Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

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SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA 68601

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INSIDE

Girls' golf goes to state and places 10th.

"We beat the odds and really came together and played well," senior Megan Parker said.
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The band has competed in two parades so far this year, as well as playing in the Columbus Days Parade.
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Teachers bring experience

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Scotus has gained three new teachers who are not all that new.

Josephine Moody is the current Spanish I and II teacher. This being her 16th year of teaching, she has had lots of experience teaching at other schools.

Moody grew up in Central City and went to the public schools there. She went on to study at the University of Nebraska at Kearney but had not known she wanted to be a Spanish teacher until her sophomore year there.

"I took Spanish just for fun to see what I remembered and then I really enjoyed it in college," Moody recounted.

Mrs. Moody has had a wide variety of subjects that she has taught. She is able to teach history, English, science, and math classes. She was also the guidance counselor at her previous school.

Moody has taught at three other schools prior to Scotus. She has taught at Elba, Nebraska Christian school in Central City, and Heartland Lutheran Schools in Grand Island.

Even with all this experience, the transition for all the students going from one teacher to another is difficult.

"I think it's been going alright, anytime you have a new teacher between level 1 and 2, it can be a challenge because you're getting used to a new dialect and the way the teacher does things, but it seems to be going pretty well," Moody explained.

Another teacher that is new to Scotus but familiar with teaching is Anne Novicki.

Mrs. Novicki is the current 8th grade English and Study Skills teacher. She came to Scotus from St. Bonaventure grade school to begin her 17th year of teaching so the Scotus atmosphere and way of teaching is not too new to her. Novicki grew up in Omaha and went to Omaha North for high school. She then went on to study at UNK as well.

Originally, Novicki did not go to school to be a teacher. She did

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ANNA WICKHAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

English teacher Mrs. Anne Novicki helps eighth grader Rachel Lam format her essay. This is Novicki's first year as a teacher at Scotus.

Scotus welcomes exchange students

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

Scotus Central Catholic has accepted six foreign exchange students for the 2015/16 school year, four new and two returning. The students come from all around the world, leaving behind family and friends in order to create memories that will last a life time in America.

Senior Khang Ngyuen from Vietnam has attended Scotus for three years.

"The lifestyle is probably the most different. I became more creative and active living here, rather than studying," Ngyuen said.

Ngyuen plans on getting his Masters or Ph.D. while in America.

Another student that has attended Scotus for multiple years is Sam Suo from China. This is Sam's fourth year with Scotus.

"My favorite activity is Shamrock Singers because I love to sing," Suo said.

Suo enjoys playing tennis and attending his godparents group outside of school.

"My favorite thing about America so far is cheering for school games," Suo said.

Suo is fluent in two languages, English and Chinese. He wants to graduate from Scotus and apply for college in America.

Senior Stelio Guerra from Belgium has visited eight countries, but this is his first time attending Scotus.

"I like psychology because Mr. Brockhaus is awesome, and I learn a lot about American thinking," Guerra said.

Guerra doesn't have a favorite thing about America yet, but he does enjoy basketball, watching movies, hanging out with friends, and listening to music.

"In Belgium, I don't always go somewhere, but when I do, my country flag doesn't stalk me wherever I go," Guerra said.

Also in a first year at Scotus is senior Adrian González Medina from Mexico, where the towns are much larger than Columbus.

"We don't have little towns like Columbus. In the place where I live, we have 4 million people so it's a big city," Medina said.

Medina enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and horse riding. He has visited Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and America.

The only sophomore exchange student, Lily Zargartalebi, from Germany, plans to explore America more once she leaves Scotus.

"I am going to travel around the U.S. and then return to Germany to graduate there. I plan on coming back to attend a university, maybe," Zargartalebi said.

Junior Tim Chang from China is the only foreign exchange student in the junior class.

"I really hope that I can go to New York for college and major in social science," Chung said.

Ngyuen and Suo plan to further their education in America while Medina is going to return to Mexico and pursue his own buisness.

ANNA WICKHAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Lily Zargatalebi (Germany), senior Stelio Guerra (Belgium), junior Tim Chung (China), and senior Adrian Gonzalez Medina (Mexico) pose in front of the journalism room for a picture. This is the students' first year attending Scotus.

Dusel recognized for outstanding teaching

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

Chemistry class is a constant buzz of activity. Students are loaded with homework almost every day. Between teaching two accelerated and regular chemistry classes, sponsoring National Honor Society, annually organizing a blood drive, and coaching junior high volleyball, chemistry instructor Jane Dusel-Misfelt manages to keep herself busy. She does such an excellent job at contributing to the Scotus community that she was recognized for her involvement.

This past summer, Dusel was awarded for her involvement and hard work teaching at Scotus. She was the recipient of the Freda Drath Battey Distinguished Educator Award presented by UNL. The criteria for the Distinguished Educator Award are "excellence in teaching coupled with recognition in other complementary education activities, such as counseling students or initiation of student-oriented programs." She was nominated for the award by Scotus class of 2012 alumni Andy Heusinkvelt.

"I found out in March that I had been nominated," Dusel said. "UNL sent an email explaining that a former student of mine Andy Heusinkvelt, who currently attends UNL, nominated me. They also attached the letter of nomination that he had written. After reading Andy's letter, I thought to myself 'how could I not?' The letter was very nice and left me a little emotional, which I don't get very easily."

However, the process of receiving the award was more extensive than one student writing a nomination letter. Dusel also answered questions, and additionally asked a coworker to write another recommendation letter.

Journalism and English teacher Angie Rusher helped Dusel continue the selection process.

"I felt qualified to write the letter on her behalf because I know her in so many different ways," Rusher said. "She was my chemistry teacher and coach, and now she is my colleague, mentor, and friend. I knew she was deserving of the award."

Mrs. Dusel just completed twenty-three years of teaching at Scotus. Over the course of that time, she has adapted her teaching methods to fit her students' needs.

"I look back on my first years, and I've changed it very much so since then," Dusel said. "I've tried to adjust to the different types of students because a student twenty years ago is very different than a student is now. They're still sixteen, seventeen years old, but they face different challenges, and I've learned that I need to address teaching a little bit differently than I did when I first started."

However, Dusel was not always set on teaching. Dr. Ervin Brant of

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TEACHERS

Continued from Page 1

not know she wanted to be a teacher until her daughter went to kindergarten.

"When my daughter Kelly came home from kindergarten and started talking about her religion classes. That's when I really got excited about it and just realized the value of education," Novicki said.

Not only has she taught at St. Bonaventure grade school, but she has taught at Williams which is now Centennial.

Although Novicki has been around Scotus, teaching junior high students is different than grade school kids.

"I sense that there is a lot more energy. I think the difference is you're starting to see that young adult merge, from children to young adult." Novicki mentioned.

Transitioning from St. Bon's to Scotus, the teaching schedule is a bit of a challenge for her.

"That 40 minutes goes by too fast. I would like to have the kids longer and that's what I was used to over at the grade school. If we were working on something, I could extend that time and I had that freedom to do that. Here I don't, so just staying self-disciplined myself and making sure we get through everything in a short amount of time is a challenge," Novicki explained.

Novicki has seen many familiar faces at Scotus for she will be teaching many students whom she has taught at St. Bon's. It has been a little easier to teach those she has taught in the past because she knows how they are and they know what she expects.

> ***I can focus on what I can do to help the kids and what I can do to make myself a better teacher.***
>
> **~Ms. Laura Salyard**

"They've settled into being a lot more comfortable perhaps than the others have, maybe a little too much," Novicki mentioned.

Though the new vocal music director Laura Salyard is new to teaching, she is not new to the building. Growing up in Columbus and graduating from Scotus, she is familiar with what goes on here at Scotus. Salyard went on to study education at Hastings College and growing up with both parents being teachers, she didn't know any other profession.

She has done some student teaching at CHS, West Park, and Emerson schools here in Columbus.

"Knowing the program and knowing the people here. It just makes things so much easier for me and I can focus on what I can do to help the kids and what I can to do make myself a better teacher," Salyard explained.

Salyard will also be helping with One-Acts and the Musical this year.

"Really I am so blessed to be able to come back and work with these people because I respect them so much," Salyard said.

DUSEL

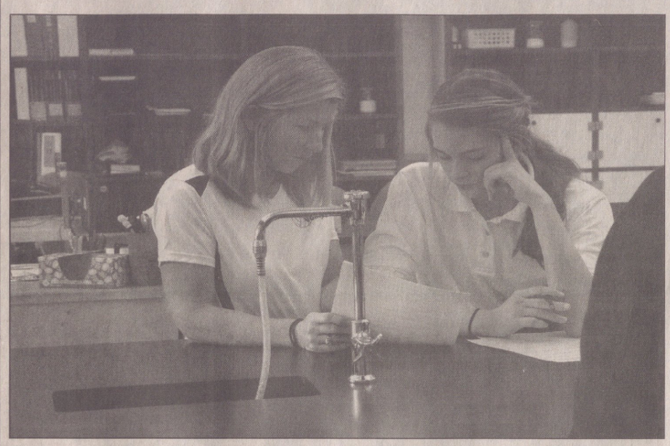
Continued from Page 1

Wayne State College helped guide her into teaching chemistry.

"I went in originally as a pre chiropractic major," Dusel said. "I knew there was going to be a lot of chemistry with my major. I didn't know much chemistry going in, so I felt very overwhelmed my first semester, but Dr. Brant was very patient. My sophomore year there was an opening for tutors, and Dr. Brant recommended me. My major changed by the end of my sophomore year."

Dusel completed her master's degree from Wayne State College, and she continues to take courses over the summer to continue her education.

Dusel concluded, "Teaching has its ups and downs, any job does. I can't see myself doing anything else. The award was a little emotional for me because a former student said some things about me that I don't really think about, I just do. God put me here for a reason. I can only think it's because my students need whatever I have to offer, and God must see some things that I still need to pass on."



ANNA WICKHAM/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Chemistry teacher Mrs. Jane Dusel-Misfeldt helps junior Courtney Flint with a question. Mrs. Dusel won the Freda Drath Battey Award presented by UNL this summer.

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Relaxed khaki: good for pants, not walls

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

Walking into Westside High School in Omaha, Nebraska for a baseball game I attended this summer, I noticed something different than my own high school, Scotus Central Catholic. I noticed a little something called color.

When you walk into Westside there is a massive 'W' painted in bright red and black, the school's colors. Upon seeing the mural, I thought back to the school year; walking into school through the north doors as I did every day since I was a four foot seventh grader. Trotting down the activity hallway and running my fingers across the cement wall, tracing the cracks and staring at the big green shamrocks painted on the left side of the wall. These two giant shamrocks were the only paintings in the school besides the occasional statue or picture of a saint. After seeing them every day for six years, when I saw the "relaxed khaki" paint that concealed them this summer, I was distraught.

To me the shamrocks served as a reminder; it was where we would hang cheerleading posters; it filled the hallway with a bit of 'Shamrock Pride'. Now my reminder was tucked away by the exact same color of tan that covered the entire school. The new record boards did add a little flare to the walls, I have to admit. But the big shamrocks were something that fans could see from inside the gym and students could see from the beginning to end of the hallway. The shamrocks could have easily been painted back up or shrunken down to fit on the walls around the new boards.

School is supposed to be fun, and something that students look forward to. That's why when children walk into elementary school, the teachers usually have their rooms decked out in color. It adds life and gives the room personality. Since our school is all one color, the only personality trait it has is blah. Every classroom, hallway, and bathroom looks the same and gives off the same boring vibe throughout the entire school.

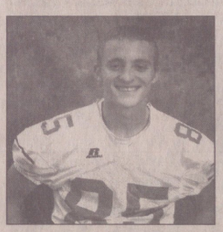
Scotus shouldn't be looking to only catch the eyes of the students. Art around the school draws in people who are in the building and are visiting. We want people to leave our school thinking excellent things about it. Adding art and color to the walls of the hallways and classrooms, I think, will help do that. I can't count how many times at basketball or volleyball games that I see parents outside the gym rocking a baby or on their telephones. While they do that they usually look at pictures of our state championship teams or our many trophies, but while at other schools there are paintings or sculptures by the students that are also interesting.

Something else that bothers me about the shamrocks missing is that we took down a piece of history. They were on the walls when my mom went to Scotus. They were on the walls when my dad taught at Scotus. They were pieces of art that may have went unnoticed by a lot of students while they were up, but now that they are painted over with ugly tan, they are missed. If Scotus Central Catholic is a school built on tradition, why are we painting over prime examples of that tradition?

I understand that art around some schools can be a bit distracting and the "relaxed khaki" paint color is probably needed in the classrooms. But, we the students, need a bit of hope that comes from color around the school. The cheerleaders do a great job decorating the hallways with posters and encouraging words, but other talented students should get to showcase their work throughout the school as well.

The Scotus art club has been well established in the past few years, and we have great talent coming from the art room. Why not give them a project to "paint the school"? It would give the art gurus something fun to do and also showcase their amazing work. All while giving our "relaxed khaki" school a bit of color and life.

Rumors run rampant through Scotus



By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

"Dude, that whole party got busted. I heard they handed out like 40 MIPs!" After any given weekend, statements like these whiz around our school's hallways, cafeteria tables, and classrooms.

Rumors have been a cornerstone of American high schools for years. That being said, it certainly seems to me that it's a lot worse at Scotus. Word gets around here faster than Cody Mroczek running a 400. Any given statement, fact, or opinion said within these walls is subject to the fact-twisting machine known as the local rumor mill. In my opinion, it's one of the worst things about Scotus.

People have been telling us for years that spreading rumors is wrong, that it only hurts people, that it's sinful. Obviously, that hasn't made much of a difference to most Scotus kids. That doesn't change the fact that rumors impact people more and more as we get older.

When people start talking and talking about the same topic, the truth is easily confused with people's opinions and speculations. Even parents can sometimes be guilty of stating their opinion as fact. In times of controversy, people will talk. That's inevitable. It's when people mix up fact and opinion that nasty rumors are spread.

Coming at this from a Christian perspective, it's sinning. The 8th Commandment straight up forbids "false witness and testimony." Rumors would definitely fall into that category. As a community of Christian believers, it's our duty to rise up against the ways of the world that conflict with our beliefs. This is a hot topic in society today. With issues like abortion, the re-definition of marriage, and hate crime all over the media, we as Christians are called to rise above the hate, to do what we know is right even when everything in our world points to what we know is wrong.

People may claim that rumors are not as bad as the community thinks they are, but anybody who's ever been involved with our school's drug and alcohol policy knows that the exact opposite is true. This is a real problem within the Scotus community, and it hits people hard. I can't even count the times when I've consoled a friend because of something nasty said behind his or her back. It's happened to me, too. Something small gets blown way out of proportion, and suddenly I'm feeling like half the school is looking upon me with judging eyes. It's insensitive and ignorant to say that rumor-spreading is not a huge issue at Scotus.

I think a big part of the problem are the times we live in. With the constant development of smartphones, we live in an information-hungry age. If we want to know something, we can gain that knowledge with a few taps into our keyboards. We have developed this attitude that because information is so accessible, we deserve to know it all, but we don't. Everyone has a right to privacy. Nobody has a right to know everything about everybody's personal business. This is a truth of life that the Scotus community could do well to learn.

The bottom line is this: we know, in our deepest of selves, that to gossip or spread rumors is wrong. We can see the irreparable damage that a few seemingly harmless words can do. So, why do we continue to do it? Maybe it's our way of feeding our attention-hungry egos. Maybe some of us like the power we have over others with our words.

Whatever our reasoning, we know what the right thing to do is. I'm calling you out, Scotus community. It can be challenging, but the next time that "huge party" comes up at the lunch table, help keep the rumors curbed. Convince people that if you weren't there, you don't really know what truly happened on any given Saturday night. Keep your opinions as your own, and separate them from the facts. Your words have power beyond your own comprehension.

Battling for a spot

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

I recall on the first day of school when Mr. Morfeld got up in front of our class on Orientation Day to tell us about the perks of being in our year and the news of the year. The biggest topic was the removal of senior row. Everyone was so excited. I love being able to get a spot in that front row of the parking lot, but even when I do not get one, it does not bother me. More exercise for me for the day!

> ***"Senior year is a big deal, but parking should be just a small detail that should not ruin your day."***
>
> **~Kira Dreher**

I always hear groans and grumbling from the seniors about how they want senior row back, but it does not need to come back.

The seniors the last few years had really misused their rank and messed everyone up when an underclassman "accidentally" parked in senior row. They would block in the poor underclassman's car or dump food on it or chalk it or whatever else they would do. They did a lot, and it got annoying real quick.

It's good to have a break from all that for a few years, or even better, do not bring it back period.

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I know all the pain of having to park all the way down the street, two blocks from school; no, I would rather not walk to school instead, those years of my life have passed. Walking in the cool morning weather in fall is a good way to wake us teenagers up in the morning. The winter is a different story with the snow, but I can handle the rain just fine.

I had been asked that when I'm a senior would I want senior row back. No, not really. If you have been walking from your car, two blocks away, to school and back again for three years, what's one more? Senior year is a big deal, but parking should be just a small detail that should not ruin your day.

So what if senior row was to come back? Well, I wouldn't really care. I would just find another spot to park. Grumbling and complaining ensues because that's just human nature. We all love complaining about the littlest of details.

Senior row should stay gone so no one gets in trouble on both sides, the poor underclassman with the nachos all over his car and the seniors who did it with detentions and clean up duty afterward.

It is a privilege to get that front row spot, but a privilege well-earned when it is shared among the rest of us.

Seniors kicked to the curb

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

I get to school every day about fifteen minutes before 8 o'clock. At last, I'm a senior, a role I've been looking forward to ever since I first stepped foot into Scotus. Except, this year, one of the senior privileges has been stripped.

Senior row has been a right of the senior class before I even thought of coming to Scotus. It's a tradition. My mom is a 1987 Scotus graduate, and during her time spent at Scotus, there was a senior row. This means that senior row has been around for almost 30 years (it's 28, not including this 2015-2016 year, I know that the math nerds out there would actually take the time to figure the calculations; I see you, Justin Brockhaus).

Senior row has, excuse me, *had* been a tradition at Scotus for quite a substantial time. It's important. It gives the underclassmen something to look forward to when they finally get to be the big sharks of the school, and it gives the seniors a privilege exclusive to their class.

Every year a class graduates, and a new class begins. However, with each new class, mistakes are made.

Starting a couple years ago, the senior class started to get greedy. Whenever an underclassman made the accidental mistake of parking in senior row, their car suffered the consequences. Whether it be that the car got chalked, spaghettied, saran-wrapped, or whatever the seniors believed to be an appropriate punishment for parking in their spot. This wasn't right, nor will it ever be right.

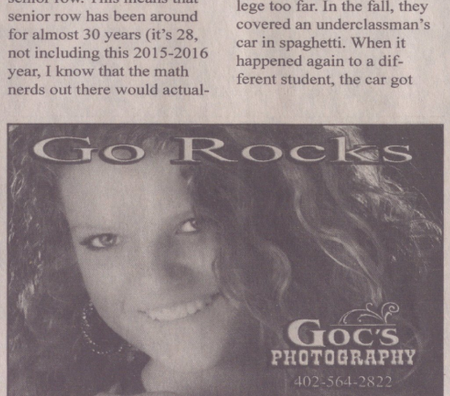
Last year, the seniors took their senior row privilege too far. In the fall, they covered an underclassman's car in spaghetti. When it happened again to a different student, the car got salamied. What happened to those students wasn't okay. It wasn't funny. The administrative staff got involved to talk to the seniors about their actions. Senior row's life became threatened. Everything about senior row was good for a while, but then in the spring, another underclassman parked in senior row. The seniors forgot about their scolding, and egged this student's car. It was taken too far. Senior row was thence taken away for good.

> ***"Every class is a new beginning, getting rid of senior row isn't the solution for dealing with the upcoming classes."***
>
> **~Hannah Thomazin**

However, the senior classes upcoming will never get to experience the joys of not having to park a mile away. The tradition of senior row has become broken.

In the winter, Scotus' parking can be rough. If you drive, you know exactly what I'm talking about. It's frigid outside, and you don't bring a coat because walking from your car to school isn't that long of a trudge…but let's be honest, the walk to school from your car isn't great. At 7:45 in the morning, when I get to school, there is never a decent parking spot. No one wants to walk from Timbuctoo just to get to school.

Having senior row is a privilege that the seniors should have. It's a privilege that underclassmen can't wait to have, and when it is finally their time to have it, it's honored. Every class is a new beginning, getting rid of senior row isn't the solution for dealing with the upcoming classes. It was a solution for that particular class. Each year is a fresh start. Bring senior row back. Mistakes are going to be made every year, but that doesn't mean the same mistakes are going to be made twice. Let the mistakes be learned from, and let senior row once again be tradition at Scotus.



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Students dance with Disney

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

Students took to the floor Friday night at Scotus' annual Homecoming dance. The dance ended a week full of costumes and decorated hallways.

Homecoming week started off with USA Day on Monday, followed by Mismatch Day, Multiples Day, Disney Day, and ended with Spirit Day on Friday.

"Disney Day was my favorite. I loved seeing everyone get creative and dress up because Disney is awesome!" senior Rachel Miksch explained.

This year, as always, the Scotus Student Council hosted the dance, led by sponsor Joan Lahm.

"I believe Homecoming week went well. I was very pleased with the students. I heard a lot of comments about how easy it was to dress up this year and thought it went well," Lahm stated.

Along with festively dressed students and faculty, the walls of Scotus were also clad in colorful décor. The staff decreed the junior Star Wars hallway the best decorated, and the class was awarded a dress down day.

"It was really nice to have our work pay off. This year several of us worked for six hours. It was rushed and stressful, but it paid off!" junior class officer Naomi Kosch said.

The festivities of Friday started off with the pep rally in the afternoon. Both the cheerleaders and flag corps performed, followed by the Homecoming candidates giving and receiving makeovers. Senior Darin Rinkol, who was made-over by senior Savannah Robertson, was declared the prettiest, and both claimed the honor of foam crowns.

The night kicked off at 6:30 p.m. with the Shamrock football team taking down North Bend 49-10. After the victory, students and spectators watched the Homecoming candidates line the field and waited for the king and queen to be named.

"As I waited for the girl's name, I stood there with my legs shivering and thought that any one of these girls deserves the crown! I was so happy for the girls," Queen Natalie Chappell said.

Justin Brockhaus and Natalie Chappell were crowned as the 2015 Homecoming king and queen to much applause from the crowd.

"When they announced that I won, I was pretty shocked. I didn't really know what to do, and I couldn't believe it. I was just super excited," Brockhaus said.

After coronation, students had until 10:30 p.m. to get to school and start dancing. Jacquie Smith took pictures in front of the backdrop for the students in Memorial Hall and the dance was set up in the cafeteria.

"My favorite part about the dance was that so many people were having fun. People started dancing right away!" Chappell expressed.

Scotus alumni Peter Heusinkvelt and Eric Diamond were asked to DJ this year's dance again. The dance floor was brimming with students having fun all throughout the night.

"I always like it when everyone makes a circle and people jump in and show off their dance moves," Brockhaus explained. "You won't see me in there though. No way, José."

After such an event-filled and fun week, students and teachers were lucky to receive a three day weekend because of parent teacher conferences next week.

Lahm concluded, "I was just very pleased with all the students and their behavior and willingness to participate. I thought it all went well."

Haley Faust/Rock Bottom Staff

The 2015 Homecoming King Justin Brockhaus and Queen Natalie Chappell pose for the photographers. The king and queen were crowned after the football game on Friday, October 16.

Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Mitchell Halligan studies in advanced math on Monday, USA Day.

Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Darin Rinkol and Savannah Robertson celebrate with candy after winning the pep rally game.

Haley Faust/Rock Bottom Staff

Freshmen Braden Labenz and Cameron Johnston smile for the camera on twin day.

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Natalie Brutty hits a touchdown motion while dancing at the game.

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Junior Maddie Sinovic swings her flag behind her back during the halftime show.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Seniors Hannah Thomazin and Jennifer Belsan boogie down on the dance floor.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Junior Alayna Wilson and senior Dana Hoppe smile while dancing together.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Freshmen Julia Pichler and Caitlin Hottovy belt the words to the song they dance to with a group of friends.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

A group of sophomores throw their hands up laughing while they jam out.

Keeping It in the Family

Salyard follows in family's footsteps

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Not one, not two, but three Salyards are teaching at Scotus this school year. Vocal music director Laura Salyard has joined both of her parents on the Scotus staff.

Ms. Salyard joining the Scotus faculty was initially a huge shock for the family

"This is something that we never saw coming," Mrs. Salyard said. "We were just so surprised that she would be joining us here."

As the first year of teaching is a challenge, Ms. Salyard received plenty of advice from her experienced parents.

"What I've tried to communicate is that there are going to be ups and downs. The first year is always hard. The first year of anything is going to be hard, but teaching in particular, and so the key for the first year is to cover the basics and build from there," science teacher Tom Salyard said.

Ms. Salyard also has band director Kristen Cox as a mentor.

"They really support me and just say, 'You're doing this right, this is what needs to happen next.' It's like I have three mentors in the building. I have my parents and then I have Mrs. Cox who's been great."

Ms. Salyard graduated from Scotus in 2011 and attended Hastings College where she studied education.

"It's really nice to come back to a school that I'm familiar with and to help build a program that I already know, and already having some of the connections makes the first year of teaching much easier," Ms. Salyard said.

Having gone to school at Scotus, Ms. Salyard has had both of her parents as teacher. However, that was much different than working with them.

"You can talk about school things now. Things that happen at school more where before you had to be careful what you said, and now since she's part of it, she can be in on those conversations," Mrs. Salyard said.

All three Salyards pointed out many perks of working with family members.

"It's just kind of nice having family around," Mrs. Salyard said.

Ms. Salyard agrees with her mother.

"If I need to talk about something that is frustrating me, whether it just be trying to figure out how PowerSchool works," Ms. Salyard said. "They understand, and they can help me out with it."

Aside from having people to talk to, there are more practical perks of working with your family.

"We can carpool," Mr. Salyard said.

The rooms of all three Salyards are located in completely different parts of the building.

"We don't really see each other during the day," Ms. Salyard said. "The only time we see each other is if we're all in [the media center] sixth period."

Mr. and Mrs. Salyard also have a son, Jeremiah who graduated from Scotus in 2012. However, all three Salyards agree that there is no chance of a fourth Salyard joining the Scotus staff in the future.

"My son has made it very clear that he does not want to join the family business," Mr. Salyard concluded.

Courtney Brockhaus/Rock Bottom Staff

The Salyards: science teacher Tom Salyard, computer teacher Patti Salyard, and vocal music instructor Laura Salyard present their dessert at the fall pep rally. Laura Salyard has joined both of her parents on the Scotus teaching staff this year.

Look-a-likes

7th Grader Ross Thorson
Senior Morgan Thorson

7th Grader Kyle Hiemer
Junior Nathan Hiemer

Freshmen Daniela and Mariana Valdex Ortiz

8th Grader Sam Tonniges
Junior Kaylee Tonniges

8th Grader Jarrod Beaver
Junior Elley Beaver

7th Grader Ben Merrill
Junior Eli Merrill

7th Grader Maddie Blaser
Freshman Sam Blaser

7th Grader Kaira Dallman
Sophomore Trey Dallman

Freshman Daniel Tworek
Junior Noah Tworek

8th Grader Colby Pieper
Senior Maeghan Pieper

Freshman Emily Stutzman
Senior Kim Stutzman

7th Gillian Brandt
Freshman Emma Brandt

Families

Freshman Bryce, Junior Tate, and 7th grader Drew VunCannon

7th grader Jaelyn, Junior Brooke, and Freshman Collin Podolak

Junior Natalie, Freshman Lucas, and Senior Lydia Schaecher

Junior Tyler, Senior Mason, and 8th grader Ryan Brandenburg

Cousins, (front row) Freshman Kelsey Faust, Sophomore Kendra Wiese, Junior Haley Faust, 7th grader Josh Faust (back row) 8th grader Kaleb Wiese, and 7th grader Kade Wiese

Families converge in the hallways

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Scotus is being overrun! Students are coming and have siblings to go with them. At Scotus, 96 of the families have two or more students here. Many of these also have extended families here as well. The largest of such is the Kosch-Parker family.

"Whenever there are more than two of the Kosch/Parker family members together, everyone always says it's a family reunion," junior Amberly Parker said.

This year, there are four Parkers and six Koschs, so ten all together. Also, this year will be the only year there will be four Parkers at Scotus. Out of the ten of them, only two of them are male, junior Anthony Kosch and sophomore Colson Kosch. Most of this large family enjoy seeing each other here at school.

"It's pretty great!" senior Megan Parker stated. "Sometimes I see them more at school walking through the hallway than I do when I'm at home."

Most siblings look similar in some way, from hair color or face shape or similar features.

"One time the lunch ladies thought I went through the lunch twice. Daniel was in the lunch line three kids before me so they thought I was him," junior Noah Tworek stated.

Having a look-a-like can have its ups and downs. Then comes the families where none of the kids look similar, such as seventh grader Alex Novicki, sophomore Jake Novicki, and senior Sam Novicki.

Jake Novicki said about his brothers and himself, "Sam is a brunette. I am a blonde. Alex is a ginger. I don't know what happened."

Even with different looking family members, they are still family. It is in sibling' nature to harass or embarrass each other publicly.

"It is not my goal to embarrass my sibling publicly, but I wonder if I do when I tell my brother hi in the hallways or rush ahead to walk next to him," freshman Tara Kamrath said.

Jake Novicki disagrees greatly with Kamrath.

"It's an active competition. I'm up 11-6-1," Jake said.

Most families just do not embarrass or harass each other. Senior Rachel Miksch, sophomore Tyler Miksch, and cousin to these two, Emily Miksch, do not worry about that.

"We're too cool to get embarrassed," senior Rachel Miksch stated.

Family is an important part of every student's life. Whether they are one big family or a few siblings here and there, it is important either way. That look-a-like can be right around the corner or a sibling ready to book check their brother or sister.

Freshman Hallie Parker said "It's really fun! Sometimes we will see each other in the hallway and we will make weird faces or just be like hey! It's also great when you are sick, because they can bring you books from your locker and papers from teachers too!"

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

The Kosch and Parker families pose for a group picture. This year, there are four Parkers and 6 Koschs attending Scotus

Football fights for success

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

After a heartbreaking loss in the state quarterfinals last year, the Shamrock football team is once again off to a winning start this season. The team's current record is 7-1, and there are high expectations regarding the team's postseason chances.

Second-year coach Tyler Linder has been pleased with the team's sense of unity so far.

"The team has great confidence and comradery," Linder said. "We're a very united team, and I attribute that not only to our record, but also our leadership."

As the season started, Linder had some questions about replacing graduated seniors. He was pleased especially with the answer he received from his defensive line.

"The big question mark after last year was, 'Who's going to replace an all-state guy in Garrit Shanle?'" Linder explained. "We don't have one guy who's going to make ten tackles a game, but as a unit, they've developed into one of the better defensive lines in the state."

The team opened the year with two wins over Boone Central and Aquinas Catholic. Both teams won state titles last year in Class C-1 and C-2, respectively.

"I think that sent a message to our team, community, and program that we are contenders," Linder stated. "When you beat two defending state champions, it sends a message: these guys might be able to do something special."

The team followed up with three victories over Central City, Pierce, and David City.

"This group of guys is super fun to be around. There's not a day when the 9th period bell rings and I'm not excited to go to practice," Linder explained.

The next game the Shamrocks played was against Bishop Neumann, a district rival. The final score was 44-0 in favor of the Shamrocks. Linder was satisfied with the way his team performed.

"The team was high, and our morale was way up. There was a sense of great satisfaction knowing that we played a very good team, and we played very well," Linder said. "I was really excited that we didn't have very many hiccups."

The season has not been without its fair share of hiccups, however. The next game the Rocks played pitted them against another Wahoo opponent—Wahoo High School. The game went back and forth before the Shamrocks lost 31-27.

"It's cliché, but the goal is to be 1-0 each and every week, and to always continue to get better," Linder stated.

Hannah Mielak/Yearbook Staff

Senior fullback Marcus Dodson breaks a tackle against North Bend on October 16th. The Shamrocks defeated the Tigers 49-10.

"When that happens, the victories will come."

The Shamrocks followed the loss with a bounce-back victory over North Bend Central. The final score was XX-YY.

As the Shamrocks start to close in on the end of the regular season and begin a playoff run, Linder preaches humility to the team.

"My goal is for every individual player on the team to be humble about where we're at, and also hungry for more improvement," Linder stated.

The Shamrocks will conclude the regular season on October 23rd against cross-town rival Lakeview.

Cross country eyes success at state

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

Coming off of a fourth place finish at state last year for girls and a runner-up finish for boys, the Scotus cross country team has high hopes for success this year. The boys' team has a record of 86-4, and the girls are 75-11, so head coach Merlin Lahm expects good things from the teams as they head into the post season.

"We thought we'd be really good. Our boys were runner up last year [at state] to a team that has everyone back this year, so we knew that we'd have a tough time at the very highest levels. Our girls lost four seniors who'd run in varsity for years, most had run in state championships, so we had some spots to fill, but we thought our girls could be good," Lahm commented.

The boys have shown the ability to compete at challenging meets by placing first out of thirteen teams at the Aquinas Invite and by winning five other meets. At Aquinas, junior Nathan Ostdiek finished second in 17 minutes, and the rest of Scotus' top four runners finished in the top 15.

"Milford had just beaten us four days earlier at Kearney, so our boys beating them, last year's state champion, at Aquinas last week was a highlight," Lahm said.

Girls have finished first at four meets, including the Wahoo Invitational.

"That's a big meet with a lot of class B teams, so I thought we performed really well there," Lahm said.

Some runners have also surprised Lahm and advanced quickly.

"Kelsey Faust has become a really quality runner and she's just a freshman, so she did it in a hurry. I don't think she got a lot of off-season mileage, so I think she's doing it on raw talent," Lahm mentioned.

The boys have also gained momentum by winning smaller meets such as the Scotus Invitational, where junior Nathan Ostdiek broke the Lutjelusche Course record, winning the 5K by fifty seconds.

"I knew if I ran a great race I had a chance to break it. I ran a really strong second half of the race that lead to a quick time. That was probably the happiest I've been after I heard my time," Ostdiek said.

Ostdiek currently has the best Scotus time on four of the six courses that cross country runs at each year, and he is second at the other two courses.

With the experience and achievements of the boys' team, they are looking ahead to success at state after winning conference on October 9th with Nathan Ostdiek placing first.

"Our goals as a team for the rest of the season are to defeat the 3-time defending state champion Milford and to be state champions in class C," junior Nathan Hiemer stated.

The boys claimed the district championship, with Ostdiek in first, and the girls nabbed the final qualifying spot by taking third, so both the boys' and girls' teams have their chance at the state championship on October 23rd.

"Being on the cross country team these last three years has really been an awesome experience. I firmly believe it has changed my life for the better, and I wish it didn't have to end so soon," senior Justin Brockhaus stated.

Jared Hanson/Media Staff

Senior Justin Brockhaus races at the home course on September 17. The boys placed first out of twelve teams.

Amy Heusinkveldt/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Kaylee Tonniges, senior Jessica Lahm, and senior Emily Fehringer compete at the home meet on September 8. The girls won the triangular with Tonniges in first.

Volleyball shows improvement

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock volleyball team started off the season well with a winning record of 20-4, but still have a few challenges before they enter post season play.

The team started off with a loss at the very beginning of the season in three sets to Concordia.

"Making more than one or two errors in a row has gotten us into some deep holes this year that we couldn't get out of," senior libero Courtney Labenz said.

Despite these errors, they came back to beat Stanton in three sets in the championships to win the Shamrock Invite the following Saturday.

Senior Sarah Schumacher commented, "It is hard to play a sport well if you don't have team unity and chemistry; when we all work together as one team, our level of play increases tremendously."

The team played their rival, Lakeview, on September 29th. They were behind two sets to nothing but came back in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th sets to take the win.

> ***"It is hard to play a sport well if you don't have team unity and chemistry; when we all work together as one team our level of play increases tremendously."***
> **~ Sarah Schumacher**

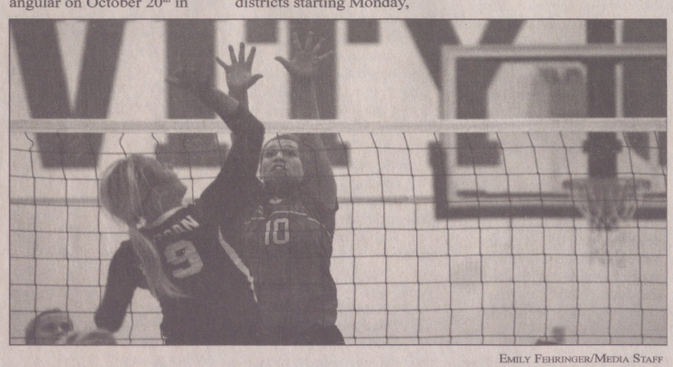
"I've played volleyball with the Lakeview girls since I was little, and it is great to play them and beat them. It was also fun because we came from behind two sets, and the gym was packed. The atmosphere was great!" junior Jessica Buhman said.

The Scotus volleyball team headed to Wahoo on October 10th for the conference tournament. They started off the day with a win against Fremont Bergan in two sets. They played Concordia for the second time in the season and beat them in three sets. With this win, they earned themselves a spot in the conference championship and defeated Bishop Neumann in two sets for the 2015 Conference Championship title.

"It was really great to see how all of our hard work throughout the season and the summer has paid off so far. We lost to Concordia at the beginning of the season and beating them at conference showed how much we have improved over the season," senior Hannah Thomazin stated.

Scotus plays in a triangular on October 20th in Hastings against Hastings St. Cecilia and Lincoln Lutheran. They have a big game coming up against Omaha Skutt on October 27th in Omaha. The team will be heading into their post season games with districts starting Monday, November 2nd.

Senior Bailey Honold concluded, "I am just really trying to enjoy every moment of the season because it is all going to be over before I know it."



Emily Fehringer/Media Staff

Senior Maeghan Pieper goes up for th block against Fremont Bergan on October 15. The Shamrocks won in straight sets.

Golf team finishes strong

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

Girls' golf made the journey to North Platte to compete at the state tournament last Monday and Tuesday. Scotus earned a tenth place finish at the meet held at Lake Melony Golf Course.

Not only did the team finish in the top ten, but junior Emerson Belitz finished eleventh individually with a combined two day score of 173.

A team score of 411 put the Shamrocks on top at districts and advanced their season onto state. Belitz placed first and senior Megan Parker placed third at the district competition on October 5th.

"It was amazing to win, and I'm super proud of myself and the team," Belitz said. "We beat the odds and really came together and played well at districts, which got us to state."

The girls' golf team competed in a total of fifteen meets throughout the season, including districts and state.

Sophomore Emily Carstens said, "At the start of the year our goal as a team was to shoot under 420 for a team score, and as the season went on, we improved. We realized that we were able to pull off a [team] score under 400, which was exciting."

The team placed fourth at the Scotus Invite on September 30th.

Parker said, "I believe we played our best as a team [at the Scotus Invite]. I played my best all year during the Scotus Invite. There were a lot of good teams though, so it was good to see the competition."

The team placed in the top five in six regular season meets throughout the year. Their best finish, besides districts, was winning the Fullerton Invite on September 22nd.

"I was happy with myself and my score, and I was really proud of my team because we won and came home with a first place plaque," Parker said.

Parker was the lone senior on the team.

Parker concluded, "It was an amazing and fun-filled season. The girls on the team are awesome, and it'll be sad that I won't get to spend as much time with them now that the season is over."

Emma Ruskamp/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Megan Parker putts toward the hole during the triangular earlier in September. Parker was the only senior on the girls' golf team this year.

Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Emerson Belitz chips onto the green at the Oakland Craig Invitational on Saturday, October 3. Belitz went on to win the District Tournament the following Monday.

One Act changes leadership and time

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

Scotus thespians take to the stage under new management this year. Art teacher Lindsay Dannelly has agreed to take on the direction of One Act this fall from former sponsor English teacher Becki Zanardi. Dannelly is aided by new vocal music teacher Laura Salyard. Directing One Act is a large responsibility, but Dannelly is ready for the challenge.

"This is something that I've wanted to do, knowing I was going to be a teacher," Dannelly explained. "I was really excited when the position opened. It's just right up my alley."

Dannelly was involved in numerous theatre productions in high school and greatly enjoyed being on stage. She and Salyard are eager to share their knowledge with the students involved in One Act.

"It would be really cool to see someone develop their personality on stage and them change over the year," Dannelly said.

In addition to new directors, One Act will also meet at a different time. Previously, One Act was a class, meaning students could only participate if the class fit in their schedule. This year it is an extracurricular activity practicing three times per week.

"As an extracurricular, we can take that hour, hour and half, and really go through the whole performance and not feel rushed," Dannelly said.

Meeting after school will also give the cast and crew a chance to develop their set and props. Art Club will be assisting in the painting and construction of the set, as Dannelly is also the Art Club sponsor.

Because it is now an extracurricular, many more students are involved in One Act this year. There are twenty-three students in the cast, not including backstage and tech crew. This is a big change from last year's cast and crew of twelve.

"I think for the piece we're doing, [a larger cast] will be better. There's a lot of opportunity for people on stage in a good, safe way," Dannelly said.

Because of the large number of participants, Dannelly and Salyard foresaw potential difficulties in casting. Finding the best role for everybody was one of their major concerns for the One Act season. Despite the many changes, Dannelly looks forward a good season.

"Overall, I'm just super excited. It's just awesome. This is where I want to be."

One Act will compete in three competitions this fall, with the potential to advance to state in December.

Amy Heusinkvelt/Rock Bottom Staff

One Act director Lindsay Dannelly and assistant Laura Salyard direct students during practice. This is the first year coaching One Acts for both teachers.

Band reaches superior rank

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

This fall as students poured back in the hallways, band members could be found outside practicing marching but it paid off. The Scotus marching band received two superiors at the competitive parades they attended and two trophies.

"The bands rating varies, some years they'll receive superiors at both parades. Typically we receive one superior at one parade, and at the other parade we'll vary between a superior and excellent," band director Kristen Cox said.

The Scotus marching band marched in the Columbus Days Parade and competed in two parades: Lions Club parade located in Norfolk and the Harvest of Harmony in Grand Island. As they wrap up the fall marching season with two superiors there is a certain level of excellence to maintain for next year's competitions.

"I feel that everybody's knowledge each of what the expectation is expands each year. If they want that superior, they know how to go out and earn the superior rating they desire," Cox said.

Not only is band available to high schoolers, it is also available to junior high members; there are 48 high school band members and 57 members in junior high. Of those 57 members, three were selected to join the marching band.

Cox said, "I look at the eighth grade class because I feel that they have had enough music experience that they can add that next component of moving and playing at the same time, and from students that I feel are at that level, I offer an invitation to them."

The seniors all understand the expectations of Mrs. Cox and relate them to the underclassmen and junior high students.

Senior flutist Mikayla Nienaber said, "I enjoy marching if everyone around me stays in line because I really hate saying, 'LINE!'"

Band is more than just marching. They also do concert band, and pep band at home and away at state tournaments.

Cox said, "We're moving into concert band now, but even the judges' comments from parades and marching still come into play for concert season, too, because they will point out things like detached notes, intonation, balance, and those are things that we need to work on and continue to listen to for concert season."

Finishing out marching strong, the band hopes to continue success with all of their other events.

"I'm really proud of the band and flag corps this year. When they are out in different communities they represent our school not only in their performance, but also with how they work together," Cox concluded.

Morgan Thorson/ Yearbook Staff

The Scotus band marches at Columbus Day's Parade. The band also competed at two other parades in Grand Island.

Kimberly Stutzman/ Media Staff

Senior flag corps member Savannah Robertson preps for a flip at halftime of a football game. The flag corps team performed at halftime of the home football games.

Cinder: New twist on old tale

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

Usually I don't just pick up a book and start reading it. I have to be encouraged by a friend to start something, or I have to read a review of a book before I start it. I know I'm picky, but I don't want to waste my time reading a book that starts off really good, but ends horribly. So, following my usual process for starting a book, I asked for the recommendation of a friend and started *Cinder*, by Marissa Meyer.

Let me backtrack; I didn't ask for a friend's recommendation, she gave it without my asking for it. Amy Heusinkvelt was praising *Cinder* to the skies, so to see what the big deal was, I picked it up. My first reservations came when I read a synopsis and the first word was "sci-fi." I am not a sci-fi girl. I'm more of a historical fiction, romance, fantasy girl, so sci-fi usually doesn't come up on my radar as a good book, but *Cinder* is different.

Cinder isn't just a science fiction novel, though. It's based off of the fairy tale Cinderella, so there's romance, adventure, and action involved, too. *Cinder* is set in the future, in the Eastern Commonwealth. Linh Cinder is a cyborg, which is half robot, half human. Cyborgs were considered to be inferior humans and were forced to do the most menial jobs. Cinder was adopted, but her stepmother treats her poorly and forces her to work as a mechanic. She is thrown into the path of Prince Kai and finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle for freedom between Earthens and the technologically advanced Lunars.

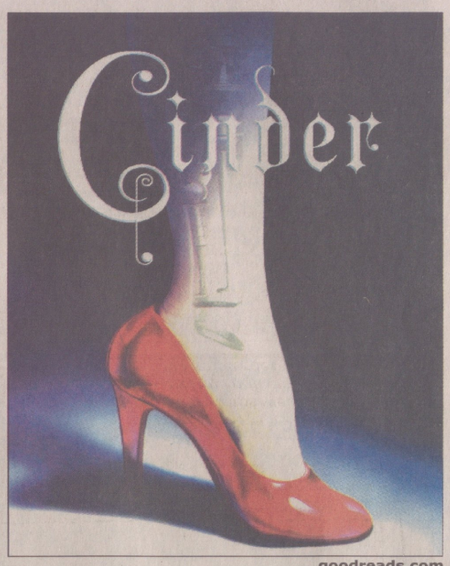
I really enjoyed reading this book, but there were some downsides. It started off sort of slow, but I didn't mind that because she used that time to expose the reader to new terms that end up being pivotal to the story. Towards the middle to end of the story, the pace picks up and a lot happens in the last four chapters. It was a little dizzying as I finished, but after reading the chapters a few times over, I understood what happened.

