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TEACHERS LEAVING CENTRAL

Departing teachers share their stories and their reasons for leaving the school

CHLOE JOHNSON | The Register

Jane McGill
staff writer

Thirty-seven staff members will be leaving Central High School at the end of the current school year, at the time of publication, representing the largest exodus of teachers from the school in a single year in the 21st century thus far. Of the 37 educators leaving, three teachers are transferring to other OPS schools, six are retiring, and 28 resigned from the district. The Register reached out to many of the departing educators, inviting them to tell their stories and explain the reasons behind their departures. In the end, 22 staff members agreed to sit down for interviews. Some of the educators we spoke to requested to remain anonymous, citing personal and professional fears about sharing their experiences openly.

For some teachers, the decision to leave was made solely for personal reasons.

"Really since I started working here, I've been trying to get out to Elkhorn, because that's where me and my wife live," resource teacher Andrew Thompson said. "I still love Central, I do, I have nothing bad to say about Central. It's just that it's gonna be more convenient."

Along similar lines, Evan Block, one of the many educators leaving from the special education department, reflected on his decision, saying, "One of the motivating factors for me to interview at the new school was my wedding in the spring. My fiancé is also a teacher and we live out in Elkhorn. Westview High School is on 156th and Ida, which is much closer to where we live so it'd be a lot more convenient with us living out there and potentially starting a family."

The new teaching opportunities at Buena Vista and Westview, the first two new schools OPS is opening in over 50 years, were commonly cited reasons for leaving.

"It was a logical next step," said Dean of Students Eric Behrens, who is leaving Central after 18 years to be the athletic director at Omaha Westview High School. "This is a building that has a lot of meaning for me, I have a lot of history here. If it wasn't for a promotion obviously I would stay, but it's just an opportunity at another building that was a good career opportunity for me."

Echoing similar sentiments, is computer science teacher Megan Nyatawa. "The opportunity to work at a new high school is certainly appeal-

ing. The current principal there is someone that I worked with at Norris, and Buena Vista has a lot of computer science pathways, so they have five or six different pathways specifically focused on computer science. The one struggle at Central is teaching on the fourth floor, it's hard to get to meet other teachers and experience the rest of the building. So it'll be kind of nice to move to school where I'll introduce this school with everyone else and we'll all build it and grow it together."

For many educators, however, the decision to leave was not made in order to pursue career opportunities, but rather because of a feeling that continuing in their current positions at Central was untenable. In the case of Latin teacher Brian Tyrey, resignation was motivated by his own moral convictions. "Obviously, this wasn't an easy decision. This was my dream job moving into education. In the last few years, I suppose I've been holding onto the hope that things are going to better and we're going to get through this, and I've just seen that a lot of things haven't been addressed that needed to be addressed," he said. "We knew we were gonna have issues with staffing, there were some decisions made to make sure that we had enough teachers in the room with students to make sure all the classes are taught."

In Tyrey's situation, he was required to teach a Spanish class this year, a language which he is not certified in. "I took one semester of Spanish in community college, which was very low level. If I did not choose to leave this year, I'm afraid I would be stuck with even more language classes that I'm not certified in, and I don't think that's the best benefit for the kids. It really comes down to morally I don't think it is beneficial for me to be teaching students a language that I don't know."

Some educators spoke about the issues of mental health plaguing schools, feeling as if they lack the resources to adequately handle them in their current roles. Molly McVay, who has taught social studies for five years said, "I would say that a part of teaching is supporting kids' emotional-developmental needs and then another part is the academic-content-learning part. And so there have certainly been other moments in my career where something terrible happened and there was a need to spend more time on the emotional and developmental aspects of students. The last two years, the amount of time

that I have felt pulled to focus on the emotional needs of students as opposed to the content needs has really increased. And often, even when doing that, even when setting classroom time aside to do that, I still feel as though I'm not doing enough."

Speaking on the rationale behind her departure from the school, she said, "I think [the pandemic] accelerated at which I was critiquing the system. It shined a light in all the dark places both institutionally for the district and also in terms of my own growth and career visions. I have lots of peers who are friends from college, social acquaintances whose jobs really shifted in a way that allowed them to feel safer during the pandemic and they have been slower to return to full time work or their work-life balance has changed more positively and that didn't happen for me."

McVay also described the burnout she has experienced with engaging in the emotional work that teaching demands of her saying, "Whereas previously I might have been willing to take things home and continue to work at night that has become less and less true in the last two years because the amount of brainwork that I'm having to do during the day leaves me exhausted. It's harder to leave students' needs at home, like I can separate 'Oh, I should really grade that,' that's easy to do. But it's much harder to recognize that students are feeling, uncared for or unloved or their home lives are terrible. Those are the things I think about at 2 a.m. when I'm not asleep." McVay is planning to attend graduate school at UNO to get a degree in clinical mental health counseling and become an adolescent counselor.

Although he stressed his own departure is due to his weariness with his position, school counselor John Flemming also discussed his concerns with the mental health of students at Central. "Mental health is a big issue. We just don't have enough facilities to be able to help students that really need help, and that's made life much more complicated. What we really need is some kind of alternative school that will be able to work with the kids that don't



seem to fit in anywhere. I think what's happened is some kids just aren't fitting in and there's nowhere for them to go, and they just have to stay here or at some other school. It's not that they can't do the work; it's just like Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, you to have certain things provided to you to make education feasible."

Some teachers felt that the pandemic had positively impacted schools in certain ways. English Department Head Katherine Rude, who is leaving to be an 8th grade dean at Buffet Middle School after teaching at Central for 17 years, said "We've just been learning a lot. I think that during COVID it was more important for the schools to be working more closely with the community to make sure all the supports were

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Central holds 108th Roadshow



Sophie Cullum | The O-Book

Middle: Holden Fershee is part of the lighting crew. "I'm incredibly proud of how the Roadshow turned out this year after having an extremely short timeline. We had many opportunities to teach, learn, and develop through our show. The technical department is relatively young, having only one senior, with freshman alone representing about half of our students. The Roadshow is one of Central's longest running traditions and the Central drama department is very proud of our presentation of it, whether in person or otherwise," Fershee said.

Top: Euan Milne and Joseph Warren-Pasley co-host the roadshow, and take the audience on a comedic roadtrip around the country. "It was an honor to host a memorable roadshow at the climax of my highschool years. To be surrounded by the surreal talent for weeks was an incredible experience. I am very grateful for the opportunity," Milne said.

Bottom: Ruby Titus plays Paper Bag by Fiona Apple on electric bass in the first act of the Roadshow. "This was the first, and possibly the last time I've ever played the bass. I am so grateful to be part of such a fun show, and to be on stage with my amazingly talented sister for her last performance at Central," Titus said.

Grace Ridgley
section editor

Central High kicked off its 108th Roadshow over the weekend. They held three official performances on April 28 and 29. This is an opportunity for students to show off their variety of talents for an audience.

Senior Jack Drobny attended the Saturday showing, and it was his first time going to one of these productions. "They did a really excellent job so far. I am anticipating a lot in the second half, but I know they will deliver," said Drobny.

The show was hosted by seniors, Joseph Warren-Pasley and, Scottish foreign exchange student, Euan Milne. They did a continuous skit where Warren-Pasley was unsure of what country Milne was from as they traveled along the United States introducing each act along the way. Their energy was high, and they made for an entertaining duo.

The acts varied significantly. The Roadshow offered comedy skits and traditional style dance. It was a mix of the different cultures that are present in the school. One of the crowd favorites were the two performances done by senior, Grace Titus. She sang an original song, entitled "Beautiful Fool" which was originally an English project for "The Great Gatsby". She also finished off the night with Fiona Apple's classic lament, "Paper Bag".

Sophomore, Zoe Pinkelman, attended the show for the second time along with her mother. She expressed her admiration for Titus's performance, along with several other acts.

"I thought that the strings performance was really, really good, and

interactive. Sometimes they can be sort of boring to watch, but they really brought the energy with "The Devil Went Down to Georgia". I was pleasantly surprised," said Pinkelman.

In addition to the CHS Chamber Strings, several other music and acting classes were able to perform. These included CHS Bell Choir, CHS A Capella, CHS Winter Guard, CHS Honors Drama, CHS Jazz Band, CHS Brass Band, Bel Canto and CHS Singers. Each group brought an exciting performance to the show.

"Seeing the different music classes do their thing was also a highlight. My friend

Tate, who plays the drums, was in a lot of them, and I was happy to see him up there," said Drobny.

Each act at the 108th roadshow brought a unique flare. They also included a flashback to the play earlier in the school year, "The 25th Annual

Putnam County Spelling Bee", with Owen Fuesel's performance of "Chips Lament". During this, he tossed bags of snacks into the audience while dramatically performing across the aisles and the stage.

"The chip thing was cool," said Pinkelman. "I wasn't expecting that to happen."

Overall, the 108th Roadshow brought a wide variety of performances from students. This is a yearly tradition, and there will be one held next year. If students do not want to perform, they are also able to help backstage as members of the tech crew. There is always some way to be involved.

Drobny's final words stated, "I think these young people have put together something that is going to last a lifetime. Get involved if you can."

They did a really excellent job so far. I think these young people have put together something that is going to last a lifetime. Get involved if you can.

JACK DROBNY

SENIOR

Students, teachers react to Omaha World Herald story

Noemi Gilbert
staff writer

After the Omaha World Herald published "Blunts in the bathrooms, skipping all the time," Central students and teachers had a myriad of reactions. Some agreed with the article's descriptions of misbehavior and chaos, relating their own classroom experiences this year. Others, like junior Isabella Manhart, found the article overgeneralizing and harmful.

"I was very upset by it," Manhart said. "I feel like a lot of the quotes were taken out of context and saying awful things specifically about our school."

Manhart was interviewed in mid-March for the story, which came out in early April and immediately became a topic of discussion within the Central and OPS community at large, with voices both agreeing and disagreeing.

The story described a myriad of behavioral issues that have arisen before, during and after the pandemic in schools.

With numerous teachers across the country announcing their exit of the profession and a stark rise in adolescent mental health issues, it is evident that teenagers and the spaces that serve them are facing major problems.

Science teacher Alexis Madsen discussed the article with her freshman students.

"Our students are aware of how we're looking to the public right now," Madsen said.

She used text-tagging to discuss with her students the language in the article and the causes for the issues, tying it into science by discussing cause and effect of pandemic schooling.

"We looked at this piece, looking at if it were evidence-based or opinion-based, we talked about if it was fair to make generalizations about OPS," Madsen said. The piece opened up a conversation about how schools have been affected in the last year.

"My students talked about how mad they were at the world, they've dealt with death, isolation, being around people

does just get them really anxious. As a teacher I empathetically know that kids are struggling with PTSD, and how I can support them."

Madsen specified that schools all over the country are facing issues, not just OPS and public schools overall.

"I felt like the story was specifically trying to make OPS look bad because they didn't bring in perspectives about any other districts," Manhart said.

Manhart wrote a letter to the editor expressing their disagreement with the article's presentation. At the time of this writing, it has not yet been published by the Omaha World Herald.

"OPS had not done the best in the past couple of years, but OPS kept the mask mandate for the longest, so they've been trying and been bashed on consistently when we're trying to meet needs that are vastly different than other districts," Manhart said. "There's a lot of nuance that was not given space in that story."

New advisor plans to expand Central journalism

Callan Maher
staff writer

This next school year will bring a lot of changes, one of those being a new teacher for the journalism department. Hillary Blayney is leaving at the end of the year, and Broderick Hilgenkamp will be stepping into her role.

Hilgenkamp has been working at Central for two years now as a para in the EL department. Katherine Rude approached him with the idea of becoming the new journalism teacher due to his past experience in the field.

Hilgenkamp attended McCook Community College then went on to Doane University. When he was out of college, he did video editing for channel seven, KETV. Later he switched to sports writing for small weekly community papers that the Omaha World Hareld owned: Bellevue Leader, Papillion Times, Ralston Reporter. Hilgenkamp wrote sports for two and a half years then switched to news for two and a half years. In June of 2020 he was laid off.

"The pandemic happened, and newspapers, in general, across the country got hit hard, and we were one the them" Hilgenkamp said.

He began working at Central after that. His wife knew he enjoyed English tutoring and encouraged him to look at OPS and see if there were any jobs relating to EL.

Hilgenkamp has been meeting with Blayney, speaking to students, shadowing the classes to begin to get a feel for what the journalism department is like. He plans to keep the student leadership that has been previously decided. Plans to keep the tradition of submitting students' work to judges and taking students to attend newspaper conferences.

"I trust Ms. Blayney. The leadership she has chosen will be good. That continuity is really important. I don't see any benefit of changing anything like that," Hilgenkamp said.

With new leadership there are bound to be some changes. Hilgenkamp has expressed that

he hopes to create partnerships with other news organizations, one being the Omaha World Herald. He also hopes to bring other journalism elements into the department.

"When I was in college, I did a little bit of everything in the journalism department." Hilgenkamp said. "I was the sports editor for the newspaper, I was music director for the radio station, I did stuff with the TV stations. So, incorporated some more of those other elements like audio editing, video editing, getting students more exposure to that if possible is a goal."

With his experience in the EL department, he also hopes to be able to provide opportunities for those students to get involved in journalism.

The students already involved he hopes to help encourage them out of their comfort zones: to explore different aspects of the department and write different types of stories.

Hilgenkamp is nervous about being in control of a classroom alone. Next year he will no longer be a para and no longer be in the EL department. He will be in control of his classroom and his own students. Hilgenkamp also has to deal with the pressure to maintain the tradition of excellence Central hold. What he is not nervous about is returning to journalism. He has had a fascination with it since he was a kid. Hilgenkamp getting this job is a full circle moment in his life.

"So, I really loved sports, so basically from when I learned how to read, I would open the sports section of the newspaper and look at box scores and see if my favorite players hit home runs or if my favorite teams were winning, and I would read stories about games and stuff like that. I just read a lot of news," Hilgenkamp said. "Growing up, Thursday was my favorite day of the week because that was the day Sports Illustrated came in the mail. I would just devour those each week."

Hilgenkamp is ready to share his knowledge and see the journalism department expand. He plans to try to keep the tradition of excellence running and leave his own mark on Central the way Blayney did.

Letter from the staff

We would like to dedicate our last issue to our advisor, Mrs. Blayney. The Register has had the privilege of being led by her for over a decade. We are so thankful for all she has done for Central's journalism program and the impact she will leave on us even when she is gone.

029 has become more than classroom. It is a safe space that is home to some of our favorite memories: the countless bags of microwavable popcorn, class trips, cramming for deadlines, coffee runs, and secret santa. Blayney is more than a teacher to us because she acts as more of our newspaper mom, comedian, crazy cat lady, and Mark Wahlberg lover.

Thank you for all that you've taught us—even though you are a traitor for going to our rival school, Westside. It's sad to think you won't be at Central next year, but we know you will accomplish great things as their advisor, much like you did for us. We love you and wish you all the best.

With love,
The '22-'23 Register staff



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Teachers share frustrations with profession, reasons for leaving

TEACHERS from page 1

in place for all of our students and their families and the role of school really was highlighted. I think with absences and covering classes, there were some additional challenges, but we've kind of weathered those things and figured them out and I think we're coming out of it now and we've gotten stronger."

Others had a less optimistic view of the changes the pandemic brought to education. "The pandemic is an impetus for a lot of people who are leaving, because everything is just crazy," said reading teacher Aaron Schurevich, who is leaving Central after his first year at the school. "The fact that there are some students more enamored with phones than paying even a modicum of attention to what's happening in class is utterly painful at times. It takes a lot of the emotional and intellectual energy out of the profession." Other teachers themselves felt that their position did not allow them to maintain a healthy work-life balance. One such teacher is Cassie West, who has taught math at Central for 17 years. West said that her husband's job required him to work often in afternoons and evenings, meaning he is frequently unavailable to help out after school. "With our kids getting more involved in activities, I realized two years ago that I probably needed to teach part-time in order to keep the balance."

