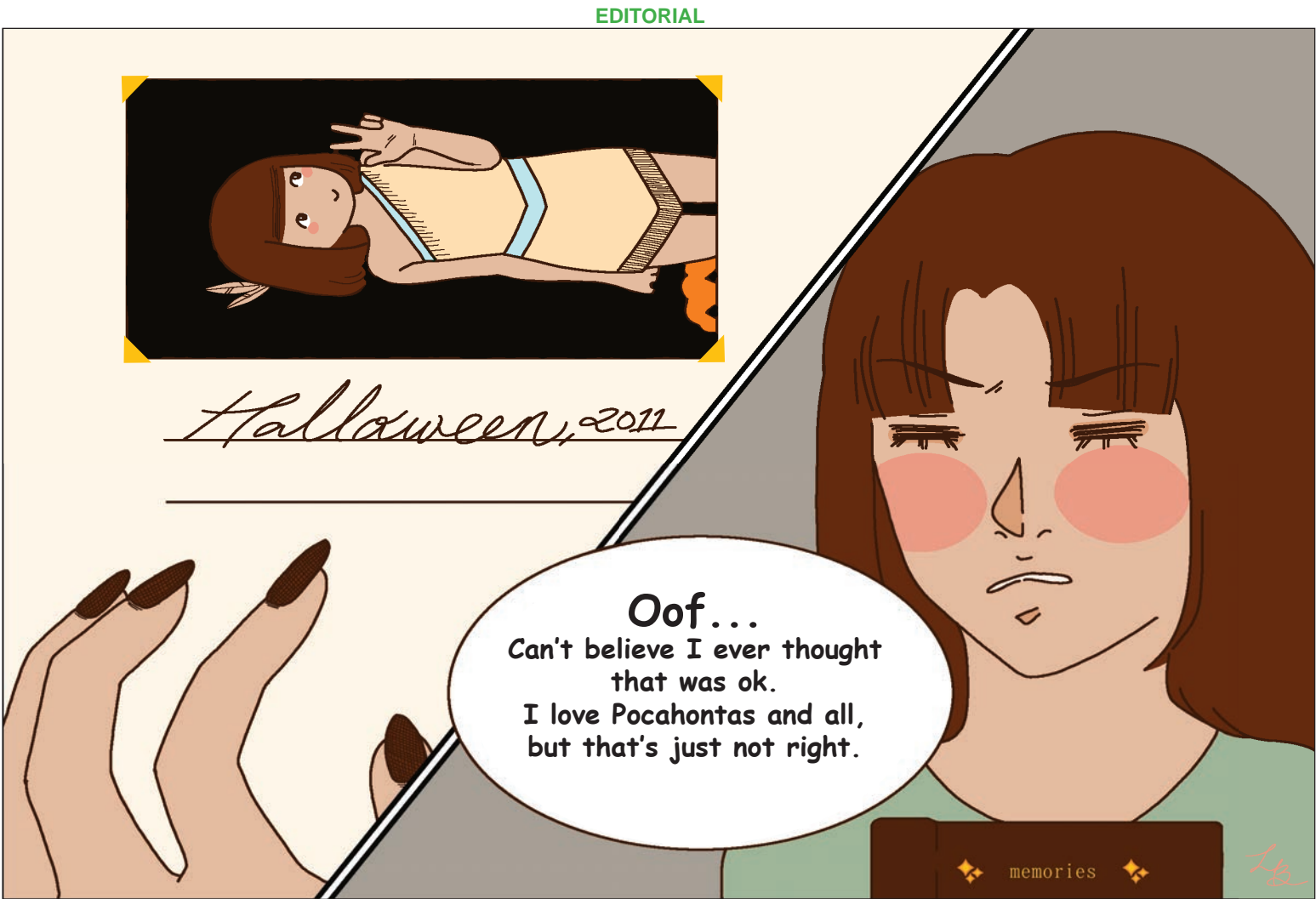
Our school has one of the top journalism programs in the state, and we consistently place in the top 10 at the national level, which is one of the major reasons I've been able to grow as a writer and possibly pursue this field, yet our school will not have a journalism

pathway nor academy.

This poses another problem. Even if a student has a career in mind, their neighborhood school may not have that program.

Schools will lose home attendance students and kids will have to leave their friends from their neighborhood schools to opt into another school to join a program they want. If they aren't approved to go to a certain school, then they will be forced into an academy at their school, students will be disgruntled and will shut down. I know when I'm forced to do something I'm not interested in, I don't try as hard and just do the minimum to get a decent grade.

Students need to be able to explore different careers freely without be- ing restricted.



Cancel culture cancels opportunity for growth

All it takes is one click to log onto Twitter and see who is get- ting cancelled for this week. It is normally something that is blown out of proportion or something from 15 years ago that someone just recently discovered or redis- covered on a celebrity. People run to the drama and hop on board acting all heartbroken be- cause they "loved them so much, how could they do this?" when in reality they are just living for the drama.

We are not saying some people do not deserve to get cancelled because they are some- truly bad people running and influencing our world, such as Kellyanne Conway who worked and spoke for the Trump admin- istration but then tried to con- demn the capital rioters when she helped build them up to get there,

but there are people who are get- ting cancelled for mistakes they made 10 plus years ago in society that did not know were offensive or wrong at the time.

We have had staff members talk about how for Halloween they would dress up as Mulan or Pocahontas or simply buy the costumes to run around in to 'feel like a princess.' At the time we didn't realize how offensive that could be because it was someone's culture. Now we have educated ourselves about culture appropriation but what if one day we are the next ones on the chop- ping block because of a mistake we made when we were six?

