

FEMALE SPORTS

Women athletics get less recognition
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HOPE ON THE HORIZON

Football looks to the future
Sports pg. 4



TikTok Teacher

Science teacher creates fun videos for students
Life and Style pg. 7

Lazo named Nebraska Spanish Teacher of the Year

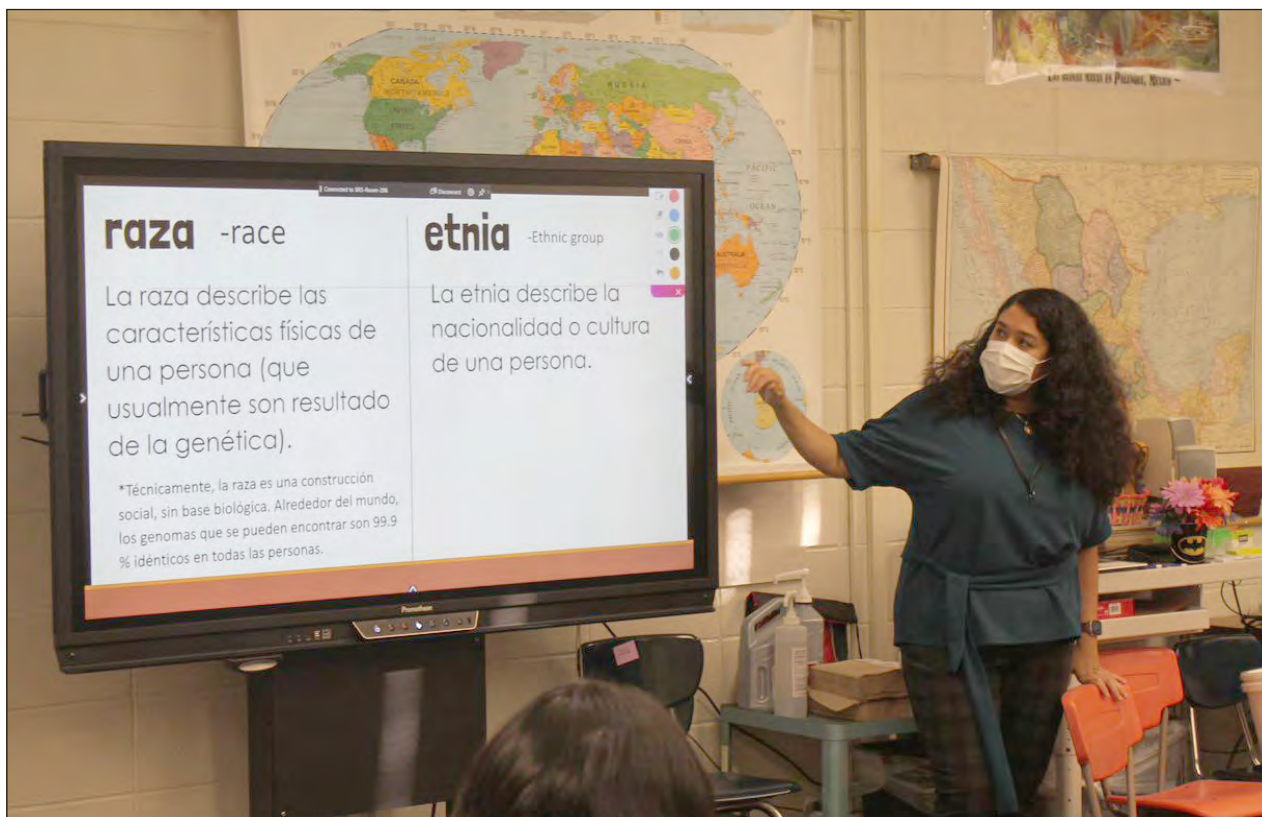


Photo by | Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou

Spanish teacher Carmen Lazo teaches students the differences between race and ethnicity, and helps students find their identity as a Latinx person. “I know my students, so what I do is I learn what my students need as far as instruction and so I go from there, what they need,” Lazo said. “It was a big surprise when I won [the award].”

First Spanish teacher at Bryan to win award

Amber Roth
Co-Editor in Chief

The Nebraska International Languages Association (NILA) has announced Spanish Teacher Carmen Lazo as the Spanish Teacher of the Year in Nebraska for 2021.

The Spanish Teacher of the Year award is an award given to a Spanish teacher in Nebraska who shows a passion for teaching the Spanish language and cul-

ture, and who often goes above and beyond for their students in order to do so.

“Ms. Lazo had been

also for her encouragement of bilingualism, and for heritage speakers to become proficient in the

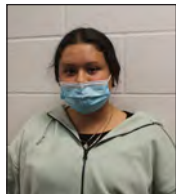
This award was given to Lazo in a ceremony on Oct. 23. In order to be eligible for the award, a teacher has to be nominated by another teacher or colleague. This was the first time a Spanish teacher from Bryan has received the award.

“I was surprised,” Lazo said. “Usually I don’t work for an award, I work for my students, and so it was a big surprise for me to know that I won.”

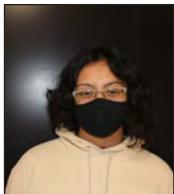
“It was an honor, because I know my students and I’m getting what they need,” Lazo said.

nominated by colleagues for not only her amazing teaching of Spanish, but

language of their family/ancestors,” Natalie Peterson said.



“She’s very nice, she helps you out with anything you need help with, especially if you’re not in her class and you’re having trouble with something, she will help you out with it,” sophomore Diane LandaVerde said.



“I really like Ms. Lazo,” senior Alondra Saldana said. “Over the past three years, I’ve had personal experiences in my life that made it really hard to deal with school, and she’s always been really understanding.”



“She’s pretty chill she helps me get my work done,” senior Ivan Perez said. “She’s very determined, and she pushes me to get my work done. In class, she gives us as much time as she can to let us get our work done.”



“I think she’s a good teacher,” senior Melany Martinez said. “I had her during the pandemic, I had her after Mr. Galvan, so she’s a really good teacher. She helped me out, and she tries her best to be a good teacher.”

President Biden announces COVID executive order, requires vaccines

Amber Roth
Co-Editor in Chief

President Joe Biden announced on Sept. 9 a new six-step COVID-19 action plan that included the administration’s steps to help prevent the spread of the disease, mainly through the process of getting more Americans to be fully vaccinated.

