Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic Volume 17 • Issue 1 • October 18, 2016 Columbus, Nebraska 68601
http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism

New teachers

"I am enjoying this year so far, and I know it will be a good year." - Melanie Mimick

Features 5&6

Foreign exchange students

"I think all exchange students are here to learn English and create friendships for life." - Thiago

Features 5&6

Girls golf places 9th at state tournament

"My most memorable part about state was getting to finish my season with my family and friends." - Emerson Belitz

Activities 7

Boys and girls place first at district cross country

"We've needed guys to step up this year, and they have." - Nathan Ostdiek

Sports 6

Cheerleaders make it a loud year

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

"Let's go Shamrocks, let's go!"

The enthusiasm of the cheerleaders are a part of almost all Scotus activities. They get the student section and the adult crowd riled up and excited as the game goes on.

This year the cheer squad has many plans to keep the students up on their toes and to enjoy sports and pep rallies, as well as to try and get the state cheer trophy.

At the pep rallies so far this year, the cheerleaders have offered candy to the class who was the loudest and peppiest. The junior high was the winner at the first pep rally, and at the Homecoming pep rally, everyone won everything.

"It was thrown around that we wanted to do something that would make the student section more spirited and more involved, so what's a better bribe than candy?" senior Captain Nikki Hiner said.

The cheerleaders are planning many other prizes beside candy, such as customized t-shirts to give to the winning class in the upcoming pep rallies.

Evan Chohon/Media Staff

Senior Alayna Wilson cheers at a home volleyball game. This year, the cheerleaders have a goal to win at state cheer.

Another addition to the pep rallies was junior Grace Wickham getting up and speaking in front of the student body on behalf of the cheerleaders and to keep the pep rally moving along.

"I don't mind talking in front of people. I am good at giving directions, and I guess it just came naturally, but Coach Engel actually assigned me to do it," Wickham stated.

At the first pep rally of the year, besides the addition of candy, the cheerleaders showed their new ability in doing lifts and flips. It used to be that cheerleaders could not do stunts in Nebraska, but over the summer it became legal. The cheer squad learned how to do these stunts properly at a camp they attended over the summer.

"This year Nebraska became 'un-ground bound,' which means that we can finally do lifts and stunts We learned most of the basic stunts from the NCA staff at cheer camp, and then we added our own flair from looking on the internet," Hiner explained.

There is much more to come from the cheerleaders as the year goes on, but they refused to tell what was coming up for the student body to witness, so it remains a secret and a surprise.

Hiner concluded, "Please continue to cheer even if we are losing. The teams still need support. Be loud and proud to be a Shamrock. P.S. We love it when you guys cheer with us!"

Technology takes off

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Over the last several years, there have been several technological advancements at Scotus. The school is once again excited about the new upgrades as students and faculty both begin to utilize them. Among the new changes that have already been added are the mobile labs and the office 365 email system.

This year, Angie Rusher was appointed to the head of technology integration at Scotus. She has taken on many new tasks due to this position.

"I spend a few periods each morning helping teachers integrate technology into their classrooms. So far this year it has included teaching students to use office 365, setting up Turnitin.com accounts, creating email lists, fixing Lenovos, and asking any questions they might have." Rusher said.

Here is what Rusher had to say about the mobile labs.

"The biggest addition to the technology is the mobile labs. We have 78 Microsoft Lenovos, essentially laptops, for teachers to check out in their rooms."

The Lenovos come on two carts of 24 and one cart of 30, on each floor of the school.

See **TECHNOLOGY**, Page 2

Students ride to success

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

On the hot, sunny days of summer, when most students are at the pool or in the air conditioning, one Scotus student could be found on the back of a horse.

Bailey Lehr, a sophomore, won the Clearwater Rodeo this past summer and became the Rodeo Queen. "Becoming the Rodeo Queen has been one of my dreams ever since my mom pushed me and my sister, Brooke, towards horse riding," Lehr said.

Lehr competes in many horse competitions around Nebraska in the summer. The competitions can last anywhere from a couple of hours to a couple of days. For each competition, Lehr competes in different types of events.

"It depends on what type of show, but mainly I compete in barrel racing, pole bending, showmanship, horsemanship, Western pleaser, halter, reining, trail, and others," Lehr said.

In order to do well in competitions, Lehr practices as often as she can. She is involved with sports as well, so it is hard for her to find time to practice and compete. She plays volleyball and basketball, and she participates in track during the school year. Although there are events all year round, Lehr focuses most of her time on horse competitions in the months of summer.

"During the summer, I compete about twice a week. I have competed in towns all across Nebraska including Fremont, Columbus, Burwell, Arthur, McCook, Chadron, Rushville, Valentine, Madison, Wahoo, Clearwater, and a couple others," Lehr said.

At each of these competitions Lehr uses one of her five horses to compete in different events. Each of her horses has a special skill that can be beneficial in a variety of events. Lehr not only participates in these competitions, but she also wins. So far, she has won at the National Nebraska Barrel Horse Association competitions, American Quarter Horse Association competitions, and many different 4-H competitions. Winning is not Lehr's favorite part about competing in horse competitions though.

"My favorite part about competing is most definitely the people involved. The more I travel the more people I meet," Lehr said.

Lehr's experiences with horses and horse competitions have mostly been amazing, but there is one downfall.

"Horses are expensive," Lehr said.

Lehr is not the only Scotus student that is involved with horses though. Ellie Bock, Jadyn Taylor and Olivia Klug are also horse competitors.

Eighth grader Oliva Klug has had many accomplishments involved with horse competitions. This year she placed third in English Pleasure at the state horse show, won the overall youth at a reining show in Kansas, and has won multiple shows in Nebraska. Klug's favorite part about horse competitions is the memories she has made and the experiences she has had.

"I became involved in horse competitions because I love animals. My grandma was the one that got me my first horse, and I have been riding ever since," Klug said.

Junior Jadyn Taylor became involved with horses when her mother

See **HORSES**, Page 2

Photo Courtesy Out On The Range Photography

Sophomore Bailey Lehr rides her horse at the Clearwater Rodeo on June 24, 2016. Lehr was named Rodeo Queen at the Clearwater Rodeo.

TECHNOLOGY

Continued from Page 1

"The students enjoy working on the laptops in their classrooms rather than going to the labs. The teachers like having access to all of their teaching tools in their rooms, and the students are more focused." Rusher added.

The Lenovos give all of the students in the school the opportunity to use the internet at once rather than just classes going to the media center or those in the study hall room. As a result, students will now be able to get their work done more efficiently.

The office 365 network is another addition to the technology at Scotus.

"We also have many new apps that have been made available through our Office 365 subscription that allow teachers and students to collaborate and share information more easily." Rusher said.

Students can now access all their files from home through Office 365. This tool will make it easier for students to get their work done.

Students can expect more new changes in the technology coming in the future.

"We will be updating the web site and PowerSchool at the end of this semester, and we will be moving to Windows 10 and Microsoft 2016 next semester. This will allow all of our Office 365 programs to work more efficiently," Rusher said. "Students can also expect more teachers to be moving their resources and teaching online."

Along with the new additions to the technology, there are also new restraints to it as well. Students must now put their cell phones in plastic pouches, or phone caddies, before each class begins. Each phone caddy can hold up to 24 cell phones, and they remain there until the end of each class period.

Spanish teacher Gail Bomar began using a caddy this year in her classroom.

"I like them. Last year I had a box that they put their phones in, but it is much easier and much more organized to have the caddies. Every student knows where his phone goes, and it is much easier to take roll before class because I can see whose phone is in the caddy and whose isn't." Bomar said.

"The students put their phones in the caddy as soon as they walk in the classroom. If we need to use them, students will get them out. Otherwise, they will stay in there for the rest of the class period. I feel like it's a good tool and I'm using it quite a bit," Bomar added. "It's interesting to me how all this technology has evolved over my years of teaching. I would never had imagined all of this when I began teaching."

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Sophomore Caitlin Hottovy, junior Jadyn Taylor, and sophomore Bryce VunCannon use the new Lenovos during speech class. Scotus purchased 78 Lenovos to be used in classrooms this year.

HORSES

spent $50 worth of raffle tickets to win a horse. She has won a lot of first place prizes over the years.

"I hope to get a scholarship to ride horses in college," Taylor said.

Ellie Bock, a junior, has also had many achievements while being involved with horses. She was a two time grand champion at the Denver Stock Show, placed fourth in the world in showmanship, placed seventh in the world in western pleaser, was the Zone Three champion in western pleasure, many awards in Nebraska, and was the reserve grand champion at the Color Breed Congress in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was introduced to horse competitions through 4-H at the Platte County Fair.

"My favorite part about the horse shows is all the traveling to different cities and states. I also like meeting new people and becoming friends with people from all over the world," Bock said.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Mrs. Angie Rusher

Editor:
Tate VunCannon

Staff writers:
Kira Dreher
Haley Faust
Matt Hoenk
Eastyn Klink
Mallory O'Hearn
Amberly Parker
Kaylie Rocha
Emma Ruskamp
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RUNZA

Caddies cultivate better learning

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

As you are reading this opinion, another Scotus student at this very moment is probably claiming to use their phone for Quizlet while browsing Twitter, Instagram, or Snapchat during study hall. This has been a growing problem since the BYOD policy was implemented at Scotus. This year, the administration countered the issue by putting "phone caddies" on every classroom door.

The newly employed phone caddies have caused quite the controversy. Students have protested these doorframe additions in large masses.

I believe that the phone caddies are improving the quality of education we are receiving in the classrooms of Scotus.

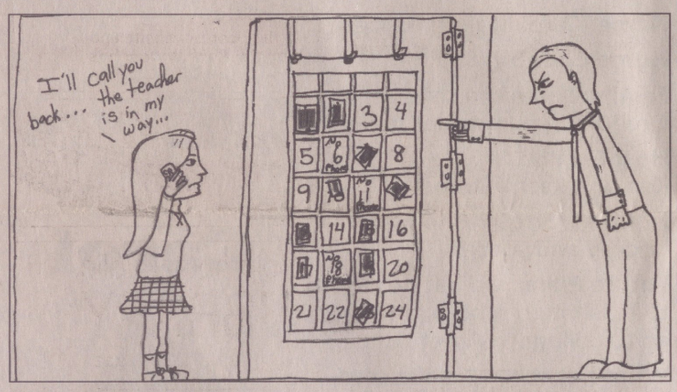
First off, I'd like to provide a disclaimer. I'm not innocent of abusing the BYOD policy. I get it. Being allowed to have my phone present in class definitely presents a whole different temptation as a student. When Father Capadano's lectures go off into 30 minute birdwalks or we spend umpteen hours analyzing the same paragraph of text in English class, it's tempting to pull my phone out and scroll through Twitter in my lap. This is precisely why the phone caddies are so helpful. Eliminating that temptation by placing our phones in the designated slots every day helps students to focus more on the subject at hand, even when classes seem to drag on.

These also improve student productivity. When students aren't worried about the silicon slave that connects them to the outside world in their pocket, they can get so much more done in class. This is especially true in study hall, which is why I also believe the caddies should be employed in study hall as well. Speaking from my own personal experiences, I know I would have accomplished a lot more in my study halls in my time at Scotus had my phone been sitting in a caddy the whole time.

Let's be honest: we live in an easily distracted society. The need for eliminating distraction and improving focus is at an all time high, especially in schools, where entertainment is not the primary concern of educators. This is the final reason why the phone caddies are so useful. Out of all the possible distractions present in classrooms, the caddies eliminate at least one.

Some students may claim that the caddies represent a possible invasion of privacy by our teachers who could peruse our notifications. This is a fair point, but ultimately, we have to trust our teachers in the same way that we'd trust them in times of emergency. Sometimes, things are out of our control, and we simply have to trust in those placed in authority above us.

I acknowledge the fact that the caddies don't solve every problem regarding students' devices, but, in my opinion, they are definitely helping us more than they are hurting us. So let's stop complaining ceaselessly about these purposeful pieces of plastic. They improve the quality of education we're getting.



Caddies can cause chaos

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

If you are under 5'4" and can barely slip a credit card under your feet when you jump, you have yet another obstacle to face this year at Scotus. While cell phones are an extremely useful tool that can be exercised in several good ways, I do understand that they can be abused as well. However, when we examine the best way to handle this abuse, we must understand that there is a fine line on what is okay to do and what isn't. It is my personal belief that there are better solutions to limiting cell phone abuse within the school than the current system of phone caddies, which cause much inconvenience and stress for all students and probably some teachers as well.

One of the problems of the phone caddies is that they make student property subject to theft. While I do believe that the vast majority of students would never even think of stealing somebody else's property, I also recognize that there is still the possibility of someone's cell phone being taken from them. After all, it only takes one person. Whether it be when students are going down to lunch, coming back up from lunch, during a fire drill, or rushing out of class, there are many different ways that something like this could happen.

The second problem with the phone caddies is the lack of privacy for the students. This wouldn't be as much of a problem if students were allowed to place their phones in the phone caddies with the screen facing the wall, but that isn't allowed in most classes. Students shouldn't have to sit through class worrying about another student invading their privacy, and teachers shouldn't have access to that information either. Yes, I know that you can turn your phone off to prevent having your messages read by teachers or other students, but, realistically, I know nobody is going to do that. So, if you use an Iphone, here is a life hack. If you go into your settings, open the notifications tab, then go into the messages tab, there is then an option to turn off messages on your lock screen. So now instead of showing a text from someone on your lock screen, now it will just show that you have a text from whoever texted you. You're welcome.

I can't stress enough how much of an inconvenience phone caddies are for everybody. I'm tired of trying to walk into the classroom, but I can't because everybody is standing in the doorway responding to texts or sending a snapchat before they have to spend the next forty minutes without them. Then once I finally manage to get in my desk, up to the first five minutes of class can be wasted making sure everyone's phone is in its place. Most of all, though, the phone caddies cause an inconvenience for shorter students with one of the first letters of the alphabet for their last name, ie. Haley Faust.

Lastly, the phone caddie system doesn't even work. I don't understand the concept of putting a rule in place to stop the people that break the rules. The same people that use their phone in class are the same people that would use sneaky tactics to cheat the rule anyway. Some of the methods that have already been used are placing an empty phone case or putting an old phone that isn't used anymore in the caddy. All the phone caddies do is punish the responsible people who would not go on their phone during class in the first place.

Although the phone caddy system is put in place to solve the problem of cell phone abuse within the school, it is providing a whole new set of problems for everybody. Even though the idea may have seemed like a good one at first, it is time for the phone caddies to go. Otherwise, short students are just going to have to keep working on that vertical.

Changes and chances

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

"This teacher isn't that great," "I don't like these classes," "These people are just preppy, rich kids," "Just a bunch of kids you don't know."

When first entering this school, I already had my opinions about it; mostly bad from around the community I used to attend and from my own brain. I already knew that this wasn't going to be the place for me. The teachers didn't know me, my classes had to be split because I was ahead in places, and the idea of a president instead of a principal threw my head for a loop. It was all too much at the time for me; I just let the thoughts continue to grow and fester during my freshman term.

At the beginning of my sophomore year, I still had my judgement clouding my eyes because I was in a deep struggle with myself and others. However, somewhere down the line, I had a friend of mine tell me that I should check out One Act, more precisely, join. I had no intentions of joining because theater was never my strong suit. I decided to show up at practices, watching and enjoying how the play was coming along when finally, a few weeks in, they took notice and threw me into the tech booth to take control over the lights. Being thrown into things is not easy and not comfortable considering that we didn't practice much with lights – not because we were lazy, but because it was a quick flick up and a quick flick down. That terrified me. The show started because I turned it on, and it ended because I turned it off – big responsibility in one little object.

Then it became winter, and the musical was underway. I had no intentions of joining that either, but one of my favorite teachers wanted me to join and practically forced me (it was a good force, I promise), and there I was, in musical, too. I never knew how involved a student could be – how a short amount of time can make you appreciate the little family you made with the people in the activity.

I am here now, a junior at Scotus Central Catholic High School, telling you from an outsider's point of view and being here for almost two years, that this school isn't as bad as you or others make it out to be. All those things that people fill in your head, or your own judgement, they do not define that subject. Don't let them cloud your choices and attitude, let it be an opportunity to learn, grow, and love a new concept.

There is one more thing I have to say – thank you. Thank you to the teachers who believe in me, to the ones who ask about my day; thank you to the students who give people chances and make them feel welcomed in this school; I want to thank everyone here because you guys are Scotus, and this is the Scotus that I know and love.

From all of this, I challenge you to give new things a try despite anything you hear about them.

Seniors, slow down

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

It's only the first quarter, and I have already heard "I have senioritis" countless times.

There is a large amount of seniors already wanting to graduate when we still have our whole senior year ahead of us. Many seniors wanted senior year to be over before it even started.

We can't be too worried about graduating and the future to forget to live in the moment of our senior year. We need to enjoy every moment, the good and the bad, because it will soon be over, and all we will have left is memories, and the memories that we have depend on how we spend our last year here.

In less than a year everything that we have known so far in life will be changing. We will no longer know everyone at our school. We won't be living in the same house with our parents and siblings. We won't have the same friends, and we will be meeting all new people. After this year, we will have more responsibilities than ever, and the list of our responsibilities will continue to grow as we do. Life will never quite be the same after this. When senior year is over, our lives will be flipped upside down whether we are ready or not, so we need to enjoy the familiarity before it is over.

After this year, we will not see our classmates that we have seen for six years. We have known each other since 7th grade or longer, but how well do we really know each other? Many of us have a group of friends that we know very well, some that we sort of know, and a lot that we really don't know at all. After this year, we may never see some of our classmates again, besides class reunions. We see the same people everyday so we should take a minute to get to know our classmates and talk to the people in our class besides just our close friends. It is okay to go outside of our comfort zone sometimes, and we might as well start now with small steps because next year will bring us out of our comfort zones completely.

We may all think that we got ourselves to where we are now; we are the ones who studied and did homework, but really, we have so many people that have helped us more than we know. Our parents taught us more than just our abc's; they have taught us important life lessons throughout our lives. Our teachers have taught us knowledge that we will use the rest of our lives. Our friends have taught us lessons that our parents and teachers couldn't; lessons on how to be a good friend, how to not be self-centered, and they have helped us get through some of our toughest times so far. Our parents, teachers, and even our friends have been a huge help in getting us to where we are today, and we should thank them.

We have many "lasts" that are fast approaching, and some we have already experienced. It has become sort of cliché for people to say things like "our last first day of school", and it can sometimes can get annoying when it comes to "our last first taco day at lunch" or something ridiculous that you won't remember or won't matter anyway. In reality we are experiencing some of our lasts, and we should enjoy them. We need to make the best of all our lasts before they are over.

Whenever people told me I needed to enjoy high school or my senior year and that it goes by fast, all I really heard was "blah blah blah". I was being told this as a freshman, then I blinked, and now here I am, a senior. We need to enjoy the small and big events of our senior year because it will soon be gone, and we will have the rest of our lives within reach soon enough.

Want more?

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www.scotuscc.org

Welcome to Scotus

Gary

Name: Gary He

Home Country: China

Family: No siblings, lives with his parents in China

Host Family:
Katy and Brady McNeil

Hobbies/interests: Watching sports, listening to music, singing, photography, soccer, basketball, cycling, badminton, watching movies, and TV. Here in the U.S., he is a football manager.

Future Plans: Apply to a college in America if possible.

What his school is like compared to Scotus: His school is much bigger, each grade is 700-800 students, and there are only three grades in high school.

Interesting Facts: He started learning English when he was 7, and he thinks in English, not Chinese.

Duke

Name: Duke Lin

Home Country: China

Family: Lives with his grandma; his parents run a gas company.

Host Family:
Randy and Misty Walnofer

Hobbies: Computer programming, ping-pong, and reading.

Future Plans: Become a computer programmer

What his school is like compared to Scotus: Harder school hours in China

"Life here is very relaxed and comfortable."

Tadeu

Name: Tadeu Martins Antunes

Home Country: Brazil

Family: He has two brothers that have done the exchange program before and one sister

Host Family:
Bobbie and Joey Thiemann

Hobbies: He loves soccer.

Future Plans: He wants to go back to Brazil and finish high school then join a university and study engineering.

What his school is like compared to Scotus: The homework is easier there.

Intersting Facts: He speaks English so well because they watch movies in English and read the subtitles, and schools in Brazil make him take an English class.

Carol

Name: Carol Majem Garces

Home Country: Spain

Family: She has a sister in Oregon and a brother in Spain

Host Family:
Ken and Kathy Steiner

Hobbies: She likes to play hockey and soccer.

Future Plans: Go back to Spain to finish high school, and then go to college in America

What her school is like compared to Scotus: It is bigger in Spain. Primary, secondary, and college are in one school.

Interesting Facts: The people here are more open and kind. In Spain, lots of people are very closed off.

She is the first one from her school to come to America. She wants to visit Florida or California.