She applied to be part-time alongside her colleague Brianna Sommer, the plan being that she would work mornings while Sommer would work afternoons. In her initial email, West told the district that she did not care if she stopped receiving benefits, if they stopped contributing to her retirement, and if her salary did not increase, her only request that she be allowed to work part-time at Central. It took less than an hour for the district to email back and say that they were not considering part-time employment at this time. West was not told why they were not considering her offer. "I don't know why they won't. I think that's why it was harder for me to accept. I know my value and it was very frustrating to feel like they didn't place any value on me."

After much thought, she decided to continue teaching last year, a decision that she retrospectively feels was a mistake. "I learned through remote learning that I really had a lot more energy in the day when I wasn't around large groups of people all the time. I would go home and have so much more energy, I didn't realize the toll that teaching took on me," West said. "It was a three-year process to separate teaching from my identity to be able to feel like I could resign."

In addition to all the burnout she was experiencing and grappling with her family's needs, she alluded to the demands being made of her to accommodate the new policies being implemented in OPS as being an impetus for leaving as well. "Some of the asks started to become too big. All the changes they've made in the last year, all the changes coming next year, it became too much. It's all the little straws and finally one of the little straws breaks the camel's back, right? It was November when I saw all those extra changes on top of everything else and I feel like I've bent and I've bent and I've bent and I finally broke."

Other teachers noted discipline issues as a reason for exiting. "Clearly in the hallways it's out of control," an anonymous teacher said on the rising misbehavior at Central. "You break-up fights or you walk in the bathroom and kids are vaping or smoking pot, it's not the end of the world but it takes away from your energy that you're trying to give to your kids in the

classroom. If kids are out there doing that and half of the class is skipping every day, it doesn't matter how many times I call home or how many referrals I write or how many times I talk to an administrator. It becomes this situation where more and more people are checking out, with good reason, I know people are depressed and upset and the last two years have been hard. But then to just say 'Ok we're not going to do anything and we can just sit here all day and everyone can just fail and everyone can just tune out' and it's just become too much."

The sweeping changes coming to Central next year, in addition to the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, were referenced by some as a factor pushing teachers away from Central. Although she is leaving education primarily to pursue her passion for social media management, Freshmen Seminar teacher Emily Montgomery said that she has her doubts about what the effect of block scheduling will be next year, "What I think will be the most challenging for Central is that you have teachers here that have been here for years and have never taught a block schedule. I think the challenge will be for them being adjusted for the schedule, but also for students to adjusted to it because they've been on the period schedule for years as well." On

the issue of pathways, she says, "I see pros and cons to it, but I think it's a little too early for students to be deciding what they want their future to be. Essentially making a fourteen-year-old choose what they want to do the rest of their life when they've never had a job before, yeah I question it."

Among the teachers leaving for this reason is the Register's adviser Hillary Blayney, who has accepted a position at Westside after leading the journalism program for 12 years and teaching at Central for 14. "I love my position here and what I do, but with all the changes, with pathways and block scheduling, it's really going to limit the amount of students who are able to take journalism, so I think a few years down the road the program won't be as sustainable as it has been and that broke my heart." When pressed on who she believes is responsible for the rollout of all these changes to OPS, Blayney said, "I want to say pathways program was Cheryl Logan's baby. I think it was a vision she had when she got hired and that Steele Dynamics was brought in and I hope it works out for OPS."

The name of OPS' current superintendent, who was hired in 2018, cropped up in some of the interviews the Register conducted. Most of the teachers who wished to remain anonymous cited fear of reprisals from Logan as the reason for their anonymity. "I was actually excited when they hired Cheryl Logan," said another anonymous teacher. "I thought 'This is a minority woman and a former Spanish teacher. Okay, this is someone who has been in the trenches. I'm excited, this could be really good' and then it turned out she was just like every previous superintendent or even worse. It's the same thing where it just seems like she isn't here to effect positive change, we're just a place for her to push her agenda and gloss up her stats."

Elaborating on the effect that Logan has had upon the work culture at OPS, the source said, "I just feel like she's antagonistic towards teachers. It's like if you are making a stand

and pushing back, you are the enemy. When I saw it firsthand, I felt like teachers were pouring their hearts out saying what was happening. Instead of saying 'that's terrible, I'm sorry we're going to work on it' she was like 'well, figure it out, that's your problem' and sort of just attacking teachers. As soon as anyone spoke out, she got really unprofessional." Echoing similar concerns about Logan's conduct as superintendent, another anonymous educator said, "I think the lack of like professionalism is what bothered me. I mean to have all these people voice their concerns about pathways and block scheduling and what's happening in our schools and her to just take like it was something against her. I don't know, I just think if you're making half a million dollars a year leading a school district, you should be able to have meetings with your employees where you act professionally."

While some teachers listed their grievances with the current OPS administration, Schurevich discussed how the greatest issue he sees is how education is being affected by policymakers at a higher level. "You see this drive for labeling anything that displeases middle-aged white men as [Critical Race Theory] and the demonization of anyone who says anything about why bad things are happening to people of color and people who are poor. Ultimately, unless we have some big cultural changes and we stop trying to push all of our public school dollars into private schools or charter schools, I only see it getting worse. I mean my wife and I were talking about having a kid and then we were like 'Wait a minute, are public schools gonna survive the next ten, 15 years?' and we're not convinced they are and we're both teachers, so we're not having a kid anymore."

The common thread that ran through almost all of the interviews the Register conducted, was the last words of encouragement and gratitude that departing staff had for the

teachers and students of Central. "I'm an alum as well so the building has always had a special place," Tyree said. "This place has been a part of my life for over a decade, so I'll miss the people."

"I think this is a fantastic building," Behrens echoed. "There are so many wonderful teachers and people that really are student-oriented, and that's one of the great things about Central and that's certainly something that I want to take with me to Westview."

Speaking to the teachers at the school, West said, "I could not have done the last 17 years without them. This job would be too impossible without their support and their

friendship and their humor and their laughter. And, I don't know it sounds silly, but forgive me for leaving. I hope that they can forgive me for leaving. They're amazing educators and I feel really lucky to have been able to spend my teaching career with them."

In his final words to educators, Shurevich said, "Sometimes teachers are too ready to accept what's being handed to them. The fight is more important than acceptance when what's on the line is existential. If it's working conditions, if it's leadership that's not leading, sometimes sticking your head up and drawing the attention is worth the potential of suffering consequences. Going along to get along doesn't benefit anyone except the people in power."

Author's Note: This story was made possible by the contributions of Web Editor Charlie Yale, who generously devoted his time to assisting me in the interview process. An extended version of this article which includes a list of teachers known to be leaving can be read at www.omahacentralregister.com.

The fact that there are some students more enamored with phones than paying attention to what's happening in class is utterly painful at times. It takes a lot of the emotional and intellectual energy out of the profession.

Aaron Schurevich
English teacher

I could not have done the last 17 years without them. This job would be too impossible without their support and their friendship and their humor and their laughter.

Cassie West
Math teacher

I am thrilled to present the sixth issue of *The Register* for the 2021-2022 school year. I look forward to informing readers through the documentation of remarkable stories and views.

As Editor-in-Chief, I am confident in the work the staff has produced over the past month, and I am proud of the final presentation. My hope is that our love for journalism shines through this issue.

I hope you find *The Register* compelling, informative, and welcoming. Make sure to check out our website, omahacentralregister.com, to keep up with current stories and events. We are also active on Instagram at [@chs.register](https://www.instagram.com/chs.register) and Twitter at [@CHS_press](https://twitter.com/CHS_press). Thank you for your continued support and reading of *The Register*.

Livia Ziskey

Livia Ziskey,
Editor-in-Chief

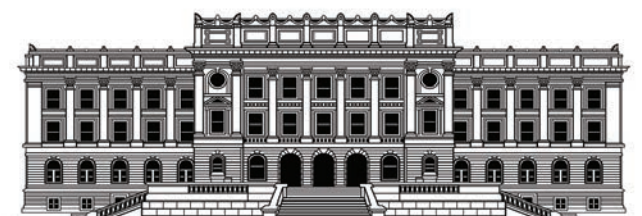
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It is the goal of the Central High Register to represent the student body in issues affecting their lives as young people and students. If you feel that we are not covering an issue that is important to you, we welcome contributing writers who bring 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.



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Engineering Club wins Award of Distinction at competition

Daniel Graham
staff writer

The Engineering Club participated in the Student Mentoring Program Competition Day at UNO in early April and came away with the Award of Distinction, the second-highest level of honor at the event, placing them fourth overall.

After shutting down due to Covid-19, Engineering Club started up again this year when physics teacher Ashutosh Kumar asked senior Ashley Hernandez if she'd be interested in leading the club. She was, and not long afterwards, senior Noah McPherson asked to be her Vice President, and seniors Marley Dodenhof and Vince Orsi joined the club as well, along with other students.

"I'm interested in engineering, and I know a lot of kids are," Hernandez said. "We have this whole arts and new addition thing going on, so it's nice to provide kids with an opportunity to learn more about engineering and STEM."

The club started to meet early on in the school year, and they started working on their project for the competition right away.

"We had a great idea," McPherson said. "We knew what we wanted to do, and we did it."

They decided to make a water wheel with an electric motor. Orsi explained that it would float on top of a river, anchored down to the riverbed. Water would flow underneath it and spin the wheel, generating electricity. One wheel would generate 300 watts of electricity, and it would take just six or seven to power

an entire house.

"We would have a small field of them," Orsi said. "We could do a three-by-three grid of them all tied together, getting nine of them floating in the river, and that could power a house easily."

To show this, the club built a life-sized model of the wheel, which Dodenhof and Orsi believe helped them a great deal in the competition.

"We built a functional model; nobody else did that," Orsi said. "Other schools, they had 3-D models or miniature models, but we had an actual device that was capable of producing electricity."

Hernandez also believes that building a physical model was important because they could run some tests on it. This allowed them to find flaws in their design process.

"When we did test the voltage. We were able to find out that it didn't work as efficiently," Hernandez said. "If it was all theoretical, we wouldn't have come across that problem, but because we did build it, we

came across that and fixed it."

The club leaders are all graduating this year, but they encourage students next year to give the club a try. Hernandez and McPherson stressed that it provides great opportunities for everyone, and Dodenhof said it is a manageable activity to add to a busy schedule.

"It was really difficult with sports and other stuff to keep coming," Dodenhof said, "but it was really easy to come every so often; the meetings aren't long, and we made a group chat, we stayed in contact. It was really easy to do outside of everything else."

Im interested in engineering, and I know a lot of kids are. It's nice to provide kids with an opportunity to learn more about engineering and STEM.

Ashley Hernandez

Vice President



Photo Courtesy of Vince Orsi

Sponsor Ashutosh Kumar poses alongside club members Jackson Wiese, Nolan Firley, Noah McPherson, Ashley Hernandez, Brody Brown, Vince Orsi and Marley Dodenhof in front of their award. Students cut apart a bike to use gears and chains for club activities.

Fashion Club provides safe space for creativity

Ziya Gaskin
staff writer

Juniors Maleyna Navarrette and Eva Casady started a fashion club to bring students together who are interested in fashion. They want to encourage students to be optimistic about having a career in that industry. Their goal is to create space for Students at Central to feel comfortable expressing their creativity and style.

"We want to teach those interested those careers are possible while encouraging them to be their most authentic self," Casady said. They would recommend this club to people that love not just fashion but style. Students who are juggling adversity and still putting in the work to present themselves to the world as they are, and people that use fashion to express how they feel, and those who love dressing up. "Fashion Club is open to anyone, just one step closer to possibly developing interests toward the fashion industry." This is what Central is all about. Clubs get passed down from generation to generation, and it's nice to see students restart clubs, make them blossom and make them their own.

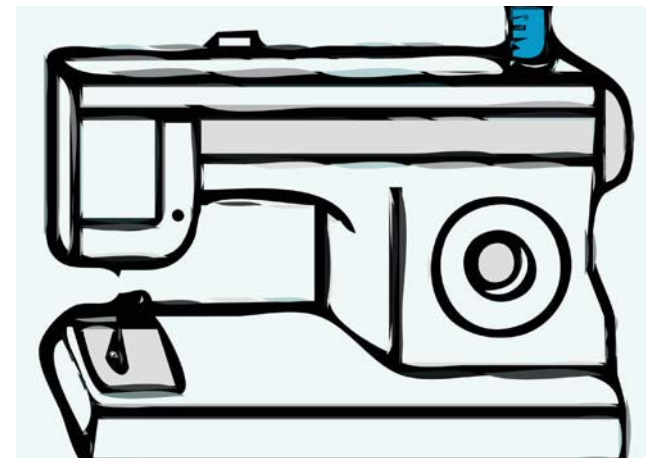
"Eva and I are ending the school year with making our first CHS 2022 Spring Pillow Collection," Navarrette said. They

want to sew and make patterns to bring their creativity into life. Next year they plan on diving deeper into what makes a runway run smoothly. They will critique designer clothing lines, discover behind the scenes of shows, and learn how to create clothing from a bodice. "One thing I'm excited about is creating digital 3d garments on the software CLO 3D." These juniors are not playing around, this club gives the opportunity to learn, create and discover for anyone interested. Planning to make key chains or construct bucket hats to sell to students, friends, and family will allow them to save up money to participate in more diverse and difficult projects, such as buying patterns and tools.

They hope everyone who participates learns skills like how to use a sewing machine, better knowledge about fashion and develop an aptitude for sewing and develop some design skills too. A typical meeting starts out with a game called Bop or Flop. Members rate garments or trends and decide if it's bop or not. Melayna's favorite part is to see where everyone's heads are at and what trends they like and which ones they don't. It is a step closer to getting to know them and what styles they are interested in. The Fashion Club meets every Tuesday from 3:05-4 p.m. and will continue this fall.

Eva and Maleyna think this club provides benefits for the

community by volunteering in August for Omaha Fashion Week. The members will get to help our community and get intel on how real fashion shows get out on. Eva says, "This club has benefited me by letting me meet amazing people who also understand the world of fashion." People are glad to know that a group of people with the same interests can come together and create something valuable.



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opinion

TANF PROGRAM FAILS FAMILIES

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program fails to meaningfully address poverty, exacerbating economic inequality and leaving Nebraska families struggling

Livia Ziskey
editor-in-chief

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is a federal level government assistance program, and it needs reworking, both at the federal and state levels. Its reach continues to shrink, even amid the increase in those living in poverty due to the pandemic.

The federal government provides grants to states to run the TANF program. Its four main goals are to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes, end dependency of needy parents on government benefits by promoting work and marriage, prevent pregnancies out of wedlock and encourage two parent families.

Much of the assistance for TANF families comes in the form of cash, which creates problems within itself. The federal block grant has stayed at an annual \$16.5 billion with no adjustment for inflation, meaning it cannot reach as many families as it did at its conception in 1996.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) finds that because of inflation, even the maximum TANF benefits for a family of three cover just a fraction of the estimated cost of housing, which is only one of the basic needs that a family must meet. Thus, there is a major gap between what those in poverty need and what they are receiving in terms of assistance.

As of July 2021, the federal poverty line for a family of three was \$1830 per month. Nebraska's maximum TANF benefit only accounts for about 25 percent of this amount, meaning that poverty-stricken families must find a way to make up the remaining 75 percent before not being labeled as a family in poverty.

Within Nebraska, TANF's reach continues to shrink. In 2020 only 20 percent of Nebraska families who applied for TANF received any form of assistance, 48 percent lower than in 1996 and one percent lower than the national average. If TANF reached the same percentage of families as in 1996, 8587 more families would be receiving assistance, as found by the CBPP.

Nebraska's TANF money is used to fund the Aid to Dependent Children program, also

known as ADC. Voices for Children found that ADC helps only one in two Nebraska children living in extreme poverty and one in five Nebraska children living in poverty. These numbers leave thousands of Nebraska families without any form of government assistance, essentially a message that the government does not care for their well-being.

