

GYM DUE FOR REPAIR

Issues with floor causes safety concerns

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SHOWDOWN

Bears prepare to take on Thunderbirds

 vs  Sports pg. 5

SNAP SNAP

Spring musical based on well known show

Life & Style pg. 10

DIGGING UP HISTORY



Delores Sanchez, a member of the Bryan Senior High Spanish Club, helps fill the contents of a time capsule commemorating the school's silver anniversary. More than 1,000 people turned out for the celebration. The capsule will be opened in the year 2018.

Photo by Lee Rood

From The Bellevue Leader May 1993

School building turns 50, time capsule to be opened

Amber Roth

Co-Editor in Chief

Celebrating 50 years of being open, the school will be holding a ceremony dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the building, which will be held on May 1.

“It’s a milestone,” career academies consultant and former Bryan High teacher of 32 years Krystal Kolb said. “We’ve missed other milestones at the 50-year mark, when Bryan first opened in 1964 at the middle school, we missed the milestone of the 50th graduating class and with COVID, we wanted to do something positive, something exciting for the community.”

The ceremony itself will be a re-dedication of the building. Speeches will be made and there will be music and snacks available for attendees.

“It’s a big landmark, and it’s

something we don’t celebrate enough, our history and the things that make Bryan special and how many years of traditions and wonderful people who have passed through these doors,” curriculum specialist Kathryn McWilliams said, who’s been a Bear for 20 years.

They will also be excavating a time capsule that was buried in 1993 on the 25th anniversary of the building opening. A new one is planned to be made and buried during the ceremony, but the school has run into some problems. When it was buried, the capsule was encased in concrete and buried two feet deep to deter kids from trying to dig it up.

“Our thought was we would just be able to pop the lid off, take the old one out, do our new one, put it into the same location, but that’s not going to happen now,” Kolb said.

The estimation for unearthing the

old time capsule and burying a new one is sitting at around \$2,000. The school has not decided yet who will be able to put stuff in the new time capsule or what’s going in there.


















“We’ve been doing some meetings, and our goal is to have student’s input, social media input, so it’s not just us deciding,” Kolb said.

Current and past students will be allowed to attend the 50th anniversary ceremony and time capsule excavation.

“I believe this is a really cool idea, because it is bringing together today’s students and the students that attended Bryan High 50 years ago,” senior Maddison Brown said.


The capsule was originally planned to be opened for the 50th anniversary of school opening in 2018, but to have more people involved, it was decided to wait until the building’s 50th year to open it.

1972 vs Now

Super Bowl	
<div>Super Bowl VI</div> <div></div> <div>Dallas Cowboys 24-3 Miami Dolphins</div>	<div>Super Bowl LVI</div> <div></div> <div>Los Angeles Rams TBD Cincinnati Bengals</div>
NBA World Champion Series	
<div></div> <div>Los Angeles Lakers 4-1 New York Knicks</div>	<div></div> <div>Milwaukee Bucks 4-2 Phoenix Suns</div>
MLB World Series	
<div></div> <div>Oakland A's 4-3 Cincinnati Reds</div>	<div></div> <div>Atlanta Braves 4-2 Houston Astros</div>
Best Selling Video Games	
<div></div> <div>Pong 8000 machines sold in 1972</div>	<div></div> <div>Minecraft 238 million copies sold to date</div>
Top Songs Billboard Hot 100	
<div></div> <div>1. The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face- Roberta Flack 2. Alone Again- Gilbert O'Sullivan 3. American Pie- Don McLean</div>	<div></div> <div>1. We Don't Talk About Bruno- (From "Encanto") 2. Easy On Me- Adele 3. Heat Waves- Glass Animals</div>
Top Movies	
<div></div> <div>1. The Godfather 2. The Poseidon Adventure 3. What's Up, Doc?</div> <div>Information from espn.com, britannica.com xbox.com, billboard.com, boxofficemojo.com</div>	<div></div> <div>1. Spider-Man: No Way Home 2. Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings 3. Venom: Let There Be Carnage</div>


Infographic by | Justin Diep

STUDENTS SOUND OFF: What would you put in a time capsule?




Carlos Gavia
Freshman

"I would put a USB drive with pictures of the virus and the riots of the past few years."




Gabriela Lopez
Sophomore

"I would put a mask to represent the pandemic."




Bryley Carabantes
Junior

"I'd put a bottle of hand sanitizer to show the era we live in."



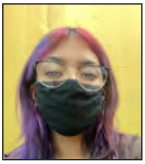
Emma Loftus
Junior

"I'd put my baby blanket in it because it's something I've had all my life and I'd remember when we dig it back up."



Saul Perez-Garcia
Senior

"I would put a watch because hopefully it will be more valuable when it's opened."



Naylea Hernandez-Lopez
Senior

"A board game..., whoever finds it can learn how to play and perhaps even enjoy playing it."

Gun violence in Omaha

OPS student affected by gun violence

Daisy Chinchilla Ramos
Reporter

Homicides involving teenagers, especially ones involving guns, have been increasing in recent years in the Omaha area.

The homicide rate in the Omaha area has increased from 29 incidents and 30 victims in 2016 to 32 victims and 29 incidents in 2021, according to the Omaha Police Department. Although the rate of homicide did decrease from 2020 to 2021, it is still higher than it's been in years.

The national average of homicides involving teenagers/young adults has also been increasing. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in 2015, the number of homicide victims was up to 1,206 for girls ages 15-24, and 6,074 for boys that same age per 100,000 people in the US.

A junior* at the school that has experience with gun violence has been left with traumatic memories

of an event in which their friend was killed.

"I couldn't do anything for them but be with them and hold their hand while they were crying in pain," the junior said. "It was scary, a scary moment that I never want to experience ever again."