Mrs. Schumacher

Name: Helen Schumacher
Hometown: Stanton, Nebraska
College: Wayne State, Kearney
Previous teaching jobs: Spalding Academy for 2 years.
Department/subjects: Junior and 8th grade English
Challenges faced while at Scotus: "Managing everyone's different personalities. There's just people you don't click so well with, especially when it's in a class where there are multiple personalities that aren't clicking all at once, not necessarily with me, but with other students. It can be hard to deal with."
Likes about Scotus: "The ah-hah moments! Everybody has them, and every once in awhile you guys catch me having them, and its probably more fun for you guys than it is for me to see."
Interesting Facts:
Grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Ms. Mimick

Name: Melanie Mimick
Hometown: David City, Nebraska
College: CCC for two years, Wayne State for three
Previous teaching jobs: None
Department/subjects: 9th grade English, Speech, Beginning Communications
Challenges faced while at Scotus: "It's a big transition to know how students are working and what their strengths and weaknesses are and how I can feed off those in both classes."
Likes about Scotus: Seeing the kids and interacting with them
Interesting Facts:
"Both of my parents are teachers at Aquinas. I vowed ever since I was younger, I'd never be a teacher, but here I am. I'm enjoying this year so far, and I know it'll be a good year."

Central Catholic

Flora

Name: Flora He
Home Country: China
Family: Only child
Host Family: Cassandra Jeffreys
Hobbies: Likes to play badminton and hang out with friends
Future Plans: Wants to be a lawyer or to do something with law

"I read a book about a student coming overseas to study and got inspiration from that."

Tommy

Name: Tommy Yu
Home Country: China
Family: One younger brother, one younger sister, parents
Host Family:
Bobbie and Joey Thiemann
Hobbies: Sports and music, espcially keyboarding
Future Plans: To study at a university in America
What his school is like compared to Scotus: The area of the school and number of students is a lot less than China.
Anything they like or dislike about America: I miss my family and friends a little, especially my younger brother and sister.

"I'm not stupid. Sometimes, I'll do something wrong, and it makes people angry, but that doesn't make me any less intelligent than other people."

Thiago

Name: Thiago Pereira Ferreira
Home Country: Brazil
Family: Lives with his parents and grandparents
Host Family:
Katy and Brady McNeil
Hobbies: Soccer and surfing
Future Plans: Possibly attend college in America
What his school is like compared to Scotus: At his school, students stay in the same classroom all day and the teachers rotate around. They also don't have lockers because they keep all their stuff in their desks in the same classroom.
Anything they like or dislike about America:
"The best part about coming here is you can open your mind to other people's way of thinking; I learn from my host parents because they're American, and I learn different things from Gary because he is Chinese."

Todd

Name: Todd Le
Home Country: Vietnam
Family: One brother (2 years older than him, also studies in America)
Host Family:
Randy and Misty Walnofer
Hobbies: Chess, swimming, golf, Anime, physics
Future Plans: Study in America at a 4 year university. Possibly be an astronomer.
What his school is like compared to Scotus: "We don't get to choose our classes in Vietnam; we just study all of them. There are about 13. Here I get to take classes like Physics, and I love to study."
An interesting fact about him:
May want to swim and golf, but isn't sure because of all the tests required this school year.

Mr. McPhillips

Name: Zach McPhillips
Hometown: Humphrey, Nebraska
College: Wayne State College
Previous teaching jobs: Recruiter for Wayne State College
Department/subjects: Geometry, Geometry Essentials, Algebra 1b and 7th grade boys PE
Challenges faced while at Scotus: A lot of planning
Likes about Scotus: Students are very respectful and well behaved, and the parents are very involved.
Interesting Facts: 11 brothers and sisters
Other: Helps with Jr. High basketball

Mrs. McPhillips

Name: Bridget McPhillips
Hometown: Lincoln, Nebraska
College: Wayne State College
Previous teaching jobs: Subbed in the Norfolk District
Department/subjects: Earth Science and Physical Science
Challenges faced while at Scotus: Waking up early and planning ahead
Likes about Scotus: Teachers and the community welcoming me and the other new teachers
Interesting Facts: Played soccer at Wayne State and plays guitar
Other: Coaches junior high volleyball and assists with soccer

Ms. Timoney

Name: Alison Timoney
Hometown: Surprise, Nebraska
College: Concordia University
Previous teaching jobs: None
Department/subjects: Math 7 and Algebra II
Challenges faced while at Scotus: "Trying to make sure I do everything and do it well. There's a lot of requirements for both the college and for Scotus and just trying to balance it all is hard."
Likes about Scotus: "Scotus is a very good school. The teachers here are super helpful too. [They are] very kind, very willing to help me."
Interesting Facts: Her mom is also a teacher.

Volleyball overcomes inexperience

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

The Scotus volleyball team is in the heart of their 2016 season and, despite some challenges, is hopeful for another successful post-season.

After falling to Concordia High School on September 1st and going 2-1 in the Shamrock Invite on September 3rd, the team played their first home game against Grand Island Central Catholic.

New jerseys were not the only unfamiliar thing for Shamrock fans. Many new faces could be seen on the court as well. After losing nine seniors last season to graduation, the team was left with few players that had ever experienced varsity playing time.

"I think the biggest challenge we have faced is having experience with each other," senior libero Eastyn Klink said. "We all don't have that much experience on the varsity court or with each other, so it is taking us awhile to get the team chemistry we need in order to win big games."

Senior middle blocker Jessica Buhman is one of few players on the volleyball team that has experience on the varsity court.

"We don't have very much confidence, and we fail to create a fun atmosphere during practices and games," Buhman added.

After losing to Grand Island Central Catholic in three sets, the team went on to win the North Bend Central Invite on September 10th.

"Our best game so far has been against North Bend Central," senior outside hitter Hannah Mielak commented. "After falling to them the first set, we came back to win the second set, which allowed us to fight and work as a team to win the game."

The volleyball team went on to gain wins over Aquinas and Schuyler, and also competed in the Grand Island Northwest Tournament on September 24th.

"In our game against Grand Island Northwest, we competed well and showed major improvements in some weaknesses we had two weeks ago so that is good to see. We can still get better in quite a few areas and hopefully we can," head coach Joe Held said.

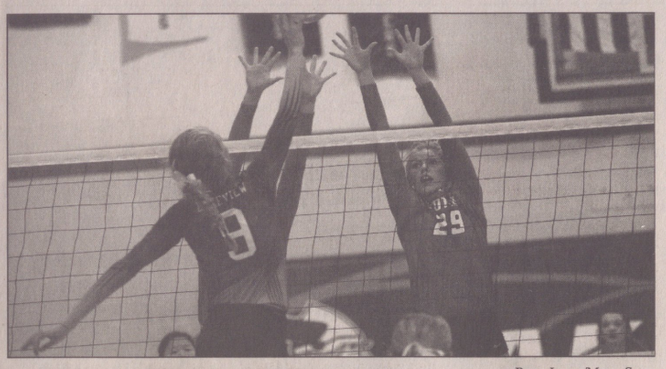
On September 27th, the volleyball team beat long-time rival Lakeview in a thrilling four-set match. However, the girls were not satisfied with their performance.

"Everything just needs improvements: passing, setting, serving, hitting, and especially confidence," Buhman said. "We are definitely getting better, but we are not yet where we need to be."

Junior setter Maggie Feehan is experiencing her first year on the varsity team this year.

"All around, we just need to improve our physical game, but we also need to work on our mental competitiveness and our belief that yes, we can go out there and win," Feehan added.

The Shamrocks placed second in the KC Invite on October 1st. After losing to



River Liebig/Media Staff

Junior Shania Borchers goes up for a block against a Lakeview attacker at Lakeview High School on September 27th. The Shamrocks defeated Lakeview in a competitive four set match.

1 ranked Wahoo Neumann on October 4th, and going 1-2 at the Conference tournament on October 8th, the Shamrocks defeated Fremont Bergan in five sets on October 13th. Senior defensive specialist Alyssa Kuta has high hopes for the rest of the season.

"I hope we can play into November because, for all the hours we put in, we deserve it," Kuta said.

The team hopes to continue Scotus' long legacy of having teams compete at the state tournament.

"Our goal is to be playing our best volleyball by the time districts get here which is October 31st. As far as a tangible goal, the girls want to qualify for the state tournament again and give themselves a chance to win a state championship," Held said. "We are not to that level yet, but we have five weeks left in our season and with our improvement in play we are hoping to give ourselves a great chance to be playing our best late in the season."

The volleyball team will compete in a triangular tonight with Lincoln Lutheran and Hastings St. Cecilia at Lincoln Lutheran.

Shamrocks rush toward success

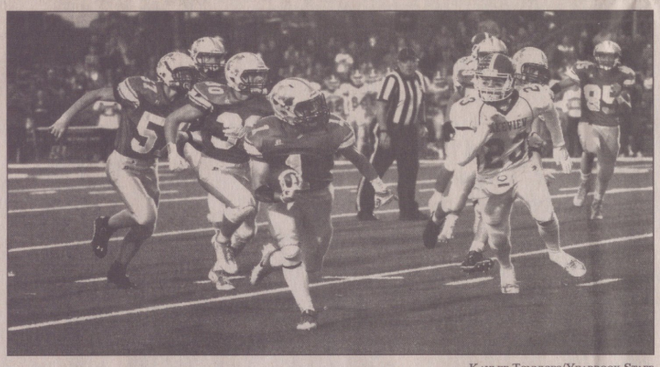
By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

The 2015 State Champion Shamrock football team has returned in 2016 with one goal in mind: back to back state titles.

Though the Shamrocks are short 21 seniors from the championship roster, the expectations of the players and coaching staff are the same.

"We are a very young team with not a lot of varsity experience," head coach Tyler Linder said. "But, midway through the season we can see that experience start to build a little bit. The compliments of our younger guys with the experience with our seniors is good. You saw during the GICC game that we're really starting to gel, and the final pieces to our puzzle are starting to come together."

The young Shamrock team hit the ground running in the 2016 season opener at Wayne State College beating the Wayne Blue Devils 37-26. The Shamrocks rushed for 323 yards on the night with four different players finding the endzone. The next week, however, the Wahoo Neumann Cavaliers came to town and handed the Shamrocks their first loss. Then two weeks later, Aquinas handed the team another loss.



Kaylee Tonniges/Yearbook Staff

Senior corner Luke Jarecke sprints for the endzone after his interception against Lakeview on September 30th. The Shamrocks beat the cross-town rival Vikings 53-28.

"Great teams will give you a lot to work on and really show you your flaws. I took it personally as a challenge just to be a better coach and to steer this ship in the right direction," Linder said. "Was I disappointed in those losses? Yes. But we've really learned a lot and gained a lot from that experience."

Though heartbreaking losses have shown their ugly head, the Shamrocks haven't let them blur their vision of the ultimate goal. The team has overcome multiple struggles through the first half of the season, and Linder gives the credit to his coaching staff for molding the team into the championship caliber team they wanted to be.

"We knew that we had a lot of talent coming back even though we graduated 21 guys last year; we knew the guys coming back for the 2016 season were really good, so our biggest challenge was developing the team around the talent we had coming back."

The Shamrocks began district play with a 28-14 win over GICC on September 23rd. The Shamrocks kept the momentum going into their next district game against cross-town rival Columbus Lakeview. The Shamrocks thrashed the Vikings 53-28 to stay unbeaten in district play. The Shamrocks re-established their running game rushing for 495 yards on 45 carries. The leader of the attack was senior running back Evan Chohon who carried the ball 12 times for 167 yards.

"We are finally putting the pieces together to be a great team. It was very exciting!" Chohon said.

Looking forward to the remainder of the season, the Shamrocks look to keep the momentum going into the last few weeks of the season and into the playoffs.

"We all have to take it week by week, but we are driven to be the best and that's our motto. If there's one thing everybody needs to know it's that Scotus is always going to compete for championships," Linder said. "We are right where we need to be for district play."

The Shamrocks were knocked off the mountain the following Friday losing to Ord 20-14. This put the Shamrocks into a win or go home position for the remainder of the season.

Refusing to be sent home for good, the Shamrocks traveled to Albion and pounded the Boone Central Newmann Grove Cardinals 49-17. The Shamrocks rushed for 488 yards with 12 different players carrying the ball. Senior Dalton Taylor also had three catches for 85 yards and two touchdowns.

The Shamrocks travel to Adams Central on Friday to battle the Patriots at 7.

Cross country sprints into state

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

The Scotus cross country teams have accelerated into their 2016 seasons this fall and proven their status as a top program in Class C.

The boys are 91-12 with five meet wins, and the girls are an undefeated 89-0 with nine meet wins. Head coach Merlin Lahm has been satisfied with the teams' progress so far this season.

"Coming into the season, I thought that both the boys and girls would be improved over last year," Lahm said. "I think that's probably been true of this season."

The Shamrocks opened their season at the Boone Central Invitational at Albion Country Club on September 2nd. The boys' team placed 4th, while the girls took home early hardware, winning the meet and medaling five runners. The girls were led by freshman Brea Lassek, who finished in 4th place. The boys' top finisher was senior Nathan Ostdiek, who won the race with a time of 16:04. Ostdiek was proud of his teammates' success.

"We've needed guys to step up this year, and they have," Ostdiek said. "New runners are battling for spots, and that really makes the whole team better."

At the Wahoo Invitational on September 8th, it was a similar story on the girls' side. Five medalists and four top-ten finishers propelled the girls to another team victory. Sophomore Kelsey Faust, who finished in 7th place, was astounded by her team's dominance.

"It has surprised me how far we've come and how much progress we have made," Faust said. "We've had a very successful season, and I think we've done better than any of us thought we would."

The boys' team finished 7th overall with two medalists, Nathan Ostdiek in 2nd and Elliott Thomazin in 11th.

Another major invitational where the Shamrocks saw some success on both sides of the action was the UNK Invitational on September 26th. The boys team placed 3rd out of 28 teams, and the girls picked up their fifth meet win of the year in their 23 team field. Ostdiek won his fifth race of the season, while Lassek and Faust both medaled in 4th and 6th place, respectively. Lassek was ecstatic about what the win meant for her team.

"Everyone ran one of their fastest times, and we won the meet by 20 points," Lassek explained. "We proved to ourselves that we can contend for a state title this year."

On October 7th, both the girls and boys brought home conference championships running at Pioneer Park in Lincoln.

Lassek led the girls as the runner-up, and Ostdiek led the boys with a third place finish. Lahm expressed pride in his senior star runner.

Mallory O'Hearn/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Kelsey Faust and freshman Samantha Tonniges outpace the competition at the Boone Central Invitational on September 2nd at Albion Country Club. Faust finished in 10th place and Tonniges finished in 14th place.

"Nathan's having a great senior year," Lahm said. "He's probably the most successful Scotus boys cross country runner in history, and his whole season has been a highlight."

After two district titles were captured on October 13th, the cross country teams will finish their seasons at the state meet on Friday at Kearney. Lassek has been looking forward to the opportunity all season.

"We've all become so close, and I can't wait to experience my first state meet with such a great team," Lassek concluded.

Band marches to top placings

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

The crisp fall mornings were filled with the sounds of the Scotus marching band walking the streets around school, practicing for their parades.

The Scotus Central Catholic High School Band has participated in three parades so far this school year.

The band spent weeks preparing for their main performances in Norfolk and Grand Island, but the initial preparation started in the summer.

"We had the band trip this summer and that gave the whole band a chance to get to know each other and bond. Performing early in the summer was a huge benefit, and it paid off in the end but also that bonding time really made a difference as well," band director Kristen Cox said.

The marching band also includes fourteen members of the drumline.

"The varsity drumline really kind of kicked it off at their drumline camp. They rehearsed three hours a day for a week. The full band had two full weeks of rehearsal and then the Columbus Day's parade. It's a good thing to have that parade in the beginning because it's really a bench mark for where we can take the song," Cox said.

The band marched in the Columbus Day's parade, the Norfolk parade, and, most recently, the Harvest of Harmony parade in Grand Island. They received a superior rating and the first place trophy for their division in Norfolk. Amidst the high school band, the junior high band marched in the Norfolk parade for the first time.

"The junior high marching band has been in the works for two years, whether anyone realized it or not," Cox said, "It took a long time to get all seventy-one situated with all the pieces and hardware necessary to rehearse outside, but we finally did."

The junior high band placed third in their division at the Norfolk parade.

"They exceeded my expectations! It wasn't just about the performance though. They really worked together and were a team so I was really proud of them," Cox said.

There were added problems at the Norfolk parade with the weather.

"We will never forget that parade! In the twenty plus years I've been doing this, we have never had a downpour like that as we were performing. As soon as spectators saw that we were going to stick it out and perform, the parade watchers stuck it out and cheered the band on," Cox commented.

The band members and sponsors had to lay out their uniforms in Memorial Hall over the weekend so they could dry.

Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Wren Allen plays his trombone while marching in the Columbus Day's parade. The band has marched in three parades this fall.

"It was pretty neat that everybody took care of each other so well and helped with their instruments and knew what to do in order to protect the equipment. The band leaders knew how to take care of everything and help everyone," Cox said.

The band received a two at the Harvest of Harmony parade.

Shepherds mentor seventh graders

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

On the first day of school, there were new faces running around the school, nervous and excited for the new school year to come. To help these seventh graders transition, the student council came up with the Shepherd Program.

The Shepherd Program is something that the student council started talking about in the 2012-2013 school year, and it officially started in 2014. The incoming seventh graders are paired with a high school student in the Shepherd Program. The high school students helped the seventh graders on their first day and will be hosting activities for them throughout the year.

Senior Naomi Kosch, Shepherd Program leader, said, "I think it helps them feel more welcome in the school and that they are a part of it more quickly, and it helps them adjust to the environment we have here."

> ***"I think it helps them feel more welcome in the school."***
> ***-Naomi Kosch***

This year, seniors Amberly Parker, Naomi Kosch, and Zach Svehla are in charge of the Shepherd Program. With new leaders comes change.

"Last year Amy Heusinkvelt and Dana Hoppe decided that it would be better if we didn't pair everyone up with buddies because then everyone would talk to everyone, but it ended up being that nobody talked to anybody, so this year we gave everybody a buddy," Kosch said.

This year, Parker, Kosch, and Svehla have found more ways to keep the Shepherd program going throughout the year, rather than just in the beginning of the year.

Svehla explained, "We are starting to do activities each month and there will be themes that go along with activities."

The first activity that was planned was flag football. The theme for this activity was teamwork; with the themes, there will be speakers to talk to the seventh graders about each topic.

"Tate VunCannon, Luke Jarecke, and Mitchell Halligan talked about teamwork. They gave really good insight about high school academics and activities. They talked about how sports need communication as well as our daily lives, and we can't do everything on our own. It is okay to rely on others," Parker said.

The high school mentors put in their own time to plan and take part in the events for the seventh graders.

Parker commented, "I would like to acknowledge our upperclassmen who came to participate. I think it shows a lot to the seventh graders that they are willing to give up their Sunday afternoons to participate in events with them, and I think it means a lot to the seventh graders. We were really happy with the turnout!"

Ultimate football was the first of many activities planned to come this school year.

Parker added, "The ultimate football activity went really well! I think that the other events will be very successful! I hope that the seventh graders tell their friends how much fun it was and will tell them to come to future events."

Cassie Seckel/ Media Staff

Seventh grader Chris Adame runs while playing flag football on September 25th. Ultimate football was the first of many activities to come for the Shepherd Program.

Golf wraps up season at state

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Golf Wraps Up Season at State

As many sports teams are heading toward the middle of their season, the 2016 girls' golf team wrapped up their season at the class C-2 state tournament on October 10th and 11th. They placed ninth in the tournament. Senior Emerson Belitz placed thirteenth individually, which was the highest of the Scotus team.

"My most memorable part about state was getting to finish my season with my family and friends," Belitz said.

The golf team began the season by placing highly in many early competitions.

"The team has been exceeding everyone's expectations and has been doing well," Belitz said.

The team started off the season with a JV triangular with Columbus High and Lakeview on August 25th at Quail Run. They won as a team, and sophomores Hallie Parker and Hannah Allen tied for first place.

"I was really looking forward to actually getting to play this year since I was out for most of the season last year due to a concussion," Parker said.

They had a dual with Norfolk on August 26th and a triangular with Fullerton and Lakeview on August 30th taking first place in both.

"I was excited to see how the team was going to do score-wise. We had a lot of work to do over the summer," Belitz said.

On September 1st, the team headed to GICC for a meet. Varsity placed sixth as a team, and the JV came in first.

Freshman Jaycee Ternus competed in the Grand Island meet.

"The Grand Island meet stood out to me the most because of all the competitive teams there, and JV got first place," Ternus said.

The team competed in the Lakeview Invite on September 8th ending in second place, and the Aurora Invite on September 10th leaving with a fourth place finish.

On September 12th the girls participated in the Blair Invite and finished second.

"I got poison ivy at the Blair meet, and it was funny when I got my medal because I couldn't shake the guy's hand," junior Kendra Wiese said.

They had two more meets that week placing first in a triangular with Boone Central and Lakeview, and second in the Boone Central Invite.

On September 20th, the team competed in the Fullerton Invite and finished in first.

"The Fullerton meet stood out to me the most because I got to take home two gold medals: the team and a personal," Belitz said.

The team had a meet on September 22nd at Wayne and placed fourth, and they hosted the Scotus Invite on September 28th bringing home the gold.