There are also racial disparities that can be observed in TANF's assistance reach. The CBPP has observed that 41 percent of the nation's black children live in states where TANF helps less than 10 percent of families in poverty compared to 28 percent of white children.

Black families overall are likelier to live in states where they would receive the lowest benefit levels, which do very little to meet the most basic needs. As black families and individuals continue to be left behind by government assistance programs, the systemic racism within this country continues to rear its ugly head.

Some may argue that the government cannot be expected to take care of every family experiencing poverty through cash assistance. While there is truth here, federal data shows that more than \$5 billion has been kept from needy families. States are not required to use all TANF funds each year.

Nebraska has accumulated \$91 million in unspent TANF funds to be saved for a "rainy day." What could be a better reason to release this money to needy families than a global pandemic? This massive accumulation of funds leaves one to question how much Nebraska truly cares about its struggling families.

The TANF program is not meant to be a long-term solution to poverty, as the word "temporary" is embedded within the name. Rather, the federal money granted to TANF is intended to be a quick way for families to stay on top of their basic needs while simultaneously gaining the strength and means to be self-sufficient.

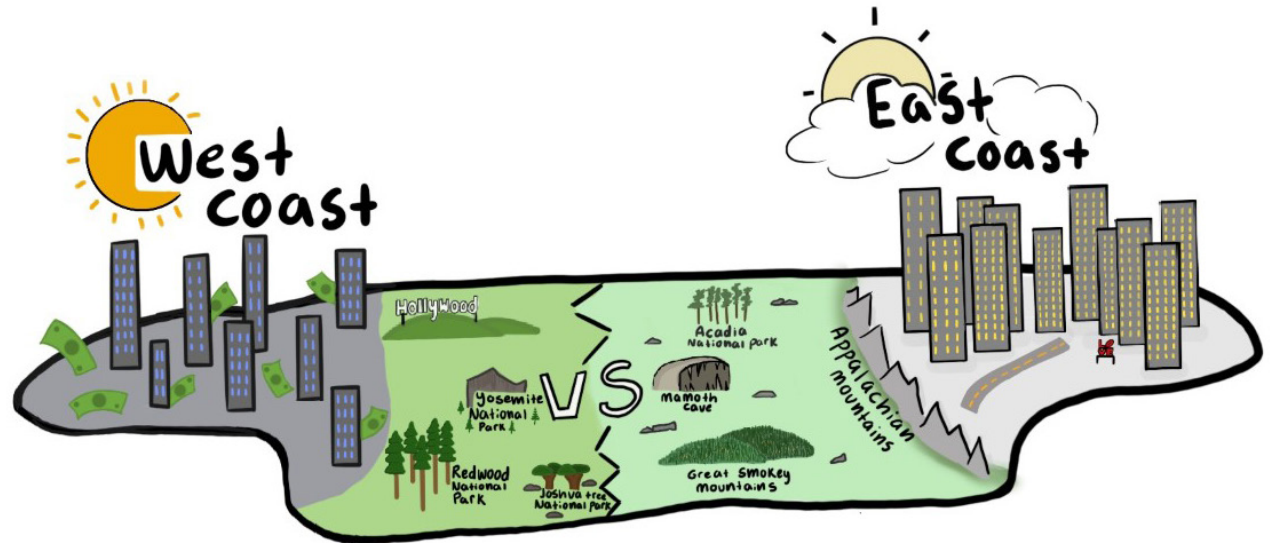
Therefore, Nebraska and other states should not be afraid to release the funds to those families in need. It may appear to be more costly in the present, but providing assistance now would serve to reduce poverty overall in the long run and positively alter the lives of children living in impoverished families.

East coast superior to west coast

Charlie Palmer
staff writer

This school year, I took the opportunity to visit Philadelphia and Los Angeles with other Central journalists. I had an amazing time on both trips and would take them again in a heartbeat. I really enjoyed certain parts of both Philadelphia and Los Angeles, but ultimately would rather live in Philadelphia if I could. This is all based subjectively on my experiences, and I do not mean to offend any West Coast lovers, but rather state my observations.

The main difference I immediately noticed between LA and Philadelphia was the contrasting homeless populations. In Philadelphia, I felt like I saw a normal amount of homeless people for such a big city and really didn't think much of it. However, Los Angeles' homeless population was much more apparent and even concerning in comparison to Philadelphia. Naturally, there is going to be a larger amount of homeless people in LA than Philadelphia because of their higher total population, but what I saw seemed to greatly exceed that expected increase. After researching, I learned I wasn't going crazy and found the main root of the problem. There is more homelessness on the West Coast because there are more causes of homelessness to begin with: expensive housing costs and poverty. Philadelphia is far from being a perfect city, but it does a much better job of managing homelessness than LA by having more available shelters, programs and affordable housing. A lack of affordable housing correlates with higher rates of homelessness overall. Many homeless people in LA have to sleep on the streets at night because



ELLA NOVAK | The Register

they cannot get shelter. In comparing the two coasts, New York City has more people safe in homeless shelters than the states of California, Oregon and Washington combined.

Another distinction between LA and Philadelphia that caught my attention was the varying levels of prices. I liked that Philadelphia was a lot more affordable than LA when it came to pretty much everything, especially food. You could find good food for a relatively cheap and affordable price without having to look for too long. You can still find cheap food in LA; it just may be harder to come across. Overall, I just really like how spending money frugally is easier to do in Philly than LA.

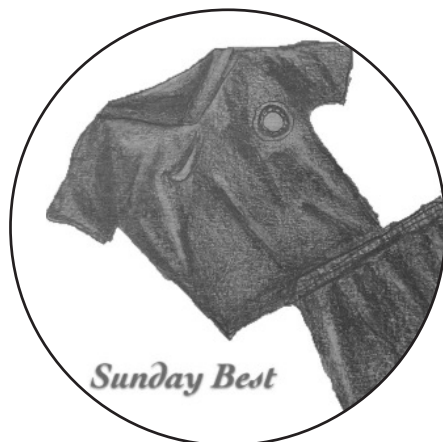
Another take of mine that is sure to spark controversy is that the East Coast has better weather than the West Coast. Personally, most of the West Coast is too hot and muggy for my liking. Summer is amazing, but not when it's every season. Most of the East Coast gives you the feeling of all four seasons

in a year and usually has cooler temperatures. Maybe Nebraska's weather has lowered my standards, but I am content with cool temperatures and even rain almost any day.

Finally, I prefer the layout of many East Coast cities to those of the West Coast. Many East Coast cities are compacted together to fit the small parameters they had to be built on. The narrow streets and tall buildings almost amplify the cultural immersion that you get in cities on the East Coast. You are condensed into a smaller space with people from all kinds of backgrounds and almost forced to interact with each other, giving people a sense of unity whilst building the city's culture. I would prefer living in a city on the East Coast because they are more compact and defined than cities on the West Coast.



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TEENAGE GIRLS on page 8



CHLOE JOHNSON | The Register

Dance clubs potential outlet for teens

Chloe Johnson
staff writer

There is a stigmatized view of clubbing in the United States. Within Omaha, there is not a single club you can get into as a minor. This means that, in order to fulfill the primal urge to dance that has existed in teenagers since the beginning of time, people go to house parties. These are honestly far more likely to have illegal substances than a dance club with a bouncer.

However, this stigma does not exist everywhere. In many European countries, clubs are open to teens. For example, in Italy, the age of clubbing is sixteen. Without the high age requirement, behavior change to be safer, like the way adults stop cussing when a child enters the room.

The potential good that dance clubs could bring is much more valid than the stigma surrounding it, especially at this point in time. Human life has never been so sedentary—we sit at school, in our cars and at home. Dance offers exercise in a form that's much more fun than the

treadmill. More fun means that we are more likely to make it a healthy habit. Dance promotes both physical and mental health for teens. Teen anxiety and depression have gone from 11% to 25% since the pandemic began. Dancing has been proven over and over to boost endorphins, while decreasing feelings of loneliness, anxiety and rumination.

Dances as social events have always been a part of American history. Square and swing dances were the social events for teens in agricultural areas since the early 1900s. The 1940s brought jazz clubs as locations for dancing and socializing to the cities. The 70s brought discos. Electric music turned discos into the rave dance clubs of the 80s and 90s. It's only recently that there has been an absence of places for social dances in the country.

Clubbing is not a dirty activity. It could be exactly what feels missing in teenage life right now. Dance clubs for teenagers would increase teen mental and physical health, not crime rates.

Social media dangerous to teen mental health

Claire Shafer
staff writer

Generation Z (people born in 1997-2012) is the first generation to grow up with social media playing an essential role in daily life. Gen Z has never lived in a world without mobile technologies and therefore never experienced life without social media. In fact, most of us probably created our first social media accounts back in middle school- if not earlier. Though most of our lives have been spent on screens using various forms of social media, we are oblivious to most of social media's consequences.

Social media's constant presence in everyday life has caused extreme issues for individuals' mental health and safety. To combat the increasing risks associated with social media, many schools have added online awareness and safety classes to their curriculums. Unfortunately, many of these classes focus primarily on issues like cyberbullying and fail to include other, arguably more serious, issues that come with social media. Therefore, many users are unaware of the deeper consequences of social media, and just how prevalent they are.

An extremely prevalent negative impact of social media is its toll on mental health. According to the CHC Resource Library, 91% of Gen Z have reported mental health issues, making Gen Z the generation with the largest amount of mental health problems in history. Of course, not all Gen Z mental health issues are caused by social media alone. However, statistics show that in many cases, as social media became more prevalent, mental health issues increased. For example, social media has led to an increase in self-harm and suicide rates. From 2009-2015, self-harm among girls ages 15-19 rose 62% and ages 10-14 rose 189%. Tragically, during the same period, suicides also increased 70% for girls aged 15-19 and 151% for girls aged 10-14.

Social media is detrimental to mental health because of the unprecedented issues that occur on the platforms. For example, users experience cyberbullying and blackmail frequently thanks to the globalization social media provides. In fact, more than fifty percent of adolescents have experienced cyberbullying. In my experience, many people wrongly think rude and mean comments made online are not as hurtful as those made in person.

Beyond cyberbullying, sexual harassment and blackmail are also more prevalent because of social media. According to NSPCC, in 2021 the number

of recorded online grooming crimes increased by seventy percent compared to prior years. Additionally, most incidents of online fraud and blackmail occur on social media platforms. For example, a story about a seventeen-year-old Michigan teen committing suicide recently made national news when he was blackmailed on Twitter after sharing explicit photos of himself.

Misinformation spread via social media has also led to extreme political volatility. A very prevalent example from the past few years was the spread of misinformation about COVID vaccine efficacy. Some associated with the far right made wild claims online saying the vaccine carried a chip, it caused rare medical diseases or that COVID 19 did not exist and was a government "scam." These absurd claims started on social media and gained popularity due to social media algorithms adding these posts to users' feeds. Another example that also occurred during the pandemic was the storming of Capitol Hill. The riots were initially planned online after Trump ended a speech to his supporters encouraging them to march on Congress to stop the certification on the Presidential election. Supporters were convinced through misinformation online that the election was stolen from Trump. The rioters used far right social media sites like Parler and Gab to communicate their plans to attack the Capitol. According to the New York Times, rioters discussed what roads to take to avoid police, what weapons to bring to the riot and how to pry open locked Capitol Hill doors in the comment sections of posts.

Social media is designed to keep users engaged and on their platform for as long as possible. The more time someone is on TikTok, the more money TikTok makes from showing ads. Social media companies have different algorithms for all their users, so they can maximize content engagement and the time users spend on the app to increase the company's profits. Each algorithm is specifically tailored to show each user "relevant" content based off what they favored in the past. The algorithms use your psychology against you, so that self-discipline is often not enough to stop scrolling.

Social media is a powerful communication tool that Gen Z will use for their entire lives. However, social media is still evolving, and the risks are not yet fully understood. Therefore, my tip to Gen Z: scroll, like and follow at your own risk.

Dinkers Bar and Grill



2368 S 29th St



Teen girls impact consumption trends

Alice Larson
staff writer

Throughout this story, the phrase “teenage girls” will be used frequently. The author’s intent is to discuss those who identify as girls or femmes.

Teenage girls are a diverse group, and while most teenage girls do not embody a Regina George-esque existence (an existence that revolves around boys, popularity, maintaining an impeccable appearance and shopping frequently), the weight of girls who embody at least fragments of her characteristics is significant in American society. Teenage girls have an immeasurable impact much in America, yet the power they hold is often overlooked by modern men. Young female consumers hold vast power from dictating a company’s profits to boosting the career and financial gain of celebrities.

It is an undeniable truth that social media holds great significance in dictating modern day societal behaviors. Many American citizens consume some form of social media daily, and its influence is wide in our daily lives. Social media keeps us connected to what is trending, what products we should consume and what behaviors we should embody. It informs us what is currently “chuegy” and what products and behaviors should be avoided at all costs. Interestingly enough, teenage girls embody the largest percentage of social media users. Teenage girls have the largest yay and nay vote in terms of deciding what content will become popular in social media and what behaviors will be reinforced in American society, based upon how they fare on social media platforms. It is therefore apparent that teenage girls influence much of the behaviors and practices present in modern day America, given that many of our norms are dictated via social media, which teen girls dominate.

The impact of teenage girls on the American economy can be observed through semi-recent phenomena such as the emergence of VSCO girls. VSCO girls were a popular fashion and lifestyle trend of the late 2010s, in which predominately teenage girls wore short athletic shorts, an oversized shirt, Crocs and carried a Hydroflask water bottle, often decorated with stickers. The VSCO girl sensation swept social media feeds globally, and for a time, VSCO girls were seen as the “it girls.” Consequently, the companies frequently patronized by said girls profited financially from the trend. According to an article published by the Daily Mail in November of 2019, Hydroflask sales increased by 239 percent, and Croc sales increased by 229 percent following the VSCO girl trend. However flighty and trivial teen trends may seem, those very trends boost America’s economy and the livelihoods of Americans nationwide.

The societal impact of female adolescents can be further observed by the phenomenal success of currently popular actors like Timothée Chalamet and comedians such as Pete Davidson. For many years in Hollywood, muscular, tanned, lighter haired males stole the hearts of adolescents nationwide. Magazine cutouts of actors such as Chad Michael Murray, Brad Pitt and Ryan Gosling hung from teens’ bedroom walls and locker interiors. However, it is evident in modern day a new type of teenage heartthrob has emerged. Pastier, skinner, darker haired, some may say unconventionally attractive males have won the current affections and wall space of America’s youth. Popular and widely acclaimed actor Timothée Chalamet and widely renowned comedian Pete Davidson have arguably earned a significant portion of their success and wealth due to teenagers’ infatuation with them. One does not need to scroll on social media platforms such as TikTok or Instagram for long to find posts from adolescents thirsting



over the celebrities’ appearances, and their infatuation manifests as more financial gain for said men. The more teenagers who find Davidson and Chalamet insatiable, the more teenagers buy tickets to their movies and comedy shows. The more teens post about their infatuation with Pete and Timothée, the more they become on social radar, consequently, the more they are wanted by companies for sponsorships and promotions, both of which directly funnel money into the two men’s bank accounts.

Teenage girls truly have a unique position in modern day America. Whether young girls realize it or not, their opinions are being closely watched by adults and even younger children who aim to follow their lead. Despite the gross stereotypes that female adolescents are overly emotional, unintelligent, flighty and a burden to society, it is apparent that teenage girls carry great significance and purpose. Our society could truly not function the same without teenage girls.

Omaha roads unsafe due to incompetent drivers

Ella Novak
staff writer

As a fairly new driver and as someone who is very opinionated, there are several elements of driving in Omaha that make driving both terrifying and frustrating. Just about everyone who has ever entered my car has heard me complain about at least one of these things because, as I said, I am very opinionated on these issues. While I may be irritated by many aspects of driving, I am very grateful to have the opportunity to have my own car and be able to drive myself places. I am not actually infuriated about these issues, I just have fun complaining about nitpicky details of everyday life because I have nothing better to do, I guess.