Another downside to the book is that it is a little predictable. I mean, it is about Cinderella, and everyone knows the fairy tale, but even in this original story, you learn the plot twist early on.

Notwithstanding, *Cinder* is a great action story. It's full of danger, close calls, and harrowing escapes, but it also has plenty of romance and does a good job of examining deeper issues such as dignity, self-esteem, and discrimination.

Cinder is the first book in a series of five, so it ends in a semi-cliffhanger. I finished the book satisfied, but still thirsting for more.

If you are looking for an easy read that has both action and romance woven throughout, then *Cinder* is the book for you.



goodreads.com

Prime place to get your flicks

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

With the rise of excellent streaming-media services like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu Plus, it's easier than ever to ditch your discs and stream content directly to your TV or mobile device.

When talking about online video streaming, the first website people think of is probably Netflix. However, Netflix is only one of the many websites that offer instant video streaming.

Personally, I prefer Netflix because of the familiarity and easy to use website. Amazon Prime and Hulu Plus offer almost, if not better plans though. Not to mention, every website has all nine seasons of everyone's favorite, *One Tree Hill*.

In my opinion, Netflix is the most popular video streaming website. I often wish it had a larger variety of newer movies. Contrary to my wishes, Netflix has made the decision to drop many of their movies and TV series. The company will be adding newer releases as time goes on, but they are getting rid of many classics such as some of the original Batman movies and *M*A*S*H*. I think most people will be in an uproar due to the 1990 version of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* being taken off. Eight dollars a month does not get you very far on Netflix. Netflix actually does not offer very many additional features, unlike Amazon Prime.

thetipsyverse.com

An Amazon Prime account includes instant video, free music, early access to the newest releases of technology and books, and much more. Amazon Prime memberships even allow you to buy food on the Amazon website. They give you free, two-day shipping, which is almost a necessity in today's online shopping world. Amazon Prime offers a $99 annual membership, which totals to $8.25 a month. This is practically a steal considering everything an Amazon Prime memberships offers. You are able to access and receive so much more with an Amazon Prime account than a Netflix or Hulu Plus membership.

According to *10 Top Ten Reviews*, Hulu Plus is actually ranked higher than Netflix, and is in a tie with Amazon Prime. Hulu frequently updates their videos so there is no problem finding the shows or movies people want to watch. The only downside to that is they still have to watch the commercials. Like Netflix, Hulu Plus is also $7.99 a month.

Some people might not be willing to switch to a different video streaming company mainly because of the familiarity they have with their current provider. Netflix is my favorite because I have been using it for so long. It would honestly be hard to switch to a completely foreign website, but it would be worth it considering how much more Amazon and Hulu offer.

If you are planning on getting Netflix, I would advise you to do your research before you subscribe to a membership. If you currently have Netflix, consider switching to one of the other websites that offer many better features than Netflix. Netflix might be the most popular and easy to use, but it's definitely not the best investment.

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

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Scotus Central Catholic

KEEPING TRADITION STRONG

The football team dominates post-season play and advances to the finals for the first year since 1993. The volleyball team travels to state volleyball for the 30th year, holding the record with Omaha Marian and Papillion-La Vista. ***Sports 6***

Retreat refreshes students

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

Instead of the usual quiet atmosphere that the Ramada Inn usually possesses, the weekend of November 7th and 8th, the hotel was filled with laughter, music, and worship. The ROCK (Rely On Christ The King) Retreat was a Godparents weekend, but it eventually opened to teens from all around the archdiocese. Youth ministry director Brenna Prem coordinated the retreat, along with other adults, college students, and teens.

"This retreat came out of prayer. A core group of adults began gathering in prayer and asking the Lord what the teens of Columbus needed. What followed was a powerful weekend of encountering Christ while enjoying friendships and having fun," Prem said.

The core team started planning in August after the JC camp and Steubenville Conferences were held. Junior Naomi Kosch was a member of the core team and helped plan t-shirt design, the retreat's theme, and other behind the scenes ideas.

"Many people who went to Steubenville and JC camp complained that all the retreats were during the summer, so we decided to start one in the fall. Our core group of teens met once a week to plan," junior Naomi Kosch said.

Steubenville Conference speaker Jimmy Mitchell gave several keynote speeches, and other activities included a pillow fight, a bounce house obstacle course, football games, a Husker game party, swimming in the Ramada Inn pool, small group discussions, Confession and Adoration, Mass, and praise and

See **RETREAT**, Page 2

Football advances to state final

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Central Catholic football team is making a deep playoff run as one of the premier teams in Class C-1.

"We know what we're capable of," senior captain Cole Harrington said. "If we are all on board, we will accomplish the task at hand."

The Shamrocks entered the state playoffs as the number one seed with a record of 8-1. As the regular season concluded, a strong sense of unity was felt among the players.

"My favorite part of this football season has been the camaraderie the team has built. We can have a good time and get down to business when we need to," Harrington commented.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Shamrocks defeated the O'Neill Eagles by a score of 62-14.

"That game really set the tone for what our playoff run is about," Harrington said. "We're just thinking one game at a time."

Senior quarterback Brady Przymus agreed with his wingback.

"We were pumped, but we all knew we had to go back to work the next week because we had another tough challenge in front of us," Przymus said.

The quarterfinals round pitted Scotus against the Ashland-Greenwood Bluejays. The Bluejays possessed Division I football talent in tailback Trevor Nichelson and tight end Ben Stille, but the Shamrocks took control of the game early and won by a margin of 36-7.

"We liked the odds of our defensive eleven against those two," Harrington said. "We just did our jobs and shut them down."

Nichelson finished the game with 35 yards and 1 touchdown on 21 carries, while Stille finished with 62 yards of receiving on 5 receptions.

HANNAH MIELAK/YEARBOOK STAFF

Jake Bos carries the ball down the field against Ashland-Greenwood in the second round of playoffs on November 6th. The Shamrocks dominated Ashland-Greenwood by winning the game 36-7 at Pawnee Park's Memorial Stadium.

The win over the Bluejays pushed the Shamrocks' winning streak to four games. Next on the schedule was the undefeated number four seed, Wilber-Clatonia. The semifinal game looked to be an interesting matchup, as the Wolverines had one of the most physical defenses in Class C-1 all season.

"We weren't going to steer away from our original game plan. Our coaches told us, 'Do what you do, and you will be successful,'" Harrington commented.

The Wolverines' first drive was a powerful and physical one as they marched all the way to a first-and-goal on the Shamrock four yard-line. However, the Shamrock defense held strong for four plays and made a key goal-line stand on fourth-and-three. The very next play, senior wingback Baeley Pelster took a jet sweep 97 yards for a touchdown. The game was all Shamrocks from there, with the final score ending 42-7 in favor of the Shamrocks.

With that victory, the Scotus football team will play in their first state final since 1993.

"Our coaching staff really is a big key to our success," Przymus said. "They motivate us every single day especially when we are dragging at practice."

Harrington added, "This year's team is really buying in to what the coaches are having to say. The senior class has great leaders, and the underclassmen are undoubtedly exceeding the expectations of their roles."

The Shamrocks will face another parochial powerhouse in the Norfolk Catholic Knights in the state final on Tuesday, November 24th at 10:45 A.M. Harrington, along with the entire Shamrock football program, is excited for the opportunity.

"The only team that can beat us is us," Harrington concluded.

Fine arts expose talent

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Tonight Memorial Hall will be filled with lovely artworks and nervous kids anxiously awaiting to perform their One Act play the "Imperfect Proposal." Lindsay Dannelly, third year art teacher, has taken on the task of directing the One Act production and is still in charge of Art Club. She is now solely in charge of the Fine Arts Exposition.

"It is really exciting and really nerve-wracking because it'll be hard to control both, but the great thing is that my Art Club and One Act kids overlap. I have a lot of help from them both, so I think it'll go fantastically," Dannelly said.

This is the third year the art show will coincide with the One Act presentation. Dannelly has learned from her mistakes in years past and gained more experience.

"The first year I put the artworks on the walls, and we taped a ton of works on the sides of the gym, and then during the performance I watched them slowly fall off the walls, so I no longer put the pieces there anymore," Dannelly said. "I leave them strictly to the tables, and I have more stands that Mrs. Podliska has graciously provided for me."

In art class student art work is sometimes displayed in the display case or outside Dannelly's art room. This art show is a way for family and friends to see their student's talents. Sophomore Lily Zargartalebi, who is an art student along with being an art club member, will have art on display at the Fine Arts Exposition.

"Of course I'm honored, but it's kind of weird too, to show people my work; I don't do that very often," Zargartalebi said.

Senior Savannah Robertson, who has been an art student every year of high school, will have pieces on display as well.

"I feel honored and glad that people care enough to look at my art," Robertson said.

Art Club works will also be featured; their works are more individualized whereas in Art Class there's more instruction. Art Club students are also helping out with One Act set this year and some students even act in it.

"Benefits that have definitely come from this partnership is that Art Club can help One Act as far as set design; we had a day where Art Club and One Act combined, and we got a lot of set accomplished that day. I deal with a lot of the same kids, not all, but it's a very positive partnership," Dannelly said.

The One Act cast features 26 members, 16 actors, and 10 extras or crew. Dannelly has taken on the task of co-directing this year with new music teacher, Laura Salyard. Ms. Dannelly admits she has big shoes to fill when she thinks of Mrs. Zanardi's One Acts in years past.

Dannelly said, "I'm really grateful for Mrs. Zanardi the last two years for letting me start the art show and combine with her One Act show, and it's really exciting that I can continue it. I'm really grateful for Ms. Salyard's help, and I'm so proud of my kids both in Art Club and One Act. Its overwhelming how much they help and inspire me."

NATALIE CHAPPELL/YEARBOOK STAFF

Art students junior Megan Ohnoutka and sophomore Kayla Hall sculpt during class. Tonight their artworks will be featured during the Fine Arts Exposition.

RETREAT

Continued from Page 1

worship music throughout the weekend.

Junior Tate VunCannon was a member of the core team and helped plan the structure and organize movie clips for the retreat.

"Adoration and Confession were the most powerful parts of the retreat. Feeling the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and getting sins lifted off of our shoulders really engages teens in our faith like nothing else can," VunCannon said.

> ***"I hope students take away from the retreat a desire for Christ and a yearning for more. I want teens to re-evaluate our lives and recognize the places we need to grow in."***
>
> ***~Naomi Kosch***

Retreat coordinator Brenna Prem also considered Adoration to be the greatest success of the weekend.

"The atmosphere had completely changed. It was almost as though grace was physically tangible in the room. Our God is so great and desires to bring His children miracles. Sometimes we just need to be still in order to encounter heaven in all its splendor. It was a powerful and grace-filled encounter," Prem said.

One hundred and thirty teens attended, with forty adult chaperones, and among those students was freshman Abe Perault.

"The best part of the retreat was getting to hang out with Jimmy Mitchell. The talks were more entertaining when we got to know the speaker," Perault said.

The retreatants were challenged by Mitchell to remain faithful and grow in Christ.

"I hope students take away from the retreat a desire for Christ and a yearning for more. I want teens to re-evaluate our lives and recognize the places we need to grow in," Kosch said.

The core group hopes to plan another ROCK Retreat for the spring.

"All those who served on the weekend could not happier because it was evident that we all shared in a powerful encounter with grace. We have made a commitment to lead changed lives, and we are holding one another accountable to pray daily. This is friendly Catholic competition for becoming saints!" Prem concluded.

MEGAN PARKER/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Amy Heusinkvelt lipsync battles junior Mitchell Halligan at the ROCK Retreat November 7th. One hundred-thirty teens and forty adult chaperones attended the weekend.

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God is good, *ALL THE TIME*

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

JC Camp and the Steubenville Conference are really amazing events. They are what I look forward to the most each summer. They remind me how fun and awesome it is to be Catholic. However, more often than not, the school year lulls us all into a state of semi-hibernation in our faith. We stand up for prayer in school and go to Mass on the weekends, but the words don't always register. Conferences like Steubie and the March for Life are wonderful and great, but we can't let our faith stop there.

I hope that the popularity of certain retreats and conferences could spread into the everyday school life here at Scotus, but it seems to me that, sadly, that's not always the case.

A lot of Scotus students attend Steubie, JC Camp, and the March for Life. People's friends go which makes them want to go, so the conferences turn into social *and* spiritual events, which is so awesome! Many of the people who have attended these events will know what I'm saying when I talk about having a God-high afterward. After such a powerful experience, it is hard not to feel closer to God than usual. The problem comes after the conference is over when we have the job of keeping that God-high. It's not easy being thrown back into the real world full of debauchery and moral looseness.

Here at Scotus, we are blessed more than we know. We have the chance to come to school with the people that shared faith experiences with us. There are also several small conferences available throughout the year. With all these awesome opportunities, it's a shame more students don't take advantage of them. JC Camp is wonderful, but there are other wonderful events too. QUEST is an amazing experience, a great weekend of God in the middle of the school year. However, last year, only a smattering of Scotus students attended. There is also the Archdiocesan Youth Rally. Again, only a handful of Scotus kids went to this. I know that the school year is busy. I understand the weekends are plagued with practices and obligations, but one weekend can go a long way in getting a God-high back. I also understand that different people find God in different ways, and that sometimes conferences aren't necessary to have a relationship with Him, but they most definitely won't hurt. I have never once regretted attending any conference or event I have gone on.

Another opportunity we have at Scotus is prayer before class. So often when we pray before class, I hear only the teacher and a handful of students actually saying the words. Some other kids are standing respectfully and just not speaking, but the rest of the class is usually engaged in other activities. Whether they be cramming for a test or just twiddling their pencils, their behavior is rarely related to the prayer that is happening. Let's do the math here. We pray once at the beginning of every, or almost every, class period and once at the end of the day. I timed the Hail Mary, an average length prayer, and it took me 17 seconds to say. If you multiply that times nine, plus a few extra seconds for the longer prayer and the beginning and end of the day, you come up with three minutes. Three minutes of prayer for the whole day. Those three minutes are a wonderful opportunity to spend time with God in the middle of a stressful and hectic day. They are perfect for finding God in everyday life.

The cherry on top of our Catholic-education sundae is our all school Mass once a month and the opportunity to go to Mass almost every morning. Sometimes it's easy to look forward to Mass just because it shortens the periods, but there is so much more to anticipate. It is a chance to attend Mass with friends and classmates, listen to Father's awesome homilies, and praise Jesus as a school. If you feel like you don't look forward to Mass, maybe you could try participating more. I realize that we don't always sing Steubie-like songs or your favorite songs, but still sing! Maybe you'll find a new favorite song. If you sing, the people around you more likely than not will start singing, and then we could actually fill the church with our voices.

This year, don't let a God-high be something you just experience during the summer. Stay on fire for your faith; live every day with a God-high. There are countless ways you can do this. Go on QUEST, sing at Mass, spend time in adoration. Find God this year and don't lose Him.

All in for activities

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

In seventh grade, to make friends and be a part of the Scotus community, you do a sport; whether it be volleyball, football, basketball, or track, you feel inclined to play a sport. Why wouldn't you? Our rich history in athletics speaks for itself.

Once junior high is over, many students realize their God given talents were not in an athletic form. During eighth grade I soon realized I was athletically challenged; I can't spike a volleyball, shoot a basket, or run without hurting myself in some way.

At Scotus students also have the option of doing other activities as well, they just don't realize it in junior high. In high school they may soon realize they were not granted the same talents as other people. Which is TOTALLY ACCEPTABLE! The amazing thing about Scotus is all of the activities are not only limited to doing just athletics.

Sometimes, though students don't really know about these activities because all of their friends are doing a sport so they feel left out. That is most definitely not the case though. Scotus has such a wide plethora of events to do it is absolutely mind blowing! Scotus requires you to take an art class at least freshman year. After that students can continue on taking Art classes or if schedules conflict they can join the Art Club.

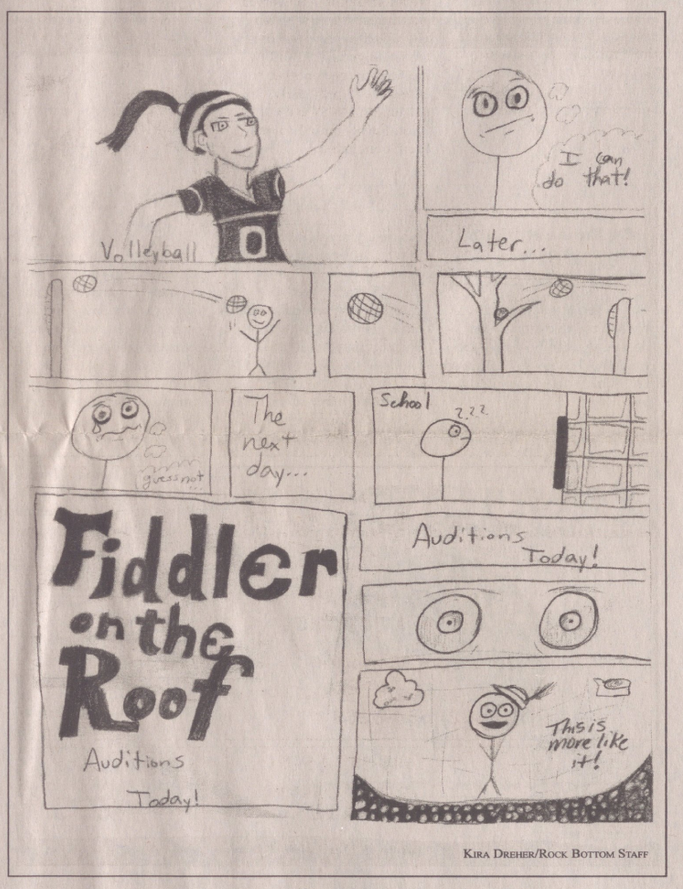
If someone happens to feel musically inclined, join the band, or Shamrock Singers (which awesomely does not require auditions), or the musical! These groups, not only have amazing people who are incredibly supportive, these also make a person go out of his or her comfort zone. It opens people up to opportunities they may have never considered before.

After the musical, some people realize they fell in love with acting. Anyone can do spring play which is student directed and very low-key. Next year if some students still want to be a part of that atmosphere in the fall they can compete in One Act where the cast can actually go to state! On the other hand, if acting and singing is going way out of his or her element, there are still A TON of activities to get involved in.

Many people realize that journalism is a class, but don't think they can take it or have the chance to. Wrong! As a junior or senior if you're looking to fill up your schedule, take one of the three journalism classes: newspaper, media, or yearbook. The spots in these much coveted classes sometimes fill up pretty quickly, so if you don't succeed junior year try senior year!

Scotus also offers the chance to become business savvy, and join FBLA. FBLA teaches you how to be smart with your money and explore different career options, plus learning major leadership skills is a big bonus. If none of these appeal to you, and you still know sports aren't your thing, go above and beyond in your academics! Be a member of NHS, or join student council! Become a diverse student!

So many seniors try new activities and soon realize they wish they had done it earlier in high school. Scotus is an amazing community where you can explore your strengths and weaknesses. Don't limit yourself to just being in a sport, or just being in theater, or just being in academics. Push yourself to try something new because you may find that you're surprisingly awesome at it!



Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Stuck with your siblings

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Every now and then people look at my siblings and I and say, "Wow, I'm sure you guys never fight," with a sarcastic wink. They assume that my brothers and sister and I don't get along because we are siblings, and siblings just don't get along. I would be lying if I say that my siblings and I sat around with little halos above our heads playing nice, friendly games of Scrabble all day, but fighting is not something we do on a daily or even weekly basis. We get along with and care about one another, which is often surprising to other people.

I hear people constantly complaining about how they can't stand to be around their siblings. I see siblings walk past each other in the hallway who act like their brother or sister doesn't even exist. People often do not realize how special the bond between siblings is.

In my opinion, you should be closer to your family than anyone else. I think that family members should learn to get along with one another. There are going to be times where you and your siblings will fight, but it is important to make sure that it doesn't become a habit.

My sister and I share a bathroom which causes pretty much one hundred percent of the drama between us. I like my belongings neat and organized, and it kills her to put something away. She always leaves the shower curtain open which drives me pretty much insane. Sure we argue over leaving the blow-dryer on the counter and not putting the cap on the toothepaste, but we would never let something so stupid get between us. There are going to be times that your siblings make you absolutely insane, but you can't let it drive you apart.

I often hear people rant about their siblings. Once in a while I hear people say, "I get to choose my friends, but I'm stuck with my family." Exactly. It sounds so cliché, but your family really is stuck with you, whether you like it or not. Your friends will come and go as your life changes, but you will always have your family to turn to when your life takes a turn for the worse. Being close with your friends is awesome, but they will never share the same connection that siblings have.

I'm sure that my sister will continue to leave her make-up sprawled all over the bathroom counter, and I'm sure that I will continue to put it away because she's my sister and I love her. So next time you see your siblings in the hallway, act like they exist. Treat them like your friends. Show them you care about them. When you feel the need to scream at and fight with your siblings, remember how much they actually mean to you and will continue to mean to you in the future.

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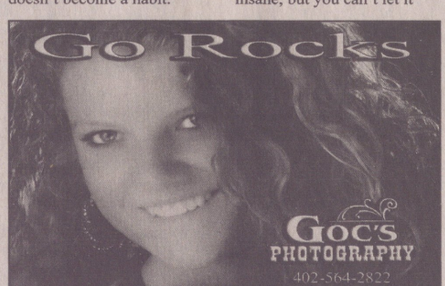

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Jobs venture out of the usual

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The typical jobs of high school kids are fast food, retail, and babysitting, but some Scotus students have ventured out into unique jobs.

Junior Hunter Smith's job is one that no other student at Scotus has. Smith works at Pheasant Hollow Taxidermy.

"My friend said something about getting a job there, and I needed a job, so I contacted the owner," Smith said.

At Pheasant Hollow Taxidermy, Smith skins animals including deer heads, ducks, geese, and other small mammals. He prepares tanned hides to be mounted, cleans, and does any other jobs that may need to be done. There are some pros about working at Pheasant Hollow Taxidermy as well.

"I don't have set hours. I can come and go whenever I want to," Smith mentioned.

Sophomore Bryan Littlefield works at Littlefield Sheep Shearing, which is a family business. He shears sheep, handles, and moves wool. Sheep shearing is a job in agriculture, and he wants to work in agriculture in the future.

"The best part of my job is the food. Most people we shear for cook amazing meals for us. Nothing is better after a hard day's work than a good, home cooked meal," Littlefield said.

Junior Alayna Wilson works at Heartland Gymnastics, and she heard about it from her sister. She coaches gymnastics and choreographs floor routines for competing gymnasts. She is the only Scotus student who works at Heartland.

"I feel like I would talk too much if I personally knew a lot of people where I work," Wilson said.

Senior Mikayla Nienaber is employed at Meridian Gardens. She answers call lights by going to the residents rooms and helping them stand, go to the bathroom, change clothes, get ready for supper, take out the trash, and anything that the resident needs help with.

"This job has helped me gain accountability for myself as well as the residents because I am obligated to help them so therefore it has helped better myself," Nienaber explained.

Junior Kira Dreher has a job at the Sleep-Inn hotel. She mainly cleans the dirty rooms that have been used and cleaning those that are staying the night again. She sometimes washes, dries, and folds towels and sheets.

"My favorite part of my job is being able to see all different kinds of people from around the country and sometimes the world on those strange occasions," Dreher commented.

Only one Scotus student works at these companies, but two other Scotus students work together at a different, unique job.

Juniors Crystal Rinkol and Tatem Vance work at Redstone Vet Clinic. During their job, they walk dogs, do laundry, assist the vets in appointments, help with IV's in the animals, send animals home on the weekends, and clean the clinic.

Both girls want to be veterinarians when they are older.

"I want to be an Equine Vet when I grow up, so this job is giving me a glimpse of what I want to do," Vance mentioned.

Rinkol and Vance are the only two Scotus students that work at Redstone Vet Clinic.

"The only people from Scotus are Tatem and I, and since I see Scotus people all the time, I need a break from them all," Rinkol concluded.

Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Mikayla Nienaber leads an activity for the residents at Meridian Gardens. Nienaber is a CNA and has been working at Meridian Gardens for a month.

Scotus Trends:

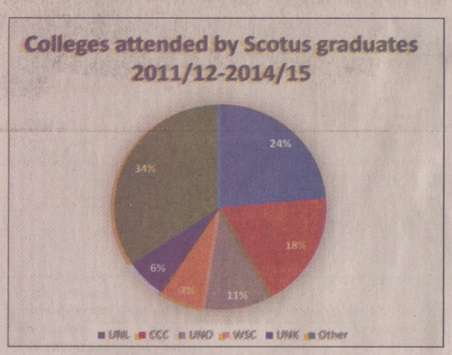
UNL and business top college and major choices

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

When attending high school, the question 'What do you want to be when you graduate?' is usually followed by 'Where do you want to go to college?'

The university selections for the students at Scotus are extremely predictable while the majors are exceptionally diverse.

Within the past five years, nearly seventy students have graduated from Scotus and continued their education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Students are attending UNL for various reasons which include the location and the big college campus experience. For most, Lincoln is about an hour and a half away from home. This is a short enough drive so students can easily come home on the weekends. Students that graduate from Scotus are used to a small class size, so they want to attend a big campus in a bigger city.



In contrast, the second highest attended college by Scotus graduates is Central Community College (CCC). Fifty-two students graduated from Scotus and have attended CCC within the past five years. The majority of Scotus graduates want to leave Columbus immediately, but some find it is in their best interest to at least attend CCC for two years to complete their prerequisites. Attending CCC is much cheaper than attending a larger campus. Attending CCC allows a student to still live at home and get a good education.

The University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) is the third largest attended college by Scotus graduates. The university has seen thirty Scotus alumni walk through its doors within the past five years. The cost of in-state tuition at UNO is $7,573 while the cost at UNL is $8,279. That's more than a $700 difference.

Another reason Scotus graduates are going to these colleges is because of the price differences. Depending on the colleges, out-of-state tuition can be nearly double the price it would be to attend an in-state institution. According to *U.S.News.com*, on average, it takes 21 years to pay off student loan debt. Obviously, it would be the smarter and cheaper choice to attend an in-state college in order to keep the loans and debt as low as possible.

Even though it is more expensive in most cases, forty-six Scotus graduates have furthered their education at an out-of-state institution within the past five years. Although the out-of-state tuition is much higher than in-state, some out-of-state colleges have a better program for whatever career the student wishes to pursue. Also, many students go to out-of-state colleges because of scholarships offered to the students. The top three out-of-state colleges attended by Scotus graduates are the University of South Dakota, Notre Dame, and Rockhurst University. If considering an out-of-state college, look into the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP). Depending on the college, MSEP can help lower the costs for students attending the school from a different state.

Only three students have graduated Scotus and immediately entered the military within the past five years. The branches the Scotus alumni entered were the Marine Corp, the Army, and the Air Force.

Although the college choices are predictable, the majors are not. Sixty different majors have been pursued by Scotus graduates.

The top majors are twenty various degrees of engineering, twenty-four various business degrees, and thirteen nursing degrees. Forty-three have graduated and were un-decided as to what they wanted to major in.

Within the past five years, there has been a vast majority of students who have been the only student to pursue their choice major. Thirty students have solely entered their major of choice. Some of these include 3-D designing, meteorology, neonatal nursing, baking, marine biology, and youth ministry.

Before deciding to go to the typical college of UNL, take the time to research other schools. Find out the costs and apply for different scholarships available.

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- Median $92,670

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

- The Labor Department predicts there will be nearly 140,000 brand new positions created before 2022
- Median $92,660

PHYSICIAN

- Median $186,850
- Bureau of Labor Statistics employment for physicians and surgeons will jump 18% from 2012 to 2022 (123,300 job openings)

DENTAL HYGIENIST

- Yearly salaries of about $71,110 although many work part time
- 33.3% employment growth for 2022

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

- Expected to grow about 36% by 2022
- Median salary is $81,030

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST

- Labor Department predicts 24.5 percent employment grown for this job thru 2022
- Median salary is $88,590

INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYST

- Rate of 36.5% thru 2022
- Median salary $88,590

REGISTERED NURSE

- BLS anticipates 19.4% employment growth between 2012 and 2022
- $66,220 median salary

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

- 33,300 new jobs with a 1.4% unemployment rate
- Median salary is $92,970

NEBRASKA

NURSE ANESTHETISTS

- Average Salary $156,420
- Number of employed 280

OTHER PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

- Average salary $143,480
- Number of employed 1,780

GENERAL DENTISTS

- Average salary $135,730
- Number of employed 450

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING MANAGERS

- Average salary $116,980
- Number of employed 560

FINANCIAL MANAGERS

- Average salary $115,490
- Number of employed 2,270

CUMPUTER AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

- Average salary$109,380
- Number of employed 1,550

PHARMACISTS

- Average salary $107,460
- Number of employed 2,440

PODIATRISTS

- Average salary $107,310
- Number of employed 50

PURCHINASING MANAGERS

- Average salary $104,130
- Number of employed 400

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS

- Average Salary $103,220
- Number of employed 530

National job information according to Money U.S. News.
http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/rankings/the-100-best-jobs
Nebraska job information according to U.S. Wage
http://www.usawage.com/high-pay/jobs-state-nebraska.php

'Real jobs' are only for the 'real world'

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

Grown-ups commonly tell teenagers that the 'real world' still hasn't hit; recording and paying bills, managing a family, and getting a job are all tasks that are still foreign to teens. The outside world will hit like a wall as soon as they step out of the bubble that their parents have kept them in for so long.

So why not postpone this ominous trek of adulthood a little while longer? Teenagers have the rest of their lives to become adults and live in the real world.

Teenagers can start working legally at the age of sixteen. Having a 'real job,' the ones parents commonly encourage their kids to have, at this age gives the government permission to start taking all kinds of hard-earned cash from their paychecks. Not to mention that teenagers barely make minimum wage. By the time teens actually receive their payment, a fraction of it is gone for government spending. Poof. There goes any extra spending money to welfare or whatever government program needs it now. It's going to be like this for the rest of adult life.

If a teen does end up deciding it's worth it, jobs are mostly limited. Teens aren't employed at interesting jobs or work at a business that incorporates something that they're passionate about. For the most part, teens are going to be stuck bussing tables, taking cash, or stocking retail.

Working at a fast food restaurant, for example, can be stressful. It doesn't take that much mental effort, but when the lady across the register is yelling at you because her son needs four—not three—double cheeseburgers and a large order of fries pronto, things can get a little tense. It's not like you can control the cheese-burger gods, or tell her son to try a salad instead. Eight dollars an hour is not worth putting up with snarky customers.

So why do teens put themselves through this real job stress? To prepare themselves for the real world? Flipping hamburgers or being a sales rep at Rue 21 isn't going to help. How is that going to prepare teenagers? Besides, teens have the rest of their lives to work in the real world and become like their parents. That's why people go to school, college, and get a degree.

Instead of getting a real job, teenagers should instead look into nonconventional jobs like babysitting, mowing, or house cleaning. These jobs vary in pay. More than likely, the employer is going to give the employee close to minimum wage and pay in either cash or check. This rocks. Technically, the employee of this cash-paying job does have to report their income to the government, but the employee is getting paid in cash and the employer doesn't really care about the government's rules so long as the job is getting done. So nothing gets taken out, and the employee can keep the whole wad of cash. Awesome.

Plus, being a nanny or babysitter, for example, during a summer is great. You get paid to be someone's older sibling. Sometimes the kids are going to be sassy, but that's to be expected. These are people I'm talking about; it's more engaging than punching numbers into a cash register. Being a babysitter is a great alternative to a "real job" because you the employee has to be responsible. Lives are literally on the line every day. If the employee messes up stocks at Payless, no one is going to get hurt. But if you don't watch your kids for a couple minutes when you're babysitting and they're running around in the street, in an instant their life could be over. Responsibility will be important in the future as a student and a parent.

Peter Pan is a fairy-tale character that is famous for not wanting to grow up. Unlike Peter Pan, teens are eventually going to have to grow-up, but they'll have the rest of their lives to become adults and live in the real world Peter Pan was so terrified of. While teenagers have the chance, they should postpone this ominous fate of adulthood.

Students work together

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Working a job is something that many high schoolers hate. These jobs often require students to work long and demanding shifts. However, these tiring hours can be made more enjoyable when students work around some familiar faces.

Scotus students are employed at a wide variety of businesses, but some businesses employ more Scotus students than others. These businesses include Godfather's Pizza, The Pawnee Plunge, Elks Country Club, Hy-Vee, and Paul Davis Restoration.

Students often hear about these job openings from their friends and fellow students.

"During summer running, Kaylee Tonniges told me she was working [at the Pawnee Plunge] so I applied," senior Jessica Lahm said.

Fellow Pawnee Plunge co-worker senior Justin Brockhaus heard about the opening in a similar way.

"Some of my friends were talking about applying so I decided to go for it," Brockhaus said.

Godfather's Pizza employs six Scotus students. Junior Alison Zoucha is one of these employees.

"I love it! It was nice to know people when I first started. We also get to talk about school events. Last year, Ashley Foreman helped me study for a Biology test at work," Zoucha said.

Junior Keaton Kudron works at Hy-vee along with five other Scotus students.

"Its way easier communicating with other Scotus students because I already know them. Being in a department with mostly Scotus students is also like having another family," Kudron commented.

There are also some disadvantages of working with so many other Scotus students.

"One big disadvantage of working with so many other Scotus people is that if one of us asks off for something, then we all do. That makes it difficult to take off because then there may not be too many people left to work. For example, state volleyball," junior Ashley Foreman said.

Junior Elk's Country Club employee Nathan Ostdiek found this to be a problem.

"If there is a Scotus event it's tough to find a sub," Ostdiek agreed.

Although there are some drawbacks, the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

"You get to talk about events that happened during school. You also get to become better friends," Zoucha said.

Foreman also enjoys this friendly atmosphere.

"My favorite part of working with fellow Scotus students is getting to know each other better. I like all of the people I work with, and it makes it fun to be able to work together. Emma Strecker and I work every Monday together, and it is something to actually look forward to," Foreman added.

Junior Tyler Brandenburg, who works at Paul Davis Restoration, has easy access to his job because his dad own the business. Six other Scotus students are employed at Paul Davis Restoration.

"[My favorite part of working with other Scotus students is] making memories with my pals. We look back and laugh at all the stuff we had to do and the good times," Brandenburg concluded.

HALEY FAUST/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Alison Zoucha and Emma Strecker help a customer at Godfather's Pizza. The girls work at Godfather's along with five other Scotus students.

What is your favorite part of your job?

"I love making conversation with my customers and joking with the other waitresses and cooks."

-Jenna Salerno
sophomore

"Nothing is enjoyable about fast food, anywhere, ever."

-Cody Siemek
senior

"It's like the store is my closet, and I get to dress up my friends (guests) who come in to get an outfit."

-Anna Wickham
senior

Why don't you have a job?

"I really don't want to spend my little free time in high school working."

-Ryan Mustard
senior

"Our lives as teenagers are jam packed with activities."

-Natalie Schaecher
junior

"I have so many commitments as it is with sports and clubs that trying to give out any more of my time and energy is unrealistic."

-Jackson Kumpf
senior

Do you think it is important for high schoolers to have a job?

"Yes, our whole lives cannot be relied on our parents, and we have to be able to survive on our own."

-Wren Allen
sophomore

"No, we need money for college, but we also need time to enjoy high school and focus on school. We need to live before we work."

-Amy Heusinkvelt
senior

"Yes, earning money early on and learning responsibility is important. It also forces them to become more social in different situations."

-Alyssa Kuta
junior

"Yes, because it teaches them to be smart with money, and they have more responsiblities and learn the value of a dollar."

-Matt Hoenk
junior

"No, because you have the rest of your life to work. I hate when high schoolers complain about being stressed, but they have a job."

-Layne Schroeder
junior

"Yes, it expands the people you meet and helps you learn to work with different types of people, which you will have to do in the future. "

-Savannah Robertson
senior

Rocks face battle at State

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

The Shamrocks returned to the state tournament for the thirtieth time last weekend. The Rocks finished fourth for the 2015 season, falling four sets to one against second seed Chadron in the consolation match.

The Shamrocks faced tough competition all year and started its road to state after winning the first round of sub-districts against Aquinas in straight sets. The following day, November 3rd, the Rocks faced cross-town rivals Lakeview in the sub-district finals winning 25-15, 25-18, 22-25, 21-25, and 15-12.

Head coach Joe Held said, "The first two sets we played really well, and even halfway through the third set we were playing really well, but then we started making too many errors, and Lakeview started playing better. The momentum shifted a little bit when they won the third set which carried over to the fourth set. In the fifth set, we made a few less errors than they did which was a huge. The girls really battled."

After winning the sub-district final, the Rocks advanced to the C1-2 district final against Lincoln Christian. The Shamrocks faced Christian earlier this year in regular-season play, winning three sets to one.

"I thought we played really well. Our energy was really great," Coach Held commented. "I thought Lincoln Christian played really well against us; they had phenomenal defense. We were able to serve well to get them out of system. We did a good job just executing what we needed to do. We had the mindset that we weren't going to lose, and it definitely showed."

The Shamrocks advanced to state after winning the C1-2 district against Lincoln Christian.

Senior Morgan Thorson said, "We really focused one game at a time. We obviously knew the challenges that were ahead of us, but we couldn't overlook anyone. Our goal was just to play the best game of the season every match."

In the first round of play, the fifth seed Shamrocks faced fourth seed Ogallala on November 12th. The Rocks swept Ogallala, 22-12, 25-20, and 25-18.

"I couldn't believe we swept them, nothing against the girls, but I knew [Ogallala] was really good. Any team at state is. No team had swept them this season. As a team, I thought we played really well. Our serving was on, and we were able to take away their strengths and use our strengths," Held said. "We played great defense, got touches on blocks, and executed our offense. We got kills, and they couldn't is what it boils down to. One of their best hitters only had three kills. It was part of our game plan to shut her down, and we got it done. We did a great job taking them out of their strengths. The way we played was great, and it carried over to Friday."

The win on Thursday meant that the Shamrocks would advance to the semi-finals on Friday, November 13th. The Rocks faced the Kearney Catholic Stars in a rematch of last year's semi-final game. The Shamrocks dropped the first set, 22-25, but came back to win the second and third set, 25-23 and 25-12. However, the Stars claimed the fourth and fifth set, 16-25 and 16-14, in a battle to the end.

Held said, "We played our best game of the year against Kearney. We had a chance in the fifth set to win with one of our best hitters up and we just didn't, but we never stopped fighting. It's the way the ball bounces sometimes, and it's tough, but I wasn't disappointed," Held said. "I don't think anyone was disappointed with how we played because it was our best game of volleyball all year. In that situation, I know we were upset with the outcome. Coming up short is tough, but that's all we can ask for. We gave it our all."

The Shamrocks had nine seniors on the team this year.

Senior Kimberly Stutzman said, "Even though we lost, we played our best game and gave it our all. It was the most fun I had because we were all so into the game and focused on winning that every point we got was huge to us."

Senior libero Courtney Labenz has played on the varsity team for three years.

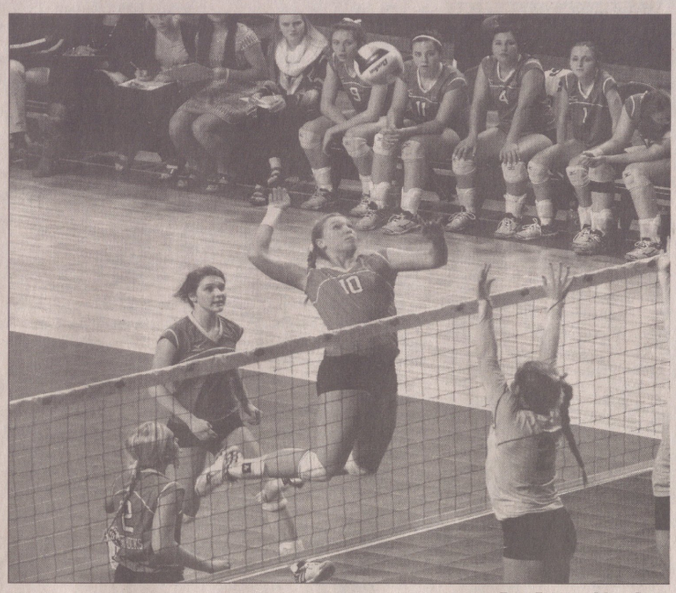
"Coach never gave us a break and he never thought that making it to state was going to be just good enough. He wanted more for us, and he pushed us in every day in practice," Labenz said. "Practices were tough, but it really helped prepare us for that five set thriller against Kearney Catholic in the semi-final game."

Because the Rocks fell to the defending state champions in the semifinal game, they were scheduled to play at 9 a.m. for the consolation match against second seed Chadron. The Rocks fell to Chadron three sets to one.

"We gave it everything we had after coming back from that loss to Kearney. Our bodies just couldn't always go with our minds. Chadron played really well. We did everything we could have done," Held said. "I can't be disappointed with how the season went. We peaked at the right time which was our goal, and fourth is just what we got."

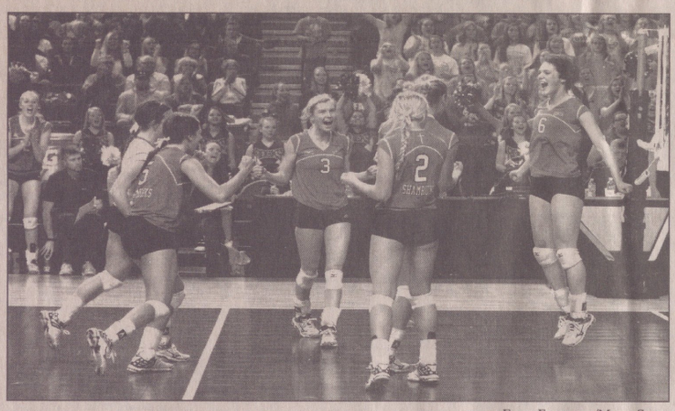
Thorson has been on the varsity team since she was a freshman.

"Scotus volleyball has really helped me become the person I am today. It's not just a sport; you learn so much about yourself and others while playing. The support for the whole volleyball team was great, and I thank everyone for that," Thorson concluded.



EMILY FEHRINGER/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Maeghan Pieper attacks the ball during the team's five set battle against Kearney Catholic in the semifinal round at State. They would go on to place 4th after the consolation match against Chadron.



EMILY FEHRINGER/MEDIA STAFF

The volleyball team celebrates after a point during the semifinal match. The team defeated Ogallala in straight sets the day before.

EMILY FEHRINGER/MEDIA STAFF

The Scotus 'rainbow' cheers on the volleyball team in the semifinal round. The student section had extra work to do without any football players who were in Columbus preparing for their semifinal game.

Cross country competes at Kearney

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The Scotus Cross Country team made the road trip to Kearney on Friday October 23rd, 2015 to compete in the Class C State Cross Country Meet. The boys finished the state meet with 4th place and the girls placed 12th.

The girls started off the day by running at 12:00 p.m. after some encouraging notes by head coach Merlin Lahm.

"We talk about focusing on just what we can control because otherwise it is somewhat intimidating. There are so many things that have to fall into place for your team to do well. You can't worry about how your teammates run or the opponents run, you just have to worry about your job. We talk about breaking the race into thirds and your mind set in each third of the race. We try to talk about a lot of things, especially mentally," Lahm said.

The girls' team went into the competition hoping to finish in the top half. Unfortunately, their score wasn't what they had expected since one of their top competitors senior Jessica Lahm did not finish the race.

"Sometimes not everything can go the way you hoped, but it's so important to stay positive and use this experience for determination in the next sports I'm competing in," senior Jessica Lahm said.

The top girl runners for Scotus were junior Kaylee Tonniges and freshman Kelsey Faust. Tonniges finished 29th with Faust close behind at 32nd place. Faust was the only freshman girl to compete this year.

"I will take away a lot from competing in the state meet. I now know what to expect the next three years at state," Faust said.

The girls' team placed in the top four teams in every other meet.

The boys followed the girls by running at 1:00 p.m.

The boys went into the race hoping to bring home a trophy but did not accomplish that goal.

Junior Nathan Ostdiek was the only competitor from Scotus to place this year.

"I was thinking I could give Masco, the champion, a run and maybe steal it from him at the end if I ran a great race," Ostdiek commented.

Ostdiek was the Class C State Runner-up.

Senior Justin Brockhaus finished 24th, followed by junior Cody Mroczek at 31st, and freshman Elliot Thomazin at 32nd place. Thomazin showed great improvement over the season and had a great race at state.

"I did extremely well at state compared to other races. My first time at Kearney during the UNK meet, I ran my 5K in 19:59. At state I ran it in 18:23, so it was an incredible improvement," Thomazin said.

With this cross country season over, the team is looking forward to a good season next fall.

"We need to get miles, we'll be really good. We'll have really good boys' and girls' teams next year we just need to do our work in the off-season, which means getting your off-season miles in," Lahm concluded.

SARAH SCHUMACHER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Cody Mroczek (far right) and freshman Elliot Thomazin (far left) sprint toward the finish line at the State Cross Country Meet. The boys' team finished fourth at State.

Teams advance to finals in Mock Trial

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

The Platte County court rooms were in a buzz, filled with many cases and debates, but this time it was teens competing against each other.

The Scotus Central Catholic Mock Trial team competed in their first competition on Wednesday, November 11th.

The juniors and sophomore are advancing onto the next round, but the seniors and freshman will not.

Senior attorney Hannah Thomazin said, "We played a great two rounds, and we won the first round against one of the Lakeview teams. Then the seniors had to go against the juniors. It was a close competition, but the juniors pulled ahead."

Junior Alison Zoucha, who played the part of a witness, said "My team surpassed my expectations! I'm so proud of the junior team!"

The practice for the Mock Trial team includes meeting at least once a week for up to two hours at a time. The members also have to review the case on their own time.

"We started off the first few meetings just getting to know the case. These meetings were about an hour long. As the competition got closer, the meetings started getting longer, more difficult, and we had extra meetings to help us prepare," freshman Hallie Parker said.

The sophomore team won their two rounds against CHS and Howells- Dodge. The win allows the sophomore team to advance onto the district finals.

"Last year, as freshman, I felt as if we did really well. This year going into the competition, I was hoping to do just as well, if not better, and I'm glad we achieved that as a team," sophomore Faith Przymus said.

