

the REGISTER

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Long-awaited head football coach pick

Social studies teacher Jay Landstrom set to take over as head football coach in the fall of 2018.

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Drama department's Improv Team experiences overwhelming success

Eight Improv Team members have been traveling across Nebraska competing for - and winning - awards such as first place at an international thespian festival.

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Texting and driving isn't technically illegal yet, but new proposals might change that

Pending regulations allowing police officers to pull drivers over for texting could lead to abuse of power.

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ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

Officer Nathan Dickey and his dog Remi brief the Central staff on what to expect from them as a K-9 team in the coming weeks.

“RUFF” & TOUGH

OPS purchased a drug detection dog in collaboration with the Omaha Police Department with the top priority of keeping students safe.

Anna Kaminski
editor-in-chief

As of Feb. 20, a drug dog will be making frequent visits to Central and other schools across the Omaha Public Schools District. Officer Nathan Dickey and his K-9 partner Remi – a black Labrador Retriever – have completed extensive training and certification in order to qualify for the job.

In collaboration with the Omaha Police Department, OPS purchased Remi to be utilized in accompaniment with Officer Dickey throughout the entire district. Remi is trained to smell methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin and marijuana. In a demonstration for staff members on Feb. 15, Officer Dickey hid a stuffed animal that contained an odor of marijuana in Central's library. It was Remi's job to sniff out the room, locate the stuffed animal, sit down and indicate the location of the contraband for Dickey to retrieve.

Remi is originally from Germany but currently lives with Officer Dickey and his family. She is not an aggressive dog by nature and has been specifically accustomed to working with Dickey, in addition, she is kept on a leash at all times when she is working. The two are required to work at least 4 hours a week and must be

recertified every year. When conducting a search, Remi is a tool; she sniffs and if she finds something, she sits or lays down and will stare or claw at the site of the contraband. Dickey looks for alerts from Remy including her body language. After Remy does her part of locating the drugs, Officer Dickey rewards her with her favorite toy – a stuffed animal.

“She is not a bite dog,” head security adviser Officer Gilaspie said, “it's a dog that just smells for contraband.” Much of the reasoning for purchasing a drug detection dog comes from the timing. Many other schools have used such services and OPS believed it was time to join. “We are not doing this in response to any single incident,” Principal Ed Bennett said in a letter to parents on Feb. 14. “Rather, we have heard such positive reports regarding K-9 use at Marian, all three Millard high schools, and other OPS schools that we want to capitalize on this opportunity to improve student safety.”

Due to the legalization of marijuana in many states and Nebraska's proximity to such states as Colorado, drug use is more prevalent than ever. “I didn't rush into [bringing] the dog here,” Bennett said. “But you have to balance that with the reality that there are drugs in every high school in America.”

DOG on page 8

New legislation would protect student journalists if successful

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
staff writer

State Senator Adam Morfeld of the 46th Legislative district has introduced legislation which would protect student journalists from censorship when they publish non-libelous, non-slandorous materials, LB886. His interest in the issue of student censorship comes from a personal experience, when at high school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota his principal attempted to expel him for starting an independent student publication. He is now committed to ensuring that “young Nebraskans can experience the power of the First Amendment” so that they may “learn those civic skills at an early age.” His bill has been supported by national press freedom groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Student Press Law Center and FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education). The bill, which is part of recent “New Voices” legislation which has popped up around midwestern states is currently being considered by the Judiciary Committee.

LB886 has already had its hearing before the Judiciary Committee. This was held on February 8th and saw leaders of student press freedom weigh in with testimony and thoughts. According to Justine Garman, Benson's journalism adviser, only three of the Judiciary's members stood in true opposition, with Senator Ernie Chambers telling them “times are changing and it is time they change as well.” According to Garman, the three also only were opposed to school districts losing power under LB886, which is not something Garman believes will occur, as Principals will still have the right to prior review to assess how appropriate a story is or is not. Garman believes this bill “provides protection and retaliation for both the students and their advisers,” saying that currently “If they [the school district] do not like the stories the students write, they can reassign the adviser or fire him,” putting advisers, or journalism teachers, in quite a predicament, they can either have their students go after harder stories or play it safe. Garman has experienced this predicament for five of the six years in her career as a journalism adviser, she said it was “frustrating because I was not allowed to speak up and would be forced to do what I was told,” throughout the hearings she learned how fortunate it she is to be working as a Journalism adviser in Omaha Public Schools, as OPS follows a fairer

NEW VOICES on page 7

Dr. Cheryl Logan to replace Mark Evans in July

Alec Rome
staff writer

After a hiring process that took over a year, on the Board of Education's second attempt, it was able to find its new leader of OPS in Dr. Cheryl Logan from Philadelphia Public Schools. She will take over for Mark Evans on July 1, who will retire once his contract is up.

The district's hiring of its first superintendent of color and only the second female to take the office had those in attendance during the finalist interviews on January 30th energized. After the Board motioned to hire Logan as the new head of the district, a majority of the

packed room applauded, murmuring that they had made the right decision. One of those who was pleased by the decision was Central principal Ed Bennett, who was in attendance during the interviews.

“I think they made the right choice,” Bennett said. “She was excellent. We had the right choice, we had the right vote, at the right time. I was energized and impressed and enthused by that.”

The board voted unanimously, 9-0, to move forward with Logan into contract negotiations. Her contract was approved by the Board days later, with a base salary of \$300,000 along with other perks and benefits. Her contract goes through the end of June 2021. The

emphatic agreement between board members noted a stark contrast from how the process progressed just a year earlier. Tension on the Board was on the rise, as shown in text conversations between members. On the second attempt, according to Bennett, the Board showed positive communication development to the public. “I was very happy that they were unanimous, because that shows the community that [the Board supports] her,” Bennett said. “I know from various conversations that they've been working very hard to come together, communicate with each other, and do the things that successful boards do. It was good to

SUPERINTENDENT on page 8



Photo Courtesy of OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Cheryl Logan of Philadelphia has been chosen for OPS supt.



ALEC ROME | The Register

English teacher Carrie Joseph is the sponsor of the new Polar Plunge club. Left she poses at with Jeff Mahoney. Right, members of the club participate in the plunge on Feb. 10.

Polar Plunge club raises awareness, gets more students involved

Zoia Morrow
executive editor

The Special Olympics is a sports organization dedicated to individuals who have intellectual disabilities that provides year-round training and competitions to millions of athletes in many countries. President of Central's polar plunge club or team, sophomore Cassandra Willey was inspired by those around her to create a club where the proceeds raised, benefit the Special Olympics.

The years spent at Alice Buffett Middle School, Willey was introduced to the Polar Plunge team and has been a part of it since.

"I've done it two years already with the Buffett team and then Mrs. Joseph, the teacher sponsor was talking about her daughter who's in Special Olympics," Willey said. A good portion of Willey knew she wanted to do some good to the community and have others involved as well. Carrie Joseph is an English teacher who has taught a Central for many years. Being Willey's English teacher, Mrs. Joseph's spoke fondly of her daughter, Charlie, which prompted something in Willey that said, "Hey I should start something at Central too."

The club mainly consists of fundraising and even though it just began, they have raised about two thousand dollars in a few

months. "Most of the hard work is done already," Willey said. As a team, the club has made shirt that advertise the Polar Plunge club. Their group activities are for the purpose of bonding and volunteering together. When raising money, they sell candy bars and create tutus during team bonding events. In the end, all proceeds go to Special Olympics.

Their cases benefit the Special Olympics because in a short time, they raised thousands of dollars and their efforts are only just beginning. "All of that money will go to help the Special Olympics and help all the people who don't have the money to join stuff like that and to be a part of the community," Willey

said. There is no age restrictions or grade limit, "There's no discrimination at actual events, besides our team, there's five-year-old's jumping in, eighty-year-old's and even dogs."

"The Polar Plunge is its own event, it is to raise money, it is not for the actual athletes," Willey said. For the Special Olympics there is bowling, swimming and several other activities that contribute to Olympic sports. Central's Polar Plunge team does quite the opposite with their abundance of team bonding activities and chances to volunteer. "Me, personally, I don't have a lot of volunteer activities to do so it's an opportunity for other

POLAR PLUNGE on page 8



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NEW YEAR, NEW TEACHERS

Three new teachers joined Central's staff at second semester, each with different backgrounds and futures



ALEXIS BLANKENFELD | The Register

JOYELLE ANDERSON

English Language Learners

| **Grace Turner**
staff writer

After working as a teacher in other states and serving in the military for several years, science teacher Joyelle Anderson started working at Central. Anderson started at Central after winter break and is teaching physical science and science foundations, which is an English Language Learners course. She is excited to be teaching at Central and has enjoyed her first weeks at the school.

Anderson served in the military several years before having her first teaching job. She applied for a volunteer position at her child's school, and the school instead offered her a position as a science teacher. She has taught grades kindergarten through 12th at both private and public schools. Anderson has taught many different courses including biology, earth science and physical science. Anderson said, "My experiences vary across demographics and types of schools and I think that is one of the main strength areas I bring to the classroom."

So far, Anderson has enjoyed her time teaching at Central. New to the Omaha area, she had previously taught at many schools that are similar to Central, but she believes that it is a new experience due to the high level of diversity and the size of the

school. Anderson said, "I wanted to be at and see a place that had this level of diversity, which is one of the school's biggest strengths."

Throughout her life, Anderson has had the opportunity to learn many different languages, including English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, French and many words and phrases in other languages. She believes knowing these languages helps her to connect and communicate with the students in her English Language Learners courses. She says that this has also allowed her to better understand her students during classes and communicate with them in languages besides English.

Overall, Anderson's favorite part of teaching at Central is the ability to engage with her students. She believes watching students grow over time and see the difference from the beginning to the end of the year is amazing. She looks forward to having more opportunities to see her students grow in future years, when she can watch their personal growth throughout the entire year.

Anderson said, "I am looking forward to watching my students grow. It is already happening, and it makes my heart smile. I am already seeing them adjusting and growing and to see what they are going to be by the time I have to send them off, it is beautiful."

DAN GAVIN

Business

| **Emily Engel**
staff writer

The 2018 school year has welcomed several new teachers to their staff. One such teacher is business teacher, Daniel Gavin.

"This is my first year of teaching, I student taught at Central with Mr. Behrens in the beginning of the fall semester, so I was here for eight weeks then I went to Taiwan for the rest of my student teaching," Gavin said.

Gavin received his degree in history and education at Iowa State University. This semester, Gavin teaches economics and FACTS. But eventually, he would like to teach history.

Studying history in college, he saw the importance of learning to under-

stand people of different time periods and to try and relate to the choices that they made in their lives. He found that the skills taught when studying Social Studies can be used in life, no matter what career students go in to.

"Economics is a really interesting subject to teach and learn, it's really challenging but I like the class because it introduces students to a different way of thinking about things they think about daily," Gavin said.

Gavin has always been drawn to the teaching profession and is elated that this is his first-year teaching. He likes supporting people and helping them reach their goals. As a teacher, he has some goals of his own.

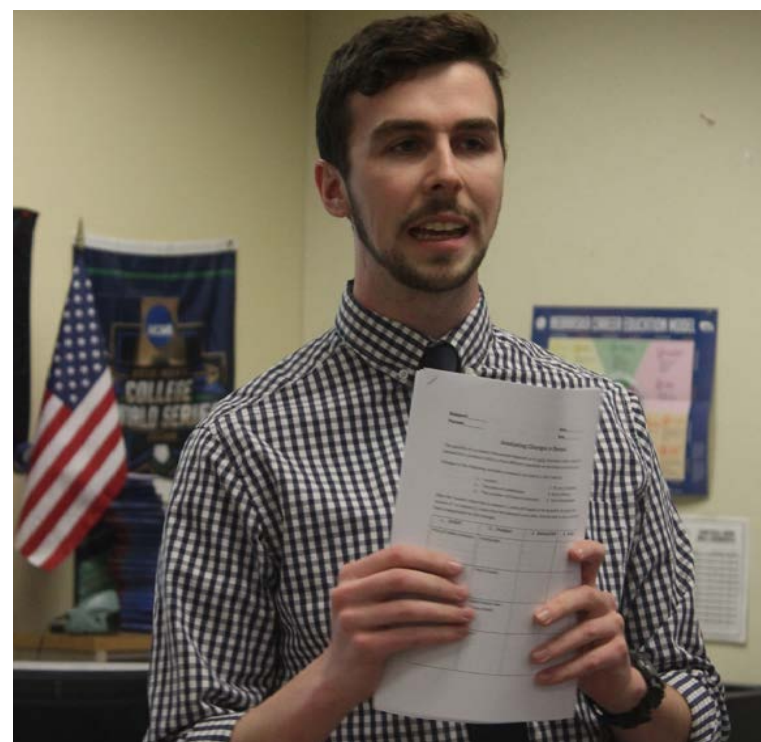
"A goal of mine, especially through economics, is getting students to think

of their everyday life in a more critical way, analyzing the decisions they make and the costs of those decision," he said.

Since he began student teaching, Gavin knew he wanted to teach at Central. He says he feels welcomed into the building and loved how kind the faculty and students were and he appreciated the diversity in the student body.

"I have found that a strength that I have as an educator is just to have positive relationships with them I want each of my students to have at least one person who believes in them", Gavin said.

Though he has only been teaching at Central for five weeks, he loves the school and plans to work in Central



ALEXIS BLANKENFELD | The Register

SARAH WALCK

Social Studies

| **Cormac O'Brien**
staff writer

Although Sarah Walck has known since high school that she wanted to be a teacher, life took her on a different path. For nine years prior to teaching at Central, she worked in graduate admissions at Bellevue University. Last February she decided to "make a change and pursue education like [she] always wanted to." She started teaching sociology and human geography at Central in January.

"I think about the impact that teachers have had with me, and I think it's an important role to have so that kids know there's someone there trying to make a difference," Walck said.

Walck believes that teachers should strive not only to pass on knowledge to their students, but to also be ready to support their students and serve as role models. She applies her teaching ideals in the classroom to engage students in

Before she began teaching, she had never been to Central before, but said she had heard good things about the students and alum, so her expectations were high. So far, she said, her experiences with Central have been fun.

"It's a different curriculum for each class, but the classes are interactive, they're fun to be around. I'm learning a lot every day," Walck said.

Walck said that because her classes are semester-based, beginning to teach half way through the year has not proven especially difficult.

Navigating the building, though, proved to be a more difficult obstacle to overcome. Walck said that finding classes has been the most challenging aspect of her job so far.

"It took me a week or so to feel comfortable with where I was going," Walck said. "I still sometimes get lost."

Though she may get lost in the halls, she feels at home in the classroom.



ALEXIS BLANKENFELD | The Register

Local business combines biking, coffee, expands market

Molly Ashford
staff writer

The Omaha Bicycle Company (OBC), a quaint bike and coffee shop in Benson, has been operating in a small space off of Maple street for the past five years. After the neighboring eclectic antique store vacated their space, the Bicycle Company saw their chance and took it, giving way to a much-needed expansion.

"We have been dreaming of more space since about our second year here", the owner says. "In the summer we're a lot

We have been dreaming about more space since our second year here.

SARAH ANDERSON
owner/manager

busier and run out of room really quickly with all of the space needed for new bikes and bikes that are in for repairs."

The new addition will be complete with one hundred hooks for built bikes, a back room receiving area, an entirely new tool bench with a power lift work stand, and much more space for repair bikes.

Sarah Johnson, the owner and manager of the Omaha Bicycle Company

as well as a Central alumnus, has been in the bike industry for seventeen years. On Halloween in 2012, the shop opened as a joint bike and coffee shop. "This shop always has been a combination bike and coffee shop since day one; we get a lot of questions about which came first", Johnson explains. "We were the first shop of its kind in Omaha and neither bike nor coffee shops could be found in Benson before we opened in 2012."

As one of the original businesses in the now-booming Benson neighborhood, the shop is adored by local bikers and regular patrons alike. Besides traditional business, the OBC also offers community rides, potlucks, and concerts in hopes of getting other Omahans interested in bicycling.

Anticipating a busy summer, the OBC is very grateful to have the opportunity to expand to grow their business and clientele. "In the summer we're a lot busier and run out of room really quickly with all of the space needed for new bikes and bikes that are in for repairs. The new space will allow us to have many more bikes ready to go out the door", states Johnson.

The Omaha Bicycle Company is looking forward to spending another successful five years in a more accommodating space so that they may continue to bring together the community.



Photo Courtesy of **MOMENTUM MAG**



Photo Courtesy of **TRACKO**

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ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

Casey Denton began her interim administration post second semester after teaching sociology since 2013. She has taken over Dan Wilson's office on the first floor.

Sociology teacher moves to dean position at second semester

Simone Davis
staff writer

With the coming of the new semester, students as well as teachers face changes in their daily schedules. One of the people who faced significant change is Casey Denton. At the end of the semester, Ashely Barna resigned as dean of students to pursue a new career, which led to Denton changing her position from sociology teacher to a dean of students.

"The job was offered to me on the last day of first semester," Denton said. For the past six years, Denton taught sociology and human geography. When she took on her new position, someone else began teaching those classes instead of her.

Denton's new position is officially called "Interim Dean of Students."