Like many Central students, I have to drive in the downtown area basically every day of my life to get to and from school. From doing that, I have noticed how an overwhelming majority of streets in the area are one way. While I get why these one-way streets are in place, they just feel very dangerous. I have many friends who have made the mistake of turning the wrong way, putting these drivers in a dangerous position. While I know there is little that can be done about these streets, I just personally think that they are very dangerous and often very confusing.

While efficient in theory, the ORBT in practice is very inefficient and creates traffic jams on one of the already most traffic-prone streets in the city. In the middle of the day, when the ORBT has the most frequent routes, it creates major traffic jams. The idea of having a bus that resembles a subway system with frequent stops may have seemed like a positive idea. However, during peak rush hour on Dodge, the massive ORBT busses take up an entire lane due to their constant stops and slower speed. With Dodge already being under constant construction, the ORBT system can definitely hold up commutes for Omaha drivers. While the idea of the transportation system makes sense, its execution is very flawed.

When I first started driving, I never expected it to lead to me being such an opinionated and critical driver. I especially never thought that would lead me to have a least favorite intersection- the intersection of Happy Hollow and Dodge. While it may sound silly and overdramatic, this intersection absolutely destroys every previous belief I had about my skills on the road. Something about the crossing over of about five or six different and very populated streets in a very confusing manner makes me completely avoid the intersection all together. Again, my confusion with the intersection may just be the consequence of still being fairly new to driving, but I feel like I will forever hate the intersection out of spite.

Obviously not all pedestrians are the problem, however, many pedestrians rely so heavily on the fact that they have the right of way that they put themselves in dangerous scenarios to just get across the street. For example, one time when I was driving down Saddle Creek, two



SAM ROBLES | Contributing Cartoonist

men ran to the middle of the street and stood in the middle of the road until they had the chance to cross the other two lanes. Another time when I was driving downtown, a woman sprinted in front of my car with little warning. This instance was not even on one of the main roads downtown where foot traffic is very common. I have noticed many people just crossing the street without even looking. Often, they are looking at their phone or even just staring at the ground. I get that pedestrians have the right of way but honestly, they have to realize that sometimes it is difficult for large heavy vehicles to stop on a dime because the pedestrian decided to sprint across the street with little thought. However, while in some scenarios these instances may be completely the pedestrians’ fault, I think the main reason that we have so many pedestrian-related accidents is because Omaha lacks a safe foot traffic system and instead caters to drivers.

Possibly the biggest and juiciest cherry on top of driving in Omaha is the utter stupidity of other Omaha drivers. I have seen countless offenses of running red lights and stop signs, going seemingly 50 miles over the speed limit, texting and so much more. Every day that I drive to school, I get to experience the melting pot of terrible drivers. I am convinced that everyone in Omaha needs to retake their drivers test at this point because it’s just so concerning how unsafe the Omaha roads are.

Young people must exercise their right to vote

Noemi Gilbert
staff writer

There’s a pervasive ambivalence that creeps around many conversations about civic engagement. Namely, that it just doesn’t matter. No matter what letters are sent, or which petitions are signed, many leaders will simply vote along their own values (and wallets) instead of the values of their constituents.

But that’s not an excuse to slip into apathy when it comes to civic engagement. In fact, it is a rallying call to the most important form of civic engagement, the form that, instead of changing peoples’ minds, changes the people in power.

Voting in local and national elections is the most important way to make sure your values are recognized at the large level. In the representative democracy of Omaha, Nebraska and the United States as a whole, the job of elected officials is to represent the people. It is essential that young people’s opinions are represented as well. The way to ensure this is by removing barriers to voting. For many young people, these barriers include transportation to a polling place, uncertainty

about restrictions, and a lack of knowledge about the candidates.

For leadership to truly represent the people, these restrictions must be removed, and voting must be made as accessible as possible.

Recently, I sat in the courtyard for a lunch period encouraging voter registration. Over my 43 minutes, I explained how primary elections worked, why voting matters and how to find your polling place to students not yet eligible to register to vote. I also registered one person to vote.

A response I heard often was, “I don’t care, it doesn’t matter anyway.” Many teenagers don’t feel like their voices matter on the city, state and federal government level. Our current systems of leadership thrive off of this ambivalence. If no young person believes that their impact matters, the current systems- systems that are evidently failing millions of people- will continue to propagate harm. If we do not believe that change is possible, then nothing will change.

A common misconception is that one must be 18 to vote in a primary, such as the upcoming Nebraska primaries on

May 10. In fact, one must only be eighteen by the time of the general election. This means that essentially the entire class of 2022 can vote. I encourage all readers, if they will be eighteen before November 8, 2022, and are U.S. citizens, to register to vote at vote.org/nebraska. There are many other resources available to learn more about candidates, such as candidate’s personal websites, the nonprofit Civic Nebraska and sample ballots available on the Nebraska Secretary of State’s website.

Voting matters because, no matter how much money someone pours into a campaign, the people are the ultimate deciders of their leadership. And while, of course, our duty to change goes beyond voting and includes community support and engagement, electing people who share common values quickens the process of change in an official context.

I urge you to not become ambivalent about the upcoming primary and general elections out of the belief that they just don’t matter. If young people remain largely underrepresented in voter counts and the status quo continues, then our representatives will never truly represent us and our leadership will continue to neglect the opinions and needs of young people.

Sports replacing church in American society

Chloe Johnson
staff writer

I feel the need to preface this piece with the disclaimer that I am writing this as a competitive athlete as well as well as an Easter Christian—this is not an article condemning competitive sports or ‘sinners.’ It’s merely a sociological opinion of how priorities in our country have shifted in the past several generations. According to a 2014 survey by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, 53 percent of 6 to 14-year-olds play a team sport. In contrast, only 22 percent of Americans attend a weekly religious service.

The idea that sports have replaced church first occurred to me in the literal sense when I was at a soccer game for my middle school brother on a Sunday morning. At the literal hour that Christians attend service, we were cheering on a Dewey soccer sideline. But club sports have replaced more than just the square on the calendar that church had occupied; they have replaced the role church provided for our society.

Two generations ago, church was the center of life for most Americans. Sixty percent of the population attended weekly religious service in 1960. Church covered more than just spiritual needs. It provided socialization, purpose, routine and discipline. This looked like church picnics, roles for every parishioner and church every week. Sunday service was not something to be skipped—all other activities moved around it. The church calendar and the family calendar were one and the same for many. Social groups were also largely predetermined by the church because everyone was in youth groups, and family friends and neighbors were also likely parishioners. Everyone had a role, from being an usher to making potato salad for church events.

On a deeper level, church was an investment in one’s future, meaning, the afterlife. The more money or time one put into the church, the more secure their place in Heaven seemed to be. Over and over, trust in religion and the church was



emphasized. The church taught that if you trust and follow the teachings and correct your mistakes, you will be blessed forever. Belief was the key to salvation.

In the same way, club sports have become an investment. If parents spend enough money and time now, their kids can have more opportunities to play in the future, including at the college level. In some cases, this investment is more literal, where college scholarships for low-income athletes are concerned. The belief piece comes in with the politics of different clubs and trusting that this club, this coach, this team will provide the player with the development they need to secure a good sports future. Players are expected to trust blindly in their coaches if they wish to succeed.

Sports have also taken over the church’s role of socialization, because of the large amounts of time being spent with

one’s teammates. Club sports promote socialization through the formation of bonds that can only be formed through shared vulnerability. In a youth group, this meant sharing religious feelings, thoughts and questions. On a sports team, this is the vulnerability of putting full effort into an activity and putting your body’s limit out in the open. Many youth groups also took yearly trips and retreats, similar to traveling tournaments.

Church was the mirror one saw themselves reflected in to get an idea of how society views them. It gave them a purpose, whether as a voice in the choir, an altar server or just as a follower of “the Lord’s word.” This identity formation has also been taken over by club sports. One’s purpose is their position. How they see themselves is how other clubs view their club and how much they contribute to the team.

Developing discipline is the final role I see club sports taking on. Previously, discipline was developed by sitting through long boring services and spending hours volunteering. Now, it is almost synonymous with exercise, conditioning, and developing the ability to push through discomfort for a greater purpose on a regular basis. The greater purpose has shifted from salvation to winning games. There is less mental discomfort and more physical discomfort, but there is still growing discipline.

Again, this is not meant to guilt trip athletes in any way. Maybe one’s tight-knit traveling volleyball team does more for you than sitting in a church pew ever could. But the interesting part is that while the means of obtaining them have changed, our needs of socialization, routine, discipline and purpose have not.

Process of growing up complex, inconsistent

Jaden Cheloha
staff writer

This is a realization that is not unique to only one person. The idea that life in our teenage years is just blowing us by and we haven’t really stopped to realize is something every high schooler has gone through at one point or another. However, it’s not always noticeable right away.

Before I turned 16, I would constantly talk with my friends about the days we would all have driver’s licenses and the days we would be able to just drive ourselves around, going wherever we wanted to whenever we felt like it. It was such a coveted concept, yet, when my 16th birthday finally came around and I was able to

drive, these dreams had just passed me by, and I never considered them, even after months into owning my license.

That felt extremely unnatural to me when I finally came to that realization. It wasn’t that long ago where I was on my way to a friend’s house to spend a free Saturday together. I grabbed my keys, made sure my parents knew where I was going, got in my car, and left.

However, while I was stopped at a red light, and without any warning, a spotlight turn on in my brain, and shined itself right at that idea that had been hidden for so long. I was living that dream I had envisioned with my friends so long ago.

It was tough to come to a realization like that on such a short

notice. It took some time to take that feeling in, but once it was digested enough, I had gotten to my friend’s house. Yet, it kept nagging me. It had burrowed in a little space in my brain, scratching at the back of my head. I spent more and more time reflecting on my life and how it has evolved, and why it felt so unnatural. Eventually, I was able to muster up an explanation that suited me, and the spark I needed came from something I wasn’t quite expecting: LEGO Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga.

A switch isn’t just flipped and suddenly you’re “grown up.” I feel like this is a lesson a lot of Disney Channel original movies teach, yet, it’s a very important piece when it came to understanding how I was feeling, and when I finally got that idea, I felt

a whole lot better overall.

While being able to drive myself should have been this monumental change in my life, it was only one thing. One thing about my life was now different, and while it was a big change, it did not take up much of what I considered to be “my life.” I still laughed at childish humor, I still bought LEGOs, and I still played the same video games I had been playing since before I was in high school.

That’s the thing. The process of “growing up” takes time. It can go in big jumps or baby steps, but those steps are never all at the same time. This is where the newest LEGO game helped me realize this. LEGO Star Wars: The Skywalker Saga was released in early April of this year, and I was just as excited for it as I had

been for the LEGO games that were released in 2017.

A total of 5 years had passed, and I was still filled with wonder and excitement when I realized I could soon play this game. So many things can change in 5 years of a teenager’s life, yet this emotion had remained a constant. The game released, and I have already spent more than a reasonable amount of time playing through it. It’s these constants, combined with the occasional big changes that created this feeling I wasn’t able to figure out until quite recently. Now that I have, though, I am much closer to accepting these inconsistencies and preparing myself for whatever comes next.

Popular high school books overrated, uninteresting

Isabel Walocho
staff writer

I am not a picky person when it comes to the world of books. I will read just about anything if it has an interesting cover or a good recommendation. However, there are certain times where this has gotten me into a book that I absolutely hated. I know many, including myself, are too proud to start a book and not finish it. I am advising all to not read my top three least favorite books to prevent anyone I can from the torture it is to have to finish a bad book.

Starting off with a bang, I am about to trash a book that might get me into trouble. The first book I would recommend to only my worst enemy is “The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger. I cannot stress enough that I did not get one valuable piece of information from this book. Not one life lesson or one moment of entertainment. This is not to say Salinger is a bad writer, because he is not. But I cannot get pass the bore of a man that is Holden Caulfield. No one, (and by no one, I mostly mean me) wants

to read 234 pages of a very privileged boy whining about his life. When Caulfield is not whining, he is making readers mad. Those are not two emotions that I want to feel simultaneously while reading a book that is supposed to be a “coming of age novel”. There are moments of this book I find touching, such as the pain Holden feels for the loss of his brother or suffering from a traumatic event, which is why I can understand why many enjoy the book. But there are so many more books that are both coming of age and deal with trauma, that are not full of gross remarks and misogynistic views. By all means, if you want to read the tale of a misogynist 16-year-old, do so. But I do not plan on ever again, reading a book where the only woman not being objectified is twelve.

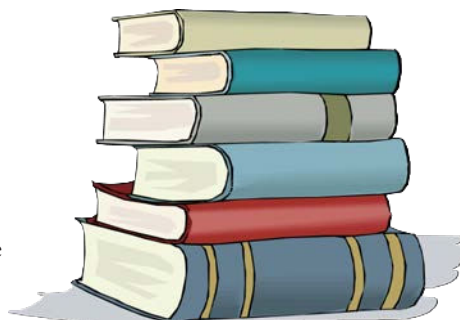
My next book is one that many high scho-

ol students will relate to. “The Count of Monte Cristo” was the most confusing book I have ever read. I am thinking back to when I read this book freshman year, and I do not even know the plot of the actual book. There are like 80 billion (maybe I am exaggerating a tad but whatever) characters in that story, and half of them are the same person. I thoroughly enjoyed the parts I could understand, and I like the stories of each character. Split up into maybe a three-book series I might have enjoyed it more. But I have never had more moments while reading a book where I have had to stop and go “wait, he was also him?”, and then spiraled into hours of confusion.

My last book (well, I guess play) that I never want anyone to read ever again is “Romeo & Juliet.” I can almost guarantee that most if not everyone currently reading knows the story of Romeo and Juliet. That’s because it

has been told about 300 times. Why are we not reading “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “King Lear” or other stories that not everyone knows? Everyone knows the story of Romeo and Juliet, and everyone knows how untrue it is. There is no way Romeo and Juliet (who are literally 16 and 13 which is already gross) fell in love in a few hours. What happened to Rosaline, Romeo? I think I have spent more time asleep than Romeo has jumping from Rosaline to Juliet. I can go for hours on how much I do not like “Romeo & Juliet,” but I would much rather save readers from the long story and hope that they never have to read, watch or listen to the story ever again.

Everything stated is fully my opinion, but I am strongly urging you to never, ever read these books unless you must (and please read them if they are class required. I will not be responsible for your bad English grade). There are so many books and so few hours in the day so please, read a book that you might enjoy.





ETTA SALZMAN | Contributing Cartoonist

Friends vital for positive high school experience

Anja Kovajevic
staff writer

High school is a critical time for many students. The constant stress and trying to keep up with everything all while thinking about what the future holds can be exhausting. Good friendships can aid in this challenging time by providing comfort and acceptance. Having good friends, or even one good friend, can change a person's whole outlook. While the world keeps changing, it's important to have something constant in life that's making a positive impact.

Friendship in high school can help young people achieve a sense of belonging and acceptance. Realizing that there's other people out there having similar experiences and interests is an important part of life. When meeting new people, one can begin to form an identity that isn't just influenced by their families.

The more people a student meets, the more they will find out about themselves. In a positive friendship, this will result in learning more about oneself and being willing to try new things out. This works hand in hand with one promoting their own interests and being able to prosper around individuals that are willing to listen and share as

well.

The beauty of high school is that everyone is spending their time in the same place and sharing similar experiences. This provides an enriched school experience surrounded by people that will understand what other students are going through, providing comfort through companionship. This will also show one that everyone is human and that it's nice to have someone to talk to and work through things with.

Looking at how influential the time period of high school is, it's important that one's friends are pushing one another positively. Just because a friend is made, doesn't mean they have to be there forever. Sometimes it's better to go through a phase of being "alone" rather than surrounded by negativity. Keeping in mind that not all friendships will last forever is imperative.

People change in each phase of their life and with this so do the surroundings. High school friendships will always be a part of one's life. Those memories will always be there and allow a capsule to look back at how one was shaped into who they are now. Though it may not last forever, that impact of positivity will always be carried.

