

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Central's federal Title I funding for 2025-26 'to be determined'

Fiona Bryant
managing editor

As the future of federal funding is complicated by the Trump administration's plans to dissolve the Department of Education, there is some uncertainty about the future of Central's Title I and federal Special Education funding.

Principal Dionne Kirksey and Central Special Education Department Head Brandy Klipfel said the state of funding for next school year is uncertain, but that they are focusing on what they can control right now.

In April, the Department of Education required school districts to either sign a letter certifying that they do not have DEI programs or practices within their schools or lose their federal funding. Judges blocked this requirement, and Omaha Public Schools signed it before it was blocked. The Trump administration has also cut almost half of the Department of Education's employees.

Central's Title I funding helps to pay for teachers, bilingual liaisons, counselors, nurses, a Title I coordinator, training for teachers, Promethean boards, laptops, planners, Stylebooks, keyboards, Apple pencils, high-interest books, calculators, Padlet licenses, Quizlet licenses and IXL.

OPS's Title I budget this school year was \$29,412,376. Federal funding only accounts for around 8% of schools' funding on average, because public education is mostly funded by local taxpayer dollars and the states.

However, federal funding is often used to support schools with low-income, rural, migrant, Black, Indigenous or English Learner populations through programs such as Title I and Indian Education grants. Central received \$1,041,857 in Title I funds this school year. There are 76 OPS schools receiving Title I funding, including all the high schools besides Westview.

Kirksey said it is "too early" to say whether Central will continue to have its federal funding next year and what would happen if it does not.

"I don't even want to think about that,"



Special education para Victoria Johnson, left, talks to freshmen Ivon Fonseca- Martinez during class. RAKHIJA ABDALLA MOHAMMED | The Register

Kirksey said. "...Schools have the obligation to educate children. To educate children, they need funding. And when funding changes, that impacts students."

Additionally, when responding to whether the Central High School Foundation would assist the school in case of lost funding, Executive Director Michele Roberts said, "We have and will continue to step in and provide financial assistance to ensure that Central continues to offer a high-quality education to all its students."

"Where there's a will, there's a way," Kirksey said. "...I choose to show up because it's not about me. It's about (the students), and I still believe that you will be better because you chose a public education."

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Department of Education also helps grant a "free, appropri-

ate" education for students with disabilities. Funding goes towards the hiring of paraprofessionals, teacher training and other services. Students with 504 plans and individualized education programs (IEPs) are also served by IDEA, and Klipfel said it is "on the table" that those students would be impacted by federal funding changes. Klipfel said paraprofessional staff is what she fears might be lost if federal funding is cut, but that she does not know what she would do in that situation and that the Special Education program may be able to receive more state assistance.

More than 19% of OPS students and 14.47% of Central students receive Special Education services.

IDEA is a federal law, and Klipfel does not believe there is political will to repeal it.

"I hope that we all still agree that students with disabilities exist and that they

deserve to have services to help them get a quality education," Klipfel said.

Klipfel said most of the Special Education program's costs are covered by the state and that less than 10% of its funding comes from the federal government.

"Still, every penny counts," Klipfel said. She said that Special Education students are supposed to get full funding from the federal government under IDEA, but that has never happened, so the state pays the difference. Klipfel said the Special Education department at Central is "lucky" and has a lot of resources provided by the district.

Klipfel said the Special Education department is focusing on continuing to serve their students and encouraging families not to worry, even if it is valid to.

"Put your energy into what you can do, what you can change," Klipfel said.

Events cancelled, music students adjust following arrest of teacher

Hattie Moeller
news editor

The Central music program finished the school year without music teacher Juan Carlos Oropeza-Perez, who was placed on administrative leave following his April arrest.

Oropeza-Perez was the director of marching band, jazz band, orchestra, and also worked with several music ensembles while at Central.

In his absence, performing arts teachers Jeffery Mount, Sarah Cowan and Chiyo Trauer-nicht are splitting coverage of the six music courses he taught, and some music events have been cancelled.

The music department is working to maintain stability amidst uncertainty. "The workload has shifted," Mount said. "We all have to be prepared to jump in where we are needed."

Over the past two school years, Oropeza-Perez directed Central's mariachi band. An after-school club that met weekly and performed frequently, the club combined orchestra, choir, and band students. It was also a partnership with the music program at Omaha South High School.

On April 19, members of the Mariachi Band participated in the first OPS Mariachi festival without the direction of Oropeza-Perez.

"We got through it fine; it just took a little more time and effort," Mount said.

The mariachi band was scheduled to perform at Omaha's Cinco de Mayo festival. The marching band was set to play in the parade as well. They had to pull out, due to the loss of their director.

"It was his [Oropeza-Perez's] thing," Mount said.

The situation was brought to the students' attention after several days of Oropeza-Perez's absence. Later, an online platform revealed a mugshot and details regarding the arrest. Articles published by local media with information from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office revealed specifics about the arrest and charges.

"It was shocking and no one really expected it," Nell Farrington said.

Farrington and Junior Jazmin Bustamante recalled Mount being supportive of students. Following the release of the news articles, Mount offered support and guidance for those who needed it.

"Since the article, we haven't really talked about it. We all know he is missing, so we are all trying to avoid the topic," Bustamante said.

"It's hard to lose a teacher this late in the year," junior Isaias Gonzalez said. "However, it won't impact my future in music."

Bustamante and Gonzalez both said that they will keep their enrollment in music courses for next school year.

Central families were made aware of the situation on April 11, as administrators released a statement. The email stated, "Student safety and well-being are always our top priority."

Oropeza-Perez has been charged with five misdemeanor counts of intruding on a person without consent.

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Websites are being taken down as the Trump administration targets DEI, but there is a way to go back in time on the internet.

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Fewer lockers are used now than in the past. What is being lost with the high school staple's retreat from relevance?

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Hit up The Joslyn and the downtown parks, and other fun things for students to spend their summer days.

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Ackerman breaks record p. 13

Ike Ackerman has left his mark on the athletic record books, breaking a long-standing record in the shot put.



Latino Leaders' banner for Cinco De Mayo parade Photo Courtesy of GABY ANTUNEZ

Leaders and JROTC walk Cinco De Mayo parade

Bri Martinez
staff writer

Central's Latino Leaders walked with JROTC in the Cinco de Mayo parade on May 10 down on 24th Street. Similar to the previous year, the groups passed out candy and represented Central by wearing coordinating T-shirts.

Latino Leaders had been in the process of getting their T-shirts ready, and students were encouraged to bring their own flags to represent their culture. They also offered face painting for the public.

Senior Xavier Jefferson serves as the art director for Latino Leaders, as well as the ac-

tivities coordinator. Jefferson enjoyed having creative freedom and connecting with people through this role.

He expressed excitement about getting more clubs from Central involved in the parade and about having more students participate.

"This year will be different, we want to have a bigger voice in the parade, and I think the main part is we want everyone to have fun," Jefferson said.

Vice president of Latino Leaders Ximena Altuzar was in charge of gathering all the information and making sure everyone stayed on track.

"We're going to bring lots of posters

and I'm excited to show out and celebrate," Altuzar said.

Altuzar was also excited about all the support Latino Leaders received this year, noting that there were two sponsors and everything seemed to be more organized.

Elsie Melgar serves as a sponsor for Latino Leaders and was the Bilingual Liaison at Central. Melgar acted as the point of contact for parents who spoke Spanish and assisted EL students as well. She stepped in as the sponsor for Latino Leaders after the previous Bilingual Liaison left the position.

Melgar was excited to walk with Latino Leaders for the first time, but acknowledged that the role could be a lot, as she had to get

everything organized and ready in time for the parade.

While Omaha held its parade, Chicago canceled theirs due to concerns about the Trump administration's immigration policies. Cinco de Mayo celebrations showed several differences compared to past years.

"Just because of the tensions going on right now there might be lower attendance," Melgar said.

Despite the rising tensions, Central students did not let that stop them from celebrating and showing out in the parade.

Latino Leaders y JROTC en el Cinco De Mayo desfile

Bri Martinez
staff writer

Latino Leaders de Central caminaron con JROTC en el desfile de Cinco De Mayo el 10 de mayo en la calle 24. Al igual que el año anterior, los grupos repartieron dulces y representaron a Central con camisetas coordinadas.

Latino Leaders habían estado en el proceso de preparar sus camisetas, y se animó a los estudiantes a traer sus propias banderas para representar su cultura. También ofrecieron pintar caras para el público.

Xavier Jefferson, estudiante de último año, se desempeña como director de arte de Latino Leaders, así como coordinador de activ-

idades. A Jefferson le gustaba tener libertad creativa y conectar con la gente a través con este papel.

Expresó su entusiasmo por lograr que más clubes de Central participen en el desfile y por la participación de más estudiantes.

"Este año será diferente, queremos tener una voz más grande en el desfile, y creo que la parte principal es que queremos que todos se diviertan," dijo Jefferson.

La vicepresidenta de Latino Leaders, Ximena Altuzar, fue la encargada de recopilar toda la información y asegurándose de que todos mantuvieran al día.

"Vamos a traer muchos carteles y estoy emocionada de mostrarlos y celebrar," dijo

Altuzar.

Altuzar también mostró emocionada por todo el apoyo que recibieron Latino Leaders este año, señalado que hay dos patrocinadoras y todo parecía estar más organizado.

Elsie Melgar se desempeña como una de las patrocinadoras de Latino Leaders y enlace bilingüe en Central. Melgar es el punto de contacto para los padres que hablan español y también ayudó a los estudiantes de EL aquí. Ella asumió como patrocinadora de Latino Leaders cuando el último enlace bilingüe dejara el puesto.

Melgar estaba emocionada de caminar con Latino Leaders por primera vez, pero reconoció que el papel podría ser mucho, ya

que tenía que organizar todo y tenerlo listo a tiempo para el desfile.


Mientras Omaha celebraba su desfile, Chicago canceló el suyo debido a preocupaciones sobre las políticas de inmigración de la administración Trump. Las celebraciones del Cinco De Mayo mostraron varias diferencias en comparación con años anteriores.

"Solo por las tensiones que están ocurriendo en este momento, podría haber una menor asistencia," dijo Melgar.

A pesar de las crecientes tensiones, los estudiantes de Central no dejaron que eso les impidiera celebrar y mostrarse en el desfile.



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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 Broderick Hilgenkamp at broderick.hilgenkamp@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.

The flag font on Page 1 is English Towne by Typographer Mediengestaltung, 2000 under 1001Fonts Free For Commercial Use License (FFC).

How to use the Internet Archive to view webpages taken down by the Trump administration

Fiona Bryant
managing editor

In President Donald Trump’s first two months in office, his administration removed more than 110,000 government webpages from the internet because they referenced diversity, equity, and inclusion topics (DEI), according to the New Yorker.

The Internet Archive is the only way to access many of these webpages, which include information about climate change, LGBTQ+ issues, healthcare, women and people of color in history, and other topics that include words such as “gay” or “inclusion.” Many government agencies have also been instructed to rewrite webpages to exclude references to transgender people, women, people of color, and activists. Some websites returned after the public or a judge called for them to be restored.