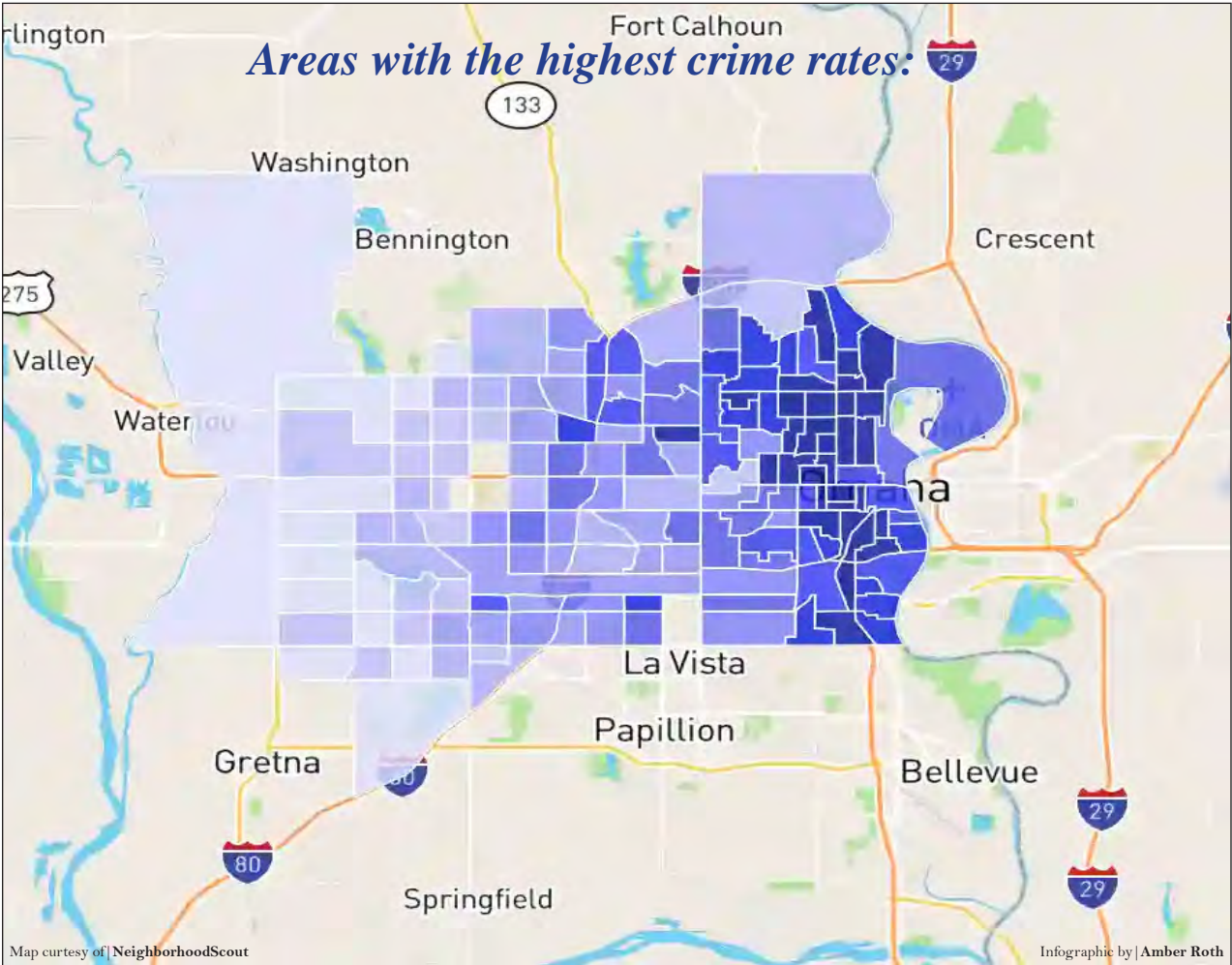
The junior keeps in touch with the friend's parents and visits them when they have the opportunity to, because they feel like they owe it to them and they want to make peace with what happened.

"It's tough to deal with, because I can't get it out of my head, I can't stop it," the junior said.

The junior believes that what happened has matured them and they plan on staying inside more for their safety. They plan on staying out of trouble and keeping their circle of friends small.

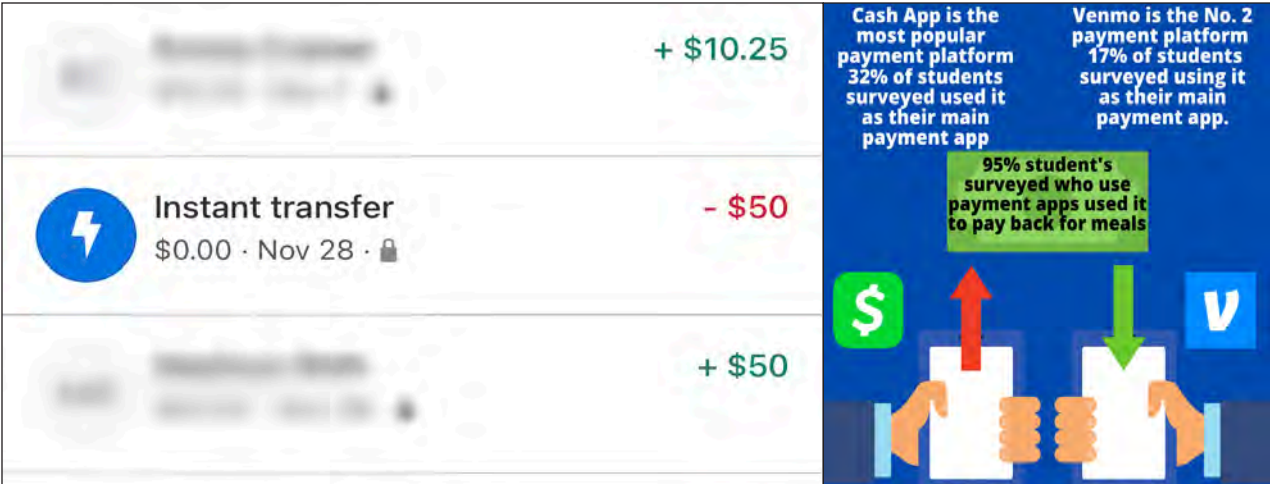
"All it takes is bad timing, don't take your life for granted," the junior said.