People should be allowed to grow from their past mindsets and their previous actions. We agree people do not change over- night but someone can change

from something they did 10 years ago. None of us has ever been perfect and still to this day we probably do and say things that are offensive and disrespectful and 20 years from now we will look back on it and will not be able to believe we ever thought that was okay.

A prime example of this is when people tried to cancel Jimmy Fallon for a video that resurfaced of him in blackface imitating Chris Rock. Now we know blackface is beyond disrespectful, but 20 years ago when the video came out people didn't understand the severity of how disrespectful it was. Not to mention Jimmy Fallon had to do what his boss wanted him to do to survive, Fallon even took to Twitter apologizing and thanking his fans for holding him account-

able and has done multiple shows touching on systemic racism.

Society is ever-changing right along with us and every day we are being educated on our misdoings, so before retweeting that tweet dragging someone for a mistake they made years ago, stop and think about the person they are now and the time period that mistake was made in. Some things were accepted then that are not accepted now, give them a chance to explain and apologize for their past.

Cancel culture is getting toxic, no one can even admit their mis- takes or talk about them because once they bring light to it their whole career is in flames. We need to do better and let people move on from their past and grow to be respectful and newly educated people.

OUTGROWING PARENTS' BELIEFS Reporter shares struggles of developing differing political views than father

Amber Roth
Copy Editor



For years, while parents, including mine, have been using excuses, such as "It's the way I grew up," and "It's what I was taught," to jus- tify or ignore the fact that they are being racist, sexist and all the -ists there are out there.

Most of generation Z's parents are generation X who were raised by the

baby boomers and the si- lent generation, the genera- tion before baby boomers. This is often the generation of racists, while not every baby boomer or silent gen. is racist or sexist, many of the ones who are, especial- ly the white ones, are very vocal about their opinions and often can't see the other side of issues.

On the day President Biden was inaugurated into office, my white gen. X father made a backhanded comment that took me completely by surprise; he said the day of Biden's in-

auguration was the saddest day of his life, because Trump was no longer the president. Out of every- thing my father's been through in his life, such as his mother and son dy- ing, his sister committing suicide, that was somehow the saddest day.

When I tried to ask him about it, it turned into an hour-long argument on why I would never understand why he thinks that and how it'll be next to impossible for him to change his views because it was "how he grew up."

Every time we argue about something like this, it pains me, because he is going against every single one of his daughters and not realizing the strain he puts on our relationship.

I know I'm not the only white child who has had to face this problem. I've seen countless children and teenagers stand up to their parents' bigotry, only to end up with broken parent relationships because their parents refuse to change. And the excuse they al- ways use is "it's when/how I grew up."

There are plenty of gen. X and baby boomers who are not racist, homophobic or sexist. Look at Bernie Sanders, for example. He is a white man who grew up during that time, yet he was out there fighting alongside black people in the 60s for racial equality.

My point is, kids preach what their parents taught them. But if what their par- ents have taught their child is wrong, then it can be- come harmful to not only their family, but everyone around them. Just because it is what they grew up

believing and being taught, does not mean they cannot change, but they have to be willing to make that change happen and not use the excuse of when they grew up as a crutch for their bigotry.

And that is something parents need to get through their heads. Just because you grew up during a cer- tain time or were raised to believe certain things, does not mean change is impos- sible. Change is possible, and it's needed if parents do not want to lose their children.



The Omaha Bryan High School Orator prides itself on being a credible, student run, news and entertain- ment source for its readers. The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all of its publications. The Orator is a member of the National Scho- lastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA) and the Journal-

ism Education Association (JEA).

It is both a state and nationally recognized student newspaper which has won several awards including placing four times in the NSPA Best of Show Tab- loid newspaper 16-pages or fewer contests, multiple NHSPA Cornhusker Awards and numerous individ- ual awards through JEA, NSPA, NHSPA and UNO.

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LIFE

after high school

Justin Diep
Copy Editor

Many post-graduate students will face challenges as soon as the cap and gown are taken off. Everyone's path is different. Some will choose to go to college. Accord-

ing to educationdata.org, a website that seeks to make data about the American education system more open and accessible, 67 percent of high school graduates enrolled in college. Others may find a job right out of high school. Some

will move out, sometimes that is out of state or just across town. No matter what people decide to do after high school, it'll still be financially confusing and even overwhelming at times but it does not have to be this way.

Understanding some basic concepts can go a long way. From learning where money goes and how to save it, to understanding how credit works can lay a solid foundation for life ahead.

WAYS TO SAVE MONEY WHEN MOVING OUT

Infographic by | Olouwatobi Nounkpozomkolu

1

THE SMALL THINGS

- When moving into a new house, ask parents for furniture and housewares
- Have an emergency fund, like saving a percentage of a check each month.
- Download an app to help you manage money better
- Instead of getting name brand items, buy the off-brand versions like Walmart's Great Value or Target's Good & Gather.

2

SCHOOL RELATED WAYS

- Use student discounts
- For those going to college, think of renting the needed textbooks because it'll cost less.
- Instead of buying a bed and couch, get a sofa-bed instead which is a mix
- People can save up to 10% off car insurance if they enroll in a drivers education course
- Getting a membership at Sam's Club or Costco can save people money if they buy in bulk and gas is cheaper

Costs of moving out add up

Justin Diep
Copy Editor

The cost of moving out can often surprise teenagers. Whether it is moving out to a college dorm or simply just living on your own in an apartment or a house, the bills can seem to just add up out of nowhere.

The breakdown for the average cost of living was gathered from bestplaces.net, a data analytical website about people and places, Numbeo, a crowd-sourced database and U.S. News & World Report.

The breakdown for the cost of moving into a college dorm was gathered from the University of Nebraska at Omaha's estimated cost of attendance.