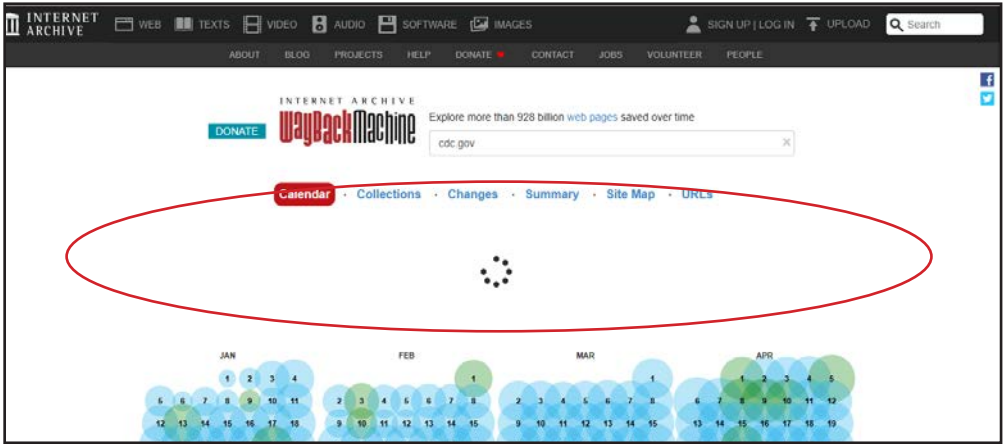
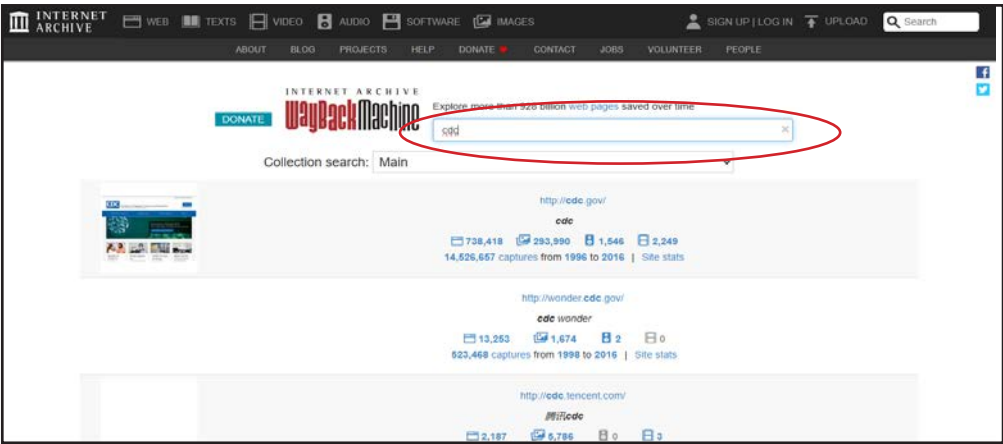
The Internet Archive at archive.org is a public database of over 928 billion webpages that captures and stores a copy of the webpage throughout years or decades. Using the Wayback Machine feature, a user can track a website across time, accessing webpages that have been taken down. Students can still access websites that the government has taken down if they need them for academic and personal reasons. The Internet Archive is not accessible on school wifi, but can be accessed on a personal device.

Why we’re covering this

I got the idea to explain how to use the Wayback Machine after I could not complete an assignment for a science class at Metropolitan Community College. We were supposed to analyze an environmental justice map from the Environmental Protection Agency website that showed where pollution occurred and where certain groups lived in Omaha. Environmentaljustice focuses on correcting the disproportionate health and environmental hazards that people of color and low-income people historically and currently face. In the time between my professor assigning the map and the due date, the website had been taken down, presumably because environmental justice is considered “DEI.” The Wayback Machine can be used to find removed research and websites for academic purposes.

– Fiona Bryant

1.
- After going to archive.org, enter a website URL or description in the Wayback Machine search bar. If using search terms, such as “CDC,” the websites will be arranged by number of captures, or copies of the website across time. If using a website URL, such as “cdc.gov,” a calendar of the captures will show up.

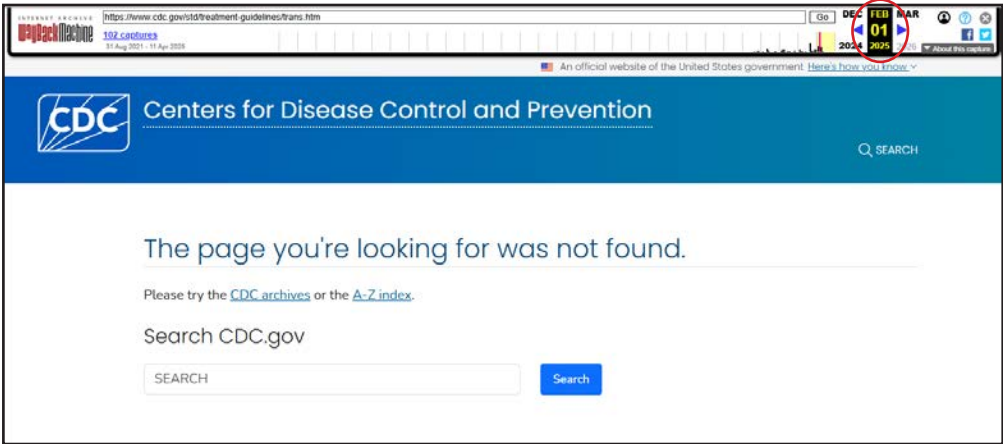


Left: The search term “cdc” yields results for CDC websites. Right: Searching for “cdc.gov” shows the amount of captures of the website across time.

Screenshots of Archive.org website on May 1 and May 4.

2.
- Once in the Wayback Machine, the user can navigate across the website and across time. For instance, a user could search for the CDC website and then go to a specific subpage such as “Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines” in at a specific time in the past 31 years. Some websites have incomplete captures, so some subpages are captured but others are not. However, the Wayback Machine will direct you to the URL if it is still active but not archived.

Use the timeline at the top of the page to find a specific date. On the left, it will display how long the website has been captured for. More popular websites tend to have more captures, so they may show the website’s changes over a day, whereas other websites change over a week or month.

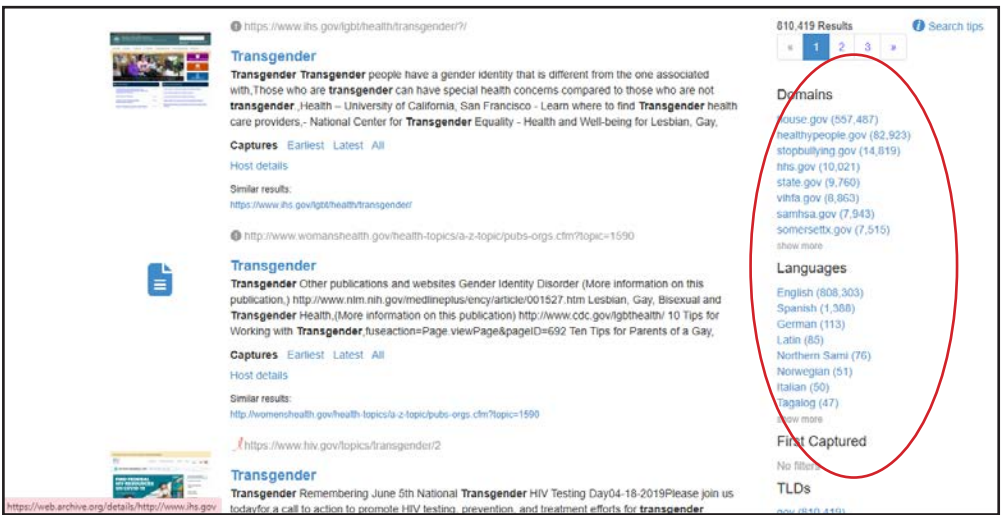
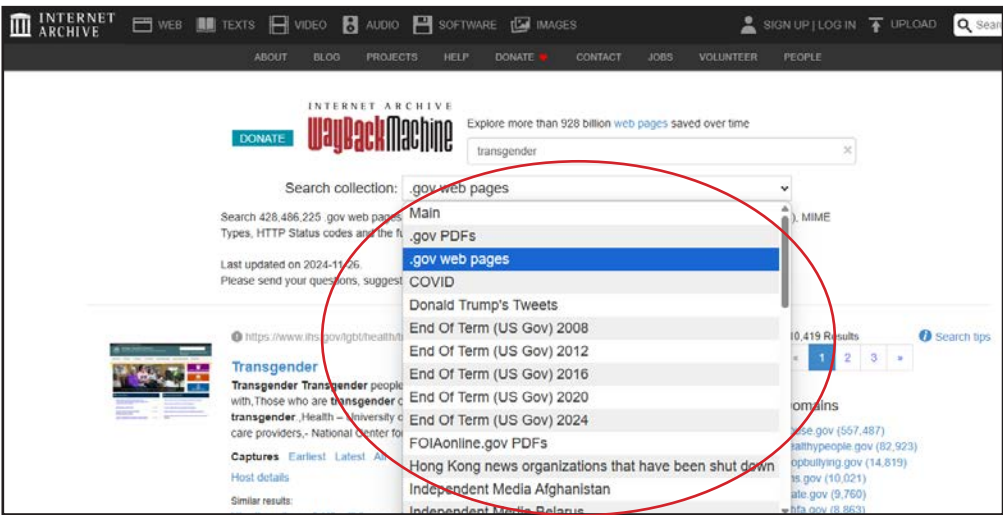


A subpage about transgender health was online on Jan. 31, 2025, but taken down by Feb. 1, 2025. It is now restored.

Screenshots of Archive.org website on May 1.

3.
- The Wayback Machine can also filter results to come from a specific source or be about a certain topic. For instance, a user can search a term and use the “search collection” option to just see results on government websites or to see only results about COVID. Additionally, the Wayback Machine creates special “end of term” collections of webpages right before a new presidential term begins. Other filters can be found on the right side of the results.

The Internet Archive also includes digital archives of books, videos, photos, music, and software.



Left: Searches can be filtered by their source or topic if they are in a “search collection.” Right: On the right side of search terms, more filters for search results can be found.

Screenshots of Archive.org website on May 1.

Omaha holds general election following closely watched primaries

Steven Dickerson
sports editor

The City of Omaha held its general election on May 13 following the April 1 primary election. Offices up for election this year include all seven city council seats and the mayoral office.

Only two city council seats and the mayoral race featured more than two candidates. Incumbents largely advanced, with little shake up set for city power.

Omaha's city elections are nonpartisan, with up to two candidates advancing to the general election from the primary.

All eyes are on the mayoral office, as incumbent Republican Jean Stothert seeks her fourth consecutive term against Democratic Douglas County Treasurer John Ewing.

Stothert and Ewing advanced with Stothert getting 36% of the vote compared to Ewing's 33%.

Stothert was first elected in 2013, becoming Omaha's first female mayor by defeating Democratic incumbent Jim Suttle with 56% of the vote. In 2017, she faced a much closer race, winning by just four points over Democratic challenger Heath Mello. In 2021, she easily won re-election with 64% of the vote.

Those running against Stothert in the primary included Ewing, former fire chief and Republican state senator Mike McDonnell, Democratic public health advocate Jasmine Harris, and independent community organizer Terry Brewer. While early polling suggested McDonnell and Stothert advancing, McDonnell received 19%, falling well short of advancing.

As for city council races, only districts two and four had competitive primaries. All other

city council races only had one to two candidates running, meaning they automatically advanced to the general election.

In Central Omaha-based district one, council president Pete Festersen and community advocate Mark Brannen automatically advanced as the only two candidates.

In North Omaha-based district two, which Central resides in, incumbent Juanita Johnson received 15% of the vote and lost re-election, placing third behind North 24th Street Business Improvement District Director LaVonya Goodwin, who received 16% of the vote, and former councilman Ben Gray, who received 27% of the vote. Gray and Goodwin advanced to the general.

In Midtown's district three, incumbent Danny Begley and community advocate Michael Pilypaitis automatically advanced to the general.

In South Omaha-based district four, appointed incumbent Ron Hug and challenger Andrew Adams advanced to the general. Hug received 46% of the vote, while Adams received 21%. Perennial candidate Gilbert Ayala received 20%, and community organizer Johnathan Flaco Renteria received 12%, dropping them from the race.

In Southwest Omaha-based district five, incumbent Don Rowe advances to the general unopposed. He had no challengers in his bid for a second term.

In Westside-based district six, longtime incumbent Brinker Harding advanced after receiving no challengers.

In Northwest Omaha-based district seven, incumbent Aimee Melton and challenger Tim Carter automatically advance to the general.

Results were reported after the Register's publication time.