On October 1st, the varsity team saw some new faces. Three junior varsity players got to compete at the varsity level and helped the team into third place, only six strokes behind first place.

The varsity team competed in the class C-2 district meet in Kearney on October 3rd. They won a district championship guaranteeing their spot into the state tournament. Belitz placed third, junior Kaitlyn Enderlin placed fourth, and Wiese placed sixth.

"This has been the best season and I owe it all to my teammates. We have become a family over these months. I am very thankful," Belitz said.

Alison Zoucha/ Yearbook Staff

Senior Emerson Belitz tees off at the Fullerton/ Lakeview Triangular on August 30th. Belitz won an individual gold medal, and the team finished in first place.

My Chemical Romance's importance isn't 'dead!'

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

As the formal fans begin to softly cry and cheer, they know it is the anniversary album, *The Black Parade / Living with Ghosts;* this teaser they had for made us wait until September 23, 2016 to listen and experience.

The anniversary album of *The Black Parade* has to be one of the most beautiful things I have heard, considering that there are eleven songs that are completely demos, not even full songs.

This band started back around the time of 9/11; the head singer, Gerard Way, was inspired by the tragic event to make something beautiful out of it, which led to the making of My Chemical Romance. With their first album, they had a song called "Skyline and Turnstiles" dedicated to the event that left a stain on American hearts.

As they continued to come out to the public, My Chemical Romance began to get the title of emo and screamo due to the way they created their second album, *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge*; in 2005, they went to Warped Tour with Fall Out Boy, which lead to more people knowing the band existed.

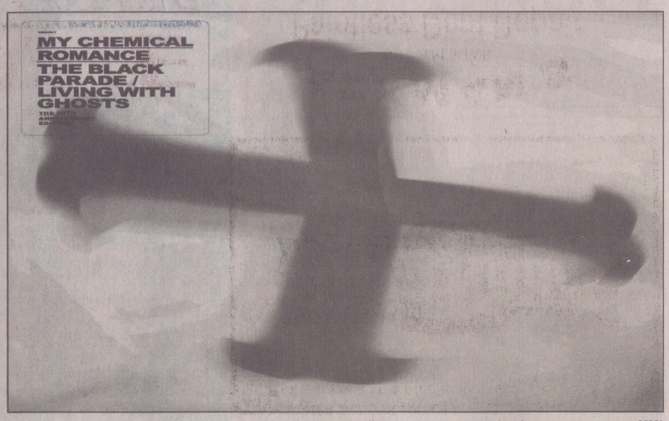
Then, in 2006, they released their most known album, *The Black Parade*, which contains the song, "Welcome to the Black Parade", their most popular song. Quite some time later, they released their last album, *Danger Days: The True Lives of Fabulous Killjoys*; this album isn't as known as much as their previous albums, but it contains "Sing", which is a popular song from this particular album.

March 22, 2013, My Chemical Romance broke up, releasing another album, *May Death Never Stop You* that contained the known songs from their other albums plus three never-heard-before demos.

Here's the hard, cold facts – this band's lyrics can reach into people's hearts, making them one of the best bands out there. Just hearing that My Chemical Romance was releasing an album (which at the time, no one knew it was an anniversary album), the whole world was blowing up the media with, "I just left this pain, now they are throwing an album at my face," "I love this band so much, I am so excited to hear whatever this album could possibly be!," and the rest is buried with how much this band has changed their lives.

In only under a day, My Chem told us that it wasn't a getting-back-together album, just an anniversary for *The Black Parade;* it was awful news for everyone to hear, but it didn't matter, there was going to be another album out! That is real dedication, and it proves that everyone who has ever taken the time to listen to them, and the meaning behind them, this band is an important one.

To hear *The Black Parade / Living with Ghosts*, it was something else; it was like hidden potential of a whole new taste of life underneath the music that people knew. Listening to "All the Angels," "House of Wolves (Version 1)," "Emily (Rough Mix)", and the rest of the songs, it is a whole new concept. If anything, I'd suggest listening to this anniversary album to someone who wants to get into My Chemical Romance. It gives that broad range of music that they have produced in the past without the corrections done in the studio; to be able to hear what they originally sounded like, I feel like gives the audience justice and that warm feeling of listening to them as close as to seeing them live as possible.



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My Chemical Romance released the anniversary album The Black Parade / Living with Ghosts on Septemeber 23, 2016. This is their 3rd compilation album.

For this album, I would suggest an older audience, considering the live demo versions contain some bad language. Generally, they make an album without any bad language for the younger audience, allowing them to experience the song and story behind it. With this, I'd ask the parents or guardians if this is an okay thing to check out!

In this whole article, I suggest you to check out *The Black Parade / Living with Ghosts*, an anniversary album that proves that *My Chemical Romance* is a beautiful and important group of musicians to many.

What do you think about the phone caddies?

"I love them!"

-Mr. Brockhaus, teacher

"Absolutely ludicrous! They're an outrage!"

-Matt Csukker, senior

"I honestly couldn't care less."

-Morgan Rinkol, junior

"They take away the trust factor the students have with their teachers"."

-Landon Sokol, junior

"People could lie and say it's in their locker, and next thing you know they're still texting."

-Logan Bennett, sophomore

"They are fine, but I'm scared my phone will go off, and sometimes I forget my phone."

-Matthew Dolezal, eighth grader

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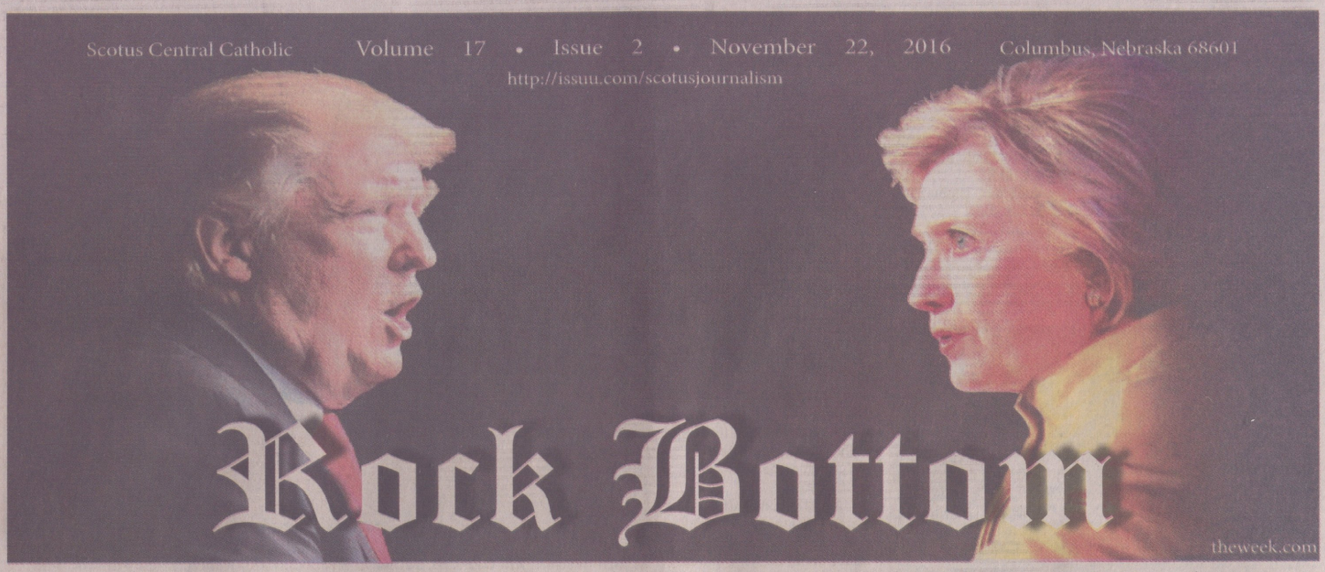

Rock Bottom

Girls win sixth school title

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

October 21st, 2016, was a day filled with nerves, excitement, and tears of joy for the girls' and boys' cross country teams. Both teams competed at the 2016 state meet at the Kearney Country Club in Kearney, Nebraska. The boys placed third at the state meet, and the girls walked away from the meet with a state championship title.

After winning a district championship, the girls' team had high hopes going into the tournament.

"Going into the state meet was a ton of pressure," freshman Liza Zaruba said. "We had an undefeated season, so everyone, including ourselves, was expecting us to do really well."

The state meet was senior Ashley Foreman's last cross country race.

"I wanted to improve my time on that course and leave it all out there knowing that it was my last race. I also was really hoping that my team would do well and place well," Foreman added.

Inexperience was one challenge that the team had to overcome to get to the state meet. Of the six runners that competed in the state meet, three were freshman. Brea Lassek placed 6th individually.

Lassek said, "We had a very young team, but the seniors helped us adjust to competing in a varsity setting. They always gave us pep talks and picked us up."

The team was coached by activities director Merlin Lahm and assistants Amy Sokol and Chris Mustard.

"I think both of the seniors, Kaylee and Ashley, did a really good job of leadership," Lahm said. "Their job was really integral for our success."

After the race, the top three teams were announced over an intercom system.

"As soon as they announced second place and we weren't it, all of us fell into a dog pile on the ground crying because we knew we had won," Zaruba added. "It was one of the best feelings in the world, and I'm still kind of shocked from it."

Sophomore Kelsey Faust placed 16th at the state meet.

"Words can't describe the feeling," Faust said. "It was a moment we had all been dreaming of, and it is something that I will never forget."

This championship marks Lahm's fourth state championship as the head cross country coach.

"[A championship] is what you strive for," Lahm said. "We really do talk about it from the very first day of practice. We talked about the state meet since day one. "It's always our goal, so goal achieved."

The boys' cross country team also had a good feeling going into the state meet.

"I thought the boys were going to be top four and had a chance to win," Lahm said.

Senior Nathan Ostdiek finished in second place at his fourth state meet.

"I thought if we ran well as a team, we could contend for a trophy," Ostdiek said.

The boys' team had to make major improvements throughout the season.

"[Our biggest improvement was] tightening up the gap between first and fourth. We always look at our spread from first to fourth," Lahm explained. At the beginning of the year there was way too big

See **STATE**, Page 2

Anthony Sprunk/Media Staff

Members of the girls' cross country team embrace one another after winning the state championship title. The girls finished with the first undefeated season in school history.

Students grow in faith at Youth Rally

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

Memorial Hall was filled with music, prayer, and fun as students from across the archdiocese came to take part in the Archdiocesan Youth Rally on October 29th.

The retreat was for any 6th, 7th, or 8th grader, but mainly for 8th graders as a part of their confirmation preparation.

Eighth grader Lizzie Parker said, "We did a lot of activities that helped us grow closer to God and closer in our faith. The priests did a really good job on their talks, and I feel like we learned a lot through them."

The majority of the participants were from St. Bonaventure and St. Isidores; these parishes made it a mandatory part of their confirmation process. Some students also came from Norfolk, Verdigree, Humphrey, Pierce, and Norfolk.

The St. Bonaventure director of religious education Cheryl Rambour said, "This rally has taken place every other year for the past six years to give parishes an opportunity to attend a confirmation retreat with a larger group."

Throughout the day, there was music from Danny Leger's band, talks from Fr. Roza, Fr. Kilcawley, and alumni Adam Smith, adoration, and activities.

Eighth grader Clarissa Kosch commented, "My favorite part of the day was the music with Danny Leger. He showed us that we didn't need to care what those around us

See **YOUTH**, Page 2

Student council throws dodgeball fundraiser

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

Colors of the rainbow were soaring through Memorial Hall as students threw dodgeballs at their first annual dodgeball tournament.

The Scotus Central Catholic student council held a dodgeball tournament last weekend to bring the students, faculty, and friends of Scotus together and fundraise.

Senior student council member Zach Svehla said, "We wanted to do a small fundraiser to get some money for the Shepherd program, and Luke Jarecke said his old school, GICC, held a dodgeball tournament and that it was a huge success."

Students were able to sign up with a maximum of eight players on each team. The tournament was double elimination with six players from each team competing on the court. The cost was $3 per player.

Some team names were Dirty Dodgers, Swindle Town Scoodly Poopers, Spicy Bois, White Lightning, and Skillz that Killz.

"I want a rematch with Skillz that Killz and Spicy Bois. We will win every time," sophomore Braden Labenz said.

The tournament was open to all grades and even teachers, parents, and friends of Scotus.

"I enjoyed watching the parents' team play," Svehla said. "They were good! We got kicked out by them!"

Those who didn't participate in the tournament were welcome to sit in the stands and cheer on their favorite teams.

"A lot of people went and enjoyed being there with friends and just taking a break from the stress of school," Labenz said.

Proceeds for the tournament were over $300 and went to the student council.

"It was very successful. We had a great turn out, and everybody had fun," Jarecke said.

Student council plans on making the dodgeball tournament an annual event. They also have other all school activities planned.

"It was a lot of fun to see students, parents, and teachers all sign up and play. It was another way we were able to grow as a Scotus family," Svehla said.

The overall winner of the tournament was the senior boys' team Skillz that Killz. Runner up was freshman coed team White Lightning and third place was Spicy Bois which consisted of junior and senior boys.

Skillz that Killz team member Cody Mroczek said, "We advanced to the championship and, of course, we won."

Upcoming activities put on by the student council will be announced throughout the school year and will include the whole school.

Senior Evan Chohon concluded, "I loved the dodgeball tournament. It was cool just being able to see grades 7-12 take part in a school activity."

Layne Schroeder /Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Anthony Kosch soars over sophomore Zack Beiermann as he goes in for an attack. The dodgeball tournament raised over $300 with proceeds going to Student Council.

STATE

a gap, and they did a nice job of closing it."

The state meet also marked the end of senior Cody Mroczek's high school cross country career.

"Although we didn't bring back a trophy, I was pleased because almost all of us had our personal best on the course so there wasn't much else we could do," Mroczek said.

Junior Elliot Thomazin placed 11th at state.

"The guys left their hearts on the course," Thomazin said. "It was an amazing day and a great last race with all of our seniors."

ANTHONY SPRUNK/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Nathan Ostdiek runs in the state cross country meet on October 21st, 2016, in Kearney, Nebraska. Ostdiek finished second individually.

YOUTH

thought about our singing. It let everyone open up and praise God."

Fr. Kilcawley spoke about his family and his vocation story.

Parker commented, "When Fr. Kilcawley gave his talk about his family, it really made me realize how lucky I am to have the family I have. He came from such broken families, and I feel really lucky to have good parents and family."

Fr. Roza spoke about love and about the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help prepare the eighth graders for the confirmation.

Eighth grader Alli Demuth commented, "[I felt moved] when Adam Smith talked about bullying and his experiences."

After Smith spoke, there was adoration, and the students had an opportunity to go to confession.

Eighth grader Cassie Kouma said, "I was inspired during adoration because I could really feel God's presence."

The Youth Rally wrapped up with Mass at the end of the day.

Rambour commented, "I have only heard great feedback from kids and parents. I am hoping that the archdiocese will agree to hold another youth rally next fall."

MALLORY O'HEARN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Eighth graders Alli Demuth, Janae Rusher, Clarissa Kosch, Keira Feehan, and Alexis Braziel hold hands while praying at the Archdiocesan Youth Rally at Scotus on October 29th.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Mrs. Angie Rusher

Editor:
Tate VunCannon

Staff writers:
Kira Dreher
Haley Faust
Matt Hoenk
Eastyn Klink
Mallory O'Hearn
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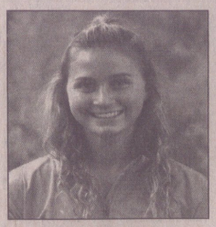
Do what makes you happy



By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

Students at Scotus are pushed toward participating in sports throughout high school. At the end of the school year, there is a whole ceremony dedicated to athletes. During that banquet, those students who have had success in athletics are honored. It's great to recognize these student athletes, but it's not all that matters.

Life is not all about sports. If a student does not enjoy being involved with a sport, he or she shouldn't do it.

High school is only four years. Those years should be some of the greatest moments of a person's life. It is about making great memories, getting prepared for college, and being involved in what makes a person happy. Many students choose sports as an activity to do during high school. The athletes at Scotus practice every single day and play or compete many times throughout the season. During those practices and games, some athletes make their best memories, but for other athletes, those practices and games are the worst part of their day. An athlete shouldn't have to remember those couple months of a sport as misery; they should be making fun and happy memories in that period of time instead.

Some athletes are forced by their parents or begged by their coaches and friends to go out for a sport. But why? A person's future does not depend on his or her success in sports. Life is about being the best version of a person's self. Ten years from now athletes' bosses or employees are not going to care if they were a starter on their high school football team, or if they set the record for the amount of three-pointers during a basketball game. Those bosses or employees are going to care about who they are at that moment, not who they were in high school.

If a student loves playing or competing in a specific sport then he or she should do it! Sports can be a great experience, but they can also be an awful experience. A student's happiness is more important than his or her involvement in sports. People should not think less of a student just because he or she decides to not participate in a sport. Students should enjoy every day of their high school experience because once high school is over, there is a lot more to worry about. If students are miserable every day at practice and hate games or competitions, they shouldn't waste their time being unhappy. Students should stop putting themselves through torture and change what they do in order for them to enjoy their lives.

It is good to be involved with different activities in high school, but sports are not the only option. If a student doesn't enjoy sports, he or she has other activities to choose from. At Scotus, students can choose to be involved with cheerleading, flag corps, one acts, chess club, musical, mock trial, speech, and more. Activities teach students to be disciplined, organized, dedicated, hardworking, and many other life skills, so it is great for students to be involved with whatever they enjoy.

Coaches and parents believe that if a student has played a sport his or her whole life, then that student needs to participate in that sport during high school even if he or she does not enjoy it.

Those coaches and parents need to realize that high school sports are not the most important thing in life. Yes, sports teach athletes many great qualities and life lessons, but if the athlete is miserable while participating in that sport, then it's not worth it.

Do what makes you happy.

It's not the end of the world as we know it

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Are you one of those unlucky kids after first period who has to deal with the huge horde of band kids coming down the hallway? Is it even worse to get by them when they, as a group, are singing the same song that stuck in their heads just as the bell rang, and then you get it stuck in your head? Right now, do you have a saying or a song or an argument just stuck in your head that you cannot get out? You just keep humming it or hearing it in the back of your head, and it drives you insane?!

When you have a big argument with someone or think something dreadful is going to happen, that's all that is on your mind for hours. It keeps you up at night, doesn't it?

I want people to realize that what they are going through is normal, especially in high school.

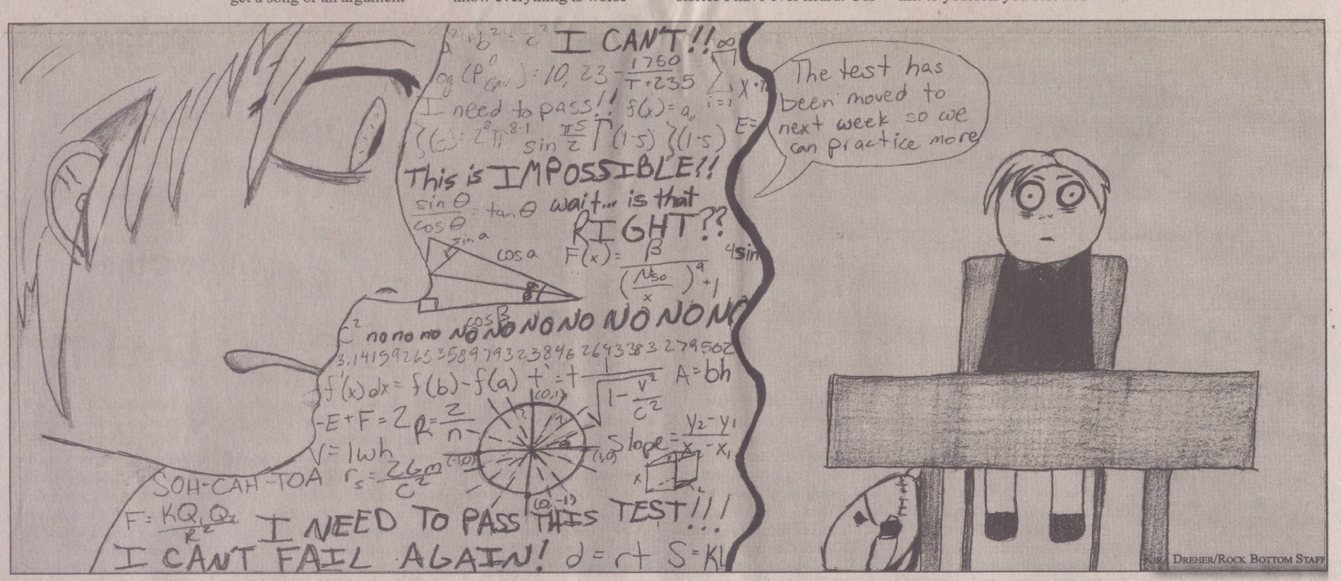
Ever wonder why you get a song or an argument stuck in your head that, no matter what you do, you can't get rid of? It happens to the best of us. I always get something on my mind that for the life of me I can't get rid of, be it a song from band or what a teacher yelled at me for that day. So why do we get things like that stuck in our heads? It's because our minds are still in that situation, trying to figure out a way to finish the song or think of the greatest comeback. That little scuffle you had with your friend ends up becoming the end of the world. I sometimes end up sitting on my bed, thinking about how a little situation seemed to blow up to something so much worse. Just know everything is worse when you are tired then what it is the next day, so it's not the end of the world as we know it.