Monthly Cost of Moving Out to an Apartment

-Rent of a two bedroom apt. \$992
-Utility bill \$180
-Internet bill \$78
-Health cost \$132

-Groceries \$95
-Cost of ownership for a car \$1,130
Total Monthly Cost: \$2,607



Monthly Cost of Attending College

-Tuition & Fees \$957
-Housing & Meals \$1225
-Books & Supplies \$132

-Personal Expenses \$279
-Transportation \$159
Total Monthly Cost: \$2752



Alumna shares experience moving out of state for college

Sophie Bacon
Reporter

Graduating and moving out is something almost every teenager must go through. Alumna Ashley Roth, was able to participate in collegiate level gymnastics and function as a college student while living out of state away from the comforts of her home.

One of the reasons Roth decided to go to Winona State University instead of an in-state college was because Nebraska only has one college that provides a gymnastics program.

"My main reason for leaving was gymnastics," Roth said. "I was excited, I wanted to go out of state no matter what. Getting to do my favorite sport and leaving was just a plus. Winona was the closest to Omaha. I knew right away when I visited this is where I wanted to go."

Moving out can also come with emotional strains from missing home and getting used to a new environment but there are ways to help overcome them.

"Leaving my family was extremely hard, they're the people I've grown up with my entire life and now I'm supposed to live six hours away and not see them for months on end," Roth said. "But, with being on the gymnastics team, I had friends here waiting for me and they very quickly became my family. We do everything together. They really helped with the transition."

Another deciding factor for Roth to go out of state was the cost of tuition and other living expenses. She was able to get a scholarship that allowed her to pay in-state tuition and she applied for student loans.

"Tuition is pretty cheap there for a four-year university," Roth said. "I wanted to

minimize the cost as much as possible, with being D3 I can't get athletic scholarships."

Balancing course work, athletics and a social life is no easy task. For Roth, she writes out all of her homework and class work she wants to get done each day and the weekend prior to it so she can stay on task and on top of everything.

"It's all about having a schedule and self accountability," Roth said.

Whether moving in-state or out of state, it can be a big adjustment with figuring out the correct balance between activities, home life and academics.

"I recommend it to everyone [moving out of state]," Roth said. "It's nothing but new experiences and meeting new people. I feel as if it really allowed me to find what I'm interested and enjoy."



Photo Courtesy of | Ashley Roth

Working on course work in her dorm at Winona State University, Alumna Ashley Roth writes down all her work on a planner in advance to help her balance her life between school, gymnastics and her social life.

Credit scores have lasting effects

Lia Becker
Reporter

Credit is the ability to borrow money and then have to pay it back to the lender with interest. A credit score is a number calculated from the information in a person's credit reports, normally sourced by credit bureaus, to show the likelihood of paying their loans back on time. While credit may be scary and even confusing at times, business teacher Thomas Townsend offers some advice to those who may just be starting to build credit.

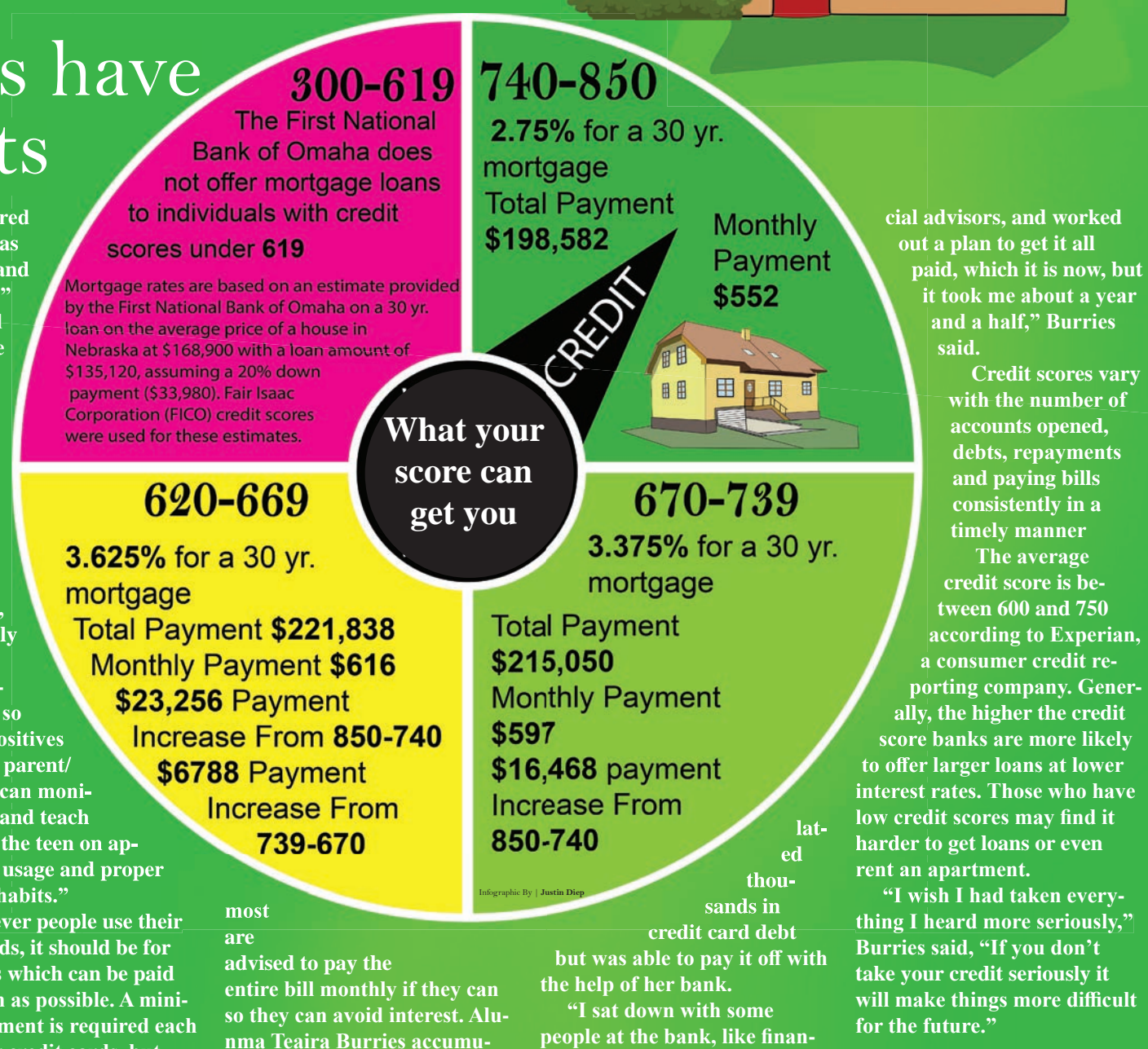
"People need to start thinking of credit as money they haven't earned yet," business teacher Thomas Townsend said.