*Due to the ongoing investigation, student names for this article were not permitted to be used.



Crime Rates in Omaha			
Non-Fatal Shootings		Homicides	
2016	2021	2016	2021
Incidents: 97	Incidents: 104	Incidents: 29	Incidents: 32
Victims: 110	Victims: 131	Victims: 30	Victims: 29

Will you have to pay taxes?



Payment transfer services to start taxing \$600 or more transactions this year

Justin Diep
Co-Editor in Chief

Starting this year, business users of payment platforms such as Cash App, PayPal and Venmo and will now be required to report income to the IRS if they made \$600 or more.

These platforms will send the user a forum 1099-K and will send the IRS a copy so they can cross reference the one taxpayers file with the one the

payment platform files.

"The IRS requires TPSOs (Third Party Settlement Organizations), such as PayPal and Venmo, to issue a Form 1099-K, which shows the total amount of payments received from a TPSO in the calendar year," PayPal said in a press release.

This law will only apply to business accounts on these payment platforms. Personal use such as paying rent or paying back a

friend for dinner doesn't need to be reported to the IRS.

Zelle is exempt from this reporting because they do not directly handle funds like how Cash App, PayPal or Venmo do.

"If payments you receive on the Zelle Network are taxable, it is your responsibility to report them to the IRS," Zelle's website said.

Before this change to the tax code under the

American Rescue Plan, the COVID response bill passed last March, these platforms only reported earning to the IRS if the user had over 200 transactions and a gross total greater than \$20,000. Taxes filed for 2021 will follow this guideline while earning starting Jan. 1 of this year will be subject to the new law. Users are encouraged to check with the platform they use for details on how to file.

Water damage under floor causes main gym to temporarily close

Justin Diep
Co-Editor in Chief

The main gym is temporarily closed due to standing water found underneath the floor. Buckling and warping of the floor caused safety concerns, canceling the freshman wrestling tournament last Friday and moving the home basketball game today to Bryan Middle.

The total damage is unknown at this point. District officials are inspecting the main gym to determine the damage done to the floor and the next course of action needed to be done to allow the gym to be used again.

"I'm hopeful by the end of this week or the start of next week we'll have a better idea of what the situation is and what we can do moving forward," athletic director Ryan Murtaugh said.

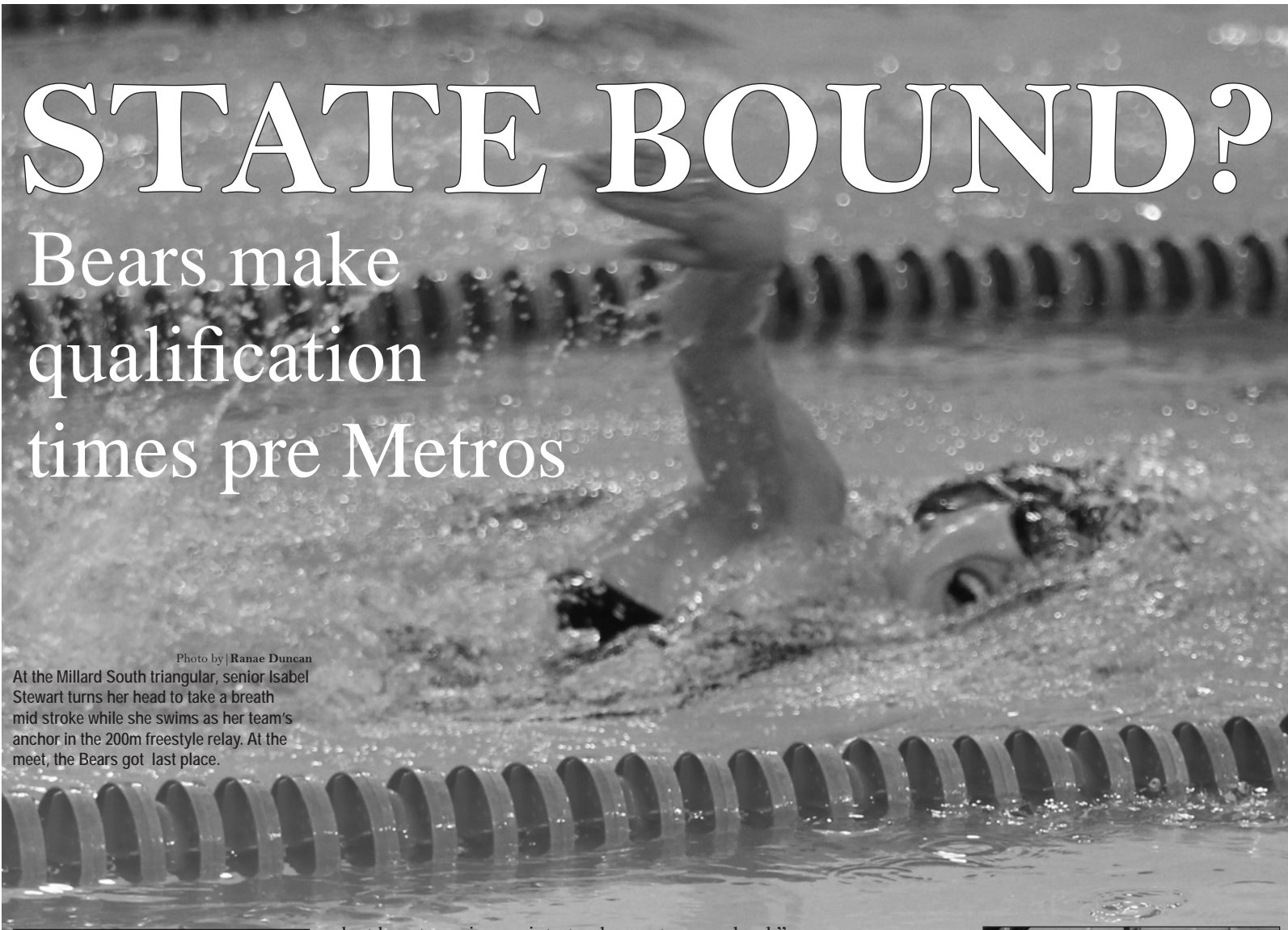
For now, only the south part of the gym will be used for PE classes.