For some students, high school is not a memorable time in their lives. For others, it is the best time of their lives! The rest could care less if they were there or not. Either way, memories are a large part of our minds that prove how wonderful or terrible something was. Our minds sometimes have a habit of changing our memories slightly, even without us knowing it. That's when we get people who seem to be exaggerating the most simple of situations. I can name one person off the top of my head that has the most outrageous stories I have ever heard. Our minds try to be funny that way to make us second guess ourselves. Totally normal!

Our minds not only change things to be funny, but also help us through tough situations. Our conscience is a large part of our minds. For those of you who don't know, your conscience is that little voice in the back of your head that tells you right from wrong. Most people don't seem to have one or choose to ignore it with the choices they make, but we all have one. Ever get that uneasy feeling in your stomach after you lie or do something you know you shouldn't have done? That's your mind yelling at you for being so dumb. So take responsibility and admit to yourself you screwed up and move on, knowing not to make that mistake again.

It's not the end of the world though. It's ok to have this happen! Let it happen, and when it gets too bad and you can't take it anymore, there are plenty of people to help you through it. I can confess that I have had to go in and get my mind straightened out so I could continue on with life and school.

So next time you've got that annoying song or a little argument stuck in your head that ends up blowing up, let them come. It happens to everyone and there is no need to be ashamed. We are human and we make mistakes. Take a breather and let the problem work itself out.



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Who do you think should win the 2016 presidential election?

"Donald Trump, while he does say things and lose his temper sometimes, he has some good ideas and is a change from the usual politician."

-Courtney Flint, senior

"Hillary Clinton. Why? Trump is a psychotic, cry-baby, brat. He is focused on races and insults. I truly believe Hillary will better our country."

-Adelynn Newman, junior

"Trump because he is not a politician. He is a businessman who wants to make America great again. We are $20 trillion in debt. We need a new system."

-Logan Mueller, junior

"I believe Donald Trump should win because the democratic candidate is Hillary Rodham Clinton; HRC=Hypocritical, Ridiculous, Crooked."

-Nathan Schumacher, sophomore

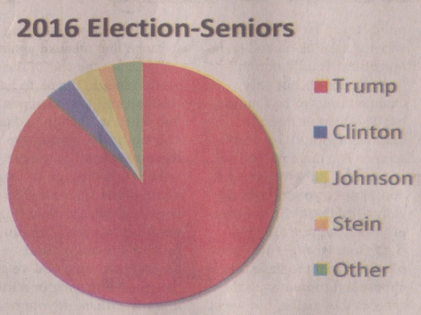
"Hillary Clinton because Trump is all about himself. He has too much money, and he doesn't pay taxes. Trump is going to start WWIII, and I don't want to be drafted to the war."

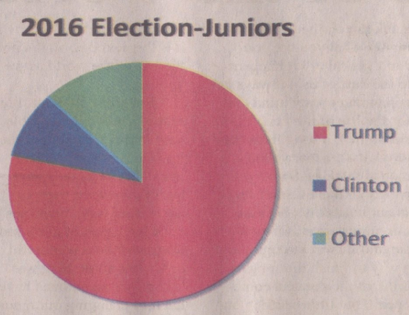
-Tyler Wurtz, sophomore

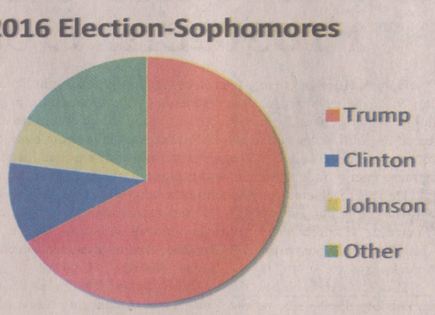
"Trump all the way!! I want Trump to win because there is no way Hillary is running this country. Plus my dad said if Trump wins, he'll buy me Panda Express sooo..."

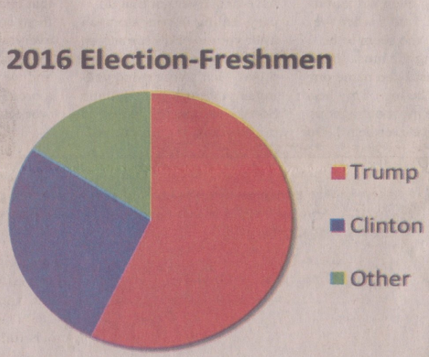
-Alexa Jones, freshman

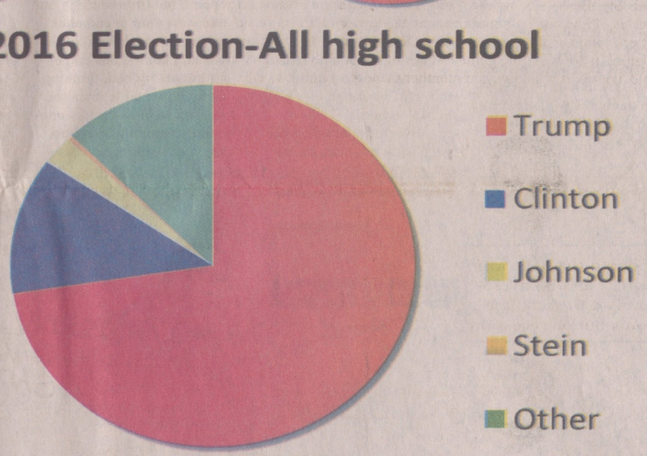
2016 Presidential Election Predictions











Making the first time count

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

November 8th, 2016. This was a much-anticipated day for Americans; a day that would determine the President of the United States for the next four years, and I was able to participate in all of the election fun this year.

In the months leading up to the election, I was excited because this was the first election that I would be able to get in on all of the madness. However, I was a little bummed about the candidates that I had to work with. I tried to become educated on both of the candidates by watching the news and reading articles online. I thought that watching the debates was the most beneficial, and sometimes humorous, way to become informed on the policies of each candidate. In addition, my Modern Government class discussed the candidates almost daily. Mr. Brockhaus played parts of each debate in class and explained some of the policies that the candidates were standing behind. He also helped us decipher between what was fact and what was a piece of bologna.

As the election quickly approached, facts about each candidate bombarded me through television commercials and social media. I was not a die-hard fan of either of the candidates, but I did definitely prefer one of the candidates over the other. After becoming informed on both the candidates and sitting through three months of Mr. Brockhaus' class, I felt as if I was educated enough to make a decision on which candidate I would rather have as the president of my country.

On November 8th, 2016, I went with my parents to the polling location. Because I live out of town, my designated polling location was St. John's Lutheran Church.

As I walked into the building, I was greeted by several women. I walked up to the table and was asked to say my name and address. I then had to sign next to my name on the paper (1). After this, one of the women gave me a ballot and explained that I needed to fill in the bubbles completely with a specific pencil and then place it in the ballot cover (2). She also showed me that my ballot was initialed at the bottom, which must be done for a ballot to be counted. She then directed me to a voting booth (3). When I was inside the booth, I scanned over my ballot before making any marks (4). I only voted on President, U.S. Representative for my district, and the death penalty because I did not recognize any of the names for judges, public school board, and other categories listed on my ballot. I wish that I would have paid more attention to who would be on my ballot before I voted so that I could have been more prepared to vote on these categories. My ballot did not include options for mayor of Columbus because I live outside of city limits.

After I finished filling out my ballot, I placed it inside of my ballot cover and handed it to the woman helping me. I watched her put the opening of the ballot cover up to the slot in the ballot box, and I saw my ballot slide into the ballot box (5). Then, a lady handed me a sticker (6), and I was free to go. I felt so accomplished!

The voting process was easy and painless. I expected it to take much longer than it actually did. There were few people at my polling location when I went, so I was able to get in and out in less than ten minutes. I would advise all teenagers who are 18 years old to vote because the process is easy and short. Also, it gives the voter a sense of accomplishment to know that his or her vote was counted in deciding who would be the next President of the United States. I will never forget being able to get in on all of the madness that was the election of November 8th, 2016.

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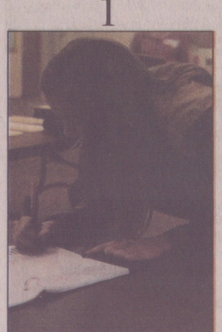

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Trump wins surprising race

HONNLNNZE6RTCK_HD1HIZLQVXXQLNX-LARGE

The newly elected president Donald Trump gives his acceptance speech at 3 a.m. in New York. He will be sworn into office on January 20th, 2017.

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

Staying up late on a school night, the kids of Scotus sat in front of the TV, waiting to see who would win the election of 2016.

On November 9th, 2016, around three a.m., everyone in the world found out that Donald Trump officially won and will be the president of the United States for the next four years.

As the country's 45th president, Donald Trump vows that he is going to "Make America great again."

Even though Donald Trump won the election, he has no political or military background, and is the oldest president to have been elected. Trump proclaims to stand for every American and do what is best for this country and the people.

The early polls showed that Hillary Clinton was going to win the election, but as the day went on, and the votes came in, everyone began to sit on the edge of their seats. According to *Real Clear Politics*, the people who voted before the election had Hillary Clinton winning by 1-6 points over Donald Trump. The states that began to pop up showed red, indicating that state voted Trump; in some states, it came close to becoming a blue one, but by only a few percentage point differences. According to *Heavy*, there are still two uncertain states, Michigan and New Hampshire, due to how close their votes are for Hillary and Trump.

According to the *Daily News*, the three swing states Ohio, Florida, and North Carolina were won by Trump. Both Hillary Clintion and Donald Trump fought hard to win those states. By the end of the day, Donald Trump had 276 electoral votes whereas Hillary had 218 electoral votes.

With these results, Donald Trump will be sworn in office on January 20th 2017.

America sends off President Obama

Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States on November 4th, 2008, and was sworn in on January 20th, 2009. His campaign was run under the slogan "Change We Can Believe In" and used the popular chant "Yes We Can." He defeated Republican nominee John McCain and his running mate Sarah Palin by an electoral vote count of 365 to 173. Obama's first campaign promised to withdraw troops from Iraq, increase energy independence, and promote universal health care as a national priority.

He was re-elected for a second term of presidency on November 6th, 2012, and was sworn in on January 20th, 2013. His second campaign was run under the simple slogan of "Forward." He defeated Republican nominee Mitt Romney and his running mate Paul Ryan by an electoral vote count of 332 to 206. Obama's re-election campaign tried to convince Americans that the country had to move forward, not backward.

Barack Obama will be remembered as one of the most progressive presidents in American history. Besides being the first African-American president, he oversaw reforms in the industries of housing, automobiles, and healthcare. He also pushed the country through its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression by introducing recovery and reinvestment legislature in 2009. As the United States of America moves forward under the leadership of Donald Trump, it will always remember the eight years it was led by Barack Obama.

November 4th, 2008 — Elected 44th President of the United States

Introduced the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to stimulate economy out of recession

February 17th, 2009

May 20th, 2009 — Signed the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act and Making Homes Affordable Refinancing Plan

Led the government buy-out of General Motors and Chrysler, saving over 1 million jobs in the automotive industry

July 10th, 2009

March 1st, 2010 — Received Nobel Peace Prize for efforts in ending "war on terror"

Signed the Affordable Care Act, better known as "Obamacare"

March 23rd, 2010

May 2nd, 2011 — Orchestrated death of Osama Bin Laden

Re-elected for a second term of presidency

November 6th, 2012

July 14th, 2015 — Negotiated and finalized nuclear peace deal with Iran

Signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership, free-trade deal with twelve countries

February 3rd, 2016

Teachers bring election to classroom

CASSIE SECKEL/MEDIA STAFF

Social studies teacher Pat Brockhaus collects ballots in his 9th period Modern Government class. Brockhaus held a mock election in his classroom on account of the national election this year.

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

The election has been the center of attention throughout the nation, but it's also been a focus in classrooms at Scotus.

Scotus has three different history classes and teachers. Jarod Ridder teaches 7th and 8th grade Social Sciences. Wade Coulter teaches 10th and 11th grade American History. Pat Brockhaus teaches 12th grade Modern Government. Each class has a different approach to the election.

Both Brockhaus and Coulter have incorporated the elections into their classes.

"In government it's really simple. We talked about candidates, and we eventually got to the primary and how we got to Hillary and Donald," Brockhaus said. "We talked about political parties and electoral colleges. We watched pieces of the debates. Almost every facet of the election was in class."

Ridder teaches younger classes, so he didn't focus on the election as much.

"I teach Geography and World History so we really didn't talk about it, but some of the days after the debates the conversation was brought up, and we discussed some things that were going on, but for the most part, it's not something we talked about," Ridder said.

Teachers are allowed to teach about the election, but they are required by law to keep their opinions hidden. They are not allowed to sway the student's opinions based on their own.

"At times it's difficult to stay neutral, but for the most part it's not hard," Coulter said.

This year's election has been different in many ways, one being the larger use of social media as a source of information about the candidates.

"Student's opinions and attitudes are too easily swayed by some of the things they hear and see that may not be fact based," Coulter commented.

Any events that happen, the campaigns, and news about the candidates can easily be heard throughout the nation within minutes of it happening.

"It's just getting more polarizing all the time. The involvement of the media, good and bad, has made a difference," Brockhaus said.

Nebraska is by majority a Republican state so views are shifted towards the more conservative side.

"Being in this part of Nebraska, whether the students are more Trump, Hillary, or Gary Johnson, they're not naïve. They can see if someone is full of garbage or not. They can tell which plans will work and which plans won't work; they're smart. They can't be fooled," Brockhaus said.

The view of younger students, however, is influenced more by the adults in their lives.

"The age level that I teach, 7th and 8th grade, I don't think a lot of them get in on it. I think a lot of their beliefs come from what they hear their parents or other adults talking about it," Ridder said.

Brockhaus has also focused on the city and state elections.

"We will learn about the elections for the mayor, congress member, Jeff Fortenberry's reelection, and obviously the death penalty in Nebraska," Brockhaus said.

Classes will continue to learn about local, state, and national elections throughout the year.

"It's been an interesting beginning of the school year, and the next four years, regardless of who is president, will be very interesting," Brockhaus concluded.

Random presidential facts

•Teddy Roosevelt was shot while giving a speech running for his second term and continued to give the speech with a bullet in his chest.

•Ronald Reagan acted in 53 films before he became president.

•Herbert Hoover spoke Chinese with his wife so that their conversations could be private.

•The first president to be photographed at his inauguration was Abraham Lincoln, with John Wilkes Booth near him in the picture.

Shamrocks fall to Stars

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

The 2016 Shamrock football season was cut short on October 28th during the first round of the playoffs by a familiar foe: the Kearney Catholic Stars.

The Shamrocks entered the NSAA 2016 C-1 State Football Playoffs as the 12th seed after defeating Adams Central in the final regular season game of the year to earn the district C1-6 championship.

The Shamrocks defeated the Patriots 48-26 in Hastings on October 21st, and, due to the Lakeview Vikings win over the Ord Chanticleers on the same night, the district title belonged to the Shamrocks.

"Coming off the win against Adams Central, all I was thinking about was the playoffs," Brandon Huynh, junior defensive tackle said. "I was as confident as I had ever been."

The Saturday following the Adams Central victory, the playoff brackets were released, and the Shamrocks were paired with the fifth seeded Kearney Catholic Stars. This would be a rematch of the 2014 quarterfinals of the state football tournament. In 2014, the Shamrocks fell to the Stars on a last second field goal.

"We finished that [2014] season 9-2 and, once again, that game was one I was confident we would win," head coach Tyler Linder said. "It was really the opposite of this last game; we started hot in that game and slowly fizzled with turnovers and injuries. We kept that game fresh in our minds."

The 2016 seniors on the rosters had a similar feeling on the first round matchup against the Stars.

"I was excited," Jake Novicki, a junior offensive lineman said. "I wanted to avenge the loss that the 2014 team took in the playoffs. That loss still hurts to think about."

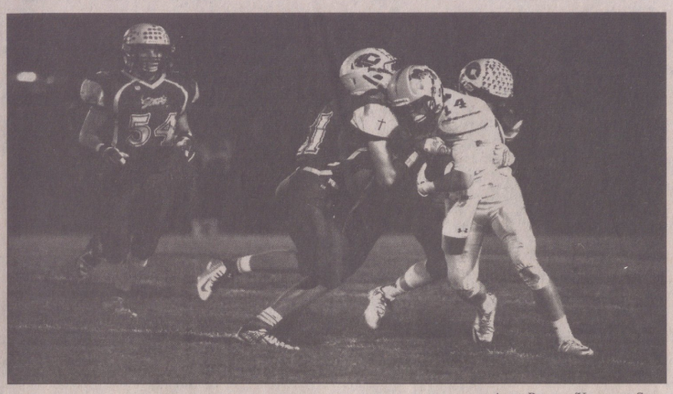
The Shamrocks, however, found themselves dug into an early hole giving up 20 straight points to Kearney Catholic. Senior running back Evan Chohon then responded with a 65 yard sprint to the end zone to put the Shamrocks on the board.

The Shamrocks came back from a 20-0 deficit to tie the game up at 20 apiece. Before the half ended, however, the Stars took the lead back with a field goal to put them up 23-20.

"I knew it was ours," Linder said, referring to the remaining half to play. "I knew if we played our kind of ball we would have a chance to win, maybe not in the 3rd quarter, but in the 4th."

With 1:32 left in the game, the Shamrocks got the ball back, down 33-30, with a chance to put the game away and move on to the next round of the playoffs. However, the Shamrocks made it down to the red zone and were not able to score. The final buzzer sounded, and the season was over.

"My heart dropped," Luke Jarecke, senior running back and cornerback said. "Mostly because I still believe we won that game."



Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Senior running back Chase Newman attempts to break a tackle from the Kearney Catholic Stars in their playoff game on October 28th. The Shamrocks were defeated 33-30.

The Shamrock seniors had just finished their last game of high school football. However, now that their senior season of Friday night lights is over, a few Shamrocks have turned their attention to playing on Saturdays in college.

"I do see myself playing college football; I am not sure though where at," Chohon said.

The Shamrocks ended their season with a 6-4 record and a district championship under their belts. The Shamrocks also earned the number nine spot in the final Class C1 rankings.

"[I'm] just very proud of the way we grew throughout the season," Linder said. "Starting the season against Wayne and ending the season against Kearney Catholic, the growth in between is something that cannot be measured, and I hope our fans saw it as much as I did."

Volleyball wraps up season

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

As October transitions into November and all the fall sports begin to wrap up, one Scotus mainstay activity has concluded earlier than usual. For just the second time since 1988, the Scotus Central Catholic volleyball team did not participate in the state tournament played from November 10th to November 12th. They were defeated in the subdistrict final by Lakeview High School 3 sets to 1.

The Shamrocks began their late season push with a triangular on October 18th at Lincoln Lutheran. In their first match of the evening, the Shamrocks defeated Lincoln Lutheran 25-10, 20-25, 25-16 in a competitive three set bout. Another three set match with C-2 state qualifier Hastings St. Cecilia proved to be a little too much for the Shamrocks. The Lady Bluehawks won 19-25, 25-15, 25-11. Senior libero Eastyn Klink saw progress in the split for her team.

"We worked hard every single day at practice, and I think in this last stretch of games we've been a different team," Klink said. "Each player has stepped up for the team at some point and allowed us to have some success."

The Shamrocks' last test before subdistricts would be an uphill battle. On October 25th, the schedule pitted Scotus against the nationally ranked Skyhawks of Omaha Skutt Catholic. At the time of this match, Skutt was 34-0 and had lost four sets the entire season. The storyline would be no different in their match against the Shamrocks, as they swept the match 25-5, 25-14, 25-12.

Senior defensive specialist Alyssa Kuta has been a three year varsity contributor. "Getting to the play the 6th best volleyball team in the entire nation was an opportunity not many teams around here get to experience," Kuta remarked.

With the regular season concluded, the Shamrocks prepared for the subdistrict tournament on October 31st. In the first match, Scotus made quick work of the 6-22 David City Scouts 25-12, 25-17, 25-12.

The Shamrocks' biggest challenge of the season presented itself in the next match: the subdistrict final against crosstown rival Lakeview. Sophomore outside hitter Bailey Lehr was a fresh face for the Shamrocks this year, starting every match with no prior varsity experience.