The plan includes requiring all federal employees to be fully vaccinated, unless exempt by law, and requiring companies with 100+ employees to have them all fully vaccinated or require them to get weekly COVID tests.

“Accordingly, building on these actions, and in light of the public health guidance regarding the most effective and necessary defenses against COVID-19, I have determined that to promote the health and safety of the Federal workforce and the efficiency of the civil service, it is necessary to require COVID-19 vaccination for all Federal employees, subject to such exceptions as required by law,” President Biden said in a media address on Sept. 9.

The new plan followed after a surge in cases at the end of the summer. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), as of Sept. 22, the US had a 7-day moving average of 124,419 new cases, but that number was down to just 70,153 cases as of Oct. 22.

President Biden will go through the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to create the law. While there is already some criticism for this new law, a past precedent already exists. In 1904 during the smallpox pandemic, a case was brought to the Supreme

Court of the United States (SCOTUS) as to whether the government could require citizens to get vaccinated, and it was determined that it was legal if it was necessary for the safety of the public.

But despite the past precedent, there are still some unvaccinated people who don’t want to be forced to get the vaccine or be subject to the weekly testing and potentially be forced to quit their job. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts has spoken out against it in a press release on Sept. 9.

“Americans, not the federal government, are responsible for taking charge of their personal health,” Ricketts said. “It is not the role of the federal government to mandate their choices. Nebraska will stand up to President Biden’s overreach, and we will be working with the Attorney General to explore all our options.”

If people quit their jobs, it could cause unemployment to rise. The current unemployment rate at the end of August was down to 5.2%, which is about 8.4 million Americans, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Biden’s executive order has also caused some employees to worry about their job becoming short-staffed.

“Yes, unemployment will rise, because a lot of people don’t believe in vaccinations,” senior Madison Brown said. “Others may begin to quit because they claim it is going against their rights.”

26 Nebraska state senators have signed a letter in order to try and call for a special session to discuss the banning of vaccine mandates. Gov. Ricketts will go along with this plan if he gets support from the Nebraska legislature.

EDITORIAL

INJUSTICE IN SPORTS

Female sports deserve more attention, funding

Hands clapping. People cheering. Whistles blowing. Adrenaline rushing through your veins as the game reaches the final point. Big crowds cheering is one of the many things that make attending and participating in sporting events fun, but not every sport draws in those big crowds, especially female-dominated sports.

Women's sports have become notorious for having low attendance rates at games, low participation rates, low funding and low quality of equipment. Just look at the weight room the women's basketball teams for the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) March Madness tournament got. While the male teams had numerous sets of dumbbells, bars and plates for

lifting, squat racks, etc., the women's teams only had one set of dumbbells and a couple of sanitized yoga mats.

The female teams eventually got the full weight room, but only after pointing out the unfairness of the whole situation. Originally, the NCAA only planned to give the women's teams a full weight room if they made it to the third round, while the men's teams had access to their full weight room the entirety of the tournament, according to npr.org.

In the typically male-catered world of sports, women are often viewed as weaker than the men. According to bbc.com, men have 40% more upper-body strength and 33% more lower-body

strength than women, making them the stronger sex. And while yes, that does prove that women are genetically weaker than men, that does not mean that women aren't strong and don't deserve just as much attention athletically as men get.

At first, women weren't even allowed to participate in sports, professionally at least, until the 1900 Olympic Games. But despite this exception, young girls still weren't allowed to participate in sports at the high school level until more than 70 years later in 1972 when the Education Amendments to the Civil Rights Act (Title IX) was passed.

Title IX was a bill meant to stop discrimination in education based on gender. While participa-

tion in sports did increase sharply, girls still weren't participating at the same rate as boys. In fact, by the time girls reach the age of 14, they are dropping out of sports at twice the rate of boys, according to the Women's Sports Foundation.

Another problem girls face when playing sports is not getting high enough viewership rates. According to usnews.com, women's sports coverage on ESPN's SportsCenter in 2018 was 5.4% of all airtime, and excluding coverage for the Women's World Cup which happened that same year, that number drops down to 3.5%.

But despite some of the hurdles girls have faced in the world of sports, some things have changed

for the better. According to a study done by Ohio University, participation rates for female sports in high school has consistently increased for the last 25 years, and participation in general has increased at an average rate of 50% for the last 5 years in a row.

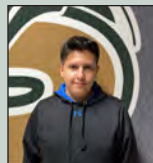
While some of the problems in women's sports have steadily improved over the years, we as a society still have a long way to go to help improve them even more. Schools can encourage more girls to try out for sports, every sport can be given equal funding, we can provide more access to sports at a higher-level, make it more affordable to play those sports at that higher level and give female sports the recognition they deserve.

Student Soundoff:
Do you watch women's sports?



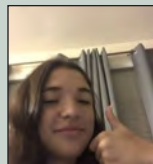
Name: Meghan Painter
Grade: Freshman
"I like to

watch women's over mens so I can see what it would be like for me if I were to play at that level. and age."



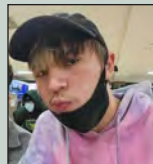
Name: Daniel Rodriguez
Grade: Freshman
"If it comes

up I will, but I don't go out of my way to watch it. I do like to see how it differs from male sports."



Name: Kaydence Jones
Grade: Sophomore
"I like to

watch people with the same gender as me do incredible things and I look up to them a lot."



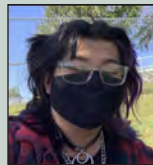
Name: Payton Blakenship
Grade: Sophomore
"Yes, I

watch women's sports, because they're just as important as men's sports and deserve equal recognition."



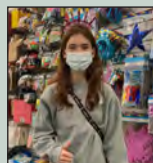
Name: Brooke Reed
Grade: Junior
"I watch

women's sports, because I play sports, so I watch the women sports for the ones that I play."



Name: Austin Diep
Grade: Junior
"I watch women's

sports, because a lot of my friends play in them and I love going out to watch and support them."