Basketball practice and other PE classes have been moved to the auxiliary gym temporarily while the situation is assessed. Other venues are being explored for future home games such as opponent school's gyms or even moving games to the middle school. Practices may move to nearby elementary schools.

"We are planning for the worst-case scenario, which is we can't use the gym, we're making plan A and plan B, if that does come to light," Murtaugh said.

Potential issues may arise from repairing or total replacement of the gym floor. Ongoing labor and product shortages could lengthen the time needed to fix the floor.

"There's not only issue of cost, but there's also the issue of having product, right now if you look at the country, there's a shortage of wood," Murtaugh said. "We just don't know."



STATE BOUND?

Bears make qualification times pre Metros

Photo by |Ranae Duncan

At the Millard South triangular, senior Isabel Stewart turns her head to take a breath mid stroke while she swims as her team's anchor in the 200m freestyle relay. At the meet, the Bears got last place.

Ulises Munoz
Reporter

The end of the Bears swim season will be decided today and tomorrow at metros. Will the bears move forward to state or will their season be cut short leaving them to say goodbye to the seniors and start working on their goals for next year?

To find out, the swimmers will give their all to get their best times at metros over the course of today and tomorrow at Millard West. The swimmers have big goals for the meet considering some of them have already posted qualifying times at other meets. They just need to do it at metros to qualify for state.

"I've been working for this for years and finally getting to where I want to be will be a huge confi-

dent boost moving on into track season," senior Micah Heyen said. "But also, for my younger teammates, would push them to work harder and see themselves in the same place one day."

Heyen was able to get a state qualifying time of 24.1 seconds at a Omaha Burke meet in the 50 meter freestyle. He isn't the only swimmer on the team that was able to get near a state qualifying time, senior Isabel Stewart was able to get 27.49 seconds at a home meet in the same event.

"Representing Bryan High as a swimmer is kind of a big deal because we don't have a big swim team and Bryan is known for not having as good of a swim team," Stewart said. "So being able to go to metros for Bryan and hopefully being able to maybe place or be up there just gives a better name

to our school."

The best swimmers from schools in the metro area get sent to Metros. Prelims are today and finals will be tomorrow. The girls swim in the morning and the boys in the afternoon. Tomorrow everyone swims together.

Recently the team started tapering, which consists of doing harder sets, but allows for more rest. The goal of this process is to help swimmers get into momentum and allow their muscles to be in shape.

"I'm really happy how we turned out this year, even though we did have few numbers those who stayed put in the work and took it serious," assistant coach Jesse Ruiz said.

Due to this year's team having athletes that didn't know how to swim, or just weren't as experi-



Photo by |Ranae Duncan

As he hears the buzzer go off, senior Micah Heyen dives off of the starting platform to get a good start at his 100m freestyle race at the Millard South triangular.

enced as others, two groups were made. One group did intense, heavier workouts, while the other group focused more on the basics of swimming.

"Normally I would try to teach everybody all four strokes, but with so many kids on the team having never swam before, I have just done a lot of freestyle and backstroke," head coach Drew Butler said.

DISTRICT DEDICATED

Wrestling team prepares for upcoming competition

Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
Senior Editor

With their best season record of 21-5 since the 70s, the boys wrestling team are ready to take that momentum to metros with the goal of qualifying as many wrestlers as possible for State, which will be held tomorrow.

The boys varsity wrestling team will head to Lincoln East High School at 10 a.m. to compete against schools like Bellevue West and Papillion-LaVista at districts, while the girls team already had their districts on Feb. 4 and 5 at Nebraska City.

"I think we understand the severity of it," head wrestling coach Jason Susnjar said. "At the same

time, we can't put too much pressure on it like it's the biggest thing ever."

To prepare for districts, the wrestlers have been mentally preparing themselves and honing and perfecting their technique.

"Susnjar makes sure we're all locked in each practice making sure we're all healthy and in the best shape possible," senior Yusuf Mohamed said.

At metros, which was Jan. 14 and 15, the team was able to get quite a few of their wrestlers to place, even having two people get first place in their individual weight classes.

"It didn't even feel real," senior Layna Blakenship said. "Honestly when I got up after the last pin it felt like a normal



Photo by |Lacey Abdi

At the Sadowski wrestling invite, sophomore Cree Soe gets his opponent in a lat drop to win the match.

pin, I didn't process it until later."

If the team places at districts, they'll get to go to state. Seniors Chase Pokett, Tobin Wingender and Yusuf Mohamed have been to state.

"My goal all year was to qualify for state,"

Mohamed said. "After qualifying, the next goal is placing at state."

At the girls' districts, senior Layna Blakenship and freshman Taylor Kress were able to get 4th place in their weight classes but unfortunately they had to get at least third to qualify

Winter sports schedule

Now that end of winter sports is around the corner, here are the final upcoming athletic events and the results of some of the past games and meets the athletes have competed in.