"I am responsible for handing out discipline to a variety of (last name) letters and supporting students. I make sure

they can have a safe and effective learning environment by helping monitor behavior," Denton said. When teaching, she primarily only saw the positive sides of students, but handing out disciplinary actions showed her a different aspect of the student body.

"I miss the positive interactions with students. I still get some positive interactions but I also get way more negative than I ever had as a teacher," Denton said.

Though this is a change for Denton, she is well-equipped. When in college, she earned her undergrad degree in teaching in history and English, and then a masters degree on top of that in teaching and teacher leadership. The teacher leadership portion aides her in her new administrative work. She's also working on a new degree that she feels will improve her work.

"I'm back in school right now working on a degree in teachers administration," Denton said. "So I'm actively learning how to do this job."

Even though she already had a degree in teachers leader-

ship, this new job still took her by surprise, and sometimes she misses teaching.

"I miss the energy of standing in front of the classroom," Denton said. "I loved my content, especially sociology, so I miss that a lot."

Not only does she miss teaching, but she feels more comfortable in that position. Administrative work is new for her, and her past years have only been filled with teaching.

"Teaching is definitely more comfortable because I'm more proficient in it," Denton said. "This [administrative work] is more of a challenge for me because I'm still learning."

Though this job is new, Denton is learning on her feet. She is constantly working and in meetings with parents and students in order to improve the behavior of the student body.

"It's really helping me to grow," Denton said. She will be finishing the rest of the 2017-2018 term as the Interim Dean of Students.

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Vitamin supplements waste of money, effects depends on age

Emma Whaley
staff writer

In 2016, National Public Radio claimed that only 20 percent of Americans eat the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables. While this is a reason that 36 percent of Americans are obese, it is also the reason many of them do not get all their vitamins and minerals. This lack of nutrients is especially dangerous for growing teenagers. While one would ideally eat a well-balanced diet to obtain their nutrients, some may turn to vitamin and mineral supplements to get what they need. These supplements can be helpful if necessary, but otherwise, they can cause health problems and be a waste of money.

Laura Johansen has been a dietician for four and a half years and works with people trying to maintain their weight and health. "The effect of vitamins and mineral supplements, for any age, depend on the individual," Johansen says, "If an adolescent is following a general healthy diet, he or she probably does not need to take a vitamin/mineral supplement unless directed by their doctor ... I always stress the importance

of getting your nutrients from whole food rather than from supplementation. You will most likely absorb the nutrients better from food than from supplements anyways."

Johansen advises that a diet of lean meats, low-fat dairy, whole grains and a variety of fruits and vegetables will provide a person with all their required vitamins and minerals. However, supplements can be helpful for people with a vitamin or mineral deficiency who are already eating a balanced diet.

Supplements can be helpful...but otherwise they can cause health problems.

Supplements are not without their side effects. Johansen warns, "While many vitamins and minerals are water-soluble, meaning your body will flush the excess out, some can build up over time in your body, causing a variety of adverse symptoms."

One of the most well-known of these is calcification; when calcium builds up in the blood vessels, tissues and organs, disrupting normal processes. Taking too many supplements can

have side effects such as headaches, tooth staining and nausea. Not to mention, if a person doesn't have a deficiency and their doctor doesn't recommend it, supplements can be a huge waste of money; most are around eight dollars for a bottle, but the more expensive brands can get into the \$30 range.

Particularly active teenagers may wish to use some supplements like creatine, caffeine and branched chain amino acids to boost their performance. While these are legal, Johansen warns against their use, as their effects on adolescents have not been studied.

If someone doesn't need to take vitamin and mineral supplements, it seems it's best for them to just save their money. It's a waste of time and effort, all the while it can cause unnecessary side effects. If one's doctor does say that a supplement might be helpful, Johansen recommends a they take a daily multivitamin for their gender and age with food unless a specific supplement is recommended by a doctor. For overall nutrition, however, Johansen says, "Supplements do not make up for a poor diet."



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Road Show hosts, senior Hunter Broderson and junior Lydia Baum introduced each act.

Annual Road Show displays individual singing, writing talents

Emily Engel
staff writer

For over 100 years, at the start of the second semester some of Central's most talented students have gathered to put on Road Show and this year was no different. This year the musical acts included a barbershop quartet, jazz band and several solo artists.

One such solo artist was freshman, Willa Rauch, a singer who performed her original song, 'Raise a Rose.'

"I want to do Road Show because I joy being involved in theatre and I love the idea of this giant group of people who are just sharing their talents. It's just an amazing experience," Rauch said.

Before auditioning for Road Show, Rauch was incredibly musically experienced due to her extensive background in instruments. She plays several instruments such as: the guitar and viola, writes songs, and even had a role in the latest school musical, Grease.

"I have been writing songs ever since was little, but they have definitely increased in quality since I was seven and starting out," Rauch said.

To prepare for the three shows, the cast put in several hours of practices and rehearsals to make sure Road Show will have run smoothly.

"It's been a lot of practice, to get in and to prepare, I've been working really hard to get the song to be ready to perform," Rauch said.

Despite the work that it has took, Willa says the experience has been well worth it.

"I have a such a wonderful experience so far just meeting all these people and getting to see their talents. It's really cool to be apart of this giant showcase and having just this little part that's yours," Rauch said.

Another student to sing at Road Show was freshman, Mila Herszbaum-Harding. She played the piano and sang her own song, specifically written for Roa Show.

"I have been singing my whole life but I only joined choir this year. I've never been formally taught to play the piano, I just play chords," she said.

One thing that made this act unique was that the song was written in Spanish. Harding grew up bilingual, speaking both Spanish and English at home. She chose to write the song in Spanish to better convey its meaning.

"I chose to write this song in Spanish to add diversity to the show and I thought that the song was more meaningful and made more sense in Spanish," Harding said.

Everything leading up to Road Show auditions took a lot of work. Harding needed to write her own song, memorize it, and practice performing it all even before auditions. After auditions, there still was very little time to rehearse.

"I joined because I wanted more experience performing and I hadn't tried anything like it before and I thought it could be fun. It was really good experience but it was kind of stressful because of all the snow days this quarter," she said.

In the end, both students gained experience only as freshmen and will look back on this Road Show for years to come.



Photos Courtesy of THE O-BOOK

Freshman Willa Rauch performs her original song called "Raise a Rose." Rauch has been playing guitar since she was 7 years old and decided to show off her talent at the 104th Annual Road Show.

Proposed bill encourages student publications, raises concern

NEW VOICES from page 1

standard for dealing with student journalism called the "tinker standard." Garman also saw Student Journalists from Millard West speak before the committee in regards to their Journalism adviser being fired.

Chairing the Unicameral's Judiciary Committee is State Senator Laura Ebke, representing the 32nd Legislative District. She said that she could support LB886 "as is." According to her, "the impact on most schools will probably be minimal. It would theoretically allow student journalists a little more

freedom from the limits that might be placed on them by school administrators and would protect teachers/advisors from retribution should their students write something that is controversial (yet well-sourced and accurate)." She also stated that the bill "will put more pressure on advisors and student journalists to be sure that they are following good journalistic practices—multiple sources, careful and clear writing." This is why she is most concerned about very small high schools where Journalism is an extracurricular activity and loosely supervised by someone with no experience in

Journalism, "I'm of the opinion that the success of implementation of this bill is dependent on responsible journalism, and someone being able to provide appropriate instruction and/or oversight for those who are practicing the craft," she said. Senator Ebke does not believe this bill will reach the Unicameral in time to pass, as the Legislature is rapidly approaching the end of the session and priority bills will begin to be debated, without a priority and with it likely to be controversial in some quarters, LB886 is likely to be "killed" as the 105th Legislature comes to an end.

OPS to utilize drug detection dog, student safety a priority

DOG from page 1

Dr. Bennett explained that because OPS is a public school district and Central is public property, students are at liberty to be searched. That being said, administration is not allowing students to be sniffed but cars, lockers and backpacks on school premises are fair game with the presence of reasonable suspicion.

Neither Officer Dickey nor Central staff want students to be afraid of Remi. "She is a very social dog," Officer Dickey said. Remi is not a bite dog or an attack dog. She is trained to be around large groups of people and rarely lashes out unless otherwise provoked.

"The goal is not to catch every kid that comes in with that kind of stuff," Officer Gillaspie said. "The goal is to prevent it from ever coming into the building."

OPS has been working with the Omaha Police Department for a few years to obtain a K-9 related unit for school use, but the timing only proved to be right just recently. In 2016, the total cost of purchasing a trained drug detection dog was around \$80,000, but over the years, the price has dropped slightly and OPS and OPD joined forces to finally turn talk into action.

Before the final purchase was made this summer, though, OPS surveyed parents across the district.

"According to OPS, parents were overwhelmingly supportive...provided that it was done appropriately and that kids weren't injured," Bennett said.

Student safety is the main priority. Bennett did not want to surprise students. "It's not about 'gotcha!'" he said. Bennett feels that the use of a K-9 team at Central will make a positive difference and he sees no real downsides. He feels that if the use of a drug dog can get just one student to focus a little more on school or drive home sober, the effort will have been successful. It is still very early, but Dr. Bennett says that 90% of the feedback he has received thus far has been optimistic. "I'm just excited to make our school safer," he said.



ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

New superintendent received overwhelming support from district, city

SUPERINTENDENT from page 1

see that it came together."

The other finalist, Harrison Peters, was from Hillsborough County Public Schools in Florida. While he had experience working with diverse schools and a history of "significantly increasing student outcomes," Bennett thought that Logan's experience and track record was more extensive. "I thought her interview was more solid, I thought she had better points to make, and had more experiences that she could draw upon to explain how she would do things in our district," Bennett said.

Logan visited Central on Feb. 6 and had a chance to meet students and staff in the building. Her first impression was massively positive to Bennett. "She has a presence, she has a strong interest in kids, she's made it a point to talk to kids whenever she could, that's the whole point of why we're here," Bennett said. "I felt that she had her priorities in the right place." Logan also dropped by schools such as North High,

Davis Middle, Howard Kennedy Elementary and Liberty Elementary. She plans to make regular visits to Omaha while she finishes her term in Philadelphia.

As Logan transitions into the position, a few issues will be at the forefront. Particularly a 16 to 30 million dollar budget shortfall due to pensions and a Phase Two bond issue that will ask for another \$409.9 million from taxpayers who are still paying on the Phase One bond passed in 2014. "Bringing the community behind her when she doesn't know the community and they don't really know her [will be a challenge]," Bennett said.

During the interview, Logan stressed how she wanted to listen more than talk and learn about the people and history of the district. "I know how to build relationships. We're in the people business," Logan said. "I need to be honest, transparent, I need to talk to people whose opinions may differ from mine... and have a feedback loop that is accessible."

She also stated some of the expectations she had for the

Board. "I expect great communication. I expect communication that is two-way," Logan said. "If there is an issue in the community, and you think I don't know about it, we need to bring it up in an open forum. A successful superintendent needs a successful board, and vice versa."

Bennett hopes that Logan remembers that those who work in the district are there to make an impact for kids, and that the job is not about the salary. "That is the heart and soul of our district. The sooner that becomes clear to her (and I'm sure it will be fairly soon) the better she will be able to understand the context of the district and then be able to make decisions accordingly," he said.

On July 1, Logan will hit the ground running, and she hopes to build a rapport with the school community. "No one will work harder, no one will be more committed, and the way I feel about the work we do with children is in my heart and in my soul," Logan said. "There isn't any more important work on this Earth."

Polar plunge club raises money for Special Olympics Team

POLAR PLUNGE from page 2

students," Willey said.

The workload is not lost on Willey when it comes to organizing events and fund-raising. "It's been a lot of work trying to do this," Willey said. Since she is only a sophomore, it is something she has taken into consideration as her high school career progresses. The thought of giving back to a community that so desperately needs it, is what keeps Willey going. She will most likely continue it to be President of Central's Polar

Plunge Club for her remaining years.

On Friday's the club meets in the computer lab or the library for an hour or two after school to structure plans and future events. One time, the team created t-shirts for club recognition and, "When we went to create t-shirts, we went to the Omaha Print Shop whom were so gracious and sponsored us," Willey said.

The team is preparing to Polar Plunge by being outside for long amounts of time. Before plunging, people will be outside

waiting in the cold, they must get used to being cold, then jumping in freezing cold water.

"The community surrounding the Polar Plunge Club [both at Buffett and Central] was so nice, it's a great bonding experience for everyone," Willey said. Even though Willey does not know anyone in her personal life that participates in Special Olympics, she recognizes that millions of people do, including her teacher, Carrie Joseph.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I am so excited and honored to present to you the fourth issue of *The Register* of the 2017-2018 school year. Some major changes have been made to the paper to enhance the appearance of professionalism and sophistication. The front page of this issue is much different than the two previous issues and issues of the past.

In the design of this paper, I drew inspiration from various iconic works such as *The New York Times*, *the Omaha World Herald*, *Politico* and *Time* magazine.

We want this student newspaper to be an interactive experience. Join the conversation on our Facebook: *The Central High Register*, our Twitter: @CHS_Press, our Instagram: @chs_press and our Flickr: chspress. In addition, if any of our readers are interested in writing a piece for the paper or illustrating a graphic, we highly encourage it. Thank you for your continued support and readership of *The Register*.

anna kaminski

Anna Kaminski
Editor-in-Chief

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of entertainment, interest and importance. The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all of its proceedings.

The Register is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), Quill and Scroll and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

The Register is an 11-time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas, Washington, D.C., Seattle and Chicago. The Register also won first place in Front Page News Layout for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA convention in St. Louis.

It is the goal of the Central High Register to represent the student body in issues affecting their lives as young people and students. If you feel that we are not covering an issue that is important to you, we welcome contributing writers who bring fresh ideas to the issues. If you would like to write a story for your student newspaper, please contact Hillary Blayney at hillary.blayney@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA, and has been awarded the Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of The Register staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School.

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

Special thanks to all the faculty and staff of Omaha Central High School and Omaha Public Schools. Your cooperation with our students helps us maintain a professional atmosphere in order to teach media education.

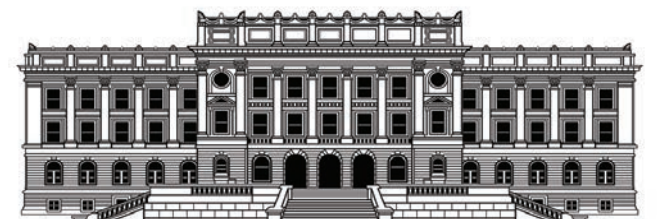
Thank you, readers.

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Five seniors commit to schools on National Signing Day

Senior student athletes commit to several different schools to continue their education and improve their athletic abilities.

PAGES 10-11

Students, staff and fans ready for track and field season

As winter sports come to a close, spring sports are on the forefront, one of those being track and field. The coaching staff and many of the players are already conditioning and preparing for another record-breaking season.

PAGE 12



Girls' swimming team earns competitive status

The girls swimming team has experienced historic success this winter sports season.

PAGE 13

sports & leisure

THE REGISTER

Vol. 133 No. 4 | February 22, 2018

IN WITH THE NEW

After the resignation of Lance Griffin as head football coach, history teacher Jay Landstrom takes the reigns.



MOLLY ASHFORD | The Register

After the resignation of Lance Griffin as head football coach, history teacher Jay Landstrom leaves his previous position as special teams coach to the executive spot.

| Anne Gallagher staff writer

After a disappointing season and the firing of their head coach, the football team and staff once again opened the application process for a new leader of the team. After careful consideration of candidates from within and outside of the school, Jay Landstrom was chosen as the new head coach. "I've always wanted to be a head coach and I never knew if I would have the opportunity [to be the head coach] here... I'm very excited," Landstrom said.

The team will be working to progress and team leadership from the previous season where their losses outweighed their wins. Many of the team members were discouraged by their continuous losses, though, a change in leadership will effectively alter the style and direction of the boy's football team. "We want to be really positive and enthusiastic and we want to be great teammates," Landstrom said. Although an abundance

of seniors will be graduating this year, Landstrom hopes to continue the strength of the team. He hopes to regain the previous football reputation of "Champ high." For years, Central reigned supreme in football and basketball, with the return of coaches and new head coaches, Central could be headed toward a few successful seasons.

Only a limited pool of people were allowed to look over the applications including Luke Dillon. "I just had myself and two others on the panel from our staff at school to do the interviews," Dillon said. "I think he's got a really good plan in place and he's got a really positive vibe." As the previous special team's coordinator, Landstrom is familiar with focusing on specific aspects of the team. Only now, will he be working on the football team aspect overall.

"It seemed like he was really prepared... to fix things and make adjustments with the program" Dillon said. Landstrom has always been in the background of the team's operations, but he is finally getting his chance to step into the spotlight.

Now, he hopes to make a statement; given that he has been granted with the opportunity to be head coach.

The deciding committee weighed their options with the new head coach. Their priority in place was to ensure that the same problems from this year wouldn't occur in the future, "I really had to look at the process," Dillon said. "One of the things I did for myself is I went to an athletic director's clinic." An informed decision was made to hire Landstrom who hopes to, "Bring a team who represents central high, not only the community, but who the students and the faculty can get behind."