To start building credit it is recommended to get a credit card. Banks require minors to share a joint account with a parent, both parties are responsible for payments and debts, but can be taken off the shared account later once a minor reaches the age of majority.

"A shared account has positives and negatives," Townsend said. "The negatives are the same as any card, over limit spending, late payments, paying only the minimum payment and so on. The positives are that a parent/guardian can monitor usage and teach and train the teen on appropriate usage and proper payment habits."

Whenever people use their credit cards, it should be for purchases which can be paid off as soon as possible. A minimum payment is required each month for credit cards, but

most are advised to pay the entire bill monthly if they can so they can avoid interest. Alumna Teaira Burries accumu-



ABDI MEDALS AT STATE, MATCHES, SETS RECORDS

Season ends with upsets, gives underclassmen fire for next year

Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
Sports Editor

Four wrestlers, seniors: Mohamud Abdi, Fabian Reid and Jake Schoenauer, and junior Yusuf Mohamud won at Districts on Feb. 13, to compete at the NSAA State Wrestling Championships which took place last week. After the wrestling team's sixth consecutive appearance at State, Abdi (106) became the eighth wrestler from the school in the past six years to place and earn a medal at the tournament.

Day one of the tournament consisted of only three wins for the team which came from Abdi and Schoenauer.

Abdi won 6-2 to Lincoln Southwest's Hunter Jacobson in his first match, then pulled off a win against Papillion South's Tyler Durden (5-3) with a reverse in the last three seconds of the match, moving him forward to day two of the tournament.

Schoenauer lost his first match by being pinned in the first period by Jayson Botteroff of Papillion La Vista. In his second match he was down 14-1 but pinned Columbus's Liam Blaser in the third period. He ended his progression in the tournament with a 7-3 loss against Aiden Ingwersen of Lincoln East.

Both Reid and Mohamud lost both of their matches and were eliminated.

On day two, Abdi competed in the semi finals against Lincoln East's Gabe Turman but was pinned in the second period. He moved on to the consolation semi finals where he lost 10-3 to Breynyn Delano of Columbus. He then earned fifth place by medical forfeit to DJ Bonann of Omaha Central.

"It shows that my hard work and cutting all that weight was worth it, especially since 106 pounds had a lot of talented wrestlers," Abdi said.

Abdi ended his high school wrestling career by tying second for the most career wins in school history with 122 wins. He also has the most career take downs at 213, according to head coach Jason Susnjar.

"I feel we improved," Susnjar said. "If we see improvement throughout the season, it is a good season. We finished 16-15 in duals which is always good to win more than you lose. I love how our boys competed and got better every day."

While the four of them made it to State, the team had hoped to qualify more. Junior Tobin Wingender ended up close but didn't quite make it. He'll be a senior next season so he'll get another chance and plans to take it.

"During my last match at Districts, there wasn't really a thought process, I just went out and wrestled," Wingender said. "Next year I'm hoping to beat Bryan's all time win record and qualify for State."