The junior team also won both of their rounds. First against Howells- Dodge, and then against the Scotus senior team.

"I was expecting to make it as far as we have because we put a lot of time and effort into it," Zoucha said.

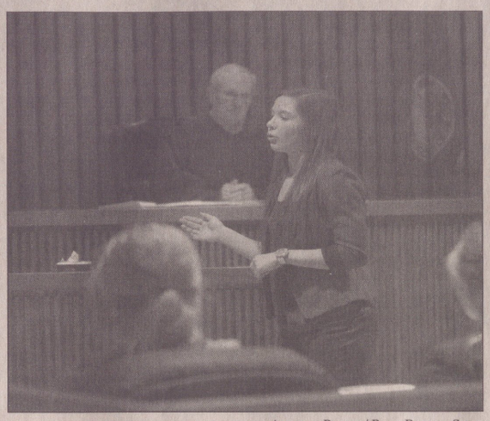
Junior Courtney Flint, who played the part of Sandy Boone, a character on the defense, said, "I expected a good competition, hard, but I knew we had a good chance of making it."

Although the seniors and the freshman lost, the members still had a great time competing.

"I thought we could win, but I am still proud of my team for trying our hardest," Parker said.

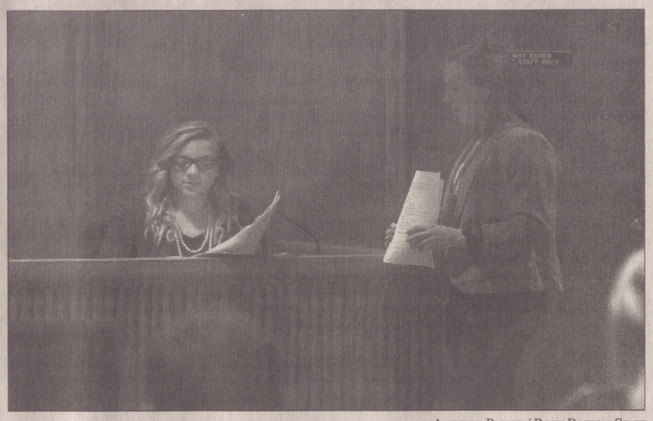
The win for the juniors and sophomores means they are advancing to the district finals on Thursday, November 19th.

"I'm looking forward to the next trial, and I hope we advance to state!" Zoucha said.



Amberly Parker/ Rock Bottom Staff

Junior attorney Haley Faust addresses the jury during her closing argument Wednesday, November 11th. The junior team beat Howells- Dodge and the senior team.



Amberly Parker/ Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore attorney Faith Przymus questions sophomore witness Natalie Brutty at the Mock Trial competition on Wednesday, November 11th. The sophomore team will advance to district finals on Thursday, November 19th.

Businesses bring experience

Cole Harrington/ Yearbook Staff

Junior Itzel Chilapa answers question on Business and Industry day in Memorial Hall. The junior class took part in this event on October 28th.

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Schools are often criticized for lacking "real life" lessons. Scotus is a school that gives students real life experiences that will help them later.

On October 28th, Business and Industry Day occurred. On that day, the junior class went to Memorial Hall during American History and were interviewed by Columbus business men and women.

Assistant principal and junior American History teacher Jeff Ohnoutka organized with the interviews to go with his teaching schedule.

"It's good for the students to sit down with a business leader and have their resume critiqued and to learn to present themselves in a way that makes somebody want to hire them," Ohnoutka stated.

Business and Industry Day has been going on for four years. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce organizes everything from the classroom visits to the actual interview day.

"You get two weeks of speakers in the classroom and one week for the interviews," Ohnoutka explained.

The first week involved three speakers explaining to the students about how to improve their resume and what the interview would involve. Dressed in their business attire, the juniors were put to the test. They were interviewed by two different Columbus business leaders who asked two different sets of questions. The questions ranged from their strengths and weaknesses to their own examples and experiences about how they solved a certain problem. The next week after that, three speakers returned to ask how it went. They set up activities to test how the students would work with a group of other students and the difficulties that come with it.

"I think it is something that students don't get to do very often, and if they do, a lot of their interviews that they have are for local fast food restaurants or for places here in town that aren't as in depth of an interview as a business might be," Ohnoutka said.

In past years, both the junior and senior classes would participate in Business and Industry Day.

"We felt like waiting until the senior year might have been a little too late," Ohnoutka said.

Every day, students learn something that'll benefit them in the future, they just don't know it yet.

Ohnoutka concluded, "I think judging by the students' reactions, they were a little nervous at first, but I think they enjoyed it, and I think it's been a real learning experience for them."

Service projects mean more

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

As Scotus students prepare to head back to school, a mental check list is prepared: folders, calculators, red pens, *New American Bible*, and signed summer service hour sheets. Scotus students have been required to give back five hours of service to each of four categories (church, school, friends/family, and community). But, a new program has become available for students to knock down all of their hours in one project.

Students can now be a part of a service project. The students will still be doing twenty hours of service, but instead of getting five hours in different categories, the students can do twenty hours for one big project.

"[Students] nine through twelve can fulfill their hours by choosing a project that they are interested in doing," Assistant Principal Jeff Ohnoutka said.

The requirements for the projects are very broad. Students must spend at least twenty hours planning, setting up, and doing the project. Once a student comes up with an idea for a project, they need to get it approved by their religion teacher, Fr. Capadano, or Mr. Ohnoutka.

"There are about ten to twelve students that I know of that are planning on doing service projects this year," Ohnoutka said, "but we hope that there are more who are willing to come forward and do [a service project] as well."

Service projects can range from painting a mural, organizing a walk for a certain cause, putting on a camp, or anything that students are interested in that will benefit the school or Columbus community. Seniors Natalie Chappell and Anna Wickham organized a blood drive this summer.

"The idea came to me after the blood drive at Scotus in March. I didn't meet the credentials to give blood, so to give back I wanted to host a blood drive," Chappell informed.

The girls started their process by meeting with Amy Brown from The Red Cross to discuss dates, venues, flyers, assistance, and everything else needed to host a blood drive. After booking the venue and date at Saint Bonaventure, the girls began work to schedule appointment times for friends and family. They also hung flyers around town giving the information about the blood drive. Chappell's mother, Elaine, had cancer and needed blood-transfusions during treatment so she realized the importance of donated blood.

"The project is something that was their idea; it is something that is important to them, and they are attached to that subject. This allows for a lot of growth in the students as people," Ohnoutka said.

"[Service projects] give students meaning for something that they may have never noticed before. It shows them how they can help, and it makes it more about the meaning and less about the hours [the students] need," Chappell stated.

Other service projects are being done as well. Senior Olivia Rath is planning a theatre camp for kindergarten through sixth graders in the spring.

"There are so many basketball and volleyball and other sport camps, I thought it would be cool to try and do a theatre camp to get the younger kids involved in the fine arts," Rath said.

Another duo of seniors got the chance to take over and revamp the buddy system that started last year for their service project. Dana Hoppe and Amy Heusinkvelt started planning their "Shepherd Program" this summer, and it is an on-going event. The Shepherd Program is meant to help the new seventh graders get used to their new school. Upperclassmen who signed up helped the seventh graders learn their schedule, open their lockers, and get to know each other.

"It's about every student at Scotus working to make the school a better place to be. The Shepherd Program is about making everyone feel like a part of the Scotus Family," Heusinkvelt added.

Hoppe concluded, "Service projects allow you to really make a bigger, more measurable impact and affect more people, but the smaller service hours are still important."

Olivia Rath/ Rock Bottom Staff

Seventh graders Nicolas Schultz and Maddie Blaser signal "scissors" while playing human 'Rock, Paper, Scissors' with junior Mitchell Halligan and seniors Marcus Dodson and Kimberly Stutzman. This game was part of an activity day for the Shepherd Program, planned by seniors Amy Heusinkvelt and Dana Hoppe.

It's fun to go to the (brand new) YMCA

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

The world is expanding, well, at least the world of Columbus, NE is. Just a few short years ago, a trip to the north side of town would have yielded a view of corn fields and empty lots. Now that edge of the city is booming and growing, sprouting new businesses and buildings like dandelions in the spring. The newest flower in Columbus' bouquet of commerce is the Columbus Wellness Center. This building houses not only the YMCA, but also Wiggles and Giggles Therapy for Kids and, through the Columbus Community Hospital, physical, speech, and occupational therapy. The biggest change this new building brings is the different location and facilities of the YMCA.

This building is much nicer than the old Y's home, but not all the changes are necessarily improvements.

The fresh site provides new and nicer equipment for patrons of the Y. Since the pool in the old building broke in 2010, there has been only one lap pool in Columbus. This new facility brings with it three swimming pools. There is a six-lane lap pool with zero-depth entry, a smaller warm water pool, and a whirlpool. The Y can now once again offer swim lessons, swim team, and work-out classes in the pools.

Another new and exciting feature of this YMCA is the saunas. There are two dry saunas and two steam rooms in the building, one each for men and women.

Along with a new building comes new hours for Y members. YMCA facilities will now open at 5 in the morning and stay available until midnight, or 9 p.m. for high school kids and younger.

This new YMCA also brings with it an exceptionally nice gymnasium. This gym is very large and has dividers to split it into two full-sized courts or four smaller courts. These dividers are good for youth and other leagues, as four games can be going on at once now.

There is also a larger area for weight-lifting and contortion machines, along with new equipment. This may seem like a good thing, but because of all this new gear, the room is very crowded. This can make working-out on the machines rather awkward. The treadmills especially put sweaty and out-of-breath people uncomfortably close to other sweaty and panting people. The weight lifting machines' close proximity to each other also make it difficult to add and remove weights while others around are lifting. The running track winds closely around the workout area which adds an even more cramped feel to the room. However, this track is larger than the one at the old building. Previously it was 20 laps to a mile and now it is 12 laps.

Another downside to this new building is the lack of tennis and racquetball courts. Formerly there were three racquetball courts and a large tennis complex, but those areas did not make the move. However, there are rumors that a deal is being negotiated with the church who bought the old building to leave the courts. Nothing is set it stone yet.

The location of the Wellness Center is also slightly inconvenient. The YMCA used to be in the middle of town and it is now on the far north edge. However, with the high school soon becoming its neighbor, the placement of the building could be a business builder.

This new YMCA may not be perfect, but there are many additions and improvements over the old one. With the fresh facility and new equipment, the new Y is worth checking out.

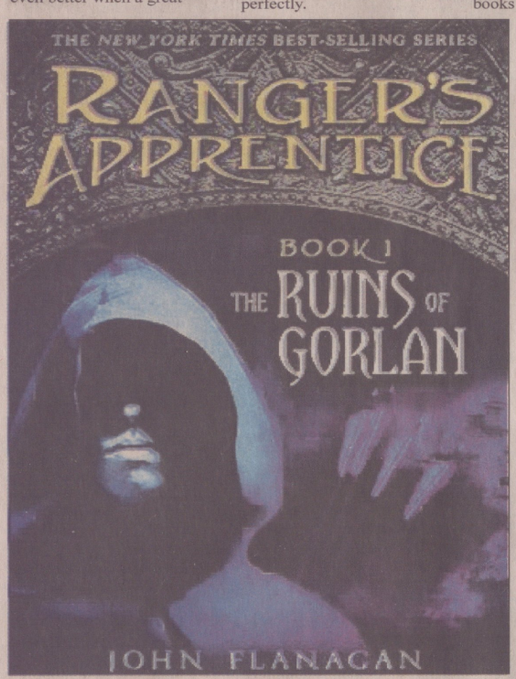
Haley Faust/Rock Bottom Staff

Columbus Family YMCA patrons run on the track in the weight room. The YMCA is part of the new Columbus Wellness Center.

Ranger's Apprentice: one world, many adventures

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

I'm all about the action and adventure books. It's even better when a great book comes with an even better series. A dash of reality makes the whole experience seem possible and realistic enough for the reader to follow. *Ranger's Apprentice* meets my requirements perfectly.



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Ranger's Apprentice is most definitely an underrated series, and we all know that the underrated series are usually the best. Look at all the most popular series now. They all used to be unknown books until movies were being created for the most part. Let's skip the movie phase and go right to popularity.

This series spreads all around a world in a twelve book main series, which has an overlapping spinoff called the *Brotherband Chronicles,* and just off the press is the first book of the prequel series called *The Early Years. Ranger's Apprentice* consists of many countries that have some resemblance to countries in real life, giving it another sense of reality. For example, the main country is Araluen which consists of fifty fiefs, similar to America and its fifty states. One would think it would be similar to Australia since the author, John Flanagan, is from there, but Australia doesn't have states or fiefs or whatever, I did my research.

Ranger's Apprentice is about a boy named Will. He is an orphan along with four other wards at Redmont Fief. In the first book, *The Ruins of Gorlan*, Will and the rest of the wards his age had been orphaned fifteen years previous during a huge war. They had all come of age and the baron, Arald, demands that they become apprentices or be sent to the fields to work the rest of their lives. All Will's friends are able to find that perfect apprenticeship, except him. Will is an outcast, to put it bluntly. He doesn't get along with one of the wards very well and is always sneaking around. The only abilities he has are climbing walls quickly and being quick on his feet to escape his enemy, while being quick with his remarks.

During the Choosing, as they call it, a mysterious figure appears behind the Baron and hands him a letter before quickly disappearing again. Will, of course, being the curious one, finds a way to read the letter and finds out where his apprenticeship is going to be. The mysterious figure was Halt the Ranger. Rangers are a group of men who protect the fief they are assigned to but answer only to the king, not the local baron. They wear camouflage cloaks and use long bows as their main weapons, but also use a saxe knife and throwing knife. Their horses are bred better than all battle horses around the world. They master what normal people can only wish to reach amateur level at best. That's why everyone is so reluctant to get to know them. Will begins his apprenticeship and realizes that he really belonged with the Rangers.

I know I gave out a lot of information, but it was a given. Why else is it called *Ranger's Apprentice*? The first three books tie together to fill in about the war that is starting up again by the ex-Baron Morgarath. These first books are a bit on the fantasy side with evil troll-like creatures, but it laxes off in the remaining books. The other books show Will's rise in fame and the friendships he makes with other people while helping save other countries around the world from ruin.

Brotherband tells much the same story but about a group of outcasts from the country of Skandia, similar to Denmark and Norway when Vikings were around. They go on many adventures on their fast little ship, *The Heron.* In the first three books, they have to bring their honor back and save a precious artifact from pirates. In the fourth and fifth books, they are joined by a Ranger to save some Araluens from slavery and to save the princess, in a way. This story is really interesting since you can point out certain events that happened in the main series and can tell when they overlap with this series.

The Early Years fills in the plot holes from the main series during Halt and Crowley's travels trying to bring the Ranger Corps back from the brink of destruction by Baron Morgarath's want for power. Since only one book is out so far, only part of the story is completed, but we wait on baited breath for more of this fascinating story to come with more background details.

All in all, *Ranger's Apprentice* is worth the read. The books are short and easy, but keep the reader entangled in the elaborate planning and skills that are learned, but the best part of all is the humor. I'm a sucker for bad jokes and there are plenty of those to keep the readers rolling their eyes with a pained smile on their faces. There are a few that are actually really funny though! It isn't the main reason to read the series, of course. Nothing is more fulfilling than knowing that you were there to watch in your favorite character's accomplishments and failures. This is most definitely my favorite series ever. I highly recommend *Ranger's Apprentice.*

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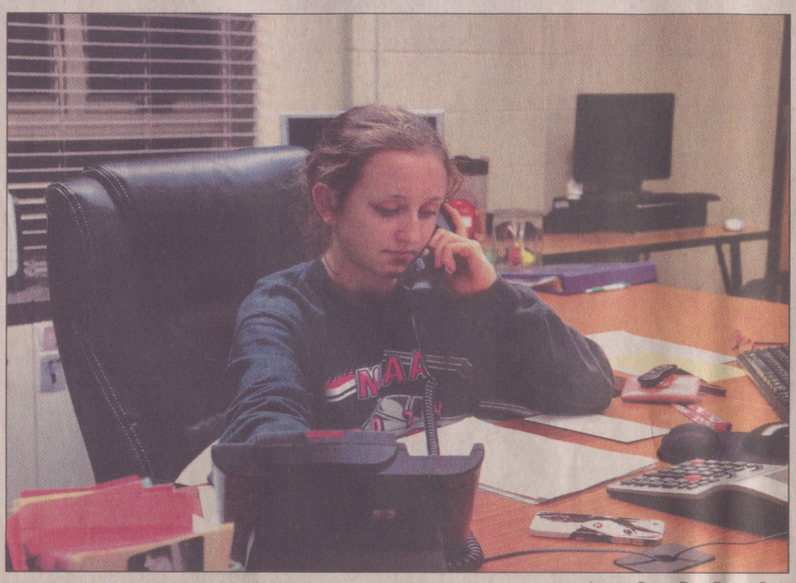
Fundraising initiates improvements



AMBERLY PARKER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Alyssa Kuta makes a phone call during her shift of the phonathon. Scotus has earned $58,503 so far for the Annual Appeal.

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

For the past couple years, many improvements have been made to the Scotus campus, but these projects can't happen on their own. Scotus has its own set of fundraisers to provide for the needs of the school.

Development Director John Schueth is in charge of the fundraising at Scotus.

"Fundraising is an invitation to participate in something that accomplishes great things," Schueth said.

Students help with the Annual Appeal by participating in the phonathon. The Annual Appeal is a fundraiser that helps purchase materials Scotus needs. Around 115 students helped with the phonathon this year. Members of student council, NHS, FBLA, and band are required to participate in it. They make phone calls to the alumni of Scotus and to people who have donated to the school in the past.

"People are interested in what the school is like and what's happening and oftentimes our donors will be engaged by that phone call," Schueth said.

Scotus has contacted over 1,700 people so far via mail, and as of November 25th, has raised around $58,500. The process of the entire Annual Appeal will not be complete until late spring.

The goal for the Annual Appeal is $65,000, and it will go toward many improvements to the school. Over half of the money raised will be used to pay for a new 7-9 passenger van for the students to travel to their activities. The rest of the funds will be used to buy new ceiling/LED lighting for the biology lab, a new auto-scrubber for the Dowd Activity Center floor, a hydraulic snow plow blade to clear off parking areas, and to refinish the floor of the Memorial Hall stage.

Scotus has another fundraiser called the Shamrock Lottery that takes place in the fall.

Students participated in the fundraiser by selling a packet of tickets to their family or friends. Three students this year won money from the early-bird drawings. They won cash prizes of $25, $50, and $100.

Each class had a chance at winning money as well. The class with the most students involved based on a percentage base had the chance to win $175 and four free books of tickets with the class name on it.

"They can put that money in their class fund and use that money for maybe prom or some project they may want to contribute to," Schueth said.

The funds from the Shamrock Lottery will help to buy new weight-lifting equipment for the weight room where a majority of the students can use it through P.E. and lifting for sports.

The Scotus Mothers' Club hosts many events including the Craft Boutique which was held on Sunday December 6th.

Several students helped with the boutique by setting up for it on the Friday before and selling food to the venders and customers.

This is the Mothers' club main fundraiser and proceeds also go directly to the needs of the school, per teacher request.

These are just a few of the fundraisers that Scotus has going on so far this year. There are some difficulties though with these kinds of fundraisers.

Many different organizations are also doing fundraisers, so there is a lot of competition between businesses.

"People are getting letters and phone calls or invitations to fundraising events almost daily. They have to decide 'What are the things that are important to me?' and choose the ones that they really

See **PHONE**, Page 2

Media Center doubles as healing center

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

When students and faculty enter the Media Center at Scotus there are three staple things: books, computers and at least one injured student comfortably studying while healing. The Media Center is known for housing students who cannot trudge up the three stories of stairs to their classes due to an injury or surgery.

Eighth grader Ryan Brandenburg has been in the Media Center since August. Brandenburg was involved in an ATV accident during the last week of summer which required scopes being put into his leg. He was not able to walk to classes until recently and only with crutches.

"The most difficult part of being in the MC is trying to understand classes without being in class," Brandenburg said.

Media Center Specialist Cathy Podliska watches over the injured students while they are in the Media Center.

"I take their lunch orders, escort them to classes, sometimes calling their teachers and being the middle man when they need to talk to teachers, and I make sure they stay on task," Podliska said.

Teachers head down during their free periods to explain lessons to the injured students. A new way for students to keep up is allowing a student who is in class to video chat or FaceTime the students in the MC.

See **STUDENTS**, Page 2

FBLA rakes up more than business

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

Tis' the season to be jolly, and the FBLA members have made the jolly season visible at Scotus. As students and teachers roam the halls, colors of green and red have decorated the doors and windows of class rooms, a Wednesday surprise the members treated the faculty to. But decorating is just one small event that FBLA does.

The Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members had a busy year ahead of them as they entered the fall of the 2015-2016 school year. The FBLA members work all year to prepare for their state competition called SLC (State Leadership Conference).

During these few days, the FBLA members take many tests over business topics like proofreading or computer application. The students take the tests against hundreds of other Nebraska FBLA members.

"On the third day, awards are handed out to the top test takers at SLC," senior Bailey Braun reported.

Members of FBLA can prepare for it as much as the student deems necessary. Practice tests are available for the students to take online. SLC does not take place until the spring, so until then the members of FBLA have not been all business and have been having a lot of fun.

The Scotus FBLA chapter has been putting on events for the Columbus and Scotus community since July. The members put on events both for fundraising for their state competition and for fun. The students are led by FBLA sponsor, Patti Salyard.

"We started planning during meetings this summer. Our first event was putting on Fourth of July activities at Meridian Gardens. [When the school year started], we made welcome back teacher gifts," Salyard said.

Junior Nikki Hiner said the teacher welcome back gifts has been the most fun event FBLA has put on this year.

"The officers did a lot of bonding, and you cannot have a strong team without bonding. You also can't be a strong leader without being a good team player with the other members," Heiner said.

FBLA is in charge of the concession stand at all of the home football games, they put on the annual pumpkin decorating contest, and they participated in a fall leadership conference. Some new events this year have been the Rake and Run activity and the Thanks for Giving week.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTI SALYARD

Junior Brady Miller and senior Justin Brockhaus rake up leaves at the FBLA "Rake and Run" with other FBLA members. The FBLA put on the "Rake and Run" to help elderly community members rake up fall leaves.

"The Rake and Run was a fun activity; we had a big group of people working together to help out elderly or disabled people in our community," Braun commented.

The FBLA members asked Saint Bonaventure for a list of elderly parishioners. After receiving the list, the members went to the houses, raked up all the fallen leaves, and put them in decorative bags for the home owners.

Junior Nathan Heimer has been participating in FBLA since his freshman year.

"I wanted to prepare myself for the future in business leadership. Everyone should join because the more people involved the more fun and exciting [FBLA] will be," Heimer said.

Salyard agreed, "We had a lot of freshman participate this year. It's really nice to get more kids involved because the more kids involved the more fun they can have doing things, and the more things they can do."

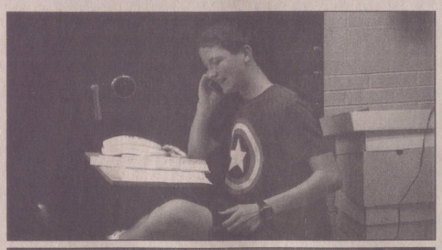
PHONE

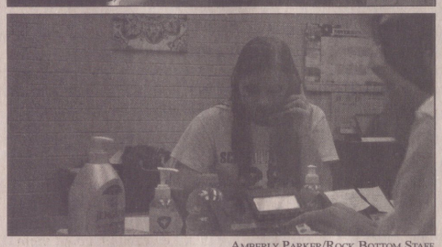
Continued from Page 1

want to support," Schueth said.

There are also a lot of perks of these fundraisers.

"We think that the more things we do, whether it is a fundraiser or having a play, or participating in sports, all those activities that bring people in to the school makes them feel good about the school," Schueth said. "It makes them feel like they are part of the school, and if they are part of the school, then hopefully they will support the school with donations or time or prayers or whatever they give."





AMBERLY PARKER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman Caleb Kosch (top) and Junior Alison Zoucha (bottom) contact Scotus alumni for donations during the phonathon. The phonathon is an annual event to raise money for school.

STUDENTS

Continued from Page 1

"Using FaceTime is something we started this year, Mrs. Novicki and Mrs. Rusher have used that to help the students be able to participate in class," Podliska added.

"We FaceTimed Logan [Bennett] while I was doing a presentation that I thought she needed to see. It was nice because she could see what we were doing and ask questions," freshmen English teacher Rusher commented.

Logan Bennett is a freshman who also has been learning from the Media Center due to a surgery on her knee. Bennett will be in the Media Center for the rest of the semester, with hopes of being able to go upstairs after Christmas Break.

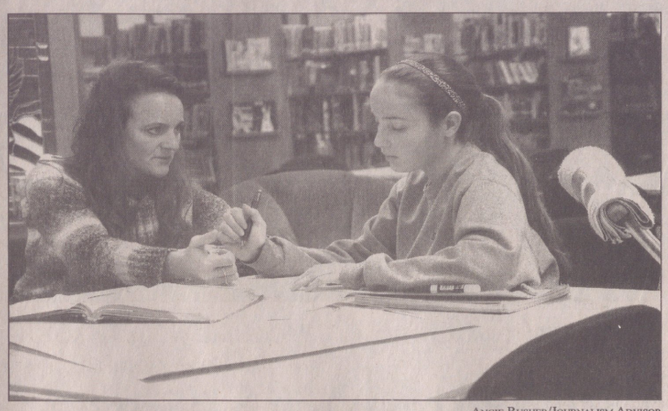
"The best way to keep up with classes while in the Media Center is using FaceTime or when classmates or teachers come down to the Media Center to explain," Bennett said.

Eighth graders Sydney Martinsen is also in the Media Center due to a surgery. Martinsen had surgery on her foot which put her in a boot. She is able to go to her first floor classes with the help of crutches or a friend.

"I'll be in the Media Center for somewhere between four and six weeks," Martinsen said.

Bennett and Brandenburg are in agreement that Scotus should invest in an elevator for the students so they don't have to stay out of the classroom for so long.

"The Media Center should also get reclining chairs so we can prop up our legs in the Media Center," Bennett suggested.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Math teacher Julie Blaser explains a lesson to injured student Logan Bennett in the Media Center. Bennett has been healing in the Media Center after undergoing knee surgery.

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Students overlook opportunities

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

There are many programs available for high school students looking to get a feel for what their future could look like, but many are unaware of them or not taking advantage of them.

In my opinion, not enough students are taking advantage of the programs offered to help them succeed in their future. Many students are blindly going into their careers and sometimes end up disliking them. Career or major switches can be saved through programs offered in our community that allow students a look at their future occupation.

One program that is offered through the Columbus Community Hospital to high school students is the VolunTEEN program. Through this program, students are allowed to do volunteer work at the hospital. This is a great program for people who are interested in the medical field because it gives the students a feel of what patient interaction is comparable to and what working at the hospital is similar to. The Columbus Community Hospital also allows students to shadow employees in the field they are interested in.

> ***"If you are still unsure what career you would like to pursue, a website that can help you is Nebraska Career Connections."***
>
> **~Emma Ruskamp**

Another program that is accessible through the Columbus Community Hospital is HOSA. HOSA is offered to seniors in high school interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. Through HOSA, students can experience hands on activities that allow them to get an understanding of what their future career could possibly look like. HOSA takes the students to workshops where they can participate in activities that they have an interest in. Some hands on activities that current HOSA members have practiced include behavioral sciences, nursing aid, physical therapy assistant, and forensic sciences.

If you are still unsure what career or you would like to pursue, a website that can help you is *Nebraska Career Connections*. This website allows students to take a test that explores their interests and helps them discover what career they might consider pursuing. It also allows students to explore colleges that best fit the student and has the best programs for what they want to study. This website also gives students information about applying for colleges, scholarships, and financial aid.

It's natural for students to be unsure what they want to do after high school, but if they would take the time to look into programs offered, they could make decisions with certainty.

Before deciding to go into your choice career, find out if you really like it. Volunteer or shadow through that job and you will soon find out if that is the career you would like to pursue or not.

Too connected to technology

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

I didn't get a smartphone until this summer (I know, I'm just getting caught up with the 21st century), and I actually survived that long without one (crazy, right?). I had a flip phone, and then I upgraded (if you can call it that) to a phone with a sliding keyboard. Finally, this summer, I decided to get with the program and acquire a smartphone.

Actually, not having a smartphone for so long taught me a lot about how people act around their friends when they do own a smartphone. People can be so anti-social when they have their phone constantly in their hand because they are always worried, like "Did I get another notification?" or, "ooh, that tweet is good, let me re-tweet that!" When you frequently check your phone, you send the message that the person in front of you that you're talking to is less important than the person in the virtual world who just updated their Snapchat.

> ***"We need to stop worrying about the latest post, update, and tweet because we are becoming more isolated."***
>
> **~Gabby Middendorf**

Another thing about talking to people through text is that we lose some of what they are trying to say. When I'm texting someone, and all of a sudden they don't respond, I have a mental freak out. Did I ask the wrong question? Was that question too nosy? Did something happen to their relationship that I'm the only one in the whole school to not know about? It usually happens that they just fell asleep or put their phone down and nothing dramatic happened.

We need to stop worrying about the latest post, update, and tweet because we are becoming more isolated. According to *The Atlantic*, loneliness is at an all-time high, and I believe that a big part of this is our constant focus on the screen in our hands. We lose track of the people around us, and miss out on our everyday lives because of that little piece of technology that almost all of us own.

Spending too much time on social media produces envy, as well. Even though we might not want to admit it, everyone portrays themselves in a glorified light on social media, and that makes us jealous and discontent with the life that we have.

We also need to get our head out of our phones because we are losing our relationships with others. I know that I'm a big culprit of being too focused on my phone because I'll be on my phone, and my little sister will smack me and ask, "Were you even listening?" Come to find out she was telling me about her day, and I was too absorbed in social media to listen to her.

Yes, technology is wonderful, helpful, and makes getting ahold of friends really easy, but everything in moderation, peeps.

We are only around our family for a few more years, then we are off in college and beyond, so let's challenge each other to get off our phones and stay in the moment with those around us.

Less is more

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

In grade school, everyone has a best friend. They have necklaces and friendships bracelets, which means they will be BFF's forever. Then, when they come to Scotus, they may still be friends with that person, but they tend to widen their varieties and have a ton of friends.

Seventh grade is the year where everyone wants to be popular. They want everyone to like them so that they can be known as the "cool kids." They never hang out with the same people all the time, and it sometimes gets to be too much. When this happens, they don't get to know their friends on a personal level. They learn maybe what sports they play or how many people are in their family. Although this is good information, this isn't enough to really be long-term friends.

I believe it is better to be really good friends with just a few people instead of having fifty friends that you barely know anything about.

Being friends with so many people can sometimes be a bad thing. I have had situations where there has been such a big group of friends that it gets to be too much to invite twenty people to one house. If this is the case, you can't invite everyone all the time. This causes controversy because some friends think you don't want to be friends with them anymore and this all causes a lot of drama that can be avoided.

This can be avoided by being good friends with only a select amount of people. This doesn't mean to isolate yourself from everyone else, but being friends with a few people you can actually get to know really well. This also doesn't mean that you can only be friends with two or three people. You can still be friends with other people; I think it is better to have a few close friends that you can tell everything to and have a lot of fun with.

Being friends with a small group can be beneficial. It helps with the drama because you know who you are going to hang out with, and no one is angry about it. It is easier to go places with them because first of all, you can fit them all in one car, and there isn't an overwhelming amount of people at the same place. Being in a small group helps with conversation. If you have too many people over, then you end up having four different conversations between everyone and that helps nobody. Some of the people start to think that a few people from the group don't want to talk to everybody else, and learning from experience, this causes major drama. Being in a small group helps by making memories with only a few people that they can talk about them with for a long time.

I was very lucky in the past couple years to find the very best of friends. We have so much fun with each other, and there is never a dull moment. We have a lot in common with each other, and we are in a lot of the same activities and sports together. I know that they are people I can be friends with after high school as well.

Having only a few friends that you can get to really know will help you when you get out of high school. I think that we can all admit that when people graduate from high school, they only have a certain group of friends. You know that they are friends with a lot of people but are only close friends with a few. These are the people that you will still be friends with in college and will hopefully for a long time.

I really hope that everyone finds a good group of friends like I have in high school. I encourage all of you to find those friends that you can really get to know and have a ton of fun with.

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

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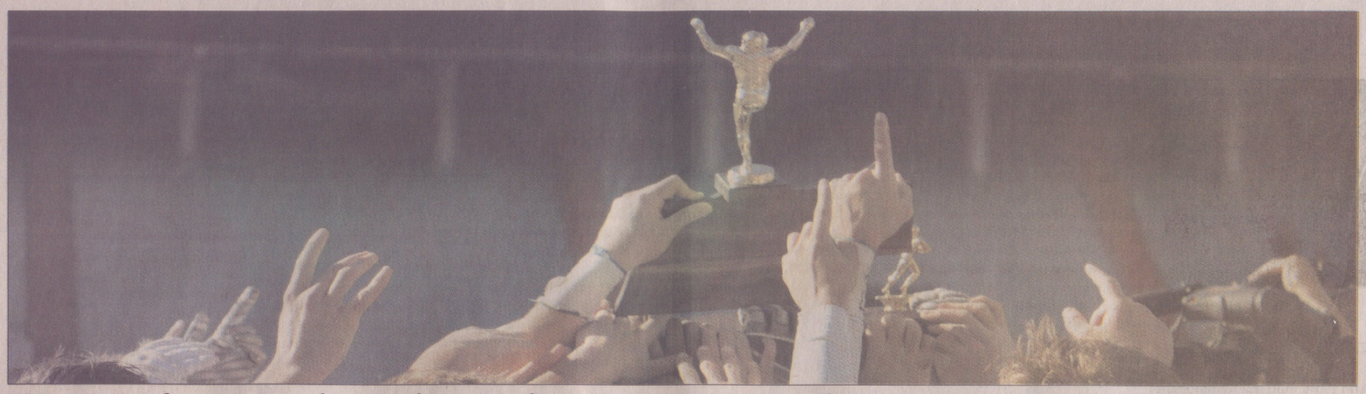


Senior-led Shamrocks take State

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

On November 24th, 2015, the Scotus Central Catholic football team won its first state championship in 22 years, defeating the Norfolk Catholic Knights by a final score of 32-27.

"We went into the game more confident than the other team, and it showed," senior captain Cole Harrington said.

The team reached the state final with a record of 11-1. Their only loss came midseason against the Wahoo Warriors. Senior tight end Jackson Kumpf knew the schedule that the Shamrocks played was valuable for the team's success.

"Our schedule put us in situations time and time again that challenged what we do," Kumpf stated. "By the time the state final came around, we felt we were able to combat every situation properly."

The Shamrocks played one of the most challenging schedules in all of Class C-1. Eight of the team's twelve opponents finished the season with winning records. The team handed eventual Class C-2 State Champion Aquinas its only loss of the season.

The Shamrocks' opponent in the final was the undefeated Norfolk Catholic Knights. They came into the game led by their All-State running backs, David Engelhaupt and Dylan Kautz. Engelhaupt has already committed to Wyoming to play college football at the Division I level. Kautz, a freshman, ran the nation's fastest 200 meter dash as an 8th grader.

"We knew we had to identify their playmakers and try to limit their big plays," senior linebacker Marcus Dodson commented.

The atmosphere was electric as the 3,000+ fans in attendance anticipated the opening kickoff. The Shamrocks got off to a fast start, forcing the Knights to a 3-and-out on the first drive. On the ensuing punt, Engelhaupt fumbled the snap and was taken down on his own 9-yard line. One play later, senior running back Baeley Pelster blasted into the end zone to put the Shamrocks up 7-0.

"We knew our run offense would be good," Bos agreed. "We just had to play like we always do."

The Shamrocks added one more touchdown before the end of the first quarter, but a missed extra point made the score 13-0. From there, the Knights made their run. After an errant six-yard punt, the Knights finally had favorable field position. They responded with a 17-yard touchdown pass from Myles Vrbka to Matt Miller.

"Everyone knew they were going to make big plays," senior center Sam Novicki said. "We just had to make more."

The Knights scored once more with 42 seconds remaining in the half to seemingly take a 14-13 lead into halftime. However, the Shamrocks weren't quite done. Long runs by Spenceri and Bos marched the offense down to the 1-yard line with 9 seconds left.

Harrington punched the ball in on a counter-sweep; after a failed two-point conversion, the Rocks led 19-13 at halftime.

"That last second TD really made us realize we were capable of scoring quick," Harrington said. "It was the turning point."

The third quarter was all about Jake Bos. The All-State senior booted two field goals of 42 and 53 yards to put the Shamrocks up 25-14 after three quarters. The latter was an all-class record: longest field goal by a high schooler in Memorial Stadium.

"Jake Bos's field goals were huge! That was what won the game!" senior guard Caleb Ostdiek said.

The fourth quarter was a tension-filled comeback effort from Norfolk Catholic. The Knights opened the quarter with a 90-yard touchdown bomb from Vrbka to Engelhaupt to make the score 25-20. Harrington ran the ball in from four yards out for his second touchdown shortly after to push the Shamrock lead to 32-20.

"The team morale was never really down," Harrington commented. "We only trailed for 37 seconds in the whole game."

Englehaupt scored his third touchdown of the game with 4:52 left on the scoreboard to cut it to 32-27. After a Shamrock punt, the Knights had one last chance to take the lead with a game-winning drive with no timeouts. Bos, along with sophomore linebacker Matt Strecker, forced Engelhaupt to fumble, and the Shamrocks recovered to seal the game.

The victory vindicated the team's season-long efforts, which started long before the actual season started.

"Lifting in the summer, two-a-day practices, and even practicing on Saturdays all sucked," Novicki said. "But we knew if we wanted to be the best it had to be done, and right now it feels pretty dang good to be the best."

Senior linebacker Justin Zoucha concluded, "We spent countless hours in the film room and on the practice field. It all began in July and carried all the way through November, but it was all worth it. The ability to work harder and put in more hours than any other team in the state won us this title."

The Shamrock football team finished the season with a final record of 12-1.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Head coach Tyler Linder signals his respect to the fans after the game. Linder's Shamrocks won the first state football championship for the school in 22 years.

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Senior wingback Baeley Pelster sprints to the outside past a Norfolk Catholic defender. Pelster scored the first touchdown of the game against the Knights.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Senior Megan Meyer, junior Alayna Wilson, and sophomore Faith Przymus lead the Scotus fanbase in a cheer during the State Championship game.

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Senior fullback Jake Bos stiff-arms his defender in the first half of the State Final on November 24th. Bos captained the team to a 32-27 victory.

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Senior Savannah Robertson twirls her flag at Memorial Stadium. The flag corps performed at the halftime of the State Championship game.

Ho,ho, NO! The true meaning of Christmas

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Holiday season is here! And I am annoyed. Of course anyone can tell you that Olivia Rath is annoyed, and no one would be shocked.

Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas, but everyone forgets about the holidays building up to it. I walked into Hobby Lobby and saw Christmas decorations out and set up… IN MAY.

By Halloween I feel like I've seen tons of ads for Christmas, so by the end of November I don't really feel like getting into the Christmas spirit.

The day after Halloween some people are setting up the manger scene, putting up the lights, and decorating the Christmas tree. This is wrong; please be normal and decorate at least after Thanksgiving. As Christians we waited for Jesus' birth, we can also wait until the appropriate time to start decorating.

Christmas is about joy, love, and giving presents; Thanksgiving is a holiday that is almost a warm up to Christmas. During Thanksgiving families come together to be thankful for their fruitful year, and most importantly stuff their faces with food. Not even the next day people tear one another apart for a pair of boots (I've seen from personal experience.) Black Friday is a good way to get a start on buying presents for great deals, but when you're calling someone out the day after we sit around being content with everything we have, there is definitely a problem.

Along with shopping for great deals, parents are struck with a problem for not only finding presents for their kids they'll like, but also presents for grandma and grandpa they haven't already given them. Presents are becoming as extravagant as promposals. It's getting ridiculous. A ten year old does not need an iPad Air, just like a teenager does not need the latest rose gold iPhone 6s when their plain gold iPhone 6 works just fine.

This Christmas, instead of buying family members excessively expensive presents, use that money to buy presents for parents who aren't fortunate enough to be able to buy presents for their family this year. Plus, you can give your parents and grandparents a much more valuable gift of your time.

This Christmas instead of being an evil human being and decorating too early, attacking people for good deals, and being a brat by demanding ridiculously expensive presents, enjoy the time you have with your siblings, parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles. I'm not saying the days are numbered, but you really never know how long you have with your family members. Christmas is the perfect time to cherish these moments. So "Merry Christmas ya' filthy animals!"

10 things no one knows about Christmas

Sources: -http://www.history.com/topics/christmas/history-of-christmas -https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/12/24/jingle-bells-written-for-thanksgiving/

What is your favorite part of the holidays?

"Christmas because I like the long break off of school."

-Christina Oakley
7th grade

"Going out duck and goose hunting with friends and family on Christmas morning because there's nothing better than hunting on a cold, Christmas morning."

-Seth Gutzmer
senior

"I get to eat a lot of food and hang with my family."

-McKenna Spenceri
sophomore

"My favorite part of the holidays is my family coming over because I don't get to see them a lot."

-Kaden Young
7th grade

"My favorite part of the holidays is the food because there is always so much to eat."

Jacey Clarey
8th grade

"The food/desserts. My family is so big there is no limit to the food we get to eat! "

-Konner Kudron
freshman

Music makes or breaks the season

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Christmas is right around the corner and it's like a tidal wave crashing down on a poor citizen on the streets. As soon as it hits midnight on November 27th, Christmas is everywhere. Along with such an event, the first to be heard is the Christmas music.

Christmas songs are all over, but depending on what radio station or what department store or what your mom has laying around the house, there are a bunch of different types. For example, there are orchestral, lyrical, medleys, and remakes upon remakes,.

When a person is asked what their favorite Christmas song is, they usually have a lot of thinking to do, so they just say something along the lines of "there are too many to choose from!" But there is also that group of people that say what their least favorite song is. That list usually ends up being the easiest to put together.

When it comes to Christmas music, the formal version is orchestral. Orchestral is just the instrumental versions of songs that are good for formal parties with grandparents or people like that. They aren't as exciting but people still listen to them. Some popular groups that do songs like this are Trans-Siberian Orchestra and Manheim Steamroller. Everyone can't help but rock out when "Christmas Eve/ Sarajevo 12/24" starts blaring over the loud speakers. Orchestral music can get a bit boring, especially the classic versions, but people still listen to them. The real question is, is "Carol of the Bells" with or without lyrics?

Lyrical songs are the most common type of Christmas songs and the most diverse at that. They can come in different languages either than the language a person usually listens to songs. The preferable type of songs are different depending on the person. It can either be the classics or the newer versions of said classics that we love so dearly. Classics could be like Burl Ives singing "Holly Jolly Christmas", Bing Crosby's "White Christmas", Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", and Elvis Presley's "Blue Christmas." A popular song that is not in English is "Feliz Navidid" which is a Spanish song for those who don't know. Lyrical songs aren't just limited to classics though. Pentatonix released a new CD not too long ago full of new classics.

Remakes are all the buzz now. With CD after CD flying off the shelves, it's nonstop. For the newer generations, remakes are perfect for the younger ears to get a taste for Christmas music from their favorite musicians. Remakes are also good so people can hear a new twist to old favorites. They aren't the best though when it comes to losing sight of the classics that made the songs famous in the first place.

Christmas music is one of the most diverse sections of music around. So enjoy the season with this large variety of wonderful music and have a Happy Holiday!

Athletes need balance

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

Around this time every year, people let the holidays consume them. Every waking moment is spent buying gifts, decorating, and gathering families together. The holidays become everything that's important, and that's not necessarily a bad thing, but what about when this logic is applied to sports?

Athletic competition is a huge part of what humans do in the early years of their lives. Some are born with the gifts to actually compete on varying levels of skill and age. Others are raised die-hard supporters of certain sports teams. In some way, athletics influence just about everybody.

That being said, everybody has control over the amount of influence it has. I think that people let sports influence their lives way too much.

If you're competing, you can choose to commit your entire life to your sports. There's nothing wrong with that; that's how many professional athletes begin their journeys. However, this should be done with caution and a realistic approach. According to the NCAA website, only 6.7% of high school athletes go on to participate in college athletics. There's nothing wrong with trying to perform the best that you possibly can. Athletics can teach great lessons regarding work ethic, teamwork, and responsibility. However, academics should be equally (if not more) important in high school. Both require a huge time commitment and relentless work ethic. I think it would be wise for many high school athletes to think about how much they are really committing to athletics and maybe bring more of their focus to academics.

The same goes for cheering on your favorite sports team. We live in Nebraska, where the state university's football team is one of the most debated topics of conversation in any given situation. To be a Husker fan is fun and obviously a normal part of growing up in the Midwest. However, some fans could do with taking it down a notch. There are some people that could be reminded that no matter how loud you yell, the coaches and players cannot hear you through the television screen. Does Tommy Armstrong really deserve your hate mail letters after his performance against Iowa? Maybe fans could encourage him as he looks forward to the bowl game and his senior season instead of blasting him with ridicule.

That's another thing. People in general let sports dictate their personal behavior all too often. As an Iowa Hawkeye fan in Nebraska, I know firsthand the ways in which people care too much about sports. I've been called every name in the book by many overzealous Husker fans. Honestly, I get that people are passionate about their teams, but are they really worth taking personal and sometimes hurtful jabs at one another? It's just not worth it.

Athletics are a significant and necessary part of young adulthood. That being said, I want to caution everyone about the stock we put into their sports lives. It's fine to have a passion for athletics, but it's also healthy to calm down and remember what's really important in our day-to-day lives.

Basketball starts off competitively

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Scotus boys' basketball came out on top Thursday, December 3rd when they beat the preseason number one seed in Class C-2, Hastings St. Cecilia.

They came away with a victory by three points with only a few practices under their belts because of state football.

Head varsity coach Jeff Ohnoutka said, "We had a shorter time to try and get ready for the game, and that was tough because that first game was a very difficult opponent. We have an experienced basketball team with guys that have been playing since they were freshmen, and that made that transition easier."