A new season and new school year will bring something different to the table for varsity football. The juniors and sophomores on the team are looking forward to new leadership under coach Landstrom and working on their individual and team skills.

Girls' soccer team undergoes changes, hopes for state

| Carlson Koch staff writer

With spring sports soon beginning, spirits for different teams are rising but for the girls' soccer team, it is their expectations that have risen.

"I think every year our expectation is to make it to the district championship and then to state," said Assistant Coach Casey Denton. To make it to the championship, the girls must be undefeated in the district tournament before playing in the championship and a chance for state.

"Last year was a transformational year, we made it back to the district championship

for the first time since I was a senior in high school," said Denton. The year that Denton was a senior was also the first time the girls' team had made it to a state game.

On sport teams, leaders generally help keep the team organized and focused on their ultimate goal of winning no matter the deficit or challenge the team is faced with. "Our junior class includes some of the most traditional leaders in a sense with Carlee Thompson and Marisa Perez," Denton said.

"I remind them [the team] that we are there to work hard but to also have fun," said Thompson "I really want to work on connecting with everyone and creating that family like attitude." Teams that work together

and rely on one another's abilities generally compete a higher level. Thompson has played soccer since she was five and has had many colleges talking to her about playing at a higher level after high school.

"The head coach is incredible, Jose Vargas," said Denton, "he knows the game of soccer and is also the Head Director for Gretna Soccer." Vargas has helped many girls sign to play college in soccer with the connections he has.

"Focusing on the expectations we have set for ourselves and achieve them," said Denton, is the way that the soccer team will make it to state since Denton's senior year team did. Often, when teams lose focus on their main

goal and lose unexpected games to underdogs, so Denton has made it a priority to keep the big picture in mind.

"We have been the best of the bottom tier schools, and last year was the year where we worked our way into the elite schools," said Denton, "where we are a competitor, but still an underdog." Teams like Marian and Millard West dominate Class A soccer, but with the coaching of Vargas and Denton, the team hopes to improve from last years appearance at the district championship and continue to state.



From left to right, Brenden Andersen, DeShawn Dial, Kendall Bonam, Danell Bonam and Jakob Cimino participated in a ceremony to honor their commitment to Midwest area colleges for their achievements in baseball, football and soccer. **ZOIA MORROW | The Register**

Five students commit to continue athletic careers in college

Coaches, families and friends honored five seniors in a short ceremony on Feb. 7 for their exemplary academic and athletic performances throughout their high school careers. Each student signed to commit to colleges around the Midwest.



KENDALL BONAM
SOCCER

Missouri Western State University



DANELL BONAM
SOCCER

Missouri Western State University

Sydney Prescott staff writer

"I played three sports- track, basketball, and soccer -but soccer's the one I stuck with," said Kendall Bonam, a senior who was signed by Missouri Western for her sports prowess. She signed with her mother on February 9th.

Originally founded in 1915, Missouri Western is around two hours away from Central, has a griffin mascot, and is in the NCAA Division II. "They have big old huge brown buildings, and indoor soccer, field, and the athlete dorms have their own bathroom and fit four people," Bonam says. The other reason she chose MWSU was because of Chick-Fil-A. "Every college I went to, I made sure that there was a Chick-Fil-A, or I wouldn't go."

To get to the level of being signed by a college, Kendall has been working for a long time. She does weight training on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. She also does an hour practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays that last till 10 at night. With all the extra training, school practice, and traveling, Bonam has a lot on her plate. "The hardest part is missing school, coming back, then getting on top of the homework, and remembering to turn

it."

Some may ask how Bonam is able to deal with senioritis, sports, extra practice, school, and work; but her inspiration comes from her sister Jordyn, who passed away six years ago for Pontine Glioma when she was 11. This is a rare brain tumor that affects 300 children in the U.S. each year with a two percent survival rate. "I don't want to let her down," Bonam says, "She just pushes me to do better. I wear a picture of my sister every day, and if I don't wear this, things go bad."

Her sister has also influences her desires for life after college. Just like Danell, she wants to help people. "I either want to be a pediatrician because I love working with kids and I used to work at a daycare, or a physical therapist because my sister did physical therapy when she couldn't walk. I want to help people gain their mobility back."

Kendall has worked hard and found a college, but she thinks that anyone can achieve that, with hard work, the right motivation, and a positive mindset. To JV athletes, she says, "Don't settle for less, keep working hard, push yourself, and don't stop loving your sport. Hard work pays off."

Jackson Godwin staff writer

As the temperature begins to change, soccer season is coming into full effect. The girls soccer team is hoping for a productive, season with both senior leaders and younger talent. One player specifically looking forward to the season is senior Danell Bonam. As she gets ready for her last season she is not only preparing for this season but her college future as well.

Bonam is preparing for what her future holds in college as she has committed to Missouri Western State. Although she has already committed for college, there is a lot still left in high school she would like to accomplish. "I want to be an all-around player and play in other positions hopefully," Danell said. Danell she provides a great sense of leadership to the team and a level of maturity for the younger players to learn from. Danell shows a great amount of effort in every practice and wants to play the game in a way that other players look up to.

As Danell grew up, she knew playing soccer was something she wanted to do all throughout her life. "I knew when I was in elementary school," Danell said. Even with

her great skills as a player, Danell does not believe she could do this all on her own. "My other teammates [deserve credit] as well because we all work equally hard and we wouldn't be the team we are today if we didn't," Danell said.

What many soccer players do to stay in shape when the school season isn't in effect is play on a club team to keep in shape and stay at a high level. Along with playing for Central, Danell also has favorite club teams to watch. "My soccer team Gretna Prime and my younger team," Danell said. Not only does watching other teams help find people to look up to but also helps her to learn new things.

Danell looks forward to her future at Western Missouri and hopes to succeed at in her last year of high school but in college as well. With what skills she offers on and off the field, she wants to positively influence younger players on the team to be the best they can be in order to reach their goals.



DeSHAWN DIAL

FOOTBALL
Simpson College

Maddie Grabow
staff writer

DeShawn Dial has dedicated the past 10 years of his life to football. He began his high school career at Omaha North in 2014, but transferred to Omaha Central in 2016. He recently committed and signed to playing football at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa and plans to major in sports broadcasting. "I've always known I wanted to play college football," said Dial "I never really thought about playing in the NFL but I knew I wanted to play in college because to me, it's way more exciting."

At Omaha Central, Dial had 16 solo tackles, 23 total tackles and an average of 3.3 tackles per game as a safety (maxpreps.com). The biggest challenge Dial has faced as a student athlete is "having the motivation to do homework. After practices it's hard to be motivated to do homework, especially my junior year because I had class until 3:05."

Historically Omaha North has a consistently strong football team, but Dial says that one isn't necessarily better than the other. "Central has gone through a lot of changes in the two years that I've been here" Dial said. "It's hard to get something established when things are constantly changing." Since Coach Jay Ball retired in 2017, the program at Omaha Central has been somewhat unstable. The team's struggle to find a new head coach that's the right fit contributed to a 0-9 season last fall.

However, Dial credits the football program at Omaha Central for giving him self-confidence. "Even though we lost a lot in the two years that I was here, I still as a player became more confident in the way I play. In college it's all about confidence. If you don't trust yourself then your coaches won't trust you."



BRENDEN ANDERSEN

BASEBALL
Garden City Community College

Anne Gallagher
staff writer

In order to pursue his passion for baseball and law enforcement, Brenden Andersen signed his commitment to Garden City Community College in Kansas along with the four other seniors who paved their paths on National Signing Day. Andersen has been a baseball player for most of his life, starting at just four-years-old.

Over the years, Andersen has stayed passionate for the sport. As a child he played for little league clubs such as Suburban and Keystone and has advanced his skill from there. He has been starting catcher on varsity for all four years of high school and is anxious for this year's season to begin. Andersen has always dreamed of pursuing his enthusiasm for baseball in college; now he is slowly becoming closer to the time when he can finally take his skills to a professional level.

Attending Central has also been a major influence on his dream to follow baseball. The coaching staff has taught Andersen and helped him grow as an athlete throughout his high school tenure. "Some of the coaches here have really inspired me, especially Coach Williams," Andersen said. Corbin Williams is a business and finance teacher, baseball coach and sponsor of Central's Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "He's pushed me to try my hardest and be a leader and a role model," Andersen said.

From little league to college, Andersen has known that baseball was something that he wanted to be a part of his life for as long as possible. Signing to Garden City only solidified his dedication to his future. "It's a really good baseball school and they have one of the best criminal justice programs," Andersen said. The decision to continue playing baseball came easily to him and attending Garden City seemed like a perfect option for him. "I just found a passion for it," Andersen said, "I want to keep playing for as long as I can."

Although he has enjoyed his time in high school, he is looking forward to his future at Garden City, "I'm so excited to leave and to be out on my own," Andersen said. Playing baseball throughout his entire life has molded Andersen's character and helped him to become who he is today. "I think baseball teaches you a lot about discipline," Andersen said. "It's just a better way to live your life."



JAKOB CIMINO

FOOTBALL
Midland University

Simret Habte
staff writer

Jakob Cimino is a senior who has been playing football since he was in the fourth grade. His main position on the team is center, although this year, Cimino played in multiple positions on both sides of the line of scrimmage. He is also a part of the powerlifting and track team. Jakob recently decided to sign with Midland University to play on their football team. He chose Midland because, "overall it's a good school and they're closer to home." His family is extremely supportive of his decision to go to Midland, especially because he feels so comfortable with that school.

Cimino says he's always planned on playing football after high school and into college but doesn't think he will continue to play after college. He plans on majoring in sports management and marketing at Midland. After graduating from Midland, he'd like to go into management or advertisement for a company. He is looking forward to the classes at Midland and feels very comfortable in his decision to attend school there.

He wants to especially thank his parents who supported him and gave him many opportunities. He is also thankful to Coach Dennis Baker and Matthew Storm who he credits for helping him to improve his abilities throughout his four years at Central. Cimino also said he'd like to thank Kristina, "my number one supporter, she was always there to wish me luck and pick me up in the difficult times and I'm super thankful for everything she has done for me."

Football has had a great impact on Cimino's life. It taught him, "most importantly how to be a leader in any type of situation and that hard work always pays off." Cimino says he'll miss getting ready for game day and having fun with his team. Although he will miss Central, he is extremely excited about playing football at Midland with his new team.



KENDALL & DANELL BONAM



JAKOB CIMINO



BRENDEN ANDERSEN



DeSHAWN DIAL



MOLLY HUIBREGTSE | The O-Book



ALEC ROME | The Register

LEFT: Central High Polar Plunge Club smiles before entering the freezing water. RIGHT: English teacher Jared Ganley stands with his son, Finnegan following his interview with KETV News.

Polar plunge club tackles the cold head-on, raises awareness

Alec Rome
staff writer

It takes intestinal fortitude to run into freezing cold water on a Saturday where temperatures crept into the single digits.

Members of the CHS Polar Plunge Club tried to find that strength as they waded through the waters of Lake Cunningham, all to help raise money for Special Olympics Nebraska. The group's adult supervisor, Carrie Joseph, took her first plunge with the team. Her daughter, Charlie, has Down Syndrome and benefits from the program. She will participate in Special Olympics bowling and swimming this year.

Joseph found it to be a no-brainer to participate in the event. "This is the first year [Charlie] is in the Special Olympics, and she's really enjoying it," Joseph said. "For me, why wouldn't I do it?"

English teachers Molly Mahannah and Jared Ganley

joined Joseph along with other Central students. Mahannah was a little reserved but excited before the big moment. "I think I'm regretting my choices," she said with a laugh. "But I'm excited to see what the kids do."

Cassandra Willey, who plunged for her third year, was the team captain. This experience was unique compared to the times she plunged in middle school, besides the fact it was extremely cold. "The main thing that was different is doing it with a team that you know," Willey said. "I got to know a lot of the teammates in it."

As Joseph and the team made it down the hill, the nerves started to set in. Joseph was trying not to focus on the fact she was going to jump into a lake that required a piece of the thick cover of ice to be cut out. "If I think about it, I'm going to go home. I'm just going to run in the water as fast as I can, then run out," Joseph said.

After lots of groups with crazy costumes plunged -- some chose not to wear shirts -- the team quickly ran through the

water to touch a mannequin, held by a member of the Yutan Fire Department. That made the plunge "official." Some members of the CHS team screamed, others were calm, cool and collected.

Joseph enjoyed the plunge, and surprisingly did not think it was that excruciating. "It was so cold, I felt nothing." She hopes the team can raise even more than the \$3,000 they did for Special Olympics Nebraska this year.

Willey had one simple piece of advice for those wanting to try the feat next year. "It's cold, so be prepared for that," Willey said. "It's open to everyone and there are no exclusions."

Along the same lines, Joseph advised people to "just do it." Quickly after she said that, Joseph and the team hurried back to the warmth of their cars. They got cold and were bold enough for one day.

Slow start to boys soccer, physical makeup to qualify for state

Ari Saltzman
staff writer

This spring, the boys' soccer team will look improve off of a disappointing end to last season, falling 1-0 in the district final to Kearney. This year, the Eagles return nearly all of their major contributors from last season. "By the end of the year, we were starting five freshmen, and four juniors and sophomores," head coach Peter Pham said.

"We got some young competitors, I do not think they know how good they can be yet," Pham said. He hopes that he can help develop some of the players, but knows, "if everything was based on potential, every team would be #1 in the state." He continued by saying, "They just have to work hard, [the] last week and a half we have had over 50 kids for conditioning and you just have to work hard in the offseason."

Central started off 0-2 last year, but then rattled off six wins in a row. After that, the Eagles would drop four of their next five games, before snapping a four-game winning streak in the

loss at Kearney to close the year at 11-7. The Eagles scored 34 goals last season, good for 1.89 goals per match. They gave up 26 goals, that is good for 1.44 goals per match. Current junior Victor Hugo Cruz Perez led the team in scoring with seven goals. The top four scorers from last year are all returning in favor of the Eagles. None of them will be seniors this year, and two are current sophomores. The same could be said for the four players who put the most shots on goal, except three are current sophomores. This certainly will be a very young team.

Pham said, "Soccer is kind of a feel game sometimes, where you just have to play, you have to get to know the other players, we have a year of that under our belt, a half season last semester, and hopefully we can kind of improve on what we did last semester." He continued by saying, "I think we have the physical makeup to make it to state, but there is also a mental aspect to it. We still have a lot of young kids playing, and that just takes a little time to get to that point. I think we have a chance to be a pretty good team if we put everything in place."

Increase in players for upcoming girls track and field season, high hopes

Carlson Koch
staff writer

The girls track and field team plans to out-run and out-throw their opponents in hopes to send more girls to the Nebraska State Track Championships as their season opens. Out of the eight girls that qualified for State from Central last year, five of those girls will be returning to train and run faster in competitions in preparation for State. Annually hosted at Burke, The NSAA Track and Field Championships is the largest high school track meet in Nebraska.

With runners returning who last year qualified at the State track meet, Head Coach, Trent Lodge looks forward to a successful season and improved performances from last year. This is Lodge's twentieth year as a coach for Central's track and field team. Lodge pushes his girls to train in the preseason in the similar ways way they are primed for the regular season. The spring sport began its practice on February 26th, for track, Lodge conditions to, "Get the girls into shape, to prevent injuries we do a lot of cardio and core workouts," he said.

Lodge said, "We have a lot of new team members this year, we look to improve on last years' performances and try

to qualify as many girls as we can for the state meet." A newly acquired team compared to a team full of upperclassmen gives runners and throwers advantages to become more developed, which means that in two years the team could potentially be better than they are now. Like any sport, practice is a necessity for performing well, and the same rings true for track and

We look to improve on last years' performances and try to qualify as many girls as we can for the state meet.

TRENT LODGE
Head Coach

field, "They have to show up to practice every day, they have to work hard every day, compete against each other, and put out the best performance that they can at meets," Lodge said.

Track and field requires all parts of the team to perform well in order for the team to win. A team that has one strength will not win because the team includes each race or throwing event. "Our distance girls have done really well the past couple years, but we need to focus on field events, the jumps, sprints

and throws," Lodge said.

With track having different specialties for events, keeping the team together as a whole becomes more difficult than a sport which requires players to mostly have the same skill set. We try to keep the team as a whole but it is hard," Lodge said, "but each group such as throwers and runners have their own community with leaders who do a great job."

"I loved running track in high school, and it is not one that gets a lot of publicity," said Lodge. Other than the state track meet, most competitions do not have bleachers packed full of spectators. "I don't try and micromanage, I try to get people who can coach and do well," said Lodge. By doing this, he places a lot of trust in the assistant coaches to do their jobs well by providing the sort of support and technical assistance that runners need to improve. With 75 girls currently signed up for track, there are more girls committed to track than last year. Because of this, Lodge believes that the team could succeed and qualify more girls for the State meet than last year.

"If anyone has any interest in track they should try-out," Lodge said, "It is a great sport with a good group of students."