Time to 'kiss a senior good-bye' at Central's corner store



Senior Joel Salvador-Huerta, right in both photos, sells "Kiss A Senior Good-Bye" notes to students during lunch. **Whitman Rutledge**

Jasmin Gutierrez Garcia
translation editor

DECA prepared a heartfelt fundraiser for the departing seniors who were heading into the real world. The "Kiss A Senior Good-bye" fundraiser began selling on April 28 through May 2 before school and during lunch. The location of the sale was the Corner Store.

Joel Salvador-Huerta is a senior and the president of DECA who came up with the fundraiser idea back in August. The end of April and start of May was the perfect fit for selling.

"'Kiss A Senior Good-Bye' obviously has a ring to it and everything. I thought it would be a good idea from the start," Salvador said.

Students had the option between two cookies and a note for \$3 or a giant Hershey's Kiss with a note for \$8. The buyer filled out the note and paid, then DECA delivered it to their destined senior on May 7 during Eagle Time.

DECA had few difficulties other than finding the right notes and distinguishing the sales from their regular business cookies from the fundraiser cookies. "We have purple graduation caps now, but we originally wanted to do lips, but there wasn't a big enough size to do that,"

Salvador said.

DECA had all the material ready that could be used for next year as well. However, it is uncertain whether this fundraiser will continue for the following year. "That's up to the next leadership team, but hopefully this is a recurring thing," Salvador said.

Lucy Puls is a junior who helped sell at the Corner Store. Every grade can buy but only seniors can receive the products. "This is like the last hurrah for seniors, so I mean, it is just kind of bittersweet," Puls said.

Scout Dollison is a junior who brought two for her senior friends. She enjoyed this fundraiser.

"Personally, I love DECA. They put on things like this all the time. What a cute way to send off seniors," Dollison said.

Dollison hopes for this fundraiser to continue and believes it's a great fundraiser.

"I'm gonna be a senior next year, and I think I would feel really appreciated or kind of loved if someone sent me something like this," Dollison said.

"Buy all your seniors a kiss! It is cute, and they would appreciate it," Dollison said.

Juniors offer ACT advice for sophomores ahead of next school year

Jazmin Mills
staff writer

Each year, high school juniors all across the state of Nebraska and nationally, take the ACT. Omaha Public Schools students took the exam on April 8.

The ACT (American College Test) is a standardized test that colleges use when applying for admission. The test is divided into six portions: English, math, reading, science, writing, and an essay. Each are timed separately. English gets 45 minutes, math gets 60 minutes, reading gets 35 minutes, science

gets 35 minutes, and the essay part gets 40 minutes.

In order to prepare for the test, students take time outside of school to study. Teachers also help prepare students in class for the upcoming test.

Junior Emma Kirby felt prepared for the ACT. She took ACT prep classes every Monday for five weeks. Studying through the ACT Prep app also helped her. Going into the test, Kirby wasn't that nervous because she knew that this was only her first official time taking it.

"I know you can always retake the test, so I wasn't too worried. I just wanted to see where I stood," Kirby said.

After the test, she felt pretty confident she did good and was glad to see all her preparations paid off. "For the incoming juniors of next year, I'd say obviously do your best because the test is important, but don't stress too much. You can always try again if you're not satisfied with your score," Kirby said.

Junior Claire McCallan went into the test a little uneasy. To prepare, McCallan asked family and friends who have taken the test before for any tips and advice they had.

"Before taking the ACT, of course I was scared. It was nerve-racking, but it was nice to know that I had friends experiencing the same feelings as me," McCallan said.

After finishing the test, McCallan felt relieved that she finally got it done and doesn't have to worry about it anymore.

"My advice to sophomores, ongoing juniors, taking the test next year is to study and take a breather. Don't put all your energy and time into studying for it, take some time for yourself," McCallan said.

After taking the test, some students found the test wasn't as hard as they thought. For sophomores taking the ACT next year, one main piece of advice that students stressed is to take time for yourself. The test is important, but it's also important to take a breather.

Students celebrate 48th annual Purple Feather day

Sayra Hernandez Garcia
staff writer

This year the 48th annual Purple Feather Day was celebrated on Tuesday, April 22, it took place in Central's Seeman Stadium.

Students who have a weighed GPA of 3.5 or above were invited to attend this celebration. The celebration began during Eagle Time and continued all through the Second block. Just like previous years the celebration included snacks, photo booths, inflatable obstacles, relay races, tattoos and stickers, with the new addition of tote bags.

"Purple Feather Day was better than I expected it to be, other schools have similar celebrations, but this one was by far the best," freshman Melanie Morales said. She also added that another one of her favorite things was the trivia races.

"I loved how this gave me the opportunity to hang out with friends I don't have classes with. Especially with bouncy houses," said Freshman Genesis Paniagua. Morales agreed with Genesis saying, this was the longest they hung out in a while now.

"This year's Purple Feather Day was better than last year's, it wasn't as hot or rainy, which I loved in that aspect," said senior Madeline Mitchell. She has had the opportunity to attend Purple Feather Day during all 4 years of high school.

This year students received a Central-themed gift bag filled with Takis, grape flavored Kool-Aid and fruit snacks, and purple donuts for everyone. There was also another option, tote bags, that a lot of students really liked.

For future celebrations, freshman hope everything stays the same. Paniagua said celebrations like Purple Feathe Day motivated her to be a better student.

This is a good motivation method, especially leading to the end of the year. Students are feeling drained and stressed of the school year, and by this time classes are starting their finals. This celebration is a good way for students to go outside, get some fresh air and clear their minds for a whole block.



Students preparing for school trivia game.

Isaac Percival-Aizenberg | The Register

Words to incoming freshmen, from freshmen

Gaby Antunez
staff writer

Freshmen year is one of the most important years of high school. It's the building blocks for the remaining years to build off of. Freshmen experience many different things that first year, and The Register interviewed freshmen for words of advice they would give to incoming freshmen and things they wish they had done differently.

Freshmen Vadim Lanphier, Andre Strum, and Julian Nielsen shared their thoughts on their experience as freshmen and what they wish they knew.

They all agreed that high school was a different experience with many things to be uncovered. "Freshmen year went amazing; it expanded new opportunities to me," Nielsen said.

They were advised that it would be very stressful, and completely different, but it wasn't. "People said it would be hard and that it was difficult and a lot of work, but I thought it was better," Lanphier said.

"Some advice I was given was that you definitely need to make friends and find your people, I took that to heart, and I have been making new friends every week," Nielsen said. Learning is something everyone goes through but making sure you're not alone is a top priory for many.

"Definitely more freedom than middle school," Strum said. Freedom came with both happiness and the realization that they would have to start holding themselves accountable with what is done during the time in school.

When asked about anything they wish they would do differently, some believed that what happened, happened for a reason and it was a learning experience. "I would do more class work, because with the freedom it was really hard to focus," Nielsen said

Words they would give to incoming freshmen were: "I would say make a lot of friends so you're not lonely and have a good high school experience," Strum said.

"High school matters. Colleges aren't going to look at your middle school grades - they are going to look at your high school grades and strive for at least a 3.0 GPA," Nielsen said.

"I would tell them it's going to be okay, it's going to be easy and not even that much work," Lanphier said.

They all had a common theme in their advice, giving encouragement to incoming freshmen and



A freshmen seminar classroom.

Isaac Percival-Aizenberg | The Register

telling them that even though middle school may have not been the best, they can still turn it around. Central is a new school with a new beginning. These freshmen will be using many different strategies going into their sophomore year. "My sophomore year I will be putting my phone in my backpack and using my time more wisely. This year I was on my phone most of the time or talking to friends and not locked in," Nielsen said. They said to be prepared for the unexpected and continue to expand their knowledge. "Next year, I will be taking my brain, be more hardworking, and my notes," Lanphier said.

Tucker retires, taught psychology for two decades

Charli Tobin
staff writer

For 26 years, Robert Tucker has taught psychology at Omaha Central. He will retire at the end of this school year.

Tucker has taught AP Psychology and psychology for over two and a half decades. Both courses are offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors. The course catalogue says this about psychology: "Psychology explores the complex nature of human behavior. Emphasis is placed upon the most significant concepts of contemporary psychology and the methods psychologists use to study behavior." In August, Jared Givens will be taking over the psychology course.

When asked about how the class has changed since his first years teaching the course, Tucker said, "The course has changed due to certain politics, to become more restrictive." He added, "We can't talk about gender or sexuality, not the way I would like to."

In the future, Givens said he would like to create more opportunities for field trips. He would also want to teach to keep interest, so more students continue forward in that area of education.

The course is very introductory friendly. Tucker had some advice to give to incoming students in the psychology course, which is to develop a plan for a wide variety of activities and to keep planning, especially for AP Psychology.



Isaac Percival-Aizenberg | The Register

HIGH SCHOOL IN 2025

Stop using AI for your schoolwork

Paula Gutierrez Martinez
arts and culture editor

A research company OpenAI released ChatGPT as a free research preview on Nov. 30, 2022. What started off as a tool for generating human-like text and engaging in conversational dialogue quickly became a behemoth of 400 million weekly users worldwide, with hopes of hitting 1 billion users by the end of 2025.

Unsurprisingly, a whopping 26% of US teens are users. A Pew Research Center survey found that a quarter of U.S. teens ages 13 to 17 have used ChatGPT for schoolwork—double the share in 2023. As AI continues to integrate itself in classrooms, so do disagreements over the best way to navigate it.

Personally, I believe AI has no place in academics, at least how it's being used now. The reality is that AI is a tool we are going to have to live with for the rest of our lives. We can't revert back to our pre-AI days, and we can't completely shun it either. While it isn't necessary to learn how to use AI—in fact, another PRC study found that 66% of U.S. adults have never used an AI chatbot—learning to do so means being at the forefront of the future.

In an era of deepfakes and misinformation, it's incredibly important that we learn to spot when AI is being used unethically, which can be more complicated than it seems. AI is one of those tricky little subjects where responsible uses range from avoiding it completely or only using it to assist you with tasks.

Like most students at Central, I've used AI before, whether it be for brainstorming research questions or finding a word on the tip of my tongue. I was enthusiastic about ChatGPT's potential for helping me with schoolwork when it came out my freshman year, and I had no qualms about using it. The way I saw it, if I didn't use it to write my English themes, then I was using it ethically. However, my mindset has radically transformed since then.

I found that the more I used AI, the more difficult it was for me to accomplish simple tasks like summarizing an article or coming up

with my own research question for a history essay. This lack of originality has been found in many other AI users: research from Carnegie Mellon University and Microsoft suggests that the more people use AI, the less critical thinking they do.

This isn't to say AI isn't entirely without its uses. ChatGPT is horrible at physics, but I've found that Gemini is quite good at explaining basic concepts. AI can function as a personal tutor to students who don't have access to a human tutor. Although Central has afterschool tutoring, additional help from AI doesn't hurt.

Overall, I believe that educators would benefit from scrutinizing AI's impact on both learning and teaching and then imposing regulations on its use.

At Central, I find that many teachers go as far as to encourage the use of AI. AI can be a fantastic tool for students, depending on what it's being used for, but I don't think it's right to encourage students to use it to write labs, or come up with research questions.

It used to be that a student would pick a topic they were interested in, for example the Roman empire, and then conduct research into that topic so they could come up with a carefully crafted research question aligning with their interests. With AI, a student simply has to input that topic into a chat and the AI will generate a list of possible research questions. This way, a student does not develop their research or writing skills.



CHLOE SCHWARTZ

To the journalism community at Central High School

Arissa Lattison
editor in chief

As I write this, I spend one of my final moments in the interview room of 029, a classroom that I didn't think would have much of an impact on me when I first entered high school.

When I was an incoming freshman, I was awkward and out of place, like a haphazardly broken shard of glass trying to fit itself into a mosaic. I knew what I wanted to do before I first stepped into the building, and journalism was not one of my aspirations.

Speech and debate was my plan for the next four years, as well as starting a songwriting club. There I would make a lasting impression with my words and find a leadership role to fill out my empty resume.