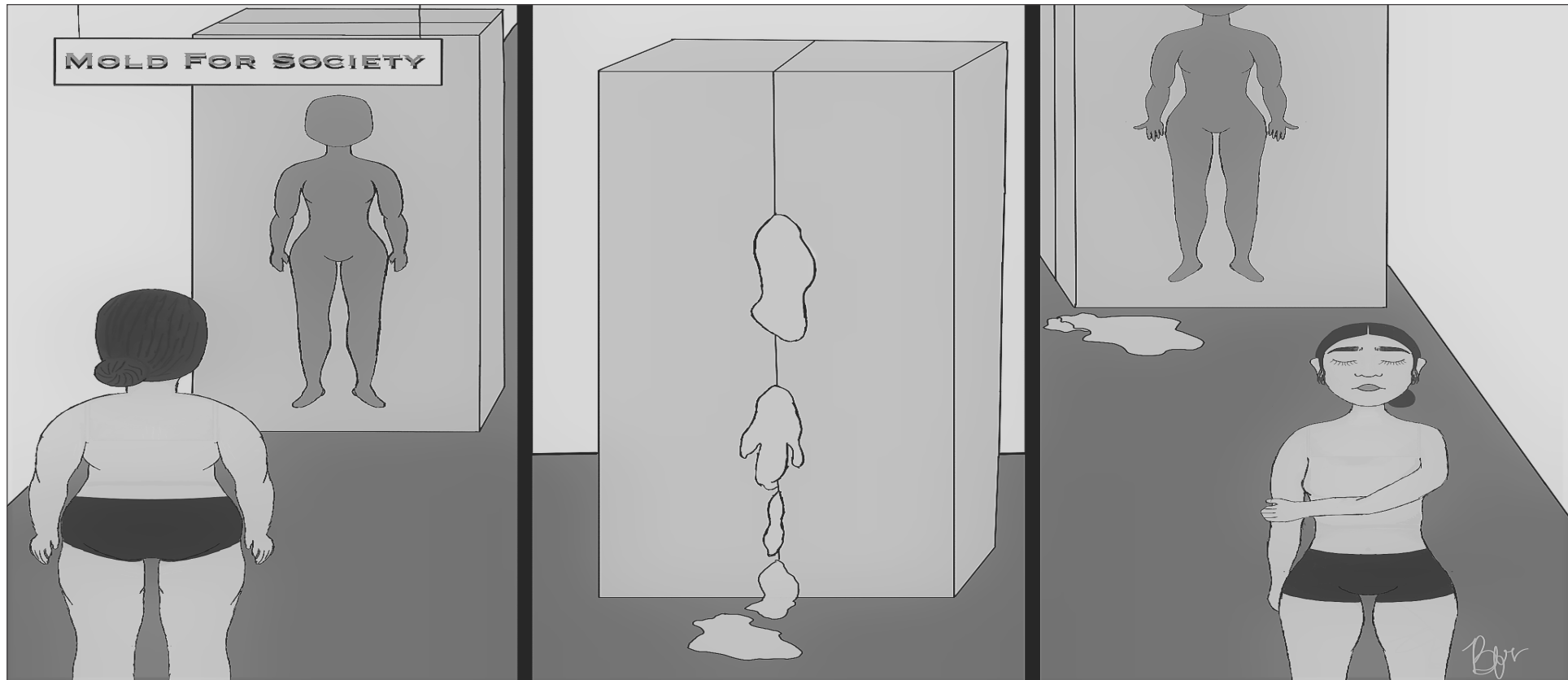
Name: Layna Blakenship
Grade: Senior
"I watch the

women's soccer team and women's softball, because they are more interesting than men's soccer and baseball."



Name: Ayden Moore
Grade: Senior
"The only

sport I've been watching lately has been women's volleyball, because I like volleyball and the school's team is women."



Fitting the "perfect" mold social media creates

Teens pressured to look a certain way, has negative side affects

Olivia Wallace
Reporter

I'm 15 years old and have already thought about plastic surgery. Having the desire to change my nose and have bigger lips. Social media made that decision for me.

Social media has painted such unrealistic body images for teenagers, that it has caused serious problems not only physically, but mentally as well. Coming from someone who

has seen all those 'perfect bodies' and wanted it for the longest time, but it was too late to realize it was fake. All those models that have small boobs, small waists and flawless skin, a six pack, that was all fake. This goes for both boys and girls.

Because of everything that teens have seen on social media today, it caused many of them, myself included, to think they need plastic surgery to be considered 'perfect'. The "perfect body" that

everyone wants so badly is all photoshopped, everything from their blemish-free skin to their hourglass figure.

According to market-watch.com, there were 229,000 cosmetic surgeries performed on 13-19 year olds. This is the world that we live in, young kids thinking they need to go under the knife in order to be considered "pretty".

I have struggled with my own body image for years, and the pandemic did not help. I binge ate,

because I was bored, not hungry, I gained seven pounds and thought I was 'fat'. I just wanted to be like those girls on the internet; I was only a kid and wanted to have the 'perfect body'.

If you feel that you are struggling with eating, a few tips that might help are don't skip meals, you are more likely to feel cravings or emptiness if you do. Another tip is stay hydrated, if you don't drink water or any liquid it will hurt and cause you to crave food

even more. Social media society has built such a toxic base around being 'perfect' or the 'model type,' but despite this, the body positivity movement has gained a lot of traction, with different influencers showing that you don't need to force yourself into the societal mold.

Take Ashley Graham for example, a model who embraces her weight and speaks out for young people who are struggling. Or Lizzo, a singer who has

even lashed back at the haters about her weight also. Or even Kendall Jenner, who gets 'skinny shammed' for being below the 'standards'.

Whether you're considered too fat, too skinny, too tall, too short, too ugly, etc. by society, it doesn't matter. We need to take a stand against the negative body images social media puts in young kids heads. We as teenagers need to focus on body positivity, not what social media has to say or what mold they want us

Did you know?

Softball:
2008 was the last year fast-pitch softball was played in the Olympics, merely 12 years after it was first introduced in 1996.