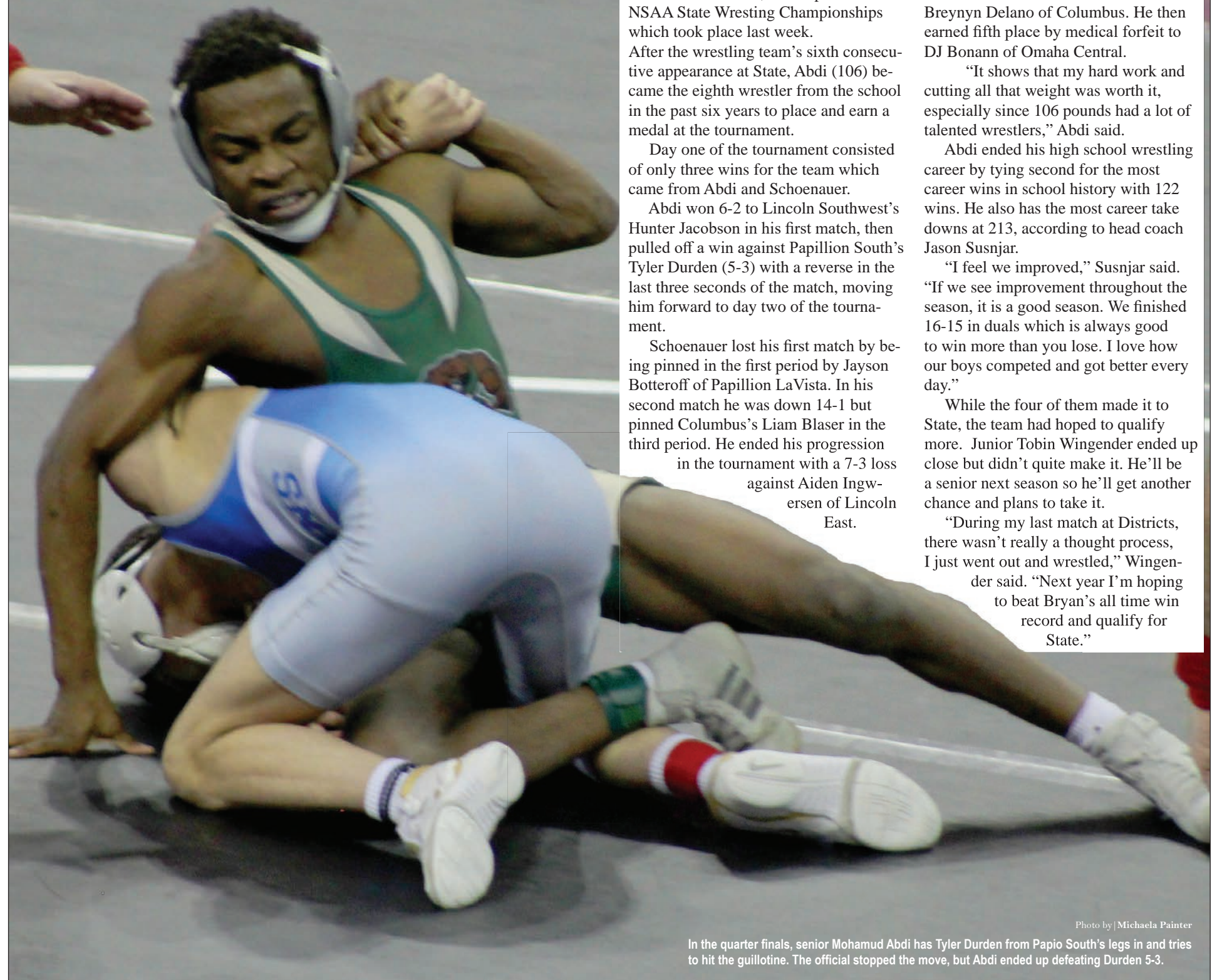


Photo by | Michaela Painter
In the quarter finals, senior Mohamud Abdi has Tyler Durden from Papio South's legs in and tries to hit the guillotine. The official stopped the move, but Abdi ended up defeating Durden 5-3.

Spring sports get redemption, athletes look forward to season

Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
Sports Editor

During the 2019-2020 school year, COVID-19 took away the spring sports season leaving athletes disappointed, however with spring sports getting the green light for this season, the athletes are excited and are putting in work already.

There are new players on each team who show promise.

"They are excellent players. I wouldn't ask for no one else," junior boys soccer player Uriel Flores said. "They add a great level of quality to our team."

Whether it be older players like senior Sophia Rubenstein

and junior Maddison Brown on the girls' tennis team, or newer players like sophomore Leslie Diaz, and freshman Ruby Macias on the girls' soccer team, there are many athletes to keep an eye on.

"People should be watching out for everyone," sophomore girls' tennis player Raquel Burton said. "Sophia and Jordan (Wattles) are both power hitters and it's almost scary how hard they hit. I think everyone will have a great season and have many exciting games no matter who you watch."

The student athletes and coaches are all looking forward to getting their sport back.

"A lot of the kids are motivated," assistant track and field coach Bidong Tot said. "My only worry would be if they don't let the kids compete."

Many student athletes made sure to not get lazy during the break after the season was cancelled. Most of the girls soccer players played with each other on a local club team. They also made sure to practice and exercise after the cancellation.

"I believe in my girls, I believe we'll be ready," girls soccer captain junior Ximena Morales said. "My club continues to have practices and games to help every player get ready for the season."



Photo by | Ranae Duncan
During spring conditioning after school in the pit, assistant tennis coach James Gardner works with junior Jazmin Ragalado Manzo on her forward swing to prepare her for the season.

However, due to the lack of the 2019-2020 spring sports season, some teams aren't as experienced as they would've been. But their older players are helping to guide the newer ones down the right path.

"We don't have many new players, but our returning players

are looking better from last year," senior baseball player Gabriel Kula said. "I do feel that we will be ready for the season, with the way our team is consistently showing up to conditioning day after day. I'm looking forward to playing my final season as a Bear."

Hopes of alternate fall sports season crushed

Dallanara Sibrian Miranda
Reporter

Fall sports athletes were given hope in the fall that they would be able to play a modified season in the spring, however Omaha Public Schools (OPS) made the decision in late January to cancel fall sports for the year.

"We have many students as well as coaches that are involved in sports in both the fall and spring season, so it would have been challenging fielding teams," athletic director Ryan Murtaugh said.

With no chance of playing their sport, many fall sports athletes are upset, but the athletes who do both a fall and spring sport are relieved that they don't have to decide between their two sports.

"I was really hoping for a fall season, but I feel that I wouldn't have been able to participate any ways because I play soccer in the spring," senior volleyball player Madeline Gates said. "So, I feel relieved because I would have felt worse if they had it and I couldn't even take part in it."

Senior softball player

Brooke Powers disagreed with Gates about the decision, saying that OPS didn't even give them a chance.

"I feel like I got my hopes up for nothing," Powers said. "We're old enough to make our own choices on what sport we want to play. It's not fair every school district got to have their fall seasons. Who cares if we only got to play against other OPS schools, at least it would've been something."