I would focus heavily on STEM classes and win HOSA competitions. My interests lay in healthcare and music, and I never thought I would end up where I did. But freshman year came and went. I did not enjoy speech and debate very much—it was nerve wracking—and I only enjoyed writing my speech, not performing it. There was already a songwriting club at Central, and upon joining, I did not like it as much as I thought I would. And so, lost on what to do, the search began once more.

I decided to give journalism a chance when Charlie Yale, former co-editor-in-chief, came to give my English class a talk about why we should join The Register. Full of hesitation, I enrolled in Honors Journalism as a sophomore, but I did not know it would

change the trajectory of my high school career.

So many memories were made during the following three years. I went from being a newbie in the class to editor-in-chief my senior year, and I built many lifelong friendships. You meet so many new people when interviewing for articles, going to journalism conventions and distributing the newspaper. Writing is what connected me to the student body. It kept me in the loop on current news, and I got to read up on new places to eat, movies to watch and top athletes at our school.

Last school year, Boston was the location of the Fall JEA/NSPA National Journalism Convention. I walked around the city, traveled on the subway and ate delicious food. There

were also many sessions to listen to speakers talk about how to write and how to improve the quality of our newspaper. I entered a competition and competed with many others in the U.S. on law and ethics of press. And I did all this with other Register staff over the course of three days. Moments like those reminded me why I loved the community so much.

The Register at Central provides you with a plethora of privileges. Journalism builds connections, spreads awareness and encourages leadership. It shaped me through challenges and rocky roads, and I went from being a misfit shard to having my own place in the big picture. So, I urge you to take that first step and take a chance on our community.

The Central Register is committed to providing a space for students to share their views with the Central community. If you are interested in writing an opinion story for this section, feel free to reach out to Adviser Brody Hilgenkamp and Opinion Editor Grace Sunseri with your idea. All submissions will undergo an editing and revision process once the submission is received, and final approval of publication will be made by Register staff and the adviser.

Lockers are dead at Central p. 8

There are hundreds of lockers at Central, yet the majority of them sit empty and unused. This erases an important aspect of high school culture.

Senior art show p. 9

Central's art department held its third annual senior art show.

Is the "Minecraft" movie a gem or just gravel? p. 14

"Minecraft" hits the big screen and did not end up being the disaster everyone thought.

Ackerman breaks class A shotput record p. 13

Ike Ackerman makes history by breaking Central's 40-year-old shotput record.

OPS needs new requirements to waive P.E.

Katie Besancon
staff writer

One of the many graduation requirements within Omaha Public Schools is four total semesters of physical education. If someone does not want to complete those requirements in the building, they can opt for summer P.E., which takes place in the month of June. Another option is joining marching band or JROTC, which count as credits, or waiving the P.E. requirements through a varsity sport. The only stipulation with waving P.E. through a varsity sport is that students are not allowed to have a study hall or early out at any time during the four years at Cental.

Many students, however, are not informed of this stipulation when signing up for classes in eighth grade, myself being one of them. I had signed up for a study hall my freshman year because I was not entirely sure how I would adjust to the high school load. I then decided to fill my schedule with as many classes as possible in my sophomore year, leaving me going into junior year with no P.E. credits.

This caused a problem, because at that point I was a varsity athlete who had lettered four times and was in excellent academic standing but was not allowed to waive P.E. because of an uninformed decision I made prior to my freshman year.

I either had to take summer P.E. and a P.E. class my junior

year or take P.E. both my junior and senior year. I did not want to do this because it would jeopardize my chances at an early out, something that I have worked for since freshman year.

I chose the first option, taking summer P.E. the summer before my junior year and am now in a P.E. class finishing out those credits.

All of this could have been avoided.

As an athlete who has lettered five times, holds a high-grade point average and is taking a schedule of classes that are 90% AP and honors, it is frustrating to be deemed not academically involved or oriented.

I propose new waiving requirements that would allow student athletes to waive their physical education if they are a varsity athlete who had completed the requirements their sport provides and has a grade point average above 3.5. This proves that the student is focused and determined in the classroom, getting their work done and striving for success, but is also working hard in their designated sport.

Athletic practices at Central are usually around two hours long, all of which are going through some sort of physical activity every day. Not only is that 30 minutes longer than P.E. classes, but it is also every day, compared to the two or three days a week P.E. classes meet. This is an estimated 10 hours a week compared to the three or four and a half hours P.E.

classes take place.

This doesn't factor in the time that Central athletics take part in games or competitions, which usually happen on top of the daily practice times and take up longer periods of time. For example, girls and boys swimming who lift in the morning three days a week, practice every day after school for two hours in the pool, and compete on the weekends taking at least half of the day on Saturday every weekend.

I believe that students should not be put down for taking a study hall because they are choosing to manage a heavy course load on top of their sport and typical high school life. Students should also be allowed an academic reward come their senior year if they have completed all their credits and are eligible for an early out. Since study halls do not count as any credits they should not take away from that academic reward.

I am not the only person who has dealt with this issue. Many in my friend group also took study halls their freshman year and are experiencing the same things. A former teammate of mine who was highly involved in high school experienced this as well. Someone in each graduating class experiences this and at some point, a change needs to be made in order for student athletes to make the most of their high school experiences.

Teachers rhymes and phrases ranked

Caprice McCoy
contributing writer

High school is full of unforgettable moments: spirit weeks, late-night cram sessions, awkward presentations—and of course, teacher catchphrases. The dramatic, the overused, the ones that echo across classrooms year after year. Shouted, whispered or repeated with the same energy every single day. Some inspire laughter, some eye-rolls, and some existential dread. It is time to finally rank the top five most iconic lines that make up the soundtrack of the school day.

5. The classic, "Show your work." The dreaded words that show up on every math or math-based science test just because a few students from two years ago wanted to use artificial intelligence. Teachers, if it is your job to make sure students memorize the equations and process; then why are you so hung up on it when they know it so well, they don't even need to show the work?

4. "Class isn't over yet!" Or better known as, "The bell doesn't dismiss you; I dismiss you." No matter how it is said, it sounds like nails on a chalkboard. There is one minute until the bell, and the slideshow literally says, "THE END." Let. The. Students. Go.

3. "This will be on the test." Now, in normal circumstances, this is a favor from the teacher, a blessing even, to know what will be on the summative test. Even better when it shows up on the study guide. But when the test arrives, and it is nowhere to be found? Instead, it's been replaced by some utter nonsense that they "apparently" went over for half of the class (and no one remembers).

2. "Phones in the phone home." ... the phone home? Seriously? Your class is so boring that you need to enforce the phone home so kids will actually pass your class? This one honestly speaks for itself, you know who you are.

1. This next one, I'm sure, has been uttered by every teacher in existence. "I don't know... can you?" Are we serious right now? Students use on average half of their passing period to get to class, and on top of that, staff kicks students out of the bathroom during passing period, and when they aren't students are lining the walls with vapes in one hand, and phones in the other - completely eliminating all chances of using the restroom during passing period. So no, English teachers, they couldn't "go during passing period". What's with denying students their natural right to relieve themselves?

Of course, no ranking would be complete without a few

legendary quotes straight from Central High School itself. These next quotes are from students who answered the Form posted April 17, 2025.

"Does that make sense...?" – Kelsey Porter, English teacher
And then stares directly into the soul of one poor student, like failure is personally disappointing.

"It's hump day!" – Derek Leslie, Business Education teacher. Followed immediately by that same obnoxious camel ad. Every. Single. Wednesday. No survivors.

"I'm done with y'all." – Ryan Cripps, JROTC Instructor
Always said after giving the class a heavy sigh and at least three exasperated looks. A Central classic.

"Get locked or get clocked." – Sara Cowan, Vocal/Music teacher. A warning, a way of life, a slogan for survival at Central. Fully embraced by the students.

"Get it, got it, good?" – Jordan Boyer, Social Studies teacher. The holy trinity of making sure no one has an excuse for forgetting instructions. Say it faster next time.

"Onward!" – Molly Jensen, Math teacher
Usually delivered with enough enthusiasm to drag a half-dead class into the next unit whether they like it or not.



Kelsey Porter



Derek Leslie



Ryan Cripps



Sara Cowen



Jordan Boyer
MAURO GUTIERREZ and JULIUS WAKOLE | The Register



Molly Jensen

Too many stairs in Central

Charli Tobin
staff writer

Let's be honest, Central High School has too many stairs. We all know how many times you have been in a situation where you are exhausted in the morning, and your class is on the fourth floor. Then after you have a class in the gym. That is seven flights of stairs, and if you have to go to the band room or choir room that's eight flights of stairs. That's six flights too many.

It's easy to say there are too many stairs, but what's the way to fix it?

Well, first off, replace the stairs with almost all escalators, and to save money with the downstairs, we just replace those with slides so we can have fun. Especially since it would be so easy to place in just take some wood slabs and shove them in the stairs.

We could also have better elevators and more of them; we don't need all these stairs, they're unessential. So just take them all out so simple.

Frankly, an escalator would be easier and better, especially because if you're late you can start walking up the escalators to gain superspeed, and it solves the problem of people

going the wrong way on the stairs because the people would just stay still.

On one side we should have a better way to gain fitness, so a Rockwall should be added. While obviously not as fast or efficient, it would be fun, and life needs more fun. Just knock out the hall of fame and move that to where more visitors will see it and the principal wall and now boom Rockwall.

My final option for a solution to the massive amounts of stairs is to flatten the school out, remove every other floor and make it just an extra addition to the first floor. Then we only have two floors, a basement and first floor. So much easier, isn't it?

There, we have our solutions to our problems with our staircases.



One of many torturous staircases in Central High School. RAKHIJA ABDULAH | The Register

Purple Feather Day - Does it congratulate or overstimulate?"

Gaby Antunez
staff writer

Purple Feather Day is celebrated every year around the end of April, this year being the 49th annual Purple Feather Day. This celebrates the students who have achieved a cumulative grade point average of a 3.5 or higher throughout the years they have been at Central.

As a student who has gone to Purple Feather Day each year, I am starting to understand the blessing in disguise that Purple Feather Day is - each year has been different yet similar.

My freshman year, or the 47th annual purple feather day, I was very surprised that such a day existed. I was also very glad because I felt as though my hard work

was acknowledged and glad that it wasn't overlooked. But once we went outside to take a photo and play outside it started to rain so we were forced to go into the gym and dance.

Me being a freshman, I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was a fun day, and I felt so proud of myself for even being invited. It was my first Purple Feather Day, and since it rained my expectations of how the next year would go were down.

Sophomore year I once again forgot that the day was a thing, and when I got invited, I was so happy, and once we got outside and saw the inflatables, I was even happier. Once again, there were games played by each grade and students were randomly selected from each grade to represent their peers. Each year the support from each grade given to their peers

gets even louder.

Purple Feather Day helps bring people together who may have never seen each other, or only in the halls, yet now they are supporting each other. That year we got a water bottle full of goodies, and once again I was proud that I was invited.

This year though, my junior year, I was starting to fall behind in my classes and I was not proud of my grades. April rolled around and I remembered Purple Feather Day; I wasn't sure if I should get my hopes up and expect to get invited.

Purple feather celebrates the ones who are trying hard in school. I was trying hard, yet I didn't know if I was trying hard enough to meet their expectations.

When the day came around and I was invited, I experienced a sense of relief. Even though this year may not have been the best, my past hard work helped support me into meeting the criteria. I was even more grateful for being invited, making the most out of the time and even helping my little brother explore his first Purple Feather Day.

Purple feather is there to help encourage students to try their best to be able to have a fun free period near the end of the year. Through the years each one has been similar to the past years, yet each year the sense of accomplishment never goes away.

This year made me realize that even though one year could be worse than the others, if you try your best throughout all the years as a high-schooler, you will be celebrated.

Omaha expansion means more fun for teens

Aubri Kolterman
staff writer

Omaha, specifically the downtown area, has expanded in many ways: Gene Leahy Mall, the Riverfront, the skating rink and the new Mutual of Omaha building, which will become the tallest building in the city and state when it is completed fall of 2026.