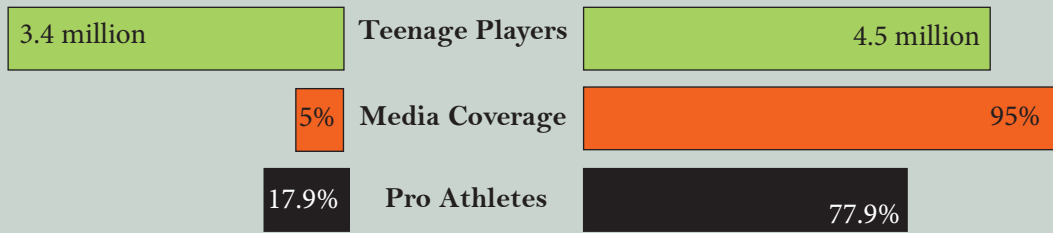
Soccer:
In March of 2020, 28 members of the US Women's National Team (USNTW) filed a gender discrimination lawsuit against US Soccer on the grounds of unequal pay among other things.

Tennis:
Osaka won her first US Open when she was just 20 years old.

Basketball:
The salaries of all the WNBA players on the US women's national team combined is less than the salary of the lowest paid NBA player on the US men's national team.

Volleyball:
Beach volleyball is the only Olympic sport that prohibits players from wearing too much clothing while competing.

WOMEN VS. MEN



Contrasting Athlete Salaries

Men vs. Women

Roger Federer
Team: Swiss national team
Salary: \$90.6 million



Naomi Osaka
Team: Japan national team
Salary: \$60.1 million

Mike Trout
Team: LA Angels
Salary: \$37.17 million



Monica Abbott
Team: US national team
Salary: \$1 million

Earvin Ngapeth
Team: French national team
Salary: \$1.35 million



Gabrielle Reece
Team: US national team
Salary: \$1.8 million

Lionel Messi
Team: Paris Saint-Germain F.C.
Salary: \$141 million



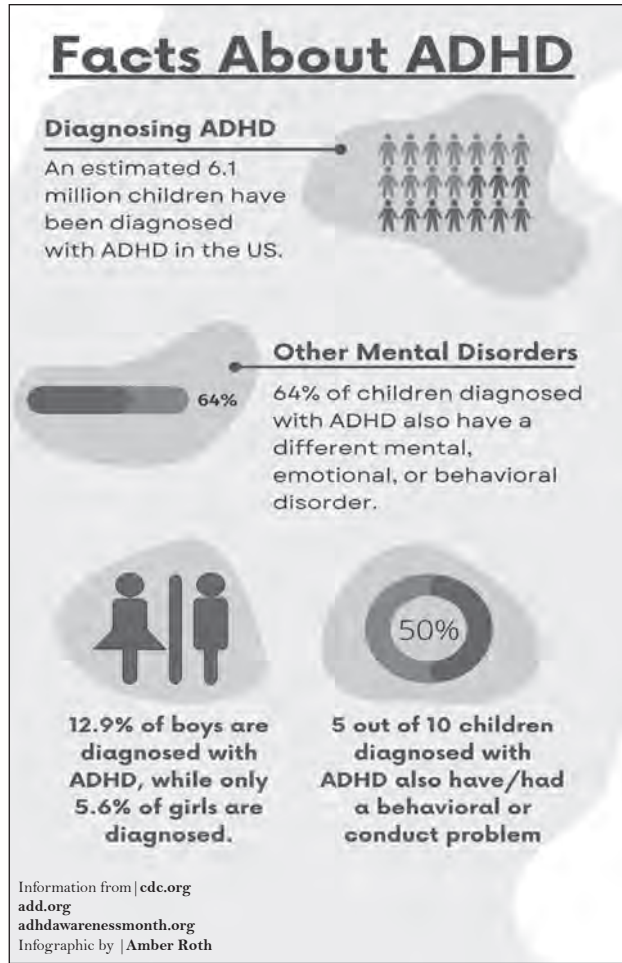
Carli Lloyd
Team: US women's national team
Salary: \$518,000

Kevin Durant
Team: Brooklyn Nets
Salary: \$39.1 million



Sue Bird
Team: Seattle Storm
Salary: \$221,500

Information from:
Niemannlab.org
Zippia.com
Globalsportsmatters.com
Forbes.com
Facts.net
Insider.com
Snapsofball.com
Protest.com
1stplacevolleyball.com



High-Functioning ADHD is a spectrum

Amber Roth
Co-Editor in Chief

My whole life, I've been told I'm smart. I coasted through elementary and middle school, I had A's in all my classes, I got perfect scores on tests. Then I hit high school.

I struggled. A lot. School was suddenly 10 times harder; I couldn't focus, and I was turning in assignments late. What I didn't realize was that symptoms of ADHD were becoming more apparent. When I finally got a "diagnosis", it wasn't a formal one, because I wasn't failing school.

ADHD, or attention-deficit, hyperactivity disorder, can affect people in many ways. Some of the most common symp-

toms include inattention, being very hyper-active, fidgeting, etc. Often, others whose symptoms present differently than the "typical" symptoms won't get diagnosed. Some of the "non-typical" symptoms can include hyper fixating on a certain food for weeks at a time, then never touching it again, quitting something you think you won't be good at and not being able to understand other people's emotions.

Ever since I was little, I've had those symptoms, but because my symptoms didn't present as the "typical" signs for it and I learned to over-compensate for it so it didn't appear to affect my school or home life, no one thought to test for ADHD.

When I did finally get that diagnosis, it felt like a

weight had been lifted off my shoulders, because I no longer felt like something was wrong with me. But despite the huge relief I felt, there was still a lingering feeling of doubt, because it wasn't a formal diagnosis.

According to ad-titudemag.com, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Fifth Edition (DSM-V) is used to make a diagnosis. The DSM-V says that one of the biggest indicators they use when diagnosing someone is if the symptoms being presented affect the person at school, work, or home, but when they say affect someone at school, they're really only looking at grades and whether someone's failing or not.

I'm not failing, but I was

still turning in assignments late and not paying attention in class. Eventually, it got to the point where I ended the year with a D in one of my classes. If I had not been attending an Omaha Public Schools (OPS) high school, schools notorious for being laxer on late work, I probably would've failed half my classes.

Because not everyone with ADHD is going to have the most obvious symptoms and act the same, adults need to educate themselves and watch for any signs of ADHD, not just the most obvious ones. Doctors also need to stop using outdated guidelines as a baseline for diagnosing someone. Getting diagnosed is a huge relief for some people, and it needs to become easier.