On December 8th, the basketball team handily beat Guardian Angels Central Catholic 60-40.

Sam Suoyi/Media Staff

Senior Jackson Kumpf drives to the rim against GACC. The boys defeated the Bluejays 60-40.

Junior Cody Mroczek said, "Our chemistry and defense will win us a lot of games."

They play nine games at home this season and also host the Holiday Tournament. They hope to come away with a 3-peat after dominating the Holiday Tournament the previous two years.

Ohnoutka said, "We'll play Schuyler in the first round with Lakeview and Twin River on the other side. Hopefully we'll come back fresh from the five days we take off over Christmas and come back and be re-energized a little bit, and see if we can win that thing at home."

The Scotus girls' basketball team has had a tough start to the season playing Hastings St. Cecilia and Guardian Angels Central Catholic.

Senior Jessica Lahm said, "We play some of the best teams in the entire state for our class, so we are challenged early. Hopefully these losses help us with the rest of the season."

The girls' basketball team hosts the holiday tournament as well defending their title.

Senior Emily Fehringer said, "We have really good team chemistry, and I think that is really important. It can take us a long way, and that is key to our success."

The Shamrocks are fighting through adversity, and practicing hard to achieve success and excellence.

Senior varsity player Sarah Schumacher said, "I am excited to play in games that we aren't expected to win and prove to people that we are a good basketball team."

On Friday, December 11th, both Shamrock teams picked up victories against Grand Island Central Catholic. The girls won by a score of 42-32, and the boys beat GICC 44-26.

Both Shamrock teams take on Omaha Concordia tonight.

Swim starts season strong

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

The CHS swim and dive team started their season with a win over Fremont in a dual on December 3rd. The boys took down Fremont with 124 points to Fremont's 73, and the girls also defeated Fremont 107-92.

A big change to swim team this year is the number of swimmers out from Scotus. Last year, there were only four members from Scotus, but this year there are ten.

"I was worried last year about the Scotus turnout because only four Scotus students went out, but this year, we added eight new swimmers," senior Hannah Thomazin said.

Thomazin led the win by taking first in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:08.76. She was also second in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:29.55.

"We have a lot of new swimmers, so the team is still trying to get a feel of things and the competition again Fremont was a good opener to the season," Thomazin said.

Senior Kelsey Wiehn is a first time swimmer and was an alternate for the Fremont Invitational.

"I decided to go out for swim because I need to get in shape for soccer and swimming is a great way to do that. I'm learning to do something I've never done before or imagined myself doing," Wiehn said.

Along with three other Columbus High swimmers, sophomore Chase Andresen took second in the 200 Freestyle relay. Andresen was also named Swimmer of the Meet.

"I performed way above my expectations because I didn't think I was going to do well. I got my best times ever with only going to two practices," Andresen said.

The swim team is joined with Columbus High, and they practice twice a day, all season, from 5:30 to 7 A.M. and 4 to 6 after school.

"Getting up at 5 every day to make it to 5:30 practice in the morning is rough, but my teammates help make it bearable," Thomazin said.

Practice started on November 16, and the swimmers practice at the Aquatic Center.

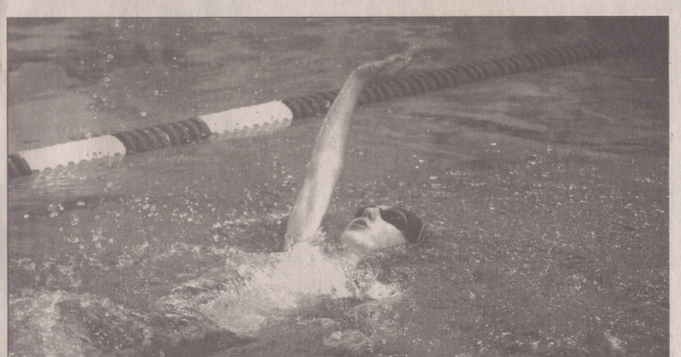
"It's a hard transition from any sport to the next. Coach started the season by easing us into practices, but we're starting to get into more yardage now," Thomazin commented.

With several returning swimmers from both Columbus High and Scotus, the team has high hopes for the rest of the season.

"It'd be super awesome to have both the 200 Medley relay and the 200 free relay qualify for state. Last year, my relay team was less than a half second from qualifying in both relays, so we're really pushing for the relays to qualify for state this year," Thomazin concluded.

On December 12th, the team placed 5th at the Columbus Relays, finishing with a final score of 45 points.

The swim team competes in Elkhorn on December 18th.



Emma Ruskamp/Rock Bottom Staff

Freshman Elliott Thomazin competes in the backstroke at the Invitational on December 3rd. Columbus won the meet with a score of 124.

Experience leads wrestlers

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

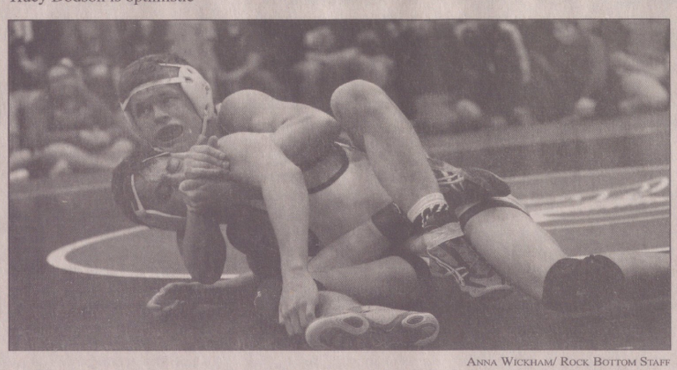
The Shamrocks started off their wrestling season experienced with seven returning state qualifiers and one state champion. The Rocks are looking to continue their successes and make a run for an individual or a team state championship. Head coach Tracy Dodson is optimistic for the team's future.

"We laid the tracks in 2014-15 season and are now working on getting our train to Omaha with as many wrestlers as we can. When you have kids with great attitudes and work ethic, anything is possible. We prepared well this past spring and summer by wrestling hard and a having a solid weight lifting season," Dodson said.

The Shamrocks competed at the Lakeview Invitational on December 4th. The Rocks finished second, just shy of first behind North Bend by nine points. Eight athletes wrestled in the finals.

Senior Seth Gutzmer won his 182 weight class.

"I won by pinning my opponents. I beat a kid from Wayne who was preseason ranked fourth in class B. I was excited," Gutzmer said.



Anna Wickham/ Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Layton Mullinix works to pin his opponent at the Shamrocks' first meet of the year at Lakeview. The Rocks placed second at the Lakeview Invitational.

The wrestlers came back on Monday to defeat Mt. Michael at their home meet.

This is the Rocks' fourth wrestling season. Even though the program is young, there are high expectations.

"We are pushing ourselves to finish in the top three teams at the state tournament this year and be a top three dual team. Last year we finished sixth place in class B, and we're looking for more improvements. This year, we will also have some senior leadership to build upon for future years of the Scotus wrestling program which will help strengthen our program," Dodson said.

Senior Alec Foltz was state champion last year in the 145 pound division.

"I've been wrestling hard at practice and getting into better shape. I'm already looking forward to state, and I want to be a contender for another individual title, but more importantly, I want my team to make a run for the state championship," Foltz said.

Last year, Foltz along with Marcus Dodson and Mason Brandenburg earned their hundredth wins. This year, there are two others that can reach the hundred milestone as well.

"Both senior Seth Gutzmer and junior Layton Mullinix should reach their hundredth win this year. They've been working hard," Dodson said. "The returning seniors who have a hundred wins should be able to see their one-hundred fiftieth win this season if they stay healthy."

Mullinix qualified for state both his freshman and sophomore year.

"I want to go to state again this year, but I want to place in the top three. I'm most looking forward to getting my hundredth win," Mullinix said.

The Shamrock wrestlers competed in the Nebraska duals on Saturday, December 12th. They finished with a final record of 7-3.

The wrestling team will travel to the Logan View Invite for their last competition of the 2015 year on December 19th.

Fall Sports Wrap-Up

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

Scotus Central Catholic is a school that prides itself on excellence in every area of education. This has been evident in the first season of NSAA athletic competitions.

The football team's regular season successes earned it the number one seed in the State Playoffs.

The volleyball team continued its historic tradition of success with a regular season record of 21-6.

The cross country teams both competed well at all of their meets this year, with more than a few individual successes as well.

All of the junior high sports teams performed at a high level, proving the future bright.

All in all, the Scotus athletic programs displayed their normal levels of excellence. The year should continue to be a successful one as Scotus transitions into winter sports.

To take a look back at the fall sports, here are each team's seasons at a glance.

Cross Country

The cross country teams continued their tradition as top teams in Class C this season. The boys' team finished the season with a record of 113-7. The girls' team closed out with a final record of 89-26.

One of the highlights of the season was the boys defeating eventual State Champion Milford at the Aquinas Invitational. The girls also won an important meet, taking first at the Wahoo Invitational.

Juniors Nathan Ostdiek and Kaylee Tonniges were the leading scorers for each team, and each performed well at the state meet. Ostdiek finished as the Class C Runner-Up, and Tonniges led the girls team with a 29th place finish.

The junior high teams also succeeded in their season's endeavors. One highlight was 7th grader Olivia Fehringer placing 1st at four different meets.

Softball

The Columbus High/ Scotus softball team battled their way through a tough schedule all year. There were seven Scotus athletes out for softball: seniors Savannah Robertson and Emma Zeller, juniors Emily Hand and Megan Ohnoutka, and sophomores Ellie Bock, Marika Spencer and Tessa Bridger.

"We were a very close team," Hand commented. "We were super successful because of it."

The team had a fast start to the season, winning ten of their first fifteen games. Sophomore Marika Spencer was a key performer for the team. Her final homerun total was six, which was one short of the school season record.

One highlight of the season was a series sweep of the Grand Island High School softball team.

The team finished the year at districts, where they fell to the number one seed, Millard South, 0-12.

Tennis

The Columbus High/ Scotus boys' tennis team had a historically successful season. There were five Scotus athletes out: senior Dana Hoppe, juniors Matt Hoenk, Brady Miller, and Zach Svehla, and sophomore Matthew Bichlmeier.

Matt Hoenk and his doubles partner, CHS junior Seth Stirek, broke the school record for most #1 doubles wins in a season. Dana Hoppe and his partner also broke the #2 doubles wins record. Junior Brady Miller went undefeated in JV singles play.

"My favorite part of the season was the competitiveness at practice," Hoenk stated. "Everyone from the bottom to the top helped each other out."

The team finished the season with a dual record of 3-3.

"It was a great experience from beginning to end," Hoppe concluded.

Volleyball

The Scotus Central Catholic volleyball team continued its historic tradition of success this season, returning to the State Tournament for the thirtieth time after a regular season campaign of 21-6. The Shamrocks obtained the number four seed after defeating Aquinas, Lakeview, and Lincoln Christian in substate play. In their first round match, they swept Ogallala 22-12, 25-20, and 25-18. Their semifinal match against one seed Kearney Catholic was a five-set thriller. The Rocks eventually fell 22-25, 25-23, 25-12, 16-25, and 14-16. In the consolation match against second seed Chadron, the Shamrocks claimed 4th place in Class C-1, falling three sets to one.

Football

The Scotus Central Catholic football team won its first state championship in twenty-two years, defeating Norfolk Catholic 32-27 in the state final. Led by a group of twenty returning seniors, the Shamrocks grounded and pounded their way through the playoffs, throwing the ball no more than ten times in one game.

It was a season to remember, capped off by an unforgettable victory in Lincoln's Memorial Stadium.

The new banner is already hanging in the Dowd Activity Center, a championship photo has been taken, and the team had a banquet on Sunday to celebrate.

For more on the team and the state final, see page 4.

Shamrock bragging rights for fall:
4 District Championships
1 State Championship
2 US Cellular Cups

Thespians add activities

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Excellence is something that is talked about all the time at Scotus. It is something that Mr. Morfeld never seems to stop talking about and something that students are constantly striving for. Speeches on excellence accompany pep rallies, and achievements of this excellence decorate the hallways. One way that excellence is displayed at Scotus is through theatre. Thespians is a national group that recognizes the excellence of students in theatre. Scotus Thespian Troupe 1909 has been active at Scotus for years.

The Thespians are beginning what looks to be an exciting year. However, the future did not always look so bright for the group.

"At the beginning of the year, we didn't know if we would be able to keep our group going because we didn't have a sponsor, but we have some dedicated seniors who did a great job communicating with our teachers and Mr. Morfeld. They were able to find us a sponsor, Mrs. Novicki, and arrange meeting times for us," senior member Megan Parker said.

The Thespians have made a few changes to their group this year. One major change is a new sponsor for the group, English instructor Anne Novicki. Novicki, however, is no stranger to the theatre.

"I was never an actress myself, but my sister and brother are both very active in the theatre. Both have been in plays and both of them have actually been in pretty popular movies, so when the kids asked, I was pretty interested," Novicki said.

Novicki's role in the group has been minimal due to strong leadership of its members.

"The kids really are taking complete leadership with this. I am just the facilitator. I play a very small role in their plans. They are great leaders, and I really don't need to initiate anything. They have great plans." Novicki said.

There are currently fourteen seniors in Thespians.

"This year I think all the seniors are doing a pretty good job of letting their opinions be heard, meanwhile letting our co-presidents, Olivia and Lydia, make decisions," Parker said.

These leadership styles have brought organization and structure to the group.

"We are having more regular meetings than years in the past. Before, it was sporadic and they didn't meet until it was necessary," junior member Cameron Swanson said.

Another goal of the Thespian group this year is make their group more active.

"Until the past couple of years, Thespians did nothing but initiate new members, but now Thespians plans many new events and is a much more active program," vice president Jared Hanson said.

Already this year the group has put on one improv night and Trick-or-Treat-So-Tots-Can-Eat. They also have planned quite a few events for the upcoming year.

"We are organizing more improv nights, which are evenings where we play various acting/improv games and are open to all students in grades seven to twelve. We are also planning on having a theatre day camp for elementary students. Within our troupe, we have movie nights and go to college performances, such as the Hastings College play that Carly Cremers is in," Thespian co-president Lydia Schaecher said.

Thespians have been putting on a student-directed spring play for several years. They plan to organize a spring play again this year.

Novicki concluded, "I'm just really looking forward to the rest of the year and all of the activities that these great leaders have."

Olivia Rath/ Newspaper Staff

Thespians (clockwise from left) Lydia Schaecher, Naomi Kosch, Cameron Swanson, Jared Hanson, Megan Parker, Courtney Brockhaus, Gabby Middendorf, and Olivia Rath pose with Hastings College student, Carly Cremers, who graduated from Scotus in 2015. The students traveled to Hastings to watch Cremers as one of their activities this year.

State Mock Trial

Amberly Parker/ Newspaper Staff

Junior mock trial member Courtney Flint answers questions as a witness at the district competition. The junior team placed fifth at state.

Junior team takes fifth at state

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

Scotus students recently converged in the court room. Luckily, no one was in any trouble.

The junior mock trial team traveled to the federal courthouse in Omaha for the state competition on December 8th and 9th. The Scotus juniors won the district tournament last month to earn their spot competing with the top twelve teams in the state. However, the team was undaunted by their opponents.

"State was definitely easier than I had anticipated. There really weren't many things that came up that we hadn't expected," attorney Haley Faust said.

Her team members echoed Faust's sentiments.

"State was easier than I expected. I thought the teams were going to be way above us," attorney Zach Svehla said.

The junior team was confident in their talent and ability to contend with other teams.

"The first round, we went up again Duchesne Academy, who won state and nationals last year," attorney Megan Schumacher said. "They were good, but I really think we compete to the level of our opponents. I think we did pretty well in that match."

To prepare for the state competition, the juniors worked hard to perfect their cases.

> ***"My most memorable part of state was the banquet held the night after the first day of competition. I thought it was a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed the trivia game all twelve teams played in."***
>
> ***~Hannah Mielak***

"We practiced every Sunday for 2-4 hours. It takes a lot of practice to get everything ready," Svehla said.

The state competition spanned two days. Each team competed twice on the first day and once on the second, switching between plaintiff and defense. State was more than just rivalry in the courtroom, though.

"My most memorable part of state was the banquet held the night after the first day of competition," witness Hannah Mielak said. "I thought it was a lot of fun, and I really enjoyed the trivia game all twelve teams played in."

To release tensions from the day and promote goodwill between the teams, there was a formal banquet the first night of the tournament. After dinner, there was a little competition outside of the courtroom. Teams fought to get their hands in the air first during a trivia game about the case. Mock trial cases are complex with many details, and the trivia game tested the knowledge and understanding of every team.

State Mock Trial is unique in the fact that the results of the competition are not known until at least one day afterward. The Scotus juniors waited anxiously for the outcome this past Thursday. They found out after school that they finished fifth out of twelve teams. This is the best Scotus has done at state since 2012.

"My team did very well at the state competition," Faust said. "We went up against the teams that placed first and third which was tough, but we ended up placing fifth. We were very pleased."

The team is happy to end the season on a good note.

"I am really proud of my team," Faust concluded. "We have worked really hard to get where we are today, and I am glad that all of that hard work has paid off."

Fiesta on wheels: Columbus taco trucks review

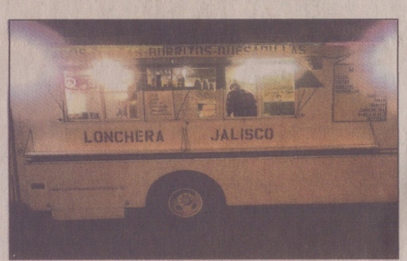
Rock Bottom staff reporter Amy Heusinkvelt visited five local taco trucks to bring you the scoop on cool places to get hot eats.

Lonchera Jalisco

Location: A&W parking lot
Overall Rating: 9.5/10

After careful thought and deliberation, La Lonchera Jalisco has been awarded the distinguished honor of Best Taco Truck in Town by the Rock Bottom Staff. The *only* drawback to this delicious and heavenly truck is that it is only open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. However, the taste is worth the limited availability. When I first pulled up to the truck with Olivia Rath by my side, I was a little wary. It was a Saturday night and there were lots of people there already. I didn't have high expectations for the truck since I figured no truck could beat La Riviera. How wrong I was. The lady working the window was nice and helpful even though it was obvious she was very busy. She patiently helped Olivia and I figure out our orders and answered every question we had. While our food did not come terribly quickly, we were fifth in line behind several huge orders and there were only three employees in the truck. The smell while we waited for our feast was divine. Scents from my chicken quesadilla and Olivia's burrito wafted through the window and tickled our nostrils. The wait was literally (almost) unbearable. When the beautiful and perfect woman handed us our food, we dug in right away. I don't know if there are words on this earth to describe how delectable that food was. We were speechless for a few moments. I knew instantly this truck was the winner. My quesadilla had a perfect ratio of chicken to cheese and my lettuce and tomatoes on the side were incredibly fresh. Olivia's shredded beef burrito was, to quote her, "YAAAASSSS." Everything was wonderful. It was not too greasy, but greasy enough to be delicious. Not too hot to eat, but hot enough to be scrumptious. As soon as we finished stuffing our faces, we went back up to the truck to give our compliments to the chef. Food as delicious as this deserves praise, and a truck as wonderful as this deserves customers. So next time you and your friends get the grumblies in your tummies on the weekends, hit up La Lonchera Jalisco.

A haiku about Lonchera Jalisco
Wow this is so good.
I think that I am in love.
Eat this all day long.



La Riviera

Location: Clock Tower Court
Overall Rating: 8/10

The first impression of this truck is a very pleasant one. The façade is very professional and sleek. The inside of the truck – from what we could see – was very clean and sanitary looking. As members of the Rock Bottom staff and I walked up to the window, we were greeted with a pleasant smile and friendly face. The customer service was on point and the employee was very helpful. La Riviera has a wide range of options for a taco truck. It boasts delicious tacos, burritos, nachos, quesadillas, and a caboodle of other Mexican foods, all muy delicioso. The smell wafting from the truck as we waited for our dinner was heavenly, as was our food. With the exception of one plate of mildly cold nachos, all the comida was hot and enjoyable, with quality ingredients and large portion sizes. While we did wait a while for our food, the truck was booming that afternoon, with several carloads of people ahead of us. The truck also has an intercom system to announce orders when they are ready so customers don't have to stand around in the cold. They also have a security system to assure lack of funny business and sketchiness. While this La Riviera is in a sort of odd spot, it is right on the highway and has good hours. On the day we went to eat, it was the only truck open for lunch. All in all, La Riviera was muy bueno.

A haiku about La Riviera
You are bright orange.
I ate a fried banana.
Bananananana.

La Loncherita

Location: Advanced Auto Parts parking lot
Overall Rating: Sadly, I will never know

The flames bought supper at this taco truck before I could, and they wiped it clean. Only a day after I attempted to eat lunch at this truck, tragedy struck. A fire engulfed the inside of this bright yellow fiesta-on-wheels, preventing me from ever feasting on the beauty that lay within. I know not whether this sunbeam of a taco truck will ever open again, and if it does, whether I will be privileged enough to consume of its cuisine. I give it a 9/10 for its appearance, as it was a very beautiful and vibrant vehicle. Alas, only God knows if I will ever be able to review its delicacies.

A haiku about La Loncherita
Yellow, yellow, wow.
Fire, fire, fire, fire. Ah! Burn!
Sad, frown, tears, cry, why??

La Taqueria Vallarta

Location: Wunderlich's parking lot
Overall Rating: 5/10

I tackled the review of this taco truck without the help of any other Rock Bottom staff members. However, I did bring with me my chauffeur and adventure buddy, Rachel Miksch. We patronized this eatery on a blustery evening between two other commitments with limited dilly-dally time. Sadly, we were late to the latter obligation due to the sluggishness of the service at this establishment. While there was one order prior to ours, I do believe the service could have been greatly expatiated to ensure customer satisfaction and approval. However, I must admit, the smells while we lingered by the truck were exquisite. Delicious as they were, they only served to give our empty and expectant bellies false hope of being fed soon. When we did receive our food, the portion sizes were much skewed. Rachel's chicken quesadilla was twice the size of my face, while my taco was approximately the size of my palm. Both were good eating temperature, but they had other flaws. The quesadilla was extremely greasy, dripping on everything, including Rachel's car. Both items were also rather lacking in flavor. The quesadilla had far too high of a cheese to chicken ratio, resulting in an overall kind of blah taste. The only flavor in my taco was due to the lime slice that came with it. However, all ingredients appeared very fresh. Another drawback to this truck is its somewhat awkward placement. It is in the parking lot of Wunderlich's, on a very poorly lit corner. While it is right on the highway, it is situated on a junction not many people turn at on their way to stores such as Walmart and Menard's. Its lack of illumination also gives it a rather eerie and perilous air, especially if you are a young female. Overall, this truck was not the apple of my eye. While the food was not ghastly, it was also not overly appetizing. That coupled with the length of wait and slight dubiousness of the joint led me to my less-than-stellar-but-not-abysmal rating.

A haiku about La Taqueria Vallarta
I waited so long.
You are good but are not great.
Like Husker Football.

El Sabor de Tikal

Location: Pizza Ranch parking lot
Overall Rating: I can't say, because it's never open!

I have tried thrice to feast upon the cuisine of this particular taco truck. However, I have never seen it open! It wasn't even up and running on a Saturday night! It just sits there in the Pizza Ranch parking lot, luring you in with the promise of a burrito but instead giving you disappointment and lies to feast on. Based on the façade alone I would give it a 4/10, because it is rather tattered looking. However, kids, remember never to judge a book by its cover, or a taco truck by its outside. The real beauty lies within. Within my stomach, which a taco would be, *if the truck was ever open*!!

A haiku about El Sabor de Tiakl
Bro, why you not open?
I want to eat burritos.
Instead, I eat tears.

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Rock Bottom

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Rock Bottom staff reviews the most anticipated winter movies. Pages 4 & 5

Scotus tackles school safety

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

"Intruder in the building! There is an intruder in the building." At Scotus we've heard this phrase before, but it has always been a drill; But at many schools it hasn't been a drill and having an intruder in the building isn't something to take lightly.

At Scotus in the event of any emergency we have a crisis committee in place to take action and help control the situation.

Guidance counselor Pam Weir said, "The role of the crisis team is to ensure the safety of all staff, students, and the parents of our people that are coming and going from our building. We serve a lot of people. Being a faith based community, our building is constantly being accessed by people from around the community and we want to ensure every person's safety to the best of our ability."

The school runs precautionary drills several times throughout the academic year to prepare students and staff in the event of a catastrophic event.

Senior Jackson Kumpf said, "Nothing can compare to the actual

See **SAFETY**, Page 2

Dance moves to January

Tate VunCannon/Rock Bottom Staff

Mr. Coulter flaunts his moves on the dance floor in a circle of students during the Winter Ball. The first ever Winter Ball king and queen were crowned, Marcus Dodson and Courtney Labenz.

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

The sophomores had only a week and a half after the return from Christmas break to prepare for Scotus' Winter ball, the dance that replaced Sweetheart this year.

The dance was moved from a Saturday in February to January 16th. Last year, speech team, swimming, and wrestling all fell on the day of or the day after the Sweetheart dance which prohibited several students from attending the dance.

The administration made the change because January 16th had the least amount of activities going on. However, the new change of date still fell on a powerlifting meet, a freshman basketball tournament, and a swim meet.

Sophomore class sponsor Wade Coulter does behind-the-scenes work with the production of the dance.

Coulter said, "It was a little tougher to prepare because it was a month earlier, but we found a way. At the end of the day, I think it turned out fairly well. Because so many kids are in extracurricular activities, a perfect date is almost impossible to find."

Six senior boys and six senior girls were voted on by the senior class to be a candidate at the dance. Before the change was made from Winter ball to Sweetheart, a Sweetheart king and queen were crowned. This year, they were announced as Winter ball king and queen.

The coronation started promptly at eight o'clock. Courtney Labenz and Marcus Dodson were crowned royalty.

"I had a powerlifting meet the day of the dance, so it was stressful. I had to leave the powerlifting meet early and had to get my hair and makeup done in between my lifts at the meet. I'm shocked I won!" Labenz commented.

This was the first winter dance that Dodson could attend because previously there were conflicts with wrestling.

"I'm glad I finally got to go," Dodson said. "It's pretty cool to be king; I'm glad people don't hate me."

The theme was masquerade; sophomores encouraged the students to wear masks to the dance. The senior hallway was decked out in blue, purple, and green in accord with the theme. Students lined up before the dance to take pictures in front of the backdrop painted by several talented sophomores.

The sophomore class raises money for the dance by selling chocolate bars for $1 each year. With the help of fundraising, the class purchases a photo booth from Lincoln. Students were charged $2 to use the photo booth, and they had the option of dressing themselves up with funky hats and glasses.

Even though the dance was moved about a month earlier, it was still just as successful.

"It was fun getting my boogie on. Mr. Coulter really knows how to get down on the dance floor," Dodson said.

Snow doesn't dampen the March

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

For 37 Scotus students, a trip to Washington D.C. for the National March for Life turned into quite an adventure. The students, along with 8 adult chaperones, departed for the country's capital from Omaha on January 19th.

"I was incredibly pumped to get going on the March. Even though this was my fourth year, I was excited to see what would be different this time around," senior Megan Parker said.

This year, students got a chance to visit the National Holocaust Museum, explore various Smithsonian Institutions, attend Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and, of course, march in the March for Life.

The March is an event to peacefully protest abortion, which was made legal 43 years ago. This year, the day of the March was forecasted to bring over a foot of snow to D.C. This impending storm caused many pro-life groups to depart early or not make the trip to the capital at all. However, the lesser numbers did not lessen the value of the March.

"The March was good. It was a testament to just how much we care about trying to stop abortion and letting those babies live," Scotus chaplain Fr. Capadano said. "Even though the numbers were small, it was still mighty."

While pro-life advocates were met with some hostility from abortion supporters, many people held signs showing why being pro-life was very important to them.

"My favorite part of the March was talking to the women who were raped and still had their babies," sophomore Maddie Neville said.

The group of pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Omaha departed from Washington immediately after the March, cutting their trip short by two days – or so they thought. The busses drove several hours before pausing on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. As minutes turned to hours and the busses remained stationary, students began to question their predicament.

"I remember they kept telling us, 'Just a few more hours!'" junior

Amy Heusinkvelt/Rock Bottom Staff

Scotus pilgrims trudge through the snow on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Six busses from the Archdiocese of Omaha were stranded for over 22 hours on the interstate.

Naomi Kosch recalled. "They said, 'Go to sleep and when you wake up we'll be moving.'"

Evening came and morning followed and the Omaha pilgrims were still stuck, along with hundreds of other travelers, many of them heading home from the March for Life. It was eventually revealed that the holdup was caused by a collection of jackknifed semis, all unable to make it up an incline in the road. As the hours accumulated like the ever-falling snow, stranded

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MARCH

Continued from Page 1

travelers began to make the most of their situation. Many Scotus students attended a Mass held on the side of the interstate while others spent time playing in the whopping 25 inches of snow.

"Even though being stuck on the bus for 22 hours was awful, we made the most of it," senior Rachel Miksch said. "We got off the bus and adventured in the snow. It something we can tell our grandkids about."

No matter how inconvenient being stranded may have been, most pilgrims will agree it was all for the best. The situation on the Turnpike received massive media coverage, giving the March more of a spotlight than it has perhaps ever had.

"It was really terrible being stuck on the bus, but I would do it all again," senior Paige Vance commented. "It's all for the babies, and I want to save the babies."

AMY HEUSINKVELT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Scotus senior girls pose for a selfie with a cutout of Pope Francis. The cutout was on display in the lower level of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1

event. The precautions and drills we do only give us a false sense of security."

Leaving doors slightly ajar or opening the door to people standing outside can damage the integrity of the building. If people wear identification, it helps the school from being targeted.

"We are required to wear school ID badges, this is a way of helping law enforcement identify us, it is simply trying to keep open lines of communication. We are striving to learn as we go from what's happening in the greater community at large," said Weir.

The faculty wearing badges is a safety precaution and the school also has a police task force on hand in the building as well.

"I also hope, should somebody have that intent for harm, that they would see the presence of law enforcement in our building, and that they are armed," said Weir, "We strive to teach, practice, and encourage everyone to take it very, very seriously."

Crisis team does not only deal with intruders in the building, they cover more facets of dangers students face in a school environment than are realized.

Crisis team liaison Pat Brockhaus said, "Our job is to be prepared for emergencies, whether it's going to be funerals, fire drills, tornado drills, or other kinds of situations. [We need] to be prepared on a faculty level, and student level."

Dangers are constantly surrounding Scotus. It's the school community's job to react accordingly and be aware of situations that could threaten the building.

Junior high student Maddie Blaser said, "I believe that our staff and principal are concerned with everyone's safety and will do whatever it takes to keep us safe."

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Valentine's Day: Not just for girls

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Valentine's Day: a holiday full of hearts and love and blind, naked babies shooting couples with their love arrows. With this special day fast approaching, I can't help but feel sorry for all of the men in this world.

Over the years, I have witnessed my dad buy bouquets of flowers and fancy chocolates for my mom. Now that I think about it, I've never seen my mom get my dad anything more than a card or something small. Now that I think about it, I've never seen any girl buy their significant other a Valentine's Day gift, or at least not one that measures up to a dozen roses and a life-sized stuffed bear.

Valentine's Day has become a day that revolves around women. Guys are expected to buy their lovers flowers and fancy chocolate and jewelry and giant stuffed bears and write them cute notes about how much they love them. However, they never really get anything in return. For women, Valentine's Day is about "getting" not giving. I'm not complaining about this. I mean, who doesn't love getting a dozen roses, but I really think guys could use some more recognition for this day.

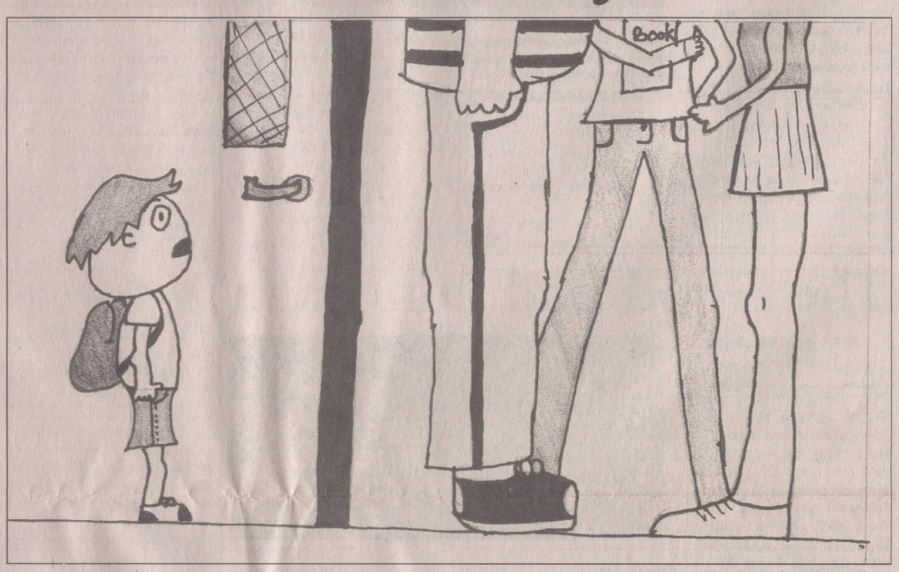
In high school, if a girl gets flowers or other gifts from a guy, it spreads like wildfire. All the attention is on the girl and how she's so lucky. However, people often forget about the person who gave her this present. The person whose wallet is now empty because of this adorable deed. Being a woman, I've always been on the receiving end of Valentine's Day, but when I really think about it, all of the flowers and chocolate really begins to add up. Any guy that is willing to spend some of his hard-earned money on his girlfriend deserves some serious recognition.

Once a guy decides he has to get his girlfriend a gift, he must go through the gruesome process of deciding what to get her. We girls are so picky that gift-buying can be a really daunting task. What if she doesn't like it? What if she already has it? There really are a lot of things to think about when buying a good gift. Although it may not cross your mind, your man took all of these into consideration when buying you a gift. The least you can do is tell him thank you.

So ladies, if you're lucky enough to get a dozen roses or a fancy necklace for Valentine's Day, thank the person that got it for you. They spent a lot of time and money on you and deserve a little recognition for their generous acts. Acknowledge the fact that he really cares about you, and let him know how much you loved what he got for you. Although getting a guy a Valentine's Day present seems a little weird, you could try to make this Valentine's Day less about you and more about him. Even though you might be into sappy, romantic movies, you could go to that action flick he's been wanting to see or get him tickets to a Husker or Creighton game. Spend your next date doing what he wants to do. Find a way to make him feel as special as he makes you feel.

I'm not so little anymore

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter



Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Honestly, Scotus is pretty intimidating. Elementary school is warm, nice. There was a nap time and recess. When I hit sixth grade at St. Bon's, I was assigned a kindergarten reading buddy. It was a way for the older kids to become closer to the younger kids. In sixth grade, you were the top dog. The big fish. No one could touch you at recess because you were awesome.

Then, BAM, all of a sudden it's over, and you're walking into the north doors turning around waving goodbye to your dad for the first day of school. Suddenly, school becomes very scary. There's *big* kids here, and you're thrown back down to the bottom. At least, that's how it was for me.

The transition from elementary to high school is…awkward. As a junior high kid thrown into the mix with high schoolers, I wasn't really sure what to do. I looked up to the older kids. It seemed like the obvious thing to do. I still remember Bubba Bolte and Jordan Chohon roaming the halls and looking absolutely MASSIVE. I was scared to walk past them. I'd literally move to the other side of the hallway to avoid their hugeness.

My friends and I noticed everything about the upperclassmen. We followed them all on Instagram and befriended them on Facebook. We took notes on what to wear and what not to wear for Dress Down Days based on them. They were celebrities to us.

I'm a senior now, and I definitely DO NOT feel like the equivalent to any of the seniors when I was a wee seventh grader. I still feel little, but every once in a while, it hits me that I'm a big kid now (kinda).

The underclassman notice things about the upperclassmen just like I did when I was in their position. It's pretty incredible that underclassmen almost idolize the older kids. I guarantee that some of the junior high football boys looked up to Jake Bos with stars in their eyes.

Upperclassmen are setting the example whether we want to or not. We need to be more conscious of what we're saying in the halls; we need to be more conscious of setting the good example for the younger kids to look forward to.

School is pretty casual; we're with our peers from eight to four almost every day. The language we use as we climb up the ranks of high school becomes crude. As a student, I definitely notice a shift from hot to cold whenever a teacher walks past. Vulgar words and comments quickly morph into prettier words. Words that aren't frowned upon.

No offense to the junior high kids, but they're hardly teenagers. There is no censorship around the junior high students like there is when the teachers are around. This is a problem. Innocence should be protected. How many times is loss of innocence a theme in English class? Way too many, but that's because it's important. Innocence *should* be valued.

"Seniority" is so overrated. It's a poor excuse for the upperclassmen to trump the younger kids. Sometimes a junior or senior will budge in front of one of the junior high kids in the breakfast line, and when the poor kid looks up to defend themselves, the older kid will mumble something about seniority.

Upperclassmen are setting the example and walking all over the younger kids is not acceptable.

The upperclassmen are big kids now, and honestly it's scarier than being on the bottom of the food chain. The younger kids look up to the older kids, let's not disappoint them.

Break away from the norm

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Where ever we go, there is always one or two people who look different or have a strange vibe coming from them that isn't "normal." Those are the people you should look up to.

In today's day and age, society has changed the teenage generation in a way that is not helpful. Instead, this generation should break free of the bonds of society and be themselves.

Society seems to be worried about education and abuse and crime, but the real issue is sitting right in front of their faces. Teens today all have a need to conform to the image that social media and everyday society puts in front of them. Those who have broken away from this image, myself included, do things differently than what society thinks is the "cool" thing.

Everyone needs to break away from their comfort zone and express themselves.

Boredom is something that can't be escaped when it comes to conformity. Everyone is the same. Same likes, same looks, same talents, same everything. Who would like a world like that? Well, you're in one now. If you haven't already noticed, everyone wears the same type of clothing, all the books are coming out with the same story, movies are all the same, and music conveys all the same messages. What's so fun about any of this? When you allow yourself to let your mind run into strange places, that is where the greatest ideas come from.

You can't let yourself hide behind popular fashions and layers of makeup. Instead, you should let your crazy side show and be proud of it. We all have individual talents, but some don't know what theirs could be. Some are amazing at a certain type of art, like painting or sketching, others are great at singing or playing an instrument or acting or writing stories or poems. The list is endless. Few of us have figured out what we are great at, but some do things they may not be good at but still do that anyway. Do whatever makes you feel happy.

Also, don't be afraid to talk about your interests or show what your interests are. I'm not a social butterfly for those who didn't know, but I don't hide what I like. I wear a certain type of clothing with accessories that show who I am. My binders are full of my favorite drawings, and I have numerous notebooks at home and one in my book bag for my stories and future ideas. I'm not afraid to tell any of you that because it's true. Why run from the truth?

When it comes to being who you are and doing what you enjoy, those "friends" you might have had before could turn away from you. I had a lot of friends in grade school, but when my true interests started showing, I lost all those friends. It was when I got to Scotus that I was able to figure out who my true friends are, and they are only three strong. They don't have anything similar with me, but they are at least interested in what I enjoy, and I them. Loneliness can't be helped until you find others with your interests and talents. They are out there, you just have to look for them. There are camps, like JC Camp, and trips, like the March for Life, where you get to meet people from all over the state or country and at least a handful are like you. No one is ever alone.

You can't be afraid to be yourself. Even if it means breaking from the "cool" crowd and starting your own crowd; you can do it. There's no shame in being proud of who you are.

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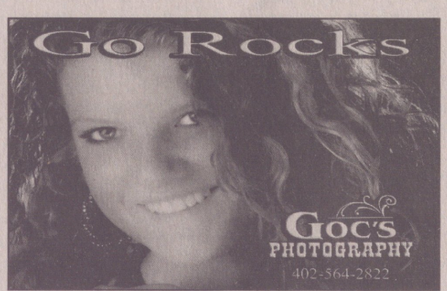

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The Force is strong with this movie

starwars.com

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, or maybe not… the *Star Wars* franchise was born anew with the release of the much anticipated seventh movie: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

There was incredible hype surrounding *Star Wars the Force Awakens* before and after the initial movie release. However, not everyone is a die-hard fan, so chances are that not everyone has seen all six of the Star Wars movies. *The Force Awakens* does a great job explaining itself to Star Wars noobs.

The Force Awakens is thirty years after the defeat of the wicked Galactic Empire and follows a new evil, the First Order, and one of the Order's leaders, Kylo Ren. A Stormtrooper defector, Finn, crash lands on a new desert planet where he meets a scavenger, Rey, accompanied by a droid.

I love *Star Wars*, so I was all into the hype. When the first trailer came out, I spent hours on YouTube watching videos related to theories of the plot. I saw the new movie twice. I honestly loved it.

The Force Awakens introduces the audience to new characters to follow. However, the director J.J. Abrams included throwback throughout the movie bringing back fan favorites with props, spacecraft, and characters.

The storyline wasn't hard to follow at all because the movie is aimed for all audiences to watch. The plot is an extreme, dramatic build-up to the very last minute and a half or so where the audience is left with a cliff-hanger, an obvious ploy to get fans to swarm into theaters for the release of *Star Wars VIII*.

Star Wars' special effects are always amazing, and *The Force Awakens* attests to their previous special effects masterpieces. When I first saw Maz, a fully CGI constructed character, I was blown away by her effects. She was *real*. J.J. Abrams did a fantastic job directing the battle scenes; I felt like I was literally right there with the characters.

The acting was just as stellar as the CGI. Although the main characters don't

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No breaking point in this movie

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

colliders.com

Action movies and dare-devil acts have never been interests of mine, and I would not normally choose an action movie to watch. After running out of movies to choose from to watch for this review, I had to pick *Point Break,* and I liked it more than I thought I would. I went into Family Video to check out an older version of *Point Break* thinking that it was going to be a terrible movie that I would never understand. I was still a little worried about what I would think about this movie when I went to the theater, but I actually liked it. It might sound strange coming from me because I am really into romantic movies and comedies, but I loved the movie and have very little criticize.

This movie was a remake of an older movie made in 1991. In the 1991 movie, former football player Johnny Utah, an FBI agent in southern California, gets assigned to a bank robbery case. Utah must go undercover as a surfer to get clues about possible suspects.

The 2015 version has a new twist on the story with the same themes and ideas. Johnny Utah, a former extreme athlete, trains to be an FBI agent. He is informed about a group of people who steal money and liberate it to the less fortunate. They do this through skydiving and other dare-devil acts. Utah must go undercover, dig into their lifestyle, and see what they are really about.

Both versions of the movie involve strong athletes who apply their past skills to their job. They both also have the idea of the FBI and a robbery case.

The characters in both movies were amazing. I thought the acting looked real, and they all were really getting into their character. In some movies, you can tell if someone is a bad actor right away. The 1991 version stars Keanu Reeves as Johnny Utah and Patrick Swayze as Bodhi. The 2015 version stars Luke Bracey as Johnny Utah and Edgar Ramirez as Bodhi. In either of the movies, I didn't notice any characters that were bad; they were all pretty spot on. Not to men-

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The ~~Good~~ Bad Dinosaur

By Angie Rusher
Journalism Advisor

bgr.com

As a mother of three young girls, I have spent more of my life watching animated films than I will ever admit. When a new animated movie comes out, the Rushers make a family trip to the theater to see the latest film and decide if it will become a part of our DVD library in the future. Unfortunately, I do not think our latest holiday viewing, *The Good Dinosaur*, will become a part of our collection, nor will it be in the top half of my animated recommendations.

The Good Dinosaur is an episodic journey of an anxious young dinosaur trying to literally and figuratively 'make his mark' in his family. He is separated from his family's farm and has to make his journey back through many experiences and trials that help him to find his confidence.

The best part of the movie, which is vividly shown in the opening scenes with an aerial view of the landscape, is the animation. The backgrounds and settings look real, yet with the vibrant colors of cartoon. The use of the latest technology in animation is obvious, and I hope to see more movies with such attention to detail. There is amazing detail on the dinosaurs as well. At one part the main character, Arlo, is injured, and his bruises and scrapes have real depth and texture.

The most disappointing part of the movie is the storyline. It seems to be a *Lion King* wannabe with much less character connection and development. The previews say, "What would happen if the dinosaurs lived?" The answer in the movie is that they will become farmers and cattle drivers and have cavemen as pets. It is not enlightening, nor a bit realistic. Though the main antagonist is Arlo vs. himself, the 'villains' in the story drop in randomly half way through and also lack motivation and development. Finally, the resolution at the end is unfulfilling.

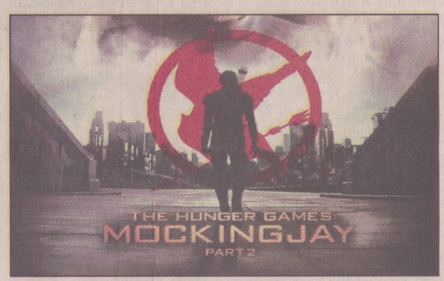
Though highly disappointing in plot line and not in my top movie choices, *The Good Dinosaur* is really funny at times. The little caveman, Spot, is the most endearing character, and the take on his relationship with Arlo is unique and funny even if it lacks purpose in the story at times. Though I do like animated movies to have humor that adults enjoy, I do not appreciate too much 'adult humor' that is inappropriate, and this movie is almost all kid friendly.

The problem with having seen every animated movie ever is I compare *The Good Dinosaur* to *Lion King*, *The Incredibles*, *Despicable Me*, *How to Train a Dragon*, and *Inside Out*, to which it cannot compare, though it is entertaining in its own right. So if you are looking for a new favorite animated film, don't waste your time, but if you are looking for a cartoon to enjoy with a younger sibling, wait until it comes out for $2.79 at Family Video so you don't spend too much money.