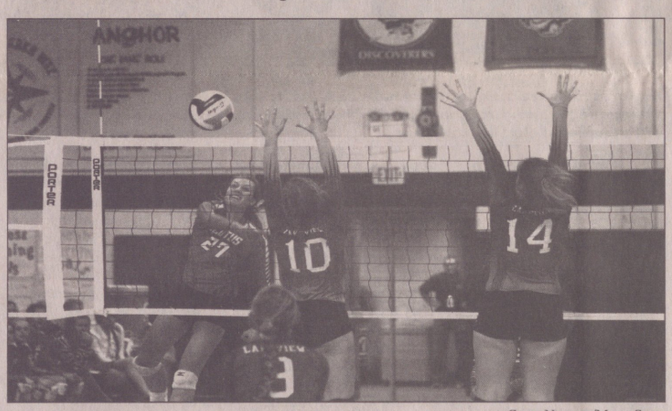
"It's super fun to play in that intense environment of a Lakeview game because the players and the crowd get pumped," Lehr said. "It almost makes you feel like you're at a mini state tournament when you play Lakeview."

Among a packed crowd at Columbus High School, the Shamrocks took a tightly contested first set 25-22. After that, however, the Viqueens were able to win the second set 25-21 and ride the momentum to the end of the match. Lakeview defeated Scotus 22-25, 25-21, 25-21, 25-20. Senior middle hitter Jessica Buhman led the Shamrocks with nine kills on the night.

"Obviously, we wish it would have gone better, but I love my team, and I'm proud of the way we fought until the end," Buhman stated. "Coach told us to leave the game with no regrets, and I believe we did that."

The Shamrocks finished their season with a final record of 14-12.

"Although the ending wasn't ideal, I wouldn't trade my experiences as a Scotus volleyball player for anything. It has been a privilege to be part of the legacy that is Scotus volleyball," Buhman concluded.



Chase Newman/Media Staff

SeniorJessica Buhman attacks a ball past the Lakeview block in the subdistrict final on October 31st at Columbus High School. The Viqueens defeated the Shamrocks 3 sets to 1.

Softball bats big finish at districts

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

Not all Scotus athletes shine in the green and white uniforms. Some of them show their talents wearing maroon and white uniforms. This is the case for seniors Emily Hand and Megan Ohnoutka and junior Marika Spencer along with the rest of the nine Scotus softball players this year.

The softball team came away with 14 wins on the season, including two wins to help them gain their title as district runner-up.

The softball season, like any other sport, has its ups and downs. The softball players hold favorite moments on and off the field.

"My favorite memory was breaking the home run record; that moment will always have a special place in my heart," Spencer said.

Though Spencer had hit many home runs in her three seasons as a CHS softball player, this was not the case for every player. One Scotus player had her first home run this year.

Hand said, "[My favorite memory was] during the Grand Island game when I hit my first home run; their coach also got ejected, which was pretty cool."

The team finished the season at the district tournament. They started off the day against Fremont High, where they were defeated in a competitive game 1-3. The team then bounced back from this early loss with a dominating win over Omaha Benson 10-0, and then beat Fremont in another close game 3-2. This left the team in the finals against Papillion La Vista, where they fell 4-6, bringing their season to an end.

Ohnoutka said, "[My favorite game was] the district semi-final game where we came back to beat Fremont after they beat us earlier in the day."

With the team graduating two seniors this year, they reflect on their seasons playing softball.

Hand concluded, "I had a fun time, and the team was really great."

Mallory O'Hearn/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Tessa Bridger steps up to bat against Lincoln Southeast. The softball team fell to the Knights, 1-8.

Tennis takes conference runner-up

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

With the changing of weather seasons also comes the changing of sport seasons. This change spelled out an end to the CHS boys' tennis season.

This year the team had three Scotus athletes compete for the tennis team, seniors Matt Hoenk and Brady Miller along with freshman Adam Kamrath

Hoenk played both singles and doubles, and Miller played both #1 and #2 doubles. Both players brought home wins and medals from various meets this year. Kamrath came into the season as a junior varsity player, but fought his way into the varsity squad, bringing home a few medals of his own at #2 singles. Hoenk and Miller also teamed up at the Columbus Open to bring home a 2nd place medal as a doubles team to help the team finish first overall. This was the first and only meet the two of them would play together.

"I think the season went very well, and it was a lot of fun to play this year," Miller said

There were many close matches and memorable moments including Kamrath's singles match win against Norfolk in a tiebreaker. Miller's personal favorite match of the year was when he and his doubles partner CHS senior Trey Rinkol came back from a 0-7 deficit to York to win the match 9-7.

The team ended the tennis season this year finishing runner up at conference, bringing home medals at conference in every division and competing at the state tournament.

With two of the three Scotus tennis athletes having finished their careers at CHS, they had time to reflect on their tennis careers.

Miller reflected on his tennis career saying, "I'm definitely going to miss playing, I had a blast."

Hoenk added, "Tennis as a whole was a positive experience. I learned a lot from the sport, both on and off the court."

Layne Schroeder/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior tennis captain Matt Hoenk sets up for an overhead against York. The doubles team defeated York 8-0.

Chess club commences

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

After a three year hiatus, chess club is finally back at Scotus. Chess club has been done at Scotus multiple times in the past, but there has never been as big of a turnout as the club is seeing this time around. Chess club already has around twenty students who show up to the after school event consistently.

One student who is excited about chess club this year is senior Kira Dreher.

"I decided to do chess club because I enjoy playing chess and wanted to play with others that also enjoy the game." Dreher said. "Chess club has helped me learn new moves and the actual rules and courtesies of playing a proper chess match."

Among the other students attending chess club is Todd Le, one of the new foreign exchange students from Vietnam. Chess club started as just an idea for Todd, but he then decided to turn his idea into a reality.

"My favorite thing about chess club is being involved with many interesting members. Opening chess club has helped me make new friends," Le said. "I decided to do a chess club because I am interested in playing chess, and I heard that Mr. Salyard also wanted to open a chess club."

Just as a football team requires a football coach, chess requires a chess coach. This year Tom Salyard decided to take on that role and add "chess club sponsor" to his long list of titles.

"I was approached by a couple of students that asked if there might be interest for a chess club, and they wanted to know if I would help sponsor or help organize it," Salyard said.

"I often ask Mr. Salyard to play me in chess. Of course, he wins every time, but I always improve from those games," Le said.

Salyard has been the chess club sponsor in the past, and this year his goal is the same as every other year he has taken on this role.

"I want to provide a place where students have the opportunity to play chess and maybe get a little bit of instruction. Beyond that, I just want them to have fun," Salyard added.

As for competition, the future remains uncertain. Columbus hasn't had an organized chess competition in quite some time.

"As far as competition goes, I don't necessarily see that as something that has to be tied to this. Certainly people can be as competitive as they like with each other. There will be opportunities for people to play one another, and I think that if there is enough interest there will be a variety of opponents for other people," Salyard said.

Layne Schroeder/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Todd Le and 7th grader Nick Ehlers compete in a chess match. Students meet in Mr. Salyard's room after school every Thursday to match wits on the chess board.

There is certainly no denying that chess club has really taken off this year more than ever, and all students are invited to be a part of it.

Salyard concluded, "If a student enjoys chess and perhaps wants to play and wants to learn, they are certainly welcome. There are no requirements of any sorts, just be interested and show up! We meet from 3:45 to 4:45 on Thursdays, and anybody is welcome to come."

One Act locks down the stage

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

The sound of "Pumped Up Kicks" could be heard through a worn out megaphone, indicating the conference performance of One Act.

This year's One Act performance Lockdown focused on a regular high school day, plus the real life threats that can occur. The students have been practicing since August 29th.

One Act performs two different plays this year, a competition performance (CP) and an additional performance (AP); One Act director Lindsay Dannelly had to come up with a plan to give everyone a spot on stage.

Mitchell Halligan/Yearbook Staff

Senior Cameron Swanson, senior Naomi Kosch, junior Alaina Wallick, sophomore Isaac McPhillips, sophomore Caleb Kosch, and sophomore Morgan Littlefield watch their teacher desert them in One Act's performance of *Lockdown* on November 15th. One Act also presented *Check Please*.

"While selecting the competition performance, I knew there was a smaller cast giving less students the opportunity to grow and learn on stage. Having the additional performance gives them a chance to do that. It has been fun to watch the students evolve into another character on stage," Dannelly stated.

> ***"It has been fun to watch the students evolve into another character on stage."***
> ***-Ms. Dannelly***

Having the additional performance allows students who have never tried out for One Act before to be able to participate on stage.

Junior Faith Przymus played Mercedes, a cheerleader in Check Please.

"I like the idea of a CP and AP because AP gives people like me the chance to have a small role but still be able to be on stage," Przymus said.

The conference performance has been in motion since August, giving the One Act cast and crew two months to practice and get familiar with the play. With a simple set up, the cast must put in the best performance they can muster up; with only eight characters on stage that still means different personalities intermingling.

Senior Cameron Swanson played Adam in CP and Mark in AP.

"I'm Adam, an angsty teen who is neutral and hates everyone equally. I feel like this [is] exactly me," Swanson said.

That's only one example from the different characters that were portrayed in Lockdown.

Countless practices have also lead to memorable memories to look back on.

"While trying to get the students' attention, I played rather loud and annoying music thinking it would silence them, but instead, turned into the entire cast and crew into a dabbing frenzy. It was kind of hilarious," Dannelly said.

Sophomore Morgan Littlefield played the role of a scared and in love Sarah.

"I think the most challenging moments were when we first practiced without our scripts," Littlefield said.

One Act's home performance was on November 15 alongside the third annual Art Show. As the cast and crew got ready, they showed their second performance out of their five performances that they do all together.

"The home performance went fantastically. I was really excited about how the audience reacted to the shows. I heard a lot of people tell me that they really liked how we did the dramatic, sad Lockdown first before doing the comic relief," Dannelly said.

In the upcoming weeks, One Act performs at Fremont for conference, and on December 2nd for districts.

Scotus dominates at districts

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

Coaches and students gather on a Saturday to compete, not in a gym, but in a court room.

On Thursday November 10th, the seniors and juniors of Scotus competed against each other for the mock trial regional district championship title. The senior mock trial team defeated the junior team for the second year in a row. The senior team was the prosecution in this trial and the juniors were the defense.

"The most challenging team this season was the juniors because we competed against them last year and knew them personally. We knew they were going to be tough to beat," senior witness Alison Zoucha said.

After months of practice, the mock trial teams put their skills to the test.

"The fact that Scotus has four teams is very impressive. A lot of schools do not have a program like we have at Scotus. Although the season is over for the freshman, sophomores, and juniors, there is a lot of talent among the younger teams," senior attorney Haley Faust said.

Ten teams from around the area met at the Platte County courthouse for the district competition on Saturday, October 29th, two weeks earlier than normal.

"The most challenging part of mock trial this season was competing earlier than we ever had to before and having to memorize my opening statements earlier than normal," senior attorney Megan Schumacher said.

The freshman team faced the Howells varsity team in their first round but did not advance to another round.

"We didn't get the results we were hoping for, but I couldn't be prouder of how far we've come from our first practice," freshman attorney Brea Lassek said.

The sophomore team competed against the Howells junior varsity team and won. They then took on Lakeview, but lost that round.

"We fought very hard through two tough competitions. I am proud of my team and all the hard work we put into our case," sophomore witness Hallie Parker said.

The junior team only had to compete in one round at the competition, which was against the Lakeview mock trial team.

"The round with Lakeview stood out to me the most because they used very different dynamics than what we were normally used to," junior attorney Alaina Wallick said.

This win advanced them to the regional district final against the Scotus senior team.

"The most challenging team we competed against was the seniors. It was exciting to compete against them in the district finals because they are a very good team," junior attorney Faith Przymus said.

The seniors had to earn their spot to the finals by competing in two different rounds. They competed against the CHS varsity team in their first round and beat them.

"The most challenging team was CHS because the presiding judge was very difficult, and the lawyer that cross-examined me got mad that I wouldn't answer her question to her liking," senior witness Courtney Flint said.

A win against the Howells varsity team in their next round gave them a chance to compete in the finals for the second year in a row. With the win in the district final, they advanced to the state competition in Lincoln on December 6th and 7th.

Emerson Belitz/ Yearbook Staff

Senior witness Courtney Flint testifies in the regional Mock Trial championship on November 10th. The seniors were the prosecution against the Scotus junior team in the district final.

"I am really excited about the state meet and being able to compete against the teams there. The competition at the state meet is extremely stiff, but I think it will be a fun way to conclude our senior season," Faust said.

The senior mock trial team placed 5th at the state meet last year, which is the best that a Scotus team has ever finished at the state meet.

"I look forward to getting to take another stab at state and competing even better than we did last year," senior attorney Nikki Hiner said. "Rock the Mock!"

Panda Express falls short of expectations

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

After all the hype, Panda Express has finally hit the streets of Columbus. I decided to check things out for myself, and I must say that I was underwhelmed. With Columbus being a rather small town, expectations for new establishments tend to build up very quickly. The problem is, most of the time these new businesses tend to not be able to live up to their oversized expectations. In my opinion, Panda Express fit that mold perfectly.

The first thing that a customer will see when they walk through the double doors of dismay is a rather crafty wooden chandelier overhanging the tables. At Panda Express, you order food in a similar way you would at Subway. First, you decide whether you want a plate or to go box, then you go through the line and pick what you want. Then at the end of the line, prices vary depending on what food you chose. To me, it felt like an assembly line at a factory. This is because the whole kitchen is visible from anywhere in the restaurant. Everybody can hear the extremely loud noise, see the boxes on the ground, and watch all fifteen workers move around frantically to get their job done. Even with the rather large amount of employees, it still felt like it took forever for me to get my food. The workers were very nice, however. As I was going through the line I was greeted with smiles up until the very end when my order was rung up.

I must say, my food did look pretty appetizing. Never before did orange chicken, chow mein, and brown rice with a large drink seem more compelling. However, my excitement quickly faded when I saw my order total had come in over ten dollars. Yes, you read that right. I paid ten dollars for some rice, chicken, and noodles on a plate. You might be thinking, "Ten dollars isn't that much money." Consider this – In 1803, the United States acquired around 300 acres of land for every ten dollars they paid in the Louisiana Purchase. I got a plate of Chinese food for the same price.

I coughed up the ten dollars, filled up my drink at the fountain, and sat down to dive into my delectable dish. I quickly noticed how saucy and greasy the food was. I didn't care, though. If there was ever a time that I was figuratively starving, it was at that moment. I ignored all of the noise coming from the kitchen and finished my food in about fifteen minutes. In all honesty, I was pretty satisfied. However, that quickly changed on the ride home.

HTTP://2.BP.BLOGSPOT.COM

Construction for Panda Express began earlier this year in June, and the doors were officially open for business in October. Panda Express has over 1900 locations spread out through all fifty states.

About halfway back to my house I started feeling kind of heavy, and my stomach was turning. Maybe it was because I ate too fast, maybe it was because I don't go well with Chinese food, I can't really say for sure.

Because of all of these reasons, you probably won't be seeing me at Panda Express anytime soon. However, keep in mind that this was just my experience. If you try eating there you might really enjoy it, who knows. What I will tell you is this - I believe that there is better tasting Chinese food in town that is served for a lower price at smaller businesses that need local support to survive. Trust me, your wallet and your stomach will thank you later.

The measuring of Matts

What separates the Matts?

"I have a small stature."

-Matt Quinn, junior

"I am the best looking of all of the Matts in the school."

-Matthew Bichlemeier, junior

"My last name is Csukker."

-Matt Csukker, senior

"I am the Priest."

-Fr. Capadano, Scotus Chaplain

"I am the only eighth grader with the name Matt."

-Matt Dolezal, eighth grader

The Matts of Journalism

With seven different Matts roaming around these halls, there aren't two that are more alike yet so different than these two.

CATCHPHRASES

"That's a big 10-4."
~Hoenk
"Whoa, that was wild man."
~Strecker

HOENK

- Two sisters
- Tennis and Soccer
- College - Criminal Justice
- "The Wagon" - (1996 Toyota Station Wagon)
- Single (402-363-9271)
- Country music
- Eagle eyed vision
- Two pairs of shoes

BOTH

-Same name
-Glorious facial hair
-Burger flippers
-6'0 200lbs
-Athletes
-Easily distracted
-Socialites

STRECKER

- One brother
- Football, Basketball, Track
- College - Athletic Training/ Physical Therapy
- "The Maui" - (2006 Chevy Malibu)
- Girlfriend
- Any other music whatsoever
- Poor eyesight
- Vast shoe collection

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Students start a new chapter

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Junior high students aren't able participate in many clubs or activities. This year has proven a little different with the start of junior high FBLA.

FBLA is a group that teaches leadership and business instruction for students that want to pursue such a career. It has only been opened up for the high school, but this year is was started up for all grades.

"I wanted to join FBLA the first day I heard about it. I love helping people, being creative, working with others, and doing activities throughout our community," eighth grader Emily Ferguson said.

Ferguson is one of sixteen students in JH FBLA, taking a big part in helping with the creation of the "portacath pillow."

"I saw the idea on Pinterest and thought it would be a nice project for the junior high," FBLA sponsor Patti Salyard stated.

The pillows help cancer patients who have ports in their chests and are uncomfortable in a vehicle. The pillows attach to the seatbelt of a car and help protect that area from becoming irritated.

"The nurses were excited to have these pillows. They know the patients will appreciate them," Salyard said.

Two junior high students made a trip to the hospital with Salyard to deliver the gifts to the patients.

But that's not all junior high FBLA will be doing the rest of the year.

"Second semester, they will be involved with FBLA Week, which will include a drive for troops who are connected with Scotus, a food drive, and an activity with senior citizens. In the spring, they will have a business competition consisting of keyboarding knowledge, proofreading, and spelling.

See **FBLA**, Page 2

Students raise money for local Simon House

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

The students at Scotus broke the usual clean-shaven, plain sock rule this November in an attempt to raise money for the local Simon House.

"I thought [the fundraiser] went pretty well. The guys who participated kept the neck line clean, and everybody from the students and staff handled it well," Scotus President Jeff Ohnoutka stated.

The fundraiser, which took place from November 7th through the 30th, raised a total of $615, which was donated to the Simon House. The check was presented to Harriett Janicek, an assistant manager of the Simon House, at the winter activities pep rally on the 30th.

"I decided to participate in the fundraiser because it was for a good cause. Also, as a lot of people know, I am not very a big fan of shaving," senior Dalton Taylor said.

Many students from each grade decided to take part in the fundraiser. There were two different ways that students could break the dress code to ensure that no one was left out. Students could choose to not shave, wear multicolored socks, or both. The cost to be a part of this event was ten dollars for not shaving and five dollars for wearing crazy socks. With only fifteen students opting to partake in the no shave portion of the fundraiser, the crazy sock option was the money leader for the fundraiser.

"After the student council brought it to my attention and Mrs. Lahm stepped forward as the sponsor for that group to help organize [the fundraiser], I thought it could be a good thing," Ohnoutka stated.

This particular fundraiser had been discussed by the student council in previous years, but they

See **SHAVE**, Page 2

KIRA DREHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Matt Hoenk and Dalton Taylor show off their beards as they present a check to the Simon House. The fundraiser raised a total of $615.

Mothers Club fundraises at craft boutique

EMMA RUSKAMP/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Emily Carstens and senior Emerson Belitz shop at one of the tables set up in the Dowd Activity Center at the Craft Boutique. The Scotus Mothers Club coordinates the boutique annually to raise money to buy teachers items off of their classroom wishlist.

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

Scotus was full of crafts and Christmas cheer at the annual Craft Boutique.

The Scotus Mothers Club held the craft fair on the first Sunday of December and had the largest crowd ever seen at the boutique.

Deb Ohnoutka, a teacher at Scotus and member of the Mother's Club, who was on the boutique committee for the first time this year, said, "This is the most volunteer help we have gotten for a long time so that was really helpful because it made everything go smoothly."

The Scotus Mothers Club is a fundraising group for the school made up mothers of alumni or current Scotus students. They are in charge of coordinating and bringing the boutique to life.

"Teachers are allowed a certain amount in their classroom budgets, but that doesn't always cover everything they want, so they make a wish list and those are the extra things," Ohnoutka said. "The Scotus Mothers usually use some of their money from the boutique to help buy things for the teachers off of their wish list."

Another way the boutique benefits the school is through the band bake sale. The band students donate baked goods or $15 which goes toward the band department and improving the instruments, buying new instruments, and other band costs. One of the custodians at Scotus, Rob Daniels, spent many hours making apple butter to be donated to the band and sold at the boutique.

"I used to be in band actually, and I love band and I remember how it was kind of tough raising funds so I was thinking I could do something cool and easy that would be able to work for them," Daniels commented. "I really love the school here, and the kids here are really great. It was just something I saw that I could do, and I can make good apple butter!"

The boutique has been in action since 1982, but this year it had the largest turnout in Scotus history. There were over 100 vendors, over 1600 shoppers, and nearly 100 volunteers.

"There are people that come in and work to do physical work, there are people that donate food for the lunch stand, and there are people who are volunteer callers for all those things too," Ohnoutka said. "There are lots of different jobs for all the volunteers to do."

The Shamrock Singers and a small ensemble of the band performed at the boutique too. The band stayed in Memorial Hall while the Singers caroled around the entire boutique.

"It came about just by the Scotus Mothers asking if I could get a group of band students to do it. It has become a tradition and I personally look forward to it each year. It's fun to rehearse Christmas carols with a small ensemble," band director Kristen Cox said. "As musicians, it is a way for us to give back to an organization that has supported us in so many ways throughout the years. I also feel the music adds to the experience of the boutique and makes our craft show even more special."