Justin Diep
Co Editor-In-Cheif

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

12/17 @ North (L) 36-60
12/18 Lincoln Northeast (L) 59-65
12/21 @ Millard North (L) 50-52
1/4 @ South (W) 52-48
1/7 Westside (L) 45-78
1/8 @ Central (L) 55-91
1/15 Lincoln Pius X (L) 38-74
1/21 Benson (W) 59-49
1/22 @ Creighton Prep (L) 35-72
1/25 Mount Michael (W) 59-56
1/28 Papillion-La Vista (W) 59-53
1/29 @ Grand Island (L) 45-48
2/2 @Northwest (W) 92-72
2/3 @ Millard South (L) 36-58
2/5 @ Lincoln Southeast (L) 58-63
2/11 @Bellevue West
2/15 @ Millard West

Head Coach: Galen Gullie

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

12/2 Jamboree (Central) (L) 8-96
12/3 @ Burke (L) 14-85
12/4 Burke (L) 10-64
12/5 North (L) 13-51
12/9 Gretna (L) 2-63
12/11 Papillion-La Vista South (L) 10-83
1/21 Benson (L) 11-73
1/22 @ Marian (L) 5-80
1/28 Papillion-La Vista (Forfiet)
1/29 @ Grand Island (Forfiet)
2/1 @ Elkhorn North (Forfiet)
2/5 @ Lincoln Southeast (L) 0-20
2/11 Bellevue West
2/15 @Millard West

Head Coach: Nicole Mitchell

SWIMMING

12/2 Bellevue East (L) 16-89
12/4 @Benson Invitational 6th Place
12/7 @Northwest Boys (L) 27-68
Girls (W) 26-68
12/11 Bryan Invitational (L)
12/14 Benson (T)
12/30 OPS Invite 6th Place
1/4 @ South (L)
1/8 @ Brownell Talbot 5th Place
1/11 @Millard South Inivitational 4th place
1/18 North (L) 21-113
2/5 @Bellevue East tournament 7th
2/11 Metros @ Millard West

Head Coach: Drew Butler

VARSITY BOYS WRESTLING

12/3 @Nebraska City (L) 21-55
24th Place
12/7 @Lincoln Northeast Triangular (W) 51-22
12/11 @Crete Invitational 5th Place
12/17 @ Ralston 2nd Place
12/30 Bennington 3rd Place
1/8 @ Wisner-Pilger 5th Place
1/15 Metro Conference @ Sapp Fieldhouse 5th Place
1/19 @Bellevue East (W) 51-27
1/20 Kottich Classic 1st Place
1/22 Sadowski Invite 2nd Place
1/26 @ Lincoln 1st Place
1/29 Monarch Duals 3rd Place
2/12 Districts @ Lincoln East
2/17 @CHI Center State
2/18 @CHI Center State

Head Coach: Jason Susnjar

VARSITY GIRLS WRESTLING

12/3 @Nebraska City Invitational 24th
12/11 @Crete Invitational 14th Place
12/14 Bryan Triangular (L)
12/18 @ Plattview (W) 42-39
12/28 @Winnebago Invitational 39th Place
1/15 @ Nebraska City (L) 21-55
1/19 @ Bellevue East (L) 12-30
1/21 @ Louisville 13th Place
2/4 Districts @ Nebraska City 18th Place

Coaches: Eric Rice, George Hanson

Sending off former Bear alumni and coach



During the 2021 baseball season, head baseball coach Brian Kottich has a quick pep talk with sophomore Omar Ramirez at first base before he heads out to play defense at a game against Bellevue East.

Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
Senior Editor

Baseball legend Brian “Cody” Kottich has stepped down from his head baseball coach position and is leaving the education sector.

Kottich has been the head baseball and as-sistant wrestling coach for the past five years. Coming from a history of playing sports at Garden City Community College, Creighton University and even for the Bears from 2006-2010, he even was the Director of Baseball Operations at Creighton. Kottich brought a vast skill set to Bear Country and it will be unfortunate for his athletes to see him go.

“Kottich has helped me to develop into the player that I am,” senior Tobin Wingender said. “Without him who knows what my skill set would be. He has been a role model who

has taught me true self confidence no matter the circumstances.”

Coach David Ashby will be stepping in as interim head Baseball coach. Ashby was a former high school baseball player and has been coaching the sport at various levels for the past nine years.

“I think Coach Ashby is a tremendous pick to fill this position,” Kottich said. “He is passionate about anything he does in life and I feel baseball is no different.”

Kottich will miss the impact he had on the stu-dents and the relationships he formed with them and faculty members. He’ll of-ficially be leaving Feb. 25.

“It is kind of a bitter sweet feeling leaving,” Kottich said. “I attended school here and came back to try and lead a school that shaped who I am as a person in several different ways.”

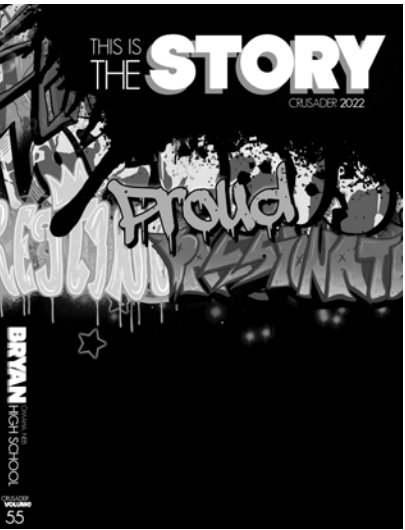
Here’s an exclusive sneak peek at the 2022 yearbook! Order yours online or in person in room 101.

Order online at:
yearbookforever.com

Pre-order
due date:
Feb. 14th



Price:
\$50

FYI:
After the 14th, prices go up and are sold on a first come first served basis. Once we are out, we’re out!



BOYS BASKETBALL

SHOWDOWN



VS.

Tonight @ 7pm at Bryan Middle

BHS

Average Points per Game: 52.3

Average Personal Fouls Per Game: 15.5

Average Rebounds per Game: 27.8

Average Steals per Game: 4.1

BWHS

Average Points per Game: 74.2

Average Personal Fouls Per Game: 13.9

Average Rebounds per Game: 31.9

Average Steals per Game: 9.7

Information from | maxpreps.com

BEARS TIP-OFF AGAINST BELL WEST

Olivia Wallace
Life & Style Editor

The second to last game match up of the 2022 season will be the Bears versus the Bellevue West Thunderbirds, at Bryan Middle at 7 p.m. tonight.