Other popular destinations for entertainment in the Omaha area include Aksarben, West roads Mall, and the Crossroads Mall location that will be redeveloped in the future. I have a feeling by 2030 Omaha will start expanding and soon be one of the top cities in the U.S.

More plans for city expansion include Millwork Commons,

a new streetcar and adding onto the CHI Health Center. There is a lot going on, which you can tell by the ridiculous amount of construction; however, this is only going to make our city better.

The mayor's office says that there are 41 projects planned for this year, including residential, street, and reconstruction and repair, totaling an estimated \$28.6 million.

When it comes to teenagers in Omaha, downtown, the Gene Leahy, and Aksarben, which includes a movie theater, are the biggest hits. Most teens have fun by meeting up with friends, going out to eat or riding the scooters. If you are downtown on a weekend, you will see at least a few people from Central, and from other schools as well.

I'm hoping they will consider creating more teen-friendly

activities and attractions downtown and Midtown Crossing, because we need more places to go and have fun besides just walking downtown or going to the mall with your friends. It gets boring and everybody kind of gets tired of not having more options when it comes to entertainment in the Omaha area. I feel as if there is a lot more to do for people that are 21 and older. They have all sorts of bars, late night putt putt golf, commons areas with restaurants and more.

Teenagers should have just as many places to go and things to do but not even just for teenagers but people of all ages to go and have fun with their families.

Lockers are a dead culture at Central

Becca Rock
chief copy editor

The majority of lockers at Central have become a place where dust collects and metal rusts. With the Covid-19 Pandemic, lockers were no longer assigned to every student, instead only being given to students who requested one.

In 2021-22, 260 students requested them; 2022-23, 29; in 2023-24, 439; and 2024-25, 332 students requested one.

Locker culture at Central is dead.

Senior Holland Robison came to Central after graduating from Our Lady of Lords. She was excited to be able to decorate her locker "like how they do in the movies," she said.

"I dreamed of hanging a mini chandelier in my locker," Robison said.

But, in disbelief she was never handed a locker. Instead, she had to go through the process of writing a request form.

As an underclassman, senior Lily Howard was taught how to check out a locker from upperclassmen, which she did because she wanted a place to put her sports bags.

"I didn't want to have to carry them around. I never stopped for books," Howard said.

Cars function as lockers for some students. Senior Hugh Lowe-Weyand said, "It is way easier for me to just carry my bag around, and when I have sports stuff, I typically just try to keep it in my car, so I don't have to request a locker."

When teacher and 2015 graduate Jared Givens was a student at Central, there were nine class periods during the day and using a locker was a standard among students. Everyone was assigned a locker and many students shared.

Lockers became a health hazard, Givens said.

"People always left behind food and nasty stuff. I left a protein shake in there over winter break and it got gross," he said.

He said it stunk up the halls. But even then, there were people who never used their lockers.

"Part of why I think they stopped doing it is because if you want one, you can just get one...Now you don't need to carry around nine classes of books each day and you only have to bring half of your stuff to school," Givens said.

One reason locker culture is dead is because there is no need to put extra

belongings. If students can carry all of their belongings to class, they may not choose to take extra time to stop at an empty locker.

Central halls used to be filled with wooden lockers that required locker keys. But, from 1970-1976 there was a switch from wooden lockers to metal because of the high risk of fires.

Debbie Simon wrote in the Feb. 10, 1971, Register that lockers were set on fire, as well as several trashcans. Simon said, "all Central students perhaps will be paying the price of a supposedly practical joke." This singular outbreak was probably not the only time the wooden lockers were deemed a fire hazard, because it is regarded on Central's High Schools Historical Timeline from 1854-2016 made by alumni Barry Combs and Jim Wigton that from 1970 to 1976 "Metal lockers replaced wooden lockers. Problem: too many fires."

In the Oct. 18, 1922, issue of The Register, the wooden locker was a problem as well. "There are certain students at Central who seem to like to keep their locker keys at the end of the year. At the present time there are other students who are constantly missing things from their locks," wrote a member of the Register staff.

But lockers also created funny stories. "The Mouse that Bored' strikes, the headline to Randy Ratners article in the Feb. 10, 1971, issue of The Register about how a mouse was eating his egg salad sandwiches, and his locker mate Walt Richtman's potato chips.

Many alumni's favorite memories included the wooden lockers. The Central High Foundation has reached out to many alumni to ask what their favorite memories were. Steve Bowder, class of 1976, said "remember those creaky wood lockers?"

The community that lockers created for students at Central is lost. There is no more decorating friends' lockers for their birthdays, no more funny stories about lunch being eaten, or locker keys that seem to only cause a ruckus.

These lockers were a commonality for those who walked the halls, connecting with a locker buddy, or assisting someone with opening a locker is gone.



arts & culture

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Photos Courtesy of TANYA SIMMONS

Central Eagles display art work at senior art

Jasmin Gutierrez Garcia
translation editor

The Central Art Department held its third annual senior art show in the library on April 24. Seniors were given the opportunity to display their artwork, and many of them installed it as well.

The first senior art show began back in fall 2022. Every senior in an art class has the chance to showcase their art piece. Tanya Simmons, one of the art teachers, helped make this art show possible. "(Principal Dionne) Kirksey came up with the idea a few years ago. So, whether they have taken one art class or eight art classes, one artwork in the show. This is our third year doing it like that," Simmons said.

Approximately 90 students showcased their artwork at the senior art show. The show had many different classes with artwork such as Art Foundations, Beginning Ceramics, Intermediate Ceramics, Advanced Ceramics, Intermediate Drawing and Painting, Studio Art 1-2, Studio Art 3-4, AP Art, which is for 2D and lastly Applied Design.

"One thing I love about the school is all the different types of people we

have here, and in art classes, you see so much variety and the idea behind things, creativity, style, and techniques. It is like visually showing what our school is about and the art show as well," Simmons said.

Each teacher and student may have different ideas about the meaning of the senior art show. Purposes such as motivating them to show their work off to friends or family or a push to create more art or display their work. "It gives them a chance to see that they are an artist or to have their work on display for the first time," Simmons said.

This was a pop-up gallery, because it was up for one day. "We had to get that ready on the day of the show, in advance we had people set up to help us. A couple of them did it for an assignment for the honors option in Studio Art, but they were also seniors that helped," Simmons said.

Teachers started collecting work and getting titles from seniors about a month in advance. The students and the teacher together had to pick one piece; students made the decision which piece it was. Some brought things in from home, while others got it out of the display case.

Le'Marr Mothershed was one of the seniors who displayed their art piece. He took a different route with art and demonstrated fashion at the show.

"I had a piece that I made. It was from some months ago around Christmas when I made the piece. It was a sweatshirt. It was like a wide body sweatshirt that I made," Mothershed said. "It took me about three weeks to make. Getting all the measurements and stuff or getting the fabric together and everything."

He enjoyed the senior art show. "I do recommend people express yourself. Be creative in your stuff," Mothershed said.

Central choir groups perform in final concert of the school year

Hattie Moeller
news editor

The Omaha Central choir held their Spring Awards concert April 29 in the Central auditorium. Conducted by music teachers Sara Cowan and Kathryn Bohn, the concert featured Central's Mixed Chorus, Junior Chorus, Bel Canto, CHS Singers and A Capella Choir groups. The singers were accompanied by Stephen Bouma.

The program began with performances by the Mixed Chorus, in which they sang "Hashivenu," an Israeli folk song, and "Death Came-a-Knockin'."

A performance by the Junior Chorus followed. The group sang three songs: "Il Tedesco," "Dreams of Thee," and "JAM! Jom-Ayuh-Mari." The second song was accompa-

nied by junior Danny Cox on the viola.

"JAM: Jom-Ayuh-Mari" translates to: "Come, let's go make some music together and sing while passing time! Leave your worries for a while."

Seniors ThaDah Si, Lily Howard and Aiden Ramirez joined the choir onstage as body percussionists. Through various actions like stomping, clapping and snapping their body parts produced sounds and rhythms.

"The concert was very special," freshman Maggie Howard said. "I loved singing 'Dreams of Thee,' it had a nice harmony and good sound."

Then, Bel Canto took center stage. The purpose of this choir is to sing full and rich, an operatic style of singing. The ensemble first sang "Ave Maria," arranged by Bouma, followed by "El Romantón" and "Sing Out My

Soul."

Sophomore Mackenzie Simpson reflected on the performance and believed the concert to be a great reflection of how Bel Canto had come since the group started singing in the fall. "Our group really harmonized during that song, and it sounded so perfect."

They finished out their four-song set with "The Rose," which highlighted soloists Aibreann Conn, Sydney Gniffke-Leak, Asia Young and Ava Bonhert.

CHS Singers performed next. They sang "Sicut Cervus," "Abentlied," "Threads of Joy" and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," all led by Cowan.

"The spring concert meant a lot," sophomore Luke Farrington said. "We were able to sing with the seniors one last time and give them a proper goodbye."

Finally, the finale began, featuring the A Capella choir. The symbolic performance featured four songs, including the closing hymn "Salvation is Created." A Capella invited alumni of the choir to join them onstage for the performance.

"I felt content in that moment," senior Holland Robison said, "but it was also weird to think that would be the last note I ever sang."

Twenty-four seniors were recognized, as with the conclusion of their performance, it would be their last concert together in the Central auditorium.

"I enjoyed the chance to be with my friend one last time. We got to reminisce about past memories as we ended our last song," senior Iyanna Wise said. "It was an amazing final performance."

Popular horror and thriller movies. 11
Horror and thriller movies often get mixed up. Read to find out the difference between the two and some great recommendations for movie night.

"Death of a Unicorn" review p. 11
The new horror-comedy starring Jenna Ortega and Paul Rudd disappoints, despite its intriguing premise.

"A Minecraft Movie" review p. 12
Although "A Minecraft Movie" was wildly entertaining, despite initial belief, this does not mean the movie didn't have its flaws.

Nintendo Switch 2 direct on April 2 p. 12
Nintendo has announced the release date of the new Nintendo, as well as several game announcements.

Fun activities to do this summer

Becca Rock
chief copy editor

1. Go to a farmers market/night market
It costs no money to walk around a farmers market and take in the scene. Omaha Farmers Market’s Saturday Market begins May 3 in the Old Market: 11th and Jackson, and May 4 in Aksarben. There are a wide range of vendors of flowers, hot sauces to baked goods. Use the ORBT for transportation to save on gas and parking because Omaha Public Schools students get free transportation. Or you could use this opportunity to bike or walk. Both farmers markets have free bike parking. I know personally I will try and go to as many markets as I can this summer.

You can also attend the Night Market presented by Veridian Credit Union in Turner Park on May 30, June 27, July 25 and Aug. 29 from 6 to 10 p.m. Last time I went I remember it being a bunch of fun. When I went, there was someone juggling fire and a bunch of vendors and eats.

2. Go on a hike
I have made so many lists of fun things to do in the past, and this is a recurring activ-

ity. While my favorite trails do cost a small donation (Hitchcock, Fontenelle Forest, Neale Woods) there are many free trails in Omaha too. The OPPD Arboretum located at 108th and Blondo Street is a good place for a stroll as well as Heron Haven. Heron Haven is located at 11809 Old Maple Rd. This place has mostly short trails and boardwalks. My favorite park about Heron Haven is their pond where I like to listen to the toads.

Going on a stroll or hike anywhere is a good way to have fun with your friends outside.

3. Go on a night drive
Roll down your window, turn on some music, and feel the wind! There is definitely something therapeutic about driving around at night. The way lights glisten is beautiful. Or combine this with other ideas like driving to watch the sunset/sunrise.

4. Climb a tree
When I was a kid one of my favorite summer activities was hanging out in trees. I bet you have not climbed a tree in quite a while, so why not?

5. Go to a lake

There are a few options for swimming in lakes for free in the Omaha Metro area. These include Zorinsky Lake & Recreation, Glenn Cunningham Lake and Carter Lake. There are also options to swim in lakes for a small fee to also get access to a beach. For example, just across the river at Lake Manawa there is a sand beach, snack shack and sand volleyball for \$4. This is the closest I think Omahans can get to laying at a beach.