Mockingjay fulfills expectations

The odds of you liking this movie are ever in your favor

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter



pinimg.com

Tracker jackers, jabberjays, nightlock berries; all are words Suzanne Collins made up for her books turned movies *The Hunger Games.*

It took Suzanne Collins three years to write *The Hunger Games* series, which consisted of three books: *The Hunger Games, Catching Fire,* and *Mockingjay. The Hunger Games* movie copyrights were purchased and the first book was made into a movie in 2012. When Lionsgate announced that the third book would be produced as two movies it was not too shocking, as many entertainment companies have done that in the past (*Twilight: Breaking Dawn, Harry Potter: Deathly Hallows*). The fourth and final *Hunger Games* movie, *Mockingjay Part II,* was released on November 16, 2015.

As a fan of *The Hunger Games* books, I was very skeptical going to the first movie in 2012 with the thought that "the movies are never as good as the books." But, *The Hunger Games* movies are honestly some of the best books-to-movies I have ever seen. After the first movie was released and I gave it two thumbs up, I was an all in fan of both the movies and the books. My personal rating for the first, second, and third movies have been extremely high so I expected nothing less than that from the fourth, and final movie. If anything I figured the fourth movie would be the best, because I knew how it was going to end, and I was so excited to see it portrayed on screen.

The movie picks up right after the cliff-hanger of *Mockingjay Part I.* The battle between the districts and the Capitol is continued and intensified. The movie mainly is telling the story of the districts attempt to revolt from the Capitol. Unlike the first few movies, *Mockingjay Part II's* setting is mainly in the underground District 13 and the Capitol. In *Mockingjay Part II,* Katniss has two conflicts she tries overcoming, the problem of the power of the Capitol, and a problem with someone she holds very dear.

The graphics and sound effects in this movie and the movies leading up to it are unbelievable. From flames to explosions to futuristic transportation, the producers of *Mockingjay Part II* did a phenomenal job. As seen in *The Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire,* a lot of dying takes place; the actors in *Mockingjay Part II* do a fantastic job of getting the feeling of the death of a character portrayed on the big screen. Everything looks so realistic, and there was never a time where I turned to my sister and said, "Okay, that's so fake".

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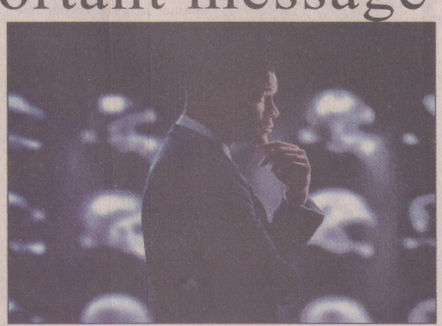
Concussion hits hard with important message

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter



ibtimes.com

"The NFL owns a day of the week…the same one that used to belong to the churches!" The power of football in America is outlined in this single sentence by Dr. Bennet Omalu, the subject of Sony's new sports drama, *Concussion.* The movie, starring Will Smith, tells the story of Dr. Omalu, a Pittsburgh coroner who takes on one of the most powerful corporations in America: the National Football League. Omalu, a Nigerian immigrant, makes a shocking discovery in the brain of a former Pittsburgh Steeler. He attempts to make his findings known because he finds that football is much more dangerous than people know, and it should be made safer. He finds himself opposed by a slew of NFL doctors and politicians who believe he is trying to eradicate football in America. The ensuing conflict becomes a story of national significance throughout the rest of the movie.

This is one of the best movies I have ever seen. To anyone who has ever played, watched, or been affected by the game of football, I would recommend watching this movie.

First off, the acting portrayed in this movie is absolutely top-notch. The supporting cast consisted of respected names like Alec Baldwin, Luke Wilson, and Albert Brooks. They all did an excellent job of pulling the audience into the story. That's not even mentioning the performance of the main character. Wow. There were several times when he was portraying his character so well that I actually forgot I was watching Will Smith. This movie simply contained Grade-A acting on all levels.

However, the storyline and plot is probably the main reason I would recommend this movie. It is all based upon a true story, and while some of the scenes are obviously dramatized for Hollywood effect, much of the movie feels quite realistic. Because of the genuine nature of the plot, the movie became more and more captivating as the story went deeper and deeper. Even as a football player, I found myself rooting for Dr. Omalu early in his fight against the NFL. There's something relatable and inspiring about a man who just wants people to know the truth. The storyline really ended up flipping my perspective about the game of football and its effects on the human body. I was very surprised to learn what I did about the real danger that exists within America's beloved pastime throughout the story.

The only problem I really had with *Concussion* was the way the movie writers just shoehorned in a love story regarding Dr. Omalu and his wife, Prema. Right in the middle of the rising action, Omalu happens to be introduced to another African immigrant who falls in love with him. While it was true to reality, it just seemed out of place and unnecessary to the plot.

Overall, however, *Concussion* is still one of the best movies I've seen ever. I would give it 5 stars, a 100% approval rating, two thumbs up… you get the picture. Go see it. It might just change your mind about America's game.

There is always time for a road chip

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

As lame as it may sound, I have always loved Alvin and the Chipmunks. I have both the original movie and the squeakquel, so when I found out that a third Alvin and the Chipmunks movie was coming out, I had to see it. Much to my pleasure, I was not disappointed.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip began where the previous movie left off. The chipmunks, Alvin, Simon, and Theodore, are still living with their human "dad", Dave. Dave, who had recently gotten a new job at a music agency, introduces the chipmunks to his new girlfriend, Samantha. The chipmunks are also introduced to Samantha's son, Miles. As one could imagine, the boys and Miles immediately become enemies, and Miles begins playing cruel pranks on the chipmunks. Dave then invites Samantha to come on a trip to Miami for work. After finding a ring in Dave's bag, the chipmunks assume that Dave is going to propose to Samantha in Miami. The thought of having Miles as their brother or losing Dave to a new family scares the chipmunks, and they decide to go to Miami to stop Dave. After a fiasco on the plane, the boys are put on the "no fly list" and embark on a long road chip (hence the name) to Miami.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip has an impressive cast which features stars such as Justin Long, Jesse McCartney, Jason Lee, Bella Thorne, Kaley Cuoco, and Christina Applegate. However, the voices of the furry creatures are so high pitched, you would never know who the voice belonged to.

Along with its star-studded cast, this movie was highly entertaining and funny. What else can you expect from a movie about singing chipmunks? If you're into rodent-themed puns this movie is definitely for you. I couldn't help but

CONRADORPHEUM.COM

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Abominable Bride will leave you Sherlocked

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

After an almost two year long wait- an agonizing, tormenting wait- fans of BBC's *Sherlock* were treated to a new episode this past month. This highly anticipated Christmas special, *The Abominable Bride*, was released on the first of the year on BBC and at select theaters for a limited time. *Sherlock* is a version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels and short stories, which are set in the late 1800s. The BBC show adapts the adventures of the famous detective for a setting in modern day London. For the Christmas special, however, *Sherlock* creators decided to go back in time to the original time period of the stories.

The show follows investigator Sherlock Holmes and his side-kick John Watson on new crime fighting adventures. Their newest case involves a murder, as most good cases do. This time, however, the murder was done by someone already dead. The culprit is a Mrs. Ricoletti, who shot her husband hours after publicly shooting herself in the head. Numerous other accounts in the following weeks report someone matching the description of Mrs. Ricoletti at the scene of a murder. The game is afoot as Holmes and Watson delve into perhaps their strangest case yet.

KASTERBOROUS.COM

In my opinion, *The Abominable Bride* was simply spectacular. It had me laughing uncontrollably one moment and then biting my nails in anticipation the next. The characters tugged on my emotions, and the mysteries had me lying awake at night puzzling.

This 90-minute-extravaganza-of-awesomeness was chock-full of dazzling deductions, thrilling investigations, and sassy one-liners. The episode was made perfect, of course, by the undeniably phenomenal performances of Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman. The chemistry that the two stars have works to flawlessly establish the relationship between Holmes and Watson. The same friendship that the two have in the modern day episodes translated perfectly into the period-era episode. All other actors also did a remarkable job portraying their characters in the past.

After reading about this wonderful piece of cinematic sorcery, you may be tempted to drop everything and watch *The Abominable Bride*

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Bring daddy home

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

What makes a father, and what makes a dad? There is a big difference between fathers and dads. What is the difference? Is it better to be a father or a dad?

Daddy's Home attempts to answer these questions while mixing in some hilarity and slapstick comedy. I love comedy, and *Daddy's Home* certainly fulfilled that comedy fix I was seeking, but the movie had some serious flaws.

Daddy's Home, starring Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg, is about new step-dad Brad Whitaker (Ferrell) trying to be the perfect dad to his step-kids. He packs their lunches with inspirational notes, picks them up from school on time every day, and volunteers at every event. Unfortunately, the kids' punk, motorcycle driving, manipulative, biological dad, Dusty (Wahlberg), comes home for a visit, and a hilarious competition for the best dad ensues.

Any movie with Will Ferrell is bound to have audiences rolling on the floor, and *Daddy's Home* lived up to those expectations. The arguments between the dads were hilarious, with naïve, insecure Ferrell cowering in the face of Wahlberg's manipulative bravado. There were also a few cases of slapstick humor that were pretty comical. As expected, much of the humor was unnecessarily crude and inappropriate, which I thought was unfortunate, but filmmakers gotta do what filmmakers gotta do to make a living.

Fatherhood is so underappreciated in our culture. People don't realize that being a dad is hard work and is often an uphill battle. *Daddy's Home* related this to audiences superbly by comparing Wahlberg's and Ferrell's attitudes towards their kids. Ferrell sends the message that being a dad is a big responsibility, and not something to be taken lightly.

So even though I enjoyed the movie, it also had some flaws. There was an ongoing joke that Ferrell was racist, which introduced an African-American repairman who stays at the Whitaker house at the invitation of Wahlberg. This whole side story is completely unnecessary and unrelated to the story, which irritated my six traits preciseness sensitivities.

To sum it up, *Daddy's Home* was fulfilling, had a good message, though the humor was unwarrantedly tasteless at times. If you are looking to just sit back and relax with a hilarious movie, and horror or romance movies aren't your cup of tea, then *Daddy's Home* is a great choice.

WWW.KADACINEMAS.COM

Run from *The Forest*, run!

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

EN.WIKIPEDIA.COM

I don't typically enjoy watching scary movies because the eerie film usually haunts me for the next few days. Fortunately, I don't have to worry about being spooked by the dull movie, *The Forest*.

The Forest has an interesting plot, but the sluggish movie takes entirely way too long to get interesting. It is the typical scary movie with the scares in the usual dark, anticipated places. *The Forest* had potential, but the director, Jason Zada, did a horrible job bringing the story to life.

In my opinion, *The Forest* is good enough to see once, maybe.

The Forest is about Sara Price and her journey to find her missing twin sister in Aokigahara, a forest located at the base of Mount Fuji. Aokigahara is said to be haunted because of the angry spirits that are left behind from the people that killed themselves in the forest. Sara's twin sister, Jess, is missing in the forest, and she is believed to be dead. Sara knows that her twin sister is not yet dead, so she embarks on a rescue mission. Sara is instructed to stick to the path because the spirits compel those who wander off the path to kill themselves. Unfortunately, because she is in a horror movie and not smart enough to make rational decisions, Sara doesn't stick to the path.

The Forest has the stereotypical jump-out-at-you moments, making me jump a total of four times. For a scary movie to actually be scary, the audience definitely needs to be jumping more than four times. *The Forest* also has the typical scary faces, but come on, this is the 21st century; we have technology and special effects that can make movies much scarier, but the filmmakers of *The Forest* obviously did not take advantage of them.

The Forest takes entirely too long to get interesting. The last ten minutes of the movie are filled with action and semi-scary moments. *The Forest* is an overall interesting story, but the rising action didn't actually have much action. It was just Sara wandering around a forest calling out her sister's name.

I will admit that the Aokigahara forest not only compelled Sara Price, but it also played mind tricks on me. There are many parts in the movie that the spirits in the forest trick Sara into almost killing herself, and they hallucinate and confuse not only Sara, but the audience. It's not until the twisted end of the movie that the audience actually understands what is happening with Sara.

Overall, *The Forest* is not one of the best scary movies made. Although it does have its captivating moments and action-packed end, I would not recommend this movie.

In the Heart of the Sea sails away

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

THEOOHTRAY COM

"Have you ever wondered what's at the bottom of the sea? What secrets it holds?" These questions posed at the beginning of the film *In the Heart of the Sea* foreshadow the misfortune of the whaling ship, the *Essex*.

Classic author Herman Melville convinces the last remaining survivor of the sunken ship to tell the story that continues to haunt him. Thomas Nickleson was only a greenhorn, a newbie, under new captain, Pollard. While out whaling, a large white whale sinks the *Essex* and leaves only a handful to find their way back to shore, more than 3,000 miles away.

The story of the *Essex* and the disaster that struck it, were all true events used as inspiration for the fictional story *Moby Dick*.

Great actors with great acting skills, spectacular special effects, and a true story behind it makes this movie a great watch.

Nothing can go wrong with a star cast such as in this movie. Chris Hemsworth, popular for his role as Thor in the Marvel movies, plays first mate Owen Chase, a

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Krampus is krappus

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

The holiday release of the movie *Krampus* was supposed to be portrayed as a horror comedy. It definitely got the comedic side across because it was so horrible it was laughable.

Krampus is based on the old legend of Santa the antichrist who punishes children who don't believe in Santa Claus anymore. In this movie a little boy who has a bad Christmas and makes a wish for a different family summons the Christmas devil, Krampus.

All in all, this sounds like a ridiculous movie I know, but I had slight hope for it to be like *Scream*, which was successful in mastering the art of a horror comedy. Boy was I wrong.

The beginning had so much potential! It had a hilarious beginning, with a slow motion sequence of fighting set to the famous Christmas song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." After this, it slowly eases you into the horror part of it, and then it just falls flat trying to incorporate comedy and horror too often into the movie. It seemed like the filmmakers could not make up their mind about this movie when all they needed was to find a happy medium!

The actors in this movie such as Adam Scott and David Koechner have customarily played humorous roles so this horrific movie was a little out of their range. The acting wasn't horrible, but it wasn't necessarily awesome either.

WWW.COMINGSOON. NET

The costuming and special effects were subpar; Krampus' outfit and mask looked very fake and unrealistic, and his minions were especially disturbing as they had satanic markings on their masks. Why they had this I'm uncertain, but that might have been the scariest part of this movie. Good for a horror effect I suppose, but a little too demonic for my tastes.

The special effects were TOTALLY unrealistic and almost painful to watch it was so bad. It had cheap shots at horror, with obvious jump scares, and (shocker!) people die in the most gruesome, horrific ways.

The one redeeming quality of this movie was that it was set in an appropriate time and started off pretty well and humorously. Towards the end, all I could think was "why did I pay money and waste a whole afternoon to go see this film?"

Overall, I give this film a one out of ten, I would definitely not recommend; but if you're looking for a laugh and a way to waste time, rent *Krampus* and make fun of it as much as I did.

Teamwork shows girls early success

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

The girls' basketball team had a prosperous first half of the season, highlighted by their second consecutive Holiday Tournament championship. The girls currently have a record of 9-5. Coach Jarrod Ridder is pleased with his team's sense of unity so far.

"Our biggest strength by far is that we're a team. Nobody cares who scores the points, or who makes the plays, or who gets the minutes. They just really care about winning and being good teammates," Ridder said.

The Shamrocks were 4-3 heading into Christmas break. They returned to the Dowd Activity Center with renewed energy and took the Holiday Tournament by storm, taking down area foe Schuyler 38-33 and crosstown rival Lakeview 52-45.

"It's always great to win the Holiday Tournament," Ridder said. "Lakeview is always a tough matchup for our girls. We compete with them in a lot of different things, so anytime we beat them, it's fun for the kids."

The Shamrocks followed their holiday success with another win over Fort Calhoun, this time by a margin of 50-39. Ridder noticed a change in attitude during the team's 3-game winning streak.

"We were growing in confidence. The biggest part of it all is that every girl in the gym is there for each other, and that's a huge reason why we've seen so much growth this year," Ridder commented.

Following the Fort Calhoun victory, the girls faced a tough test in the Class C-1 #1 Bishop Neumann Cavaliers. They fell to the Cavs 46-27 after only being down by one at halftime. Senior Jessica Lahm was disappointed with the loss, but saw a silver lining.

"After playing with Neumann for 3 quarters and knowing we played a bad fourth, we left knowing we can play with any team from there on," Lahm said.

The Shamrocks have played a difficult schedule thus far, with their five losses coming against teams with a combined record of 61-6.

"We want to beat good teams like Neumann and Lincoln Christian that we've given a run, but didn't finish them off," senior Emily Fehringer said.

Faced with two games in two days, the girls battled against Boone Central and Archbishop Bergan on the 21st and 22nd of January. They won both games by scores of 57-21 and 46-39, respectively.

The Shamrocks then looked forward to their Centennial Conference tournament games which took place last week.

"Getting a home game in the conference tournament was a big goal for us," Ridder commented. "There are plenty of opportunities to play more good teams and see where we stack up."

The girls opened the tournament on Thursday night hosting Lincoln Lutheran. They lost another close-fought battle to the Warriors 53-42. Ridder was disappointed in the team's ball security.

"Our biggest weakness right now is turning the ball over," Ridder said.

The Shamrocks got back on track the next night with a 57-48 victory over Fremont Bergan. Their next game is February 2nd against Omaha Skutt Catholic.

Olivia Rath/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Sarah Schumacher defends a Fort Calhoun ballhandler during the January 2nd contest. The Shamrocks win by a score of 50-39.

Boys bring balance to remain undefeated

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

Head coach Jeff Ohnoutka is not worried about his boys' basketball team going forward, despite their undefeated record.

"I think we expect to win games, but at the same time, I don't think there's any undue pressure on us because of being undefeated," Ohnoutka said.

The Scotus Central Catholic boys' basketball team has won every game halfway through the season: a perfect 15-0 record. However, senior captain Jackson Kumpf is not interested in records right now.

"Acknowledging the fact that you are undefeated can start to mess with a team. As far as I am concerned, we are 0-0," Kumpf stated.

The team came out of the NSAA Christmas moratorium ready to capture their 3rd consecutive Holiday Tournament.

"We knew we would have big crowds because it was right around Christmas," junior captain Cody Mroczek said. "We wanted to win and put on a show for them."

The Shamrocks accomplished both, defeating Schuyler by a score of 55-34 and Twin River by a margin of 67-43.

"We really asserted ourselves and played extremely well against Twin River," Ohnoutka said. "Our mindset was really focused, and we executed well."

Following the Holiday Tournament, the Shamrocks faced two teams in Fort Calhoun and Boys Town that had considerable size. m emphasized the plan of attack.

"We wanted to speed them up, make them run the floor," Putnam said. "Basically, we wanted to run them out of the gym."

The Shamrocks defeated the Pioneers and Cowboys by scores of 60-43 and 70-60. Shortly after, the boys rattled off victories against Schuyler (75-34), Norfolk Catholic (57-44), and Lincoln Christian (76-33). Junior point guard Nathan Ostdiek liked the team's focus going in to each game.

"We try not to get caught up in anything," Ostdiek said. "We come into each game focused and try to balance our attack on offense and play aggressive on defense."

A tough road test at Boone Central pushed the Shamrocks, who came out on top 60-49. Coach Ohnoutka felt it was good for the team.

"We hadn't played four quarters of great basketball in a while, so it was good to prepare us for those times that are coming when we need to hit big shots in the 4th quarter," Ohnoutka said.

After a 64-39 dismantling of Archbishop Bergan, the boys' team looked forward to the conference tournament. Kumpf, Mroczek, Putnam, and Ostdiek were all adamant about the team's goal: win the tournament. Their coach agreed, pointing to a conspicuous statistic regarding Scotus and the Centennial Conference.

"Our school has never won that tournament," Ohnoutka said. "I think anything short of that would be disappointing. It's really important that we get that done."

The Shamrocks opened tournament play up hosting Boys Town last Thursday. Coach Ohnoutka knew that playing the Cowboys again would be a tough matchup.

"With Boys Town, you have to adjust. Playing a 1-3-1 zone defense put us in better situations to win," Ohnoutka said.

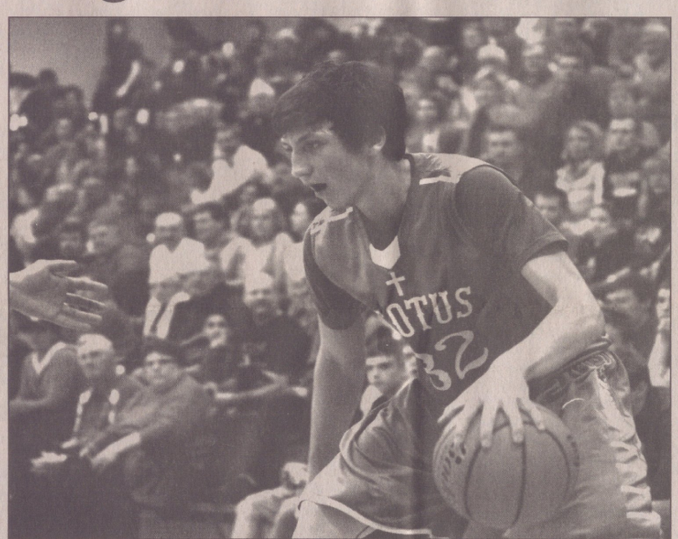
After a back-and-forth battle, the Shamrocks came out on top 61-45.

In the conference semifinals, the boys' team faced another top 10 opponent in Lincoln Lutheran. The final score was 53-41 in favor of the 'Rocks.

Finally, the Shamrocks faced Hastings St. Cecilia in the Centennial Conference championship game. The Bluehawks had already been bested by Scotus once in their season opener, and were looking for revenge.

A tightly contested game was appropriately decided in overtime. Nathan Ostdiek scored five of his seven points in overtime, and the 'Rocks captured their school's first ever conference championship with a 56-52 victory.

"It's a lot of fun coaching this group of guys," Ohnoutka said. "They work hard and make my job easy."



Emily Fehringer/Media Staff

Junior Cody Mroczek sizes up his defender against Boone Central on January 21st. The Shamrocks defeated the Cardinals 60-49.

Wrestlers strive for success

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Setting higher goals than last season, the Scotus wrestling team is off to a good start and is hoping to achieve those goals during the rest of the season. The team's dual record is 13-4, and they plan on improving this record in the future.

"The wrestling season is going great. The coaches keep saying we have one of the top teams in the state," junior Chase Newman commented.

In addition, the wrestling team has seen individual success among many of the team members, including senior Jake Bos.

"[The season] is going well," Bos said. "I am 25-4 on the season and rated third in the state in my weight class."

Another wrestler, senior Marcus Dodson, also has an impressive record this season.

"It has been a solid year so far. I am 34-0," Dodson said.

As a team, the wrestlers have done well at multiple meets, such as the UNK duals.

"Our best meet so far was probably at the UNK duals where we got first, beating Adams Central, who beat us earlier in the year," Newman explained.

Head coach Tracey Dodson has been surprised by the performance of individual wrestlers, including freshman Daniel Twoerk.

"Daniel Tworek won Loganview and the Conference tournament for the Shamrocks," Dodson stated. "He is bringing points to the scoreboard, that's for sure."

Tworek is not the only wrestler to have a large impact on the team.

"We have 10-12 impact wrestlers on our squad. It's not necessarily the amount of time they put in, it's what they put into the practice. We know if we are not practicing, someone else is, and when we meet him, he will probably win," Dodson explained.

However, these wrestlers bring more to the team than just points.

"The guys that show up to practice each and every day have the biggest impact on our team," Dodson said. "If one wrestler is gone, it affects everyone on the team that day."

The wrestling team has experienced some change in their practices this year. The team previously practiced in the Scotus cafeteria, but they are now practicing at the armory East of Columbus.

"It is nice not having to roll out the mats every practice, and there is more room for me to beat on Jake," Marcus Dodson said.

The wrestling practices have also been slightly altered due to this change.

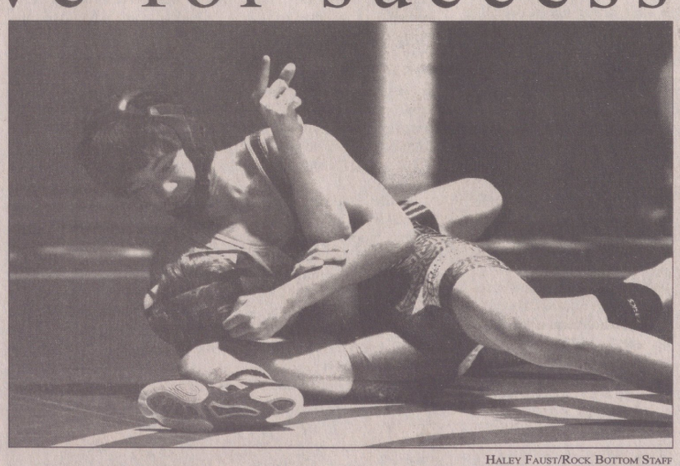
"We have a lot more room to wrestle, and it's nice not having to run stairs anymore," Newman added.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, the wrestling team has high hopes.

"We would like to be a top four team at the state meet and win our district in York to qualify as a state dual team," Coach Dodson said.

The team hopes to see individual success in the future as well.

"I want to stay undefeated throughout the season," Marcus Dodson added. "I want to be on the top of the podium this year."



Haley Faust/Rock Bottom Staff

Freshman Daniel Tworek pins his opponent Thursday night at the Scotus Triangular. The Scotus wrestling team defeated Boone Central-Newman Grove 54-18 and Lakeview 58-21.

Powerlifting offers new opportunity

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Scotus introduced a new opportunity for students to its already long list of activities. The powerlifting team began its first season this winter with nine students on the team.

Senior Savannah Robertson was the first student from Scotus to get involved in powerlifting.

"I was lifting at the Y and heard one of the CHS powerlifting coaches talking about it and started talking to him," Robertson said.

She competed in the State Powerlifting Tournament last year and won first place in the 148 lb. weight class.

The team practices three times a week in the Scotus weight room. Their practice schedule is a little different than other sports as they only practice three days a week focusing on a different lift each day.

Junior Will Sonderman placed 5th in his weight class at the first meet that took place on January 16th at Omaha Central.

"Monday is squat day, Tuesday is bench day, and Thursday is deadlift day. After the main lift each day, we do assist lifts that help our max," Sonderman said.

At the first meet, they competed against Class A schools. Seniors Courtney Labenz and Savannah Robertson both placed first in their weight classes. Each member of the team competes in three lifts: bench, squat, and deadlift. Each person competes individually in their own weight class and then combine to form a team score. They will be competing in two other meets this year.

"Even with a recovering knee, I want to win state, and I think our coaches put all of us in that position," senior Ryan Mustard said.

Also out for powerlifting for the first time is sophomore Brandon Huynh.

"I think any boy who plans on doing football next year should do powerlifting; its great," Huynh said.

Not many people joined the owerlifting team this year. Sophomore Grant Bettenhausen explained powerlifting in different terms.

"We're not a bunch of meatheads; when you think of powerlifting, you think of these big, muscly guys lifting crazy weights," Bettenhausen said.

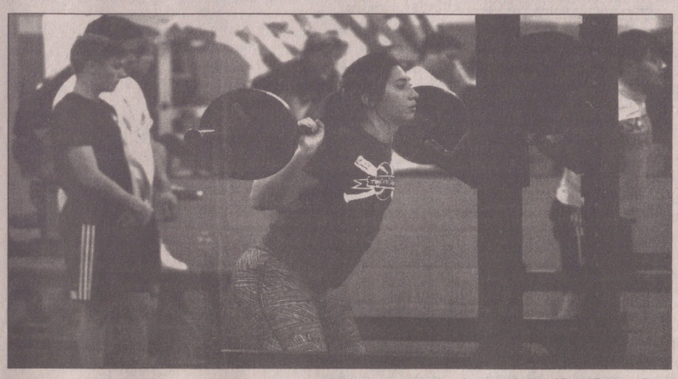
There are also many other benefits to powerlifting.

"The best part is getting stronger and pushing yourself to get better," senior Nathan Tworek said.

Tworek received 4th place at the first meet along with freshman Jackie Robledo in their weight classes.

The powerlifting team will compete in another meet at Peru State and then end their season with the tate tournament.

Mustard concluded, "If anyone is looking for a sport that will make them bigger and stronger, I would strongly suggest powerlifting."



Amberly Parker/ Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Savannah Robertson squats during their Monday squat practice. The team competed at Omaha Central on Saturday January 16th and Robertson placed 1st in her weight class

Seniors sign with support

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

Walking down the hallways in the mornings toward the end of the first semester, Scotus students may have seen a few unfamiliar faces leaving or entering the Dowd Activity Center. This is where the seniors have been having their signing ceremonies. In the class of 2016, there are nine students who are planning on signing or have already signed to play a collegiate sport next year.

On December 3rd, 2015 the Dowd Activity Center was crowded with CHS and Scotus friends to support Miles Putnam while he signed to play baseball at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Having a crowd of people attend the seniors' signings has not been very common up until this school year.

"I am looking forward to a great senior season and many memories, and I have always dreamed of playing college baseball, so I can't wait," Putnam said.

Another senior will not be leaving her bat and mitt on the high school diamond. Savannah Robertson signed to play softball at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. Robertson had been playing high school ball for four years, and her hard work paid off.

Joining Robertson at Northeast, Courtney Labenz has signed to play volleyball with the Hawks next fall. Labenz is a record holder at Scotus for most digs in a game, season, and career.

"I am looking forward to playing with a whole new bunch of girls and competing against different teams. Volleyball is my favorite sport, and it just worked out perfectly being able to play at the college I wanted to attend," Labenz said.

Labenz is not the only Shamrock volleyball player who will continue playing next year, Maeghan Pieper signed to play volleyball for the Raiders at Central Community College in Columbus.

"I loved playing [volleyball] in high school, so I can't wait to play in college. I know I would regret it if I didn't try it out," Pieper said.

The Scotus volleyball seniors ended their high school careers after receiving a fourth place medal at the State Volleyball Tournament in November.

Other students in the graduating class are planning to compete in college sports, but have not signed yet. Seth Gutzmer will attend South Dakota State next year and will be signing to be the Jackrabbit's long snapper in March. Kimberly Stutzman (soccer), Jessica Lahm (track), and Sam Novicki (football) are planning to join Putnam at UNK next fall.

"I have been competing in [track] ever since I was little, so I would like to continue my love for the sport," Lahm stated.

Sports are not the only activity that the seniors are planning to participate in next year. No matter where they decide, every college offers a wide variety of clubs and intramurals that the seniors are planning to be involved with.

Gutzmer plans on, not only playing football, but also joining the trapshooting team and being a member of Greek life at SDSU.

"[I want to be a part of Greek life] because my dad was in a fraternity, and I want to have good friends in college like he did," Gutzmer said.

Seniors are planning to continue their passion for activities by being members of color guard, journalism, choir, newspaper, band, dance, cheerleading, and theatre next year.

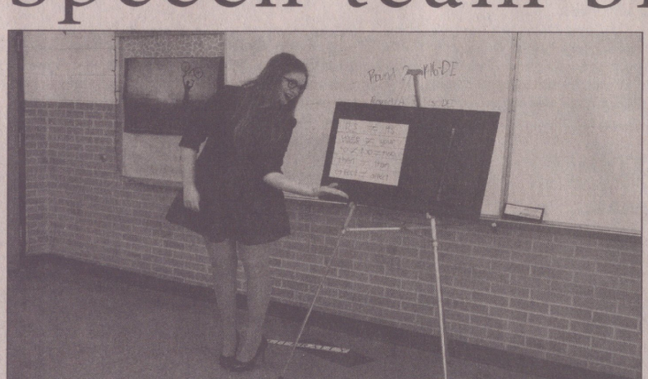
"I hope to continue choir, if my schedule allows, and I hope to do theatre because it is something that is very important to me," senior Olivia Rath informed.

The seniors are getting ready to open a new page in their lives, and all agree with Rath when she said, "I am so ready for college…"

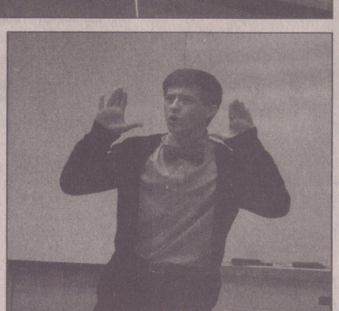
Photo Courtesy John Schueth

Senior Miles Putnam signs to play baseball at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Putnam's classmates, friends, and teammates from both Scotus and Columbus High joined him for this big day, December 3rd.

Speech team brings experience



Sophomore Emily Carstens gestures to her visual aides while presenting her entertainment speech at the Scotus Invite on January 23rd. The speech team has five more meets.



Jessica Buhman/ Yearbook Staff

(right) Senior Jared Hanson performs his Dramatic Interpretation at the Scotus Invite. Hanson has competed in speech since freshman year.

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

With three competitions already over, including their home meet on January 23, the Scotus speech team is well on its way into a competitive season. There are about sixteen members on the team, and the team has five more meets left, as well as state speech in late March.

This is head coach Danielle Masur's third year coaching, and she has made some minor changes this year.

"I've been more on top of things this year. Earlier in the season, I had students come in once a week to check in with me and making a goal for next week. We were able to take four people to the Creighton Prep meet in early December, and we didn't take anyone last year," Masur said.

Speech team competes at meets almost every Saturday, so members come in before and after school to practice and improve for the next competition each week.

"On the Monday or Tuesday after a competition, I call a team meeting, talk about what to expect at the meet and [have students] sign up for a day to practice. Students perform for me at least once during the week in twenty minute segments so that they can perform, I can give them critiques, and we can try to implement and work with them before the competition on Saturday," Masur said.

Senior Amy Heusinkvelt has been involved in speech since her freshman year.

"Two of my brothers did speech in high school, so I kind of just assumed that I was going to do speech as well," Heusinkvelt said.

Heusinkvelt performs in three events; poetry, oral interpretation of drama, and duet.

"People fear speaking more than death, and in speech, we learn to conquer that fear," Heusinkvelt said.

Senior Olivia Rath has performed in Dramatic Interpretation since freshman year, and also participates in Oral Interpretation of Drama.

"My favorite speech meet is Norfolk because it's so competitive. It's good preparation for districts and everyone has such different pieces, so it's a nice change," Rath commented.

Sophomore Lily Zargartalebi went out for speech for the first time this year.

"I was curious what it would be like, went to talk to Ms. Masur, and suddenly had a place on the team," Zargartalebi said.

The sophomore participates in Poetry and broke to finals at the Ashland-Greenwood meet on January 16.

"Before competing I get so nervous that I think my legs won't hold me when I stand up to perform. But once I start to talk, I get calm and it's the best feeling to do something I love," Zargartalebi stated.

Zargartalebi plans on using the skills she learns from speech in her future plans.

"[Speech] helps me get prepared for my future job because I am practicing speaking and presenting in front of people," Zargartalebi said.

The speech team will compete in the Crete Forensics Invite at Crete High School on Saturday.

Storytime with Kira

Better Late than Never

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

The crowd's cheers were deafening as the latest victim's mangled body was dragged off of the field.

It took ten soldiers to hold down the savage beast, not patient enough to wait for its next victim.

This was a gladiator battle, and I was next. Not willingly though. I was captured off of the coast of my homeland, Synderia. I was the king's advisor, as well as best friend. We had been through many battles and hardships together. That's the key word. *Together.* We never did anything without the other, and the one time I go on an assignment wihtout him, I get captured.

I shook my head. My matted black hair fell onto my face and covered my eyes from the scene in front of me. I was no more than twenty-five, why would they want me to die so soon?

"Warrior Rin! Please enter the field!" the announcer called above the cheers of the crowd.

I swallowed hard and put on a brave face. My feet slowly made their way out to the field, instantly being assaulted by the heat of the summer day.

The beast looked at me with its beady, yellow eyes. The fur around its neck and paws stood on end as it growled deep in its chest. The beast was similar to a lion, but a lot larger and deadlier. The claws on its feet were larger than broad swords and stained with the blood of countless victims. The teeth were yellow, and larger than butcher knives, probably a lot sharper, too.

My legs were growing weak, and my heart was pounding faster and faster. They provided me with no weapon or armor. I just had my hands and my brains to help me survive.

I chanced a glance around the stands, but my eyes found no comfort in any of the excited faces.

I wasn't much of a fighter. I preferred the peaceful way out of a situation, but I knew enough about battle to get by if a war started.

How did I end up here? How was I captured? Why was I still alive?

Questions kept shooting around my head, but I couldn't think straight. The last thing I remember before I woke up on a mysterious ship was being in a cart with some other representatives of Synderia, as well as a handful of guards to keep us safe, but a wheel had fallen off of its axel. We were stranded in the middle of bandit country. I had fallen asleep but woke up in a different place, and no sign of the people that were with me.

Later I had found out they were all dead, and the capturers knew who I was, so they kept me alive to be held as a prisoner. These people were slave traders, but since I was part of the higher class, they knew they couldn't send me away immediately, but they could get a pretty penny out of my king for him to get me back.

The slavers waited. I waited for the letter from the king to have me sent back and the money delivered to them. But it never came.

Tired of waiting, the slavers sold me to this fighting ring for more enjoyment for the crowd who hated my country.

The crowd went silent as I neared the beast. Its breath smelled of rotten corpses and blood.

Tears welled in my eyes. I didn't want to die; I hadn't gotten to live out my life with a wife or a family. I didn't want to die without my friends being with me. I had to find a way to survive.

A loud noise brought me out of my mind in time to witness the freed beast barrel toward me. I narrowly avoided the hulking mass of muscle by moving to the side. I felt its rough fur brush my arm, and the crowd cheered.

I searched around desperately for some way of defending myself, but I saw nothing.

The field was a large expanse of hard-packed sand, and statues of kings current and past from this land that I didn't know.

Wait…statues?

I heard the deafening roar of the beast behind me start its charge up again. I chanced a glance back at it, but all I could focus on were its huge teeth and claws prepared to tear me limb from limb. That alone was enough to kick my body in gear and run.

I ran toward the closest statue, hoping the beast would follow this far. The figure in stone held a large spear above its head as if preparing to strike down the beast. The crowd jeered and called me a coward and to fight, but I knew what I was doing.

I looked up knowing my time was ending fast before the beast was upon me. The spear the stature held was directly above me. If what I was thinking was correct, I would get out alive and unscathed. I turned around to face the beast, but it was too late.

The beast barreled into me and forced all of the breath from my lungs. My back was up against the pedestal to the statue, and with the added force of the beast, both myself and it crashed into the stone figure, breaking into large chunks.

I was tossed across the field while shards flew at me from the broken statue. I was cut in several places, but that was the least of my worries. I could barely breathe or move from the spot I was laying on. I was able to pick up my head and look at the beast. The spear I had planned to stab the beast, did, but it wasn't enough force to puncture the thick hide on the monster's back.

It released a loud roar and started to dig itself out of the pile of rubble around it. The crowd screamed in delight at the show that was being put on for them, but like a wave, they went silent with their eyes locked on the field entrance.

My vision was starting to go blurry and all I saw was the flash of a steel blade and the streak of a blue cape.

With one mighty roar, I felt the crash of the beast lying dead on the field.

"Sorry I'm late, Rin."

My savior knelt next to me, laying his sword to the side. It was my king. I knew he wouldn't just leave me here to die. He could've made better timing though…

"As usual. When are you ever on time?" I managed to gasp through my labored breathing.

The crowd was silent, and the king's laugh was clear through the entire stadium.

FORCE

Continued from Page 4

have too much acting experience according to their Wiki page, Daisy Ridley (Rey) and John Boyega (Finn) played their roles fantastically with ease.

The Force Awakens had some giant shoes to fill though, and it might not have slipped into them as comfortably as it wanted. Kylo Ren, one of the leaders in the First Order, wasn't enough evil. He had too much inner turmoil to really be the bad guy that the film needed. Plus, Ren is basically Vader 2.0—he wore a black mask and had his voice altered—the only thing he was missing was the famous black Vader cape. If this wasn't a *Star Wars* movie, it probably wouldn't have done so well, and it wouldn't have broken as many Box Office records. Besides, it's just another good and evil movie. We have plenty of those.

When *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* comes out on DVD (April 4, 2016!), I'm definitely going to buy it to re-watch it again. I love *Star Wars*, and I was impressed with this seventh movie. I'm trying to be unbiased, but it's hard. Honestly, I would recommend *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. I'd hit it up with an 8/10. It was a solid movie.

BREAK

Continued from Page 4

tion that Johnny Utah in the 2015 version is pretty easy on the eyes.

I thought the setting of both movies was interesting. In the 1991 version, the setting was in southern California, and it was based around the beach. I liked that part because you don't see movies about the beach that often. The 2015 version was filmed at many famous landmarks around the world, and it takes the audience to all of those places. Some of these include Switzerland, France, Hawaii, and Angel Falls in Venezuela.

The 1991 version does a good job of explaining the whole situation of the main conflict of the story. I was able to follow it the whole time. I feel like the 2015 version didn't do as good of a job of explaining everything as the older one did. As I watched it, I thought that someone who had never seen the first one would not have understood most of what was going on throughout the movie.

So if dare-devil acts and movies about undercover agents entertain you, or even if they don't, I would highly suggest you see both versions of this movie.

MOCKING

Continued from Page 4

As expected, *Mockingjay Part II* blew me away. If I had to give it a rating out of 10, the movie was 9.5/10. The half a point I deducted was because I read the book and there were some minor changes in the movie. Also the deduction was because in reading the book there was that spectacular "grand finale", and I didn't get that feeling in the movie. The ending was awesome, don't get me wrong, but it didn't have that "ohmigosh-ahh!!" effect that I felt the book had, but that could have just been that reading the book was a total journey, and I had no idea what to expect for the ending.

Mockingjay Part II was easily the best movie I saw in 2015 (although *The Good Dinosaur* was a close second, don't let Mrs. Rusher fool you), and I eagerly awaited the premier as soon as *Part I* ended. If you are a fan of thrilling, romantic, and tear-jerking movies or books, *The Hunger Games* are great books and movies for you!

Roadchip

Continued from Page 5

laugh at all the crazy things the chipmunks do and say. The children surrounding me apparently couldn't either because the theater was filled with lots of high-pitched squeals.

Although this may *seem* like a children's movie (I was totally not the only teenager watching it, if that's what you were wondering), it carries an adorable, heartwarming message. This movie outlines the meaning of friendship and loyalty. The ending completely melted my heart, and although I might not have cried, my mom shed quite a few tears.

Although the ending is extremely predictable, this movie filled my heart with a warm, fuzzy feeling. It may sound like a movie for little kids, but I would recommend that all high schoolers take a road chip to their nearest movie theatre to see this adorable movie.

Sherlock

Continued from Page 5

immediately. However, I highly advise against this unless you have seen all previous episodes of *Sherlock*. While this is a stand-alone episode and in a totally different time period than the rest of the show, I do believe you would be slightly confused and unable to bask in the true marvelousness of the plotline if you are not familiar with all of Sherlock and John's story.

That being said, I urge you profusely to watch *Sherlock* and *The Abominable Bride*. You can find all regular episodes on Netflix and at pretty much every movie rental place. *Sherlock* is simply a fantastic show with unique characters and exhilarating plotlines. Once you start, you will fly through all 9 episodes (yes, only 9) and beg for more afterward. Add *Sherlock* to your list of new year's resolutions and get watching.

Heart

Continued from Page 5

character that's dreamed of that captain position for a while but didn't get it that voyage. Owen plays a vital role in helping the story teller, Thomas, get through their time stranded at sea. The young Thomas Nickleson is played by Tom Holland, who is coming up on his new role in the future Spider-Man movie and a role as said character in the upcoming *Captain America: Civil War*. All the actors in this movie contributed greatly to the entire story, but with every good movie comes their downfalls in the acting part. Toward the end of the movie, Thomas and Melville are supposed to be drunk after drinking whiskey all night. Other characters keep up a constant British accent, but others either lose it, or didn't have one to begin with. Such a small detail to most will go unnoticed.

Most of *In the Heart of the Sea* is shot out at sea, so movie producers being movie producers, filmed on location for the overhead, smooth sailing views. When there comes a storm while at sea, which is in every sailing movie, CGI, computer generated imagery, is used to make the storm seem real, as with the White Whale, the large whale that sinks their ship. The camera positions during the hard sailing scenes gives the viewer a feeling of actually being on the ship. I'm glad I don't get motion sickness!

I give *In the Heart of the Sea* an 8/10 because it was a great movie full of suspense and tear jerking moments, leaving you wanting more. It only came down because of those little details that were constantly in the back of my mind. This is a must see film.

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Basketball passes adversities and looks forward to state

Shamrocks bounce back after regular season losses and win sub-districts over Lakeview.
Sports 6

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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Juniors wage war

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

Cries of frustration and vexation could be heard from Mr. Ohnoutka's American History classes in the past few weeks as juniors battled each other in the yearly World War I simulation. Ohnoutka has used the simulation in his classroom for the past five years.

"Students usually know more about World War II than World War I, so this gives them a chance to learn about World War I a little bit better. They learn how their country and other countries handled the war, how to negotiate, how to strategize, so it really involves a lot of critical thinking," Ohnoutka said.

Each student drew a country, but some students joined together in bigger countries, such as Germany or Austria-Hungary. Students prepared in and out of the classroom for world domination in many ways.

"I always post the map for each period outside my room, and they are always looking at the map to figure out what their next move and what other teams' next moves might be. I know they discuss the simulation in other classrooms, and when they have free time they talk about their next moves," Ohnoutka mentioned.

Junior Tatem Vance played the simulation as the United States, but was attacked midway by France and Britain.

"I knew it would end badly because my class is way too competitive, but it was still entertaining," Vance said.

This year, students utilized several different strategies from previous years, including the formation of a new alliance.

"We've had people try to invade the United States, which has never been done before. France and Great Britain are allied

See **JUNIOR**, Page 2

State Wrestling

Senior Marcus Dodson is presented as the Class B 160 lb champion at State Wrestling.

Shamrocks take nine, medal five

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

For the second year in a row, the Scotus wrestlers brought home a champion after competing in the State Championship Tournament in Omaha, February 18th, 19th, and 20th. The Shamrock wrestlers finished their year strong after winning their districts, which qualified the team for State Duals, and sending nine wrestlers to the State Tournament on February.

Senior Marcus Dodson recieved the gold medal after winning at class B weight class 160. Senior Jake Bos placed 2nd at 195. Junior Wyatt Gutzmer finished 3rd at 220. Senior Seth Gutzmer and junior Layton Mullinix both placed 4th at 182 and 138. The Shamrocks earned 5th place as a team, one place better than their 6th place in the 2015 state tournament.