The varsity boys team is currently 6-14. Their season has been an uphill battle, starting off shaky and then rebounding off of that to win two games back to back against Mount Michael Benedictine, who are 9-10 and Papillion-LaVista, who are 9-9. The Thunderbirds currently are 18-3.

“This is the first year, and we’ve had a lot of ups and downs, but it’s definitely a learning experience for our guys,” boys basketball head coach Galen Gullie said.

To prepare for tonight, Gullie has had his players practice at a higher pace to simulate playing against the Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds are good at their transition, to counter that the Bears are practic-



At the Millard South basketball game on Feb. 3, junior shooting guard/small forward Elijah Mccullough faces off against Millard South’s Austin Trotter. At the game, Mccullough had 6 points, tied with senior small forward/power forward Lam Kuany as the second highest point amount for the Bears that game.

ing how to defensively stop them.

“I think our seniors are up for the challenge because this is our last home game even though we have to play at the middle school,” Gullie said.

The Thunderbirds have had quite the success this season with a point per game average of 74.2 compared to the Bears’ average of 52.3. With this being

said, the Bears will have to fight their way to victory tonight.

“I feel like we’re going to compete,” senior shooting guard/small forward Terril Brown. “We’re working a lot harder this week than most weeks, a lot stricter.”

Even though it’s senior night and senior night is usually a home game, the high school’s main gym cannot be used for the senior night game, so it will be moved to Bryan Middle. (Turn back to page 2 to read more on the subject) Even though it’s not in the Bear cave, it’s still in Bear territory.

After tonight’s game, the boys will have their official last game of the season against Millard West on Tuesday Feb. 15 at Millard West.

toughness and determination on their part.”

They’ve been practicing all season and working on their basketball foundation. Head coach Nicole Mitchell has seen the growth of the athletes from the beginning of the season to now even with the set backs.

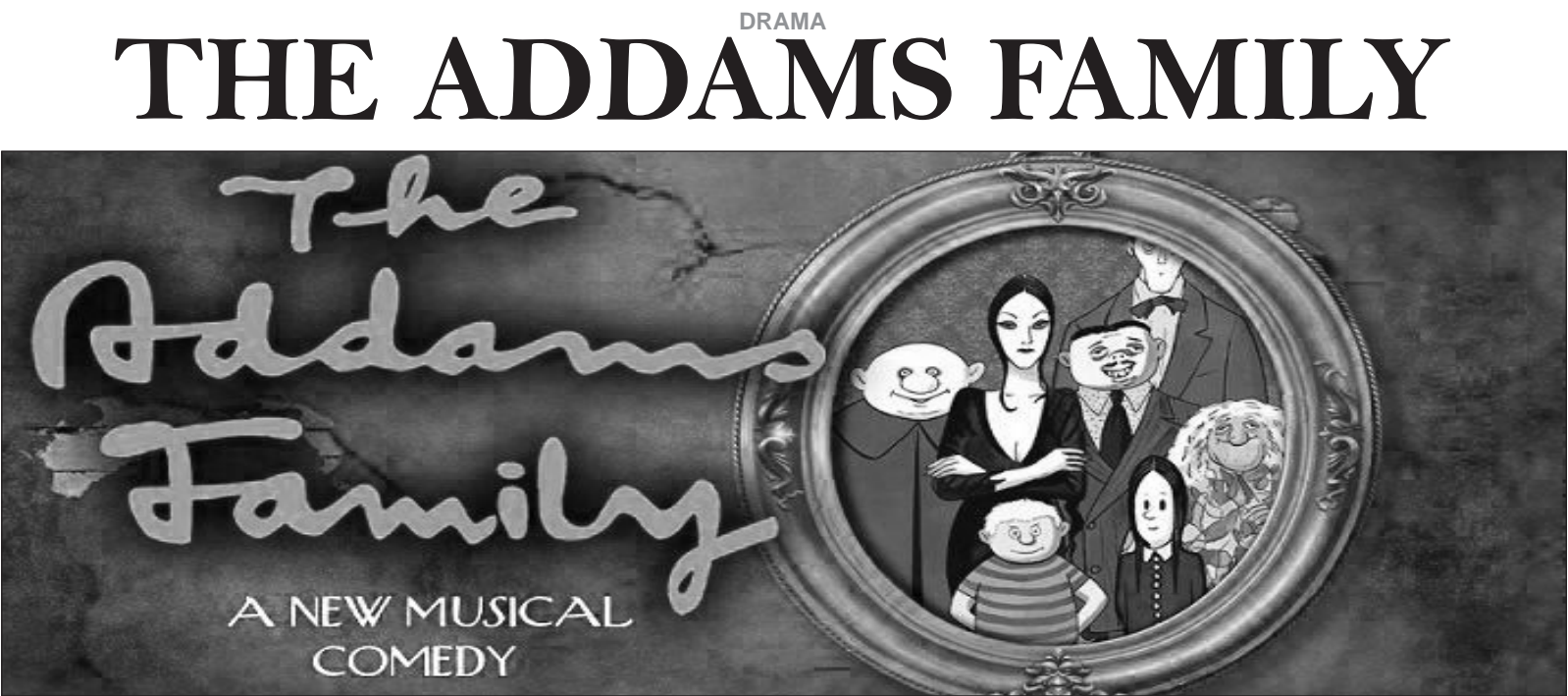
“We have grown on and off the court,” Mitchell said. “On the court as far

Injuries, illness have major impact on girls basketball

Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
Senior Editor

Despite their attempts to try and keep their season in motion, girls basketball may be coming to a quick-end than anticipated.