The Orator
Omaha Bryan High School

The Omaha Bryan High School Orator prides itself on being a credible, student run, news and entertainment 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 Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska 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 3rd and 8th in NSPA Best of Show Tabloid newspaper 16 pages or fewer contests during the 2018-19 school year. It has also earned the NHSPA Cornhusker Award for the past three years. In addition,

the staff has earned numerous individual awards through JEA, NSPA, NHSPA and UNO.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of The Orator staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Bryan High School. Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Bryan High School or The Orator staff.

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FOOTBALL

RISE UP

Move over Varsity, Here come The Freshmen

Olouwatobi Nounkpozounkou
Section Editor

After years of not having a successful freshman football team, one has finally emerged and brings hope for the future.

The team started off their season with three consecutive wins against Omaha Northwest, Bellevue East and Papillion-La Vista, eventually losing 8-40 against Fremont high school.

“The freshman team is having a lot of success,” athletic director Ryan Murtaugh said. “They’re looking really good; we’ve got a lot of ninth graders that have a lot of promise. We’ve got some linemen, where in the past we really haven’t had a lot of linemen and we’ve got some skill.”

The coaches’ goal for the team was to teach them how to attack and be aggressive and to not be afraid to make mistakes. Something else they’re working on is the attitude of the team and discipline.

pline, making sure they’re getting to practice on time and doing the drills the way they’re supposed to.

“A lot of kids are passive and polite which is great but in football you want to be aggressive,” defensive coach David Ashby said. “I’d rather them play 100% and miss somebody than play 50% and get ran over. It’s hard to be successful as a group if not everybody is moving in the right direction.”

After losing against Fremont, the team was able to have some time to reflect on the game and what they need to do to get better and get back on their winning streak.

“I feel like they need improvement on motivation, working hard not only in practice but off practice and having self-confidence and staying focused on what we’re doing,” freshman Troy Fentress said. “I feel like we’ve all bonded

aas a team and worked together because we know we have to work hard to win, and we want to win.”

Currently the team is meeting the goal and they have developed a lot since the season began. During the beginning of the season, the team had issues with getting physicals but as the season went on, they’ve gotten past that to the point of having 30 guys on the team.

“We’ve definitely gotten better as the year’s gone on,” Ashby said. “Everyone contributes whether or not they’re playing a lot in the game. In football, it’s the team that works hard that is going to win 99% of the time, so it always feels so rewarding when you win a game.”

The players are beginning to learn that there’s a process to get to the top of the ladder. They’re hungry for victory, so they keep on practicing to get better.

“We’re really excited about this group getting in the weight room when the season’s over and having a full year of high school

football under their belt for next year,” Murtaugh said. “Hope a lot of these kids can contribute to the varsity team next year. We’re excited, it’s a good group.”

The freshmen weren’t the only ones that were able to secure a win. The boys varsity team were able to come out victorious at the homecoming game against Benson High 24-21, which ended up being their only win of the season.

“It felt great finally winning a game, and gave me a lot more hope for the next season after this year,” varsity junior line-backer Cole Rickley said.

The varsity team can see the developments the freshmen team has made throughout the season and they are proud of the freshmen for doing so. They can see all the potential this new team has and that they can bring a lot to the program.

“The freshmen have had tons of success,” Rickley said. “I think the sky is the limit for them and if they all commit and work hard in the offseason they’ll do great things here.”

THE ORATOR

RUN TO THE END



Photo by | Justin Diep

Running together, junior Francisco Bautista and sophomore Johnathan Bergh get a good start at the Waverly meet, several runners got medals.

Daisy Chinchilla
Reporter

On the cross-country team this year there’s a special student that has a passion for running and is full of joy and commitment. Jonathan Bergh, an athlete with autism, is only a sophomore but has so much love for cross country.

He loves that he’s representing Bryan and that he’s gotten the opportunity to join the team this year. Surprisingly, Bergh joined cross country thinking it was track at first, but after being on the team he’s said that it’s easy and he would like to do track when the season comes around.

“Johnathan is an incredible athlete and he’s made such improvement since cross country started,” cross country coach Biding Tot said. “The team loves him, and they all are like family.”

Some of Bergh’s teammates, like junior Bryley Carabantes, have said that they’re happy that he’s on the team. A lot of the runners engage with him, and he gets along with them.

“Jonathan always tries his best and he’s always excited to run,” Carabantes said. “He never looks discouraged, never gives up, and he’s a pretty good runner.”

The team sees him as just a regular runner like one of them regardless of his differences. Junior Francisco Bautista has mentioned that Bergh is always encouraging others and even though sometimes he gets frustrated, he pushes through.

“Bergh is super friendly, funny, and he compliments teammates and pushes others to do better,” Bautista said.

New coach brings new hope for future seasons

Justin Diep
Co-Editor In Chief

There are high hopes from players as they anticipate the start of the basketball season with new head coach.

Announced last April, then assistant coach Galen Gullie was named head coach of the basketball team after the departure of former head coach Terrance O’Donnell.

“I feel very comfortable, and I trust that coach Gullie will lead us to a better season this year,” junior London Williams said.

Gullie started preseason conditioning with the team after he was named head coach in April and immediately started working with them to not only improve their performance on the court but also in the

classroom. “We’ve had great numbers at conditioning,” Gullie said. “We also have tutoring for basketball players on Wednesdays and that has been a great thing for the players to work on grades too.”

Developing a bond on and off the court is something that Gullie and his team have strived for and will continue to work on throughout the season.

“We have developed by coming closer to each other on and off the court, becoming a family and not just a team,” junior Garret Ballard said.

Gullie believes the team still has room to improve and knows his team can.

WRESTLING



Photo by | Olouwatobi Nounkpozounkou

During conditioning, sophomore Maria Narvaez-Sanchez and senior Sie Simon practice a technique that head wrestling coach Jason Susnjar presented to them moments before. They’re two out of the five girls on the team as of now.

GIRLS WELCOMED

Ulises Munoz
Reporter

Girls wrestling is now officially a Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) sanctioned sport. It will bring plenty of opportunities to girl students who would like to wrestle.

The National Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association (NSWCA) had a big impact on girls wrestling becoming a sanctioned sport in the state.

“I feel great, now it honestly feels powerful, because women can do something that men can,” sophomore Maria Narvaez said.