Positive atmosphere in girls swimming contributes to success

Maddie Grabow
staff writer

Central girls swimming is close to being finished for the 2017-2018 school year, as varsity completed the season with the Metropolitan Conference Championship Feb. 8-10 and the NSAA State Championship on February 22. So far, the team has achieved first place twice and second place twice in various invites and one other regular season win. The team has worked hard this season and is expecting to do well at these final two meets. Central's swim team is well-known and respected throughout the Omaha Metropolitan area and has a reputation of being a close-knit group of student athletes and coaches.

Central's swim team usually has a team bonding event before every meet. "I think they help mainly because we have a

stronger connection and better support system overall in meets," sophomore Lauren Anderson said. "It's easier to swim events you're nervous about when you have friends cheering you on." Rather than splitting JV and varsity the two teams combine for these events.

"It helps us feel more like one team, not JV and varsity," junior Kenna Grau said. The result of this dedication to team bonding results in strong relationships between team members with an overall family-like atmosphere surrounding the team. "My favorite part of swim team isn't even the actual swimming part, but going to meets and being able to hang out with amazing people and cheering each other on during races. By the end of the season, we become a family," junior Chloe Jones said.

Being a swimmer in high school comes with a lot of commitment and requires a

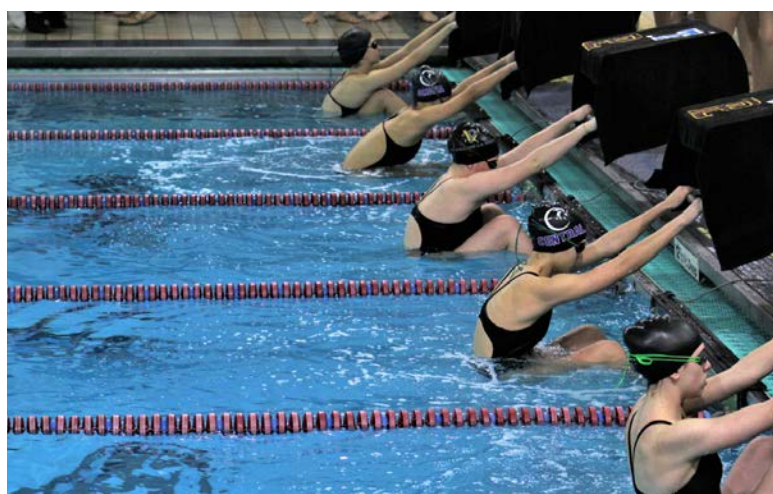
lot of time and energy. Conditioning for this swim season began toward the end of October and the final meet of the season occurred in February. "The hardest part of being a student athlete is that it's difficult to take honors and AP classes while balancing morning, evening, and dryland practices," junior Alison Doody said.

Central's swimmers usually don't leave practice until 7 p.m. during the week; which can make managing time challenging depending on other commitments and obligations a student athlete may have. "Being a student athlete is very rewarding but very exhausting as well," Grau said. "I don't go to bed until around 11:30 p.m. which is hard especially since I don't have the weekend to sleep in most of the time due to meets and having a job."

Although being a part of the Central swim team is a major devotion of time and

effort, it has taught some members of the girls' team some valuable life lessons. "I used to be terrified of failure and just not being good enough. It's kind of difficult to not accept that when you're starting a new sport" Anderson said. "Realizing that I didn't have to be perfect in swim made me recognize how applicable that is to other areas of my life."

Anderson originally joined the team to stay in shape in between cross country and track season but found herself truly enjoying the sport and pushing herself to improve her skills. "[Swimming] has helped me learn to prioritize and realize that sleep and food are ultimately the most important things in my life" Jones said, "It has taught me the importance of dedication and perseverance that can apply to anything in your life that you're putting time and effort into to succeed in."



EMMA NIELAND | The O-Book

left: Senior Jessi Ferguson gives herself confidence boosts during an important swim meet. above center: Girls swim team poses for the camera after coming in third place. bottom center: Central's girls swim team competes twice in one category, awaiting their marks to begin swimming. right: Chloe Jones, junior, stretches while she waits for her partner to return to base.

Swim team gains a dedicated fan, a source of motivation

Kaitlyn Engel
staff writer

When winter sports come to mind, basketball and wrestling are typically the first ones Central fans may think of. For Bryn Hansen, she is giving recognition to one of the less-publicized winter sports -- swimming. "I've been to all of the swim meets except three," she said.

Consisting of over twenty events, each meet can last for hours at a time, but Hansen has a reason for supporting the swim team so enthusiastically. She goes to support her friends in addition to the genuine enjoyment she experiences from watching her peers compete. "I actually enjoy watching it," Hansen said. "A lot of people will say, 'How do you do it? Swim meets are so boring,' but I actually enjoy watching the meets."

This type of dedication to the swim team is customarily only shown by relatives of swimmers, which makes

Hansen a rarity. But her support is not unrecognized. "It's kind of fun to see someone that is not related to a swimmer or a parent of a swimmer show up," varsity swim coach and biology teacher Kristoff Berzins said. "She just randomly showed up at the first meet."

Hansen's appearances do not go unnoticed by the swimmers in the pool. With her presence, the swimmers tend to swim slightly quicker. "I think that they like having someone to show off for," Berzins said. "It really motivates them." This encouragement is reflected in the swim team's exceptional success this year. The boys team won the Lewis Central invite and the girls came in third place.

Additionally, many swimmers are expected to swim at state. Christina Spomer, a freshman on the team, received an automatic qualification. Many others are expected to qualify at the Metro Conference Meet.

But when swimmers do not perform at their best, Hansen tries to be a beacon of light and positivity to the swim-

mers. "I think from their parents and coaches they receive a lot of criticism, and I try to be a more positive voice for them," Hansen said.

With countless other events happening this time of year, swimming is consistently overlooked by the student body. "At this time of the year, I think everyone's into basketball," Hansen said. "Swimming just isn't talked about."

Though, Hansen's impact on the team is not overlooked by the coaches. "I always joke with the team that we finally have our first fan," Berzins said.

While the swim team hopes for more true fans in the future, they are starting to form some semblance of a fan base.

"I hope [that more start coming]," Berzins said. "Until then, I know Bryn will be there."

Nebraska AD successful

Ari Saltzman
staff writer

The night of Oct. 14 was not a good one for Nebraska Athletics. Only one of Nebraska's six major sports, volleyball, men's and women's basketball, football, baseball and softball, were performing anywhere near their regular standards.

As the Nebraska vs. Ohio State football game was winding down in front of about 80,000 empty seats and 10,000 fans at Memorial Stadium, the fall of a once proud athletic department was obvious. As the clock finally hit triple zeroes, the scoreboard read Ohio State 56, Nebraska 14. The Buckeyes were leading 35-0 at halftime. The loss dropped Nebraska's record to 3-4. To the east, in West Lafayette, the Nebraska Volleyball team was coming off their 4th loss of the year with a 3-1 win over Purdue to improve their overall record to 18-4. The Volleyball team was considered a 3 or 4 seed in the NCAA Tournament, while the football team was considered one of the worst the school has fielded in over 50 years.

On the hardwood, both of the basketball teams were getting ready for 2017-18 campaign. Both squads did not have high expectations for the year. The Men were coming off of a dismal 12-19 season, where coach Tim Miles barely kept his job after his fifth season, while the women were even worse at 8-22 in coach Amy Williams' first season. The only bright spot was on the diamond where the baseball team was coming off a Big Ten regular season title. But Darin Erstad's crew did have a disappointing 2 and Q exit in the NCAA Tournament. The softball team was coming off of a frustrating 30-30 campaign, just four years after a WCWS appearance.

The following day, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Ronnie Green named Bill Moos the new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Nebraska. Moos replaced Sean Eichorst who was fired on September 21, five days after Northern Illinois 21, Nebraska 17.

Eichorst had a tenacious 5 years in Lincoln. No longer wanting to play Black Friday Football, hiring Mike Riley, barely appearing in public, announcing Tim Miles' job would be retained via twitter, then never having a press conference, just to name a few.

The Huskers ended their dismal football season with another 56-14 home loss, this time to Iowa, to finish 4-8, their worst record since 1961. Riley was fired the next day, and Nebraska successfully lured Scott Frost to come home and away from UCF. The Huskers also operated one of the best searches of this years' coaching carousel. The transition was drama free, unlike the dumpster fire at Tennessee, uninspiring hires at Arizona State and Arkansas, and Florida who got their third choice.

As the year progressed the other programs also began to thrive. The Nebraska Volleyball season was supposed to be a rebuilding year. The Huskers did not lose after October 15 and won the national championship in a 3-1 win over Florida. On that same night the men's basketball team took the Kansas Jayhawks to the wire, falling in heartbreaking fashion 73-72 on a KU three in the waning seconds.

As the hoops season progressed both teams were getting progressively better. Amy Williams' squad was receiving votes in the Jan. 29 AP Poll. As of February 1, Williams was the front runner for Big Ten coach of the year and surging towards a berth in the NCAA Tournament. Tim Miles was also having a good run the conference play, and on February 1 was fourth in the Big Ten Standings at 17-8 and 8-4 in conference play. Miles squad was also in contention for a berth in the NCAA Tournament, what would be only the eighth tourney berth in school history.

As the baseball and softball seasons get under way, the entire athletic department is obviously thriving again, and Nebraska is winning again. It is not a coincidence a lot has changed of Oct. 15, Bill Moos has done a fantastic job thus far as Nebraska's AD.



Photo Courtesy of NATE THOMAS

Nick Saban greatest football coach, led many teams to championships

If you are an avid sports watcher or enjoy football you have heard of Nick Saban. Nick Saban is the head coach of the Alabama football team and is known as one of the greatest coaches in history. In Saban's nine years of coaching he has led the team to five national championships and an undefeated season with a spot waiting in the hall of fame.

Alabama was not the first major school that he coached for, prior to the crimson tide Nick Saban coached for Toledo, Michigan state, and LSU. He also had a few years of pro experience after being with the Miami Dolphins and Cleveland Browns. Saban has achieved more than any other coach at the university of Alabama and controversially the most achieved coach ever.

Before even becoming a head coach, Sa-

ban made his ends by being an assistant coach for colleges. That was until Toledo offered him a head coach opportunity; when he snagged it his career shot off from there. Within the next 20 years Nick Saban bounced from team to team including some in the National Football League (NFL) including four years coaching as an assistant behind Bill Belichick. Although the pro league wasn't fit for him following his return to college football he became successful.

Saban's first national championship came in 2003 after he led Louisiana state university to a 13-1 season and a victory in the Sugar Bowl against the Oklahoma Sooners. Following his job at LSU coach Saban accepted the job at the Miami Dolphins and coached them until taking the opening head coach job

at Alabama where most of his achievements are. In only Saban's third year as coach for the Crimson Tide, he had defeated the Texas Longhorns in the national championship making that his second national championship in his career.

Since his first national championship he has not let down, leading his team two a second championship in just three years in the 2011 season defeating Alabama's rival Auburn Tigers. In the following season Nick Saban once again led his team to a successful season and another championship beating Notre Dame making it back-to-back years for the Crimson Tide.

Overall, coach Nick Saban will go down as one if not the most successful coaches in NCAA history. Throughout the course of his

career he had his fair share of unsuccessful jobs, but as he continued he learned from the mistakes he made in his past to help him achieve his goal of becoming a winning coach. All in all, if one learns from their mistakes it will help them grow in the future.



JACKSON GODWIN

J G O D

SPORTS REPORT

Three writers give their opinions on relevant sports teams, figures and happenings.



Photo Courtesy of NATE THOMAS

Nebrasketball on a roll

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

It has been nearly five years since Nebraska basketball made it to the NCAA tournament. Finally, they have the potential to end this cycle and better than any previous, this team has the capacity to do this.

Though effort and defense has not been a problem with either coach Doc Sadler and Tim Miles, viable scoring options has been the consistent downfall of Nebraska basketball. Dissimilarly, this year's team possesses multiple scorers who could provide scoring outbursts on a given night.

James Palmer, a transfer from Miami, is undoubtedly the most valuable player on the team in terms of scoring. Palmer can get to the basket at any time and attracts the bulk of attention of the other team. As a result, if he is aggressive in taking the ball to the rim there are players on the perimeter open and this year unlike past, there are consistent shooters.

Throughout the 2017 season especially, Nebraska was plagued by a lack of shooters on the perimeter. Finally, however, the team is stacked with players unafraid to take and make open shots. Anton Gill has improved his jumper immensely. Thomas Allen and Glynn Watson are capable shooters and Isaiah Roby has improved his jump shot as well.

Isaac Copeland, another prominent transfer from Georgetown who debuted this year provides an alternative primary scoring option to that of Palmer. Cope-

land has an all-around game in that he can score from all three levels: three point shots, mid-range, and at the basket.

On the off nights of Palmer, Copeland is a player who can more than pick up the slack.

Throughout the Sadler and Miles' coaching eras, Nebraska has not had as many scoring options as they do this year. Even during the tournament appearance in 2014, Terran Petteway lead the team in scoring but another option who could create their own shot was missing. Finally, the team has multiple dominant scoring options, a good leader and distributor at the point guard spot with Glynn Watson and the same defensive intensity.

The only thing that this team is missing is a consistent post player. However, as shown throughout the game in previous years there is a shift away from the ideology that a dominant big man is necessary for success. Jordy Tschimanga is a big body who can defend the opposing post and grab rebounds. Furthermore, Roby has shown the ability to play the center position and pose a real problem for opposing teams who struggle to match up with his offensive versatility and athleticism.

Most analysts suggest that a 20-win regular season paired with a win in the Big Ten tournament would be enough to get them into the big dance. Considering their recent victories on the road at Wisconsin and a decisive win against a top 25 Michigan team they certainly have the capacity to reach this threshold.



REVIEW

As awards season makes its mark, staffers review best picture Oscar film nominees and upcoming superhero movies.

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REVIEWS PART 2

Continuing with reviews, staffers construct their opinions on original Netflix shows.

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ETHNIC FOODS

The Register staff reviews some of the ethnic foods found around Omaha, from German bakeries to exquisite Chinese.

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(IMPROV)ING THEIR CRAFT

Central's improv team has formed into a solid group and is winning awards while making it up as they go.



Photo Courtesy of LYDIA BAUM, BRIA GILMORE

left: Improv team members pose for a photo after their state competition. right: From left to right Bria Gilmore (junior), Romyn Petersen (senior), Riley Kessler (senior), Lauryn Niemants (senior), Lydia Baum (junior), and Lily Weak (junior) celebrate their team's win. Captain Riley Kessler holds a certificate of award from the International Thespian Society.

Simone Davis staff writer

It is no secret that Central has a very active and very talented performing arts department. The music and drama department have been around almost as long as the school, and their consistent winning of awards demonstrates their talent.

Improv Team is a group of performers who rehearse the skills of "improvisation" which is acting without a script. The team is usually given small details such as a location or a prop, and together they have to make a scene that makes sense and is entertaining for

the audience. This year, the Improv Team competed at the International Thespian Society in Lincoln. "ITS" is an educational honor society for students interested in drama and the performing arts. Both public and private schools are members or "troupe" of this society. Over 30 different schools from across the state were represented. After a weekend of competing, Central's team placed 1st. The Improv Team has six members and two alternates. Riley Kessler is the captain, with Bria Gilmore, Lydia Baum, Romyn Peterson, Henry Winseski, Lauryn Niemants as her teammates. The groups alternate is Lily Weak.

The team is probably doing well in competitions because of their joy in what they do.

"Being on Improv Team has definitely been the best part of my year so far," team member Baum says. Baum is one of three juniors on the team. Other team members agree. Junior Bria Gilmore states that state was "A great experience that really put me out of my comfort zone but allowed me to grow as a performer and have fun while doing it!"

At the International Thespian Society festival state competition, the team had to perform their Improv bits against other schools. The completion takes place yearly, with multiple schools in attendance. There is no time to plan anything out, which makes performing much more difficult. Throughout the competition, there are workshops where

students can learn and develop their skills. "The competition was really stressful because there nothing can be prepared, so you just have to hope you're funny enough and a strong enough team member to get through it," Baum says. To see Improv Team perform live in action, they will have a performance during the 2018 Roadshow. They feel that placing first in state has only strengthened their team, and they will keep progressing.

"If you need an autograph from a particular member of the team, just ask us, celebrity status is an adjustment," Baum says.

Literature, food among ways to celebrate black history month

- 1. Read Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's "I Have a Dream" speech
2. Play Mancala
3. Poems by African-American Writers

- 4. Support Black Owned Restaurants
5. Listen to Black Musicians

- 6. Go to a predominantly black church
7. Take a DNA Test



SYDNEY PRESCOTT RUN 'N READ

Top relaxing places to visit during spring break, includes hiking, water parks

Javier Lepes
staff writer

1. **Kansas City** speaks for itself because most of us already know what it offers, but to remind most of you guys Kansas City is filled with tons of things to do during your spring break. By being less than three hours away, it's not really too far of a drive to spend a week or a weekend for spring break. Famous for its barbecue and jazz you have a selection of restaurants that will not disappoint with their barbecue.

While you're there you can visit the American Jazz museum and learn about America's past in jazz music or the Negro Leagues museum which tells the past of the Negro Baseball Leagues which is located in downtown Kansas City.