6. Go trash-bagging
From the name it sounds like I am going to go tell you to go pick up trash, which could be a fun activity. But this instead is an activity where one wearing a plastic bag slides down a hill. Soap and water can be used to make one slide down the hill at a faster rate. Think sled-ding mixed with summer. It’s perfect: not too cold, but still able to slide.

7. Go to The Joslyn
The Joslyn is a nonprofit meaning admission is free. Spend a day looking at art. When looking at art there are a few activities you can participate in. With another person you could both explain what they think the backstory of the art is. Or bring a pencil and paper with

you and try to recreate the art. There is also a small cafe within the art museum where you could drink a cup of coffee or get a sandwich.

8. Play sand volleyball
Grab a volleyball, a group of friends, and head to either Aksarben or the Luminarium to play a game of volleyball with your friends. Maybe bring a speaker too!

9. Go Downtown and walk around
Walk around the RiverFront, listen to Downtown corner musicians or people watch. There is so much to watch and interact with.

10. Bring a frisbee to the park
Buy a frisbee or grab one and go to a park. A good way to spend time with friends is a light game of catch.

11. Fly a Kite
WOW! It’s a windy day, what an opportunity to fly a kite. I do not remember the last time I flew a kite.

12. Play Pickleball
It may be an obsession for some, and I believe that it is one of the best activities one can participate in, if you can buy a paddle and learn the sport.



The Joslyn’s new addition is a great JULIUS WAKOLE | The Register

Poetry of Place contest winners

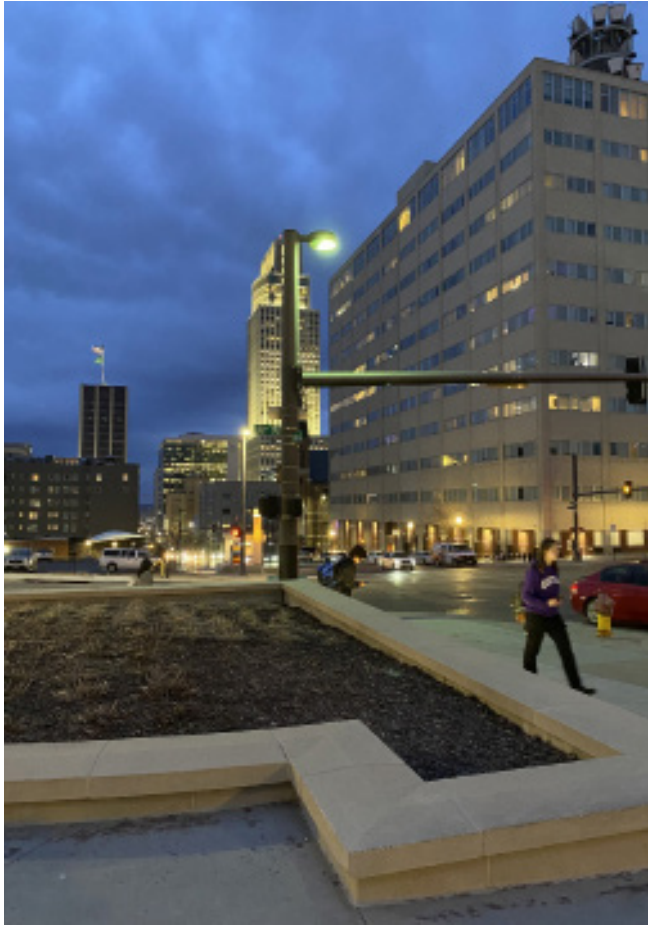


Photo Courtesy of JENNIFER KAWECKI

1. First Place Ky’Vega Hagens
White petals flutter,
Gentle steps on the pathway,
Spring whispers softly.
2. Second Place Amal Bashir
After school
Sun dipping too fast
Lights glow like someone’s still home
Night leans on the edge

3. Third Place De’ayra Mitchell
City streets at dusk,
Two figures lost in their world,
Skyscrapers watch close

New ‘horror’ movies don’t have the element of horror

Arisa Lattison
editor-in-chief

Warning: This list contains spoilers regarding the following movies: “As Above So Below,” “M3gan,” “The Platform,” “Talk to Me,” and “Smile.” There are mentions of suicide.

I was watching a horror movie a couple of weeks ago with my sister. We wanted to recreate the days back when we would get under the covers and cover our eyes, and so we picked the scariest one based on the trailer— “Talk to Me.” And while it held our interest for the first half, the rest fell short of our expectations. It was labeled as horror and yet it wasn’t horrifying at all.

Because they revolve around trauma and not actual scare elements - recent horror movies should not be classified as just horror, but rather as thriller.

There is a very distinct difference between horror and thriller. Horror relies on jump scares, angles, ominous music, and gore in order to captivate viewers. These have you on the edge of your seat, and while predictable, nevertheless manage to scare. And while some horror movies do this, there are some that solely rely on deeper meanings and messages to draw the audience in. This makes them unnerving, but in a unique way.

Examples of “Horror” Horror Movies
“As Above So Below”: Directed by John Erick Dowdle, this 2014 horror is about a

woman in search a treasure known as Flamel’s Philosopher’s Stone. When she finds out that the stone is hidden in the Paris catacombs, she goes to explore with a group but doesn’t realize what she is in for. The documentary-style footage is the main event of this movie. It is filmed from the perspective of explorers, and the shaky, low-quality images of the film make it seem as though you are watching recovered footage from a real occurrence. The characters are stuck in a loop within the catacombs, with jump scares placed deliberately throughout the movie. It interferes with your perception of time and the horror is psychological.

“M3gan:” This film was released in 2022 and directed by Gerard Johnstone. It is about a woman named Gemma who gives a lifelike doll robot to her niece after the passing of the girl’s mother. However, the M3gan, the robot, gains a conscience of its own and becomes protective of Gemma’s niece. M3gan goes on to become more and more sentient, and overly protective of the girl to the point where it’s willing to kill for her. With humor elements, this movie was the perfect example of comedic horror. I watched this with my family, and we enjoyed laughing and screaming together.

“In the Tall Grass:” This movie is really similar to “As Above So Below.” Directed by Vincenzo Natali and released in 2019, the film follows a pair of siblings who enter a field of grass in the middle of nowhere in order to rescue a boy whose voice they had heard.

Later, they find out that the exit has shifted and that they have no way out of the grass. It muddles the passing of time and confuses the viewer. There are many disturbing scenes such as the decomposing of a dog, a woman eating her newborn baby and its placenta, as well as the turning of loved ones on each other. This movie was done well in terms of scare factor, and I could never predict what was going to happen next.

Examples of “Horror” Thriller Movies
“Talk to Me:” Released in 2023 and directed by Danny and Michael Philippou, this movie is about a relic—the mummified hand of a psychic— that allows teenagers to connect and communicate with the dead and have out-of-body experiences. The main character comes across the opportunity to use the hand and ends up enjoying the few seconds of escape it provides. Being reckless, she lets her friend’s little brother try the hand, and while possessed, attempts to hurt himself. He becomes hospitalized and his family shuns her. Convincing herself that she saw her dead mother in him for a moment, she becomes obsessed with the relic, just to communicate with her mother for a bit. Listening to her “mother,” she tries to murder her father, because she’s convinced he’s an imposter, as well as her friend’s brother to relieve him from the pain, and eventually herself. This shows how grief and guilt are recurring and affect mental health. The message is similar to the next movie, “Smile.”

“Smile:” This 2022 movie was directed by Parker Finn and is about a condition that spreads though America. It starts off with the main character, who is a therapist, witnessing a suicide before her eyes. Not long after, she starts hallucinating and having visions of a terrible entity that is out to get her. This manifests in people around her, as they smile creepily at her wherever she goes. She’s losing sleep, not acting like herself, and loved ones are concerned. One moment in the movie her pet cat goes missing and later is found, dead, inside a gift she had wrapped up for her sister’s son’s birthday party. The whole movie is a metaphor for the grief and trauma that humans experience after a death, and how sometimes it can consume us and change the way that we act, and even the way we think and feel. Once you realize that is the message, the movie becomes less scary.

“The Platform:” Galder Gaztelu-Urrutia directed this movie, and it was released in 2019. The film takes place in a prison with a new system called the Vertical Self-Management Center, where prisoners rotate levels among 333 levels each month. The higher up you are, the more food is available for you, and people past the level of 100 barely receive anything to sustain themselves. I saw this movie as criticism for the way in which our economy works. Those with more power take more, leaving the less fortunate with nothing. It wasn’t so much scary as it was a blunt representation of our society.

‘Death of a Unicorn’ is fun, but forgettable

Paula Gutiérrez Martínez
arts & culture editor

When one thinks of unicorns, it’s usually the wild woodland creature of Medieval art, or the cutesy, colorful ponies popularized by “My Little Pony,” not the nightmarish monsters pictured in writer-director Alex Scharfman’s “Death of a Unicorn.”

“Death of a Unicorn” stars Paul Rudd and Jenna Ortega as father and daughter Elliot and Ridley, who are grieving the loss of Elliot’s wife and Ridley’s mother to illness. Ridley isn’t exactly thrilled when Elliot insists that Ridley accompany him to the estate of his boss, billionaire Odell Leopold (Roger E. Grant) and his family—his wife Belinda (Téa Leoni) and their

son Shepard (Will Poulter).
To top it all off, Elliot accidentally hits a unicorn with his car while driving to their destination, then proceeds to bash its head in with a tire iron when Ridley touches its horn and becomes paralyzed by a cosmic vision. Not wanting to leave it out in the middle of the road, Elliot unceremoniously hauls the unicorn into his trunk. The situation quickly spirals when the Leopolds discover its existence, and the miraculous, curative powers of its blood.

The movie’s distributor, American entertainment company A24, is what initially drew me to “Death of a Unicorn.” I knew the movies they distributed to be generally good, and they were also the distributors of two of my all-time favorite movies: “Eighth Grade” (2018) and “Pro-

blemista” (2023). But the new spin on a genre overflowing with animated children’s movies piqued my interest in the film when it came out March 28. However, I left the Ruth Sokolof Theater feeling much more enthusiastic than when I came in.
A few days later, I barely even remembered the movie.
Despite its premise, “Death of a Unicorn” is a forgettable movie. It has some familiar themes about capitalism and exploitation that other films have already addressed, and much better at that. Eat-the-rich films like “Triangle of Sadness” and “Parasite” continue to be popular for a reason, and “Death of a Unicorn” just didn’t have anything new to contribute to this type of movie.

The acting was too over the top at times. This wasn’t a problem for the Leopolds, who were clearly meant to be caricatures of the oligarchy, which is what made them so hilarious and repulsive at the same time. It was different for Ortega and Rudd’s characters, who are supposed to be the average citizens dragged into a situation out of their control. Rudd’s acting in particular was some of the blandest. On the other hand, Poulter, an underrated actor, made the movie much more fun; he did a fantastic job portraying a privileged man-child.
Some of the reviews I read for this movie mentioned its CGI as one of its worst points. Granted, it wasn’t the best, but it wasn’t anything bad enough for me to take that much notice.