Dodson won his first round match by fall in the first period, then won his quarterfinal match 3-1. Dodson then came face to face to Andrew Null of Plattsmouth, Dodson's only loss of the season. Dodson defeated Null 7-1 which sent him to the state finals. After defeating Austin Cooper of Northwest 4-3 in the championship round, Dodson reached his goal of being a state champ.

"Winning my semifinal match and avenging my only loss of the season felt good. I felt like I dominated all my matches at state. I felt totally in control," Dodson stated.

Jake Bos came into the state tournament after taking a year off due to an injury with a record of 44-6. He won his first round 8-2 and in the quarterfinals, Bos pinned his opponent in the second period. In the semifinals Bos won by decision over Josh Gasper of Gretna 7-4. After three, two-minute periods in the state championship, Bos and his opponent were tied 5-5. Schuyler's Arturo Chavez overcame Bos after getting a reversal and scoring two points. The rule for the first overtime during the championship is sudden death.

"Walking out [before your match] and looking in the crowd and seeing all of the people watching you is so much different than any other meet. It's extremely loud, and it really gets your adrenaline going," Bos said.

Junior Wyatt Gutzmer placed third at state after winning his first round with a pin. He was defeated during the quarterfinals in an ultimate tie breaker (sudden death), but won his consolation round by decision 7-3, which put him back into the running for placing at state. Gutzmer defeated Louis Gray of Norris 4-2 to receive third place on Saturday, February 20th.

"The atmosphere at the state meet is just awesome; there are so many people there. There is a lot more pressure to do well," Gutzmer said.

The Scotus wrestling team had a very successful season after going 7-3 at the Nebraska Duals, winning the Logan View Invite, the UNK duals, the Centennial Conference Tournament, and Districts. they also went on to State Duals and placed 4th overall.

Senior captain Seth Gutzmer said, "Our team has worked hard all year, so the week leading up to state duals we aren't pushing the pace as much. But we are still wanting success at State Duals."

Ohnoutka takes president position

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Many teachers will be leaving Scotus after this school year and some new faces will be coming in. The biggest position that Scotus had to offer was the president position.

After six years of being principal and ten years of being president, Mr. Morfeld is stepping down. This forced Scotus to look for someone who could fill his shoes.

There were many applications turned in, and it came down to three applicants who were able to go through the full interview process. They went through a few interviews and toured the school. After much thought and consideration, assistant principal Jeff Ohnoutka was given the position.

"I've always wanted to be an administrator and the opportunity became available at Scotus. I look forward for a chance to be the leader of an outstanding institution like Scotus," Ohnoutka said.

Ohnoutka has been a teacher and a coach at Scotus for eleven years. He has been the dean of students and the assistant principal for four years.

"I look at it as an advantage for myself: I know the students, I know the teachers, and I know strengths and weaknesses for the building," Ohnoutka said. "I think at times it could be a disadvantage. I've been a peer amongst the people that work here and now I need to be the leader. I just need to understand that I always have to do what's best for Scotus."

Even though he does not officially start until July, he is working on some preparations now for next school year. He is already involved in the hiring of new teachers. He will also be going through a process with Mr. Morfeld about little concepts that need to be done as president.

Ohnoutka's wife, Deb Ohnoutka, is also an English teacher at Scotus. Their daughter Megan is a junior.

"[My family] supports me in it and I appreciate the fact that they're behind me. They know that it is going to take a big time commitment from me, but they are used to that with their dad and husband being a teacher/basketball coach," Ohnoutka said.

This will be his last season as Scotus' head basketball coach and the school will soon be searching for someone to replace him.

"I'm really excited about the chance to be in a position of leadership at Scotus. I love this place. We have a great faculty, we have great students, and the parental support that we get is second to none for a Catholic school. We want to keep driving forward and doing the best that we can," Ohnoutka said.

Coach and history teacher Jeff Ohnoutka was named the new Scotus president in February. He will officially start in July.

JUNIOR

Continued from Page 1

with the Central Powers, which is totally different. We have one class where the Allies are completely dominating, and another class where the Central Powers are. We also have a third group that has emerged that calls themselves the World Powers; they've created their own third group," Ohnoutka elaborated.

> ***"It was really fun because my allies were loyal and Russia joined us...I was Germany so it was fun to have power over other countries."***
>
> ***~Naomi Kosch***

The simulation lasted one and a half to two weeks. Junior Naomi Kosch dominated fourth period as Germany.

"It was really fun because my allies were loyal and Russia joined us. Plus, I was Germany so it was fun to have power over other countries," Kosch said.

Even though some students argued that Germany has a better chance of domination, Ohnoutka disagreeed.

"I think it's all in the decisions made by individuals. People tend to think that Germany, because of their troop strength, has an advantage, but it's all about making allies with other countries and thinking outside of the box. As long you meet your objectives, you're going to be fine. I don't think there's anyone who has a definite advantage," Ohnoutka said.

In addition to in-classroom warfare, students created propaganda to sway public opinion.

"This is a fun thing to do every year; the propaganda is fun to look at, and kids are creative with it. Education doesn't have to be boring; it doesn't have to be just sitting in a classroom taking notes every day. Students get more out of this than they would from any lecture that I'd ever do," Ohnoutka concluded.

JESSICA BUHMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Matt Hoenk plots his next move in American History. The juniors simulated World War I in each class period.

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How to charm yourself a Cinderella

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

As spring time rolls around the corner there is only one thing on every girl's mind: prom. Prom is an event that the junior girls have been dreaming of and the senior girls have been counting down the days for. Prom is a day full of beauty prep and a night full of great food, phenomenal music and dancing, and lots of winnings at post prom to take home. To all the guys out there who haven't even started thinking about the uncomfortable pictures and the sharp needles your date plunges into your chest while pinning in your boutonniere, follow my prom GUY-lines, and you'll be picking up more than your tuxedo on prom night!

Start by stalking girls on Instagram and picking out your dream date. Don't worry if you think she's out of your league, that's where the second step comes in. Boys, all you have to do is get on Google and type in "cute promposals" and anything that comes up will work, I "prom"ise. I would definitely suggest adding some flowers and chocolates. No one says no to flowers and chocolate with a pair of size 7 Nike tennies with the words "I was scared to ask you to prom, but I decided to *Just Do It"* written on the box. Be sure to ask a buddy to be a secret photographer so they can capture the moment with a genuine candid shot. Then post those babies on EVERY social media website so all the other girls know how great you are which will make them hope you ask them to the next dance!

Now that you have your dream prom date, it's time to get your tux and flowers ready for the big day. Make sure you ask your girl what color her dress is and have her or your mom O.K. your tuxedo before you rent it. It's not that girls don't trust you to make this decision, we just want to make sure our dates don't pick us up looking like a character off of *Dumb and Dumber*. So say your dream girl's dress is ohhh I don't knowwww white? Matching her with a khaki or navy colored tux with a pop of color would make the two of you look like a couple from the red carpet. Next step is ordering flowers that also match both you and your date's formal dress for this big occasion. Remember, bigger is ALWAYS better!

When prom day finally rolls around, be sure to get all gussied up. Shave your face and get a fresh haircut, also a shower does not hurt anyone. Pick your girl up at her house a half hour before pictures. Driving your hot date around on hot wheels is also an added bonus. That way you and your date can show up to pictures in style!

The dance itself is the easy part. After being served a great meal, be sure you offer to take even more photos in front of the back drop for your mother. Also, when she asks you to take photos of her and her friends do not protest. Girls love documenting moments like this, and of course they will give you photo creds on insta later! As soon as the lights go down and the disco balls start turning, sweep your date off her feet and get on that dance floor. Be your Cinderella's Prince Charming for a night by spinning her around and around until the clock strikes midnight.

Prom is an event that everyone looks forward to, and by following these steps, guys, you will give your dream girl a prom night she won't forget!

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Dateless but not charmless

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

Prom. The biggest day of your high school life, or so they say. Don't get me wrong, prom is awesome. It's fun to slip into a fancy get-up, get your hair done, and boogey-woogey the night away. However, all these things can take place without the crazy pomp and circumstance surrounding our modern day proms. This includes the necessity of having a date. It seems to me that in order for prom to be "perfect" now-a-days, you have to have a date. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

First off, it is way easier to go without a date because of the crazy standards in place for getting a prom date. It's just a tad bit ridiculous. Guys, you better have the most kick-buttest promposal of all time if you want to sweep your girl off her feet. At least, that seems to be what is expected. I don't understand any of this! First off, girls, if you are lucky enough to have a man who wants to take you to prom, you shouldn't be too hard on him. It should be enough that he is willing to put his heart out on his sleeve and ask you. Secondly, you shouldn't need a man at all! Your prom experience will not be ruined if you don't get promposed to, I "prom"ise.

If you do go to prom stag, there are several problems you won't have to worry about. Personally, last year, I was stressing hardcore about getting everything perfect for my date and me. I ended up ordering flowers the week of prom, which didn't go over so well. The shade of the flowers was different than my dress, and the ribbon didn't match his tux. This would have been an abominable atrocity, had I actually cared that much. As it were, that slight mix up taught me a lesson. It taught me that there is no point in trying to get everything perfect, as it will never work out. Also, that it would be easier to just go to prom alone.

Attending prom without a date also means that you have more opportunities for pictures with different people. When you don't have a date to stick around and take myriads of pictures with, you can rove about the room. It gives you an opportunity to take tons of cute and sassy pics with your friends, girls *and* guys. While I don't have a whole lot of experience with having dates to dances, it seems you have much more freedom with picture taking when you don't have someone to worry about offending.

Furthermore, riding solo to prom means you can dance with whomever you gosh darn want to. I mean, providing the subject of your desire wants to dance with you as well. What I'm getting at is that you don't have to attach yourself to one guy for the whole night. Boogey with your girls, slow dance with your guy friends, do the Macarena with the teacher chaperones. You don't have to dance with Prince Charming to feel like Cinderella. Let your crazy show and dance freely without worry of accidently ignoring your date.

Prom really is great, and is also one of the biggest deals of our young lives so far. While it may be fun to have a date for this memorable occasion, it is absolutely and irrevocably nowhere near the end of the world if you don't. So in a few months - or years for you youngins - when prom rolls around, hop on the dance floor and party. Show the world how unabashedly single you are.

Found my lucky charm

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Prom. Just reading it immediately gives me thoughts of beautiful dresses, limos, and dancing with my dream date. I cannot wait for prom!

I already have a "dream date." Although having a boyfriend senior year may have some downsides, when it's prom season, it seriously comes in handy.

I have everything planned out since I know for a fact I will have a date and to say my expectations are high is a bit of an understatement.

First off, the build-up to prom adds to the excitement. Seeing pictures on Instagram and tweets of how he asked his special girl is something I've looked forward to. Since last year I took a friend, I've definitely put the pressure on for my promposal to be something spectacular. Maybe having a skywriter write "Prom" then jumping out of said plane with candy and flowers and a giant teddy bear on my doorstep? Yeah. That'd be nice.

After he has seen my dress and drooled over how fantabulously amazing it is, I know in my heart he will search high and low to find the absolute most-matchtastic tuxedo of all time. Next comes the flowers, and these flowers either have to be the most beautiful or rarest flowers. I adore being unique, so my flowers have to be as well. I know sometimes that being too matchy-matchy cause some people to *gag*, but at prom I "prom"ise it's acceptable! The flowers, tuxedo, and my dress will look so spectacular everyone will be totally jealous of my date and I, and we will become the "dream team". (JK no one is as awesome as JenBell and Darin)

Okay, I am selfie challenged. I take at least 50 pictures and then delete them all because I can't take a good picture to save my life. So these pictures have to be perfect. My date and I will take pictures for Insta, twitter, and Facebook for grandma! As my family members fawn over my pictures giving me major confidence boosters, my enemies will grudgingly like the pictures because they cannot deny how fantastic my date and I look. These will be the pictures my children will look at years from now. They'll say "Golly, gee mom! You were so pretty. Look at how awesome your date and you look!" I will simply respond with, "I know." If you don't take a good picture at prom it's almost like you didn't even go.

After you attend the Mass, everyone floods into the school cafeteria which has magnificently transformed into a dream. After all the pictures have been taken, and we have eaten dinner (I pray no one bloats) the dance begins. Okay, real talk here. Scotus dances may seem lame, but if you stand by the tables and don't even dance, of course you assume its lame! However, instead of standing on the sidelines being lame, people could oh… I don't know… dance! What a novel idea, dancing at a dance! I can see it now: dancing the night away with my perfect date and ending it with that perfect slow dance. My date will spin me around like Cinderella and my date really is my kind of prince charming.

After reading this article I know what everyone is thinking… you all can't wait for prom!

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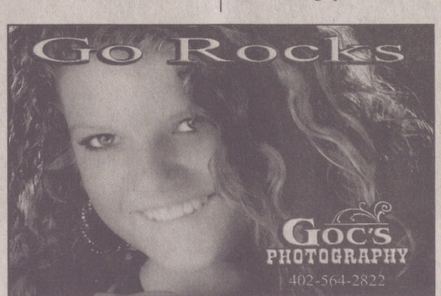

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Tevye's family gathers around for praise during the Sabbath.

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Musical fiddles way into hearts

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Once again, cast members for the Scotus musical hurried to touch up their makeup, rehearse songs, and gather round in a circle to pray for their debuts on stage.

On February 19th and 20th, Scotus students put on *Fiddler on the Roof* , co-directed by vocal teacher Laura Salyard and art teacher Lindsay Dannelly. The musical had 35 cast members and 14 crew members.

Dannelly said, "The best part was watching the final product. The show came together so well, and I felt like the whole cast really shined on stage!"

This musical is focused on a much more serious theme than in years past. The Jewish inhabitants of Anatevka are forced from their homes by the Russians at the turn of the century. While this is happening, the musical centers around a family and their children straying from the norm of how things are done in Jewish tradition.

Salyard said, "I was looking for a musical that had several important roles, especially for guys. I had a strong group of upperclassmen that I wanted to showcase and this musical was a good fit."

Senior Adam Smith was the lead character, playing Tevye. He had to use a Russian accent, learn Jewish customs, and wear a beard for the entirety of the musical.

"It was difficult to depict how torn Tevye was between choosing his family and his faith," Smith said.

Cast members had to take on roles different than in years past. Some students focused on using Russian accents and portrayed much older characters than their actual ages.

Senior Gabby Middendorf remarked, "I loved portraying Yente. She's hilariously nosey and she rambles on and on. I literally had to memorize paragraphs of lines, which was a struggle, but I've seen the movie so many times that it wasn't impossible."

Senior Jared Hanson had to become a holy figure and wore many layers for his costume to fully characterize the rabbi figure.

"I loved my character; I basically got to act dazed and super confused the whole time, which was super easy for me," Hanson quipped.

Other changes were made, including a change in performance times. There were two performances on Saturday instead of the usual Sunday matinee.

Salyard said, "Attendance was a downfall, since many were unable to attend due to state wrestling. However, having Sunday to recuperate and get organized was wonderful, for both us and the students."

The backstage crew had multiple set pieces to work with including a large house senior Dana Hoppe and his father, Fred Hoppe, built.

Dannelly used the help of her Art Club to paint the backdrop and flats used to change the scenes.

Dannelly commented, "Imagination and a great crew is how we made the set. We painted the backdrop on my art floor and kept rolling it out and painted it one section at a time."

Once again, the musical came to an end and the seniors left the Scotus stage for the final time.

Senior Olivia Rath said, "Musical will always hold a special place in my heart. I'm grateful to my directors and friends who have made my time onstage unforgettable."

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Freshman Mattie Johnson (center) gathers townsfolk around to tell her latest gossip. The musical centered around gossip, even featuring a song titled, "The Rumor."

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Senior Courtney Brockhaus, junior Courtney Flint, and sophomores Caitlin Steiner and Jenna Salerno perform the old Jewish marriage custom of bottle dancing.

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Seniors Dana Hoppe and Megan Meyer share a forbidden dance during the performance. They later marry in Siberia after Perchik (Hoppe) is arrested and convicted.

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Senior Amy Heusinkvelt and junior Mitchell Halligan confess their love to one another during the song "Miracle of Miracles." Their marriage was unconventional since it was not arranged by the matchmaker.

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Freshman Drew Zaruba and junior Naomi Kosch flirt in Motel Kamzoil's tailor shop. The two elope and Chava is then shunned by her family because of her illicit marriage.

Sam Suo/ Media Staff

Seniors Olivia Rath and Adam Smith sing about their marriage of twenty-five years. The musical performed Friday, February 19th, and Saturday, February 20th.

Students trade Hot Wheels for new wheels

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

From a young age, children count down the days until their sixteenth birthday. On this day, they become a new person, a person with a driver's license. With this exciting transformation comes the need for a car.

These cars come in many different shapes, sizes, colors, and abilities.

"I like how small [my car] is because I can fit into smaller parking spots and weave through traffic," junior Emerson Belitz said of her 2000 Alero Oldsmobile.

Although most Scotus students drive cars and small SUV's, a few drive bigger vehicles. One of these students, senior Brady Pryzmus, enjoys driving a large vehicle, a 1996 Lexus Landcruiser.

"[My car] is safe," Pryzmus said. "If I ever get in a wreck, my car will most likely win."

However, the vehicles of high-schoolers are usually not overly fancy. Many do not function properly, which is frustrating to the students driving them.

"I can only drive [my car] when the weather is nice because it has no heater, and the breaks wouldn't work on ice well," junior Noah Tworek said.

Junior Keaton Kudron drives a 2001 Pontiac Bonneville.

"[My car] is always beeping when I start it and telling me to check certain things," Kudron said.

Senior Kim Stutzman has also experienced problems with her car, a 2008 Mercury Milan.

"The lights for my radio are out, so I don't know what station I'm listening to," Stutzman said.

Many high schoolers do not have a say in what kind of car they are given. These cars are usually not new or flashy.

"[My car] has been referred to as a granny car," senior Marucs Dodson said of his 2002 Toyota Camry. "It's slightly emasculating."

However, this downfall can be used to a student's advantage.

Senior Emma Zeller, who drives an Alero, said, "[My car] is ugly and old so I can drive as bad as I want to."

The cars of high school students are places where high school students make many memories.

"One time, my sister Carly kicked Jessica Lahm and I out of the car because we said McDonalds was better than Burger King. We had to walk to the next destination," senior Emily Fehringer recalled.

Junior Dalton Taylor also recalled fond memories from time spent in his 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Taylor said, "I was driving with [Chase] Newman, and my car ran out of gas a few blocks from Scotus."

Junior Nikki Hiner has also experienced many memorable moments in her 2002 Volkswagen Beetle.

"On the way back from cross country, Allison Starzec was eating sunflower seeds in my car and putting the shells in a cup," Hiner recalled. "The cup ended up spilling, and it was a very traumatic event trying to vacuum up small, wet shells."

Although embarrassing or dysfunctional, the cars of high school students are places where they make memories with their friends and family, memories that they will look back at and cherish the rest of their lives.

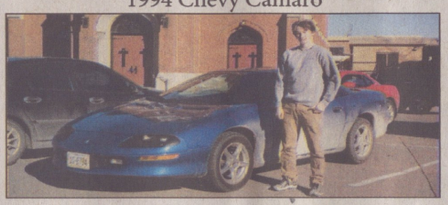
HALEY FAUST/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

This fall, the north parking lot was completed. The new lot created forty additional parking spaces.

Students drive in style

Miles Putnam
2013 Kia Optima LX

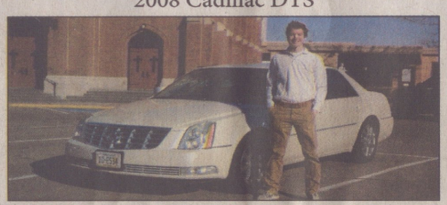
Kyle Kobza
1994 Chevy Camaro



Colby Pieper
2005 Chevy Silverado 1500

Kaleb Puntney
2006 Ford Power Stroke

Dana Hoppe
2008 Cadillac DTS



Jackie Robledo
2014 Chevy Camaro

Matt Hoenk
1996 Toyota Station Wagon

Seth Gutzmer
2008 GMC 2500 Duramax

Nikki Hiner and Mikayla Nienaber
Volkswagon Beetles

What do you like most about your car?

"It's fast. I've never lost a race."

-Tyler Brandenberg
junior

"I like that I have four-wheel drive because it makes driving in the winter easier."

-Bailey Honold
senior

"The fact that duct tape holds all my stuff together."

-Alec Foltz
senior

"The color/size. Also, the keyless entry. I never have to worry about locking my keys in the car."

-Sarah Schumacher
senior

"The dent in the side. it's a battle scar."

-Anthony Kosch
junior

"It's small and not super expensive, so if I crash it's not as big of a deal."

-Naomi Kosch
junior

What is the biggest mistake you've made while driving?

"Not paying attention and running into a mail carrier."

-Megan Meyer
senior

"I hit a pole after parking in front of it. When I went to leave, I forgot it was there and drove into it."

-Chase Newman
junior

"I was backing out of Abbie Perault's driveway (a cul-de-sac), and I turned way too early and ended up hitting the fire hydrant that was in her yard."

-Kelsey Wiehn
senior

"One time, I rear-ended Hunter Smith because he was throwing Doritos back at me, and I was trying to catch them."

-Tate VunCannon
junior

"I hit the pole in my bank drive through."

-Allie Johnson
senior

"I ran over a small tree at the armory before wrestling when it was icy."

-Marcus Dodson
senior

Swimmers finish season at state

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

The swimming season has ended with many firsts and lasts for the swimmers.

Freshman Blaney Dreifurst said, "I went out for swim because I wanted to try something new and stay in shape. Also, I had been told that swimming is very fun."

Scotus partners with Columbus High School because Scotus does not offer a swim team. Through this co-oped sport, the members of the team have created many friendships.

Senior Hannah Thomazin said, "Getting to know new people is my favorite. During the season, the swim team becomes a family. I wouldn't be able to get through the season without my girls."

Dreifurst agreed, "I love how many team bonding get-togethers we have. The team really is like another family to me. We all look out for each other."

The swim team met for practice twice a day, five days a week, all season.

Senior Kelsey Wiehn said, "My very first practice I swam around 24 laps. I was extremely tired and had no idea what I was doing. Practices were pretty good though. Depending on what we did, I'd either be tired or not."

The tedious and long practices paid off for the team.

"The Millard North meet was insane. Almost every girl dropped time which is incredible. We qualified for state in the 200 free relay," Thomazin said.

Columbus swam several state qualifying times at the Millard North meet. The boys 200 freestyle relay, which consisted of four boys, including sophomore Chase Andresen, automatically qualified for state. The girls had one secondary qualifying time in the 200 freestyle relay, which included freshman Callan Fuscher.

At the South Sioux City swim meet, the boy's team had seven secondary qualifying times and had some close to automatic qualifying times. Both the girls and boys teams won this meet at a staggering 225 points, beating South Sioux City by 137 points.

The swimmers competed in Lincoln this past weekend at the Bob Devaney Center for state swimming. Overall, six swimmers qualified for state, two of whom were alternates, freshmen Julia Salerno and Konnor Kudron. Sophomore Trey Dallman swam the 400 relay, and sophomore Chase Andresen swam the 200 relay, the medley relay, and the 400 relay. Freshman Callan Fuchser swam the 200 free relay and the medley relay, and Thomazin swam the medley relay.

The boys finished 9th and broke a school record in the 200 medley relay.

"I knew we broke the school record when I finished the race and my teammate Ryan Pauley bent down and shook my hand and said, 'We did it!'" Andresen said.

Even though the swim team did not win all of their meets, the swimmers improved every meet.

Andresen concluded, "My goals for next year are to improve my times and get back to state next year. I am excited to be a leader on the team. I hope I can follow in the steps of this year's leaders."

PHOTO COURTESY KRIS ANDRESEN

Columbus High state qualifying swimmers from Scotus, (left to right) freshman Konnor Kudron, sophomores Trey Dallman and Chase Andresen, senior Hannah Thomazin, and freshmen Julia Salerno and Callan Fuchser, pose for a picture before leaving for state.

Boys' basketball bounces back

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

After dropping three games in a span of eight days, the Scotus boys' basketball team is back on the right track with their 47-30 win over North Bend in the subdistrict final.

The Shamrocks, who were 18-0 following their conference championship, have taken some tough losses this season. A 72-45 blowout loss to Class C-1 #1-ranked Bishop Neumann on February 5th was a humbling experience for the Shamrocks. However, according to junior guard Cody Mroczek, the loss was far from the end of the road for the team.

"We knew they were a good team and that we'll be able to see them at state again," Mroczek said. "We weren't too hurt by that loss."

KELSEY WIEHN/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Miles Putnam drives into the lane against North Bend on February 25th. The Shamrocks defeated the Tigers 47-30.

The following Monday, the Shamrocks again traveled to Wahoo, this time to face the Warriors of Wahoo High. A 3-point barrage from the Warriors proved to be too much for the Shamrocks, who lost 54-47.

"Other teams are shooting really well against us," Mroczek said. "There's not a lot we can do about that."

A matchup with crosstown rival Lakeview was next on the schedule for the Rocks. In a game that was close through two quarters, the Shamrocks proved to be too much, coming out on top 54-38. Junior point guard Nathan Ostdiek was pleased with the team#s focus coming back from two consecutive losses.

"After the losses, we just wanted to forget about it and come back stronger," Ostdiek said.

On Saturday, February 13th, the boys traveled to Grand Island to participate in the Heartland Hoops Classic, an annual showcase of Nebraska high school boys' basketball teams. The showcase is designed to match teams up that wouldn't normally see each other in a regular season matchup. The Shamrocks were slated to play the Class C-1 #3-ranked Adams Central Patriots.

The game was again marked by the opposing team's 3-point shooting. The Patriots knocked down seven 3's and had four different players in double figures, winning by a final score of 61-52.

"We just weren't playing good defense," Ostdiek said. "We needed to get more steals and easy transition buckets."

Once again, however, the Shamrocks bounced back in their next game, defeating Aquinas Catholic in the regular-season finale 63-44.

"We know the key to us winning is high energy basketball," Mroczek said. "That along with our defensive intensity will get us deep into the postseason."

The Shamrocks' postseason started with subdistricts, which took place last Monday through Thursday at Columbus High School. The first round saw a rematch of Scotus and Lakeview.

"We ran their offensive sets every day in practice," Mroczek said. "We wanted to make sure we knew exactly what they were running."

The game was almost a carbon-copy of the first. The Vikings held tough in the first half, only trailing by four points at halftime. A 20-point second half performance from junior Dalton Taylor propelled the Shamrocks to a 56-40 victory.

"We were just trying to have fun and play like we knew we could," Ostdiek said, following the win.

This set the stage for another matchup between top 10 teams in the subdistrict final: the #4-ranked Shamrocks against the #8-ranked North Bend Tigers. The Tigers came into the game on a 22-game winning streak, having only lost their first game of the year.

"We knew they were going to be confident," Mroczek said. "We just had to play our game and set the tone early with our transition game."

The Shamrocks did exactly that, jumping out to a 32-11 lead by halftime. The second half was more balanced, but the storyline remained the same. The Shamrocks were victorious by a final score of 47-30.

The Shamrocks played in the district final at Seward High School on Monday night to clinch a spot in the state tournament.

Girls finish strong season

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' basketball team finished their season last Friday night at Centennial High School. The battle between the Shamrocks and the #1 ranked Lincoln Christian Lady Crusaders ended with a 67-45 Crusader victory.

"We knew from the beginning of the season that Lincoln Christian would be our matchup in the district final," sophomore guard Kendra Wiese said.

The two teams met once before this season with a similar outcome: a 50-30 Lady Crusader win. A major focus for the Shamrocks in both games was Lincoln Christian's standout guard, Chloe Dworak. The All-State guard is the catalyst behind a Crusader offense scoring 67.9 points per game.

"She had to be stopped," senior Emily Fehringer said. "If we stopped her, we would have really damaged their offense."

Even as the Scotus defense focused on containing her, Dworak got her buckets, scoring 21 points and dishing out 6 assists.

To reach the district final and face Dworak's Lady Crusaders, the Shamrocks had to battle back from some tough losses late in the regular season. Following the conference tournament, the Shamrocks dropped two matchups with Aquinas Catholic (44-48) and crosstown rival Lakeview (34-41).

"We were pretty hard on ourselves afterwards, especially because we knew they were winnable games," senior Jessica Lahm said.

The Shamrocks were determined to let the losses drive them through subdistricts.

"It was frustrating, but our team pushed through and we kept working harder," senior Sarah Schumacher stated.

The first round rematch with Aquinas had the Shamrocks focused on revenge, with a different gameplan.

"We practiced getting the ball inside more often, since Aquinas has a lot of quick guards but not a lot of height," Fehringer said.

The Shamrocks won the game 52-48 to set up a matchup against 17-5 North Bend. A different strategy was required for the Tigers.

"We were prepared for our competition to be large players," Lahm said. "We practiced shooting over and around them."

Despite a size disadvantage, the Shamrocks controlled the boards. Their rebounding and free throws propelled them to squeak out a 38-36 victory. The win allowed the girls to return to the district final for the second time in three years.

The Shamrocks were a senior-led squad all year. Fehringer, along with Lahm, Schumacher, and Allie Johnson formed the core of the girls' basketball team. The team chemistry was something that was never an issue for the Shamrocks.

"Playing with the best teammates all year has been a blast," Schumacher said.

The girls cited their sense of unity as the biggest reason for their solid postseason run.

"I got to play this game with some of my best friends all year," Fehringer said. "That and getting to the district final were the best part of this season."

The girls' basketball team finished the year with a record of 14-9.

NATALIE CHAPPELL/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Emily Fehringer dribbles the ball past an Aquinas defender. The Shamrocks defeated the Monarchs 52-48 on February 17th.

Cheerleaders compete loud and proud at state

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

Glitter, bows, pom poms, and smiles were all in check for the Shamrock cheerleading squad heading to Grand Island on Friday, February 19th for the state cheer and dance competition.

The cheerleaders earned themselves a fourth place finish, the best they've ever done at state competition.

Senior cheer captain Natalie Chappell said, "We walked off the mat with great satisfaction, but the competition was hard. We had only minor deductions. Even though we weren't first, we still did our best."

Last year, the cheerleading squad was unable to make the state competition because the date clashed with the musical. This year, however, they were able to compete. Taking a break off from last year, the cheer squad made a change as to who choreographed the dance.

Senior cheer captain Anna Wickham said, "The whole squad contributed to the cheer. We did it together instead of just the seniors choreographing and teaching it. It made it easier for everyone to remember and nail the routine."

The girls had a limited amount of time preparing for their state routine because there was only about a two weeks' time period from the girls and guys dance to state cheer. The squad only competed with a cheer instead of performing both a cheer and dance combo.

"It was tough because we normally enter into the dance portion too, but with both football and volleyball going to state, we didn't have time to choreograph a rocking dance and perfect it for state," Wickham said. "Plus, we also had the guy girl dance to focus on!"

Even though they had difficulties working with timing, the cheerleaders did not let it set them behind.

Senior cheer captain Megan Meyer said, "We did super well in the chant category. We were loud, had strict motions, and were together the entire time. We used a lot of team work to get our cheer dance just right; I'm proud of everyone."

Practices kicked off immediately following the guy girl dance. The squad practiced every morning and even met on Saturday to perfect their cheer.

"This was the one of the best routines we've ever done, no joke, but practicing in the cafeteria wasn't enough," Wickham said. "We should have had at least one full practice where we could have completely stretched out and performed the routine with all the jumps. We did the best we could with what we had."

Thirteen girls will return to the squad next year.

Freshman Julia Selerno said, "After we performed, I was really happy! One of my favorite parts of cheer is being able to support your school and have good relationships with other people who love doing the same. I'm looking forward to next year."

PHOTO COURTESY KELLY SPENCERI

The cheer squad smiles for a photo while waiting for awards to be announced at state cheer. The squad placed fourth.

Band rocks the days of old

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Poodle skirts and leather jackets filled the cafeteria and Activity Center on Monday, February 8 for the 21st annual band Dinner Concert.

Every year the band department puts on this unique event with a specific theme for the decorations and music. This year's theme was "Rock Around the Clock", the fifties. With performances ranging from the fifth grade to junior high to drumline to high school, they all rocked the days of old.

This year, the band concert was moved to the Activity Center.

"Moving to the Activity Center was easier to set up the band schematic as well as audience chairs, smoother transition between bands, and this performance area allowed parents to see their child performing," band director Kristen Cox said.

The Dinner Concert brought over a thousand people into Scotus. Every year more and more people come to this concert so moving to the Activity Center helped keep people from getting overcrowded. To help raise money for the concert, tickets are sold by the students and at the door, and from student ticket sales alone, more than 800 were sold.

This year also brought about several volunteers who took charge after several retirements from last year's Dinner Concert.

"We met on a regular basis to just talk about ticket sales, how much food was coming in, the decorating, just to touch base with who has found what for decorations, and to put it all together," Cox stated.

Last year, Mr. and Mrs. Levos had retired after being the head chair people of the decoration and set up of the concert. This position was filled by Nicole Blaser, Danielle Frewing, and Laurie Hergott. Down in the kitchen, Mrs. Morrison had been head, but she retired as well. Her position was filled by Tammy Bichlmeier, Susan Littlefield, Amy Stachura, and Sarah Ehlers.

"The nice part about it is that there were so many things that we're overseeing now, that each of these people could help do one area and that made it fantastic," Cox commented.

After Christmas, the band only has three weeks to prepare.

"I always have a lot of anxiety after Christmas because basically we have three weeks to get the music ready," Cox stressed. "There is no room for a plan B where the music is concerned. If a piece isn't working out, I don't have the time to change it, instead I will rewrite parts to make it work."

Lack of time doesn't take away from the difficulty of the music. The music ranged from popular songs such as "Rock Around the Clock" and "Don't Be Cruel" to medleys like "The Birth of Rock and Roll." Songs that resembled what the fifties culture felt like were played by all the bands present.

The drumline made an appearance as well, dressed as soda jerks, and played four of their most popular pieces. An added bonus to their performance was the use of choreography to make the music more exciting.

"I felt happy after every rehearsal with every band. It was just really fun," Cox said. "It was a great concert, and I look forward to next year. I'm already starting to plan for next year, believe it or not."

COURTNEY BROCKHAUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomores Nathan Donoghue and Wren Allen, junior Sam Schacher, and seniors Bailey Braun and Darin Rinkol play their trombones during the band dinner concert. The theme this year was "Rock Around the Clock."

COURTNEY BROCKHAUS/YEARBOOK STAFF

Eighth graders Sydney Martinsen, Molly Carstens, Jacey Clarey, Lauren Ostdiek, Kate Smith, and Brea Lassek prepare to dance while playing their clarinets. The concert featured the fifties in both music and fashion.

Importance of vocations voiced at Scotus

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

As adolescents growing up, all students at Scotus are trying to figure out what they are going to do with the lives they've been given. Lent is a perfect time for teenagers to consider their vocation more deeply.

There are plenty of directions to take one's calling, but Chaplain and Campus Minister Father Matt Capadano has some advice for ambitious young adults.

"Pray. It's really that simple. Also, be patient. The answer is not going to come overnight for 99.99% of us… But that's why we pray: so we can know God's voice and hear his call," Fr. Capadano said.

Fr. Capadano is in his second year as Chaplain at Scotus. His office has been frequented by many students looking for direction in their journeys. Some young men at Scotus have even been considering the priesthood.

"Some guys come to me as a freshman thinking about the priesthood," Fr. Capadano explained. "My first response would be to tell them to be open, and not to freak out."

Fr. Capadano wants young men to understand that it doesn't mean they are different or that they have to stop thinking about girls. However, it does mean they should start praying more.

"Hopefully, throughout the years, we would get young people into a deeper prayer life. That way, by the time they're seniors, they can make a well-discerned, spiritual, moral decision," Fr. Capadano said.

When a Scotus senior decides that he might need to take a look at seminary, he is directed to an old Scotus favorite: Father Andrew Roza, who is the vocations director for the Archdiocese of Omaha.

"If Father Roza feels like, 'Okay, this guy is ready for seminary,' then applications would be filled out and the diocese would choose a seminary for the young man based on personal experiences," Fr. Capadano explained. "It's all based on what the vocation director sees in him."

Scotus has had a recent history of young men taking this step in their lives. Graduates in recent years who have journeyed to seminary include Bill Cremers, A.J. Bose, and Dan Strecker.

"There were several others in my class and other classes who considered seminary. Some of them honestly discerned that God was calling them toward another path," Cremers said.

Cremers graduated from Scotus in 2011. God started to make His intentions with Bill clear in his junior year.

"When I visited Conception Seminary as a junior, I got to see what a seminary is like, and I found tremendous peace there," Cremers said.

As far as advice for current students, Cremers echoed Father Capadano's call for prayer and patience. He also advises young men discerning to trust in God's plan for them.

"Many times, we are tempted to think about discernment as making a choice," Cremers said. "However, with trust in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, we know we are confidently walking in the Father's love."

Ultimately, the Archdiocese of Omaha needs more young men answering the call to priesthood. Both Fr. Capadano and Cremers talked about the need for more priests in the near future.

"Currently, with the retirement rate of priests we're looking at, we need five priests to be ordained every year to keep up," Fr. Capadano said.

Cremers, who is currently in his fourth year of seminary, agreed and talked about the various class sizes at his seminary.

"This year we will have six priests ordained, but some of the other classes are fairly small," Cremers stated. "My class has two!"

As the seniors of 2016 wind down their careers at Scotus, the Archdiocese continues to pray for the successful discerning of their vocations.

Cremers puts it best,"The first vocation we are all called to is holiness. We are all called to be saints, regardless of the path we take!"

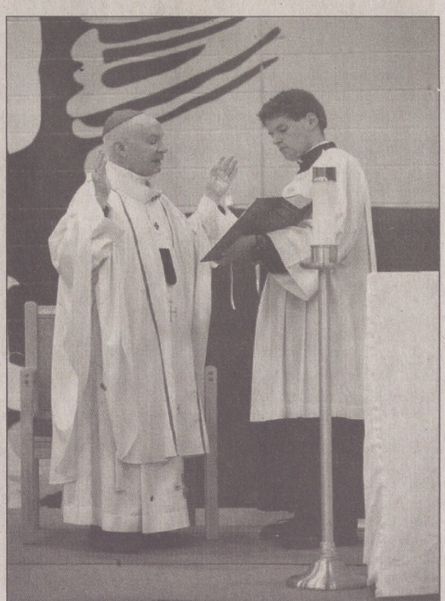


PHOTO COURTESY BILL CREMERS

Scotus alumnus Bill Cremers serves at the 2015 Urban Vocation Awareness Rally in Omaha, Nebraska. Cremers is in his fifth year of seminary schooling.

Rock Bottom asks the real questions

What is your favorite time of day?

"After school, because I don't have to be at school."

-Emily Hand, junior

"The middle of the night, because I don't have to be conscious and recognize how worthless my life is."

-Jared Hanson, senior

"The morning, because I can have a cup of coffee and get started on my day."

-Sam Suo, senior

Do you crumple or fold your toilet paper?

"That's a very personal question. Maybe I use Cottonelle Wipes."

-Mrs. Zanardi, faculty

"Crumple. Folding just doesn't get the job done."

-Alyssa Kuta, junior

"I crumple my toilet paper because I think it really makes the surface area spread out."

-Zach Svehla, junior

What is your deepest, darkest secret?

"That's confidential."

-Drew Zaruba, freshman

"I am a Sith Lord."

-Sam Blaser, freshman

"This one time, I walked out of the house, and I forgot pants."

-Courtney Brockhaus, senior

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AND MR. SHAMROCK GOES TO...

Question | Talent | Dream Girl Outfit

The student council hosts Mr. Shamrock as a fundraiser for Simon House. This year seven senior men competed for the title of Mr. Shamrock. ***Features 4***

Rock Bottom

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Speakers contend at state meet

JENNIFER BELSAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Emily Carstens strums her ukelele during her entertainment speech at state speech on March 23. Carstens placed 3rd overall in her event.

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

The blustery and dreary day did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Scotus speech team as six of its members competed at state speech Wednesday, March 23. The team took four separate entries to the state meet, sophomore Emily Carstens being the only to place with a third place finish in entertainment.

Competition at state is comprised out of the best of the best, so opponents are always very tough. That didn't scare Carstens, though.

"This was only my second year of speech team and my first visit to state, so I was kind of worried about going up against more seasoned upper classmen. However, I just went up there and gave the speech that I have been working hard on all season, and it paid off," she said.

Another of the state qualifying events was an oral interpretation of drama cut from an episode of Scooby Doo. Playing the role of Fred in the speech was senior Dana Hoppe.

"To qualify for state, you have to place in the top three at districts. I was a nervous wreck during awards, waiting to see if we were going to make it," Hoppe said.

Making the trip to state with Hoppe were fellow OID members, seniors Lydia Schaecher, Jared Hanson, Amy Heusinkvelt, and Olivia Rath, who finished second at districts. Other qualifiers were Carstens and her entertainment which won districts, Rath with her dramatic interpretation that placed first at districts, and Hanson and Heusinkvelt who finished third at districts with their duet.

"With the talent and hard work of our speechers, I felt pretty confident about a trip to state," speech coach Becki Zanardi said.

The speech team had just over a week to prepare for state after districts, not giving them much time to work on changes.

"Mrs. Zanardi had me come in and perform [my dramatic interpretation] for her sophomore classes a few times and I also practiced on the drive home," Rath said. "I ran my speech every chance I could get in the week before state."

Along with Rath, senior Jared Hanson also had two speeches to practice in preparation for the state meet.

"I was practicing a lot, coming in after school and even going over to Dana's house with the OID to practice and watch Scooby Doo," Hanson said.

The OID finished twelfth at the state meet, Hanson and Heusinkvelt's duet fifteenth, and Rath's dramatic thirteenth.

"I think state went really well," speech coach Danielle Masur said. "The kids gave their best performances of the season that day, so it was good to see that."

The state meet wrapped up the Scotus speech season. The team competed in nine meets, placing in

See **SPEECH**, Page 2

Dusel drives donations

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, March 1st, the Activity Center filled with student volunteers and Red Cross staff members as they set up for the annual Blood Drive.

Chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt has been in charge of the Blood Drive for 12 years while the drive had been going on for at least 35 years before she took charge.

Dusel is well known for running a smooth blood drive, but there is always some changes that come year to year.

"[I always] make sure I have enough Red Cross helpers. Some years we don't have enough helpers to get all the people through. With me communicating to the Red Cross person who is directly above me, that we have so many people, please make sure you have enough people able to get this many people through the amount of time we are supposed to do it in," Dusel said.

This year there were 141 attempted donations, attempted as in some people couldn't give due to low iron levels or sickness or lack of proper information. There was a total of 118 units donated by the end of the day.

With such a large event, there is always the need for help from as many people as possible. National Honors Society contributes the most with the day.

Dusel commented, "Every NHS member has to do something for the day of the drive. We supply the sandwiches for the Canteen, so they can sign up to bring sandwiches. They can be a worker on the day of the blood drive if they choose to. We have to help the Red Cross

See **DRIVE**, Page 2

Seniors lead Stations of the Cross

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

Following in the traditions of past chaplains, Scotus chaplain Fr. Capadano organized the annual living stations on March 23rd, 2016.

The service didn't have any big changes overall, but different actors and their perspectives gave the living stations new meaning.

"The interpretation of the scenes is different with each class, and the person who does the reflection changed some of the wording to make it more personal and relative," Capadano said.

Even though Scotus has been acting the living stations for several years now, the Stations of the Cross have been around for much longer than that.

"The Franciscans, a religious order, started to make the way of the cross a more public form of devotion by hanging up statues or paintings of the Stations in the 13th century," Capadano elaborated. "As Christians, praying the Stations of the Cross reminds us in our daily lives to take up our own cross and to unite our suffering to Christ on the cross. It also reminds us how much Christ loves us and how much he was willing to suffer for us."

For convenience, Father decided to recruit only seniors to act, read the reflections, and sing the Stabat Mater as scenes shifted from one to another.

"Having only seniors participate in the living stations makes it easy because I see them every day so it's easy to communicate with them," Capadano said. "It gives seniors a chance to show one more time that they are the leaders of the school and that they set the spiritual example. It's also a way to honor the seniors because they are mature, and they take it seriously."

About half of the senior class was involved in some way, from acting on the stage, to reading reflections and narrating from the crow's nest.

"Whoever volunteered for the roles got the job, but I made sure that the person would take it seriously and not goof around with his/her character," Capadano said.

Not much preparation was necessary to put on the living stations except a practice the morning of the service and choosing roles in Theology class.

"The hardest part about organizing the stations was setting a practice time that people could all attend. Nothing else was really that difficult. The only people who had lines had the script in front of them, so no one had to memorize anything," Capadano said.

The readings and narrations change from different spectators' points of view. It starts off in an apostle's voice, then shifts to Jesus, and later on, a guards' perspective is included. These differing takes on Jesus' passion and death provide the audience with a more complete perspective and gives the viewer something to think about.

Capadano concluded, "It is so moving. The seniors get a lot out of acting in it because the students get to see their friends and classmates up there depicting these scenes. It affects you more than going to church and just praying the stations with some pictures all by yourself. It just makes the Passion more real."

MORGAN THOMSON/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Cody Siemek and Justin Brockhaus portray the remorseful criminal and Jesus in Scotus' annual living stations. Before Easter break each year students and staff gather in the gym to reflect on the stations acted, read, and sung by the students.

DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

to. We have to help the Red Cross unload and load their truck before and after school so we have students helping before and after school. So they have to sign up for one plus certainly trying to show leadership if possible for them to donate to show the school their leadership by doing that."

The Blood Drive was full of surprises and sacrifice, but all the students were more than willing to help for the cause of saving lives.

Senior Paige Vance worked at the Canteen during the drive.

"Yes [I would do it again]. It was very fun, and it is for a great cause so it is worth it," Vance said. "Before the donation, the students were very nervous and quiet, but afterward they were so calm and easy to work with."

As of right now, the blood drive will continue on for years to come.

Dusel said, "[I want to give a] big thank you to the students; that's how we got one of the bigger drives that I can remember is from the students saying yes and being willing even if they were nervous to give it a try."