And while fall sports are officially a no-go for the school year, upcoming seasons look promising to Murtaugh.

"We are all optimistic that our athletes and coaches will be able to compete in all the upcoming seasons," he said.

Also let down by not having a season, fall coaches like Rachel Allen are pivoting their attention to the future.

"Them canceling fall sports was a big struggle for me, this is only my second year coaching," Allen said. "I had to relearn everything. We are working on a plan to get our seniors some playing time and then we have to rebuild."



Photo by | Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
At the Planet Fitness located on 5035 S. 36th Street, assistant manager Ally Smith sanitizes one of the treadmills. "Our brand is heavily focused on cleaning anyway," Smith said. "With the pandemic we've just double downed on that. Insuring our member's safety is top priority."

Gym fights back against COVID-19

Victoria Besta
Reporter

During quarantine many people lost motivation to stay fit by themselves. Not being able to go to the gym gave a lot of people reason to not work out.

Now gyms are reopening and taking safety precautions to keep gym members healthy and safe. But because gyms are social, that may scare some

away from returning.

"We take safety protocols seriously by wiping down equipment, installing cleaning stations and closing down some machines to practice social distancing," Planet Fitness personal trainer Miguel Dominguez said.

Local gym's often have professional equipment that is difficult to replace at home. The things a gym can offer can often

be difficult to replicate at home due to the expense of equipment and there typically being less room in homes, so gyms are doing what they can to make their facilities safe for customers to come back.

"Some things have changed, but not everything," Dominguez said. "I think people are starting to open up to coming to the gym after seeing how we've made it a safe and

comfortable environment."

Planet Fitness cleans all of their equipment after use, social distance, enforces masks while on the floor and inside and encourages the use of hand sanitizer.

"Citizens are respectful and understand that safety of staff and others. There's rare occasions where someone will refuse to wear a mask and are asked to leave," Dominguez said.

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Photo by | Keyana Burries

Noon app offers sense of security for users

Button creates direct line to emergency services

Victoria Besta
Reporter

The clock strikes 10. It's quitting time. Time to head to the car and head home. The only problem is, it's pitch-black out and the car is at the end of the parking lot in the employee parking area and the streetlight just flickered out.

Scenarios like this happen frequently and often can make for an anxious journey to the car, especially if there are any other unfamiliar people or cars around. To help people get from point A to point B with a bit more confidence and security, the Noonlight app was created.

Noonlight is a connected safety platform and mobile app that can set

people's minds at ease when they are walking alone. It allows users to feel secure without fighting their inner thoughts determining if a situation is dangerous enough to call 911 or not.

The app is simple and provides many features to users. When feeling unsafe, users can open the app and hold down the button and when they feel safe again, they release the button and enter the four-digit customized pin. If the pin is not entered within two minutes of being released the app will notify police with users' location.

Noonlight has 100 percent coverage in the United States and is protecting 2 million people today.

The app also provides add-ons for Lyft, crash response, Wyze, TASER Pulse+, Apple health app and Tinder.

Lauren Genier, crime prevention specialist for Omaha Police Department, North Precinct supports the app and its purpose to help citizens feel safer with surroundings.

"I like the idea," Genier said. "I think it would provide some comfort to people using it for a variety of reasons".

Additionally, Noonlight has a timeline feature which provides users a place to take personal notes of things they want to record that they think are suspicious like dates, names, something out of place or a car they think is following them. Noonlight's basic panic button is free on Apple and Android devices. More advanced features cost between \$4.99 and \$9.99, but come with a free month trial.



Infographic by | Keyana Burries



Social media takes aim at stock market, creates chaos, interest

Justin Diep
Copy editor

"GameStop to the moon," is what many users on various social media platforms said in response to the rise in GameStop's stock price in January.

The rise in GameStop's price was largely attributed to a battle between Wall Street hedge funds and retail traders from a Reddit form called r/wallstreetbets. Other "meme" investments such as AMC, Nokia and Dogecoin saw smaller price jumps. It attracted the attention of the public including Austrian foreign exchange student senior Andreas Ploch.

"It was like watching a movie," Ploch said.

According to Nerdwallet, a personal finance company, a stock is a type

of investment that represents an ownership share in a company. The value of a company and its stock price rise and fall together.

Since GameStop's stock price has consistently been on the downward trend, hedge funds consistently shorted stocks. According to Investopedia, shorting a stock is when an investor borrows a stock, sells it then buys it back to return to the lender. The investor would short a stock hoping the price of it goes down.

If it does go down, they can buy the stock at that price and return it to the lender. The profit from it comes from the difference between the sold price of the stock and the price the stock was bought again to return.

However, if the stock price rises the investor

must buy the stock at that price to return to the lender making the investor lose money.

Redditors saw GameStop was the most shorted stock with mainly hedge funds shorting GameStop. The stock was shorted 140 percent meaning they were shorting more stocks than existed. Users on Reddit and other social medias came together and collectively bought shares of GameStop. Even high-profile individuals like Elon Musk joined in.

According to a poll conducted by Yahoo Finance, 24 percent of Americans bought stocks in GameStop or other "meme" investments.

This caused the stock price of GameStop to go from \$18 a share in early January to its peak at \$483

a share at the end of the month. People who shorted GameStop were forced to buy the stock back at the inflated prices. Collectively, those who shorted GameStop lost around \$5 billion according to S3, a data analytics company. Some investors reported having massive gains as a result of the short squeeze and others reported massive losses in the thousands and even millions.

While Ploch did not invest real money into the market, he was still able to have a learning experience with a demo account. He played around with stocks without having to actually invest with OnVista, a German finance portal.