2. Home of Arbor Day Farm, **Nebraska City** is a place where you get to learn about the city's history and along with America's past. The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center features exhibits on the plant, animal, and scientific discoveries of Lewis and Clark along with a Trail system. Arbor Day Farm features

historic barns, a market, and a soaring tree house with more than a day full of fun with a 72 tree filled acre at Arbor Lodge State historical park.

3. **Sioux Falls, South Dakota** is 2 hours and 39 minute drive away from Omaha, which is about the same amount of time that it takes to drive to Kansas City. Sioux Falls I would say is for more of a more relaxed type spring break to get away from that big city vibe like Kansas City and to go relax. At Falls park, you can view Big Sioux River which plunges from more than a hundred feet down over Pink Quartzite ledges.

You can also experience the 26 mile Big Sioux river recreation trails loops the entire city from the park. If 26 miles isn't enough walking for you, the sculpture walk feels like an outdoor art gallery that can add to your steps on your pedometer. While you're in Sioux City head to 8th Street on the East Bank where locally owned shops and restaurants are located, you can find regional art, vintage clothing, Turkish imports, and tons of fresh flowers.

4. **Fremont, Nebraska** doesn't seem appealing to many, but what many don't know is that Fremont is a great location for spring break. Water related activities is Fremont's biggest bid for a great getaway with the local "Splash Station" water park, "Bryson's Airboat Tour", and along with numerous recreational opportunities at the Fremont State Lakes.

For those who prefer to stay dry, there's many shopping opportunities at Downtown stores that also treats visitors a vibrant art and culture scene. Take a walk while at guided tour of the Fontanelle Orchard, a Toy Museum or you can even go ice skating at the Sidner Ice Arena.

5. If you love the hiking and the wilderness, **Ponca State Park** is where you should be during your spring break. With forested hills, scenic views it's a beautiful spot to go on Bird watching tours as in the spring, it's a layover spot for many migrating birds. The park also offers comfortable lodging and unique events which has made the State Park a popular destination.



Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Top three recipes to use during parties, easy to cook, tasty



Photo Courtesy of REAL HOUSEMOMS.COM



Photo Courtesy of CAKESCOTTAGE.COM



Sydney Prescott
staff writer

ITALIAN CHICKEN

Although it requires some time to cook, it is a very easily prepared meal that comes across as being fancy and delicious. Serves 6.

Ingredients:

6 skinless and boneless chicken breasts
One bottle Italian- Style Dressing

Directions:

1. Cut Chicken Breasts in half
2. Pour dressing in a bag, put breasts in, marinate in the fridge for an hour or overnight
3. Set the oven to 350 degrees
4. Remove chicken, throw out bag with remaining dressing, and put on a baking dish
5. Bake for 1 hour until cooked completely through

APPLE PIE BITES

One of the easiest snacks I have ever made. With a prep time of 5 minutes and a cook time of 10, this dish is great for an afternoon snack or a last-minute party favor. Serves 16

Ingredients:

2 Cans of Apple Pie Filling
2 Crescent Roll Packages
Cinnamon
Sugar
4 Tablespoons of butter, melted

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375
2. Take out two cookie pans
3. Roll out the crescent rolls on the pan
4. Brush melted butter on the rolls
5. Mix cinnamon and sugar, sprinkle on rolls
6. Distribute apple pie filling evenly on each roll
7. Roll up
8. Bake for 8 minutes

BACON & CHEESE

Wonderfully quick and easy and a tasty appetizer. Baked with everyone's favorite ingredients - cheese, butter and bacon. Serves 24.

Ingredients

No-Stick cooking spray
½ cup sour cream
1 tablespoon water
1 cup pancake mix (just add water type)
1/3 cup of bacon, crumbled
1.2 cup of shredded cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons of butter, melted

Directions

1. Pre-heat oven to 400 degrees
2. Stir water and sour cream together
3. Add in cheese, bacon, and the pancake mix
4. Stir just until moistened
5. Create 24 little balls and put on cookie sheet
6. Bake for 10-12 minutes
7. Brush with melted butter



2018 to be a strong year for new films

Kaitlyn Engel
staff writer

Ehrenreich playing young Solo, Star Wars fans are bound to be delighted by this backstory.

Last year, moviegoers were blessed with a range of spectacular movies, from stunning sequels to captivating dramas, with only a couple true flops. Luckily, the movies appearing in 2018 are set to dazzle audiences.

Dramas Galore

Like last year, 2018 will be filled with stunning dramas that feature Hollywood's biggest stars.

The Post (January 12)

Directed by Stephen Spielberg, this true-story drama explains the rise of the Washington Post through its part in the 1971 Pentagon Papers. Meryl Streep plays Katherine Graham, the publisher of the Post through some of the nation's most famous scandals. Co-starring with Streep is Tom Hanks, who plays Ben Bradlee, the editor of the Post during the Pentagon Papers and oversaw the publication of the Watergate Scandal. With the sheer star power, *The Post* is destined to be one of the great dramas of this year.

Red Sparrow (March 2)

An espionage drama with Jennifer Lawrence playing a seductress spy for the Russians. Based on the novel by Jason Matthews, this graphically violent film shows Lawrence trying to seduce a CIA agent during the Cold War era.

Exciting Sequels

Sequels will also reign supreme this year. Franchises will satisfy their fans by releasing much-desired continuations with star-studded casts.

Maze Runner: The Death Cure (January 26)

In the final part of the Maze Runner saga, the Gladers must break into the Last City to get their questions about the maze answered. This action-packed finale to the dystopian series is set to stun fans.

Solo: A Star Wars Story (May 25)

While not entirely a sequel, this continuation of the Star Wars franchise shows the origin of Hans Solo before he became the Rebellion icon that fans have come to love. With Alden

Animated Stunners

2017 was a rather lackluster year for animated movies, but in 2018, there will be countless instant classics on the animated front

Early Man (February 16)

From the same creators as Wallace and Gromit comes another Claymation film. The plot follows a tribe of Stone Age humans and their battle with people from the Bronze Age. With Tom Hiddleston voicing the villain, it is bound to amuse both young and old.

Incredibles 2 (June 15)

A sequel to the Pixar classic, *Incredibles 2* is set to satisfy kids and kids at heart alike. Following the plot of the original, Mr. Incredible is watching the developing Jack-Jack (the youngest Incredible) while Elastagirl is out saving the world. With much of the original cast returning, it is set to be a fantastic sequel.

Film Flops

These movies are predestined to fail, as their predecessors did. The real question is: why are they being made?

Fifty Shades Freed (February 9)

The third film in the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series is destined to turn out much like the novel was- for bored housewives. It explores Anastasia's jealousy and her new life with husband Christian Grey. It is a miracle that it was allowed to be produced after the lackluster finish of the two previous installments.

Pacific Rim Uprising (March 23)

A sequel to *Pacific Rim*, *Pacific Rim Uprising* uses Transformers-like machines to combat alien monsters. In the sequel, there is a new uprising of monsters that the characters must use machines to combat in order to save the fate of humanity. The first film was an enormous flop, and the second one will probably be no different.

Noticeably Marvel Movies have been left off this list due to their appearance in another article. For the complete 2018 Marvel lineup, go to our website, omahacentralregister.com.



ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ | Contributing Graphic Artist

Coming of age shows similar through decades

Simret Habte
staff writer

A *Different World* and *Grown-ish* are two shows that try to depict the realities of college life in their respective decades. In comparison, the shows have many differences, but relate in their obvious similarities and it happens to be what puts these shows in their own untouchable category. These are seen in the very first episodes of both shows.

A *Different World* premiered in September 1987. It was a spin-off of the extremely successful comedy, *The Cosby Show*. It was centered around the second oldest daughter of the Huxtable family, Denise. The show followed her into her second year of college at the fictional Historically Black College/University, Hillman College. The plot of the first episode shows Denise moving into her new room at Hillman with a new roommate, Jaleesa. As she moves in she hears some rumors about Jaleesa. Unfortunately, Denise allows these rumors to mess up

her first few interactions with Jaleesa. Throughout the episode, Denise must work through her preconceptions of her new roommate to be able to have a good relationship with her.

Grown-ish, like *A different world*, is a spin-off of the show *Black-ish*. Its first episode premiered recently on Jan. 8. It is based on the adventures of the oldest child in the Johnson family at the fictional California University of Liberal Arts. The first episode of *Grown-ish* brings up a lot of controversial topics such as underage drinking and political movements like black lives matter. The main plot of the episode focuses on how each of the six students stuck in a late night class got there. Zoey had to register for that class because she missed early registration trying to avoid her roommate. She had left her roommate Ana a party after she had drank a little too much. She confided in her classmate and they helped her to find a way to reconcile with her roommate.

A *Different World* was created

by Bill Cosby. He has always been an outspoken supporter of respectability policies. Kenya Barris, the creator of *Grown-ish*, doesn't share the same opinions. Their personal feelings are reflected in the first episodes of both shows. A *Different World* has lighter comedy that doesn't really touch on anything too deep. *Grown-ish* on the other hand starts the show by introducing controversial topics that are made lighter with comedy.

A *different world* was an iconic show for teenagers of the 80s. It represented a bright future for those who hadn't been able to see themselves have that in the past. It's clear to see that *Grown-ish* has been influenced by *A Different World*, but it will make its own name and be a source of inspiration for a bright future for the kids of the current generation. Both *A Different World* and *Grown-ish* are important shows that have had and will continue to have a significant cultural impact.



Cast of NBC's *A Different World* Photo Courtesy of AMAZON



Cast of Freeform's *Grown-ish* Photo Courtesy of FREEFORM

FILMS & T.V. in review

STAR WARS VIII

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
staff writer

Star Wars Episode VIII was the most anticipated film of 2017, excitement for this film was huge and fans of Star Wars were most excited of all, forming theories and working themselves into a panic before the film's release. Then all of their theories turned out to be wrong and they hated the film for it and for "betraying" the concept of Star Wars. These fans are unreasonable and arrogant as Star Wars VIII is far from a bad film.

Let's start with the film's numerous strengths. The film features fantastic performances from every single actor, especially those from Adam Driver as Kylo Ren, Daisy Ridley as Rey and Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker. In addition to the performances, the way that the film explores certain themes through individual characters is creative and engaging, Luke Skywalker's character explores the themes of regret and of the effects of legend, Rey's character explores the theme of the destructiveness information can have on a person as she seeks teaching from Luke and the identity of her parents, the theme of learning from one's mistakes are explored by the character of Poe Dameron and Finn.

Certain plot points also add depth to the relatively shallow world of "Star Wars," with the Force's abilities and meaning being explored and a mythos being added to the world by the surroundings on the planet Luke Skywalker secluded himself on. The opening of the film is filled with kinetic energy as it opens with a brilliant action set piece in the form of an energetic and fast paced space battle, filled with the dog fights and action "Star Wars" has been known for since it first debuted in 1977. The film is also filled with just plain cool moments that make the audience look at the screen in awe as they happen.

The action of the film is fantastic and engaging, though sometimes emotionally hollow. The final confrontation between the villain Kylo Ren and Luke Skywalker is an emotional one and gives closure to the regrets felt by Luke earlier in the film. This is also by far the most creative Star Wars film since 1980, with completely different concepts being focused on and new visuals replacing the classic visuals of past Star Wars films.

The Last Jedi also features truly incredible special effects that help elevate the film's story and breathe life into the film, but even the special effects are outshined by the brilliant directing from Rian Johnson and the gorgeous cinematography from Steve Yedlin.

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THE POST

Mac O'Brien
staff writer

The Post is a historical drama set in 1971 when the Pentagon Papers were leaked to major news outlets by Daniel Ellsberg (played by Matthew Rhys). The papers included information that starkly contrasted the public statements made by government officials about the Vietnam Conflict — that which spanned throughout the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations. The government knew that the war was essentially unwinnable but chose to persist and prolong the conflict in order to avoid the humiliation of an American defeat.

"In every respect, we're making progress," Robert McNamara (Bruce Greenwood) announces to the press waiting on the tarmac. But having just heard McNamara in an earlier scene lamenting the stagnancy of the war, the audience knows otherwise. They know that this is a brazen, bald-faced lie. Steven Spielberg's *The Post* pays homage to members of the press who exposed this and other lies and kept the government in check in the face of Presidential opposition.

After the Nixon administration prevented *The New York Times* from publishing any additional details, the papers fall into the possession of *The Washington Post*, which was a modest local paper

at the time. Katherine Graham (Meryl Streep), who was the sole proprietor of *The Washington Post*, is then left with a decision: should she publish the papers and risk incarceration and the loss of her company or simply allow the Nixon administration to continue to suppress the media?

Graham's ultimate decision is no secret, so the movie faces the challenge of establishing tension without relying on surprising the audience. The *Post* wholly accomplishes this thanks to Meryl Streep's admirable performance. Streep is able to convincingly portray Graham's outward struggle of dealing with people who don't think she can effectively run the newspaper because she's a woman as well as her inner struggle of coming to terms with her responsibility as a member of the media.

Tom Hanks plays *The Washington Post's* tenacious editor Bill Bradlee, who is determined both to compete with other newspapers and protect the right to publish. His character is impatient and arrogant, but his passion instantly draws the audience's respect and sympathy. Although his performance is slightly overshadowed by Jason Robards, who played Bradlee in the classic *All the President's Men*, his intensity effectively drives the film.

The Post is a thrilling film from start to finish that benefits from the modern political backdrop of a presidential administration that has gone to war with the press.

BLACK PANTHER

Zoia Morrow
executive editor

Within the fictional realm of Black Panther's Wakanda and the intertwined scenes of international famous cities, Black Panther has made its mark on the world and earned itself a top rank in Marvel's Cinematic Universe.

Black Panther tells the story of T'Challa and his kingdom, Wakanda. Located in Africa, Wakanda is the greatest place on Earth. Untouched by colonialism and possessing the most powerful metal, Wakanda is full of strong women and an even better hierarchy. In the movie, Wakanda was underlyingly compared to other nations that don't stand a chance. It possesses technology beyond the small minds of first-world nations. With the help of Princess Shuri, Wakanda is able to heal bullet wounds in one day and Black Panther can ride on top of cars in Asia through a hologram back home.

Essentially, Black Panther is the movie everyone has been waiting for without realizing it. From the cinematography to the several messages instituted to pick a stance in the world's current political climate. To the acting, Black Panther was executed in a way where people will talk about it for years to come. The overwhelming part, though, is it is a movie for everyone. Children can watch it, specifically black children and see themselves represented on a screen where most of the time superheroes are white. Representation plays a huge piece in how Black Panther will be perceived. Children will see the superhero aspects, but not quite grasp the meaning of colonialization, institutionalized racism and political statements. Adults can watch Black Panther and truly appreciate the fact Black people are finally being represented and included in a diverse way. They can absorb the greatness that is Black Panther.

The cast of Black Panther made the film what it was. Chadwick Boseman added an essence to his character

T'Challa and Black Panther that entranced the audience through and through. Lupita Nyong'o portrayed her character Nakia with nothing but grace, fearlessness and ferocity. Danai Gurira, also known as Okoye, was a brave, strong soldier who fought alongside the king and is furiously dedicated to Wakanda. Letitia Wright played Shuri and added comedic relief to Black Panther. 16-year-old Shuri is what keeps Wakanda modern and fresh. Her technological mind beats Tony Stark by a thousand light years. One cannot speak of powerful women in the film without mentioning Angela Bassett as Queen Ramonda.

Her power spreads throughout Wakanda. She is respected as the Queen she is. But the villain takes the crown in Black Panther. Michael B. Jordan as Erik Killmonger takes the reign for best villain in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. His veracious mindset to avenge Wakanda for his father and Black people all around the world is relatable and almost heroic. He spends his entire life killing, working the courage to enter Wakanda and being the social justice warrior, he is.

Special mentions to Sterling K. Brown, Daniel Kaluuya, Forest Whitaker, Andy Serkis and Martin Freeman. The actors make the words they are saying believable and entices the crowd so much it's like everyone is in the movie. The entire cast helped create another level that Black Panther currently resides on. It's a film one must see in their lifetime, not only once, but a few times to grasp every concept in the movie.

Black Panther is full of strong women, women in leadership roles, women who don't need men to get accomplish their goals and dreams. To see Black women being represented in a way they have not before is something to cherish. There is Shuri who is a young Black girl who is avidly interested in science. There is Okoye who is warrior who is willing to do anything for her country. There is Nakia,

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Photos Courtesy of HYPABLE, IMPAWARDS, FORBES

THE END OF THE F***ING WORLD

Julian Hock-Beaty
graphics editor

“The End of the F***ing World” (TEOTFW) is one of Netflix’s newest original series. The show was originally aired in the UK during Oct of 2017, and the American release through Netflix was on Jan 5th, 2018.

“TEOTFW” is an odd medley of genres, but tells an addictive story nonetheless. The plot follows two 17-year-old British misfits, and the wild adventures they have after running away together. James (played by Alex Lawther) is convinced he’s a psychopath, and plots to kill someone to find out for sure. Alyssa (played by Jessica Barden) is new to James’s school, and instantly takes a liking to his awkward, withdrawn characteristics.

Alyssa’s life at home is making her want to leave town and never look back, and she asks James to come with her (completely unaware that he may be a psychopath). James agrees, secretly looking at this as an opportunity to finally kill someone.