JENNIFER BELSAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Lydia Schaecher, Jared Hanson, Olivia Rath, Amy Heusinkvelt, and Dana Hoppe investigate a mystery during their *Scooby-Doo* OID. The group finished 12th at the state meet.

SPEECH

Continued from Page 1

the top four at both Conference and Districts. Coach Masur was pleased with how the season went.

"We had a more well-rounded team overall this year, and I think that showed up a bit more in our placings," Masur said. "We had more people in each even going to finals, which was cool. Overall, this season was even better than last year!"

STATE QUALIFIERS

Entertainment:
Emily Carstens

Dramatic Interpretation:
Olivia Rath

Duet:
Jared Hanson & Amy Heusinkvelt

OID:
Lydia Schaecher, Jared Hanson, Olivia Rath, Amy Heusinkvelt, and Dana Hoppe

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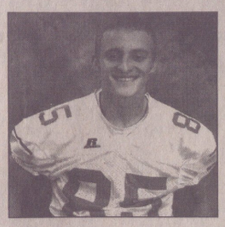
Pausing for the present



By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

I'm stuck. Two forces in my life are powerfully pulling me in opposite directions, and I feel as if I may be violently ripped in half by the end of this year. My dilemma as a junior in high school is that my two greatest desires are extremely conflicting. I want to grow up so much faster and fly through senior year and leave Scotus and my family behind, but I also want to be a little kid forever and never grow up and stay as close to my family as possible.

This is the frustrating mental state of many young adults, and there's nothing wrong or mentally unhealthy about it. We're all in this murderously morbid mess called high school together. However, I believe the most important thing to focus on during our adolescent years is relaxing and enjoying our present moments.

Growing up in rural Nebraska provides us with so many blessings that we often take for granted because we're stuck trying to relive the past or trying to jump ahead into the future.

It's normal to not want to grow up. The world is a scary place. There's actual, real-world problems out there like poverty and hunger that we don't see a lot in our sheltered Nebraskan homes. However, confronting the problems of growing up is something we all have to face. We can't just hide behind the bunkbeds and footie pajamas of our childhood forever. If we are focused on staying in the past, we are only delaying the inevitable. Whether we like it or not, we have to grow up. The sooner we realize this, the sooner we can enjoy the perks of living life right now.

On the other side of the coin, looking ahead to what lies in store can be just as damaging in the present. Don't get me wrong, thinking about the future can be exciting. There are so many questions to be answered. Where am I going to college? What am I going to do for a job? Will I find my dream guy/girl? Where am I going to live? The list of inquiries goes on and on, but the bottom line is this: we won't get answers anytime soon.

Longing for a future that has not happened yet only makes the present seem less appealing. We can miss some of life's true joys if we're constantly wishing time would speed up. When I sit down and think about it, I've got a lot to be thankful for. I'm part of a healthy and loving family, I've always got enough food to eat, I've grown up in a safe neighborhood, I play sports I love with great people… I really don't have a lot to complain about. Constantly thinking about college and where I'm headed would only lessen the impact of my current blessings.

This all can sound kind of cliché, but it really is important to be present in every moment. My advice to all of you, whether you're stressed out about mistakes you've made or classes you're taking or what your future holds in store, is to relax and breathe. Live for the moments right now that bring you the most happiness. The past cannot be changed. The future hasn't happened yet. Our present moments are all that we have, and I'm going to try to make the most of them.

Selfish much?

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Recently, it came to my attention that our school had been experiencing multiple incidents of vandalism: vandalism so bad that our school has decided to take away privileges like snack break. Hearing this was absolutely appalling. Students at my very own school were destroying the bathrooms and locker rooms, creating messes for others to clean up. I couldn't believe that students at my school were so incredibly selfish.

The decisions of a few inconsiderate people are affecting the lives of almost everyone in our school. Our janitorial staff can't keep up with the amount of vandalism that they have been assigned to clean up. Our school administrators are forced to make difficult decisions that limit student privileges. Students are upset because they are suffering from the poor decisions of their peers.

Scotus is a really great school that has really great people walking through its hallways every day. There is so much good happening here that it makes me sad when situations like this happen. I hate seeing students' complete disregard for those that only want to help them: their peers, teachers, the janitorial staff, the list goes on and on.

What's even more concerning about this entire situation is that students blame the school for taking away their privileges. The school warned us that privileges would be taken away if the vandalism didn't stop, but they continued to happen. Instead of being mad at the delinquents who draw male genitalia on the bathroom stalls, students are angry with the school. Trust me, the school is just as frustrated as we are. I am fed up with the complete inconsideration and disregard that people have for one another.

> ***"The decisions of a few inconsiderate people are affecting the lives of almost everyone in our school.."***
>
> **~Haley Faust**

This problem is so much more than vandalism though. It's so much more than students taking a Sharpie to the bathroom stalls. It's the absolute carelessness that people have for one another. It's the complete self-absorption and selfishness that some students have for themselves. The writing on the bathroom stall is students putting themselves above others and not caring who will pay the consequences. It's people trying to make themselves feel better even if it causes others to suffer.

Every day, I see students gossiping about things that don't matter and making fun of their classmates behind their backs. I see students being mean to their own so-called "friends" in an effort to feel better about themselves and their own sorry lives. These things are really just another form of people writing on the bathroom stalls.

I can only hope that these problems will stop. Everyone needs to look at their own actions and see that some of them cause others a lot of pain. Everyone needs to realize that they are not the only one on this Earth who matter.

One of the wise teachers at our school, Mr. Linder, once asked my eighth-period religion class a profound question, one that really made us think. He said, "Where do you want to be when Christ returns for the Final Judgement?" Do you really want to be caught writing on the bathroom stalls?

Parents deserve respect

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Like Father Mike Keating always told us in grade school, "Your life with your parents is two-thirds over." I had never really thought much about this statement until now, and I find much truth in it. When we graduate high school, most of us aren't going to be living with our parents anymore. We may see our parents every weekend, but we will never live with them permanently again. The seniors, juniors, and even sophomores only have a short amount of time left with their parents, and it is now almost over. High school is the time to make good relationships with your parents and to earn their trust.

High school is a good opportunity to gain your parents' trust. Obviously trust is one of the most important concepts in any relationship. If you go out and party every Friday night without your parents knowing, chances are they wouldn't approve. If they found out, it would be pretty hard to gain their trust back. I can't understand how any parent would be okay with their children partying all the time. The best idea is to respect what your parents ask or expect of you. I have always respected them, and I have a good relationship with my parents, and I think they respect me for that reason as well. My parents allow me to have more freedoms since I have not lost their trust. I believe that many other kids also have these freedoms because they respect their parents.

Having a good relationship with your parents in high school will make it easier for you to make tough decisions with them later. College is one of the most important decisions that you will make in your life because it is the foundation to your future. I think that if your parents trust you more, then they will be more open to what you want to do in the future. They want the best for you and will ultimately support you in whatever you do, but being closer to them makes the relationship stronger. My parents have helped me with many big decisions in my life. They support me in what I want to do in the future and in the activities I am involved in.

Parents are the people who know you best. They know what you enjoy, what your favorite foods are, and your personality. Whether you like it or not, they know what is best for you because they have been around longer than you. I know it is hard to believe, but they were high schoolers once, and they know about the struggles of peer pressure. They have been in the same boat as you and have more experience than you do.

Fighting with your parents might just be the worst thing you can do to weaken your relationship with them. It breaks my heart to see kids yelling and arguing with their parents. I would never get away with that nor do I wish to get so angry at them. They are the people that have given you everything since you were a child. You may not notice it, but they really do. From experience, fighting with your parents only makes them not want to give you special privileges. I think it is important to be happy with what they have given you. They already try so hard to provide for you and the least you could do is be grateful for everything they have done.

Your parents will always be there for you no matter what. They will be the ones you turn to in tough times and happy times. It is best to establish an awesome relationship with them before you leave the house and venture out into the real world.

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

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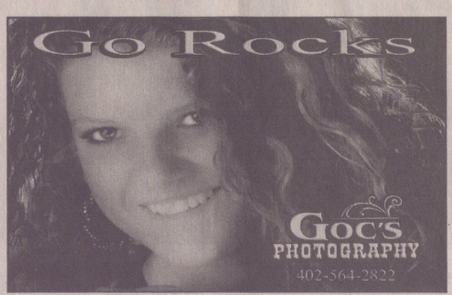

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Kimberly Stutzman/ Media Staff

The Mr. Shamrock contestants flaunt their kick-line dance moves during the opening dance of the Mr. Shamrock Contest.

Kimberly Stutzman/ Media Staff

Senior Adam Smith accompanied by his sister, eighth grader Kate Smith, perform a dance routine during the talent portion of the Simon House fundraiser, Mr. Shamrock.

Hoppe claims Mr. Shamrock crown

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

A week before the Mr. Shamrock contest was supposed to take place, no senior boys had signed up. Two days before in the deadline, no senior boy had returned his application, and Mrs. Lahm and student council were worried that the eleventh-annual Mr. Shamrock was going to skip the year 2016.

However, seven brave boys made the decision to sign up for the Simon House fundraiser. The admission cost was $2 or two cans of food to be donated to the Simon House Food Pantry.

"I was pleasantly surprised how we were able to pull it off with such little time. It was successful even though it was very stressful," said student council sponsor Joan Lahm.

Mr. Shamrock took place on Sunday, March 20th in Scotus' Memorial Hall. Senior Dana Hoppe stole the hearts of the judges to come out as the Mr. Shamrock winner.

"I've always thought that it looked like a lot of fun and there always seemed to be a lack of guys doing it. Plus, my brother won and had a ton of fun with it," Hoppe said.

Participant senior Cole Harrington went out for the contest for similar reasons.

"I've seen it many times in the past, and I think it's pretty funny. I figured why not go out there and make a fool of myself?" Harrington said.

The contest consisted of three different segments to be judged. First, several contests answered various interview questions. Originality and quick thinking was key to answering the interview questions well.

The second part of the competition was the talent. While three or four contestants were being interviewed, another contestant would be behind stage preparing for his talent. In between the interviews, the audience was wowed with the senior boys' talents.

Harrington rode around a table on a rip-stick while spinning a basketball and making a sandwich all at the same time.

"My dad helped me come up with the idea, and I thought it was pretty clever," Harrington said.

Senior Jared Hansen called English teacher and judge Becki. Zanardi up to the stage for his talent, and senior Marcus Dodson showcased his special ability of suction for the talent portion of the competition.

"I've been wanting to show the world my talent for a long time. I knew I could impress people," Dodson said.

Other contestants harnessed the help of their classmates to woo the judges during their talent portion. Senior Boston Goodrich called on his senior friends Cody Siemek and Jon Lovell to recreate a popular YouTube video. Hoppe also got a group together to help him as back-up dancers as he danced as Michael Jackson.

"Michael Jackson is an iconic performer, and I thought even a weak attempt at his famous dances would be entertaining," Hoppe commented.

Once the Mr. Shamrock wanna-be's were finished with their questions and talents, they competed in the "catch your dream girl" outfit where the strutted down a runway in front of the judges.

Hoppe dressed as presidential candidate Bernie Sanders to steal all the ladies when he walked down the runway for the judges.

"I knew Bernie was a popular guy and the crowd thought it was hilarious when I walked out to 'whoop there it is.' I felt the Bern. It was awesome," Hoppe commented.

Hoppe not only won the hearts of the judges, but he was also crowned Mr. Shamrock 2016.

"It was a blast. I had a great time watching the other guys and laughing," he concluded.

Kimberly Stutzman/Media Staff

Senior Dana Hoppe shows off his recreated Michael Jackson dance moves on the Memorial Hall stage for the judges. Hoppe went on to win the judges hearts and the title of Mr. Shamrock.

Kimberly Stutzman/Media Staff

Senior Boston Goodrich stares into the eyes of the crowd and judges after he answers a question during the interview portion of the Mr. Shamrock competition on March 20th.

Kimberly Stutzman/Media Staff

Senior Cole Harrington balances a spinning basketball and makes a ham and cheese sandwich while riding a rip-stick around a table during the talent portion of the competition.

Kimberly Stutzman/Media Staff

Senior Jared Hanson shows judge Becki Zanardi his exquisite finger painting of her during the talent portion of the Mr. Shamrock competition.

Kimberly Stutzman/Media Staff

Senior Jake Bos answers a question during the interview portion of Mr. Shamrock while senior Marcus Dodson chuckles at the response.

Basketball finishes third at State

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Every team longs to make it to the state tournament and redeem a state championship. The Scotus boys' basketball team had the same desire in ending their 2015-2016 season. After a tough season against top teams in class C-1, the boys' basketball team ended their season with a third place trophy.

"It is so much fun to be in the state tournament, to be one of the last eight teams to be playing, and the excitement that goes with it for our school and our players," head coach Jeff Ohnoutka said.

The win against Lincoln Lutheran in the district finals sent them on the road to Lincoln.

The boys started out the tournament facing up against the seventh seed Gothenburg on March 10th. They defeated Gothenburg 58-39.

"[My favorite memory from state was] when I scored against Gothenburg in the first game; everyone went crazy," senior Justin Brockhaus said.

The win in the quarter-finals sent the Shamrocks into the semifinals on Friday. The team took on Adams Central in a tough battle during Friday's game. The Shamrocks fell short of Adams Central with a final score of 44-40.

Junior Dalton Taylor was the leading scorer of the game against Adams Central with 15 points.

"It is always hard to play a team that can shoot the three that well," Taylor said.

The Shamrocks headed into the consolation game after the tough loss. The seniors ended their high school basketball career playing O'Neill High School. The Rocks defeated O'Neill, 61-55. Jackson Kumpf, Miles Putnam, and Justin Brockhaus were the only seniors this year.

"It hasn't sunk in yet that my basketball career is over, but it was good that the last game of my career was a win," Putnam said.

This was also the last game for Ohnoutka. He will assume the role of president for Scotus in the upcoming 2016-2017 school year.

"It was an exciting game, and it was fun to win. The emotion of even before the game started, realizing that is was going to be the last game, and then visiting with family after the game leads you to the realization that something you have done for such a large portion of your life has come to an end. It takes a while for that to sink in, but I'm excited for a new adventure in my life," Ohnoutka said.

Senior Jackson Kumpf has been playing for Ohnoutka for four years.

"I don't sense any sadness. We seniors and Coach O are moving on to bigger roles in our lives. Of course we wanted to win the tournament for him and to send him off on the highest

Emma Zeller/Media Staff

The boys' basketball team receives the NSAA third place trophy. They defeated O'Neill 61-55 to win the title

of notes, but collectively as a group we joined and learned more from the third place finish," Kumpf said.

Junior point guard Nathan Ostdiek will be back for another season next year.

"I look forward to playing with my teammates for one final season together," Ostdiek said.

Scotus will be searching for someone to take on the role of head coach for next year's season.

Ohnoutka concluded, "Thank you to everyone who has helped make Scotus basketball a great thing. From our band, cheerleaders, parents' support, players, coaches, administration, and everybody who has had some role in this. It has been a great ride."

Track begins:two break school records

Courtney Brockhaus/Yearbook Staff

Junior Kaylee Tonniges passes the baton to relay partner junior Ashley Foreman during the 4x800 meter relay at Wayne State. The Wayne Indoor meet was an unscored meet.

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

Indoor, outdoor, rain, and shine, the track team is off to a good start as the 2016 season throws curve balls their way. The boys and girls teams showed great success in their first few meets and are looking for improvements as the season continues.

Senior Justin Zoucha said, "Our goal as a team is to get better every week and to place high at every meet, including state."

The team competed in an unscored meet at Wayne State on March 19th. Although it was unscored, thirteen boys placed in the top three in their events. The girls also competed well, having placed twelve girls place in the top three of their events.

"We did great in the first indoor meet, going up against some of the hardest competitors in class B. Over all the season has started really, really well," girls head coach Janet Tooley said.

On March 22nd the teams made their way to their second meet, the Wesleyan Indoor Meet. The boys received runner up; seniors Brady Pryzmus and Justin Brockhaus placed second in the 200 meter dash and the 3200 meter run. Cody Mroczek broke an indoor long jump record after jumping 22'7", and he set the new record for the 400 meter dash running a 51.7 second race. He placed first in those events.

"I felt pretty good breaking the records; I have wanted them since freshman year and also knowing that the previous record holder in the 400 was a 3-time state champ made me feel pretty great," Mroczek stated.

The girls placed fourth at Wesleyan with senior Sarah Schumacher bringing home gold in the 800 meter run.

"My personal goal is to get under 2:30 in the 800 consistently; I have to compete at my best and work hard every practice and meet," Schumacher stated.

Sophomore Marika Spencer also placed first in shot put after throwing 42 feet 9 ½ inches. Spencer's throw broke the Scotus record for indoor shot put.

"I felt accomplished because I walked in there wanting the record badly. I was so excited when I heard I beat it by almost three feet," Spencer explained.

Tooley goes on to say, "In the throws, Marika Spencer is one to watch definitely. She has already set an indoor school record as well as set that meet record in the shot, and it was only the second meet this season,"

Track season is now in full swing after the Shamrock Relays on April 29th. The girls' team placed first in four events, which led them to a runner up title, missing first place to Waverly by one point. The boys' team placed second in three events and received fourth place as a team.

"[The Scotus Relay Meet] is a super high powered meet, and we performed awesome. Northeast Nebraska has excellent track and field, and we'll have to work very hard all year," Tooley concluded.

Shamrock soccer starts strong

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The Scotus soccer teams have both had very successful starts to the seasons. During their opening weekends at Wilderness Park on March 18th and 19th, the boys' and girls' teams both took home 1st place at the Columbus City Tournament.

In the first round matchups, the boys defeated Lakeview 8-1 while the girls took down the Viqueens by a margin of 5-0. Senior captain Morgan Thorson was happy with the way her team played.

"Overall we played very well as a team for the first games of the season," Thorson said. "I knew if we played our game that we had a great chance of winning."

The finals of the tournament pitted both teams against Columbus High School, a preseason-ranked foe on both sides. The boys won a tightly contested match by a final score of 2-0. Senior Cole Harrington, who scored one of the Shamrocks' goals, was happy with the win but still sees room for improvement.

"We have the ability to be really good," Harrington said. "The results were expected, but we know we can be way better than we are."

On the other side of the tournament, the girls' team took part in a high-scoring, fast-paced frenzy with the Discoverers. The final score was 5-2 in favor of the Shamrocks. A strategic change may have been the difference, according to senior Anna Wickham.

"I was nervous going into the first tournament because we changed our formation up," Wickham said. "We did really well though and beat both of our city rivals!"

Following the city tournament, both teams were back in action on the following Tuesday, again facing crosstown rival Lakeview. The games were the same story told over again, with the boys winning 8-1 again, and the girls coming out victorious 4-0.

As the season continues for both squads, some strengths and weaknesses are becoming apparent. All-State senior forward Alec Foltz likes the way his team is protecting the goal.

"Our biggest strength is our defense," Foltz said. "It's always been real solid."

As far as weaknesses go, Cole Harrington recognizes that the ultra-competitive practices can lead to some bickering between teammates.

"The weakness of our team right now is arguing. We argue with one another quite a bit," Harrington said.

The girls are focused on unity and playing well together. Senior Kimberly Stutzman is happy with the depth of her team's bench.

"We have a lot of athletic players who can contribute to the team, so that's a big strength," Stutzman said. "We also have a lot of people who are able to score rather than just one or two people."

The biggest weakness of the girls' team has been their injuries. Six major contributors have already missed playing time due to injury. That, along with several other minor tweaks, have left the girls' roster depleted.

"Our weaknesses include many injuries," Morgan Thorson said. "Because of this, younger players have to step up quick for us."

The boys' and girls' teams both have high hopes for the remaining season. Both teams face Lincoln Pius today at Wilderness Park. This weekend, the boys will take part in the Creighton Prep Invitational on Saturday.

"I'm looking forward to playing all the Class A schools," Harrington said. "Many of them want to play small town, little school Scotus."

After today, the girls will get back into action on April 5th against Lincoln Lutheran.

Emma Zeller/Media Staff

Senior Kimberly Stutzman attacks the ball during the match against Columbus High on March 19th. The Shamrocks took down the Discoverers 5-2.

Kimberly Stutzman/Media Staff

Senior Cole Harrington advances the ball upfield against Columbus High on March 19th. The Shamrocks defeated the Discoverers 2-0.

Prom makes major changes

By Anna Wickham
Staff Reporter

In the past, Scotus prom has had a pretty strict and consistent schedule: pictures, church, dinner, dance, post prom, but the 2016 prom committee and student council has made the decision to change both the schedule and the attendance of prom 2016.

"We have decided this year to have a prom queen and king junior court," student council president Amy Heusinkvelt announced. "We've tossed around the idea since I was a sophomore, and we decided to make it official this year!"

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Junior Amy Heusinkvelt dances with her sophomore date, Cameron Swanson, at Prom 2015. Last year's prom was the final prom that underclassmen were allowed to attend.

Heusinkvelt and the student council seniors have had meetings about the change many times throughout the year. After working out the details and getting the idea approved by Mr. Morfeld, the seniors approached the junior class sponsors.

"The student council asked us to keep the prom court a secret from the juniors until they knew for sure it was going to be allowed," prom committee sponsor Danielle Masur said. "So, surprise juniors! Two of you will get to be royalty!"

The junior candidates will be selected one week before prom by the seniors. For the homecoming and winter ball dances, the senior class chose twelve of their classmates as candidates. Similarly, the seniors will vote the juniors on to the court. Then, the students of Scotus will vote for a junior prom king and queen.

"I think the juniors will be quite pleased with this decision, especially with all the problems we've already had with choosing a prom theme and the other hiccups we've had along the way," Masur stated.

The crowning will take place immediately after dinner; all of the juniors and seniors will head up to the Memorial Hall where family members, friends, and underclassmen will be waiting to watch the coronation.

Heusinkvelt commented, "When I was a freshman and sophomore I was always so bummed that I never got to see the older girls' dresses unless they posted pictures to the web. We wanted to include the underclassmen since the other change to prom was not in their favor."

The other change that was made to prom 2016 is that sophomores and freshman of any school will not be allowed into the dance. Prom is a privilege given to the upperclassmen, and in recent years more and more underclassmen have "snuck" their way in. A survey was given to the 2015 and 2014 graduating classes after their senior proms and 89% of the students agreed that having a prom with strictly upperclassmen would be worth a try.

"When [the student council officers] found out that the underclassmen were not going to be allowed, we were stunned. At the same time, I think that this will make prom more of a treat and a privilege that is strictly for the juniors and seniors," Heusinkvelt explained.

The 2016 school year has been full of surprises and changes, and prom was no exception.

"This is a huge change and we just hope that it all works out and everyone can have a great night on prom," Masur concluded.

Linder moves on opportunity

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

Each year, underclassmen look forward to having head football coach and theology teacher Tyler Linder in class. Whenever a student walks by his classroom, the room is filled with teaching about grace and football. The juniors and seniors can attest to the fact that Linder can make a football analogy to just about anything.

However, room 320 will have to say its farewells to Linder as he will be leaving Scotus following the end of the year to return to his hometown, Fremont.

"It was a tough decision," Linder stated. "I obviously put a lot of thought into it. I prayed about it. By all means, this wasn't a choice I took lightly."

Linder attended high school in Fremont, and he still feels ties close to home.

"I grew up at Bergan. It still holds a special place in my heart," Linder said. "I have family there, and Alysha and I think it'd be easier for Carter and Silas to get to know their relatives if they live in the same town."

Two years ago, football head coach Roger Krienke stepped down from the head coach position. Linder comfortably took his spot as head coach of the Shamrocks' football team.

Linder said, "I was offered the job, and I saw it as an opportunity. I love football and a challenge. Taking on the head football position here was a great experience. We had our successes, but we weren't without failures either. I wanted to build up the football program as much as I could. It's a bittersweet feeling to leave Scotus as coach of a state championship team."

Linder was recently contacted by Fremont Bergan about coaching.

"I got a call from a friend of mine from Bergan in mid-December," Linder said. "He explained that there was going to be a head coach opening soon, and that he'd keep me informed. I often seek spiritual advice through videos produced by a man named Father Robert Barron. One of his main messages is about sharing your graces with the world through meeting other people. Moving to Bergan would provide me with new people I could impact in a positive way."

Bergan is the only Catholic school in Fremont.

"It's important because I can still incorporate my faith into coaching," Linder stated. "If Midland University—also in Fremont—would have contacted me, by all means, I don't think I would've considered this decision like I did."

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Coach and Theology teacher Tyler Linder will be leaving Scotus at the end of the year. He will move back to Fremont in the summer to be closer to family.

Athletic director Gary Puetz was not anticipating this change either.

"It's a shame to see him go," Puetz said. "I said earlier that it only took me about 15 seconds to be certain that he was the guy for the job. He's a great man; I know he will do great things wherever he decides to go."

Because Linder was not initially planning for this change, the football staff will have trouble finding someone to fill Linder's shoes.

"It is possible someone will have to step up, and it might be uncomfortable for them for a bit. But I'm not going to leave without finding an adequate replacement. I might be heading back over to Bergan, but I'll always bleed Scotus green," Linder concluded.

School nurse starts at Scotus

By Gabby Middendorf
Staff Reporter

Even though Mr. Ohnoutka assumes the role of Scotus president next school year, he has already made some staffing changes. The arguably biggest change is the addition of a school nurse. Mr. Ohnoutka decided to make this change after much deliberation with administration and the school board.

"We are always trying to make Scotus a safe environment for our students. Adding the position of a school nurse will play a vital role in making sure students are healthy and ready to learn," Ohnoutka said.

When the administration decided in favor of the change, Ohnoutka and several teachers interviewed and narrowed down the selection to three applicants. The teachers finally selected a familiar name in Marsha Rath.

"We have had to make budget cuts in other areas, but the administration feels that it is a necessary and long-awaited addition to our school staff. We are very eager to welcome Mrs. Rath to our building," Ohnoutka said.

After being retired for several years to take care of her children, Marsha Rath decided to go back to work to retain her nursing license.

"I have heard nothing but good things about Scotus from my daughter Olivia, other teachers, and the staff. I am very excited to be able to take care of the Scotus community in this way," Rath said.

As the school nurse, Mrs. Rath will be able to administer over the counter medicines, such as Ibuprofen and Tylenol, and with parent permission, she will dispense student prescriptions. Students can also rest on a cot in her office, but if they stay in her office for more than one period, they will be asked to go home.

"Having a nurse present will increase school attendance and prevent the spread of communicable disease," Ohnoutka explained. "At the end of last year, we reviewed student attendance, and one of the biggest reasons for absences was illness, so having Mrs. Rath in the building will help with this."

Another change that having a school nurse will make to Scotus is the way students check out for illness. Instead of students checking out by calling parents for permission to leave school through the office, Mrs. Rath will call parents when sick students come to her office, and students will check out with Mrs. Rath.

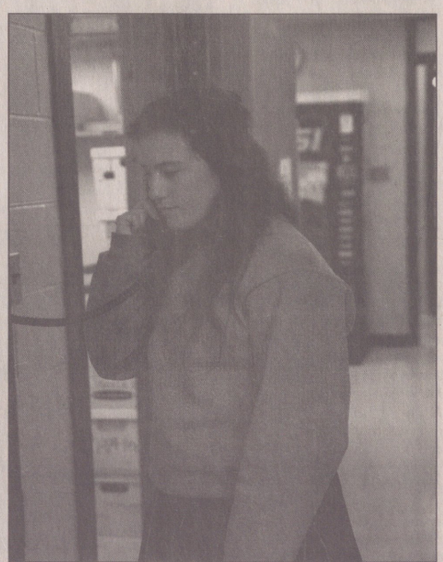
"This will cut down on some of the work that sick students checking out through the office adds to the office staff, so now Mrs. Hergott and Mrs. Andresen can focus on their other duties," Ohnoutka mentioned.

Mrs. Rath's presence will also add an opportunity for students interested in the medical field.

"Students can job shadow Mrs. Rath during their study halls, and girls can also be student aides for her for a semester," Ohnoutka commented.

Since Brenna Prem moved to Omaha, and Officer Maschmeier is seldom at Scotus anymore, Mrs. Rath will take over their third floor office.

"We will be renovating and updating the office over the summer, adding shelving units, and replacing the desk and couch with newer, more sanitary equipment. Mrs. Rath will start working here at the beginning of next school year," Ohnoutka finished.



Gabby Middendorf/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Courtney Labenz, who recently got her appendix removed, calls her mom to leave school. The nurse next year will assess and excuse students.

Smith takes on Broadway

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Senior Adam Smith recently took a final bow in his last Scotus musical, Fiddler on the Roof. Smith's role as Tevye was his third lead role in his fourth Scotus musical. However, Smith decided that his theatre career is far from over and has decided to pursue his dream of performing on Broadway.

"Taking my final bow at Scotus was really hard for me. Being in musicals has made my time in high school so much fun," Smith said.

Smith wants to take his love for performing to the next level.

"Broadway is my dream. I can't help but imagine myself under the bright lights performing in front of thousands of people every night," Smith said. "It sounds crazy, but theatre is a huge part of my life. I would be really sad if I had to leave it behind."

Smith, who is set to graduate in May, has decided to put off college and move to New York City to audition for Broadway musicals.

"I have mixed feelings about pushing off college, but if I want to be on Broadway, I need to do it now. I can always go back to college, but this is the only time in my life that I will be able to really chase my dreams," Smith explained.

Smith will be moving to New York in July.

"Leaving my family makes me really sad, but I know it will all be worth it," Smith said.

Although he will be traveling to New York alone, Smith knows he will always have a great support system back home.

"My family has always supported me in everything I do, and this is no different. They know how much performing means to me and encourage me to reach for the stars," Smith explained.

Getting a role in a Broadway show is not easy. Thousands of people audition for parts in Broadway shows every year.

"I know that there is a possibility that I will not be cast, but it's a chance I'm willing to take," Smith explained. "I think I have a really good shot of making it on Broadway. I know I have what it takes."

If cast in a show, Smith will face many challenges such as long, strenuous rehearsals and spending weeks memorizing lines.

Laura Salyard, Smith's vocal music instructor and musical director, believes Smith will be able to handle these challenges.

Salyard said, "Adam is someone who has always given one hundred and ten percent in my class. He is a great performer and absolutely loves the theatre. I have no doubt that Adam will be great on Broadway."

Regardless of these potential challenges, Smith is eager to take the next step in his career.

He concluded, "I am really excited for this amazing opportunity. I couldn't be more ready to begin this new chapter of my life."

SAM SUO/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Adam Smith (right), alongside castmate senior Olivia Rath, performs in his last Scotus musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. After high school, Smith plans to travel to New York to pursue a career on Broadway.

Cafeteria cuts costs

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Kiss the extra chicken nuggets, fajitas, and chicken stir fry goodbye. Due to recent budget cuts and USDA guidelines, the school cafeteria has had to make some tough decisions.

Scotus cafeteria dietician Cathy Hoops has chosen the best methods for acting out these rules and cost effective methods.

Hoops said, "Just like with cutting the sodium intake, we have had to cut double lunches. It'll save money along with time in the kitchen so we can focus on making lunches for the next day to stay ahead of our already busy schedule."

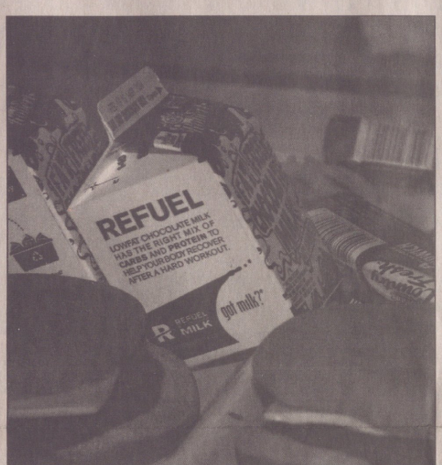
Students will no longer receive double lunches, except if they want extra fruits or vegetables. They can no longer get another whole entrée. This is so kids will no longer waste the food already on their tray.

Senior Amy Heusinkvelt said, "I never really get double lunches, so I don't see what the big deal really is."

Students will also be required to receive both the vegetables and fruit in the lunch line to increase their nutrition. This is a requirement issued from the USDA.

"I hope there won't be too much waste, but there's always that risk. We have to issue out these orders so we can keep what little government funding we receive," Hoops remarked.

To also cut back on calorie and sugar intake, the salad bar will no longer serve any form of Jell-O. To replace this loss, the lunch staff will add whole grain granola.



KYLEE SOULLIERE/MEDIA STAFF

Double lunches will no longer be seen in the Scotus cafeteria. Due to USDA standards, this and other cost-effective measures will be in effect soon.

Cafeteria accountant Shelly Adams commented, "I have run the statistics, in the long run taking away double lunches and adding these healthier options will be cheaper for everyone."

New lunch menu items will be added as a bonus to up student nutrition. Items will include vegetarian foods, whole wheat noodles for pasta, and gluten-free cookies.

Senior vegetarian Lydia Schaecher said, "I'm excited for the new changes because I can possibly eat some of the new lunch items."

Not only is the cafeteria being hit, but computer and accounting teacher Patti Salyard is being restricted on items she can sell as well, due to the USDA cracking down on health.

Salyard stated, "I'm always all for being healthier. I understand that the store will take a hit, but it will cut down eating in the halls and classes."

Pop-tarts and the assorted candy that is always being sold is being taken off the shelves in order to cut down the sugar-intake.

Senior Olivia Rath said, "Well, I'm not exactly happy about my pop-tarts being taken away, but I understand the problem especially with all the privileges being taken away."

These requirements and more will be hitting Scotus fourth quarter and be in full effect in the fall of 2016.

Columbus 'raises' new restaurant

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

The rain and gray clouds have parted from the skies of Columbus and the sun has risen, shining over the town and bringing with it warmth, smiles, and, most importantly, Raising Cane's. This delicious and much frequented eatery has long been a favorite of members of the Scotus family, students and faculty alike.

"I am overjoyed that we are getting a Raising Cane's," math teacher Merlin Lahm said. "As the father of several chicken finger aficionados, I feel personally blessed that we are going to have such a delicious chicken joint in town."

Raising Cane's is infamous for its fresh chicken fingers, buttery toast, and exquisite secret sauce. Until now, the closest locations of this delectable canteen were in Lincoln, Omaha, and Grand Island. However, recent demand has called for the inauguration of a brand new restaurant.

"There is a feature on our website where folks can send us ideas for new restaurant locations," Raising Cane's CEO Todd Graves said in a phone interview. "The recommendations pouring in for a site in Columbus were overwhelming. I thought that seven locations in Nebraska were enough, but apparently not! For a bunch of beef-loving hicks, you Nebraskans sure like your chicken!"

The new restaurant will be located downtown in the building soon to be vacated by Schweser's. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce worked with Raising Cane's to decide on this location in the hopes it would bring more business to the downtown area.

"We knew there would be a staggering amount of citizens frequenting this particular watering hole, so we needed a location spacious enough to be able to supply the demand," a confidential informant from the Chamber of Commerce said in an exclusive interview with *Rock Bottom*.

While the building is plenty large enough for the restaurant, Raising Cane's managers and Chamber of Commerce employees are worried about the lack of parking surrounding the proposed location.

"The last thing we need is teens getting into fights over parking spots in front of the restaurant," the Chamber of Commerce employee commented. "We don't want this prestigious and illustrious new business in our community to get the wrong idea about our youth."

To remedy this imminent catastrophe, the city engineering department has suggested renovating the upper level of the building into a parking garage. This would provide more parking for all downtown companies and occupy excessive space in the building that is currently three stories tall.

If all goes according to plan, renovations will be complete and Columbus shall be blessed with a Raising Cane's by October of this year.

"My family says I like food more than I like them," senior Hannah Thomazin said. "Raising Cane's is one of my favorite restaurants; I can always go for a good chicken finger. Cane's is going to be the new hangout. If you ever need to find me, find me at Raising Cane's."

AMY HEUSINKVELT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

A Raising Cane's location in Lincoln stands majestic and beautiful, filled with delicious smells and delectable food. Raising Cane's will join the lineup of Columbus restaurants this coming October.

Scotus lengthens e-mail addresses

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

There are already many changes coming Scotus' way in 2016, but arguably the biggest is the change in the email addresses.

The already long email addresses are going to now include not only student's full name but their birthdate in-between their first, middle, and last name. For example, taylor12alison13swift1989@shamrocks.scotuscc.org.

"With a new school year upcoming, I thought it would be the safest approach to technology advances for our school" soon-to-be president Jeff Ohnoutka commented.

There have been too many hacks in the computer systems this year at Scotus so faculty pursued the idea of more intense measures for logging onto the school network. The notorious hackers have deleted student files, changed settings, and even sent crude emails to teachers from student accounts.

"We haven't been able to trace the hackers yet, but we are trying to solve this problem in a fast and smooth manner," Ohnoutka said.

Not only are the email addresses becoming intensely longer, there will be set of security questions that need to be answered before attempting to put in the password. This means there will be three steps before actually logging into an account.

"I understand that this might seem to be an inconvenience to many students, but this is a necessary step in order to protect the accounts of our students," media center specialist Cathy Podliska said.

Some of the security questions include the last four digits of a student's social security number, their mother's maiden name, and which grade school they attended. If a student even misses one of these questions, they will immediately be logged out and blocked from getting onto the Scotus network for the rest of the day.

"I really think this will be a change for the better. The students will probably complain more about the changes in the cafeteria, so I'm not too worried about this," Ohnoutka said.

There has been far too many controversial situations going on at Scotus lately. With the vandalism in the bathrooms and the removal of snack break, longer email addresses are also coming Scotus' way in the fall of 2016.

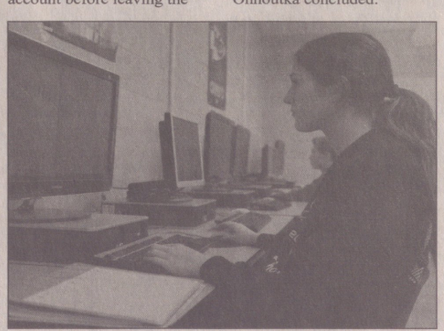
"Donald Trump is an actual presidential candidate, Kanye West is broke, and Scotus is lengthening their email addresses. The world's gone mad!" junior Tate VunCannon commented.

If the hacks continue, the new email addresses will initiate at the beginning of fourth quarter.

"Hopefully the students will shape up and realize their actions are damaging the entire Scotus body," Ohnoutka said.

Ohnoutka is asking that the student body keep an eye out for anyone doing anything suspicious on the school's computers. He also urges students to double check they logged out of their account before leaving the computer.

"Let's make Scotus Central Catholic great again," Ohnoutka concluded.



COLE HARINGTON/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Jayden Taylor works on her assignment during class. Starting in the fall of 2016, Scotus will be adding more intense log-ins to the school network.

Zootopia roars on the big screen

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

It was a Wednesday afternoon. My companion and I prowled the list of movies to choose from, and the choices were slim. I had wanted to see *Race*, but I was a tad disappointed when the movie choices before me were *How to Be Single* and *Zootopia*.

Zootopia hardly had any television advertisements or movie previews, so the only things I knew about it was that it was about animals and Shakira was in it. Since I'm not the hugest Shakira fan, I wasn't really all that impressed. Yet, I didn't want to watch a raunchy move or waste the day so I went to the theater anyway. The movie was about a rabbit who more than anything in life wanted to become a cop which was usually a job reserved for predatory animals.

As I watched the movie, I was immediately drawn into the animated film. The details and voices were absolute perfection. The movie felt so true to character and form. Ginnifer Goodwin, who has always struck me as a little hare-y, portrayed the rabbit Judy Hopps. She didn't stray far from her usual character of the quirky go-getter, but it works for her typecast. Another of my all-time favorite actors in this were Jason Bateman as Nick Wilde the fox and Idris Elba as Chief Bogo the cape buffalo. They brought the movie to life and in real life would probably be the animals they played; it was that terrific.

The animation of the animals carries over into the setting. This movie has diverse animals with multiple "ecosystems": the polar zone, rainforest, desert, temperate area, and the tiny town for the smaller animals. It is crafted beautifully and interweaves through the story adding to the plot.

This movie may say it's for kids, but as a teenager I thoroughly appreciated the humor and puns displayed tastefully in the movie. *Zootopia* had a "sly fox", references to the "mafia", and, to uncover the conspiracy of the plot, a "nudist" community. The animals they use make wisecracking jokes about the stereotype of that animal.

Teaser-trailer.com

Along with being funny, the film also captures hearts showing racism amongst animals and broken dreams even we have faced. The message of this story can carry over into everyday life. *Zootopia* shows the prejudices animals can have against others in ways that people will have prejudices against other individuals. This movie carries the deeper message of acceptance of everyone, predator or prey.

Predator or prey, human or not, Olivia Rath would buy this movie and watch it every day because it was that amazing. I paid money to see this movie twice, so when you're faced with an afternoon of what to do, go watch *Zootopia* and have a laugh and a cry at this amazing cinematic feat.

Two truths and a lie: teacher edition

Find the lie, answers below

Mrs. Dusel, Chemistry
1. I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State College.
2. All of my siblings and one of my brothers-in-law also graduated from Wayne State College.
3. Both of my parents graduated from Wayne State College.

Ms. Dannelly, Art
1. I went to state in Speech.
2. I love pickles.
3. I ran a full marathon. 26.2 miles!

Mrs. Lahm, Science
1. I have climbed 6 mountains.
2. I can speak three different languages fluently.
3. I have traveled to eleven different countries.

Mrs. Tooley, Science
1. I almost drowned in an ocean rip-tide on a trip to Florida.
2. My favorite go-to health food is tofu.
3. I ran on a collegiate relay team with a woman who would go on to win multiple Olympic Gold Medals.

Father Capadano, Theology
1. I never had a girlfriend in high school.
2. My Confirmation saint is St. Francis of Assisi.
3. Courtney Brockhaus stole my frisbee and gave it back for Christmas.

Mr. Ohnoutka, History
1. I was the Lincoln Archdiocese 7th grade Spelling Champion.
2. I have broken my left collar bone two times.
3. I love old black and white movies, especially ones that are set during WWII.

Spot the ten differences!

Two truths and a lie answers:
Mrs. Dusel: 3; Ms. Dannelly: 2;
Mrs. Lahm: 2; Fr. Capadano: 1;
Mrs. Tooley: 2;
Mr. Ohnoutka: 1

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Rock Bottom

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http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism

Teachers leave tradition of excellence

By Amy Heusinkvelt
Staff Reporter

Departing with the Scotus graduating class of 2016 are six of the school's faculty members. Serving Scotus for a combined total of 106 years, each staff member is moving on to bigger and potentially better things, but will always remember Scotus.

"My wife added it up. I've had sixty consecutive first days of school," math teacher John Petersen said. "I don't know when exactly the right time to leave is, but I think it's time."

Petersen plans to savor his time spent after retiring from Scotus playing golf, going fishing, and travelling with his wife. While he looks forward to a different daily routine, Petersen will miss Scotus and the community built here. He offers good advice for those who will be left here without him.

"The best thing is to give it your best every day," Petersen recommended. "Work as hard as you can every time. Be willing to work hard, give it your best, and have fun."

Another long-time Scotus faculty member that is retiring this year is Activities Director Gary Puetz. In his 41 years at the school, Puetz has also served as a teacher and coach. In this capacity, he was able to see kids in many different circumstances.

"One thing I have learned is

See **TEACHERS**, Page 2

Roaring twenties reaches Scotus

Angie Rusher / Journalism Advisor

A group of juniors dance at the Scotus prom. Prom was held on Saturday, April 16th,2016 in the Scotus cafeteria.

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Pearls and glass decorations lined the tables as the Scotus juniors hosted the 2016 Prom on Saturday, April 16th. The seniors and juniors danced the night away at the Great Gatsby themed dance.

The juniors had been planning this special night since January with the help of class sponsor Deb Ohnoutka. The class received money from fundraisers scattered throughout the school year.

"The junior class officers worked really well together this year, and that was really helpful. We had a lot of other people come in and help, too. The kids had a good time, and they did a good job planning everything," Ohnoutka said.

The junior class voted on the theme, and the different committees chose the colors and decorations.

"It was fun getting to pick out all of the decorations and decorating for the dance the night before," junior officer Abbie Perault said.

A new idea the juniors had this year was to order a backdrop instead of painting it. It reflected the colors of the Great Gatsby theme: gold and black. It saved the juniors time they would have spent on painting a backdrop.

Danielle Masur has been the assistant class sponsor for three years.

"This is probably the smoothest year it has gone in planning and putting things together. It might just be because we're kind of getting more used to how everything works, and it is becoming a more familiar process," Masur said

The junior class officers along with their classmates spent time at home making decorations and around six hours setting up the night before prom.

"I enjoyed setting up the skyline decoration with the other class officers. It was a fun bonding time!" junior officer Zach Svehla said.

Fourth year foreign exchange student Sam Suo attended his final prom at Scotus this year.

"I feel like it went really fast. Last year I was more excited because it was my first year going to prom. This year I knew what was going on," Suo said.

Senior Courtney Brockhaus experienced her last dance at Scotus during prom.

"The best part was sharing my first and last dance with my brother," Brockhaus said, "and taking a picture with Rachel Miksch and Mr. Lahm."

Seniors filed into the cafeteria for one final dance at Scotus.

"It was sad because it marked the end of all my high school dances, but it was a lot of fun celebrating and dancing with my friends one last time," senior Megan Parker said.

The dance was just the beginning of the night. The junior parents hosted post prom at Boulevard lanes beginning around 1:00 a.m. This event was filled with games, prizes, food, and an entertainment group. The entertainment was an improv group who call themselves Lyp Schtick.

"Post prom had so much amazing food which was exciting," senior Jennifer Belsan said.

Post prom ended around 4:00 a.m. sending the all the students away with prizes and marking the end of the seniors' final dance.

Senior Megan Meyer concluded, "Overall, I couldn't have asked for a better night."

Journalism strides to top three at state

By Gabby Middendorf
Editor

Journalism students furiously wrote articles, designed layouts, and snapped pictures at the State Journalism competition at Northeast Community College in Norfolk on April 25, 2016. Overall, Scotus took third place as a team with 272 points, a big improvement from last year's seventh place with 141 points.