"I made about 250 percent with the GME [GameStop] stock," Ploch said.

REVIEW

Madden gets worse, EA Sports needs to return to roots

Angel Garcia
Reporter

The first version of the Madden series was released in 1988 the game has only improved ever since. Well, that is the assumption most would make when a new version of a game is released. They expect new, better content and game play, but that is not always the case.

Ever since Electronic Arts (EA) released Madden 2004, arguably the best title to the series, the game has just become repetitive. Madden 04 was when playmaker controls were first introduced, this gave players the ability to adjust the offensive line and adjust the play without fully changing it. Thus, making it the biggest impacted update the series has had yet.

Afterwards EA updates to Madden have only improved graphics and player features. It also seems that the newer version of Madden has only focused on online, head-to-head

play compared to the much older versions where mini games, franchise and superstar were the focus.

Sure, the newer versions of Madden have better graphics but the game play still feels unrealistic. For example, how is it possible to throw a 50 yard pass across the field to the receiver on the left while the character is rolling out to the right, while getting sacked by the defensive line and still throw an on point accurate pass? It is simply not possible in the previous games.

Lastly, bugs and errors are known to be in every game; it's just a common aspect of gaming, but lately it seems that the newest version of madden has had so much, that gamers are just fed up with it. Madden 21 received a Metacritic score of 0.4/10 making it the worst scored game Madden has ever released. It has even gone as far as gamers boycotting EA in demand of a better product.

Arts Calendar

Here is a look at Arts and Entertainment events and releases coming up.

MUSIC

Madison Beer, "Life Support"

Releases: Today
Finally releasing her debut album after not releasing a project in three years, fans are pretty excited. The album will have 15 tracks and 3 singles such as "Good in Goodbye," "Selfish" and "Stained Glass." "Dear Society" was intentionally the first single of the album, but was eventually cut overall from the final album.

Zara Larsson, "Poster Girl"

Releases: March 5
Pushing the album back due to COVID-19, the Swedish singer and songwriter will be releasing her third studio album but her second international album. The album was originally planned to be released in 2020. The album will feature 12 songs and will have singles such as "Love me Land" and "Wow."

BOOKS

"An Unexpected Peril" by Deanna Raybourn

Releases: March 2
Another addition to the Veronica Speedwell series will be coming soon. There will be a butterfly hunter, a natural historian, a female detective and a world traveler existing during the Victorian era. Veronica will pose as a princess to investigate the murder of a female mountain climber.

MOVIES

"Tom and Jerry"

Releases: Today
The children's show is making a come back for yet another adventure which will be placed in New York City. They find themselves homeless after getting kicked out by Tom's owners which led them to go their separate ways. It doesn't take long for the two to find each other again to try and uncover a conspiracy.

"The Father"

Releases: Today
A new drama will be coming out in theaters about a father feeling the effects of getting older and not being able to live on his own. The movie will tell about how the man's condition worsens and he starts to lose touch with himself, his family, and reality. Some key actors in this movie are Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman.

"The United States vs. Billie Holiday"

Releases: Today
For fans of Billie Holiday, Hulu will be releasing a film about the investigations against the 20th century singer. The film will follow the singer which is played by Andra Day as she is the target of an operation led by Jimmy Fletcher.

LOCAL BUSINESS



High-end, secondhand store provides vintage street wear, goods

Keyana Burries
Editor-in-Chief

Out with the new and in with the old. Focusing on in-store experience verses online retail, Workshop Omaha, hidden in an alley behind 11th and Jackson streets in the Old Market, is giving a new but old experience to their customers by not only not having an online store, but also by only selling vintage apparel. The store is a buy, sell and trade retail shop for sneakers, street wear, and clothing with a focus on the 80s and 90s.

The owners of the shop, 24-year-olds Trey Matthews and Stefan Drincic had been collecting sneakers and vintage clothing for almost 10 years when they finally met up a year ago with a mission to open a store for people to shop exclusive brands without the peskiness of online or out of state shopping. Before they met, they used to collect and sell their vintage apparel out of their cars when a mutual friend connected them, and they came together and joined forces to create their dream.

"While it may be easier to shop online," Matthews said. "We purposely don't sell any of our products online. We have prioritized focus on the in-store experience. We want to highlight the importance of shopping local."

The shop has lots to offer from a Supreme clothing line to vintage shirts, including ones that are 30 years and older and unique shoes such as Yeezy 350 Glows. Their goals is to not be just another retail store with clothing items that will be trashed after that season because of poor quality or just not in style. They want to bring nostalgia to their customers by providing them with ways of finding quality brands such as Nike and Polo.

"We want there to be something for everyone," Matthews said. "We understand the importance of self-expression especially in clothing."

The owners pay attention to small details, setting them apart from other secondhand shops. They have quality, all white wooden hangers and use vintage sports cards as their price tags. Since they

are in the vintage market for clothing it was easy for them to find brand new vintage sports cards, plus it was a convenient and cheap option for them.

One day they were going through the cards and tagging them when they found a "black box" Billy Ripken baseball card. Ripken had written an expletive on the knob of his bat.

"Just because it's a funny little story and it's real meaningful, and it's kinda unique and weird, we ended up printing our first line of merch with his graphic on it," Drincic said.

To see their custom work, shop or to sell items, customers can come during their normal business hours of 12-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-6 p.m. on Sundays.

The owners have high hopes for the future. They plan to expand what their shop offers. They have purchased a four-color screen print press, to print their own t-shirts and tote bags in the back of their store and have a sneaker restoration service they want to make public eventually.