Planning for the next boutique will start in April.

"We just really appreciate all the help we have had," Ohnoutka concluded.

FBLA

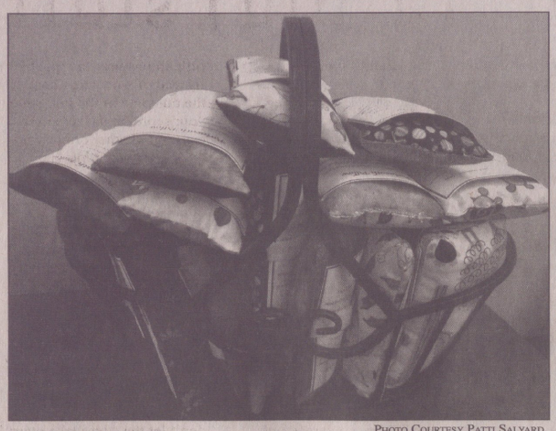

Photo Courtesy Patti Salyard

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Eighth graders Emily Ferguson and Christina Oakley deliver portacath pillows to Columbus Community Hospital. The junior high FBLA made 24 pillows and hope to make more in the future (pictured left).

SHAVE

had seen more interest this year by the students which caused them to take up the idea with Mr. Ohnoutka.

"I loved doing crazy sock November because I could finally showcase my best socks to the entire school," sophomore Bekah Hergott said.

The question that now arises is whether this will become a Scotus tradition or if it will be a one-time event.

"I haven't decided yet, we will have to wait." Ohnoutka said

Scotus is now back to the usual clean shaven, plain sock dress code that the students have become accustomed to. Whether or not November next year will bring back the facial hair and crazy sock trend is still up for debate, but the important thing is the school came together this November to raise money for a good cause.

Honors will be given to the top two in each area. This competition will help prepare them for the high school State Leadership Conference in which they compete for top honors against FBLA members across the state of Nebraska," Salyard commented.

The students helped during the football season at the concession stand for the home games alongside the high school FBLA members.

Eighth grader Lizzie Parker is one of many junior high students who plan to continue FBLA through the rest of junior high and high school.

"It's lots of fun, and I have learned a lot," Parker said.

Salyard concluded, "We are very proud of how involved they have been and the great work they do."

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Mrs. Angie Rusher

Editor:
Tate VunCannon

Staff writers:
Kira Dreher
Haley Faust
Matt Hoenk
Eastyn Klink
Mallory O'Hearn
Amberly Parker
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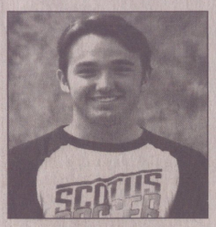


By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

Stress can be a big factor in a person's everyday mood and life. With semester tests right around the corner, they are a topic of most students' nervousness right now. High school in itself can be an extremely stressful time for many people. There is no reason to add unnecessary anxiety to the already massive pile that comes with being a high school student. Personally, I believe that there are way too many people freaking out over the littlest things.

Semester tests are coming soon, and, at least right now, they seem to be the peak of every student's stress. But is worrying about these tests day in and day out going to affect the score you get? Not likely, at least not in a positive way. As students we have been sitting in these classes for what seems like thousands of hours. If you really believe that freaking out over the test and staying up way too late to study is going to help you, then you are kidding yourself. There is an appropriate amount of time to study, and stealing time to sleep to study instead is extremely counterproductive. Not only is it almost impossible to retain any information when you are dead tired, but you will be much more likely to remember information when you are fully rested. This is not only the case with semester tests, this goes for any test in any class. Staying up all night to study could affect the grade you will get, but it will most likely be in a negative way.

A common phrase used when referring to sports is putting your blood, sweat, and tears into getting yourself ready for the big game. Here at Scotus, that fits pretty well. So then why would you need to spend every moment freaking out about the game later in the night? Stressing over the outcome of the game does not in any way help your performance. Instead, you should practice what you can do to have your best performance possible. This will not only help you to play your best but in turn potentially help the outcome of the game be in your favor.

Especially in your senior year of high school, a big area of anxiety is what could potentially be the biggest decision of your high school year: where you will attend college. Although this is a big decision, it is not something you should spend every daunting moment stressing over. Wherever you find yourself attending college, the success you get from your degree will be more because of the work you put in, rather than the college it is from. Also, going to a school like Scotus gives us a good first impression for colleges. This helps us get into our dream college and should help to lessen the stress that goes with applying for colleges and waiting for, hopefully, the letter of acceptance.

Going through high school, the extracurricular activities, and all the other social aspects associated with being a teenager, a person needs time to relax and get away from it all. This can help you in countless ways. Being a ball of anxiety 24-7 is far from healthy and will lead to you being irritable and simply not fun to be around.

Although too much stress is a bad thing, it is also not good to be someone who really doesn't care about anything. There is a huge difference between caring about something and freaking out over it.

Personally, I believe that people stress over the little things way too much. Instead of worrying about the outcome of the big game, your score on the semester tests, or whether or not you will be accepted into the college of your dreams, your time would be much more effectively used preparing for whatever is getting to you. There is a time for everything, and this includes studying, practicing for your events, and applying for colleges. Don't forget the time needed for you to get away from all of your anxiety and go out with your friends or simply listen to music or binge on Netflix. Either way, don't let the stress take over; you need time to be you and live your life.

I'm having a blue Christmas

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

The holidays are inevitably some of the busiest months of our year. We are occupied buzzing around trying to take care of too many things at once. Being preoccupied with many things brings frustration and takes the warmth out of Christmas. The once magical season has turned into a dull and almost tedious time of the year. Why has this hope-bringing season become so dim? Does blandness come as you age?

In my opinion, Christmas has lost its spunk, meaning, and effect. Perhaps this is just an Emma feeling, but I think that many people, as they grow older, have less and less of an interest in the "most wonderful time of the year."

I experienced everything Christmas had to offer when I was younger. My family decorated the tree, made cookies for Santa, and anxiously awaited his arrival on Christmas Eve. We opened presents the next morning and went to Mass giddy as could be. Now, as the years have gone by and we have grown older, Christmas seems to be less joyous and more monotonous. I am still thrilled to decorate, open presents, and celebrate the holiday with my family, but Christmas just isn't as glistening as it used to be.

You have heard it many times before, and I'm here to say it again: Christmas has lost its true meaning. This phrase has been repeated so many times it has lost meaning itself. It is so true though. I don't think one can truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift. Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

> ***"To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."***
>
> **~Emma Ruskamp**

I think that one reason Christmas has lost its flare is because of all the negativity that is happening around the world. It's hard to celebrate and be happy when so many other people can't. Also, as children age into young preteens, they come to different conclusions about Christmas. Coming to these realizations takes out so much of the charm and enchantment of Christmas for young kids.

Although the season has lost some of its sparkle, Christmas still leaves me counting down the days until the next time I can decorate the house in red and green and give gifts to the people I love. Trust me, I love ripping into wrapping paper and uncovering presents just as much as the next guy, but giving presents is such a better feeling than receiving. Showing someone that you love them by taking your time to ever so preciously pick out a gift, wrap it, and deliver it to them leaves people feeling a marvelous way. Christmas day is the most wonderful day of the whole year because of all the love and magic that is shared.

Now you're probably saying, "Emma, I am so broke I can't even rub two cents together. How am I supposed to give?" Well, I am glad you asked. As Christians, we can give more than the best presents. We can give love through our prayers. This Christmas season, I challenge you to open your heart and say a prayer for the lonely, unloved, and broken-hearted people suffering around the world. Ask God to enter their lives and warm their hearts this season. Together we can ask for the best gift. Leave the giving up to God.

Keep calm and hope for a gift receipt

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

We all know that awful moment. Your palms are sweating as you rip the wrapping paper off the box. In your head, you are wondering why your beloved Aunt Sally doesn't just give you cash. You open the box and hold up its contents as you barely manage to spit out the words "Thank you." As you look around, you become slightly jealous of all of the nice gifts that your family members have just unwrapped. You look down at the diarrhea brown coat or the hideous multicolored sweater in your lap as your face becomes hot and you begin blinking back the tears. You try to smile even though the pain is becoming unbearable.

I know you have all been there, and I know this will happen to hopeful gift recipients again this Christmas. Many people are going to receive gifts from family or friends this December that they do not like. But don't cry. It's okay.

The best thing to do in this situation is to stay calm. Do not freak out because that will only make matters worse. I know it is tempting to want to immediately walk to the nearest trashcan and dispose of your gift before it can haunt you any longer, but I promise that is not the best option in this tragedy.

The first step is to thank the person who gave you the gift because he or she probably had really good intentions and spent time and money trying to find something for you. Try not to look disappointed because that will only hurt this person.

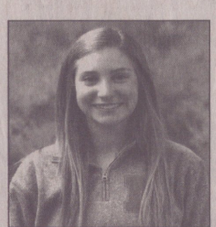
The next step is to nonchalantly check in the bottom of the box or bag that your gift came in. If you are lucky, the person who gave you this gift may have asked for a gift receipt when he or she purchased your gift. If there is a gift receipt, keep your cool because the person who gave you the gift may still be watching you. Try to refrain from jumping up and down or dancing of any sort.

If there is not gift receipt, don't panic. Although it may feel like it, this is not the end of the world. There are plenty of things that you can do with a bad gift. There is a chance that the store that the gift is from will take the item back without a receipt. If not, some secondhand stores will actually buy your unwanted goods at a lower price than what they are worth. Sometimes it is hard to imagine that anyone would want your awful gift, but you never know. Your trash may be someone else's treasure. It may be worth a try to take your gift to a store like this because you might walk out the door with some cash, and better yet, the gift will be taken off of your hands.

If the store doesn't take your gift, stay calm. Think about all of the people that you are obligated to buy gifts for in the upcoming months. Would any of them like your gift? If so, regifting is your best option. The other person may love your gift, and you have saved yourself some cash by not buying them a gift. However, you have to be careful about regifting because you have to make sure that the person who gave you the gift will never come in contact with the person who you regifted your gift to. Also, you need to make sure that this gift is really something that this person is going to like or find funny. Otherwise, you are going to give them the same emotional stress and anxiety that you have.

If all else fails, be thankful that someone cared enough about you to buy you a gift. There is always next year. Until then, pray that your Aunt Sally does not get your name again in the family gift exchange. For now, stay calm, cherish the other gifts that you got, and, more importantly, the time that you spent with your family. I promise that after a few weeks, the ghost of bad Christmas gifts will leave you alone until next Christmas.

Hearing is the key word



By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

"Listen: [lis-uh n] verb. 1. To give attention with the ear; attend closely for the purpose of hearing; give ear." Hearing is the key word in this definition. When was the last time you heard what someone was actually telling you? When was the last time you actually listened to someone without inputting your thoughts or personal issues?

This is something that we could all do a little more of. I believe that people today need to understand the importance of listening and good conversation.

Listening to what someone is telling you can help you understand what they are thinking. Everyone needs someone in their life that they can rant to or just have a conversation with without thinking they are wasting their breath. Also, not everything will be relatable to you and that needs to be realized. Not everything we hear in a conversation has something to do with our lives, even though we tend to think so. Listening to what someone else has to say about their day can give them much more assurance.

Really listening to what people are saying to you can improve their self-confidence. We often hear about suicide rates increasing in teenagers; many because of bullying or feeling like they are alone. No one deserves to feel like they have no one to talk to or that no one listens to them. We see this many times in high school. One person will be trying to talk to someone else, and they will be ignored. Simply listening and giving polite commentary is a humble act that can brighten someone's day.

> ***"Listening is a small act of kindness that is not difficult, but we often do not find the need for it."***
>
> **~Amberly Parker**

Everyone is important. Sometimes people need to be heard without hearing personal stories in return. We come from a world where everything revolves around ourselves. We think that everything we do and each story we have is more important than everyone else's. For example, if someone tells you about what they did on their weekend, some polite commentary about it or questions would be a nice gesture rather than "butting in" about how you spent your weekend. Personal adventures or stories are equally important, and no one should feel like their lives are any less than someone else. Often, this "butting in" on their conversation shows that the other person feels his or her life is more important. Listening and having a conversation about one person's interests or ideas will show that you care about each other's personal lives.

When is the last time you had a real conversation with your parents? Did you ask how their day at work was? Did you listen to their thoughts and opinions about the day or on a specific issue? Most people will probably not remember the last time they actually had a real conversation with their parents and listened to them. Often, we as teenagers feel the need to flood our parents' brains with what happened at school or during an event (yes, I am guilty, too). We should think about all the time they have put in listening to our opinions and stories and give them that time in return.

Listening is a small act of kindness that is not difficult, but we often do not find the need for it. The next time you are having a conversation with someone, instead of thinking about what your next response will be, take time to listen what they have to say, it may be more important than your commentary, and it may just make someone's day a little bit better.

The Best and worst of

Media makes impact on America

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

From a handful of popular artists releasing long-awaited albums, to a 13 year old episode of *Spongebob* becoming a meme, to videos of clowns stalking and attacking innocent bystanders who just so happened to be filming, it's safe to say that 2016 nearly broke the internet. This year was full of all kinds of big news that only took minutes to blow up on the Internet. Some of my personal favorites were the obsession over the all of the memes that erupted over the year, the *Saturday Night Live* skits poking fun at the 2016 election, as well as a few highly anticipated albums released by very popular artists.

One of the biggest sensations on the internet this year has been the surplus of memes that were created around the most popular events of the year. A meme is defined as "a humorous image, video, piece of text, etc. that is copied (often with slight variations) and spread rapidly by Internet users." If that doesn't perfectly sum up the memes that came out in 2016, then nothing ever will. Harambe, the blown 3-1 leads by the Thunder and Warriors in the NBA and the Indians in the MLB, and the 2016 Election all found their way into the meme world. Even episodes of *Spongebob* that are over a decade old received praise for becoming a meme. The most popular meme roaming the internet at the moment, with the 2016 election recently coming to an end, are memes including former vice-president Joe Biden. These memes include Biden acting like a child wanting to shoot people with Nerf guns in meetings, calling in the Avengers to help fight ISIS, and also trying to star in his own version of *Home Alone* by booby trapping the White House for newly elected Donald Trump. Another meme by the name of "Spongegar" became popular this year. This included a picture taken from a season three episode of *Spongebob*, titled simply "Ugh." Whether it is a picture of a crying Michael Jordan or a frog riding a unicycle, memes can always bring a smile to the faces of many.

CHICAGO.SUNTIMES.COM

Alec Baldwin and Kate McKinnon pose as Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton for *Saturday Night Live*.

The biggest argument or riot starter and most talked about topic at Thanksgiving dinner had to have been the 2016 presidential election. No matter which way someone voted, they had to admit that this year's election was pure chaos and didn't feel like a presidential election at all. It felt more like a reality show, and in many ways, it was. The TV show *Saturday Night Live* milked the election until the very end. *SNL* created gut-busting skits based around debates, certain released voice recordings (come on Donald..) and emails that got released (yes.. you too Hillary). If something happened in the election, SNL writers were all over it. The roles of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were portrayed by Alec Baldwin and Kate McKinnon respectively. The debate skits also received some classic guest appearances, including Tom Hanks playing the role of the mediator. The SNL skits and the actual 2016 election mirrored each other much too closely and that itself is a little horrifying.

Along with the explosion of popular content on the internet, the music industry was also hit hard with some big album releases from some of the top names in music. Artists like Beyonce, DJ Khaled, The Weeknd, and Drake all released their newest albums in 2016, and they quickly became the most downloaded albums on the iTunes store of the year. The Weeknd released his new album, *Starboy*, on November 25th, and only a week later, it became one of the most popular and top grossing albums of the year. It also had three individual tracks appear on the Top 100. On April 29th, Drake released his fourth studio album *Views from the Six*, and it shot to the top of the charts with hit songs like "One Dance" and "Controlla." Even a select group of singles released in the past year became infectious including "Closer" by the Chainsmokers and "24K Magic" by Bruno Mars.

Although 2016 was a very eventful year for sports, movies, music, and business, the online and digital world was hit the hardest. Although the internet and media took both positive and negative shots alike, hopefully 2017 will be a little easier on them.

Sports thrill and entertain in 2016

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

2016 was a year of record-breaking performances and shocking turns of events in the world of sports. The Chicago Cubs won their first World Series in 108 years, Peyton Manning won a Super Bowl in his last ever football game, and yes, the Warriors blew a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals.

The year was led off by Super Bowl 50, contested by the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers. According to *Sports Illustrated*, the aforementioned Manning was 13-23, throwing for 141 yards and one interception. The star of the game was Broncos linebacker Von Miller, who recorded 2.5 sacks and forced a fumble that was recovered for a touchdown which sealed the game for the Broncos. The final score was 24-10 in favor of Denver.

In the world of golf, it was a year of variety. Four different players from three different countries took home major championship titles. Some highlights included Danny Willett winning the Masters in April after a Jordan Spieth collapse, and a duel between Phil Mickelson and Henrik Stenson at The Open that ended with Stenson breaking the record for lowest score in a major at 20 under par.

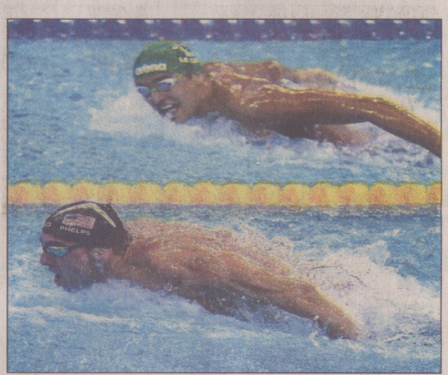
June was the busiest month of the year in sports. The NBA Finals and two major soccer tournaments (the Copa America and Euro 2016) all took place within a span of three weeks in June. The Golden State Warriors and the Cleveland Cavaliers battled for the NBA championship. After the Warriors took a 3 to 1 lead, the Cavaliers won three consecutive games to win the series. In soccer, Chile defeated Argentina in penalty kicks to win the Copa America, while Portugal defeated France 1-0 in the Euro final.

Perhaps the most significant sporting event of the year was the Summer Olympics, which ran from August 5th to August 21st in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Some highlights included Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt sweeping their events in their final Olympic competitions. Bolt swept the 100, 200, and 4x100 relay for the third Olympics in a row, while Phelps captured six medals to cap his historic career in the pool. Another American swimmer named Katie Ledecky also made history, winning four gold medals and one silver medal in her first Olympics. South African Wayde van Niekerk broke the long-standing world record in the men's 400 with a time of 43.03 seconds. The U.S. women's gymnastics team dominated once again, winning the team all-around gold; Simone Biles also won the individual all-around gold medal.

The final major sporting event of 2016 was the 112th World Series. The best-of-7 series was played between the National League Champion Chicago Cubs and the American League Champion Cleveland Indians. Close games and improbable heroes characterized the games of baseball's biggest stage. The Cubs had not won a World Series in 108 years, and the often-ridiculed fanbase was starving for a championship. Despite this, the Cubs fell behind in the series 3 games to 1. As all of America watched (expecting to see Chicago despair for another year), the Cubs rallied back and won an instant-classic game 7 in Cleveland by a score of 8-7 in extra innings to capture the world championship of baseball.

MASHABLE.COM

Lebron James blocks Andre Iguodala in Game 7 of the NBA finals. James led the Cavaliers to their first NBA title in 52 years.



VEJA.ABRIL.COM

Michael Phelps outswims his competition in the 200m butterfly at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Phelps captured six medals in his final Olympics.

TIME.COM

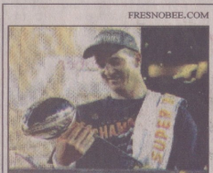
The Chicago Cubs celebrate their first World Series title in 108 years following Game 7 in Cleveland.

2016 made simple

CNN.COM

President Obama called for a state of emergency for Flint Michigan on January 16 as the city began making national headlines for its unsanitary water.

FRESNOBEE.COM



On February 7, the Carolina Panthers took an L against the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl L with a final score of 24-10.

IBTIMES.COM

Trent Harmon became the final *American Idol* on April 7. The show aired for 15 seasons.

MOVIES.DISNEY.COM

Finding Dory, released on June 17, grossed 136.2 million dollars on opening day setting a record among animated films.

WEBMD.COM

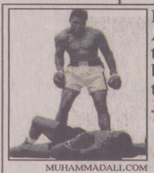
The first confirmed transmission of Zika virus in the United States happened in Texas on February 2.

FOREIGNPOLICYBLOGS.COM

Barack Obama became the first U.S. president to visit Cuba in the last 88 years on March 21.

MIRRIR.CO.UK

Possibly the most beloved gorilla of all time, Harambe of the Cincinnati Zoo, was shot and killed on May 28. The internet exploded.



MUHAMMADALI.COM

Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest boxers of all time, died on June 23.

2016 news and trends

Breaking news of 2016

TAORMINA

Finding Dory, a sequel to the 13 year old *Finding Nemo* was released.

ESPN.COM

Colin Kapernick and several other NFL players began to kneel during the national anthem.