Journalism advisor Angie Rusher nominated students from yearbook, newspaper, and media to compete at state.

"Towards the end of February, I went through all of the journalism staff's work and submitted the students in different categories. We could submit the work of three students in each category, and the top twelve in each category qualified to compete at state," Rusher said.

Sixteen Scotus journalism students succeeded in making it to state in twenty-six events.

"Anytime students are given a task in a timed environment, there is a lot more pressure. Luckily for us, our students are used to pressure and used to completing a task in 41 minutes," Rusher asserted.

Senior Hannah Thomazin was one of four gold medalists, taking first in newspaper layout.

"I felt really good after competing in newspaper layout because I wanted to make it look like the one I do at school. I knew when I turned it in that it looked sharp and the layout looked crisp and clean," Thomazin said.

In addition to competing in newspaper layout, Thomazin also competed in sports news writing.

"Normally when I write in the classroom, I'm not too stressed out about my article because I know the deadline is a few days away, and I can take my article home to work on it." Thomazin said. "At state, we're only given an hour to write and we try to do the best that we can, but with a time limit like that, it's tough. You get an hour to write, and then you're done," Thomazin commented.

Senior Amy Heusinkvelt took first place in headline writing and second in news writing.

"We were given six articles to read and we had to write and turn in a headline for three of them. I wrote four really good ones, and it was really hard to narrow it down to three. I got a medal for writing a total of twenty-four words," Heusinkvelt said.

Angie Rusher / Journalism Advisor

Seniors Anna Wickham and Hannah Thomazin and junior Haley Faust receive medals for first, second, and third place in Newspaper Layout. Scotus Journalism placed third overall.

Yearbook staff member junior Jessica Buhman won first place in Feature Photography.

"I was shocked to receive first. They announced the names starting with 6th and ending with first, and when the only place left to get was first, I had given up on placing. I was really surprised when I heard

See **JOURNALISM**, Page 2

JOURNALISM

Continued from Page 1

Columbus Scotus and my name in first place," Buhman said.

Senior Courtney Brockhaus competed in and placed second in Feature Photography.

"I was kind of surprised because I didn't think my photos were that great, but I was so happy and excited," Brockhaus said.

Senior Emily Fehringer qualified in Sports/Action Photography and made the top 12 in prelim results. A few weeks after preliminary results came out, she was further notified that she made the top six. The event didn't involve competition the day of State Journalism.

"I was so excited that I won because I thought that I would help our team place really well," Fehringer commented.

The team missed second place by six points and first by fourteen points.

" We earned more medals and points than ever before, and I couldn't be happier with my students. We left feeling a sense of achievement, but with that said, we are already planning how we can do better next year," Rusher concluded.

TEACHERS

Continued from Page 1

never give up on kids. It just takes a bit longer for the lightbulb to go off in some of them. Don't give up on anybody."

Puetz's time at Scotus has brought him much joy.

"I have enjoyed the kids and the relationship that you build with the faculty and staff," Puetz commented. "You don't stay at a place this long unless you like the people who are here."

After so many years spent involved in the school and athletics, Puetz is currently unsure how he will occupy his time in the future. He looks forward to finding new hobbies.

Scotus President Wayne Morfeld, who is also retiring after this year, commented on Puetz, "I used to laugh at the Puetz boys; I said if you cut them they'd bleed green. I think those of us that become truly 'Scotus-ized', I think we do bleed green, and I think it's a real privilege to do that."

Morfeld has spent 16 years leading the school and hopes he has been as good for the school as it has been for him. Morfeld has always emphasized excellence and the role it plays at Scotus.

"Our drive for excellence everywhere is really enjoyable. I hope that everyone appreciates how lucky we are," Morfeld said. "I hope Scotus itself never stops taking the drive for excellence for granted."

Joining Morfeld in retirement is his wife, science and math teacher Peg Morfeld. Mrs. Morfeld began at Scotus the same time the current senior class did, spending the same six years at the school they did. She echoes her husband's sentiments on the importance of doing well.

"I learned that striving for excellence is expected and evident in everything at Scotus, from academics to activities," Morfeld commented.

When she retires, Morfeld plans to spend more time with her family and also stay up late and sleep late.

Also leaving Scotus, though not retiring quite yet, is English teacher Danielle Masur. She will be moving to Lincoln to be with her soon-to-be-husband. There, she will teach math at Pius X High School.

"It will be hard going to a new school and going to a new place and feeling like an outsider at first," Masur remarked. "Here, all the students and staff know me, and I have built a relationship with so many of them."

Masur will use what she has learned here in all her future teaching endeavors.

"It's hard to say what I learned here when I started out with so little," Masur said. "In short, I learned everything from Scotus."

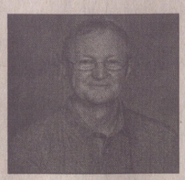
Also leaving Scotus this year is English teacher Anne Novicki. Working here for one year, Novicki will be returning to the elementary schools, helping the students and teachers to use technology.

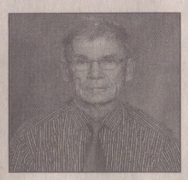
"It was a great and pleasant surprise that the conversation among the students is high level academic thinking," Novicki commented. "The kids always had such a positive attitude."

Novicki was glad she got to become part of the Scotus family.

"My husband and all of my children went to school here," she said. "I was the only one that didn't get to be part of the Scotus experience. It's a fulfillment for me. This is a school with high expectations, and the kids meet those expectations."

Five new teachers have already been hired to take the place of those who are leaving.





(Left to right) Math teacher Mr. Petersen, science teacher Mrs. Morfeld, English teacher Mrs. Novicki, President Mr. Morfeld, Activities Director Mr. Puetz, English teacher Ms. Masur will all leave Scotus after this year.

GO SHAMROCKS!

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

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Gabby Middendorf

As I sit down to type this last ever article for newspaper, my senior sign off, a flood of emotions rushes my brain. I have waited for this day since I started newspaper, but as I sit here, I don't know what to write. Scotus has been an exhilarating, tumultuous experience, and it's hard to put into words the adventures, the embarrassments, and the triumphs I've had. I wouldn't trade it for anything. Actually, if I could, I would trade it for a four year, non-stressful, homework-free vacation in the mountains, but since that's not an option, I'll embrace these past four years with bittersweet reminiscence.

I had the unique experience of transferring from Columbus High to Scotus after my sophomore year, and stepping into the Scotus hallways in August of 2014 was probably the most nerve-wracking experience of my life. After eight years of homeschooling and two years of public school, I decided I was ready for something else, so Scotus was the next experience in line. Scotus is, in two words (one of which is Mr. Morfeld's personal favorite), excellent and stressful.

High school is stressful, and these past few weeks have really freaked me out. Teachers and students alike are fed up with homework and extra-curricular activities. Many teachers and college friends have told me that they have much more free time in college, and I am waiting on the figurative edge of my seat for time to just daydream, think, and read the books I've wanted to read, but haven't had time for.

Even though I'm stressed and up to my ears in homework, I know that Scotus' academic excellence has prepared me well for life. I know, kudos to Mr. Lahm, that dividing by zero could cause drastic and shocking consequences. And, thanks to Mrs. Rusher, I can proudly say that I know what to do with those annoying but necessary pieces of the written English language called commas. Even though I wanted to just give up sometimes, my teachers have motivated me to keep on keeping on, and I couldn't thank them enough for that.

The only regret of my high school career is that I wish I would have lived in the moment more. I've had my fair share of days that I just wanted to fast forward from high school and move on to college, but as I look back, my life's been pretty great. I have amazing friends who support me, teachers who have encouraged me to keep moving forward, and a God who's always got my back.

So, to all of you young kids who are still trudging through the turbulent waters of high school, remember this: live in the moment. Don't try to avoid the stress of the present by thinking about the future. Scotus stress will prepare you for college academics, but it doesn't stop there. Scotus will prepare you for the rest of your life, I promise you.

This is Gabrielle Clare Middendorf, signing off.

Hannah Thomazin

Ugh. A word I use too often. An interjection that I have adapted to my everyday life. I am feeling ugh, especially right now. I'm being simultaneously pulled apart by my want to stay in high school to experience playing in a packed gym and dressing up for the hyped school dances all one more time and my need to leave and explore the world and jump headfirst into the unknown.

Ugh. It's how I felt about most of senior year. Constantly filling out scholarships, college applications, pretending to care about things that don't matter at all, and answering endless questions about the future is finally coming to come to end.

Ugh. I thought that when the time came to finally write my senior sign-off, beautiful words would cascade out of my mind through my fingertips and elegantly form sentences displaying my emotions about finally saying goodbye to the walls of Scotus. That's not the case. My mind is a jumbled ball of twine, and I don't know how to express myself.

I'll be honest, the majority of my senior year did not go as planned. I, along with the other girls on the volleyball team, had the dream of playing in the state championship game since we were in sixth grade. It didn't happen. I've had a drive to compete at state swimming since I was a freshman, and I worked my butt off to finally qualify…only to get disqualified in our relay. I thought by senior year, friendships would fall together, and I'd have a solid group of girls I could trust. That wasn't really the case either. I didn't know where I was going to college until the beginning of April when it felt like the rest of my class already had their lives mapped out. I felt like I had reasons to feel ugh.

It's been bumpy, and it's really easy to just give up and let life swallow you whole. I've been there, and I know what it feels like when the whole world seems to be against you. Don't give up. It's not worth it. There's always a positive.

The volleyball team made it to state for the thirtieth time in program history. That's impressive. We played our best game against Kearney Catholic. I made it to state swimming, and even though my relay got DQ'd, we made memories with each other that I'll remember forever. The swim team became my second family, and even though sometimes my friendships are rocky, I still have a couple girls that I'd trust the world with. College is scary, but I decided to go to Benedictine. I'm confident in my decision, even if it took me awhile to get there.

I've felt ugh a lot during senior year, but that's not who I am. I'm a pretty bubbly, happy person, and even though sometimes life doesn't go the way I planned, I'm not going to back down. I'm excited for the future, even all the upcoming ugh moments.

This is Hannah Thomazin, signing off.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Seniors Hannah Thomazin, Amy Heusinkvelt, Gabby Middendorf, Anna Wickham and Olivia Rath pose with issues of the *Rock Bottom* from their senior year.

Amy Heusinkvelt

I, much like Bilbo Baggins, enjoy going on adventures. My goal in life is to have a new adventure every day. When I think about it though, I have experienced pretty much zero percent of the world. There is so much out there that I don't know; there is so inconceivably much left for me to learn.

There was once was a time when high school was an adventure for me. Coming to Scotus was the scariest, most exciting, biggest unknown thing in my life. Every activity I did meant meeting new people and trying new things, and it was rad. Every day of high school fo-shizzle has been an adventure.

When I was but a little omellette-of-an-Amy, my goal was to do everything. I would flip through my brothers' yearbooks and imagine the day when it would be my picture dominating each and every page. There was very little I *didn't* want to do. Gazing across the last six years of my life, I think I can say that I have accomplished all I wanted to. I have sucked Scotus dry. So often the advice I hear from graduating seniors is to get involved. They express regrets about not participating in certain activities or about getting to know new people. When I step through the doors of Scotus on May 15th, leaving for the last time, I don't think I will have any of those regrets. I have done all I dreamed I would. I cannot count on all my limbs and extremities the number of activities I have done at Scotus. Every single one of those activities has shaped me as a person in some way. They have all brought people into my life whom I literally do not know how I would live without.

When I first entered Scotus as a wee little 12-year-old, every new thing I did was exciting. Every person was a stranger that could be a companion on my journey. There was once a time when Scotus was an adventure. Now, that time has come to an end. Though I will forever hold the memories and friends I have made on this adventure close to my heart, it is time to move on.

Honestly, I am scared to death to start my new adventure. I have become so comfortable here. I don't know how many hours I have spent on the stage here at Scotus. How many afternoons have been spent lazing about on the speckled-tile floor of senior hall, talking with my friends instead of going home. But in life, comfort isn't always a good thing. Being comfortable doesn't motivate. It doesn't drive me to explore the opportunities, and that is all I want to do in life. I want to live.

So here's to my next adventure. Here's to whatever the heck follows high school. Here's to looking back on Scotus, but always keeping my eyes forward to the future. Here's to life.

This is Amy Heusinkvelt, signing off.

Anna Wickham

If you would have asked me three months ago how ready I was to graduate, my answer would have been, "I want to get out of here as soon as possible, and I would leave tomorrow if I could." But, now having less than twenty days left of my high school career, I'm not sure my answer still stands.

I have spent nearly every day for six years inside the walls of Scotus Central Catholic High School, to say a change in scenery is necessary is an understatement. However, every single part of my life right now is about to change, and that scares me.

I have dreamt of the day when I pack my bags and head to Lincoln with a smile on my face, but as that day draws near, doubts of the future flood my head. What if I get a bad roommate? What if I don't like what I'm studying? What do I do when I just want my mom's vegetable soup because I'm sick? There are many unknown answers, but what I know for sure is that I am confident that the lessons I have learned here will push me to succeed.

Some of the greatest lessons I have learned in my eighteen years of life have been within the relaxed khaki walls of Scotus, one of them being the importance of being involved. I have been a member of four sports teams, participated in Shamrock Singers, musical, cheerleading, journalism and have been on committees galore! I am a very social person, and Scotus has allowed me to explore different interests as I grew as a person.

These activities have showed me great trials, triumphs, heartbreaks, and victories. Scotus has taught me how to hold my head high, no matter what the outcome. My coaches have taught me how to take constructive criticism and when to hold my tongue, and the lessons I have learned in and out of the classroom will travel with me as I continue my journey through life.

I am leaving Scotus with a pocketful of life lessons and with my head held high knowing that I am prepared for my next step. I hope I have left my mark on Scotus, as well. As a final will and testament, I would like to will my P.E. locker back to my sister Grace since it was hers to begin with, along with one more Adele jam session in Old Yeller. I will the cheerleading squad to the upcoming seniors, and finally my seat number three and page four in newspaper to Amberly Parker with a condition to have each issue sent to my dorm next year!

This is Anna Wickham, signing off.

Olivia Rath

Gone, are the Mondays we dread. Gone, are the nine periods of torture. Gone, gone, gone. Everything is coming to an end; while it's exhilarating and joyful, it's also melancholy and bittersweet. This article is going to be full of clichés, but senior year is a cliché, so I feel like it is okay to revel in it.

So many people roll their eyes at high school, sluffing it off so they won't be caught acting sentimental. I am that person. All throughout high school I would act like I didn't care, say I didn't care, but actually… I care. I cared about the high school dances, I cared about the sports coming out victorious, and I cared about every kid being the best they could be.

The lasts came a lot faster than I thought. Before I knew it, I was sitting down writing my last article for newspaper and realizing I won't get yelled at by Mrs. Rusher anymore, and now I'm weirdly sad. I keep thinking to myself, "next year we'll do this…" or "next year I can't wait for this…", and I slowly realize I won't be here.

Don't get me wrong, I am ready for college, but I will no longer have the comforts of Scotus. I won't know everyone I see (or their business), and I won't have wonderful teachers and coaches cheering me on. It was important for me to cherish ALL these moments and memories I'm making throughout high school, not just during my senior year.

Sooner than you know it, it's the last time you're sleeping through Mr. Brockhaus' study hall or opening your locker to grab your next set of books. It's been a fantastic year at Scotus, and I do feel like I was certainly blessed. I'll miss performing on stage and waking up ridiculously early for speech meets. I'll even miss the cafeteria food, though I admit I complained a tad much.

The friends I've made throughout Scotus have shaped me into the person I am today. Looking back at junior high, I know some of you doubted we'd even be talking now, and I hope I say "hi" to you in the halls on a regular basis now. Thank you to all of my friends, close or not, I love you all.

Mrs. Rusher is again yelling at me to wrap up my article. So, finally, thank you Scotus, teachers, coaches, and friends. Remember, enjoy the cliché; you only get to enjoy high school once so please take the time to appreciate everything around you.

This is Olivia Rath, dramatically signing off.

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Dana Hoppe
Major: Undecided

Fact: I once consumed an entire block of cheese in one sitting.

Jake Bos
Major: Architecture

Fact: I was shoved into multiple trash cans as a 7th and 8th grader.

Emily Fehringer
Major: Pre-Law

Memory: When Ross Bonk texts our whole class every holiday to say, "Happy Halloween" or "Merry Christmas".

Cole Harrington
Major: Electrical Engineering

Memory: Tanner peed his pants at the junior high lock in and did not have a change in clothes.

Amy Heusinkveld
Major: Undecided

Memory: In 8th grade, I attempted to flirt with Jared, but ended up punching him with a book and giving him a bloody nose.

Leah Enquist
Major: Pre-Health

Memory: When Jared and I set our lab table top on fire in chemistry...and nobody noticed (sorry, Mrs. Dusel).

Brandon Johnston
Major: Mechanized Systems Management

Fact: I am only friends with Khang because he lets me copy his homework.

Gabby Middendorf
Major: Elementary Education

Memory: When a bat flew around the gym during the musical performance for the elementary kids.

Darin Rinkol
Major: Chemical Engineering

Fact: I can quote every Will Farrell movie.

Justin Brockhaus
Major: Actuarial Science

Memory: One time I dunked over Bailey Braun during math class last year.

Emma Zeller
Major: Psychology

Memory: When the office ladies were laughing while I cried because I didn't want to cut my hair again for drug testing.

Justin Zoucha
Major: Agronomy

Memory: Sophomore year at track when Austin invented "Hillbilly Jon".

Natalie Chappell
Major: Pre-Nursing

Fact: One time when I was riding my bike to school, I got hit by a car....and the car just kept driving.

Anna Wickham
Major: Pre-Nursing

Memory: I hit Brandon in the face with my math book in 8th grade because he was bullying me.

Megan Parker
Major: Family Science

Fact: I have been told I make the best chocolate chip cookies in the world.

Sam Suo Yi
Major: Business

Memory: The first week I came to Scotus Emily and Bailey threw a basketball at my head and it broke my glasses.

Ryan Mustard
Major: Computer Engineering

Fact: I tore my ACL and recovered a month and a half early so I could play in the State Football Championship game.

Adrian Gonzalez
Major: Business

Memory: Spending time with the soccer team. We spend more time with the team than our families; the team has became my family.

Southeast Community College

Jon Lovell
Major: Land Surveying Civil Engineering

Memory: Sophomore year I fell off a car at track practice and I got a major concussion.

Justin Shanle
Major: Electromechanical Technology, Manufacturing Engineering

Memory: I was able to ride a dirt bike at the age of four... gotta start 'em young!

Mason Ulmer
Army National Guard

Memory: At my first retreat with my class I gave a small speech during our "class talk". After that, I felt like I was part of the family.

Carson Fuchser
Army National Guard

Memory: When we got in trouble with Mrs. Schaer because she thought we took her keys; turns out Mrs. Blaser actually had them.

Victor Corral
United States Marine Corps

Fact: On my first day at Scotus, Allie and Emily thought I was a foreign exchange student.

Khang Nguyen
Major: Chemical Engineering

Memory: I actually hate that Johnston kid who farms.

Stelio Guerra
Major: Televison, Cinema, Movies, and Sound

Memory: Going to football games every Friday night.

Lydia Schaechet
Major: Neuroscience and Behavior

Memory: State Mock, junior year.

Hannah Thomazin
Major: Computer Science

Fact: Sometimes Justin asks to come over to "hang out" when really he just wants to do math…

DORDT COLLEGE

Nathan Tworek
Major: Animal Science

Memory: Winning a state championship in football and powerlifting this year.

Boston Goodrich
Work Force

Memory: Memorable moments at football games

Adam Smith
Major: Pre-Med

Fact: I am the only kid in my family who does not have red hair.

Paige Vance
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Fact: In Chemistry last year, Amy tried to fit her calculator in her mouth right as Mrs. Dusel looked over at us... Amy was only slightly embarrassed.

DOANE COLLEGE

Ross Bonk
Major: Computer Science

Memory: Hiding Emily's bookbag every day in Government.

University of Nebraska Omaha

Jared Hanson
Major: Pathology

Fact: My only friends in junior high were a couple of microscopes.

Bailey Honold
Major: Psychology

Memory: Fire exits, 7th grade.

Caleb Ostdiek
Major: Accounting
Memory: Coming up to Mrs. Bomar's room every day during snack break junior year to play the ball and cup game.

Northeast community college

Courtney Labenz
Major: Physical Therapy

Memory: When Sam passed out at the cadaver lab.

Savannah Robertson
Major: Physical Therapy Assistant

Memory: Sharing food with the snack Club Mafia every day in Art.

Kaleb Puntney
Major: Business

Fact: A week after I got my Camero I rear ended one of my buddies.

Jacob Wright
Major: Physical Therapy

Fact: I got in a wreck my first week of driving.

Central Community College

Maeghan Pieper
Major: Physical Therapy
Memory: When Emma stabbed a mini tomato at lunch, and it sprayed all over Rachel in 8th grade.

Austin Svehla
Major: Mass Communications

Memory: When Jon fell off a car at track practice freshman year.

Marshall Dreifurst
Major: Business

Memory: When Mr. Sasges punted a ball and it hit Austin S. in the face.

Cody Siemek
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Fact: I fell off my grandma's couch when I was 7 and broke my elbow.

Morningside College

Marcus Dodson
Major: Nursing

Fact: I'm into calves.

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Rachel Hiksch
Major: Business Administration

Memory: Being in study hall with my brother Tyler. We would try to swap homework, which never ended well.

Seth Gutzmer
Major: Wildlife Fisheries, Environmental Science

Fact: Not everyone knows this, but I am the best looking guy at Scotus. Period.

Creighton University

Jackson Kumpf
Major: Undecided

Fact: I nearly killed both Tanner and Jake at two different times in my childhood.

Bailey Braun
Major: Physics

Memory: Mr. Salyard once chased me down the hallway to catch me tardy.

Sarah Schumacher
Major: Biology

Memory: Emily and I hid a Cheez-It in the little theatre in January and it's still there. Let us know if you guys find it!

UNK

Alec Foltz
Major: Undecided

Memory: In eighth grade, I threw up on Mrs. Rambour's floor and in the hallway. She got mad at me.

Allie Johnson
Major: Pre-Nursing

Memory: When our whole basketball team would chug bottles of Mountain Dew before summer league games.

Mason Brandenburg
Major: Undecided

Memory: When I put a penny in the water fountain by the weight room in eighth grade. It's still there.

Sam Novicki
Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Memory: Freshman religion class with Marshall, Alec, and Allie.

Jenny Belsan
Major: Education

Memory: Performing and cheering the boys on at the State Football Game.

Morgan Thorson
Major: Pre-Pharmacy
Memory: When Coach Petersen told me his coffee cup talks more than me and to go sit in the bleachers because I was smiling.

Jessica Lahm
Major: Pre-Nursing

Memory: Winning state XC two years in a row.

Mikayla Nienaber
Major: Pre-Nursing
Memory: Slapping Adam in 7th grade because he wouldn't tell me why he was at my house the night before…turns out he was the paper boy sub.

Olivia Rath
Major: Elementary and Special Education

Fact: I have been in love with Brandon Johnston since the 7th grade.

Miles Putnam
Major: Exercise Science

Fact: I have a black belt in Taekwondo.

Baeley Pelster
Major: Athletic Training
Memory: When Mr. Ohnoutka tried to throw a football at my head but instead threw it at the ground five feet in font of him.

Courtney Brockhaus
Major: Radiology

Memory: When Olivia Rath asked Mrs. Dusel what her favorite Disney princess was. It's Cinderella.

Kimberly Stutzman
Major: Pre-Nursing

Memory: During our PE track meet when Kelsey started her race and face planted on the gym floor.

Brady Przymus
Major: Pre-Nursing

Fact: I had to start shaving my face in 7th grade.

Megan Meyer
Major: Pre-Nursing

Memory: *High School Musical.*

Kelsey Wiehn
Major: Pre-Nursing
Memory: Junior high track no one wanted to run. My whole heat agreed to dog it. When the race started I tried so hard so I could win at least one heat… and I did!

Tanner Spencer
Major: Undecided

Fact: I beat Mason B in wrestling in 8th grade, and he threw a fit.

Boys golf swings for success

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

The beginning of the 2016 golf season may not be going as well as the Scotus golf team had hoped, but the members of the team are keeping their heads up and are determined to achieve their goals by the end of this season.

Although the team was not pleased with their performance at some of this season's earliest meets, they are using their losses as motivation to prosper in the future. One of these motivating meets was the Pius X Invite on April 4th.

"I talked to the players afterward and told them that failure is part of success," head golf coach Karl Dierman said of the team's performance. "For us to be a successful team, we have to experience failure and then use those experiences to help us keep our focus, embrace the fundamentals, and help motivate us to work harder and longer to reach our potential as a team."

At the Pius Invite, senior Jacob Wright led the team, firing an 83 to earn a medal in a tie for 13th.

"My medal at the Pius Invite was my best meet of the year so far," Wright said. "It was Class A invite and the course was very challenging."

An early team success came for the Shamrocks in their dual against Humphrey St. Francis on April 5th. The team carded a school-record 153 at the 9-hole event.

"We were fortunate to win the dual," Dierman said. "Humphrey St. Francis is a good team with a great player at the top of their lineup. Freshman Bryce VunCannon came up big for us with a personal best 39; that was the difference in the match."

After winning another dual with Stanton the following week, the team's struggles continued at the York Invite on April 14th. Seniors Brandon Johnston and the aforementioned Wright struggled their way to a 92 and an 89, respectively. Senior Darin Rinkol carded an 83 to medal in 9th place. Rinkol gladly would trade personal success for more team victories, though.

"As a team, we haven't all played good at one event," Rinkol said. "We just underperform because it is only one or two people performing at each meet."

The next varsity event was the Shamrock Invite, hosted by Scotus at Quail Run on April 21st. The Shamrocks competed well at their home course, earning third place in the strong top division. Rinkol again led the team, carding an 81 for a respectable 2nd place finish. Wright also medaled with an 84 to finish tied for 12th place. In the junior varsity division, senior Bailey Braun and juniors Layne Schroeder and Eli Merrill earned the 3rd, 4th, and 10th place medals. Braun shot a personal best 86, as did Schroeder, while Merrill shot 92.

"We are having a lot of fun, but our potential has yet to be shown," Jacob Wright said. "The results just aren't what we're looking for."

The most recent event for the golf team was the triangular held at Quail Run between Scotus, Omaha Concordia, and Twin River.

"We mixed up the lineup a little bit, and the excellent depth of our roster showed today," coach Dierman said.

Rinkol, a reoccurring theme of this year's team, led the team with a 76. Sophomore Colson Kosch carded a career best 82 to fall right behind Rinkol. Braun finished at 87, VunCannon shot 88, and Schroeder took home a score of 90 to round out the lineup. The team score of 333 was enough to win the triangular by a large margin.

Despite inconsistencies, the team came through on Thursday at the Lakeview Invitational. The team scored a 319, with a tournament win from Johnston.

"My most memorable meet of the year was the Lakeview Invite. I shot a (-1) 71, one shot off the school record, and won the invite," Johnston said. We also won it as a team. [This meet was] one of my best golf memories."

Going forward, the Shamrocks will compete at the conference meet on May 7th. They will also duel with Lakeview on May 9th for the annual Hill Valley Cup. Finally, the team will compete at districts at Quail Run on May 17th for an opportunity to advance to the state meet.

Olivia Rath/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Brandon Johnston tees off at the Schuyler Golf Course on April 20th. Johnston won 1st place at the Lakeview Invitational on April 28th.

Shamrocks kick competition

By Hannah Thomazin
Staff Reporter

Both Shamrock boys' and girls' soccer teams have dominated most of the season. Both squads have only two losses.

The Shamrock boys, preseason ranked all-class No. 1, dropped two consecutive heartbreaking games at the St. Ignatius Cup earlier in April. However, the boys lost twice in the same tournament last year and still went on to win state. Despite being frustrated with the losses, head coach John Brezenski was optimistic for the rest of the season.

"Losing was good for us," Brezenski said. "You don't win state championships in week 3 of the season, but you use the lessons from poor performance and make you better, and our boys have done that so far."

Senior midfielder Cole Harrington was disappointed with the setback, but isn't fazed either.

"We shouldn't have lost, but it's motivation to get better. We want to go all the way again," Harrington said.

The boys bounced back to victory with a high-scoring win over Lincoln Lutheran on the fifth of April 8-1 at Wilderness Park.

"We came out, we started really well, we finished," Brezenski said.

The Shamrock girls also dominated over the Warriors 2-0. Senior midfielder Emily Fehringer was proud of how the team has started to come together.

"We've learned to play off one another more and started to control the midfield," Fehringer said.

Both boys and girls were triumphant over their next several competitors taking home a win from Lutheran High/Norfolk Catholic (boys 3-0, girls 4-0). On April 12th, the Shamrocks traveled to Kearney to face Kearney Catholic. The girls defeated the Stars 4-0 while the boys won handily 7-0.

Senior forward Anna Wickham was happy with how the season has progressed.

"We're really starting to gel together and working through the middle," Wickham said. "Coach has continued to push us to get better every day."

The girls' squad then took on Omaha Duchesne Academy on a rainy April 18th evening. Seniors Kim Stutzman, Morgan Thorson, and Anna Wickham accounted for all five goals in a 5-0 shutout. Head girls' coach Kristie Brezenski was proud of how her team performed.

"We played really well. I love how the girls are playing up to their competition this year, and we are playing tough on defense taking on all-state players. Our offense is doing a good job of putting the ball in the back of the net," Brezenski said.

Within two days of Duchesne, the undefeated Shamrock girls paired up against the undefeated Gretna Dragons. The No. 1 ranked all-class Dragons handed the Scotus girls' their first loss of the season. Even though they lost, girls' coach Brezenski was not discouraged with how her girls performed.

"We played right with them for most of the game, and I'm very proud of the girls," Brezenski said. "We've had a lot of players step up and fill positions that they have never played before."

The Shamrock boys, on the other hand, practiced hard for eleven days before matching up with Grand Island Central Catholic. The boys' dominated over the Crusaders and invoked the 10-goal lead mercy rule in just 47 minutes of action.

Both the soccer teams faced Schuyler on April 26th. The Shamrock boys controlled the game for a 1-0 win. Jon Brezenski was happy with the effort his team played with against the No. 2 ranked Class B Warriors.

"I thought our kids played smart. We didn't get caught up in the emotional part of the game, we kept our composure," Brezenski said.

The girls' squad also came out on top with a 6-0 win over Schuyler. Senior captain Courtney Labenz, who has only played in six games this season after missing time while recovering from an appendectomy, was finally put back in action.

"Coming off an unexpected injury was very frustrating at first, but it has made me work hard to get back to where I was before the surgery," Labenz said.

Both the Shamrock squads traveled to Omaha late in April to compete in the Millard South/Papio Cup. The Shamrock girls' lost to Papillion La-Vista, 3-1, and won against Lewis Central, 2-1, both goals by sophomore Kendra Wiese. The boys' squad was victorious over Omaha Central 2-0 and upset all-class No. 1 Omaha Westside with a goal by senior Alec Foltz, assist by junior goalie Evan Chohon.

"I believe we have great potential going into state as long as we play our possession game, speed up our speed of play and put a couple big goals in early," girls' coach Brezenski said.

The Shamrocks next battle is districts approaching quickly on Thursday. If the Shamrocks win, they will move onto sub-state on May 7th.

"It would be fitting for this group of seniors to end with another state championship and hopefully, we are able to do that," boys' coach Brezenski said. "I feel good about where we are at right now, believing we are peaking now before the post-season."

Sarah Schumacher/Yearbook Staff

Senior Cole Harrington dribbles the ball past a Schuyler defender at Wilderness Park on the 26th of April. The boys' squad will face the Warriors again at districts.

Track teams hit their mid-season stride

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

As the school year begins to wind down, and it feels as if everyone is running around a million miles an hour, the Scotus track team is actually running around at a decent pace, picking up medals and competing well. The Shamrocks have taken home four team titles on the boys' side and three on the girls' side. Individual successes have also been commonplace with numerous athletes taking home gold medals at every single invitational.

Junior Cody Mroczek has consistently been one of these athletes, winning 1st in the 400 meter dash on three occasions and in the long jump four times. Mroczek also competed in the Kansas Relays on April 22nd and 23rd, earning 4th place in the 400 meter dash.

"Running against good competition all year has made me faster," Mroczek said. "Going to the Kansas Relays was one of the best parts of this season so far."

The Shamrocks took part in the Wayne Invitational on April 5th. It was a successful day as the boys' and girls' teams battled the wind. Senior Justin Brockhaus took home 1st in the 3200 meter run and ran in the 4x400 and 4x800 relays that got 1st and 2nd place, respectively.

"I always like to know where I sit with all the runners in the area," Brockhaus said. "And ultimately, I just want to help the team compete well."

The team has competed quite well so far, especially at the Knights of Columbus Invitational hosted at Pawnee Park on April 12th. Both the boys and girls won the team titles, with 5 boys and 4 girls winning first place in their events. Ashley Foreman was one of these girls, running in the 4x800 relay.

"I enjoy running the relay with my team," Foreman said. "We have been working our butts off to improve our time."

The Schuyler Invite was another successful meet featuring another Shamrock sweep of the team titles.

The most recent competition for the Shamrocks was the City Triangular at Lakeview High School. The triangular was not team-scored. However, the girls had nineteen top-3 finishes in individual events while the boys had sixteen.

"As a team, we're starting to hit our stride and win some meets," senior Justin Zoucha said. Zoucha competed in the 800 meter dash and was a member of the winning 4x800 relay at the City Triangular.

The Shamrocks will compete next at the Boone Central Quadrangular on May 3rd, which will be followed by the district and state track meets.

Maeghan Pieper/Media Staff

Sophomore Marika Spencer launches the discus at the Knights of Columbus Invitational on April 12th. Spencer took 1st place in the event.

Shamrocks contribute to co-op sports

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

The air smells of peanuts and crackerjacks at Pawnee Park as the Columbus High baseball team cruises through their 2016 season.

Unpleased with their current record of 4-17, the Columbus High boy's baseball team is determined to push for future success.

"It's been an up and down season for the team, but I think we are on the uphill climb," senior Miles Putnam said.

The team has suffered a few heartbreaking losses, but they have also beat the odds. One such game was their game against Westside.

"We beat the three-time defending state champion, Westside," sophomore Logan Mueller said.

The Discoverers won their game due to mercy rule.

"Our first win against Westside [was our best game]," Putnam said. "We hit the ball very well, and we won 11-1."

Putnam, who is a three year starter for the Discoverers, is leading the team this season.

"A couple weeks ago, I had a game-winning homerun against Fremont," Putnam said. "Last week, we had a double header against Lincoln Northeast, and I finished the day with four doubles."

Sophomore Jake Novicki has also been showcasing his talent on the baseball field.

"[I pitched] against Grand Island. They're in the top five in the state, and I pitched six of seven strong innings," Novicki said.

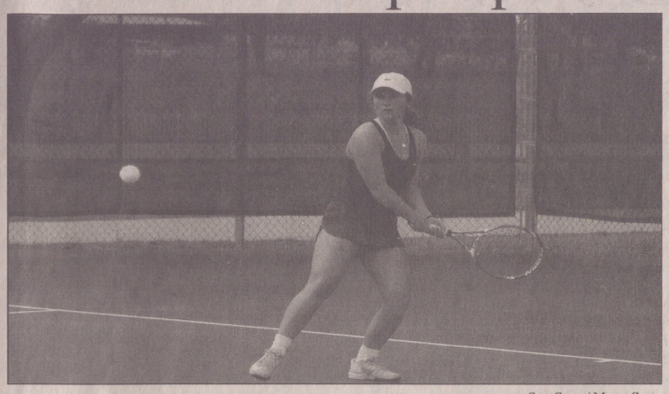
The baseball team knows that their season is coming to an end, but they hope to achieve their goals in the season to come.

"[My hopes are] to finish with at least six wins and win a game at Districts," Putnam said.

The district competition will be held May 6th through the 9th.

Anna Wickham/ Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Logan Mueller prepares to hit the ball against the Cardinals on April 11th. The Discoverers will compete in the district competition on May 6th.



Sam Suoyi/ Media Staff

Senior Emma Zeller returns the ball against her opponent during a match at Pawnee Park. The Discoverers will compete in the state meet on May 19th.

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Although they wear maroon jerseys, a few Shamrocks have been proving themselves on the court. The Columbus High girls' tennis team has proved their strength this 2016 season.

"The season has gone really well," senior Hannah Thomazin said. "I think we've only lost one dual, and we've finished high in tournaments."

The tennis team is led mostly by seniors. One of these seniors is Emma Zeller.

"I played really well during the Westside Invite," Zeller said. "I made a big comeback in two of my matches. I felt like I played above my normal level."

Zeller is the number one singles player.

"We made it further in the tournament than we ever had before," Zeller said.

The Westside Invite was a successful meet for Thomazin, as well.

"They best I've played was at the Westside tournament. I played against tough competition and played well. I almost beat two top ranked girls in the tournament and went three and two."

Sophomore Natalie Brutty plays on the Discoverers' JV team.

"In Grand Island, I was down three to zero, and I came back and won six to three. That was really exciting," Brutty said.

With districts and state just around the corner, the girls have high hopes for the weeks to come.

"I really want to get seeded well at state," Thomazin explained. "My goals are to win the games I should and fight hard against those that are better than me. I want to make it to the second day of state."

The Columbus High girl's tennis team will compete at the state meet on May 19th and 20th.

Thespians spring into activities

Megan Parker /Media staff

(left to right) Seniors and juniors Adam Smith, Courtney Brockhaus, Naomi Kosch, Zach Svehla, Lydia Schaecher, Alison Zoucha, and Amy Heusinkvelt behold the treasure found during a thrilling chase scene in the spring play. The cast performed for all three elementary schools on Thursday, April 28th, 2016.

By Olivia Rath
Staff Reporter

Spring activities are already well under way at Scotus, and the thespians troupe at Scotus is no different. In the spring, Thespians Troupe 1909 initiates new members and puts on the spring play production.

This year, Thespians initiated seven new members. These members throughout the week of April were put to the test to be inducted.

Co-president Olivia Rath of Thespians Troupe 1909 stated, "All the activities we've completed have been traditions for quite a while now. This is a very well-kept secret at Scotus mainly because nobody cares more about Thespians than the thespians themselves."

To become a member of this group, inductees have to earn a certain amount of points throughout their years ranging from tech and backstage to participating in speech team or mock trial.

"This was another thing to experience at Scotus; it was a ton of fun," senior Stelio Guerra remarked.

Thespians inducted five freshman, one junior, and one senior. Oftentimes, initiates won't be invited to join until their sophomore year at Scotus.

"I joined Thespians because it seemed fun. It is important to see if you have what it takes. It's not easy being us," freshman Isaac Ostdiek stated.

Thespians also show skills in the spring with the annual spring play production. This has been a student directed performance for the past five years.

This year's production was co-directed by seniors Megan Parker and Olivia Rath; the cast contained 17 people.

"Though the cast isn't always easy to work with and we as directors get frustrated, it's so cool to see the end result," said Parker.

Senior Jared Hanson played James the Butler in the show. He has been a cast member in the spring play for the past three years.

"The directors change every year, which is fun. It gives good opportunity for students to be more involved in drama than just acting," Hanson commented.

In years past, spring play has traditionally been a spoof on fairy tales to relate to younger elementary children. The directors this year chose a different, suspenseful script.

"We wanted to do something different this year. Doing the same fairy tale spoof can get old; we had to choose between a super hero script or a haunted house story and decided to go with the 'Ha-Ha House'," Parker said.

Spring play performed their production of the "Ha-Ha House" for the public on Sunday, May 1st.

Rath concluded, "Thank you all for coming out and supporting us. Spring Play is a great way to wrap up the end of the fine arts year at Scotus."

Scotus performs at District Music

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

The Scotus music department met at Central Community College on April 23rd and 24th to showcase their musical talents.

Band director Kristen Cox and Shamrock Singers Choir director Laura Salyard have been practicing with their students and studying music since March.

"I spend hours listening to music and finding the right piece that fits the best features of the concert band for that year," Cox said.

The students have been preparing for weeks for district music and had a variety of feelings going into the contest.

"I thought that some of our songs would be good and others would not, but all of our songs sounded amazing at the contest!" freshman singer Emily Stutzman said.

The band and choir performed in front of three judges and a bleacher full of supporters.

"I think we had our best performance in front of the judges. It was even better than I expected," senior band student Megan Parker said.

Judges critiqued the performances based on a scale from superior (one) to a five, one being the best. Overall, both the band and the choir got a two rating, also known as an excellent.

"Our performance met my expectations because I could see how hard each and every chorus member worked to perform each song to the best of our ability. I am very happy with the way we performed overall," senior singer Megan Meyer said.

Even though the groups received a two, the directors were proud of their performances.

"The band students performed very well in both the full concert band and small ensembles. The band students earned the most superiors out of any school in our district," Cox added.

The students were also proud of the band and singer's accomplishments.

"Although our ratings didn't match how I thought we were going to do, I think our large ensembles, both Singers and band, had performed at our best when our time had come," sophomore band and Singers member Emily Carstens said.

Students had the opportunity to participate in a solo, duet, or ensemble on Saturday, April 24th.

"I was a part of two ensembles and a solo, and all three of them received a one. It was super exciting!" Belitz added.

Hannah Thomazin/ Rock Bottom Staff

Scotus Shamrock Singers perform their district music songs at their concert on Wednesday, April 20th. Both the band and choir received a two at District Music Contest.

The band will perform their district songs on Wednesday night at their concert. Both groups will perform at graduation on Sunday, May 15th.

Storytime with Kira

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

The Fear of Battle

This story is a continuation of Kira's first story in Issue 4.

It's been six months since the incident.

Six months ago, I was kidnapped by slavers and forced into a gladiator battle. At that time I wasn't prepared for battle and thought everything could be solved through negotiations. My mind has changed since then.

I started training as soon as I was back to full health. I had been badly injured in that gladiator fight, so I was bedridden for two months.

My king has been able to keep up work without me, but I was still afraid to go back to find what state the government was in.

It took two weeks for me to pick up the pieces that had gone into disarray. The king really can't do anything without me.

If the enemy had gotten ahold of me, like before, it was worth keeping me alive and driving Synderia down enough to take over. That's why I must learn to fight after that first mistake.

I must be strong for my country and for my king.

The king was the one who trained me.

"You must not think about what your next attack is going to be!" the king stressed one time during sword practice.

He kept knocking the sword out of my grasp or making an instant kill move. It just proved how far I still had to go.

"You must not think; you must clear your mind and watch your enemy."

A month later I was able to hold my own against the king.

Sixth months of training couldn't have prepared me for what came next.

War.

No one is ever ready for war.

Everyone dreaded the day that our enemy got a big enough army to make a full scale attack on our country. We barely had enough time to get our army together.

No one likes war.

But if it meant keeping the freedom of our country, then we would fight for it.

The king had the army march outside of city limits in the direction that our enemies were coming from.

Our golden armor shone brightly in the afternoon sun. Just bright enough to distract our enemies as they attacked us.

In the distance, a large cloud of dust appeared, signaling the presence of a large army.

A tremor of fear went through the Synderian army, and the king noticed. He stood in the front, with me and his three generals by his side. He turned to the army behind us, and everyone looked at him right away.

"Soldiers! Today we fight, and I know we can win!" he shouted. "You must not fear, for you will not be fighting alone! We all must take care of each other to make sure we return to our families. When we take out the enemy now, we will be done with war forever!"

A mighty cry left the mouths of the whole army. I even caught myself cheering as well. It wasn't much of a speech, but the king had a way with us that just his deep, smooth voice gave us courage as it seemed to resonate in our very beings.

I looked straight ahead and my breath caught in my throat. The enemy had already arrived.

The king took out his sword, holding it up high as the rest of us drew our weapons, a mix of swords and axes and bows, as well. Our weapons shone bright like our armor did. Some men took too much pride in the beauty of their weapon. Some had precious jewels embedded in the hilts of their swords or a rare leather on the handle of their axes. Those were the people that were the most fearful.

My body began to shake. It was all or nothing, but in the setting daylight, the enemy appeared to form into one large mass. They wore black armor with red stripes on the helmets and shoulders. It was terrifying.

My ears had gone deaf as my sight started to decrease. The large mass in front of me seemed to be getting larger and larger. Then a flash of gold interrupted the black. It was our army that woke me from my daze.

I shook my head and looked around. I spotted the king and several soldiers not too far away. I tried to make my way to them, but my path was blocked by an enemy soldier.

My eyes widened as I stared dumbly at the oncoming sword, then without thinking, my sword flew up.

He dropped like a weight, not moving.

All I could do was stare. I didn't kill him, but I helped in it…I looked around but everything seemed to be moving in slow motion.

Another black monster appeared in front of me. I panicked and threw up my sword. He dropped too.

Now I had killed a man. I kept shaking. I didn't know what to do. I had to survive though…I had to…

The battle lasted for three days. We barely got a rest in that time, but we came out victorious.

I had lost track of how many I killed, but I felt no more fear about it.

The enemy king didn't surrender. No one was taken prisoner. Everyone was killed. Half of our army remained. The king managed to come out with cuts and scrapes and a broken leg. I only came out with a slash to the face and an arrow injury in my arm.

The battle was over. The enemy was defeated.

I stood on the battle ground, surrounded by the dead bodies of the enemy and my comrades. The ground was soaked in blood.

I fell to my knees and cried for the first time since the beginning of the war.

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

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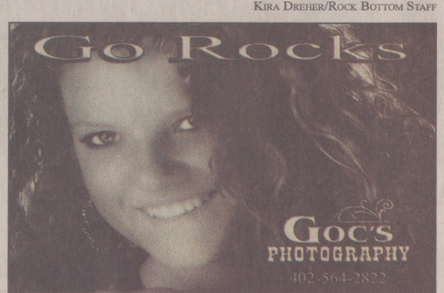

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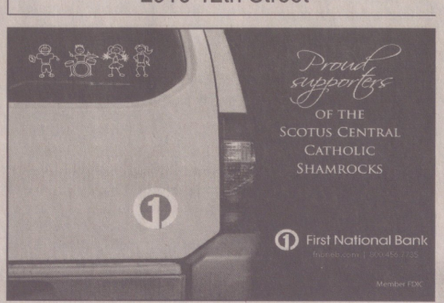
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