The two steal a car, and leave their hometown with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Alyssa suggests they go to her biological father’s place, convinced that they’d be safe there. James nonchalantly rolls with the plan, as Alyssa can never find out his intentions. In a strange turn of events, the two become fugitives. James starts to have conflicting feelings for Alyssa, and suddenly his solid agenda of murder is up in the air. Now truly living in the moment, the two must outrun the law, all while contending with the obstacles between them and their destination.

“TEOTFW” blurs boundaries between many different tones, and does so quite effortlessly through its solid characters. Obvious elements of horror and comedy have a large presence in the show, but at its core, this is a love story. British comedies tend to do a great job blending genres, and “TEOTFW” is no exception. Perhaps the best aspect of this show is its awkward presentation, as it really enhances whatever tone is being used at the moment. Whether it’s a creepy flashback, a deadpan punchline or an intimate moment between characters, the feelings of awe, tension and hilarity in this show are cranked



Photo Courtesy of THE PLAYLIST

up significantly.

Viewers will notice that the show features frequently simplistic dialogue, but perfect casting and writing adjustments help the delivery of this story remain solid. The show definitely took quite a few creative liberties in its writing, and was actually closely based on a graphic novel (Written by Charles Forsman) under the same title. In the show, James and Alyssa live in South England. In the graphic novel, however, they live somewhere in the United States. A few secondary characters were also created for the live action adaptation in order to elongate certain scenes and develop James and Alyssa’s characters.

“TEOTFW” was (not surprisingly) an immediate hit with teen audiences. The show followed a similar response pattern to another one of Netflix’s teen romance series, “13 Reasons Why”. Though the two shows are much different in their presentation and tone, “TEOTFW” also became one of the most talked about shows in high schools and on college campuses seemingly overnight.

Offbeat romances and comedies have become increasingly popular with younger audiences. Netflix offers a wide spectrum of choices for those interested in this sort of niche. However, “TEOTFW” establishes itself as a completely different caliber of entertainment. It blatantly exploits the viewer’s sickening and unwavering interest in truly disgusting deeds, yet unfolds a captivating and steady plotline. With this strange factor of allure, “TEOTFW” is able to reach fans of every individual genre it incorporates.

Though it may not be approachable for some people, the show can prove to be highly addictive after just the first episode. Out of 10 stars, the show has earned a solid 8. “TEOTFW” deserves a second season, as many viewers will agree. If that doesn’t happen, it’ll be “The End of the F***ing World”.

BLACK MIRROR

Molly Ashford
staff writer

Black Mirror, the sci-fi anthology capturing the hearts and tearing apart the brains of high school students and adults alike, released a long-awaited fourth season in mid-December. Although the series has always been relatively popular, it seems that season four, generated a plethora of feedback across social media. Each episode tells a different story, ranging from a tale about a post-apocalyptic society overtaken by robot dogs (“Metalhead”) to a love story forbidden by a dating culture overshadowed by faulty technology (“Hang the DJ”). Even with the differing storylines, *Black Mirror* manages to touch on the frailty of human beings as well as the potential terrors of evolving technology.

Admittedly, I am late to hop on the bandwagon of *Black Mirror* fans. I tend to stay away from science fiction because I find it to be painfully predictable, but by binge-watching all four seasons in the timespan of a week or so, it became increasingly obvious that there is so much to set this series apart from other hyper-technological films or shows. By utilizing slight political and social commentary, constant plays upon the viewers empathy, and undetectable plot twists, *Black Mirror* is not only entertaining, but also an in-depth analysis of human nature and a warning of what terrors could be looming in the near future.

As I dive into analysis of the episodes in the season, I will try to avoid major spoilers. However, if you intend to watch this season and prefer to not have any background knowledge of the plot, I would advise against reading any further.

The first mini-movie of the season, “USS Callister”, is destined to be remembered as the *Star Trek* episode. Stylistically, it is without a doubt the strongest of the season and arguably the strongest of the entire anthology.

Content-wise, the episode centers around a socially awkward, middle-aged white man who feels cheated by everyone at the business that he helped create. Instead of utilizing some basic anger management skills, he uses a sort of futuristic virtual reality to transport every coworker who wronged him into a warped world where he



Photo Courtesy of DAILY MIRROR

is in complete control.

It sounds dorky, honestly. And maybe in some ways, it is. But camouflaged by a plot that is anxiety-producing and darkly funny, the episode tackles the inherent sexism in sci-fi fanbases and STEM industries. In true *Black Mirror* fashion, it kicks off the season with the best of both worlds: a story of technology-gone-wrong and a brilliantly hidden social commentary.

Hands down, the episode with the most viable commentary is “Black Museum”. Set in a world that is futuristic enough to set it apart from modern society but unrelentingly familiar to our current surroundings, a British tourist enters an unsettling crime museum with an equally unsettling owner.

The episode is pieced together by different storylines that somehow manage to seamlessly lead up to the ‘grand finale’ that is anticipated for the entire episode. By learning about the different storylines, the episode comments on slacktivism, racism, ethics in medicine, and the brokenness of the prison system that was made to hurt rather than serve black men and their families.

In an effort to live up to episode four of season three “San Junipero,” “Hang the DJ” has a typical star-crossed-lovers plot; it is an overall heartwarming story about futuristic dating and a lovable pair who rebel against the system. It is one of the less hard-hitting episodes of the season, however, it’s undeniably captivating and does speak to what the future of dating could look like if we continue to let technology dictate our love lives.

Each of these three episodes combine

BLACK MIRROR on page 22

the register’s 2018 OSCAR PREDICTIONS

The 90th Annual Academy Awards will be held on Sunday, March 4 and hosted by late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel.

BEST PICTURE

three billboards outside ebbing, missouri

BEST ACTOR

gary oldman

BEST ACTRESS

saoirse ronan



ETHNIC FOODS

Metro area restaurants with food from around the world make lasting impressions.



ALEXIS BLANKENFELD | The Register

GERDA'S BAKERY

Grace Turner
staff writer

When walking into Gerda's Bakery, one is immediately met with the sight of delicious-looking pastries, cakes, and other desserts. After being directed toward a table, other things began to come into view. There are murals painted on one of the walls, the flags hanging on the ceiling, and other items that represent German culture and the true ethnicity of this restaurant.

While the menu is not large, one can expect to be met with both classic German meals, and other more Americanized dishes, like pulled pork and grilled cheese sandwiches. A person looking to try a German classic, would easily be able to find a meal they would enjoy at Gerda's Bakery. On the other hand, those tagging along and do not want to try something

new can enjoy the American classics they offer. The food is good, but it is not great. Overall, it is not a place one would say they would never go to again, however it also does not become the top of the list of places to eat at again.

However, dessert is the truly amazing part. The German bakery is filled with wonderful treats such as cream horns, doughnuts, cakes, apple and cherry turnovers, along with many others. The pastry has the perfect flake and melts in one's mouth, and the doughnuts are light and airy.

The bakery, known for its wedding cakes, displays beautifully decorated cakes on its counters. Some of the cakes feature elaborate, time consuming designs, while others sport simple, elegant decorations. The cakes sitting on the counters show the bakery's ability to make and decorate deserts for important occa-

sions, both of which deliver in presentation and in taste.

The bakery also makes a large variety of other desserts, including pastry items, cookies, and doughnuts. These desserts are easily some of the best desserts in the Omaha area, and are perfect for trying new treats, or eating a favorite. The bakery offers a variance of different versions of doughnuts, and many different types of pastry-based desserts, such as apple turn overs, cream horns, apple strudels and eclairs.

While Gerda's may not be the best place to go for lunch or dinner, the bakery items it sells are among the best. This is not the restaurant for anyone who is trying to avoid sweets. While someone may not want to go to Gerda's Bakery for a main meal, it is worth going, just to try some of the amazing dessert and bakery items.

EL BASHA

Carlson Koch
staff writer

El Basha serves some of the most authentic Lebanese food in the Omaha area. Located on 75th and Pacific, tasty entrees are not too far away for anyone who lives in Omaha.

From the outside of this restaurant you can tell they mean business when it comes to cooking. The experience and food all resulted in my approval for the name "El Basha," it was nothings short of my expectations.

Upon entry, you seat yourself and take as much time as you would like to look at the menu and order. This differs from most restaurants as a waitress usually takes orders.

While sitting at the table deciding what to order, I noticed the light that was above my table was harsh, looking up too much exposed the naked light and was hard on the eyes.

Besides this, the walls were filled with paintings of what seemed to show pieces of Lebanese culture. These paintings added to what I ate, which was very full of flavor.

At the register, I ordered a Chicken Shwarma along with a lentil soup. The soup was just much like other Indian restaurants that serve Lentil soups. The taste was nothing short of satisfying, and it was nothing that I had experienced before.

On the other hand, the main dish was unlike any other foods that I had eaten. Cut in half, was wrapped marinated chicken with pickles and a sauce

that is specific to El Basha. If you have the sauce, make sure to bring along a piece of gum because it had a lot of garlic.

The Chicken Shawarma was still delicious, the chicken was perfectly cooked and although I had my doubts with the pickles, they crunch added a great contrast to the soft shell of the wrap. After I finished with the chicken wrap, I began on my side of mashed potatoes and lettuce.

The mashed potatoes served the same sort of fate that the sauce from El Basha did, too much garlic. Without that, the potatoes would have been a great side to go with the chicken wrap.

Altogether, the meal was fresh and after I ate, I did not feel like I had eaten anything bad, but instead real ingredients that were cooked together for a delectable meal.

Walking out, I felt full, there was enough food for even two people to share one order. I felt full the whole rest of the night and even into the early morning I could feel what I ate the night before.

I would go back to El Basha to try the Grape Leaves dish. In fact, I tried to order it at the register, but they were sold out of the entrée, meaning that Grape Leaves must be the food to order. The sound of a big spinach leaf stuffed with rice, onions, parsley, tomato, mint, all cooked in a mix of olive oil and lemon juice sounds delightful.

For a great dinner experience that is different from most American food, El Basha is a great place to go. The food was satisfying, and the environment earns the restaurant four out of five stars rating.



Photo Courtesy of FOODSPOTTING.COM



Photo Courtesy of THEODYSSEYONLINE.COM

THREE HAPPINESS

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Located on 51st and Leavenworth, Three Happiness provides an affordable and quality Chinese option in the East Omaha area. They offer traditional Chinese dishes, house specialties, and vegetarian dishes.

As soon as one walks into Three Happiness they are greeted by a friendly and attentive staff willing to answer broad questions regarding the menu or recommend their favorites.

To begin a meal, their crab rangoons and egg rolls are a good option to start. They are

affordable and it's difficult to dislike either of these selections.

For anyone new to Three Happiness, I would recommend the General Chicken. It is a house suggestion and consists of chicken and broccoli in hot and sour sauce with either white or brown rice.

While Three Happiness does offer some of the best chicken dishes, they also offer a variety of vegetarian options. The fried rice with shrimp is a good option for someone looking for a standard Chinese dish. Moreover, the Vegetable Deluxe is a mixture of vegetables in brown sauce with rice. One can also add fried

tofu to this dish or may elect to go with the Stir Fry Vegetables, a stir fry with veggies, soy sauce, and oyster sauce.

Three Happiness offers an excellent alternative to the more formal and expensive Chinese restaurants.

With each entrée, customers also receive an egg roll or crab Rangoon and a choice of hot and sour or egg drop soup. Their hot and sour soup is delectable and arguably the best

in Omaha.

While visiting Three Happiness one should anticipate a wait, especially if they come in late on a weekend night. However, this should not deter one from experiencing some of the best Chinese in the area.

Three Happiness offers an excellent alternative to the more formal and expensive Chinese restaurants in town and is far superior to Hy-Vee Chinese or Panda Express. Their huge portions and affordability put it over the top as one of the best Chinese restaurants in Omaha.

INTERNATIONAL BAKERY

Kayla Johnson
staff writer

The bakery is located directly in the heart of South Omaha. It sits on the popular South 24th Street strip, in very close proximity with other local and deliciously authentic restaurants. The shop hosts a variety of dishes and treats from both North and South American origins!

The menu is even tailored to fit everyone's food preferences at any time of day! There are also many breakfast food and lunch time items to choose from, as well as pastries. International Bakery is one of the few spots in Omaha to feature the famous "concha bread" which would be similar to sweet-topped buns or a sweet bread, but even better! The store also features a home-made "tres leches" cake which is very popular in Mexico.

Unlike many other bakeries, International Bakery sponsors true authentic treats unlike any other place in Omaha. Their various breads and sweets are unwavering, and no doubt display traditional baking methods and pertain to classic recipes. The distinction between International Bakery and others are the uniquely delicious taste of quality and homemade goodness, free of factory production and unnatural chemicals.

The shop even specializes in custom-made cakes. For baby showers, bridal showers, graduation parties, weddings, or any event International Bakery will decorate elaborate cakes for an inexpensive charge! Visit International Bakery for a new experience, unlike anything else in Omaha.



Photo Courtesy of YELP.COM

New season of Black Mirror increases levels of intrigue

BLACK MIRROR from page 19
socio-political critique and stories of technology gone awry. The next episode, "Arkangel," had the rough outline of both factors but failed to pack the punch that the others did. The episode centers around a mother who implants a futuristic device in her daughter's head, giving her the ability to see everything that her daughter sees as well as censor real world events that cause pain, stress, or sadness. It's basically a one-step program to raising a sociopath.

A good idea in theory, the implant obviously goes horribly wrong and ends up creating an endless cycle of distrust and misuse in the hands of the parents. While the episode was interesting and offered some insight into the future of so-called 'helicopter parenting', it lacked any sort of call to action or real conclusion.

This brings me to the two episodes in the anthology that I found to be most disappointing: "Crocodile" and "Metalhead." "Metalhead" was stylistically beautiful and intricate but lacked

any real point or cohesive plot. A robot-dog relentlessly chases around the main character, and as *The Verge* said, the only real takeaway is that "The future is coming, and it will not stop. Ever. Until we are dead."

"Crocodile," on the other hand, is just painfully bleak and sad. A never-ending series of tragedies and murders, the commentary on human nature is barely there and I found the episode to be depressing without any real point. It lacks the relevance that makes *Black Mirror* such an interesting show.

The hype surrounding *Black Mirror* has become an overload in the current political climate, and in my opinion, it is well deserved. While some episodes are lacking much excitement, the premise of the show is so interestingly different than anything else on the market and makes the viewer think long and hard about what they watched. In a society so obsessed with mindless entertainment, *Black Mirror* offers a hard-hitting look at what the world could come to be and requires the viewer to engage, hypothesize, and reflect.



Photo Courtesy of FAVORITETV.BIZ

The Last Jedi far from perfect, subplot dull, comedy forced

THE LAST JEDI from page 18
Unfortunately, this film is far from perfect. There is a completely unimportant and dull subplot that takes place on a casino-themed planet with the characters of Finn and Rose. This subplot is where most of the film's problems take place.

The subplot features a political statement on the evils of capitalism and greed that proves ineffective due to the sheer hypocrisy of a Star Wars criticizing greed. The final message of the subplot, that of animal rights,

is uninteresting and completely awful. This subplot contains by far the weakest and worst written character in the entire film, the character of Rose, who serves no purpose to the plot at large and fails to make the audience care about her. There is also an emotionally hollow action sequence which takes place in the character of Snoke's throne room.

The two greatest flaws with this film is the comedy, with some of it being awkward and forced and ruining the film's flow and the writing, which contains some awkward

structuring and overly cliched and just plain dumb lines.

Overall, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* is a fine and at times great film. However, fans of *Star Wars* have torn it to shreds for its lack of faithfulness to the concept of *Star Wars* and for not doing every single thing that they wanted it to do. These fans of *Star Wars* who expect the filmmakers to do everything they want are unreasonable, they devalue real criticism of the film and show a major problem in this country, that of assuming the worst of

entities.

The United States now has a culture of hate and the backlash that fans of *Star Wars* had to this film demonstrates that. Anyone can hate this film, but be reasonable in your criticism of it, it's a film about space samurai fighting each other with lasers and magical powers, to expect a filmmaker to make the movie you want to see is unreasonable and selfish. I give *Star Wars VIII: The Last Jedi* an 9/10.



Photos Courtesy of DEADLINE, VARIETY, THE INDEPENDENT

Black Panther lives up to expectations, best Marvel movie yet

BLACK PANTHER from page 18
the humanitarian who wants to share Wakanda's assets with the rest of Africa. There is Queen Ramonda who has served alongside her late husband to modernize Wakanda. Wakanda's army is full of black women, who exist to protect T'Challa. Not as eye candy. Not as property. T'Challa appreciates the input of the women in his life and recognizes he could not reach his full

potential without them. The impact of *Black Panther* will be found for years to come. Its release came at the perfect time. The visual aspects paired with the messages were astonishingly amazing. *Black Panther* is the most breathtaking movie the comic universe has ever seen. The beautifully crafted masterpiece displays the importance of African heritage and inherent Black

culture in film. Director Ryan Coogler may not have caught the world's attention with *Fruitvale Station* and *Creed*, but he is sure to get the credit he deserves this time. What *Black Panther* has done for Black people worldwide is not lost on one, the box office and two, the people's minds. *Black Panther* is full-blown 10/10.