Changes bring nervousness for next school year

Ella Levy
staff writer

It appears this is the last year of familiarity. Block scheduling, pathways, new teachers and new students are amongst the many changes of next year. Next year, the only constant will be change.

To most, change is not innocent, but it is controlling. People are afraid of change because it is new and unknown.

This is to say, people are cautious and nervous for the following year. People's emotions may seem to spiral along with the school. However, one year of chaos may be worth a lifetime of success.

There are many changes at Central that are new to everyone. The staff and students of Central must come together to lend support. The only thing that will not change is the students' ability to depend on each other. That must remain for students to feel as though they can go through a new year.

No one knows if these changes are good or bad or what they may bring. They could turn the school around or lead it to shambles. One will just have to wait and see.

The students and the teachers should offer each other grace and opportunity to grow next year. They will have to look out for one another and try to understand their feelings are shared with the rest of the school.

To me, the changes next year mean I will be attending a different school than I do now. I picture teachers struggling much like they do now and students feeling confused and helpless.

I feel as though I cannot offer my opinion of these changes because no one knows what they will bring. It is unfair to offer criticism if one does not know the outcome. However, I feel the advice of sticking together is necessary to survive no matter the outcome.

If teachers and students step outside themselves and offer support to their community, the year will be worth surviving.

Resisting and complaining will not change the situation. One must try to adapt and do the best they can.

No one will be alone next year, but that is not to say that it will not be difficult.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023 DRAFT COPY			
A Block	TIME		B Block
0	6:55 – 7:35 <i>Meets Daily</i>		0
1A	7:40 – 9:10		1B
9:15 – 9:40 <i>Eagle Time</i>			
2A	9:45 – 11:15		2B
11:20 – 1:30			
3A	1 st Lunch	2 nd Lunch	3 rd Lunch
	Lunch	Class	Class
	11:20 – 11:55	11:20 – 11:50	11:20 – 12:20
	11:20 – 12:50		11:20 – 12:50
3B	Class	Lunch	Lunch
	12:00 – 1:30	11:55 – 12:25	12:25 – 12:55
	12:55 – 1:30		12:55 – 1:30
	Class	Class	Class
	12:30 – 1:30	1:00 – 1:30	
	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms
	Rooms	Rooms	Rooms
4A	1:35 – 3:05		4B

Athletes pose moral questions to fans

Daniel Graham
staff writer

The world of sports fandom is difficult to navigate. Sports are often a way for fans to relax and escape the real world, but no matter how much they try, the real world—especially the ugly parts—are still an important part of sports.

This may bring to mind the well-publicized past refusal of the NCAA to pay its players, or the equally well-publicized domestic violence charges brought against NFL players over the years.

Those, however, are only the most well-known moral issues within the sports world. Even those who have no fan affiliation with any sport are often informed and have opinions on these issues.

The more complex issues arise much further into sports fandom, issues about which casual or even some knowledgeable fans might not have as much information, or might have information which they choose to ignore.

This article will focus on these issues within the NBA, but they appear across all sports, especially in the major professional leagues.

On the level of the individual athlete, the greatest moral dilemma is whether or not it is acceptable to support or even discuss the

abilities and accomplishments of a player who committed a heinous act off the court.

Again, some NFL players may come to mind when pondering this issue, but there are other athletes who have, sadly, done far worse. The two most notable examples of this in the NBA are two former players, Utah Jazz star Karl Malone and the late Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant. Their stories may be disturbing to some readers.

Prior to entering the NBA, Malone, at age twenty, impregnated a 13-year-old girl. The girl's parents took him to court for paternity, but he never faced any charges and in the end agreed to an out-of-court settlement. Malone went on to play in the NBA for nineteen seasons and is now third all-time on the scoring leaders list.

In 2003, Bryant was in his mid-twenties, was married, had a child, and had won three NBA championships, cementing himself as a star player in the league. Then, while staying in Colorado for knee surgery, he raped one of the housekeepers. The case caught a lot of attention, but before it went to trial, Bryant's accuser decided she could not go on with the case. Bryant went on to play for thirteen more years, winning two more championships in that time.

Though Bryant's case was far more publicized than Malone's, it is Malone who NBA fans have shunned—and rightfully so. Yet Bryant, who has received nowhere near the

same reaction, is by no means blameless.

While it is true that Bryant was young at the time and that he learned from his actions later in life, there is no excuse for the fact that he raped a young woman. It seems, instead, that he has remained in good standing with NBA fans because of how captivating of a player he was while in the league.

Though Malone was by all means a skilled and accomplished player, he never reached the heights that Bryant did, never garnered the same love from NBA fans. This points to a disturbing reality amongst some NBA fans: they are willing to overlook objectionable actions in the face of sporting accomplishments.

This is not to say, however, that these issues are always cut-and-dry. There are a number of pro athletes with morally objectionable characteristics, ranging in severity from those who have political beliefs and ideologies that may be out of line with some fans' perspectives, to those who do business with corporations like Nike which have used child labor, to those who have committed more minor crimes, which some may consider forgivable after some time.

This does not apply exclusively to athletes; the owners of the organizations that employ those athletes often carry some moral baggage with them as well.

The most well-known owner of this variety is attorney Donald Sterling, who owned the Los Angeles Clippers until 2014, when he was

banned for life from the league for his numerous and relentless racist outbursts.

While Sterling may be the most blatant and obvious offender, NBA franchise owners, by nature are wealthy and powerful people, meaning that a fair number of them have made their fortunes through amoral practices and believe that their current status gives them license to act as they please.

This is where watching and supporting a player and franchise with questionable morals becomes reasonable. Watching Brooklyn Nets star Kyrie Irving play basketball is not an endorsement of his anti-vaccination views, and following the Phoenix Suns is not an endorsement of majority owner Robert Sarver's racist and misogynistic views.

It is, however, important for fans to acknowledge that these people hold these views. Fans should spend their money and show their public support for these groups accordingly, understanding who is benefitting from their support.

It is difficult in the modern world to find any large-scale entity made up of people who are entirely moral and ethical in their actions. Just as that does not mean fans cannot enjoy the products these entities create, it also does not mean that fans should not acknowledge and shed light on those faults and support positive change within those entities.

arts & style

'EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE' INSTANT CLASSIC

The Daniels' genre-bending multiverse fantasy finds meaning in the chaos of our world.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A24

'Everything Everywhere All At Once' directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert is a film that transcends genre, putting Michelle Yeoh in the spotlight. The Daniels' genre-bending multiverse fantasy finds meaning in the chaos of our world.

Jane McGill
staff writer

When the internet was an amusing new gimmick and social media was but a glimmer in Mark Zuckerberg's eye, there was no way of foreseeing the manner in which they would alter the human psyche. But the ubiquity of these technologies today has led to a strange shift of perspective for those who use them. For some it is acute; for others, it is nearly imperceptible. It is the unplaceable feeling of emptiness that accompanies mindlessly scrolling through Instagram or compulsively binging Tik Tok. It is the sensation of experiencing a never-ending procession of sights, sounds, ideas, and beliefs without any kind of structure or the mental capacity to process it all. Instantaneous access to everything all of the time has left humanity to wade aimlessly through this deluge of information in pursuit of entertainment, truth and above all meaning. "Everything Everywhere All At Once", a title which itself is an apt description of being online in 2022, is one of the only works of art I have experienced that truly captures the nebulous, overwhelming nature of life in the internet age.

What begins as a humorous if mundane story about Evelyn Wang (Michelle Yeoh), an aging Chinese American laundromat owner who is struggling to reconnect with her well meaning, if guileless husband Waymond (Ke

Huy Quan), and capricious father Gong Gong (James Hong) while filing her taxes with domineering IRS auditor Deirdre Beaubeirda (Jaime Lee Curtis) rapidly evolves into an interdimensional martial arts adventure as Evelyn is recruited by an alternate version of her husband to fight a great evil threatening the multiverse. The tension at the heart of "Everything Everywhere" is between the drama of an immigrant mother attempting to reconnect with her husband and daughter and the anarchy of a woman going on a genre-bending journey through the multiverse. The movie is able to strike such an exquisite balance between the two in large part due to the efforts of one of the most magnificent casts assembled in recent memory.

The momentous task that besets these actors is that they must embody many versions of their characters from different universes, a challenge that each one rises to meet in their own way. Michelle Yeoh, one of the most formidable action stars ever to grace silver screen, delivers one of her finest performances as Evelyn, the character around which every other orbits. She glides between comic obliviousness and daunting tenacity with ease, as staggering to watch in the role of the contemptuous mother as she is in the balletic martial arts sequences. Jaime Lee Curtis, a generational talent in her own right, transforms the initially austere auditor into an endearingly complex woman who can be as

tender as she is tough. The great James Hong reminds us why he is a Hollywood legend while Stephanie Hsu proves herself as a rising star to keep an eye out for. But it was Ke Huy Quan, in his triumph return to acting after a two decade hiatus, whose performance left me utterly flabbergasted. The astonishing range of emotion and humor that he is able to execute while dedicating himself extensively to the action sequences is an awe-inspiring feat.

What the Daniels accomplish here is some of the most audacious filmmaking in years. There is a pervasive sense of manic glee as they change the framing, color grading, lighting, and even the aspect ratio as the characters careen across the multiverse. The cinematography is just as dynamic, with the camera swiveling and zooming in harmony with the wonderfully dissident soundtrack, an old trick from their days of directing music videos. Taken altogether, it is a bonafide tour de force of disparate visual styles, woven together by a fractured, hyperactive editing style deeply reminiscent of the delirium of scrolling indiscriminately through your social media platform of choice. Like almost any artistic work that aims for the heights of hypermodernism, it occasionally comes across as overstuffed, overlong and overindulgent. This is an unfortunate, if inevitable, result of the unbridled passion with which the Daniels crafted this glorious, stylistically insane whirligig of a movie.

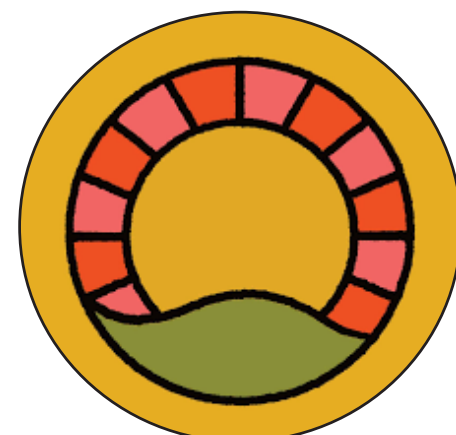
The uncanny visual language of the movie, more than even its willful disregard for genre and narrative conventions, reinforces its central conceit of the multiverse as a metaphor for digital life. Though the internet is never named by the characters, it looms large over every facet of the story. The antagonist that Evelyn must face in the end is a representation of the youth who have have their sense of reality irrevocably warped by growing up with the internet and the chasm between them and older people who are struggling to build relationships with a generation haunted by the torturous emptiness of being online for their whole lives. It is the ethos of the movie, which addresses the need to find meaning in the swirling chaos of our world by learning to embrace the sublime beauty of life and love, that makes this absurd sci-fi action comedy a cinematic remedy to generational trauma and existential nihilism, the kind of instant classic that only arrives in theaters once in a generation. I can hurl adjectives at my readers until their heads to begin to spin but it will never quite be able to do this movie justice. Despite my efforts to describe it in verbal terms, "Everything Everywhere All At Once" is so bizarre, reflexive, exuberant and altogether free in its conviction that the imagination should go wherever it pleases that the only way to understand everything it is and everything it does is to experience it for yourself.



SUMMER CONCERTS on page 12



TAQUERIA REVIEW on page 14



OUTLANDIA on page 15

CONCERT SCENE RETURNS TO OMAHA

by: Chloe Johnson and Ella Novak

BON IVER

Date: June 18 at 7 p.m.

Location: Pine Bowl Theatre

Genre: Alternative

Bon Iver first entered the music scene in 2007 with the indie hit “Skinny Love” on their album “For Emma, Forever Ago,” famously recorded in a cabin in the Wisconsin wilderness by lead singer Justin Vernon. His haunting, confessional falsetto accompanied by a lonely acoustic guitar, occasional drums, and synthesizers create a genre bending, unique sound. Bon Iver has partnered with celebrities such as Taylor Swift and Kanye West, and their creations hit deep for an unexpected variety of people. One of these people is senior Caedan Sain, who says, “One of my favorite things about Bon Iver is how they use a variety of instrumental and vocal layering to show emotion through their music.”

PHOEBE BRIDGERS

Date: June 1 at 7 p.m.

Location: The Waiting Room Lounge

Genre: Alternative

When TikTok sent Bridgers viral through her song “Motion Sickness,” Bridgers was already on her way up through her hyper-collaboration with artists ranging from Kid Cudi to Connor Oberst. The California singer-songwriter uses her soft voice to tackle topics of death and sex with an angelic but deadpan sound. This will be a well-attended concert, and Charlie Yale, a self-proclaimed PHARB, who says, “Her music is highly relatable but also just good.”

THE LUMINEERS



Photo Courtesy of NPR

Date: August 16 at 7 p.m.

Location: CHI Health Center

Genre: Alternative

The ultimate family compromise band, the Lumineers have been become the sound of home to many, including in Omaha in the 2010s. Their raw folksy rock hits of “Ophelia” and “Ho Hey” have become modern adult lullabies through their capturing of unconditional love and nostalgia. With just acoustic guitar and the occasional tambourine, their minimalist Americana melodies build a steady and uplifting momentum. “Really grand, but then they describe this happy go lucky kind of feel,” is how junior Hunter Oakleaf describes

NEKO CASE



Photo Courtesy of Billboard

Date: June 23 at 8 p.m.

Location: The Admiral

Genre: Folk rock

Famous for an unmistakable voice that is at once husky and sweet, Case’s music could be categorized as country, Americana, folk, alternative or all four. Her mystical voice almost overshadows the lyrical genius of her songs which share deep and often dark messages through beautiful and honest storytelling. Most high schoolers who listen to Case have grown up with her, such as senior Grace Ridgley, who will have seen her live three times in June and says, “She is a great performer.”

IAN SWEET



Photo Courtesy of London Calling

Date: August 8 at 8 p.m.

Location: Reverb Lounge

Genre: Indie Rock

While not very well known in the indie music community, IAN SWEET has the flair of indie rock that is becoming popular among teenagers today. She uses her music platform to share about her struggles with mental health in her latest album “Show Me How You Disappear.”

SHAWN MENDES



Photo Courtesy of Official Chart

Date: July 10 at 7 p.m.

Location: CHI Health Center

Genre: Pop

Pop music’s current pretty boy, Shawn Mendes, is a voice you’ll hear on repeat if you tune in to the radio at any time. His dangerously catchy hits include “Señorita” in 2019 and “There’s Nothing Holding Me Back” in 2018. Mendes sings with an adorable earnestness and vulnerability that has gathered a large following of teenage girls. This includes senior Breanna who appreciates that, “He’s very open about his mental health.” She adds, “Plus, he’s very sexy and hot.”

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS



Photo Courtesy of Rolling Stone

Date: June 25 at 8 p.m.

Location: Stir Cove

Genre: Indie pop/neo-soul

A throwback to the early 2010s, Fitz and The Tantrums bring a nostalgic sound to the stage with their newest album, Head Up High. They may have an unfamiliar name, but their music is immediately familiar. The band’s sound is a combination of indie pop with hints of neo-soul and features an array of different instruments to produce their sound. Senior Liv Ziskey says, “Their music has an electric feel to it that is bound to put you in a good mood.”

MACHINE GUN KELLY



Photo Courtesy of Numero

Date: August 4 at 8 p.m.

Location: CHI Health Center

Genre: Hip-Hop/rap

Machine Gun Kelly is an admired artist due to his ability to blend various genres of music together to produce his own style of sound. Many of his songs are very reminiscent of 2000s emo rock and grunge style. Scottish foreign exchange student Euan Milne is a big fan, saying, “I feel like there is some intelligence to his music.”