While girls have always been able to do wrestling as a part of the boy’s team, they now have a team just for them. Practice will officially start on Nov. 15, for both teams. Conditioning has already started and there are already four interested and excited girls on the team so

far.

“We want everybody there right at the first day of practice, so that they don’t miss a step or don’t fall behind,” Susnjar said.

The teams will be managed by two coaches being more focused on the girls which are coach Ryan Hanson and coach Vincent Rice.

“I am going to kind of oversee all of it, just to make sure it’s run kind of how I want it to be ran,” Susnjar said.

Looking towards the future, there will be some tournaments, like some that their varsity team will already be going to, has a girls division that both boys and girls will be able to watch and participate in.

“It’s going to be nice that the boys and the girls kinda go to the same area,” Susnjar said. “You can still cheer for each other and you know just be part of one big team but still have their own separate

teams.”

Susnjar believes that this new opportunity will be great for the school. There are also some girls joining the preseason conditioning.

“I’m a part of this organization called the NSWCA,” head wrestling coach Jason Susnjar said. “Which is the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association, and they were the big push behind getting girl’s wrestling sanctioned in Nebraska.”

If students still aren’t convinced that this will be something fun and interesting to do, there have been girl wrestlers that have wrestled and are wrestling right now that enjoyed it a lot.

“When the NSWCA first had a girls state tournament two years ago, we had two young ladies go to that,” Susnjar said. “One finished third, one finished second and they loved it, they loved having the girls only competition.”

EXPERIENCE

Boys tennis team gains needed skill during season

Olouwatobi Nounkpozounkou
Section Editor

Walking away from the tennis courts at their Metro Tournament, the varsity tennis players reflect on the season and everything they learned.

The team finished off the season with **blank** wins. For the most part, this was because the team had only one returning player and the rest of the team was new. Even though the boys didn’t see many wins game-wise, they saw a lot of individual wins throughout the season, even getting compliments from other teams.

“They are first year players and have come a long way since their first day on the court,” returning senior Julio Silva Franco said. “It’s tough since they are facing high level competition. But the coaches and I were there to help along the way. The level of skill isn’t the same

as the previous years, but I believe these guys have potential for the future.”

The coaches’ goal for the team this year was to have everybody playing at the varsity level, trying to build up the skill that the new players needed to have to succeed. The team is 90% of the way there to reaching that goal. They just need to work on consistency when playing.

“I’d say it’s gone pretty well just for the effect of everybody has improved greatly,” head tennis coach Ricardo Hernandez said. “We’ve seen guys go from JV players to varsity players within one season.”

Silva Franco had to step up and help lead the new players. There’s pressure on him because of being a leader, but that’s the best time for him to show off his skills.

“The players know what their game could look like if they continue to play and if they continue to practice hard,”



Photo by | Fatima Torres

Getting ready to return the ball to his opponent at the Omaha North High Invitational, senior Julio Silva Franco shifts his body to hit in the forehand position. Silva Franco went on to get the 2nd place medal at this invitational.



Emmanuel Lopez
Junior

“I wanted to play tennis in the past and decided to try it. I messed up at the end and should have been responsible but it was a good experience.”



Pablo Degante
Junior

“The season has been good and pretty competitive. Julio helped out by helping us and always giving tips. He boosted the morale.”



Bryan Benitez
Junior

“The season has been amazing, constant growth compared to the beginning of the year. We’re completely different team, it’s just been extremely fun.”



Sophmores Carmen Rivera and Payton Blankenship help freshman Kalissa Taylor and senior Elisa Pellegatta look over the monologue that they were given before stepping up to audition on Oct. 6. Two days later, those who audautioned found out if they were cast for “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.”

“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” coming to stage in December

Olivia Wallace
Life & Style Editor

As the lights come up and the curtains are drawn, time is counting down. Sweat beings to form on senior Grady Bazzell’s forehead. His last full-length play before graduating. It’s his time to shine as the character Charlie Buckets.

Since the show was announced, kids around school have been watching videos, reading scripts and helping each other get ready for Charlie and the

Chocolate Factory, this year’s full-length play being put on by the school’s drama department. Drama teacher and director, Jodi Hazuka was the one who chose the play. Auditions were held for two days, after which Hazuka decided on the cast.

“I like how inclusive and welcoming it [the drama department] is, so I wanted to be a part of it [the show],” senior Samira Zarazua said.

She has been a part of the theater department since her freshman year

and has starred in multiple drama productions. For this play, Zarazua will be playing the role of Willy Wonka.

“Johnny Depp was hilarious in the movie, and I wanted to make others laugh as well, plus we both have a distaste for children and taste for candy,” Zarazua said.

Rehearsals have already begun for the show and so far no one has fallen in the chocolate river or eaten a wrong piece of gum. And if they do, see junior Macy Hutfless who is playing

Veruca Salt or sophomore Payton Blankenship who is playing Augustus Gloopy.

Some of the main roles are taken by the following: Grady Brazzell (Charlie Bucket), sophomore Carmen Rivera (Violet Beauregard) and junior Mitchell Gates (Mike Teavee).

Some are returning drama kids and others, this is their first time working with Hazuka. She has many plans for the show, and what cast members bring everyday helps her decide her next outline or idea.

“I’m most excited to see the set come to life,” Bazzell said. “I’m also excited to see how the actors will bring the world of the play to life.”

Golden Tickets will also be hidden in some candy bars that the drama club is going to be selling during the show, on Dec. 3-4 from 4 -7 pm and on Dec 5 at 2pm. Admission is \$5 and can be purchased online at bryanhighbrow.dramabooktix.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door, although you wouldn’t want to miss this golden opportunity.

Arts Calendar

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

MUSIC

Adele 30

Releases: Nov. 19
After weeks of teasing on social media Adele has finally given a date for her new album, “30”, which is planned to be more of sad album after her split with Simon Konecki.

Ed Sheeran, =

Releases: today
Sheeran’s fourth solo album, ‘=’, is set to drop today. He shared through social media that he feels, “It’s really a coming of age record.” The album will feature Sheeran’s current hit single ‘Bad Habits’, ‘Love in Slow Motion’ and ‘Visiting Hours’, a tribute to his friend and mentor Michael Gudinski who suddenly passed away last March.