The team already started with low player numbers with only 8 players and no JV, reserve or freshman teams to pull



High school drama department joins forces with middle school to put on spring musical

Olivia Wallace
Life & Style Editor

They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky They're alto-gether ooky, The Middle Schoolers.

Ok, so maybe the middle schoolers aren't ooky, but ten of them are getting kooky, mysterious and spooky as they join the high school musical ensemble for the production of "The Addams Family."

The collaboration for the show has been in the

Cast: Payton Blankenship (Lucas), Callie Hendershot (Mal), Kristy Stranghoener (Alice), Nolan Mauro (Lurch), Bugs Scherr, Fatima Davila, Jackie Serrano Alvarez, Alyssa Fleschman, Neveah Payne (ancestors). **Crew:** As of February 4; James Stratos (stage manger), Eren Fisher (assistant stage manger), Austin Diep (assistant stage manger), Lilly/Ash Duckett, Red Montanez, Lily Morrow, Zee Hernandez, Elise Pellegatta, Elias Peraza

works for a couple years and the department has been welcoming with the new faces.

"We are trying to help recruit students into the program and if they already know and are invested in the theatre when they are freshman they will just continue," show director Jodi Hazuka said.

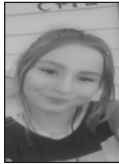
With the show coming up on April 1-3, tickets are \$8 for kids and \$10 for adults the day of. This a show that 'Isn't Around the Corner.'

Morticia
Kallissa Taylor (9)



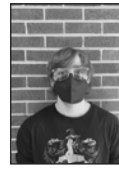
Taylor's favorite part of the musical is learning to sing the songs, and how it's improved her singing and has broadened her experiences.

Pugsley
Gabrielle Sharp (7)



Her favorite song from the show is 'Just around the corner.' She is one of the 10 middle school students that will be in the show.

Gomez
Grady Bazzell (12)



This is his second musical. His favorite song from the musical is 'Pulled up'. He is also the tech operations for the drama troupe.

Fester
Joshua Burton (12)



Burton has been in show choir all four years of high school, but this is his first time acting in a musical with the drama department.

Wednesday
Samira Zarazua (12)



Her favorite part of the show so far is learning the music that goes with it. Zarazua is also president of the drama troupe.

Grandma
Charlotte Strazdas (11)



Her favorite song from the musical is either 'Pulled' or 'Full Disclosure'. This is her first musical, due to COVID, her first show was canceled.



New Disney movie shows representation, diversity

Ulises Munoz-Villarruel
Reporter

The U.S. is such a diverse country, there are many cultures that make up this country, so why isn't there proper representation in media?

Representation matters because it shows how diverse America is, whether it's race, ethnicity, culture or gender identification. It's important for people to be able to look at the screen and see people who look like them.

In the U.S., the beauty standard is having mostly European features and pale/light skin, which can cause insecurities in many

non-white communities. It stops others from being comfortable with who they are and where they're from. Seeing more diversity in movies and shows helps people be more comfortable with themselves and not be ashamed to show who they are or be ashamed of their looks.

Most movies and shows are usually the same regarding the cast. White actors and actresses, only speaking English, no ethnic background, same hair and much more, but there has slowly been an improvement.

Disney's most recent movie, 'Encanto,' is another great example of

how representation is done in terms of media. Encanto shows Columbia's unique architecture, culture, colors, wardrobe, people and land. The characters have darker skin, textured hair. Another great example of representation in media includes diverse superheroes like Black panther, Bumblebee, Shang-Chi, Blue Beetle, Shuri and Spiderman. Whether it's a show, movie or comics, they've all been representing many great communities.

The U.S. is such a diverse country, and there are many cultures found here that deserve to be represented.

Staffing shortages create more jobs, opportunities for teenage workers

Olivia Wallace & Adriana Valadez Cue
Life & Style Editor & Reporter

Many stores are closing their doors or having to cut back on the hours they're open due to staff shortages. This is leading to many openings for teens looking for jobs. With the pandemic taking a toll on everyone, some companies have started raising their starting wages a lot more since 2016, prior to the minimum wage being raised.

According to Next Gen Personal Finance, most of the newly filled positions have been by teenagers ages 16 through 19. The teens have filled more than 256,000 of the 266,000 new jobs offered up.

"I like working, because I am able to earn my own money, and I don't have to rely on anyone else to buy things for me," senior Madison Brown said.

With teenagers working, it gives them a chance to start making their own

money and to start building their resumes at an early age which may look good for other jobs that could interest them in the future. This could also help improve the economy, with teenagers having a stable job at an early age.

"It's better pay if it's understaffed," junior Thomas Fritz said. "You learn how to take care of your money, and learn responsibility at a younger age."

There is a downfall though, with teens being overwhelmed because they are being over worked.

"Working can also affect us mentally and physically because of the shortages as they have us work many hours and we tend to be the ones who close, because they rely on us if they have no one else to," junior Neoma Million said.

Despite the problems the staffing shortage is creating, there are more job opportunities for students, with 30% of high school students having a job, according to zippia.com.

Arts Calendar

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

MUSIC



alt-J, The Dream
Releases: Feb. 11
alt-J's fourth studio album will feature 'U&ME' which they teased earlier in the year. Some other songs that will be on the album are 'Delta' and 'Hard Drive Gold.'

Jason Mraz, Lala-lalovesongs
Releases: Feb. 11

Jason will be releasing his seventh album, but there's twist, this next album is a compilation of all of his old music. This also includes 'I'm Yours' and 'I won't give you up.'

Avril Lavigne, Love Sux
Releases: Feb. 25

This is Avril's seventh studio album. This will follow her most popular albums 'Sk8er Boi' and 'Complicated.' The album will also feature Travis Barker.

MOVIES



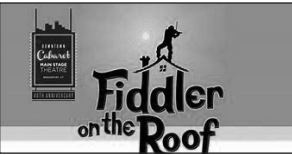
Shut In
Releases: Feb. 10

This movie is about a young mother who is trapped inside a pantry by her violent ex-boyfriend. She has to use her ingenuity to save two small children from danger while she also finds a way to escape.