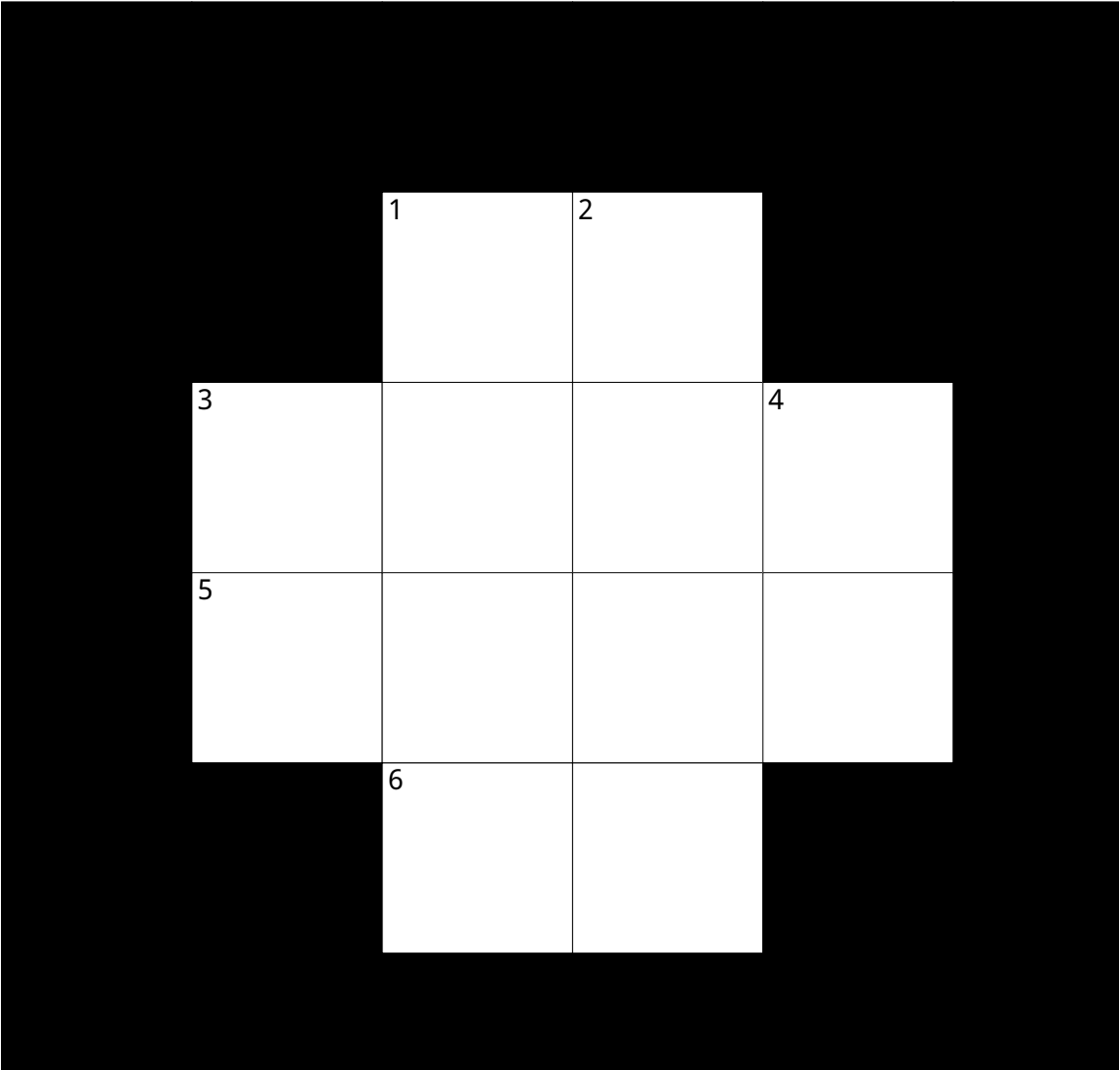
Mini: School Edition

ACROSS

- 1 Me, __, le, nos, os, les
- 3 They travel in schools called “pods”
- 5 We have 5 of these in the gym
- 6 A fanfic’s main character

DOWN

- 1 City in habited by Paris & Helen
- 2 Class required sophomore year
- 3 Hydroxide
- 4 Collegeboard exam



Is ‘Minecraft’ movie a gem or just gravel?

Noah Sipe
contributing writer

A Minecraft Movie” was once expected to be a movie that many were going to regret going to, but it did not end up being the disaster many envisioned. “A Minecraft Movie” is an entertaining ride of a movie that did not leave many people disappointed but that does not mean there are some obvious flaws in this movie.

While technically “A Minecraft Movie” is a movie about “Minecraft,” the story is not driven by something anyone would be experiencing in the game, which can leave some disappointed and even confused. The story about the villain, Malgosha, a piglin

who wants to destroy the over world for being made fun of in a talent show, has nothing to do with “Minecraft,” and it’s predictable and bland.

The casting of the movie was surprising and the talk of the community for a long time. They casted Jack Black, an actor many would never envision play the character of “Steve,” but once clips from the trailer were released, Black was painted everywhere on social media for his goofy humor in the movie and was eventually looked upon as a good cast spot. As for Emma Myers, her performance in this movie felt forced. She plays an independent sister looking over her little brother, and none of her acting feels natural at all, as opposed

to her role in “Wednesday.” Under the right circumstances, she is not a bad actor.

Visually, “A Minecraft Movie” was stunning, and this is something the creators nailed. It felt like if one was placed into the movie it would feel like one was in “Minecraft” with them. Little details, like how the blocks look, the environment and how they made animals and mobs look are great.

The tribute to the Technoblade was as well very well handled and put together. Technoblade was a very iconic and influential “Minecraft” YouTuber, who passed to cancer in 2022, which hit hard to the Minecraft community.

On the scale of video game movies, this

one holds up. It’s not as polished as other movies – for example, the “Super Mario Bros Movie” - but definitely not anything terrible.

If Minecraft was part of anybody’s childhood, this movie is worth giving your time to watch. Otherwise, if someone was never big on “Minecraft” or even heard of it, one would be confused why this movie even exists.

Box Office numbers were strong for this movie, with over \$720 million in ticket sales worldwide. We should be expecting another “Minecraft” movie in the future, and hopefully improvements will be made on what they built in this first one.



An attendee plays “Mario Kart World” by Nintendo Switch 2 during the Nintendo Switch 2 Experience at the ExCeL London international exhibition and convention centre in London. REUTERS/Isabel Infantes

Better late than never: Nintendo Switch 2 out June 5

Ethan Hughes
staff writer

Nintendo announced the release date of the Nintendo Switch 2 on April 2, placing said release date as June 5. During this reveal, there were also several major game announcements.

The new console will cost \$450 without shipping or taxes, featuring a larger screen, a different connection system for the Joy-Cons, and an added mouse feature for the Joy-Cons. However, most of the Direct was occupied by game announcements.

Multiple large gaming franchise saw new game announcements, including:

Mario Kart, which got “Mario Kart World,” is an up to 24-player game that will feature a mode with seamless track transitions.

Donkey Kong received “Donkey Kong Bananza,” which will update Donkey Kong with a mix of his usual design and his movie design.

Metroid announced, “Metroid Prime 4: Beyond,” which will introduce psychic abilities to the series.

Legend of Zelda’s “Hyrule Warriors” series is getting “Hyrule Warriors: Age of Imprisonment,” which seems to be a prequel to “Tears of the Kingdom.”

Tomodachi game titled “Tomodachi Life: Living the Dream” was revealed, being the first Tomodachi game in over 10 years

Pokémon showed more footage of “Pokémon Legends: Z-A,” which will wholly take place in Pokémon’s equivalent to Paris, France, called Lumiose City.

Large non-Nintendo franchises featured included another trailer for “Borderlands 4,” as well as the announcement of a spiritual successor to video game company FromSoftware’s “Bloodborne,” called “The Duskbloods.”

Also announced were several updates regarding multiple indie game franchises, such as the release date of chapters three and four of Toby Fox’s “Deltarune,” which is set to release on June 5 and will cost \$25; the official release announcement of SuperGiant Games’ “Hades II,” which will finally exit its early access phase and initially release as a Nintendo Switch 2 exclusive; and an offhanded reveal of an unspecified 2025 release date for Team Cherry’s long-awaited sequel “Hollow Knight: Silksong,” featuring the first pieces of footage released since 2019.

The Nintendo Switch 2 will be released worldwide on June 5.

Crossword Answers

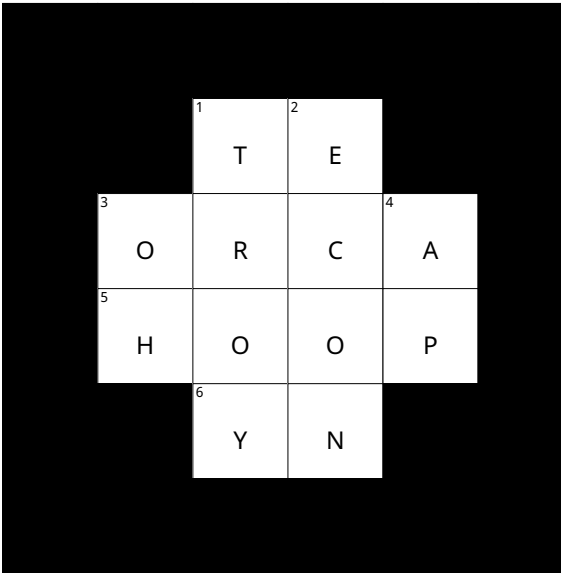
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DOWN

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- 2 Class required sophomore year
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- 4 Collegeboard exam



ACKERMAN BREAKS RECORD

65-foot, 5-inch throw beats Station's 1982 record

Steven Dickerson
sports editor

Senior Ike Ackerman made history this season by breaking Class A and Central's 40-plus-year-old shotput record, an iconic mark long held by Central legend and Nebraska Hall of Famer Larry Station. Ackerman threw 65-4 at the Jo Dusatko Invitational on April 18, beating Station's 1982 throw of 64-9 ½.

"It was great breaking the record because of the history it holds at Central," Ackerman said. "The person that had it is a legend at Central."

What made the moment even more meaningful was who stood beside him: his father and coach, John Ackerman.

"He's been my coach for around eight years and it's been great," Ackerman said. "We grew a lot together as an athlete-coach and as a son-father."

While proud of the milestone, Ackerman isn't done. He's aiming to break the all-class record of 66 feet, 11 inches. "The throw felt good, but not great," he said.

Shotput may be an individual sport, but Ackerman credits his success to relentless effort.

"It means a lot because of everything I put into it," he said. "You get out what you put into it."

For years, he looked at Station's name on the board. Now, he hopes to inspire the next generation. "I hope someone will look at my record hoping to beat it."



Ackerman throws shot at a meet at the beginning of the season. **KELVAUN GORDON** | The O-Book



Top left: Blake Demmen signs with his parents. Top right: Amiyja Hughes signs with her parents. Bottom left: swim teams smiles as Laura Lindsay signs. Bottom left middle: Carys Dawson signs. Bottom right middle: Hunter True signs with his family around him. Bottom right: girls basketball team smiles as Pierre Tcheuchoua signs with her family. **BRADLEY SMITH** | The Register

Senior athletes sign to play at the next level

Katie Besancon
digital editor

The 2025 spring signing day took place April 16, showcasing the Central athletes who are moving on to the next level for their designated sports. The spring signing class is one of the largest in recent years for Central athletics.

Hunter True signed with Midland University in Fremont to continue his athletic career in men's wrestling.

Ethan Ferguson signed to continue his academic and athletic career in baseball at Dakota State University.

Blake Demman signed with Glendale Community College in Glendale, Arizona, to continue his academic and athletic career in baseball.

Laura Lindsay signed to continue her academic and athletic career in girls swimming at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Pierre Noelle Tcheuhchoua signed with Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, to continue her athletic career in girls basketball.

Amiyja Hughes signed to continue her athletic career in girls' basketball with Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa.

Assata Collins Lytle signed with Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to continue her athletic career in girls basketball.

Joe Sullivan signed to continue his athletic career in baseball at St. Benedictine College in Atchinson, Kansas.

Carys Dawson and Jada Jackson signed to Southeast Community College in Lincoln to continue their athletic careers in girls basketball.

Soccer season recaps p. 14

Both soccer teams saw their season come to an end in disricts, the boys against Lincoln High and the girls against Elkhorn South.

NBA Finals prediction p. 15

Why the Thunder will win the NBA Finals this year over the Pacers, Knicks and Nuggets.

UEFA prediction p. 15

Inter Milan will win the UEFA Champions League. Here's why.

Track star aims to win state 100 p. 16

Maya Rodgers broke the school record in the 100-meter dash and eyes a state title.