SHOWS/MOVIES

Roaring Twenties

Released: October 28.
This show premiered on Netflix and concludes a coming of age story of ‘eight twenty-somethings’ that have to navigate America in the 20s.

Last night in Soho



Releases: today
In theaters now. An aspiring fashion designer is mysteriously able to enter the 1960’s, where she encounters a dazzling wannabe singer. However, the glamour is not all it appears to be, and the dreams of the past start to crack and splinter into something far darker.

AROUND TOWN

Hamilton

Oct. 27- Nov. 14 at Orpheum Theatre 1:00 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. (depending on day)
A musical about the American founding father Alexander Hamilton and his acquaintances. The show has a mix of R&B, hip-hop and soul with also some traditional style of songs. This is it’s fourth time coming to Omaha.

Autumn Festival

Nov. 4 - Nov. 7 at Ralston Arena, 10:00 p.m – 9:00 p.m
Attend a show where the nation’s finest artists and crafters display and sell their handcrafted works. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children under 10 are free. The admission is good for the whole weekend.

Teacher becomes TikTok famous



Michalak tallies over 7.1 million views, 179,200 followers

Olivia Wallace
Life & Style Editor

When people think of TikTok they probably think of Addison Rae or Charli D’amelio. But why not a local teacher who even teaches right in Bear Country. Science teacher Alex Michalak makes his own mark with his dad jokes.

At first, Michalak wasn’t familiar with TikTok until some of his chemistry students convinced him to get it and started making some videos at the beginning of 2020. The pandemic shortly followed but it didn’t stop him from entertaining others with some science videos or funny dad jokes. “I try to do good because then the better I do,

I make more videos then the more I can give back,” Michalak said. “So I have that kind of driving force.” He got in the TikTok Creator Fund, after hitting 10,000 followers. Each person in the creator fund can pick a fund to give back to, and his was Suicide Prevention, which landed on the day that he got into the group, so it fit perfectly.

Michalak started with making educational videos about science, but found success with his dad jokes at random objects that you can find around the house. One of his most famous videos is where he talks about a fire in a house, and how it was started and where it can be seen that it was a fire. The video gained him 1.2 million likes and 6.3 million views.

“I try to make what people say ‘fun-formational’ videos and I think it really describes my videos so that’s been my evolution of driving forces behind why I do TikTok,” Michalak said.

Another one of his vid-

eos has him in the kitchen with an apron on and ‘reading’ a recipe, it called for a dash of salt. So he brings out a mug of Dash from the Incredibles filled with salt, and poured it in. “If you would have asked high school me if you were to become TikTok famous one day, I would have been like no, I can’t even talk in front of my class let alone the internet,” Michalak said. “So it still doesn’t feel real.”

Not all of his videos have been a success. Like, for example for Teacher Appreciation week, he asked his students to name their favorite teacher and why. One of the students said “anyone really but you,” or there was one who said “you’re my favorite teacher because you make science fun,” which was planned for the video.

So when people around school start saying that we don’t have anyone famous, give them his TikTok and let them look at the 179,000 followers and 7 million likes for themselves. So if Mickalak has a tripod you know what he is going to be filming.

TikTok challenges: The good, bad, ugly cycle through

Olivia Wallace
Life & Style Editor

A new day, a new trend to try on TikTok. Since the ‘devious lick’ challenge there has been many others that followed suit. Depending on the user of the app, it recycles videos that will ‘fit’ their interests.

Scrolling through the app and seeing the different trends that went viral and why they did it is a constant question that people ask. From dancing to point of view (POV) or simply hitting record and having fun, most of the creators on the app have an audience that wants them to post every day and follow those trends.

“Pre-ACT answers, a lot of those. Homework help, just a lot of memes. Not dancing anymore,” sophomore

Carolina Thompson said. She has had the app since 2019 and has seen all the trends or users helping with homework or high school tips. “I’m passing because of them,” she added.

In the past month, TikTok was hit with a costly trend called the ‘devious lick’ challenge. Students stole from school or made the bathrooms a mess. This trend has been crowned to be one of the most expensive and creative trends to hit the app. All over the country there were high school students participating in videos, even here in Omaha Public Schools (OPS).

“We have had vandalism and theft associated with TikTok challenges. We had restroom damages that have resulted in us closing restrooms for repairs,” Burke principal Darren

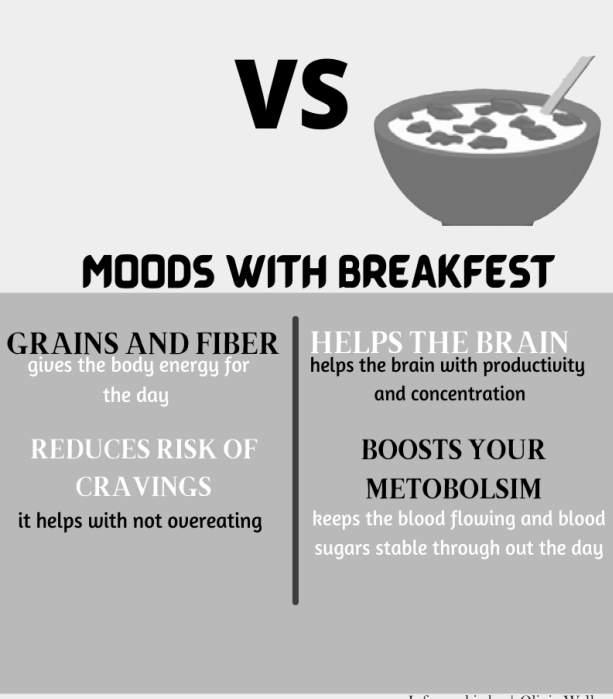
Rasmussen said. “These repairs are costly and limits the available restrooms we have for students.”

All over the district, students were joining in and taking soap dispensers and toilet seats. Assistant principal James Cunningham said students who are caught trying to participate in the ‘devious licks’ will be forced to do a week of community service.

School districts and elected officials across the country demanded TikTok to do more to discourage the challenge. The trend has since been deleted from the app and all the videos that used the sound or hashtag were removed. Looking up the challenge will be show a screen stating, “This phrase may be associated with behavior or content that violates our guidelines.”



Breakfast; most skipped meal of the day



Ulises Munoz
Reporter

Since the 19th century breakfast has been known as “the most important meal of the day”, but students aren’t treating it like it is which affects the school and is possibly linked to other problems.