SPACE.COM

The Juno spacecraft, launched in 2011, made it to Jupiter on July 4th.

TALKASIA.COM

India planted 50 million trees in 24 hours in July.

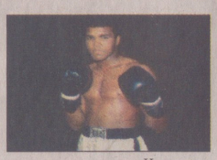
Notable Deaths

CONSEQUENCEOFSOUND.COM

Prince
(Famous Singer)

NEWSWEEK.COM

Gene Wilder
(Original Willy Wonka)



HISTORY.ORG

Muhammed Ali
(Famous Boxer)

MIRROR.COM

Harambe
(Beloved Gorilla)

ETONILNE.COM

Harper Lee
(Author - *To Kill a Mockingbird*)

HEAVY.COM

Ellie Wiesel
(Author - *Night* and concentration camp survivor)

When the internet comes to life

NYMAG.COM

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

The notorious bottle flipping, the uprising of the mannequin challenge, the dying Pokémon Go, and the threat of clowns throughout the year of 2016 have all impacted the world as we know it.

During the school year, the kids of the world have picked up the craze of bottle flipping. It's simple. The person has to have the bottle filled with a certain amount of water, then he or she flips it just at the right time and speed to make it land on the bottom of the bottle. According to the *Charlotte Observer*, this trend came from a talent show in North Carolina from eighteen year old Michael Senatore. Ever since then, kids all of the world cannot get enough of flipping a bottle, whether it be during class or at home. Though some parents find it a waste of time and a useless pastime, according to the *Foundation for Economic Education*, there is actually some meaning behind the game. It helps kids find passion in one subject, whether it be a sport, theater, video games – even a bottle flip. This teaches children to cheer one another on while they are completing the objective, and to also compete against one another, but with no harsh feelings in the end. In conclusion, this activity can be a good thing despite it being annoying to hear constant thudding against multiple surfaces.

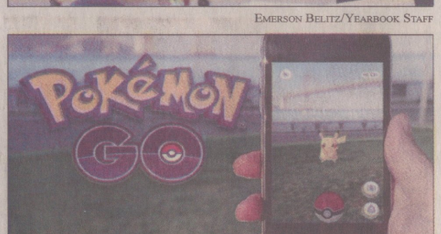
The mannequin challenge has became a huge trend recently where one person will only be moving, and the rest would stay frozen in time as the camera was on them. According to *CNN News*, the first appearance of this challenge was in late October, where it surfaced on Twitter. It's believed it started ath Edward W. White High School in Jackson, Florida. This game is not just only for students, but for famous sports teams, such as the Pittsburgh Steelers and Milwaukee Bucks. There is also a song that is known as the "mannequin challenge song"; no one knows why for sure it is known as that, but people ate it up and used it. The song is originally called "Black Beatles."

From standing still, to walking around for ten hours, Pokémon Go took the summer by its hands, and showed players a new way to play a game. In the beginning of this game, there was 15 million downloads, but according to *Survey Monkey*, on Monday June 11th, there were 21 million people playing the game. According to *Business Insider*, within a month of being out, the game began to decrease in the App Store charts. Starting in July, this game has been the hottest game for only a month and the inventor has been trying to hook more players into getting the game. According to *Recode*, around Thanksgiving weekend, the inventors of the game have been trying to hook the gamers back into the game with new updates. These updates have improved the game by giving easier ways to track down the Pokémon, new Halloween Pokémon, and more levels to reach. Most Pokémon goers are trying out the new updates, giving it another chance and another go. According to *Recode*, the growth of people playing increased since Halloween.

Remember that Great Clown Scare of 2016? All the videos of clowns just threatening human civilization by standing on the corner of streets, under a dim light, watching you – what a time for the United States. According to the *New York Times*, this scare began in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where a creepy looking clown was walking down the streets with balloons in tow, but it was later reported that he was doing it for a horror short. A few weeks later, children in South Carolina were reporting clowns in the woods, waving around money to get them to come out and play. The police investigated this and found nothing. After that, the clown hysteria went into full action. It began to spread all over the United States, and then to the world; most of the "clowns" weren't dangerous, they were there to start pumping adrenaline into the world's blood. Some have been reported with small incidents; a clown did stab a guy in the shoulder, but there was one incident of someone killing a clown. According to *the Verge*, a man stabbed a clown to death due to fear, but it was reported the clown had the mask on top of his head, not his face.

With all the different viral videos and trends for people to do, these were the ones that people picked up and made memorable into the timeline of 2016.

EMERSON BELITZ/YEARBOOK STAFF



YOUTHLOGICX.COM

BUSINESSINSIDER.COM

with these highlights

ZDNET.COM

The citizens of Britain voted to leave the European Union on Thursday, June 23.

LEADERSSPEAK.IN

Olympians took to Rio De Janeiro to represent their countries on August 5 to represent their countries by competing in the 2016 summer Olympics.

THEWEEK.COM

Mayhem took the streets in October when people dressed up as clowns to scare those in their neighborhoods.

CNN.COM

History was made on November 8 when Donald J. Trump pulled off one of the biggest political upsets of all time by defeating Hillary Clinton in the presidential election.

CNET.COM

On July 6, millions went on a journey to catch them all in Pokemon Go. The app has been downloaded over 100 million times.

BLEACHERREPORT.COM

Colin Kaepernick made national headlines on September 1 when he and teammate Eric Reid kneeled during the national anthem.

On November 2, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series to lay the 108 year curse of the billy goat to rest.

NYTIMES.COM

NBA.COM

Lebron James and Michelle Obama pose for a selfie while doing the mannequin challenge at the White House on November 11.

Boys' basketball shoots big

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

As the winter sports begin, one particular team is hoping for high accomplishments. The Scotus boys' basketball team will be chasing a state title. The team has made it to the state tournament the last three years.

"We want to win the state title. Whatever it takes, we'll do it to hang that banner," senior shooting guard Tate VunCannon said.

This year, the season started a little earlier than usual due to an exhibition game. The Scotus boys' basketball team competed against Norfolk High on November 26, 2016. The boys put up a fight against this top team in Class A, but could not bring home the win.

"We gained a sense of urgency playing the exhibition game. We realized we still had work to do before the season began, and it fired up our next few practices," VunCannon said.

The Scotus boys had three days to practice between the exhibition game and their next game.

"We can always improve our defense, our turnovers, and our communication," sophomore point guard Caden Pelan said.

The boys' basketball team has three returning starters: seniors Nathan Ostdiek, Cody Mroczek, and Dalton Taylor.

"This team includes six guys that have been playing together since 5th grade. We have chemistry that no other team in the state will have because of our experience together. Another advantage of our team is that we try to dunk every time we get the chance to," senior combo guard Cody Mroczek said.

The basketball season is just getting started, but the Shamrocks are off to a winning record. The Scotus boys won their first game against St. Cecilia, a team ranked number two in class C-2.

"This win felt good, but we still need to be more productive in our offense," Mroczek said.

Along with defeating St. Cecilia, the boys' team also beat Guardian Angels Central Catholic and Grand Island Central Catholic. The boys beat Grand Island Central Catholic in a thrilling overtime game.

"We are playing really well so far. We have to get better at our free throws, but defensively we've been really good, and offensively we have some guys stepping up and playing better basketball," head boys' basketball coach Tyler Swanson said.

The boys' basketball team did face a unique obstacle this year. Coach Jeff Ohnoutka, the Scotus head basketball coach since 2007, was offered the opportunity to be the president of Scotus Central Catholic, so assistant coach Swanson took his position.

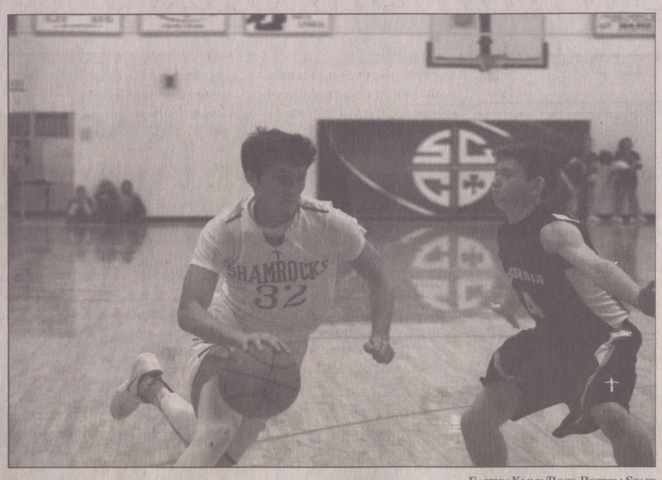
"It's not hard at all. Coach Swanson keeps things pretty much the same, and he's a very good coach. We trust him completely," VunCannon said.

Coach Swanson is facing his own transition by becoming the head coach after being the JV coach for four years.

"So far, it's been good. I'm doing some things differently, and it's been a lot of fun. The team we have this year has been real fun. My role isn't much different other than I'm making more decisions as the head guy instead of the assistant," Swanson said.

The Scotus boys were able to continue their winning record last Friday by defeating Pierce Bluejays 50-30.

The boys will face Fort Calhoun tonight at 7:30pm in Fort Calhoun.



Eastyn Klink/Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Cody Mroczek drives past a Concordia defensive player on December 13th. The Scotus boys' basketball team is still undefeated with a 5-0 record.

Girls endure tough losses

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

The Scotus girls' basketball team has had a season's share of tough breaks in their first few games in action. They currently have a record of 3-2. Their two losses have come by a combined total of three points.

"We're all tired of being average," senior guard Emma Strecker said. "We just want to change Scotus girls' basketball and get over this hump."

The Shamrocks began the season in an unfamiliar fashion, playing an exhibition game against Norfolk High School on November 26th. The game will not count towards either team's record at the end of the season. The scores were reset after every quarter to emphasize the exhibition nature of the game.

"Playing in the exhibition game helped us to get a feel for playing a real game before the season," junior post Shania Borchers explained. "We weren't as nervous going into the first real game because it helped us know what we needed to work on."

The first game of the regular season took place on Thursday, December 1st against the Lady Bluehawks of Hastings St. Cecilia. However, the Shamrocks could not pull out a win on their home court, falling 38-36 in the season opener.

Junior guard Kendra Wiese scored five points in the loss.

"We learned that we have a lot of potential, but we need to learn how to finish games," Wiese stated. "That game drove us to get better and be ready for our next opponent."

The tightly contested matchup had the Dowd Activity Center buzzing.

"The Rowdy Dowdies were awesome for the first home game," junior guard Grace Wickham said. "That is exactly what we need from our student section when games get tough."

The next opponent up on the Shamrocks' schedule happened to be one of the most dominant girls' basketball programs in the past twenty years—Guardian Angels Central Catholic. The game took place on Tuesday, December 6th in West Point. With Scotus up 36-35 and 5 seconds remaining in the 4th quarter, Guardian Angels' Lexis Haase sank two free throws to give her team a one point lead. The Shamrocks turned it over on the ensuing possession and lost the game 37-36.

Junior post Marika Spencer posted a four point, seven rebound performance in the loss.

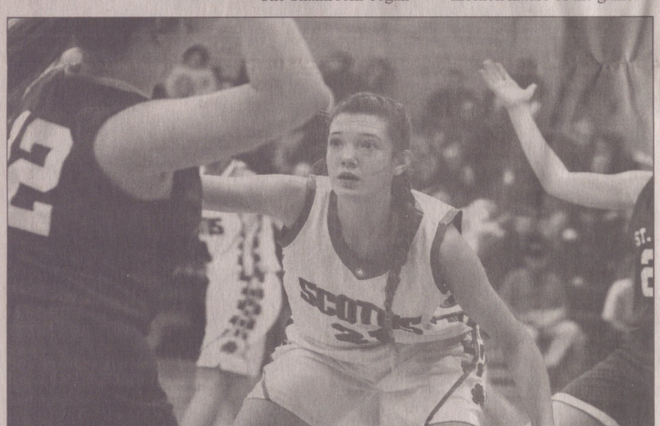
"We know we can compete with good teams," Spencer said. "We just have to work on finishing at the rim and making our free throws, and we can go far."

The Shamrocks were able to get their first win in another close game on Friday, December 9th. They defeated Grand Island Central Catholic 38-37 behind a 15-point performance from Strecker in her first game back from an early-season concussion.

"I came back on Thursday for my first full-contact practice, so I was worried I'd be a little rusty for the game on Friday," Strecker explained. "It was nice being the leading scorer and helping my teammates win the game."

In the following week, the Shamrocks faced three games against quality opponents in Class C-1 and Class B. They began the week with a 39-35 victory over Omaha Concordia, then found more success on Friday night when they faced the Pierce Bluejays. Scotus won the game 33-30, holding the Bluejays to just eleven points in the second half. The Shamrocks were paced on offense by Strecker's nine points.

The girls' basketball team is scheduled to play again tonight at Fort Calhoun, with tip-off scheduled for 6:00 P.M.



Tate VunCannon/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Bailey Lehr defends the ball against Hastings St. Cecilia on December 1st. Lehr led the Shamrocks with 11 points against the Bluehawks.

Wrestlers set lofty goals

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

As the Friday night lights shut off for the last time in 2016, the wrestling mats are rolled out as the Shamrocks look forward to what is hopefully a successful wrestling season. Wrestling head coach Tracy Dodson is optimistic heading into his 6th season as the wrestling head coach for Scotus.

"Our team goals this year are to eat smart, practice hard with good technique, stay out of trouble, keep grades up, and get enough sleep," Dodson said.

Last year, the Shamrocks had five state medalists, and one of those was a state champion.

"Wyatt Gutzmer and Layton Mullinix are the two captains this year. I think they are doing a good job getting everyone on board as far as letting them know what it takes to get to the state tournament and place, and now it will be up to them to show how much work is going to be needed to be a top 5 team or an individual state champion," Dodson added.

The Shamrocks have taken several different steps to improve in the offseason. Some of those steps include competing in offseason competitions such as the Schuyler and York summer leagues.

Team captain Wyatt Gutzmer finished 3rd at state last year.

"We have worked hard as a team to improve. This team is full of surprises, you never really know what to expect," Gutzmer said.

There are eight senior varsity wrestlers this year.

"The transition has gone well for the younger wrestlers. I think the older guys do a good job of taking responsibility to help them out and lead," Gutzmer said.

As for individual goals, Gutzmer has his eyes on the prize this season.

"My main personal goal this year is to become a state champion." Gutzmer said.

Layton Mullinix, another senior team captain, has already had his fair share of success so far this season. Mullinix has only lost one match this season.

"Individually, I want to lose no more than one match and become a state champion this year. My goal for the team is to practice hard and have a better dual record than what we had last year," Mullinix said.

Mullinix finished fourth at the state tournament last year.

"We are not as experienced as we were last year. We used to have a team that for the most part had been wrestling their whole lives, but now we have some kids that have only been wrestling for a few years," Mullinix said.

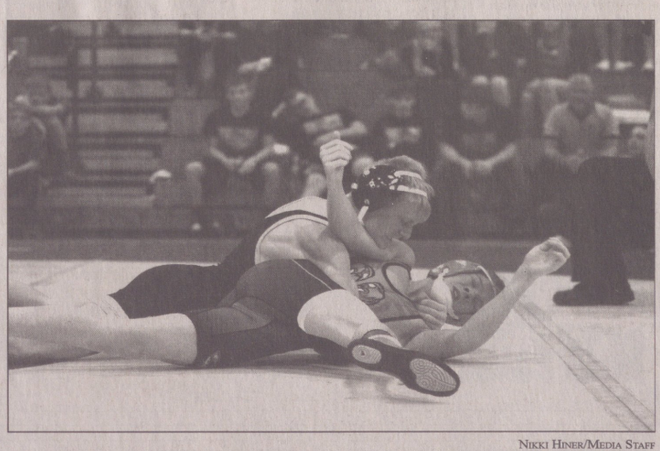
Last year, three of the five medalists at state were seniors. However, Mullinix is confident in those who are stepping up in their absence.

"The younger wrestlers are trying their best in practices and have been improving throughout the year," Mullinix said.

The Shamrocks have home duals this year against Adams Central, Schuyler, and Aurora.

Coach Dodson concluded, "We have three home duals; let's make some noise."

The Shamrocks are undefeated in home duals, and hope to keep that streak alive this year.



Nikki Hiner/Media Staff

Freshman Jacob Weyers works to pin his opponent at the Lakeview Invite on December 2nd. Scotus finished second, and Weyers finished fourth.

Swimmers place high to begin season

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The Scotus swimmers dive into their season along with Columbus High athletes. Seven Scotus swimmers complete the Scotus-CHS coop swim team of forty-three. Being one of the smallest swim teams in the area, many of the Scotus competitors are involved in four to six events. They began their season with many competitors placing in events.

"We're a young team with a lot of potential," sophomore Callan Fuchser said.

To begin the season, the team hosted a dual with Fremont on December 1. The boys lost the meet 110-81 and the girls lost 117-79. Junior Chase Andresen won the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.72s, and junior Trey Dallman placed 3rd in that event with a time of 25.65s.

"As an individual, I did really well for the first meet with a couple of secondary times for state," Andresen said.

Andresen and Dallman, along with Said Mendez and Hunter Hall, two CHS swimmers, competed in and won the 200 freestyle relay and beat the secondary qualifying time for state. They also competed in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:52.16s. They did not win that race, but they beat another secondary time of 1:52.43s.

Andresen also placed 2nd in the 200 individual medley, and Dallman placed 2nd in the 100 butterfly.

"I'm very happy with how I've finished in these meets, and it's exciting to think how I'll finish by the end of the season," Dallman said.

Sophomore Konner Kudron finished 3rd in the 100 freestyle and 2nd in the 100 breaststroke.

For the girls' team, sophomores Julia Salerno and Callan Fuchser along with freshman Emily Miksch placed highly in many events.

"We have a lot of young swimmers excited for what the season will bring. We already had some secondary times for state. That was huge!" Fuchser said.

Salerno, Fuchser, and Miksch, along with another CHS swimmer Mia Janssen, competed in and placed second in both the 200 medley and 200 freestyle relays.

"My relay teams' goal is to qualify for state. We are already very close, so I think we can make it," Miksch said.

Salerno finished in 3rd place in the 50 free with a time of 28.83s while Fuchser came in 4th with a time of 29.44s. In the 100 freestyle, Miksch came in 2nd with a time of 1:04.31s followed by Salerno with a time of 1:06.34.

"I thought this meet went well based on the fact that it was our first meet. I'm really proud of everyone. Our times were good and keep getting better," Salerno said.

Fuchser competed in the 100 backstroke with a 3rd place finish, and Miksch placed 2nd in the 100 breaststroke.

"I've been placing fairly well at my meets. I'm very happy with how I started off my season, but I still have a long way to meet my personal goals," Miksch said.

The team traveled to Hastings for an invite on December 3. Andresen and Dallman competed in the 200 medley relay finishing 4th. This was one of four fourth place finishes for the Discoverers. They also took 4th in the 200 freestyle relay.

"The Hastings meet was a tough one since most of the teams in our conference were there and there was a lot of tough competition," Dallman said. "The team didn't finish how we had wanted to, but our varsity swimmers did amazing, and a couple of us even medaled."

Andresen finished 5th in the 100 breaststroke. He finished 4th in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.00s, getting a secondary qualifying time.

"The Hastings meet was more mentally difficult because of the good competition," Andresen said.

Dallman placed 5th in the 100 backstroke, and Kudron placed 5th in the 400 relay with his team.

For the girls, Salerno, Fuchser, and Miksch placed 4th in the 200 Medley relay. These three competed in the 200 freestyle as well placing 5th. Miksch also placed 5th in the 100 breaststroke.

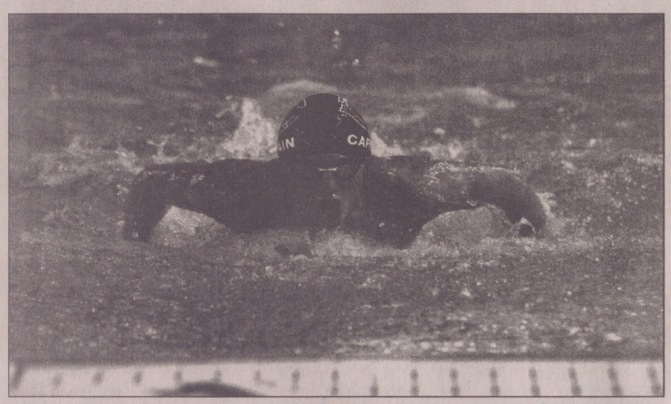
"As a smaller team, it is harder to place overall," Miksch said, "but, individually, we had a few people place 4th and 5th in their own specialties, which is very good for a small team."

The team hosted the Columbus relays on December 10 and both teams place 5th overall. Miksch competed in the 400 medley relay with her teammates that placed 3rd. She was also in the 200 freestyle relay that placed 2nd. Fuchser and Salerno were also a part of the 200 freestyle relay team.

Andresen and Dallman were part of the 200 freestyle relay that finished in 2nd place.

"What I am looking forward to the most this season is bonding and getting closer with my team and hopefully getting to swim at state with them," Salerno concluded.

The Discoverers' next home meet will be a dual on January 7 against South Sioux City.