GRETA VAN FLEET



Photo Courtesy of Youtube

Date: July 23 at 7 p.m.

Location: CHI Health Center

Genre: Rock

“I started listening to them on TikTok,” says senior Maura Duffee O’Brien. After a remarkable rise in fans over the span of three years, the rock group continues to tour their increasingly popular music to the public. With a 70s flair, the band is great at entertaining crowds at large events and catering to their audiences of all ages.

BRIGHT EYES

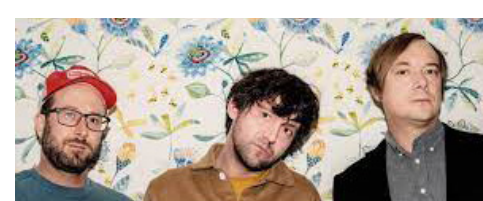


Photo Courtesy of Cleveland.com

Date: June 2 and 3 at 8 p.m.

Location: The Admiral

Genre: Alternative

As the pride and joy of Omaha, Bright Eyes has become a staple of the indie music scene. Led into the spotlight by the indignant, wavering voice of Omaha native and musical prodigy, Conor Oberst, the band has stayed relevant with a consistent output of albums, politically relevant lyrics and appearances on the soundtracks of “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Twilight.” “I love listening to Bright Eyes on the way to school or while doing homework because it’s very relaxing,” says junior Zoey Mullins.

AJR

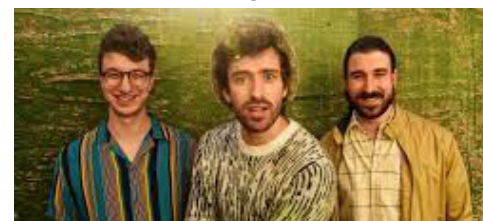


Photo Courtesy of The Columbus Dispatch

Date: June 8 at 7 p.m.

Location: Baxter Arena

Genre: Pop

The trio group, AJR, expresses many personal themes through their fun and upbeat music. They have been a part of the production of music in popular movies and television shows such as “SpongeBob” and “Soul.” The group is one of the most well-known indie groups today and has many recognizable hits.

JAPANESE BREAKFAST



Photo Courtesy of Harpers Bazaar

Date: July 12 at 8 p.m.

Location: Slowdown

Genre: Alternative

Japanese Breakfast is a band that has grown in popularity in the world of indie pop. She is especially popular with the millennial audience. Central Junior Olivia Kiefer says, “I love to listen to Japanese Breakfast at work where I work with lots of twenty-something-year-olds.” The band explores both deep topics as well as unapologetic joy with a catchy upbeat sound.

Senior pursues career in music industry, will play at Maha festival

Lucy Mason
staff writer

The Maha Festival which is scheduled for July 29-30, is an annual celebration of music which is popular for teens all around Omaha to attend. This year senior Mason Glasser will be performing some of his original work at the festival.

Glasser has been part of the Kent Bellows music program at the Joslyn Art Museum for the past three years. He will be performing two original songs as well as one of his fellow KB students' original works.

"I am equally nervous and excited for Maha. I love the thought of finally being able to show what I've been working so hard on all this time, to attempt to put my soul onstage and see what happens," Glasser said.

Glasser has always felt the need to play music since he was a kid. For the last six years, he has been playing guitar and feels very comfortable with the instrument and "very ready to express myself no matter the feeling that might be surrounding my psyche, playing serves as a release, a look through strife to peaceful release."

Drawing inspiration from a variety of different sources including John Fruciante of Red-Hot Chili Peppers to Kendrick Lamar, Glasser is pushing his creative limits as an artist and credits Kent Bellows for giving him a space to express himself. Senior year, Glasser enrolled in Central's Concert Choir class, with no prior singing experience.

"Jumping blindly into this group of fantastic vocalists really helped me find my own voice, or at least to better use it to pursue my own music," he said. "Before this year I've always loved singing I just didn't know how to properly perform it."

Glasser plans to pursue music in two avenues. He plans on continuing to perform, his goal being to create music that people enjoy and that he can share, while at the same time making money doing it as well by enrolling at Metro next year for their Sound Engineering program.

"I love performing, the feeling of being onstage is very freeing to me and the feeling of knowing how to showcase my art that I care about so much."

He began getting used to the feeling of performing by going to open mics to test it out. This is the most significant gig that Glasser has had yet. He said that he has never attempted something this big. Glasser expressed that he is nervous for Maha and the idea of hundreds of eyes being on him, but he stated, "at the same time that comforts me, everything worth doing should cause some discomfort."



Photo Courtesy of Mason Glasser

Outlandia festival has diverse lineup, unique experience

Ella Novak
staff writer

Omaha's newest addition to the summer schedule is the newest festival Outlandia. Headliners Wilco and The National will be taking the stage alongside multiple other bands including Margo Price, Band of Horses and The Breeders.

Marketing and PR coordinator of Outlandia, Ariann Anderson, reflects that her favorite part of being involved with the start of a new festival is "seeing the community excitement, the buzz it creates and comments about people looking forward to it." The festival has seen an increasing amount of popularity and has even sold out of VIP tickets for this year.

Anderson explains that even though the experience has been mostly positive, one of the biggest struggles of putting together a music festival is "creating and confirming a solid lineup that would have widespread appeal." The lineup itself has caused ripples of positivity throughout the local community. "People are super excited," explains Anderson, "I think that people are excited to see how this differs from other music festivals in the area."

Since the location of the festival has not hosted an event like this yet, Anderson finds excitement in the opportunity to make the space their own. "It is fun to create something where there are little expectations," says Anderson, "No one knows what to expect with this new property that has not had a music festival before. It is fun to turn this old salvation army camp into something that is going to be a place where memories can be created and ultimately people will just have a lot of fun."

Anderson explains, "The Outlandia team spans decades of musical experience. However, one percent of production celebrates their 25th year this year, they handle the artists and the lineup," Anderson also explains that the process of developing a festival is "all about developing relationships. Relationships with anyone from artists to electricians to investors. There are hundreds of relationships that have to work together to make this happen. I believe that my experience and that of the rest of our team members cannot only plan and execute a music festival, but we can also create something spectacular."

The idea of this festival has been in the minds of many members of the Outlandia team for years. "Many of the artists on this line up are artists that the founders of one percent productions, Mark Leibowitz and Jim Johnson, have had in their music festival dream lineup for a long time," explains Anderson, "I think that's true for many of the other team members so I can't really speak for the team but I know this has been in the works for quite some time now."

While this may only be the first year of hosting the festival, Anderson explains that "We hope to do this again next year. If this year is successful enough that we get to come back next year then we are excited to see the possibilities that brings, like camping for example. This year there is no camping but it is certainly a possibility in future years. In our first year we want to focus primarily on the experience of the Outlandia guests whether they are on stage or off."

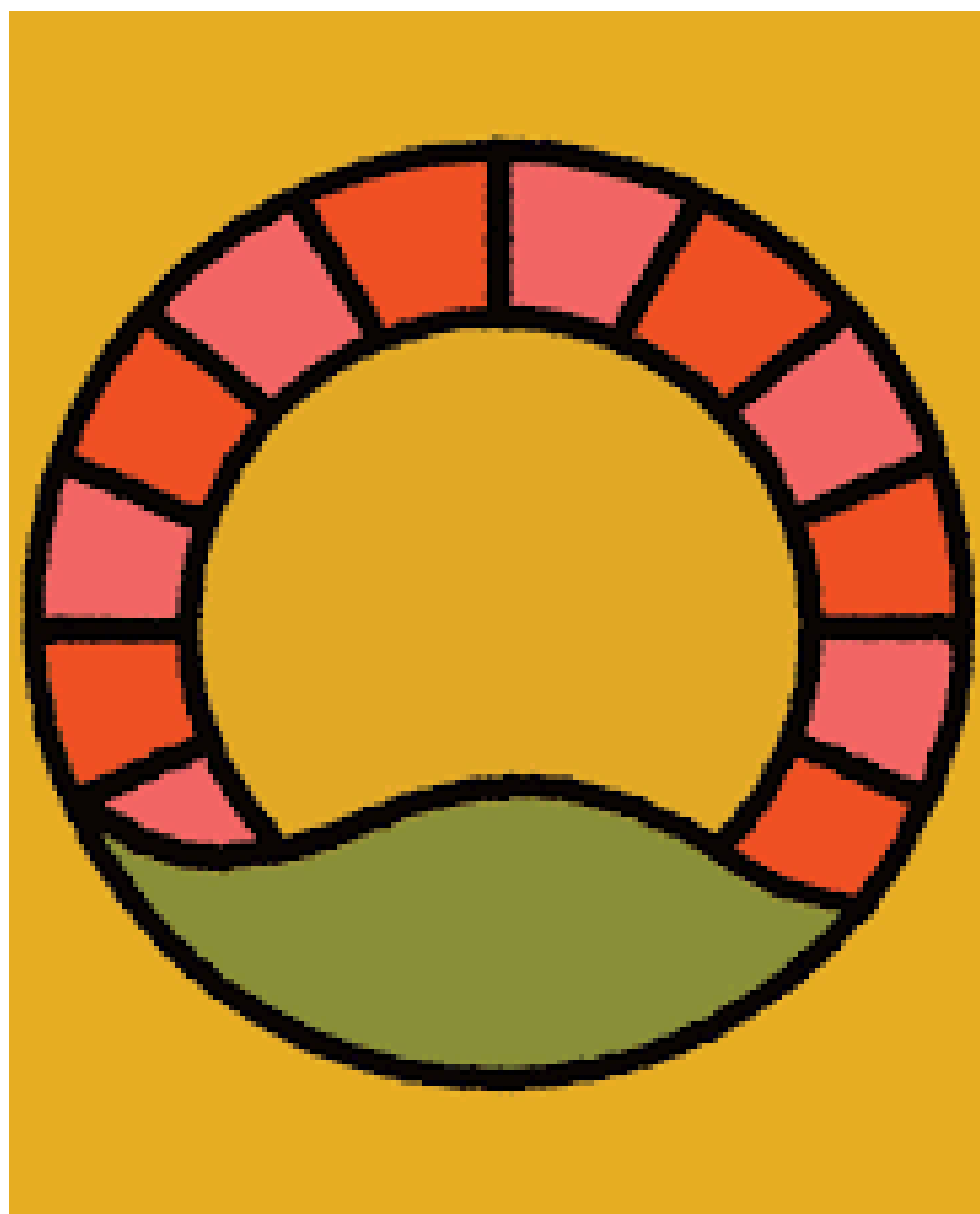


Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Pick up your yearbook in room 029 anytime after May 11th

THE REGISTER REVIEWS:



ALICE LARSON | The Register

Big Green Q offers modern twist on BBQ

Alice Larson
staff writer

Summer is just around the corner, as the season's warmer weather begins to draw Omahans from their winter at-home hibernation, one should consider dining at one of our city's many fine food truck establishments. Dining options in our metropolis range from vegan street food to churro trucks to contemporary twists on traditional BBQ. Big Green Q, located at 5402 S 108th Street, describes itself as "a green truck using old world cooking with fire & smoke to transform hormone and antibiotic free meats, locally sourced veggies and tofu, into tasty eats" and is a truck truly worth a stop for all looking to broaden their horizons.

Many may turn away from food truck dining because they may see no point in driving to buy food from an establishment that offers no space to enjoy the meal one just purchased. Big Green Q has such patron concerns covered. The truck is parked at Trucks and Taps Omaha, a former Sonic drive thru that has since been renovated to provide an outside dining area for patrons of resident food trucks Modern Waffle, Big Green Q, The Dine Lion and Burning Bridges. The dining area is functional and offers atmosphere with speakers that played classical interpretations of modern-day hits, which gave me the sense that I was living out the plot of Bridgerton while I enjoyed my Sunday morning meal.

The food itself was also quite delicious. The establishment's menu includes options of classic sandwiches, sides, French toasts, and huevos rancheros all with a slightly modern twist. I enjoyed an order of adult French toast which was made with ciabatta bread and grilled mandarin oranges, as well as sampling from an order of kids French toast, classically made, and an order of huevos rancheros. Personally, I enjoyed the huevos rancheros the best, due to the delicious spices and quality of food used to prepare the dish. The kids French toast was also very good due to the fluffy brioche bread used. However, my own order of adult French toast ended up being my least favorite dish because personally, I do not find grilled fruit on French toast appealing.

While the establishment may not have offered a large atmospheric indoor dining space, their prices are certainly similar to many of Omaha's more upscale restaurants. The total for my three dishes was around \$40, which is personally too costly for me to make Big Green Q a regular in my life. However, the establishment is committed to sustainability in their business practices and uses quality ingredients for all their dishes. They allow substitutions to make their meals accessible for all patron's dietary needs, whether that be vegetarian, vegan, gluten free or lactose intolerant. Therefore, when I have leftover cash in my paycheck, I will definitely be eating at Big Green Q again.

Taqueria El Rey specializes in tacos

Livia Ziskey
editor-in-chief

In the spirit of the warm weather on the horizon and the luxury of enjoying meals outdoors, I had the urge to try one of Omaha's local food trucks, Taqueria El Rey. El Rey is a brick-and-mortar restaurant as well as a traveling truck, often located in the Family Fare parking lot on Saddle Creek.

It's not easy to find good food that comes with a good price tag these days, but El Rey is no scam. A large entree item for \$9 is quite respectable in my book.

Their menu is split into four sections: tacos, burritos, tortas and miscellaneous items such as a nacho plate or a quesadilla. The menu also includes the extensive list of meat fillings one can choose from, which makes for an extremely customizable ordering experience.

In order to comprehend the full scope of what El Rey offers, I ordered from three of the four sections: carne asada tacos, a carne asada torta and a chorizo burrito. The woman who took

my order promised it would be out in a short five minutes, and she was right on.

The most delicious item I had the opportunity to try was the carne asada taco plate. The steak was tender and juicy with a distinct lime flavor. Paired with the sprinkling of onion and fresh cilantro, I was left wanting more than the four tacos that came in my order.

My second favorite bite was the carne asada torta. While it fulfilled the basic requirements of a torta, I felt like something was missing. The steak on the sandwich seemed to be seasoned less than the tacos, which left my taste buds in want. Nonetheless, the avocado and lettuce added an element of freshness that a quality torta should always provide. My favorite part of the sandwich was actually the bread, also known as telera. Crispy on the outside and doughy on the inside, the floury telera saved this sandwich from being just average to an above-average munch.

The final meal on my list is the chorizo burrito. When I return to El Rey, there is a very slim chance I will be ordering this again. There was nothing in-

herently wrong with it, but there wasn't anything particularly special about it either. The chorizo had a decent flavor, and the burrito was balanced with a small amount of beans and rice. After chowing on it, I felt like I had just finished a microwaveable breakfast burrito from the grocery store. It didn't stick out to me as a delectable, intentionally crafted food truck burrito that was made with love. Burritos can bring a lot of joy to this world, but this one just seemed to fill up space.

All in all, visiting El Rey was a positive experience. Upon my return I will likely stick to a classic order of carne asada tacos. There were many other meat options on the menu I would be willing to try as well. El Rey's speed of service paired with their genuinely cheap prices make it an opportune choice for a lunch stop or dinner pickup on the commute home. Additionally, their various locations give easy access for people all across the Omaha area. I will definitely be ordering one of their homemade horchatas as my drink next time I stop by.



LUCY MASON | The Register



Lonchera Neri provides diverse menu, affordable prices

Sophie Youngs
staff writer

The next time you are in south Omaha, I recommend stopping at Lonchera Neri. It's hidden behind Our Lady of Guadalupe church on 23rd and O, and it's hard to miss because of its unique appearance. The fact that the taco truck was a big blue bus overall added to my experience there. It's around a ton of cool shops, so there are plenty of places to walk to and explore as well.

Lonchera Neri is open Wednesday through Sunday from 4 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., except on Friday and Saturday nights, when they are open until 11. It's a perfect place to grab food and walk around South Omaha.