Photos by | Ranae Duncan

Top: While some costumers peruse the Workshop, store co-owner Stefan Drincic works at the register on Feb. 20. The store sells high end street wear, vintage clothing, shoes and collectables. Right top: Adding to their vintage vibe, a cardboard cutout of Larry Bird stands next to Workshop's display of basketball shoes. Right middle: While in the apparel section of the store customers brows through the variety of t-shirts. Right bottom: Located in the middle of a back alleyway off of 11th and Jackson streets, a bright mural signals the entrance to Workshop.

Top 10 series to binge before new seasons release

Netflix proves to be top provider of quality shows

Sophie Bacon
Reporter

- 1 Locke & Key ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: Sept. 2021 Season 2
The Locke family moves into their father's childhood home preceding his murder and they find a set of keys that can change reality, like a key that can physically unlock a persons mind and allow someone to walk inside. The show's deep plot line and well developed characters create a well put together show.
- 2 Outlander ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix and STARZ
Next season: Dec. 2021 - Season 6
Claire Randall, a woman from the 1940's gets accidentally transported back 200 years to Scotland without knowing if she will ever back to her own time. There is sensitive and potentially triggering topics portrayed in the series, so viewer be warned. However, the story line is well written and unpredictable.
- 3 Lucifer ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: March 2021 - Season 5
This show deserves so many awards for never failing to make watching it a great time. It's about Lucifer Morningstar and a LAPD homicide detective, Chloe Decker. The show gives a unique perspective on the image of the Devil that makes viewers think. It's funny, yet intriguing.
- 4 The Queen's Gambit ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: Rumors of a second season
Beth Harmon, an orphan, is a develops a drug habit and love for chess whin in an orphanage. Over the years, Beth fights to be the best but must face many adversities. Anya Taylor-Joy, who plays Beth, portrays the character intensely and phenomenally. She is perfect for the role and makes viewers care about chess even if they've never played before.
- 5 Outerbanks ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: March/April 2021 Season 2
Outerbanks is an unpredictable show about a teen named John B. who's father mysteriously goes missing. He knows something is up and not quite right with his father's disappearance. He and his friends set off to find a treasure that is connected to his father's disappearance. This show has many of plot twists that make watchers second guess everything.
- 6 For Life ★★★★★**
Network: ABC
Next season: Current
Imagine being ripped away from your family and young daughter and being locked up in a high security prison for nine years for a crime you didn't commit. This show is based off of the true story of Aaron Wallace and his hard. It also does a good job of touching on current events.
- 7 The Umbrella Academy ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: Winter 2021 - Season 3
Forty three babies were born at the exact same time, except their mothers were never pregnant. Seven of those children have super-human powers and are adopted by an eccentric billionaire. Once the kids grow up, they realize not everything is as it was told. The show blends superhero drama with time travel which keeps the show mysterious.
- 8 Cobra Kai ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: Jan. 2022 - Season 4
Cobra Kai sparks a new karate generation. This shows really cool because it's all of the old Karate Kid cast and there are a lot of parallels between the shows. It combines old and new for a solid show.
- 9 Haikyuu ★★★★★**
Networks: Netflix and Crunchyroll
Next season: Winter 2021 - Season 5
Two middle school boys volleyball rivals end up playing for the same team and must learn to work together and live up to the schools legacy. This anime has something for everyone. It's incredibly well animated and the environment such as overcoming differences.
- 10 Total Drama Island ★★★★★**
Network: Netflix
Next season: Spring 2021 - Season 2
This throw-back show is back for another season. It turns reality TV game shows into a cartoon world. Chris McLean, the show host, makes contestants go through life threatening challenges to progress in his show. The diverse characters and "reality" shows hilarious environment makes the show worth the watch. The show is interesting for all ages making it a hit for the whole family.

ENTERTAINMENT

23 TEENS PLAN CINEMATIC PIECE



Photo courtesy | Lathan Crismon

After discussing ways to fund raise so they can pay to produce the film they plan to create, junior Alyssa Corinne and her team takes a group photo to use as part of their social media marketing plan. Corinne invited numerous friends to help her make their own movie. “I felt pretty excited because we could go pretty far and pursue our goal on producing a film,” team member junior Lathan Crismon said.

Local students collaborate to make film about real life teenage issues

Keyana Burries
Editor-in-Chief

Taking dreams and making them into reality is exactly what junior Alyssa Corinne did. She has always been interested in the performing arts and becoming an actor. This is what she sees herself doing in the future, but she got tired of waiting around for opportunities to show off

her acting. “I just woke up one day and was wondering why I was waiting around, and so I texted all my friends and asked them to make a movie,” Corinne said. She has people from all different schools in the district helping produce and act in this movie. In total she has 23 people so far. Eight are from Bryan, three from Omaha Central

and six from Omaha South. “I really thought they were going to think I was crazy because it is such a big goal and just in general a big project,” Corinne said. “I never thought I would get this many people on board and have them take it seriously.” They haven’t taken on individual roles yet because they are all just helping where it is needed.

Currently there is no timeline for when the movie will be completed because of fundrasing but Corrine hopes to have it done by 2022, when she graduates. Her inspiration for taking this task on was her aunt. Her aunt is good friends with Randy Goodwin who has acted in shows such as the “Vampire Diaries” and her aunt even works for Digg Site

Productions, which will be helping them out with equipment and guidance. “I saw how Randy was able to make a movie himself and while he is older, it was inspiring how he just did what he wanted to do and I wanted to follow in his footsteps,” Corinne said. Another driving factor to make this movie is being able to make a

realistic coming-of-age movie, since they are teens and know the struggles of trying to navigate their ways through high school and real life. They want to make a relatable movie to set an example for teens. “We want to touch on depression, parent conflicts and anxiety and the importance of having a strong friend group to rely on,” Corinne said.



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