Help
Releases Feb. 15

A young woman's life turns chaotic when she uncovers a deadly secret about her friend. A painful break-up brings Grace to visit her friend Liv to uncover that everyone has secrets.

AROUND TOWN



Fiddler on the Roof
Feb. 8 - 13 at the Orpeum Theater.

Sing-along with the musical hits you know and love, including 'Matchmaker Matchmaker,' 'Tradition' and 'Sunrise, Sunset.' The musical is only here for a limited time so get tickets while it's here!

Holiday at Hogwarts
Nov. 29 - Dec. 21 at Apollon Art Space, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Attend the Feast at Hogwarts and visit Diagon Alley for wands and gifts. There will also be magical lessons being taught by the Hogwarts Professors and Wizards. Cost: General Admission: \$35



Organic, cruelty free brands on rise to fit new beauty trends

Olivia Wallace
Life & Style Editor

Plant based, vegan friendly, cruelty free. Labels these days all say it, but do they really mean it? For years the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has put the 'cruelty free' logo on makeup and food brands, and some buyers when purchasing those products draw away from those items. How does one sticker say what it is free of and how do buyers know that it is true?

Since the beginning of makeup, it didn't always have the different labels or little facts for the consumer to see and read when buying the product. While the makeup sellers have evolved, so have the stickers and the facts.

Items that are being tested on animals work well on the face or body, despite some consumers thinking that it would make them break out.

Drugstore brands have now gone this route to save money and to follow the trend on organic makeup. Look at one of the most popular drugstore brands, Elf cosmetics. The brand recently went vegan and cruelty free, and some of the products are doing better than \$150 face lotions from Sephora.

The FDA mentioned on their website that 'it does not specifically require the use of animal testing cosmetics for safety', meaning that brands could refrain from using animals but to try and find a better way to test their makeup.

With more brands stopping their testing on animals, there was a 38% increase in purchases with vegan makeup in the past four years according to Forbes.

Vegan makeup and skin care have been skyrocketing in sales as many popular brands have been limiting their ingredients. Some brands that are going vegan include Thrive cosmetics, Milani, Too Faced, Wet 'n Wild, Lush and many more.

Although, with new makeup coming out and new labels being made it's hard to figure out which ones are true and which ones are fake. If there is a bunny following a vegan label, that generally means it's true. It all varies with brands and how they make their products.

Which cruelty-free/vegan logos can you trust?

Real cruelty-free/vegan logos:

Fake cruelty-free/vegan logos:

Information from | lunineer.com
Infographic by | Amber Roth

Makeup brands

Cruelty-free vs. vegan

100% cruelty free makeup brands that students use:

100% Vegan makeup students use:



Making Valentine’s Day Affordable

Dallanara Sibrán-Miranda
Reporter

With Valentine’s Day only being three days away, going out to a fancy restaurant or picking out a gift can quickly become pricey. Here are six fast, easy, and cheap but still meaningful gift and date ideas to celebrate whether you are single, have a special someone or want to spend the day with friends or family.

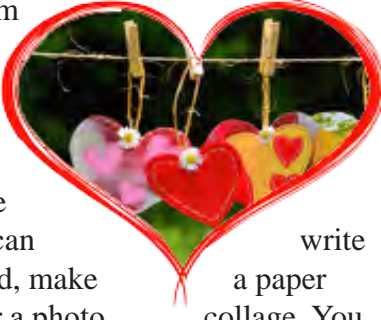
1. Have a movie marathon

Watching your favorite movie (or movies) at home with some of your favorite snacks in a comfy spot can be a wonderful thing you can do alone or with a loved one. You can also invite friends to watch romance movies, and have a girls’ or guys’ night. You could even binge watch your favorite TV series or find a new series to enjoy.



2. Make a home-made gift

Making a gift from scratch can be time-consuming, but can also be more meaningful than a store bought gift. You can write a handwritten card, make a paper collage. You could even sew a cute pillow. Get creative, and if you are feeling stuck and don’t know what to do, YouTube has lots of videos and tutorials for inspiration.



3. Have a game night

Playing games with a significant other or friends and/or family can be a blast. So, pull out some board games and get to playing. If you don’t have board games, you can play charades, like 20 Questions and get to know the other person better and grow closer together as a couple. Co-op and multiplayer video games can also work as alternatives to board games.



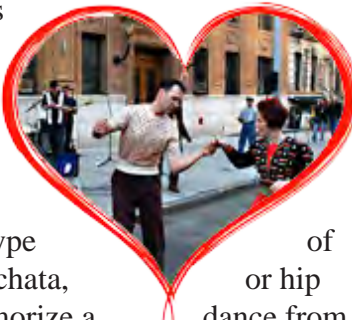
4. Make food

Whether you can cook or not, cooking can be fun. You could share family recipes or learn to make a family recipe, or could learn to make your favorite meal and host a friendly cooking competition to see who makes the best food. So, play some music, grab your apron, and get to cooking.



5. Go dancing

Dancing can always be a fun thing to do whether alone or with friends, family, or a significant other. You could learn a new type of dance like salsa, bachata, hop, you could memorize a video, or you could choreograph a dance with some friends.



6. Have a photo-shoot

Grab some fun props, dress up, grab a camera or phone and take some pictures. They can be silly, cute or formal. You could even print the pictures and frame them.



Valentine’s Day
Find what you LUV at NFM!



Melissa & Doug Gentle Jumbo Dinosaur



Blooming Hydrangea with Vase



Mini Portable Massage Gun in Black



Apple AirPods Pro



BE MINE



GOOD VIBES ONLY



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700 S. 72nd St. Omaha, NE 68114

Sunday - Friday: 11am - 8pm Saturday: 10am - 8pm