Central boys golf players have standout seasons

Boe Di Lorenzo
staff writer

The Central boys golf team’s season is now coming to an end, following a strong season with some players standing out and having success. They have played in multiple invite tournaments, including the recent OPS invite tournament with three Central golfers, juniors Paul Brannen, Isaiah Larson and Joe Haley, finishing in the top 10 and going home with a medal. Haley tied for first, Larson finished fourth and Brannen finished seventh. Brannen, Larson and Haley have been strong contributors to the team, along with senior Sam Parker.

The team’s most recent tournament was the Millard North invite, which was held on May 5. “Our players have been improving this year due to how they’ve worked in practice or in their own time at the range or golfing in their free time. It’s been a pretty exciting season, and I am looking forward to the final stretch and how we finish. This year I’ve been focusing on not tailing the ball with my driver and making sure my shots are more accurate. So far I’ve improved with that, and it’s resulting in more success than last year,” Brannen said.

“The season is going pretty well, I feel like our team as a whole has been doing a lot better since the start, we all try to give each other tips and help each other as much as we can, right now our goal is to just get better at golf and have fun,” Haley said. Haley has a lot of experience, as this is his third year being on the varsity team. The team is looking for a strong finish to the year, as they feel they are one of the top competing teams in the state.

Girls soccer team battles through tough schedule

Fatima Yawari
contributing writer

The Omaha Central High School girls’ soccer team showed determination and willingness despite the challenging games during the 2025 season. The varsity girls finished the season with four wins and 10 loses, and their last game was a loss to Elkhorn South May 5 in the first round of districts. The Eagles’ match against Bryan High School during March 29 resulted in a 7-0 win, followed by that on April 1 when they earned a victory against Westview with 3-2 wins, a 2-1 win April 4 against Lincoln High School, and a 2-0 win over Burke High School during the Metro tournament April 11. Senior Hattie Moeller scored the highest number of goals with four during this season, and Hudson Palu had three assists. For the Eagles it’s not just about the scoreboard, the team also shines academically, having a huge representation of girls’ soccer at Purple Feather Day. Off the field the girls tend to bond as a team by hosting team dinners, with their parents sometimes bringing food, going out and enjoying the soccer season. Before games Coach Jen Gillespie shares motivational videos and audios to help the players get ready and be mentally prepared. Senior Hudson Palu, who wears jersey number 13, has played soccer at Central since freshman year. She plays both defender and midfielder, and the team considers her a key player. Outside of soccer she is active at school, playing the violin in the Mariachi club, Orchestra, cross country and is a part of the Centrals student progressive. “I love playing soccer this year, we have a new team, but everyone is passionate about playing,” Palu said. As this is her final year, Palu says that teammate Hattie Moeller and Coach Casey Denton have inspired her. “Denton, she is really a great coach, always gives us good advice and motivates us. So does Hattie, she helps a

lot with motivating us,” Palu said. Coach Denton has coached at Central High for 12 seasons; she relates this year’s team to be one of the most positive, kind and hardworking teams. “This year we have a very positive culture, a very cohesive team and a lot of girls that are very good leaders that are helping

us to establish hopefully a good pattern for the girls following behind them,” Denton said. Denton also encourages more students to come and support the team. “We are here, come watch us, I would love to get more students to attend the games and be aware that the games are happening,” she said.



Junior Karen Cruz-Herrera, center, celebrates with teammates during a game this season. BRADLEY SMITH | The Register

Boys soccer’s season came to an end at districts May 5 at the hands of Lincoln High with a final score of 4-1. Their final record was 7-7.

Photos by Aubri Kolterman



Sophomore Zaakir Vance walks along the sideline.



Senior Irving Lopez controls the ball as a defender chases after.



Senior Muhktar Abdirahman darts after ball.

Thunder eye NBA Finals, but underdogs could pose threat

Steven Dickerson
sports editor

As the 2025 NBA Playoffs progress through the second round, the postseason is shaping up with both expected contenders and surprising underdogs. The Indiana Pacers, New York Knicks, Oklahoma City Thunder, and Minnesota Timberwolves have each taken key leads in their series, while the Cleveland Cavaliers, Boston Celtics, Denver Nuggets, and Golden State Warriors are fighting to stay alive.

In the Eastern Conference, the Celtics entered the second round as defending champions and were expected to control the field, but the surging Knicks have thrown a wrench into those plans. After dispatching the Orlando Magic in five games, Boston has struggled against New York's physical defense and Jalen Brunson's late-game heroics. As of May 11, the Knicks lead the series 2-1. If the Celtics can regain offensive consistency and slow Brunson down, they still have a shot, but New York's toughness is making every possession a battle.

Meanwhile, the Cavaliers, who swept the Miami Heat in historic fashion with a 138-83 win in the first round, are in deep trouble against the Indiana Pacers. Indiana, fueled by Tyrese Haliburton's playmaking and Pascal Siakam's scoring, has taken a 3-1 series lead after a dominant 129-109 Game 4 win. Donovan Mitchell's ankle injury adds to Cleveland's concerns heading into a must-win Game 5 on May 13. The Pacers' fast pace and shooting depth have exposed Cleveland's offensive limitations and pushed Indiana to the brink of its first Eastern Conference Finals appearance since 2014.

In the Western Conference, the Thunder continue to prove they are not just the West's No. 1 seed by record, they're the real deal. After sweeping the Grizzlies in Round 1, Oklahoma City is locked in a tough series against the Denver Nuggets. The Thunder tied the series 2-2 after rallying late in Game 4, setting up a crucial Game 5 at home on May 13. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Jalen Williams, and Chet Holmgren have been relentless, while Denver leans heavily on Nikola Jokic's brilliance.

The Timberwolves, meanwhile, lead the Warriors 2-1 heading into a pivotal Game 4 on May 12. Anthony Edwards erupted for 36 points in Game 3 to push Minnesota ahead, and their defensive length has given Golden State trouble. The Warriors are battling



Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander drives around Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon during Game 1 on May 5. ALONZO ADAMS | REUTERS

injuries, most notably a hamstring strain for Stephen Curry, and will need a vintage performance to even the series. Minnesota's league-best defense has been the difference, though their half-court offense remains a question under pressure.

If the Knicks and Pacers advance, it would set up an Eastern Conference Finals matchup few predicted: a battle between New York's bruising, defensive style and Indiana's fast-paced attack. Both teams have capitalized on

depth and momentum, with Haliburton and Brunson leading the charge for their respective squads.

The Thunder would still be the team to beat this postseason. Even if the Timberwolves get past the Warriors, Oklahoma City's combination of athleticism, depth, and relentless pace would pose problems for Minnesota's half-court-reliant offense. OKC's ability to switch defensively, hunt mismatches, and push transition opportunities makes them

dangerous against any remaining opponent.

Given current trajectories, a Finals matchup between the Thunder and either the Knicks or Pacers is looking more likely by the day. Oklahoma City's blend of youth, poise, and explosiveness, anchored by Gilgeous-Alexander and Holmgren, gives them a slight edge. With efficient offense, top-five defense, and supreme confidence, the Thunder are poised to chase their first NBA title since relocating from Seattle in 2008.

Inter Milan will win UEFA Champions League

Whitman Rutledge
staff writer

The UEFA Champions League is a football tournament where the top teams of each major European league — such as the Premier League (England), La Liga (Spain), Serie A (Italy), Bundesliga (Germany), Ligue 1 (France), Liga Portugal, Eredivisie (Netherlands), Austrian Football Bundesliga, Serbian Superliga and the Scottish Premiership — participate in an eight-month-long tournament to determine the club champion of Europe.

In the semifinals, it was Inter Milan F.C. against FC Barcelona and Arsenal against Paris Saint-Germain.

In the first leg, PSG won 1-0, and in the second leg, Arsenal scored one, but PSG scored two to go to the finals.

For the first leg, Barcelona and Inter tied 3-3, but for the second game Inter won against Barcelona 4-3 and go off to the finals.

The final matchup will be between Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan. My final prediction will be 3-1 Inter. I think this is because inter has a very strong defense and will stop Dembélé's efforts to get to goal. I also think PSG's defense is not strong enough for Inter's attack. PSG is a attack heavy team so Inter can most likely stop their efforts to score. All around Inter has a all around better squad. This will lead them to win the finals. If PSG wins it, it's most likely Dembélé' will win the Balon d'Or and become the best player of this year in football.



Aston Villa's Youri Tielemans heads at goal on April 15, 2025 match between Aston Villa and Paris St Germain. HANNAH MCKAY | REUTERS

Rodgers eyes state title in record-breaking 2025 season

Boe Di Lorenzo
staff writer

Maya Rodgers is one of the fastest runners at Omaha Central High School, and she’s having an amazing season. As a senior, she’s broken records and helped lead her team to big wins. Earlier this year, Rodgers broke a school record at the CSM Invite, and it got a lot of attention.

“Improving my times from last year in 100 and 200 meter was special to me and then improving my relay times with my teammates from the past year was something we were all proud of,” Rodgers said.

At another meet called the Knights of Columbus Invitational, Rodgers showed off her speed again by winning the 100-meter dash. She’s proving to be one of the best sprinters in Nebraska, and she’s super consistent in every race she runs. Rodger’s also runs in relay races, and she’s a big reason why the 4x100 and 4x400 teams have done so well. “

“Coach Hunter has helped by pushing me and really motivating me during practice. This was my first offseason not playing club volleyball, so my focus has just been on track. My goal for the end of the season is to be a state champion in either the 100 or 200 meter and I want to enjoy my final meets of high school,” Rodgers said.

“During the offseason she normally plays club volleyball, but she did not this year, so focusing on one sport is a reason she’s much stronger this season,” track and field Coach Todd Hunter said.

Her personal best times this year for the 100, as of May 1, was 11.90 seconds and for the 200 meter her best run was 25.29.

Her 11.90 second run is currently the fastest run in the state this year and her 25.29 second run is currently fifth in the state.

“At practice I’ve been reinforcing her of what she is capable of, reminding her of the possibilities that exist of her being a state champion in the 100 and 200. And as a coach, over the course of the past I’ve been improving my knowledge on track and field and sprinting in general,” Hunter said.

Central is to compete in the A-4 district at Lincoln Northwest Highschool on May 13. And at 2 p.m. the running events will begin. The top finishers of that will get medals and then compete for bids to the Nebraska State Championships at Burke High School on May 21 and 22.



Senior Maya Rodgers runs the 100-meter dash earlier this season.

BRADLEY SMITH | The Register

Girls tennis members reflect on season

Elena Hiley
contributing writer

The girl’s varsity tennis team is enjoying a fun season while also striving toward individual and team goals.

Senior captains Scout Vacek and Holland Robison have both played tennis at Central all four years and describe the team dynamic as a positive atmosphere.

“We are always finding something to laugh at,” Vacek said.

The team holds weekly dinners at one of the players’ houses. “It’s such a win-win because you get phenomenal food and also just get to hang out with the team,” Robison said.

Beyond the social aspects of the team, the mental side of tennis is a significant part of the game. “People like to say tennis is 90% mental, 10% physical, and I definitely agree,” junior Sienna Maskin said. Maskin has played tennis at Central for three years and also participates in club tennis.

In tennis, players can compete in singles, playing alone against an opponent, or in doubles, with a partner. Vacek plays doubles, while Robison and Maskin play singles. “It’s hard because it’s obviously not a team sport, so if you’re not used to that team dynamic, playing doubles can be really difficult,” Vacek said.

A typical practice includes warmups, running lines and laps around the courts, personal work time, and ending with a fun game. The team’s effort during practices pays off during matches and tournaments throughout the season, especially at higher-stakes events such as the Metro Conference Tournament and the state championships.

At state, Central will send its top two singles players and two doubles teams. This year, the singles players are Robison and Maskin. The doubles teams are Malorie Lakin and Vacek, and Abby Cady and

Anna Moeller.

Last year, Robison was ranked at Metros and hopes to improve this season.

“I’m hoping to be ranked at state this year,” Robison said. She noted that this season feels more serious since it’s her senior year.



Senior Malorie Lakin hits the ball during tennis match earlier this season.

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