The prices are extremely reasonable. I got four steak tacos, two cow tongue tacos, a cheese quesadilla with chorizo and two pineapple sodas. The total price was only \$20, making it very affordable for anyone. There are a ton of different options on the menu, so there is much to choose from.

The cheese quesadilla was cooked perfectly and was still hot when I was eating it. The cheese went really well with the chorizo.

The cow tongue tacos were amazing as well. I normally have a weird thing about texture, but it was cooked and seasoned perfectly. The steak tacos were also very tasty. The steak was seasoned to perfection and tasted amazing with the onions and cilantro. The food also came with red and green salsa. Both were amazing, but I always like green salsa more. It was so flavorful and added the spice to the food that I needed. All the food was flavorful and delicious, and I would definitely recommend trying these.

The amazing food was paired with even better service. The lady was very helpful in ordering my food and even made small talk while the food was cooking. The food was done in five minutes, so the service was very fast. There was no outdoor seating, but eating in my car was still very enjoyable. I was told by the lady serving me that they will have outdoor seating when it gets warmer, which I'm sure which just improve the overall experience.

This comforting, family-owned business is a perfect place to enjoy authentic Mexican food at a very affordable price. If you're looking for delicious food and a memorable experience, try out Lonchera Neri.

MEALS ON WHEELS



GRACE RIDGLEY | The Register

Chicago Dog 42 lacks flavor

Grace Ridgley
staff writer

Chicago Dog 42 offers a wide range of cuisine that is reminiscent of its namesake. Located within the Oakview Mall food court, this food shop provides classic Chicago hotdogs for the people of Omaha. Though it is not technically a food truck, it is an easy stop if you are looking for a quick bite while shopping or if you are in the area.

Because I do not frequent Oakview Mall, the shop was hard to locate. It is situated in the corner of the court alongside several other small shops. The style of Chicago Dog 42 was very retro. There were checkered tiles and neon lights, which were a nice touch. I really felt like I was dining in the 50s. They had two ordering stations where you would select your order on an iPad. I was having some issues with my card, but a helpful worker aided me. This was much appreciated, especially because this was my first time at Chicago Dog 42. In addition, he also explained that their menu was limited because of an issue with one of their fridges. Because of this, I only had a few options to choose from.

On a normal day, they have everything from classic Chicago-style hot dogs to Ruben sandwiches and everything in between. I decided to stick with their most advertised dog, the Chicago Dog. This was both because it looked the most ap-

petizing and because it was one of the few options they had when I went. They were also out of onion rings, so I was unable to try them. This was disappointing but not something that they could have changed. I am also lactose intolerant and could not try their milkshakes that were offered.

I paid around ten dollars for the hot dog, drink and tip. They only have a small section of bar seating near the ordering station, so I chose to eat in the dining area of the food court. The kind worker brought me the drink even though he did not have to, and he was very polite. Once I retrieved my dog from another friendly staff member, I was excited to try my meal. Though I enjoyed it, I felt like it was lacking flavor. The Chicago dog was topped with diced onions, mustard, tomatoes, sports peppers, relish and celery salt. This was a messy hot dog to eat. My favorite parts ended up being the sports peppers which were a lot like jalapenos. The extra spice was much appreciated, but they could have had more of it. I also felt that it was a bit over-priced. However, I could tell that the food was good quality.

Overall, I would not recommend that someone drive all the way out to Oakview to try Chicago Dog 42. If you are in the area or need something else at the mall, give this shop a visit. The food was good but not great. I would have liked to try more on their menu, but what I did try was up to par.



Charlie Yale | The Register

Dos De Oros serves authentic, delicious tacos

Charlie Yale
web editor

In the parking lot of the O'Reilly Auto Parts shop on South 24th street lies a hidden gem of the Omaha food scene. Dos De Oros, a seemingly inconspicuous taco truck, offers some of the best street tacos that the city has to offer.

For a grand total of \$14, I was able to purchase four tacos along with a large horchata. The service from Dos De Oros is what one would expect from a food truck. The ordering process is simple enough; a large print menu is stationed on the side of the truck and there is a window for ordering. On a busy day, one could wait around ten minutes in line, but the food is prepared promptly, one should only have to wait around five minutes.

The horchata from Dos De Oros is one of the best in Omaha. The drink is on the sweeter side, but at the same time not overpowering. Compared to others, it has more of a cinnamon taste, and the spices used within the drink are evident. The consistency of the drink is perfect, not too thick but maintaining some of the texture one would expect a good horchata to have.

While the horchata may have been good, the tacos are what exemplify this truck to the highest level. I ordered four tacos: asada, barbacoa, beans and cheese and al pastor. Each taco came with red and green salsa, along with a topping of white onions, lime, tomatoes and cilantro.

Asada is a type of marinated beef that is typically grilled or seared to help impart a charred flavor. The asada tacos at Dos De Oros marked all the boxes of a wonderful meal. The asada was very juicy and tender and had a perfect flavor. There were no overwhelming individual spices or elements of the beef, all elements of the marinade collaborated perfectly to create the most wonderful combination of flavors. For some, the asada may have been either too spicy or too heavy on the garlic, but besides that fact I would give the tacos a 4.67-star rating.

Barbacoa, a dish typically made from beef, was the next taco I tried from Dos De Oros. While the barbacoa was wonderful, I would not give it the same rating as the asada. The taco was tasty, but there was some flavor that was still desired after consummation. The beef was tender and juicy, even more so than the asada, but the flavor was dominated by heat, and there weren't many other spices that could be tasted over the sheer heat. This could come from the fact that I drenched this taco in the green salsa, which was very spicy, but even the first bite I had without salsa still held this same flavor. Overall, these tacos were still better than many others I have had, which is why I give them a 4.35-star rating.

Moving onto the beans and cheese tacos, they are exactly what one would expect. I tried these tacos expecting a neutral baseline that could be comparable to other taco trucks/restaurants. That is exactly what I got from the beans and cheese. It is hard to do beans and cheese incredibly well, and Dos De

Oros realizes that. It is not their focus. I used these tacos more as a vessel to get the salsa into my mouth, drenching them in both red and green sauce. In the end, these get a 3-star rating because of the salsa. Without the salsa, these would have received 2.25-stars.

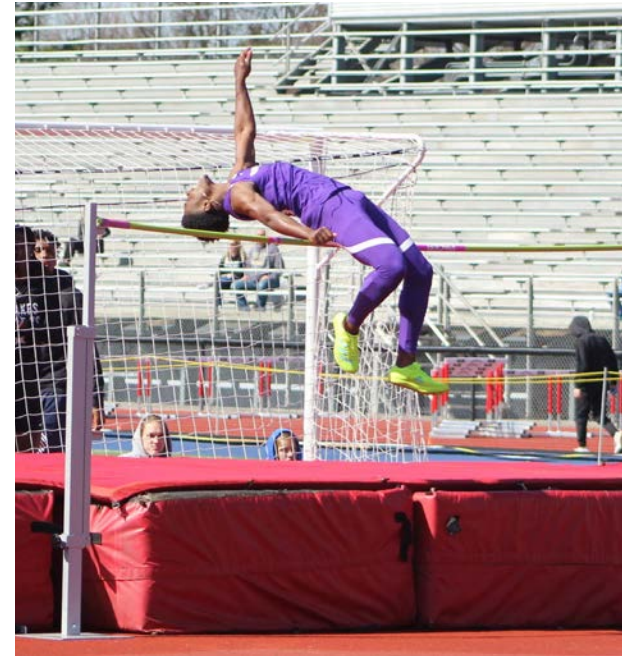
Finally, I tried the al pastor tacos. Al pastor is a dish made with spit grilled pork, often marinated with pineapple and spices. I enjoyed these al pastor tacos to the fullest. The pork was tender and flavorful, even more so than the asada. The pineapple with the dish added a layer of sweetness, something the other tacos weren't necessarily lacking, but something that added another wonderful flavor to the al pastor tacos. The marriage of the sweetness and spice and heat was near perfect, and I don't think that Dos De Oros could have done anything extra in the preparation of these tacos. These receive a 5-star rating from me, and for a price of under \$3 a taco, it is quite the bargain as well.

Dos De Oros has some of the best tacos in Omaha. If you are looking for a 5-star sit-down meal that is all pampered and fancy, this is not the place. Amazing customer service and a fun environment is hard to achieve in a food truck, and Dos De Oros understands that. All they offer is an amazing, quick, inexpensive food stop where you will most assuredly have some of the best street tacos of your life, which I think is a good tradeoff.

sports & leisure

TRACK SEES SUCCESS AT PAPIO

Girls and boys track teams attended the Dennis Smith Invite at Papillion-La Vista High School on April 12. Both teams saw multiple improvements in performance and personal records set.



VALERIA WELK | The O-Book

Alahna Davis (middle) jumps into the sand at the Dennis Smith Invite. She also competed in the 100-meter dash and placed first. Central had eight athletes finish in first place in their events.

Claire Shafer
staff writer

On Thursday, April 12, the girls and boys track teams traveled to Papillion to compete in the Dennis Smith Invite, hosted by Papillion-La Vista High School.

There was a total of nine schools competing in the varsity meet: Lincoln Southwest, Papillion-La Vista South, Gretna, Papillion-La Vista, Omaha North, Marian, Prep, Bellevue East and Central. Seven schools competed in the Women's division, in which Central High placed fifth, beating Omaha North and Marian. Out of the eight schools competing in the Men's division, Central placed second behind Gretna.

Unfortunately, due to bad

weather, the track meet was cut short. According to the meet's dashboard, the boys and girls 4x400 meter relays were canceled due to lightning and an abrupt hailstorm.

Although the weather ended the meet early, the Central track team manager is convinced it didn't slow down Central's success.

"We have a great team that is being built up to be even better. These athletes practice hard and have improved so much. I know that these athletes aren't just good, but they are great," says girls track team manager, Hajar Alhusni.

The boys' varsity team had an impressive outing, netting second overall in the meet. Additionally, the girls' fifth place finish does not reveal the team's personal successes. The two teams netted twenty-

seven personal records, six seasonal records as well as several Dennis Smith Invite records.

These athletes practice hard and have improved so much. I know that these athletes aren't just good, but they are great

HAJAR ALHUSNI

Girls track team manager

"I just PR-ed on my one-hundred-meter hurdles, so I am feeling great," explains senior Nyawec Reath, who had just set a personal record of 17.54 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles. Reath later

adds,

"I joined track because I wanted to try something new, and then I fell in love with the sport."

Additionally, Central's teams had eight athletes finish in first place in their events. Central's success last Thursday is a result of their long hours of hard work during practice.

"As for winning, it feels amazing. Hard work pays off. If you put in the work every day you will achieve your goals," says Junior Quinell Smith, who won first place in a 400-meter heat with a personal record of 52.09 seconds.

Other athletes saw improvements in their performances during the meet and shared their track journeys.

"In the beginning, the sport

was really hard for me, but I stayed with it, and I started getting better. I mean it's crazy to me to see how much I have improved [...] like I am beating the girls that used to beat me! You can get better at any time," says senior Alahna Davis, first place winner in the 100-meter dash.

Other runners try out new events to see how they can best benefit the team. Freshman Kyra Fry "took one for the team" by running eight laps around the track while competing in the longest and most grueling track event.

"I really like running the two-mile and plus it gets extra points for the team, and I love to do that," Fry said.

Chubick takes position as boys head basketball coach

Conor Harley
staff writer

Across all levels of basketball we are seeing a new generation of head coaches taking the helm, and the Omaha metro is no different. Central found their Behrens replacement in Bruce Chubick Jr. of Omaha South.

Chubick comes from a long line of basketball and has a level of experience in the game that few can match.

"As a player I had a fantastic opportunity to play for my dad who I obviously got a lot of knowledge from, Coach Danny Nee, who had one of the most impressive runs in the

history of the University of Nebraska's basketball program," Chubick said. "I also played for some of the most successful coaches in their respective countries overseas after college."

After his college career at UNL, he got the opportunity to coach under his legendary father, Bruce Chubick Sr., at Omaha South.

"Being able to coach with my dad has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Not only because he is my dad, but also because I stack his knowledge and understanding of the game up against any of the best names in coaching that you want to throw out," Chubick said.

He credits much of his knowledge to his prolonged

time spent learning the game from his father, and he has shown that he is cut out for the job of coaching at Central.

Chubick wants his coaching to go beyond the basketball court, which is in part what makes him such a great fit for this program.

"It is important to prepare (my student athletes) for the world after high school athletics," Chubick said.

For most coaches, when looking back on their time coaching they think about the winning and success and trophies collected, but not Chubick.

"For me, it was knowing that we gave a lot of guys an opportunity to continue on. To use basketball as a means

CHUBICK on page 17



RAMADAN on page 17



UNIFIED TRACK on page 17



SIGNERS on page 18-19

Unified track season begins with Papio South meet

Grace Ridgley
section editor

The Unified Track season kicked off with a meet at Papillion-Lavista South on April 21. This is a chance for students in the ACP program to compete against other teams in the Omaha area.

This year, four students chose to participate along with a corresponding four mentors. They all participate in the 100m dash, long jump and 400m relay. Both the ACP participants and the mentors will do each event. For the 100-meter dash and the long jump, the students compete alone while the mentors do the event following. For the relay, there are two mentors and two ACP students on each team. This is sophomore Avery Gilbreath's first year as a mentor for the ACP students.

"I decided to do it because I have already worked with the kids for the Unified Bowling team, and I love working with them and getting closer with them. It's, overall, a really good environment to be in, and everyone is so positive," Gilbreath said.

OPS district schools do not include Unified events for their meets, so this year, the Central team will be visiting Papillion and Bellevue before the Metros meet at both Burke and Bryan. The students involved have expressed how fun this activity is for everyone involved.

However, Gilbreath voiced concern about one of the aspects of the Unified Track program.

"The mentors should have to form actual bonds with the



Central ACP students and mentors visited Papillion-Lavista South to compete in a track meet. Avery Gilbreath (left) is a first year mentor, and she first got involved with the ACP program through Unified Bowling.



Photos Courtesy of GRACE RIDGLEY

kids and are not just track players from the school's team who are pulled. Central asked people to join the team who already have relationships with the kids, but other schools just have random people from the track team who hardly know the kids," said Gilbreath.

At the first meet, there was support from all different schools. Everyone cheered for each other, and the students

experienced a new aspect of high school life.

"I definitely plan on doing it again," expressed Gilbreath. "I would also love to participate in more things with the kids in ACP. The more team things I participate in with them, the more I get to know them. It's a really great experience, and it's always good to meet new people and get involved."

Basketball coach looks to prepare athletes for life, adulthood

CHUBICK from page 16

to help pay, or entirely pay for their college," said Chubick. "When you are a part of a program like Central or South, you become a part of something that's bigger than yourself. A kind of fraternity or brotherhood that bonds people from different eras."

It is that brotherhood at South that he has forever left his mark on, helping many kids get to play at not only the Division One level but all levels of collegiate basketball.

All of his stops along the way have

led him to North 20th street, at the sole downtown high school in Omaha. Central presents itself as one of the most prestigious programs in the state's history, and the acknowledgment of that is important to Chubick.

"It feels great (to get the job). Obviously, the tradition and reverence for the program goes a lot deeper than the past twenty years, but this has been as impressive as any program in the state's history," Chubick said. "So obviously it is a fantastic opportunity, and I am really looking for-

ward to it."

Chubick also recognizes the inherent difficulties that will come with following up one of the greatest acts in the state's history, that being coach Behrens' legendary run.

"Before I applied for the Central job... the common thinking was that I would follow my dad at South. Either job scenario would mean that I had extremely large shoes to fill," Chubick said. "I come into this job with the full realization that it will take a lot to live up to that legacy. I'm looking

forward to the challenge though."

The goal is obviously to win, but winning is only the final step in the plan that Chubick has in place for carrying the torch that Behrens has passed to him.