Photos Courtesy of VANITY FAIR, ESPN



The problem with women's marches

Women's Marches across the nation have become more of a trend rather than an effective social justice protest.

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The debate for a streetcar in Omaha continues

Mayor Jean Stothert and other influential figures in Omaha are making advancements for installing a streetcar throughout the metro area.



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Road Show photo essay

The 104th Annual Roadshow brought live music, improv comedy and dance.

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opinion

THE REGISTER

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DANGEROUS TERRITORY

Allowing police officers to pull drivers over for texting and driving will result in an abuse of power.

Zoia Morrow
executive editor

In 1904, the first paper speeding ticket was issued to a taxi driver in New York City. He was going 12 miles per hour in an eight mph zone. Since the invention of cars and the combining police presence on the streets, people have been getting pulled over for decades. Cops have the ability to pull drivers over for many reasons in addition to speeding such as broken tail lights, license plates, reasonable suspicion for distraction, and, of course, texting. The question that remains is, should cops be able to pull drivers over solely for texting and driving?

In theory, police officers having the ability to pull drivers over for texting and driving is reasonable. While most would like to say that they don't text and drive, many drivers do it anyway, especially if it is a quick "Ok" or "omw" to someone. The difficulty, though, unlike driving over the speed limit or under the influence, is that texting is hard to prove. Furthermore, people of color can be profiled by police based only on reasonable suspicion or something as insubstantial as a hunch. If cops were able to pull drivers over because of drivers texting, it could be even easier for law enforcement officials to abuse their power over citizens.

This does not mean that every single cop will abuse the privileges they hold as public officers, it simply means that they can and based upon historical significances, some just might. It's telling when every Black man in America

call be pulled over simply by being racially profiled. They aren't supposed to be in that car, it must be stolen.

Point blank, a law that gives police the authority to pull civilians over for texting while driving has more cons than pros. Truth be told, it won't help because in theory, we all want to know every driver is being safe, but that is not possible. In Nebraska, all passengers between the ages of six and 18 must wear a seat belt. Still, drivers and all passengers must wear seat belts, yet it is not enforced. The fact that wearing a seat belt is only a secondary law means one cannot be pulled over for not wearing a seat belt. The only charge is a \$25 fine. People continue to not wear seat belts by their own regard. No law, no matter how serious or affirmative it

is, should be implemented with the common knowledge that it can be abused by those in authoritarian positions who have a reputation for police brutality and hard bias. What good will it do toward the public? How does this benefit the public plus all drivers? Attempting to police drivers by enabling laws they were already breaking is illogical and serves no real benefit.

If the law was created under the notion of it being a secondary law, the purpose is still lost. People won't take it seriously or ignore it altogether. There are too many factors that come with police pulling civilians over for texting. One of them being: abuse of power. A cop can pull someone over due to their own bias and say they were texting; who will the police believe, their own or some random driv-

MATAYA FREZELL | Contributing Cartoonist

er who was apparently endangering drivers by texting. Figured so. Second case in point, it will be hard to prove. To say the least, it is confusing how police would be able to prove texting and driving. It all leads back to planting evidence. It was used in the past, most likely being used now, and will one hundred percent be used in the future. The evidence behind texting and driving is too substantial to prove, therefore should not be considered at all. There are multiple determinants that hang above civilians' heads to give police more authority. It's not that they can't handle it, it's just their track record with police brutality and planting evidence is apparent to anyone paying attention. But yeah, let's give them more power and implement more laws instead of enforcing the existing ones.



Keeping positive mind set, dedication, aides in completing senior year

Despite everyone's differing opinions on high school, there is one statement that rings true: it flies by. Or at least, that has been my and everyone I know's experience. It is extremely weird to think that this is my last semester of high school. As cheesy as it sounds, it literally feels like just yesterday that I was a freshman. And though all of my elders are constantly telling me that these are the days and that I should cherish what is left of my high school career, I still suffer from chronic senioritis.

Though I am not the first student with senioritis and I definitely won't be the last, I feel like I know enough by now about this year to pass on some advice for future seniors, or even current seniors who feel like they're getting lost in this year.

The most important piece of advice for senior year is to keep positive things on your mind that you're looking forward to. For some students, high school is a blast and they're looking forward to spending these last moments with their peers. It's important for them to really live in the moment and cherish their last memories of high school. Whereas other

students, myself included, are desperately waiting for graduation day. This can be tough as it seems the year is dragging, but keeping your mind on something positive, such as graduation day, is a big help. It makes everything that you're doing now seem worth it, because once you're done you get to celebrate by leaving.

Another word of advice for overcoming senioritis is to keep up with your work. It is so easy to push everything to the back of your mind, but that is a quick way to become swamped. Physically writing out due dates for scholarships and applications helps seal it in your memory so you can get a move them on early. Waiting until the last minute only adds unneeded stress. On top of college work, staying on top of schoolwork is important as well. Seniors are constantly asking teachers for letters of recommendation or help with college essays, and the least you could do is apply yourself in their



SIMONE DAVIS
SIMON(E) SAYS

classes.

My last piece of advice, as cheesy as it sounds, is to try and have fun whenever you can. No matter your experience in high school, this year is the youngest we will ever be again. Therefore, if the opportunity to meet someone new or do something that you've never done before presents itself, take it. Mine was not the best high school experience, but enjoying my last year and last semester can end it on a better note.

So, to everyone that is desperately holding on to high school or to those that are itching to move on with their lives, we all have something in common. Completing and graduating high school, especially a school such as Central, is a privilege, and giving yourself the best last memories of it is a sure way to reward yourself for your hard work.

Trump's first State of the Union speech lacks substance, etiquette

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
staff writer

Donald Trump gave his first State of the Union or, as it is known in the beltway, SOTU or, as that is known in the White House, Save the President's approval before the entire administration catches fire day. The SOTU had all the trappings one could expect, stories of Americans doing exceptional things, inspirational stories about overcoming adversity and Trump's usual semi-racist remarks. Trump's SOTU also holds the distinction of being one of the longest in history, mainly because the President, infamous for slurring his words, spoke as slowly as he possibly could. This slow-talk tactic paid off, as the President's words were 50 percent comprehensible, as opposed to his usual 10 percent.

The speech was low on substance, instead focusing on the economic gains that occurred during Trump's first year in office, which he achieved without a single major economic change, which is why I was surprised that Donald Trump never once said "thanks Obama" in his entire speech. One of my personal favorite parts of the SOTU was when Trump implied that he could give every crippled North Korean refugee the ability to walk. The President also exploited a patriotic and beautiful story of a child placing flags on the graves of fallen soldiers to attack NFL players who have kneeled during the National Anthem to protest police brutality and racism.

Throughout the SOTU, whenever the President mentioned a person he made them stand up, including the parents of two children who had been killed by gang violence, who started bawling as his speech made them relive the worst night of their lives. Of

course, these guests being made to stand proved pointless, as every single person around them stood up themselves, causing them to be lost in a sea of white men.

Despite how entertaining Trump's speech was, it paled in comparison to the most entertaining part of any State of the Union speech: watching people mindlessly applaud the President's every sentence. This year's speech saw a departure from past SOTUs, as the President himself appeared to be the biggest fan of his speech, applauding at the end of every single sentence he uttered, causing mass hysteria as thousands of Americans mistook the President's applause for a horde of stampeding elephants about to destroy the nation.

Traditionally, only the President's party applauds the

SOTU and this year was no different with each Republican trying to prove to one another that they love Trump the most, in addition to the lone applauding Democrat: Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, who has been trying to prove to his state that he loves Trump as much as they do. Other than Manchin, no Democrat gave real applause, with their reactions being limited to stern glares and fake applause that accompanied eye rolls, with a few episodes of booing thrown in for good measure.

After the State of the Union, Joe Manchin bolted after Donald Trump, trying to get him to shake his hand. The desperation in Manchin's eyes reminds me of one those films in which the guy is in love with a girl, but the girl doesn't know and he starts stalking the girl and then they finally meet each other and she starts falling in love, but then she finds out he was stalking her and runs away in terror. In this metaphor, Manchin is the stalker who just wants the girl to like him and Trump is the creeped out girl and boy did Trump act like one, as he seemed to play a game I like to call "the Manchin is made of lava," deliberately avoiding Senator Manchin and shaking every person's hand he saw, including a few Democrats.

The Democratic rebuttal to the SOTU was delivered by Representative Joe Kennedy III, a man selected because his last name is Kennedy. While Kennedy was charming and handsome and eloquent and handsome and handsome, his entire rebuttal was overshadowed by the fact that he slathered his lips in as much Chapstick as possible, which caused a few people to be blinded by his lip's sheen. Other than that, he made it very clear that he was a Democrat and that his Party likes it both ways.

Overall, I give the State of The Union and the response to it a one out of 10.



MATAYA FREZELL | Contributing Cartoonist

Black inclusion in film needs development beyond recycled plots

The recent rise of Black people in film and television is being celebrated throughout the awards as of late. Sterling K. Brown, winner of the 'Outstanding Lead Actor' Emmy at the 75th Emmy Awards for his performance in tv series, *This Is Us*, this past January. He is the first Black man to win in the 75 years of the Emmys. In 2017, Tracee Ellis Ross became the first Black woman to win 'Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy' for her performance in tv series, *Black-ish*. A wide gap of 35 years since a woman of color (black woman) has won in this category. The list continues.

The day after award shows, headlines always read: "So and so becomes the first person of color to win this prestigious award." Even though many of the award shows have occurred every year for decades upon decades. Still, the issue of inclusion amongst black actors and actresses, directors and writers is severely lacking. There are several issues when it comes to inclusion in the entertainment industry. There is recreating classic movies that half of America's population may not support. They are not getting enough promotion and support from industries and companies who sponsor the films. They are not getting the credit they deserve, simply because they are either produced, written or starred in by a black person.

Gabrielle Union is starring in a new movie called 'Breaking In.' The trailer seems thrilling enough. But it seems like the same movie over and over starring different black actresses as the lead. With movies like 'The Perfect Guy,' 'No Good Deed,' 'When the Bough Breaks' and 'Addiction' that have the same crazy plot where at least one person is insane

and the other is trying to escape, it has become boring, repetitive and a real punch to the face. It's a real punch to the gut to black people everywhere to think the film industry only sees us fit for roles like this. If it isn't a slave movie or racist television show it's acting crazy in an under produced and under-whelming movie.



ZOIA MORROW

Z O I A | O I

It is time for a change. It is time to recognize writers and producer like Aisha Muharrar for her scripts in 'Parks and Rec,' Mara Brock Akil for 'Being Mary Jane,' Prentice Penny for his behind-the-scenes writing for comedy series, 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine.' He has written for shows like *Scrubs* and *Girlfriends*. Issa Rae may only be two seasons into her hit show 'Insecure' and has a long career ahead of her, but her excellence in being involved in her show in multiple ways is astounding. Shows like *Insecure*, *Atlanta*, *Luke Cage*, *Chewing Gum*, *Power*, and *Empire* (in its first two seasons anyway,) are doing so well right now because they bring something different to the table. It shows a side of black excellence that the world previously ignored. (I haven't even touched on movies like *Get Out*, *Girls Trip*, *Moonlight* and *Detroit*).

Hollywood needs to realize the market they have behind producing well-written, edge-of-our-seat films and television shows. Recognize the talent, hire more people of color writers. I am not saying the industry should hire every black person with a dream, I am saying give them a chance. Inclusion does not count when it's only one black guy in a movie surrounded by white co-stars.

Like a friend of mine said, "White Hollywood already drug it [certain plots] out. Let's come up with something else."

Solitary confinement considered barbaric, unhealthy long-term effects

Mac O'Brien
staff writer

When a system doesn't fulfill its intended purpose, it ought to be adapted. When a system accomplishes exactly the opposite of what it should, while simultaneously inflicting extraordinary suffering and psychological trauma, it needs to be done away with entirely. We know far too much about the damages caused by solitary confinement to justifiably continue its practice.

The United Nations defines solitary confinement as "physical and social isolation of individuals who are confined to their cells for 22 to 24 hours a day." The practice

is sometimes referred to as "protective custody," "permanent lockdown," or simply "solitary." Under any name, the practice is barbaric.

The psychological effects of solitary confinement have been well documented over the years, and the clear scientific consensus has been that it causes lasting psychological damage. Humans are social animals, and the deprivation of social interaction, like the deprivation of any other necessity, is unhealthy. Solitary confinement is demonstrably responsible for anger, self-harm, depression and perceptual distortions (including hypersensitivity and hallucinations.)

The long term effects of solitary can

begin to manifest after just 15 hours. In practice, inmates are routinely put in solitary for months or even years at a time

Ordinarily, issues of cruelty in the criminal justice system lead to the key question: "Does the security ensured by the practice justify the suffering it brings about?" In the case of solitary confinement, however, the question is meaningless because it wrongly presupposes that there is any benefit to society whatsoever.

In reality, isolating inmates from social interaction for extended periods of times makes their adjustment back into society more difficult and actually increases the recidivism rate (the rate at which former inmates re-offend.) Even if you were to set

aside the needs and concerns of prisoners (which you should absolutely not do), the use of solitary confinement is still detrimental to society, as it increases the rate of crime, and therefore is detrimental to the safety of everyone.

The criminal justice system should strive to rehabilitate inmates, and, at the bare minimum, preserve their mental and physical health. The practice of solitary confinement is one of many flaws in the system that stop it short of fulfilling its purpose, and in the interest of reforming it, solitary confinement must be abolished.

Fast fashion brands play major role in overconsumption

Simret Habte
staff writer

In 2018, it feels as if fashion trends change almost daily. To stay relevant, brands like Forever 21 and H&M try to keep up with the ever-changing trends by cycling through new styles of clothes on a regular basis. It would seem as if that type of constant over-turning of inventory would get expensive. Many people question how fashion brands are able to keep their place as the money-making machines they are. These brands can continue what they're doing while remaining profitable through contributing to what's commonly referred to as fast fashion.

The United States has very strict labor laws and pricier materials for goods. Labor laws in this country protect the rights of the worker, they guarantee their wages and safe working conditions. Because of these laws, manufacturing the quantity of clothes needed

to keep up with all the latest trends in the US is quite expensive. As a result, most clothing brands have their products made overseas. By making their clothes overseas in developing nations, huge corporations don't have to deal with paying their workers well or even just ensuring their workers are adults. In many cases, the people who work at the factories in those countries are kids who are in their early teens. They are willing to take low-paying jobs to help provide for their families. The people who own the factories don't care enough to make sure that they are employing people who are of age. All they want to do is continue churning out more and more product.

Another detriment of fast fashion is the unsafe working conditions. Overseas, there are much more relaxed labor laws concerning working conditions. Popular clothing brands are guilty of using sweatshops to manufacture their goods. In many developing countries, poor workers are willing to work in uncom-

fortable and unsafe factories because they are in need of a job. Many western clothing brands take advantage of this need and fail to meet even the most basic safety precautions. There are some workshops without fire exits or even windows. Because of this carelessness, tragedies like the building collapse in Bangladesh in 2013 to occur. In April of 2013, a garment factory in Bangladesh collapsed with thousands of workers in it, killing 1,134 people and injuring thousands more. The owners of the building were warned of its instability, but still forced workers to come to work. A lot of companies have been exposed as being complicit in this injustice and yet nothing changes. Their greed for more clothes to sell for their own gain is apparently more important than the lives of innocent workers.

Fast fashion is also damaging to the environment. When producing goods at such a high quantity, clothing brands sacrifice the quality of their products. Because of this, a lot

of clothes from stores like Forever 21 can only be worn a limited amount of times, after that they must be discarded. These clothes fill up landfills and contribute to the ever-growing amount of waste in the world. According to NPR, the rate of disposal isn't keeping up with the availability of places to put all of the discarded items. The habits of these brands are not only hurtful to fellow human beings, but also to the environment.

Fast fashion is an inevitable part of American life, but people should try and find alternatives to buying from these huge corporations such as shopping at stores with ethically sourced products or second-hand stores. It's unreasonable to ask someone to completely stop taking part in these practices, but, it's important for people to understand where their clothes come from and the impact the production of those clothes has on the world.

Trend of women's marches good in theory, come up short in execution



ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

Simone Davis
staff writer

After the inauguration of president Donald Trump last year, millions of women across the country went to the streets to protest in what became known as the "Women's March." Women and allies marched in every major city in the country, and even smaller cities such as Omaha had a substantial amount of people protesting as well. And though the idea of the Women's March is a good one, there are a few flaws present.

One of the major flaws of the Women's March is a lack of inclusivity. Last year during the Women's March, several women, including myself on social media started noticing a trend of the types of signs seen at the march. There was an overwhelmingly large number of pink signs filled with flowers, vagina puns, pictures of female anatomy, and the list goes on. In a march where we are supposed to be proclaiming women's rights, we need to include all women in that narrative. Not all

women have vaginas. The Women's March could have been a perfect opportunity to highlight that, but by inferring that all women have vaginas, transwomen are erased from the discussion. White feminism (feminism that focuses on and only benefits white, cisgender women) has a way of erasing marginalized women, and the Women's March would have been a great way to combat that. Straight white women's voices are listened to above that of women of color and queer women, and this would have been a way for white women to use the voice that they have to fight for all women, not just the ones that look like them. This was discussed after the Women's March of last year, but it was an issue again this year.