Eating breakfast refills energy and nutrients in the body. Skipping breakfast can affect someone negatively throughout the day since again, they won’t have high levels of energy and nutrients.

“Getting breakfast in the morning is really going to give you energy, help you stay focused in school and perform well in everything,” nutritionist and dietitian Michelle Yates said.

Skipping breakfast means students aren’t concentrating as much as they normally would if they did eat breakfast. The nurse provides some water, snacks, crackers or granola bars if students are hungry. This a problem that is seen about 6 times a week

“There would be two students a day come in complaining about stomach pain or being nauseated and a nurse will ask them if the ate breakfast, most of them will say no,” nurse Lori Grutmeyer said. “So, I give them a snack of water and crackers or a granola bar. These students usually are running late or don’t eat breakfast.”

Eating breakfast controls your weight, appetite, improves mental performance, brain power, concentration, reduces risk of illness and gives you the vitamins, minerals and nutrients people need to about their day. People’s mental performance,

brain power and concentration improves because the brain relies on glucose to stay energized, which is why breakfast benefits people.

“It depends if there are protein and fat with it as well but it won’t really affect anybody that much differently,” said Yates “If it’s mostly carbohydrates and there’s not many protein and fat then it can kind of give people that like quick energy and then quick crash so, it might actually, in an hour or two make people feel a lot worse.”

Replacing breakfast with caffeine isn’t necessarily bad but it isn’t the best option, since the effects of those drinks are only temporary. Caffeine’s effect goes up to about five hours but can vary, so a drink with food would be a better option to stay energized for longer time.

“I don’t recommend it. I think if you want to have one of those drinks with breakfast then that would be better,” Yates said.

Students can prepare breakfast the night before or set an alarm clock a couple minutes earlier to have time for breakfast. Fortunately there are multiple places located in Omaha that provide free food. Food Bank for the Heartland, The Nebraska Food Bank Network inc. and StoneBridge Cristian Church all provide food for those in need.

MODELS

TEACHER MAKES STADIUM REPLICAS FROM PAPER

Olouwatobi Noukpozounkou
Senior Editor

When some people think of making art out of paper they think of paper planes, papier mâché, paper fortune tellers, paper origami etc, physical education teacher and football coach David Ashby thinks of something different.

During spring of 2019, Ashby decided to dive into a new skill to make miniature replicas of real-life stadiums out of paper. He was thinking to himself one day he felt like he wanted to have a hobby that he could do for fun, something new.

“One day I was walking through my school and there were just piles of different colored paper in recycling bins,” Ashby said. “It was just like a light bulb moment. I took all the paper home and made my first model of Rosenblatt Stadium, and that kind of took off.”

Before the making of his first model stadium- Rosenblatt Stadium, Ashby always had a hobby of drawing stadiums during his high school classes, but at some point, the hobby faded away because he had to focus on school. Fast-forward to the future, he would get bored of just watching TV in his free time and wanted to do something else with his time; after a while, he had a random idea to make a 3D



sta-

dium.

“It just really took off into a life of its own,” Ashby said. “Now it’s become a business, making a lot of extra income from it and doing interviews with newspapers all over the country and TV shows all over the country. It’s kind of crazy that this little thing I was looking for a hobby to do has turned into a big part of my life now.”

His wife is his business manager. When he was making Nebraska’s Memorial Stadium, he showed it to one of his friends and they told him that he should put it on Twitter because people would find it interesting. After that moment everything just took off into a life of its own.

“The attention to detail,” Ashy said. “One of the cool things about putting it on social media and challenging things about putting it on social media is that thousands of people are going to see it and that’s a thousand people that can notice if I miss something. That’s something I really

want to focus on, I don’t want to miss any little detail.”

During the summer, it would take him around two weeks to make a stadium, but now that school’s started and he has coaching and teaching responsibilities along with being a dad, it takes him around a month and a half. To make the stadiums, he finds the blueprints for the stadium online and uses them for scale. When he can’t use them, he uses Google Maps with basic math and geometry.

“It really doesn’t interfere with work and teaching,” Ashby said. “My wife goes to bed at about nine o’clock, and I like stay up for two or three hours and that’s usually when I’m doing it. On the weekend sometimes when were just sitting around.”

He’s made 45 stadiums. His sales have been mostly through Twitter direct messages but also through Instagram. His big

pro-

fessional major league and college stadiums are about \$3000. But the smaller high school ones go for \$500-\$1000.

“50 would be a good milestone,” Ashby said. “There’s certain stadiums I want to do, Tiger Stadium, Neyland Stadium and there’s a list of about five more of them. If there’s any goal, it’s those iconic stadiums I want to do at some point.”

What encourages him to keep going is money and the fun aspect of it. They set aside the money and invest it. But really, it’s just fun to do. He’d do it for free anyways, although he probably wouldn’t work as much as he does currently

“Like with a real job if you enjoy it, it’ll make life a lot easier,” Ashby said. “That’s probably one of the biggest things that motivate me, every stadium a different challenge.”

Photo courtesy | David Ashby

This is the 22nd paper stadium that P.E teacher David Ashby has made. It's a miniature Cleveland Municipal Stadium. After working on this project, Ashby gained a new respect for this classic ballpark. Along with ballparks, Ashby has made football stadiums, basketball courts, soccer stadiums, track fields, car speedways, complexes, Radio City Music Hall and even Madison Square Garden, which includes NHL and NBA arenas.

Turner Field
Paper Stadium #42



Photo courtesy | David Ashby

The 42nd stadium P.E. teacher David Ashby made is convertible between the stadium’s three lives, and it also has real dirt from Turner Field on the infield.

Ashby Stadium
Paper Stadium #2



Photo courtesy | David Ashby

After the making of the first paper stadium, P.E. teacher David Ashby made this stadium, and named it after himself, it even has his name on the back.

Paper Stadium Prototype
Paper Stadium #1



Photo courtesy | David Ashby

Asa kid, P.E. teacher David Ashby did some projects here and there , but this is the first paper stadium he built as a adult two years ago.

Nipper Stadium
Paper Stadium #44



Photo courtesy | David Ashby

This stadium was the first American Conference stadium that p.e teacher Daivd Ashby made. By completion, it was his first Big XII stadium.

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