"Only rarely does anything good come from anything less than hard work," Chubick said. "The only way I know how to improve and to succeed is by working hard, dedicating yourself to that hard work, being accountable to yourself and your teammates, and working together to achieve common goals."



SOPHIE CULLUM | The O-Book

Rayya Haider is a member of the girls varsity tennis team. This spring tennis season, Haider has been observing Ramadan simultaneously, an experience she finds to be "very rewarding."

Muslim student athlete observes Ramadan

Noemi Gilbert
staff writer

During the month of Ramadan, many Muslims fast from sunrise to sundown, reflect on their faith and spend time with family. Because the Islamic calendar is based on the moon, not the sun, Ramadan often occurs at different points throughout the year. This year, Ramadan falls from April 1 to May 1, which is also the spring sports season.

Junior Rayya Haider is on the girls varsity tennis team.

"I've played tennis since the end of 8th grade," Haider said. "I really like the way you move in tennis; I like the experience of being on a court with other people."

During Ramadan, Muslims eat their first meal early, before the sun rises, and have another meal at sunset. During the day, they refrain from eating or drinking, unless it is medically necessary.

"Usually in between games you drink water, since I can't drink water, my mouth feels really dry. But I can pull through it," Haider said. "Hydration is the biggest part of it."

Ramadan occurred during Haider's sophomore year tennis season as well. She enjoys the routine and spending more time with her family during meals.

"I really like observing Ramadan," Haider said. "There's a really good idea in it, for a month your routine changes."

"The thing with school and Ramadan is that it's hard to move time around. By the time I'm finished with tennis, I have an hour or an hour and a half until I can eat," Haider said.

For some sports, such as track, athletes practice before school begins, soon after their first meal.

"We'll do some practice before school, so they have more energy," said boys' track coach Alexis Madson. Though observing Ramadan while playing sports presents challenges, many athletes adapt well and excel in their sports.

"The combination of any sport with Ramadan tests your strength," Haider said. "It's a very rewarding experience overall, to challenge myself physically and mentally."

SPRING

Nolan Gray: UNO

Conor Harley
staff writer

After what was another successful season of swimming here at Central, it was time for the seniors to decide what it was they wanted to do post-high school. For swimming standout, Nolan Gray it was an easy choice.

"I chose UNO because I never really had any aspirations to go too far from home," said Gray. "I wanted to stay... close to friends and family."

But it was beyond the location, UNO presented itself as a prestigious, Division One, Midwest swimming program.

"My biggest attraction to UNO was the introduction of the men's swim team," said Gray.

The newly founded program offered itself as a way for Gray to pursue his swimming at the next level, and he took that opportunity. But providing himself with the opportunity to swim at a high level was not easy.

"(The summer going into my senior year) I trained harder than I ever had before," said Gray.

That training led him into what he considered to be his best year of high school swimming, which resulted in achieving numerous personal records and team success.

"My senior year was easily my best year, as I had achieved five individual cut times and three relay cut times," said Gray. "(But achieving that) wouldn't be possible without my club coaches at iNspire, Thor Larsen, and my coaches at Central, coach Berzins and Smith."

But the climb to this point started long before the Central swim team for Nolan Gray.

"I've had the drive to get better at swimming ever since I joined club swimming at (age) ten," said Gray. "Those feelings only intensified when I went into high school."

He set himself apart from his first year in the program, showing great potential as a swimmer since his freshman year. Ultimately it was the work Nolan put in, and the support of his loved ones that got him to this point.

"I wouldn't have been able to achieve this without the love and support of my family, especially my mom and dad," said Gray. "The amount of time and money they spent on buying equipment, driving to meets, and paying



Photos Courtesy of OMAHA CENTRAL FOUNDATION

for practice is what allowed me to continue my time in this sport and reach new levels."

Humble, hardworking and extremely talented is three ways you could describe Nolan Gray. His time as an eagle will be remembered not only for his time in the pool, but also

because of the impact he had on the Central community.

Gray plans to study architectural engineering while swimming at UNO, and hopes to land with an engineering firm in Nebraska before he graduates.

Caden Leach: Iowa Western

Callan Maher
staff writer

Caden Leach is a senior who plays wide receiver for our football team. With the next chapter of his life quickly approaching he signed with Iowa Western to play football while working to get a marketing or business degree.

Leach's football journey started way before he stepped into Central. He began playing at Little Vikes at the age of five. His father was his coach until he turned ten or eleven. Despite his early start in football Leach was also drawn to baseball. He enjoyed playing baseball and almost considered playing in high school.

"I was just really into baseball so I was like shoot I might just play baseball in high school but at the same time I always knew deep down that playing football was always my passion," Leach said.

With the Corona virus his time playing football was cut short but that did not take away from his overall good experience playing for Central. Leach shared that his freshman year playing

was the most fun. He had friends from middle school on the team and it was a new experience. His freshman year was also the only full normal school year. Not being able to play his junior year hurt him but he came back as a senior and played the best he could.

Leach's family plays a large role in the athlete he is now. He comes from a very athletic family who went to college and played sports. As the youngest he thinks his desire to play football came from being the last person who could do something with the family legacy. Iowa Western is giving him that chance.

"My parents have just woven me into this amazing athlete, like they spent so much time, money, taking off of work just to watch me play, so I kinda think I owe it back to them," Leach said.

With his family, teammates, and coaches all wanting him to do the best he can, he takes the game very seriously. The competitive spirit within him and the environment of the field helps too.

"I might know a kid from a different school, we might be

friends but as soon as we step on the field, we are enemies, like I'm sorry but that's just how the game goes, but as soon as we are off the field, we are homies again but while we are in those lines its go time."

Leach chose Iowa Western because he believes it is the best option for him. Attending a community college means that he will go there for two years, play football and have his education paid for. He'll get his business degree and then maybe after his two years go somewhere else to play football.

"I want to take football as far as I can, see where it gets me. For life in general I just want to be able to live my life after I am done with football. I just want to live my life and be happy, be financially stable," Leach said.

With this new chapter in Leach's life, he is most excited about the new experiences that wait for him. Being over with high school opens many doors for people. Leach is excited to go into the real world, attend classes, make new friends, travel, and experience what Iowa Western has

to offer.

He did share that he is least looking forward to the five AM lifts, that is something he could live without.

Leach does not know exactly what he wants to do with his degree, but he did show interest and passion in Dropshipping. This is something he is seriously considering when his time to stop playing football has arrived.

He is excited for this next chapter of his life. He likes the coaches at Iowa Western and is ready to put in the work to see how far he can take football. His football journey did not start in high school, and it does not end there either.

"If you are going to start football and you really want to play you gotta put your mind to it. Because I second guessed myself so many times, especially this past year, you just gotta have a clear focus, vision. You have to have tunnel vision if that's what you really want to do cause once you get to college there is no turning back, it's either you play or you don't, and I will play."



EUAN MILNE | The O-Book

Caden Leach will be attending Iowa Western on a football scholarship.

Claire Williams: Webster University

Livia Ziskey
editor-in-chief

Senior basketball player Claire Williams has committed to Webster University to play at the collegiate level. The Missouri private college competes in the division three St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Williams has been playing basketball since the first grade and started to consider playing the sport in college a few years later.

"[Around] fifth grade was when I realized that would be something I would really like to do. I realized the work that I would have to do to get there, so I started working out a lot more and going to trainers," Williams said.

She was a tri-sport athlete throughout her high school years, participating in cross country, basketball and track. In retrospect, she learned many life skills from her athletics.

"I got beautiful communication skills and time management skills out of it, because I was having to run to two different practices a day usually. It taught me how to handle my stress and my anxiety with it too," Williams said.

She began her contact with Webster basketball after a tournament game in Kansas. After playing what felt like the worst game of her life, Williams was surprised to find a message on her Twitter.

"I don't even think I scored in the game. I'm pouting, watching another game, and I'm checking my Twitter. I have a message from a coach, and I'm like, 'What the heck is Webster? I've never heard of it,'" Williams said.

The Webster coaching staff had watched Williams' game and loved the way she played. They asked to have a conversation with her about where she was at in her recruiting process.

"When I get back in town we have an hour-long conversation, the longest recruiting phone call I've ever had. It just went great. I loved the coach. His coaching philosophy and his attitude are the way I love to play. He reminds me a lot of my high school coach, and that was what I wanted in a coach," Williams said.

She visited the campus in September and loved the interconnectedness of it. Williams hopes to major in psychology at Webster.

"I want to be a coach one day, so I plan on focusing on



school or sports psychology. Coach Lodge and Coach Kroupa helped me this year and taught me coaching techniques, so they were mentoring me in that area," Williams said.

Central basketball means "the world" to Williams, and she plans on coming back to visit often.

"I was always called the mom of the team because I was always looking out for the freshmen and sophomores. All the senior girls are super close and connected. We went through everything together, so it's hard leaving that connection behind," Williams said. "I'm hoping I can find a connection like that at Webster."

SIGNERS

Calista Perkins: Peru State

Shyla Youngs
staff writer

Calista Perkins is no stranger to the game of basketball. She has been playing since she was eight, and has faced adversity ever since that has fueled her drive. Now she is committed to Peru State, and pursuing her dreams of playing basketball at a higher level.

Perkins admits that Central has played a pivotal role in her career, both in and out of the classroom. "My time at Central has helped me develop and improve so I can get to this point. I will take the advice I got from coaches, and use them to develop me more as a player and person."

Perkins did not get to this point as a player easily. She reflects on the many blockades in her path that have only motivated her more.

"What really pushed me to start putting in the work was getting cut from my middle school team in seventh grade. Once I got to high school, I became even more motivated. Only my family and friends believed in me, and I even got told I wasn't college ball material. I wanted to prove them wrong," Perkins said.

Coach Michael Kroupa has coached Perkins for the past three years, and has seen her exponential growth as a player. "What Calista did for the team stood out to a lot of recruiters. She could get in the game and have an affect with her role on and off the court, even if she just got a few minutes," Kroupa

said.

Being recruited by three different colleges, Perkins had no hesitation when picking Peru State as it is reminiscent of Central. "Coaches were disciplined and focused on academics before the sport. It had a really welcoming environment, and I could genuinely see myself there," Perkins stated.

In her time at college, Perkins plans to study sports marketing and management with a minor in journalism. She already feels well adapted to the players and coaching staff, and is looking forward to orientation in June. "It's the perfect fit for me. I was able to be myself around everyone at the visit, and really felt at home."

Although Kroupa loves to tease his players, it is evident how much he cares about them. He's loved having Perkins as an athlete, but is excited to be able to witness her next chapter.

"Calista puts in all the extra work, whereas a lot of players I think play the game socially. She does it because she really loves it. I think Peru State is an excellent fit for her. As excited as I am to see Calista play the next four years at Peru I'm more excited to see what she's doing in ten years," Kroupa said. "Her mentality will allow her to be good at anything she wants. We've loved having her a part of the program here at Central, but are excited to see her develop at the next level."



Photos Courtesy of RYAN HAWKINS

PJ Davis: Central Community College

Isabel Walocha
staff writer

Basketball player PJ Davis ended his senior year and high school basketball career on a great season. The boys' varsity eagles ended the season with a 19-8 record and made it to the first round of state. This was due to the help of PJ Davis, who is going from a Central Eagle to a Central Raider.

Davis knows that with the Raiders is the best place he can be. The team won 18 games in the 2021-2022 season with an average of 77 points per game. Davis is only hoping to raise those statistics.

"I just felt like it was a good fit for me. Coach had been talking to me since junior year and I visited a couple months ago. It feels like a really good fit for me," says Davis.

For a long time, Davis has seen himself with a career in basketball. He has been playing since he was four or five, along with his sister who will be an eagle in the fall. Davis' career path right now is hopefully playing basketball professionally.

"Wherever Lebron's at, that's where I want to be," states Davis.

Even though his main goal is hopefully playing basketball,



he also has an interest in coaching. This has a lot to do with his success in basketball, but also with the support he received from his own coach. Davis' last year of basketball coincides with the last year of Coach Behrens, who is now moving from Central to Westview high school. Coach Behrens helped shape Davis into the basketball player he is today and will influence the way Davis might coach in the future.

"He helped me out a lot. I've been playing on varsity since freshman year. He helped me learn what is right and what is wrong," says Davis.

Committing to the Raiders also means new experiences for Davis. Of course, he plans to maintain friendships like the one he has with fellow basketball player Jayden Dawson, but he is also excited for new beginnings.

"I'm ready to start over with school and get my grades right. I know a couple kids that go there, but as of now I do not know anyone from high school that's going there," says Davis.

The future has a lot in store for Davis, and the Raiders are going to be a big part of that. Even with all the new faces and teachers in college, Davis is ready for it all.

"I'm not really nervous, basketball just comes with confidence, so I just have to go in there confident," stated Davis.

The teachers at Central prepared Davis well for his upcoming college basketball career. Central has given him relationships with teachers and coaches that he hopes to recreate with his new professors and coaches.

"I'm good with all my teachers and close with all my coaches, it fits perfectly together," says Davis.

Davis is going to miss his friends and teachers, but he is excited for what the future brings. Central wishes him the best at college and in his future.

Alahna Davis: W. Illinois University

Charlie Palmer
staff writer

Alahna Davis recently committed to Western Illinois University on a Track and Field scholarship. She has been running track since the age of ten and competes in the 100m dash, 200m dash, 4x1 sprint relay and long jump. Alahna also played basketball for Central and has proven to be a hard-working student.

Q: What made you decide that Western Illinois University was the college that was right for you?

A: "When I visited it, I loved it, especially the atmosphere and the track team. It was a diverse track team, and everybody had the same goal. They wanted to major in pre-med or nursing and that's exactly what I want to do. I felt like everybody had the same type of goals and ambitions, I was like, dang, I need to be here."

Q: How do you feel about the culture here at Central?

A: "I think the school is very diverse. The diversity and being able to meet different people from different places around the world is something I really love about Central."

Q: What do you think you are going to miss most about Central or high school in general?

A: "It's hard to put everything at once but I'm going to miss the atmosphere. The love and support is here and everybody wants everybody to win. It's a great support system."

Q: What are you most excited about for college?

A: "Being on my own schedule I guess, I'm tired of waking up at 6 o'clock for school. And the training, I'm ready to you know like compete at the next level. I'm also ready to go into the field of nursing, which I can't wait to do. I love helping people."

Q: Who or what motivates you to do your best every single day?

A: "All of the teachers I've had throughout my four years of being here have always given me encouraging words. Also my family, family has always been at the forefront in my life and without them I don't know where I'd honestly be right now. The people around me have always encouraged me, motivated me, and pushed me harder even when I didn't feel like getting up this day or that day. I have always been pushed by everybody around me in my life."

Q: What short term goals do you have in the next two or three years?

A: "I plan on doing summer school classes to try and get ahead of the game a little bit. I plan on getting my dream car soon and earning a little bit more extra money."

Q: What long term goals do you have? Where might you see yourself in the next ten years?

A: "I want to build a house, not by myself of course. But I want to lay out a platform, find somewhere, and build up my house. I plan on being a nurse anesthetist which is like an anesthesiologist, but I get to shorten the schooling down and then do something I love to do. And go to medical school of



course because you have to go to medical school to go into the field I want to go into. I just got this big picture I'm still trying to paint out in my head and lay out the different pathways."

Q: Do you think that Central has prepared you academically for college?

A: "Oh definitely. Especially with the English themes we do and the papers they make us write. I feel like when I get to college it's going to be nothing I haven't done before."

Q: As a senior, what do you know now that you wish you knew when you were a freshman?

A: "Don't take everything for granted. Enjoy every opportunity or moment you have while being in high school. Time goes by fast, and especially with Covid. I missed nearly a year and a half of my high school experience. You have to take every opportunity you have, regardless of if you don't feel like doing it, just take it because it's going to be worth it at the end."

108th Roadshow

Sophie Cullum | The O-BOOK

Central artists performed many different talents at the 108th annual Roadshow. Students were able to come together to put on a memorable show for friends, family and faculty.