Another thing that is noteworthy at the Women's March is security. Law enforcement knew that in some places, as many as thousands of women were gathering to protest, yet there was no firing squad or over-policing that took place. This is one of the differences between white women and women of color. If thousands of black women were known to be gathering across the country to protest their oppression, it would look

completely different, and this is proven. When black women were protesting, peacefully I might add, black children being murdered by police officers, there were military-like squads of police officers present. The news painted the protests and the black people there in a negative light, and the difference between that and the Women's March is appalling. Women of color protesting their issues is associated with violence, but when there is a majority of white people are marching, they aren't seen as threat.

The Women's March isn't inherently bad. Any time where a group of people can gather to peacefully protest their problems is a good thing. But it becomes a problem when it's not intersectional. White feminism brings only white women to the forefront, and makes them a face of a movement that isn't solely about them. Disabled women, queer women, women of color and everyone in between deserve just as much representation and until they get it, any discussion on women in this country is void. If we aren't fighting for all women, then who are we fighting for?

Registration process for AP and honors courses can be misleading

Emma Whaley
staff writer

Registration season has come and gone and now all freshmen, sophomores and juniors know what classes they will take next year. Many of them will be taking honors and AP courses next year and may have noticed they had to count how many of these advanced courses they were taking. The counselors warn students that each AP and honors class will require an hour of homework each night. Many honors and AP students find that the homework load is far less than that. This single paragraph may just scare away otherwise able students from advanced classes. It also does nothing to prevent students from overworking themselves.

The purpose of this section is to make

students think through what they put in their schedule. It hopes to make students pause for at least a second to think about their workload. However, many students say that this doesn't happen. For those students on the AP track, that little paragraph is just another signature. Sophomore Isabella Shradar takes mostly honors and AP courses, many of them above her grade level. She takes little consideration to counting out her alleged hours of work.

"I honestly didn't care because freshman year I had all honors, except for my one German class," Shradar said, "I wasn't really worried because if I really had problems, the teachers would actually be considerate."

Shradar also says that the claim of an hour of work per advanced class is false, as she has much less than that and her teachers give

extended deadlines for most work. Granted, the "homework" that the registration refers to includes assignments as well as studying and reading, but often even that doesn't add up to such a high degree. Tim Shipman, who teaches regular and AP psychology, claims to only give about two and a half hours of homework weekly, with most of it being reading. He believes that some AP classes, including AP psychology, can serve as an introduction to the advanced track and doesn't think students should see these courses as scary.

Even if a student is taking nine AP courses in one semester, their counselor can do nothing to prohibit them from it. It is, in the end, the decision of the student and their family. Counseling director Jenn Walker believes that counselors have a "moral and ethical obligation" to help students succeed

and to help them do so in a way that is comfortable. They encourage that students take lunch or study halls throughout their high school career. They recognize that an average college student takes far fewer courses in a semester than a high school student. Despite this, many students eat lunch in classrooms. Many students don't give themselves breaks in the school day due to the pressure to go above and beyond coming from society, family, and themselves. Some students will not stop pursuing the 5.0 GPA they want, regardless of a little paragraph telling them to slow down. Walker was right, saying, "Sometimes, kids don't realize 'this is a lot,'" but some kids weren't taught to care.



CONNOR PAINTIN | Contributing Cartoonist

Zodiac signs unreliable, vague, only correct based on perception

Grace Turner
staff writer

Zodiac signs and astrology are considered by many people to be able to tell predictions of future events and share the compatibility between two people, for either a friendship or romantic relationship. However, these signs have no bearings on real life and only appear to be accurate due to intense generalizations and predicting events. By keeping the predictions and compatibilities vague, zodiac signs are able to apply to anyone who is looking to match their sign to their personality.

One of the most used and listened to uses of zodiac signs and astrology is predictions of how days, weeks, months, or even years will go. While it is possible to see how a prediction is 'proven right' after the day, this connection is only seen due to people wanting to find a connection to the prediction and real life.

When making these predictions, writers keep it purposely vague, and do not include any details into what prediction they are trying to make. This makes it so nearly any prediction can be applied to some aspect of anyone's day, giving the illusion that the prediction was correct, when in fact it could have been applied to anyone who attempted to correlate it to their day.

Another common use of astrology is looking for compatibility between romantic partners or friendships. Again, when writing compatibilities, they are kept vague, or written as it may work for a while, but then it will fall apart. This second type of prediction can once again be applied to nearly any relationship. Nearly any romantic relationship or friendship will have a peaceful period where the people in the relationship feel no reason to fight, but eventually nearly all friendships or romantic relationships eventually have a fight, 'proving' the prediction of the horoscopes correct.

This is not truly proving anything because nearly all relationships will fit this mold eventually, no matter what the astrology signs of the participants are.

The final way zodiac signs are used is looking for traits and characteristics that are true of different people within a sign. As previously stated, these traits are often kept very vague or non-concrete, using phrases such as: even if one often keeps these feelings on the inside, some people may feel this trait more strongly than others, or most people of this sign feel this way.

This makes it so even if the vague description given doesn't match a particular person, the phrase before makes a person feel like they are just the minority that does not fit into that particular trait. This again negates

the idea that all people of a certain zodiac sign feel a certain trait, but the descriptions are vague, and people can be easily considered an outcast of that group.

People believe in zodiac signs, not because of their reliability, but because people want an easy way to classify other people's personalities and want a belief in an outside source which can cause these personalities. Being able to categorize and process ideas and thoughts that are foreign to a particular person makes accepting and understanding these ideas easier for said person.

Astrology and zodiac signs offer an easy way to categorize other people into areas that are easy to understand but are not considered offensive. These categories allow people to better understand how someone else may feel, and also explains why a particular person may believe or experience something another person does not.

While these explanations of predictions, compatibility, and character traits may be vague enough to make all people of a particular sign feel they belong, they do not make everyone feel as if it can apply to them, if they fall outside of the zodiac sign's date window. This allows for people to feel as if they can categorize nearly all people into easy to understand boxes. Luckily, these categories do not degrade or belittle people and therefore they are socially acceptable, even though they are not true

OPS Board starts 2018 productively by choosing Evans' replacement

Alec Rome
staff writer

2017 could only be described as a nightmare year for the OPS Board of Education. The thinking was that busing issues would be the biggest PR trouble the Board would face; until it became crunch time for the hiring of a new superintendent. Suddenly, the district could not escape what would become a whirlwind of negative press, highlighted -- or in this case lowlighted -- by the failure to hire a replacement for Mark Evans.

Considering this, if the Board set a "new year's resolution" for better communication and unity, it seems to be keeping it. January 30th was a vital indicator of this change in direction. On its second attempt, the Board narrowed down the superintendent search to Dr. Cheryl Logan of Philadelphia and Harrison Peters of Hillsborough County Public Schools in Florida. Walking

into the finalist interviews, it seemed like there were two solid candidates with experience in urban school districts larger than OPS.

The surprise was less in who the Board selected, as Logan was lauded by former coworkers for her "roll up the sleeves" attitude, her fluency in Spanish and her experience with diverse student populations. Truly, the shock came when the board voted for Logan unanimously, 9-0.

Just over a year ago, it took hours for the Board to choose a president, with a meeting going past midnight. But when Logan came for her interview, it seemed that members had a fairly easy decision. Harrison Peters was also a fine choice, but with the accusations following him from Tampa, hiring him would have required another rough explanation.

The fact that the Board members were quick and decisive with the new hiring process showed a refreshing change of culture.

Logan herself, who is only somewhat familiar with the district so far, even recognized the shift in an interview with the Omaha World-Herald.

"We're all works in progress, and sometimes we fall short. I don't think when

Truly the shock came when the board voted for Logan unanimously, 9-0.

people fall short you put them in the garbage disposal. You have to let people restore themselves, and I think they've worked to do that."

Anyone who attended the finalist interviews could hear the difference in what Logan said. Her vision for the district, while only words, sounded much more focused than her counterpart. She emphasized lis-

tening more than talking, especially as she transitions in the beginning of her three-year contract. In self-reflection, Logan characterized herself as "honest to a fault."

That sort of attitude, along with the unity from the board, brought applause from the hundreds in attendance. The kind of applause that is seldom heard ringing through the halls of the TAC building. Logan's enthusiasm is infectious and has brought a renewed vigor to teachers and parents alike. That excitement will not last forever; as soon as her contract is approved by the Board, the transition will begin.

It will be up to Logan, the Board and TAC staff to unite together and go "from good to great," as Board President Marque Snow has said.

The time for talk is now over and the time for action for the first African-American superintendent of OPS starts soon.

Proposal of Omaha streetcar unrealistic, raises concerns

Kayla Johnson
staff writer

For a few years, the conversation surrounding whether Omaha will be implementing a new mode of transportation by means of a streetcar system, has been popular. There has been lots of controversy regarding how funding would be placed. The questions, "would there be additional taxes" and "who would be affected" are all very important questions that were being proposed and asked. Many felt that the streetcar would be beneficial for Omaha, based off of other cities' success. While opposers felt that there was no real necessity for the addition.

However, what would be sensible, based off of factual evidence?

Last February the start-up estimate was set around \$156 million. According to The World Herald's reports, "The assessment leans toward using an assortment of local funding sources, including city money, philanthropic donations and tax-increment financing from real estate developments along the streetcar route. The study concluded that those who benefit the most from a streetcar could pay the most."

While looking over the "master plan" online I realized

that there are seven major lines; downtown circulatory, 10th street, Midtown to Dundee, Askarben to Leavenworth to UNMC, Benson to Fontenelle, 24th Street, and 16th Street. Think about this from a perspective of a resident of West Omaha; their property taxes are already the highest in Omaha, but now they are expected to pay even more, even though they would not benefit from this addition. Although it was mentioned that, "those who benefit the most from a streetcar could pay the most," they still should not have to pay additional fees, considering they most likely will never even use it.

But on the flip side, sudden exponential taxes on citizens in the area is not necessarily a fair trade either. Especially if they do not even want the streetcar in the first place. But how else would this streetcar be afforded, not even mentioning the estimate of an annual \$7.5 million to cover operation fees?

A clear majority of advocates not only argue that a streetcar would be aesthetically pleasing, but also that also would benefit lower income neighborhoods. The advocates website even states, "Transit should be seen as a service that can reduce poverty by increasing economic efficiency and enhancing opportunities. The modern streetcar can

supercharge economic development, which serves the needs of all residents — from the north, south, east and west; young and old; rich and poor — of all backgrounds." There are many claims that Omaha residents prioritize parking over downtown jobs- meaning that a person will often times pass up a job opportunity located downtown due to the fact that they rather not pay for or deal with the parking rules and regulations. That being said, by having a streetcar be able to take a person from point A to point B downtown, the worries of parking would not even be a factor in declining a potential job.

After analyzing multiple documents, taking into consideration the viewpoints of those around the city, and listening to the arguments of Mayor Jean Stothert, the streetcar seems to be more problematic than beneficial. However, I would fully support the idea if it did not include such an unrealistic approach.



Junior finds program, advances education from stressful AP classes

Since I was a freshman, I have watched my friends and acquaintances have breakdowns over schoolwork, crying into AP textbooks. I have watched myself feel pressured to add as many high-level classes as I could into my schedule, discarding my mental and physical well-being in the name of future college admittance. Eventually, I even saw myself go to my guidance counselor crying day after day because I simply couldn't do the routine anymore.

It was never a problem with Central, contrary to popular belief. For the most part, I love it here. Most of my teachers put forth an effort to engage me in lessons, but I had been drained of my desire to learn. Maybe I have school anxiety, maybe I have eighteen other mental disorders that I could have easily diagnosed myself with, but sticking a label onto why I didn't want to be in school anymore wasn't doing me any good. It's a feeling that's indescribable unless you have been there, crying while taking an English exam and writing down each and every one of your feelings instead of an essay about The Scarlet Letter (yes, that happened. Not my proudest moment).

For a long while, I beat myself up for not being able to just quietly struggle through school like everyone else I knew. Quite frankly, if I kept going through high school, I'm not sure if I would have made it out the other end. Being stressed to an incredible extent has become not only normal but serves as some sort of twisted rite of passage for AP/IB/Honors level students, so I saw my suffering as nothing out of the ordinary. After about a month of dread and tears and falling grades, I went to my counselor (again) and she recommended the UNO/OPS Middle College program. I was absolutely terrified of it. More so, I was absolutely terrified of not being normal. Going to an alternative

school program has such a negative connotation, and I didn't want to be a 'non-traditional student.'

Regardless of my preconceived ideas of the program, I transitioned into doing half days at the middle college and the other half still at Central. It all happened so fast that I barely even had time to process the change or think about the stigma surrounding the abnormality of it.



MOLLY ASHFORD
DOUBLE DUTY

The program is incredible. I have a teacher who developed an entire class for me so that I can read and respond to essays that are about sociopolitical issues. I am receiving one credit a quarter instead of one per semester, and next year I have UNO college courses at my disposal for absolutely free.

I would say that the only regret I have about the middle college is not finding out about it sooner. By discounting my suffering I only prolonged my struggle. There is such a thin line between healthy amount of stress regarding school and the kind of anxiety that is brain-numbing, and students are too often taught to ignore the distinction.

By walking that tightrope between healthy and unhealthy, I threw myself into the deep end. Education is a fundamental right, and school districts need to be doing more to ensure that those students who cannot handle traditional schooling are getting the support that they need. I was lucky enough to receive that support.

YouTube challenges becoming a serious public health risk

Heidi Heyden
staff writer

Over the past decade, YouTube has become the most popular video-sharing website in the world. With hundreds of millions of people regularly checking what new videos are going viral, it is becoming easier for new trends to be made. For example, the Tide Pod challenge had quickly become the first YouTube challenge of 2018. These challenges have dated back to the early 2010s with challenges such as the Cinnamon Challenge being the new craze. But what makes most of these challenges a challenge is that it may be risky, or even dangerous. The most terrifying part of this is that in order to make these challenges stand out, they only get more and more unsafe.

For example, the Cinnamon Challenge was a challenge that dares people to take a spoonful of cinnamon—as much as deemed necessary—and attempting to swallow it without anything else to wash it down. It may sound like fun—even I tried it back when I was young—but it could cause some serious health problems, as, "cinnamon is composed of cellulose fibers that, if aspirated into the lungs, neither dissolve nor biodegrade," according to Medscape.com. In large amounts, cinnamon can cause a dry mouth, throat irritation, breathing difficulties, and in rare cases a collapsed lung. Fortunately, I was unsuccessful in my attempt.

Another challenge blowing up at around the same time was the Salt and Ice Challenge. In this challenge, a person takes some salt—again, the amount depends on how high risk they want to make it—and put it on their skin. Then, they take some ice and hold it onto that area of skin and see how long they can put up with the burning effects. When I mean burning, I do not just mean the pain. According to Daling McMoran with the Poison Control Center in an interview, "The salt and the ice mixture will actually remove the heat from the body... it's absorbing the heat and it's lowering the temperature causing anywhere from

frostbite to second degree burns." (q13fox.com).

There have been instances where kids and teenagers were severely burned to the point where they needed serious medical attention.

The most recent example—and the most obviously stupid example—is the Tide Pod Challenge. I have no idea who thought it would be a great idea to eat plastic and laundry detergent for a five-minute-long video that had the possibility to be all for nothing. But unfortunately, it went viral, became one of the first memes of 2018, and had everybody eating Tide Pods.

According to the Washington Post, the U.S. Poison Control Center has been called over 12,000 times just from people who have eaten laundry pods. Tide Pods are so concentrated with laundry detergent that even the smallest amount will have one vomiting and have other serious problems. It has even gotten to the point where there are containers of Tide Pods that are sealed with metal and locked up. This challenge is the prime example of people doing things with no good purpose. I would very much rather get hundreds of thousands of views by doing something that will not endanger my health.

At the end of the day, these YouTube challenges are made up purely for entertainment, but at what cost. These are things that have been proven to kill people. I understand that there are challenges out there that aren't completely dangerous, but it always seems to be the riskiest ones that get the most views and become the most popular. There are many more ways to become an internet sensation without trying to kill yourself on camera. To anyone who is reading this: please be safe.

WHAT'S ON THE WEB ▶▶▶



Boys basketball won the Metro Holiday tournament over Winter break. It was the start of their winning streak under a "new" coach. Read online about the players' experiences.

METRO HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT



A Night At The Red Carpet

The 104th annual Road Show consisted of many performances including musical acts, dancing partners and reciting poetry.



1.



3.



2.



4.



5.

Photo Courtesy of THE O-BOOK

- 1. Junior Bria Gilmore is one of the few upbeat dancers at the 2018 Road Show.
- 2. Two students perform a collaborative song through CHS Singers.
- 3. Senior Hannah Aldridge recites a poem about mental health issues.
- 4. Barbershop quartet group: Jesse White, Ryan McKittrick, Zach Hangman, Jared Fitzgerald.
- 5. The Central drama club performed a piece about diversity and acceptance.