Cassie Seckel/Media Staff

Junior Chase Andresen swims the butterfly in the Columbus Relays. The team finished 5th overall in the meet.

Powerlifting pushes towards success

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

In only its second year at Scotus, the powerlifting program has found success as a newer extracurricular activity among high school students. Powerlifting, a new program at Scotus Central Catholic, has grown in popularity and numbers exponentially from this year to last. The 25 athletes participating this year all have different motives for participating.

"I went out last year to get stronger for football," senior Will Sonderman said.

Abbie Perault, another senior powerlifter, had a significantly different reason for participating this year.

"I have always loved to lift, so when I decided not to play basketball this year, I thought I should try powerlifting and see how it goes," Perault said.

Much like wrestling, participants are split up into different weight classes and compete against athletes from all four classes. An athlete's score is created by adding their squat, bench, and deadlift together.

Unlike many other high school sports that practice every day, either before or after school, the powerlifting team has practice every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

"Monday is squat day, Tuesday is bench day, and Thursday is deadlift day," Sonderman said. "Each practice, we do the main lift along with assist lifts that help us with our main lift."

Powerlifting is not an NSAA sponsored sport, so technically it is considered a "club" at Scotus. Club or not, powerlifting participates in multiple meets leading up to the state meet. This year, there are two returning state medalists from last year's team. One of those was junior Brandon Huynh.

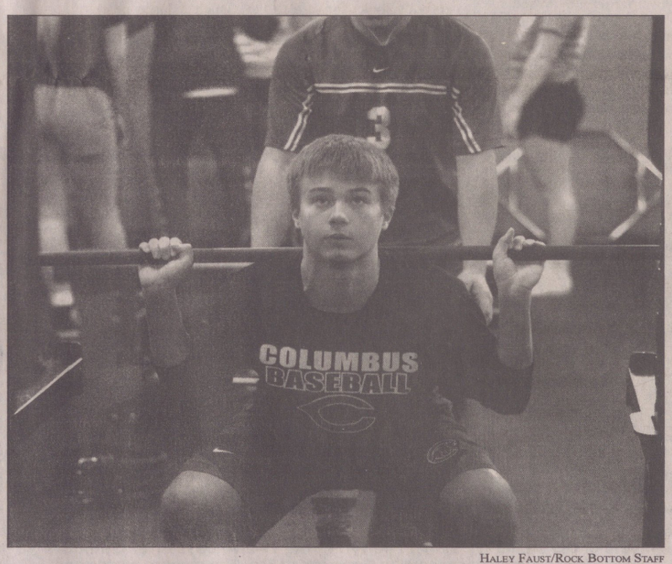
"Last season I was stronger than ever," Huynh said. "I've become much more explosive which helps me a lot for track and football."

Last year, the powerlifting program's berth was an undeniably successful one. A handful of lifters went to the state competition and returned with medals. Huynh and Sonderman along with 2016 Scotus graduates Savanah Robertson, Nathan Tworek and Ryan Mustard all returned with top three places in their weight classes with Sonderman, Tworek, and Robertson all claiming state titles.

The powerlifting team travels to several meets this year including invites at Creighton Prep, Peru State College, Omaha Central, and eventually the state competition. The goals of the athletes, however, pertain to their own personal marks as well as bringing home hardware.

"I hope to, overall, improve throughout the season and bring home medals from each meet. Depending on how the season goes, I hope to compete at state and hopefully place as well," Perault said.

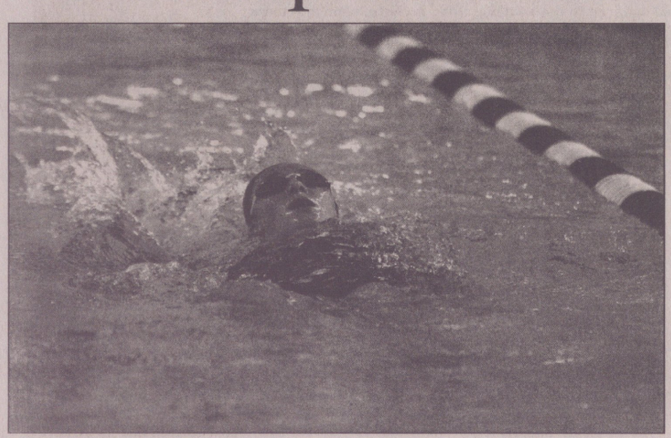
Powerlifting gives students at Scotus an opportunity to participate in a winter sport who don't want to wrestle, swim, or play basketball. The powerlifting club has its first meet at Creighton Preparatory School on January 14th.



Haley Faust/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Calen Hinze squats during Powerlifting practice. The team's first meet is on January 14th at Creighton Prep.

Bonus photos from winter sports



Landri Swett/Media Staff

Sophomore Julia Salerno swims the backstroke in the 2016 Columbus Relays. The girls' team finished 5th place overall.

Megan Ohnoutka/Media Staff

Sophomore Abbie Zoucha drives past her defender against Hastings St. Cecilia on December 1st. The Bluehawks defeated the Shamrocks 38-36.

Mock Trial falls short at state

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Six courtrooms in the Lancaster county courthouse experienced a change of scenery on December 6th and 7th. The voices of attorneys arguing cases and making objections were replaced with the voices of high school students.

After defeating the Scotus junior team to achieve a district championship, the Scotus senior team advanced to the state meet for the second year in a row.

"I feel like we did much better than last year!" witness Courtney Flint said. "We were more comfortable and confident than last year. We competed to the best of our ability."

At state, each team competes in the three rounds, two on the first day, and one on the second. Then, the top two teams compete in an additional round to determine the state champion. Scotus competed against Ainsworth in the first round.

"Last year, Ainsworth got fourth, and we got fifth, so we knew going into the trial that they would be tough. It was a very close and competitive trial," attorney Haley Faust explained.

The team then competed in another close trial against York, who finished 7th in the 2015 state competition.

"We did really well against York, and it was a really fun round," witness Maddie Sinovic recalls. "The lawyers were so loud and commanding that all three of their lawyers apologized to me for being mean while I was on the witness stand."

The trial with York concluded the first day of the state competition. After the first day, the team came out in the top four and were paired with Duchesne Academy, who has won the state meet the past two years and finished in the top two nationally as well.

Flint said, "The trial with Duchesne was our most fun trial! It is always fun to go against Duchesne because we are very competitive against them."

The trial against Duchesne was much different for Scotus than the other trials they have competed in this year. Before each trial, it is determined which team will be the Prosecution, the State of Nebraska in this year's case, and which team will be the Defense. Up until their last trial, Scotus had only represented the State of Nebraska.

"This trial [with Duchesne] was the first time we ever did Defense," witness Zach Sevehla explained. "It was a lot of fun, and I thought we did great."

Unlike the district competition, overall team standings at the state competition are determined by ballots, votes cast by scoring judges each trial. After falling to Duchesne, the team came up short on total ballots and were not able to make the top four teams. They received honorable mention.

"Going into the state meet, we really wanted to be in the top four. Hearing our name called as honorable mention was a little disappointing, but considering the teams we went against, I think we did the best that we could," Faust said. "I am really proud of my team."

The state competition marks the end of the road for the senior mock trial team.

"I am incredibly grateful for mock trial, and I will greatly miss it," Sinovic said. "It has taught me so many valuable things that I can use for the rest of my life. I always had a fun time in mock trial, and as always, rock the mock!"

PHOTO COURTESY HALEY FAUST

Senior mock trial team members Zach Svehla, Alison Zoucha, Courtney Flint, Megan Schumacher, Nikki Hiner, Haley Faust, and Maddie Sinovic pose for a picture outside of the Lancaster county courthouse. The team competed in the state mock trial competition for the second year in a row.

Band and singers spread Christmas cheer

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

With the Christmas season arriving, one tradition that Scotus has is the Christmas band and vocal concerts.

This year the band had their Christmas concert on December 19th. A total of 127 band students, grades 5-12, performed. These band members had been preparing for the Christmas concert since mid-October.

This is Kristin Cox's 23rd Christmas band concert that she has directed at Scotus. Over the years, she and the band have added some traditions to the Christmas concert including decorating the gym with Christmas decorations and providing cookies for everyone to enjoy afterwards.

Cox commented, "Everybody looks forward to the cookies afterwards. I think it is a nice way to end the Christmas concert and end the semester: everybody performs, has a treat, and you get to visit with each other for a little bit after the concert."

This year, Cox added a twist to the band concert.

Cox said, "The high school band did one song that was a little bit different and nontraditional. It's more of a marching song, but we put it on the concert. The reason we did that is because we have such a large percussion section, and they're very good, and I wanted to do a song that incorporated all of them for the entire song, so we decided, why not?"

Senior percussionist Tatem Vance has been in band for eight years.

"My favorite part is hearing all the positive feedback we get from parents and the audience," Vance commented.

Senior trumpet player Crystal Rinkol has also been in band for eight years.

Rinkol said, "The Christmas concert is probably the best concert because everyone is in the spirit of Christmas so they're all excited to hear the band play Christmas songs."

The singers also had their Christmas concert on December 15th. There were about 125 students who performed at this year's Christmas concert, grades 5-12. The singers had also been preparing for their Christmas concert since October.

This year was Miss Salyard's second year as the music director at Scotus.

Salyard said, "[My favorite part is] picking the music. I have to look at what I have for students and what their capabilities are. What are they going to learn from this? What can they do well, and what's something that we can work towards with this piece?"

This year the singers had a few challenging songs to prepare for in order to perform well.

Senior Alayna Wilson commented, "I love putting together a new piece and listening to it when it gets perfected."

A concluding thought from the movie *Elf*, as Buddy the elf would say, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing [or playing] loud for all to hear!"

TATE VUNCANNON/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Members of the Shamrock Singers perform "The Twelve Days After Christmas" at their annual Christmas concert on December 15th. The singers performed four songs during the concert.

TATE VUNCANNON/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seventh grade students sing one of their two songs at the annual Christmas vocal concert on December 15th. The students were directed by Ms. Laura Salyard.

Secret santas suprise teachers

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

In December, the halls of Scotus glistens with Christmas cheer and gifts appear from Secret Santas. Scotus' Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) puts together the Secret Santa activity. This year, 46 students signed up to be a Santa to a staff member, giving them gifts every day.

Patti Salyard is one of the FBLA leaders who puts this activity together and tries to gather enough students every year.

"This year is one of the higher numbers [of students in SS]. We usually need at least 40 every year, and to have 46 students; it helps us," Salyard said.

This excitement in school is nothing new, it has become a tradition even before Salyard's time. FBLA has been hosting this Christmas activity a week or two before semesters. Mrs. Salyard has been doing Secret Santas for twenty-two years, plus the time that Jane Went started years ago.

Staff members have to complete a worksheet from Mrs. Salyard, which helps with ideas for the students to get, but they can also just surprise the staff member with something new and exciting considering that most staff just appreciate the gifts that they get.

"[Some of the gifts I received from my Secret Santa were] wonderful things! Today I got candy canes, pencils, cashews, and Mary from the nativity set. I also got a notepad that holds pictures yesterday with some lotion," English teacher Becki Zanardi said.

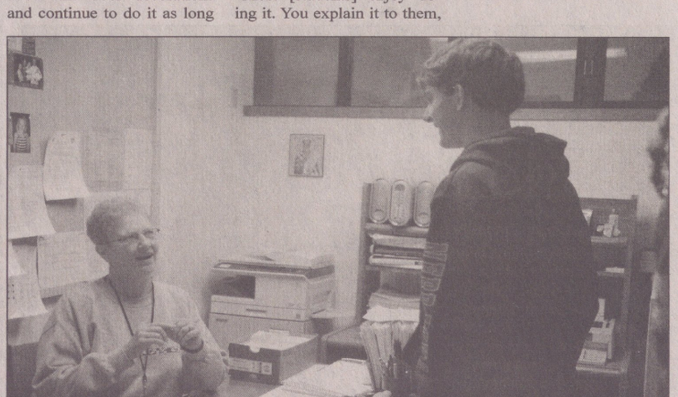
Not only teachers, but staff members are included as well.

"So far I got a religious sticker stain that can be put up on a wall or window. I got some cookie mix in a jar, with a tiny snowman cutter," office secretary Lori Hergott added.

FBLA members get points for doing this extra activity. With every gift they give and a clue to their teacher or staff member, they get three points. If they do it every day of the week, including the clue, they will get a total of fifteen points at the end of the week. This determines for Mrs. Salyard if they go to State Leadership Conference in April.

Besides Secret Santas, FBLA also goes around Scotus, decorating each door with Christmas décor. This idea was brought up two summers ago by some FBLA officers who thought it would be a good idea to decorate the staff's doors with some cheer. FBLA received compliments about the door decorations and continue to do it as long as everyone enjoys it.

Salyard concluded, "Most [students] enjoy doing it. You explain it to them, they have fun with it and they come back."



HANNAH MIELAK/YEARBOOK STAFF

Secret santa Zach Svehla gives his last gift to activities secretary Annette Hash. Over 46 students were secret santas this year.

Around the halls of Scotus

Keaton Kudron/Yearbook Staff

Senior NHS member Megan Schumacher organizes candy cane slips. The National Honor Society sold Christmas greetings around the school the week of December 5th through December 9th.

Mitchell Halligan/ Yearbook Staff

Senior Tyler Brandenburg feeds his baby as part of Child Development class. The students in this class found out that it is harder than it looks to be a parent.

Cassie Seckel/ Media Staff

Seventh grader Halle Langan blows bubbles in paint for an art project. It is the first time art teacher Lindsay Dannelly has done this project with her students.

Kaylee Tonniges/ Yearbook Staff

Seventh grader Carson Hoefer holds a fox snake during Mrs. Lahm's Life Science class. The snakes were found in a home and Mark Seier was asked to take them.

Kaylee Tonniges/ Yearbook Staff

Seventh grader Zoe LeVier laughs as a leopard gecko crawls on her face. Mark Seier, Vijay and Nate Wemhoff's grandpa, brought the snakes and geckos to Mrs. Lahm's science class.

Hannah Mielak/ Yearbook Staff

Senior Nikki Hiner and Jessica Buhman dissect their cat in Anatomy and Physiology class. The seniors began dissecting cats on December 15th and will continue after Christmas break.

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Coffee cures the cold

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

In the cold winter weather, coffee or hot chocolate are two items that help warm me up, and luckily, there are a variety of coffee shops in Columbus, Nebraska. The four main coffee shops are Scooters, Starbucks, 38th Street Coffee, and Sip. Each of these coffee places offer a different environment, service, quality, menu, and price, so I decided to go and try each one.

Scooters is the newest coffee shop in town. Scooters is the place to go if you are in a hurry, or if you do not want to get out of your car. It is the only drive-thru coffee place in Columbus. The service is fast and polite. Scooters also has a variety of different items on their menu. They serve hot drinks, iced drinks, blenders, smoothies, teas, food, and a healthy side of the menu. I decided to try out the white chocolate mocha at Scooters, and the price for a 16 ounce cup was $4.87. Scooters is my favorite place to go during the freezing winter because I receive my coffee without ever leaving my warm car.

Starbucks is the oldest coffee shop in town, and it is located in Hy-Vee. I get Starbucks if I am going grocery shopping, or if I am on that side of town. The environment is kind of busy and loud. It is not a place to go and sit down with some friends. Personally, Starbucks is my least favorite coffee shop because I have to walk into a grocery store to get my coffee when I could go through the drive-thru or sit in a cozy atmosphere. The service is quick, and the workers are friendly. Starbucks offers expresso, coffee, tea, iced coffee, refreshers, frappuccinos, baked goods, all-day breakfast, and a variety of snacks. I ordered the white chocolate mocha at Starbucks as well, and it cost $4.45 for a grande, which is 16 ounces.

The 38th Street Coffee shop is located across from the Columbus Community Hospital. When you walk in to this shop, there is quiet music playing, a variety of chairs and couches to sit on, and a fireplace to sit next to. The workers welcome you into their shop, take your order, and bring your order to you wherever you are sitting. This place is definitely my favorite place to go when I want to sip on some coffee and relax because the environment is comfortable. The menu consists of hot drinks, cold drinks, lunch items, paninis, wraps, soup, and some baked goods. As usual, I ordered the white chocolate mocha in a 16 ounce cup, and it cost $3.90. This cost was cheaper than Starbucks by about 55 cents, and it was also 97 cents cheaper than Scooters.

Sip is located downtown in the basement of Imagine That. When you attend Sip, you have to walk down the steps and take a right towards the counter. The service was slower than the other shops, but the workers were still nice. Sip offers the most flavors when it comes to expresso drinks, hot drinks, and smoothies. They also offer baked goods and some refrigerated snacks and drinks. Sip is my favorite coffee shop to go to when I want to try something different because they have so many options to choose from. I also think they have the best smoothies in town. I ordered the white chocolate mocha again in the 16 ounce cup, and it cost $4.40. After receiving my white mocha, I could have sat in the chairs and tables right by the counter or the comfier couches and chairs down the hall. Sip is similar to 38th Street Coffee, but it is not as cozy.

Scooters definitely has the highest priced items in town, and 38th Street Coffee has the cheapest prices. Both Sip and 38th Street coffee were cheaper than Starbucks and Scooters, and they each offered a better environment as well.

Each of these coffee shops have their own unique characteristics. Scooters and Starbucks are suited for the people who are in a hurry, and people who are not going to sit down and interact with friends. Sip and 38th Street Coffee are both places to attend with some friends to sip on some hot or cold beverages.

After tasting the white mocha from each of these coffee shops, I do not think there is a big difference between the qualities. Instead of choosing what coffee shop to attend by the taste, you should decide by the kind of atmosphere you want.

On the cold, snowy days of this winter, each of these coffee shops would be great places to go and order some hot coffee, cocoa, or even a little treat.

EASTYN KLINK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The Christmas decorated Starbucks shop is located at the front of Hyvee. They offer reserved parking stalls for those going to Starbucks.

EASTYN KLINK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The newest coffee shop in town, Scooter's, is located on 23rd Street across from Burger King.

EASTYN KLINK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sip Expresso Bar is located at 1354 27th Avenue beneath Imagine That. It offers comfortable chairs and couches to sit in.

EASTYN KLINK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The inside of 38th Street Coffee has a variety of chairs and tables to relax at and is located alongside of Highland Park Church.

Highly anticipated movies of 2016

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Every year comes with more and more surprises in the film industry, including movies and T.V. shows. This year has been one that was filled with highly anticipated movies.

Here is a highlight of the movies that broke records this year good and bad.

In the movie industry, according to Box Office Mojo, *Finding Dory*, the highly anticipated *Finding Nemo* squeal, topped the box office for 2016 with $486,276,316. It beat *Captain America: Civil War*, the movie when Steve Rogers finally gets sick of Tony Stark's shenanigans, by more than $80,000,000. In third came *The Secret Life of Pets*, in which a dog gets into trouble when another dog comes home, and causes havoc in his life, with close to $370,000,000. *The Jungle Book*, the latest Disney live action remake, beat *Deadpool*, the origin story of Wade Wilson becoming Deadpool, for the fourth place spot by just $1,000,000.

Honorable mentions from the rest of the top ten go to *Zootopia*, in which a bunny goes to Zootopia to become a cop and befriends a fox to help solve a large mystery. *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* hits seventh place, where two heroes go head to head thinking one of them is the bad guy. In eighth place, *Suicide Squad*, signing up bad guys to protect the earth from other bad guys. *Doctor Strange*, in ninth, the origin story of Dr. Stephen Strange gaining magic powers to save the realms. Finally, *Jason Bourne*, the return of Jason Bourne back to the big screen.

Of course, movies that are highly anticipated sometimes end up being a major flop, not only with the box office, but with reviewers as well.

Some of the 2016 flops that were highly anticipated include *The BFG*, in which a child finds out that the bigger the person, doesn't mean they are mean; *Ben-Hur*, a revenge story for a family accused of treason; and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, the sequel of Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland, in which Alice returns to find the Hatter in an unstable state and goes out to save him.

2016 obviously isn't over yet. There are still many more movies that are due to release through the holidays. Movies like *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, *Sing*, *Assassin's Creed*, and *The Space Between Us* all are highly anticipated movies to give 2016 a nice wrap up and to prepare for the 2017 madness. *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* is a prequel to the main series of people getting together to steal plans for the Death Star. *Sing* is a contest of different animals that need help getting their voices heard. *Assassin's Creed* is the live action adaptation of the popular video game series *Assassin's Creed*. *The Space Between Us* is a love story between a boy born on Mars and a girl from Earth. He goes to meet her in person, but slowly starts dying from the different atmosphere.

The upcoming year shows potential for more record breaking movies. Movies to look forward to the next year include a shoot back to everyone's childhood favorite *Power Rangers* in March, a silly take on the life of the caped crusader *The Lego Batman Movie* in February, the live action Disney movie, *Beauty and the Beast* in March, for the horror fans, *Annabelle 2* in May, the DC Universe finally combined, *Justice League* in November, and the reimagined take of *Jumanji* in December.

This year was a success for the movie industry with a few movies some would love to forget. The coming years show just as much potential if not more.

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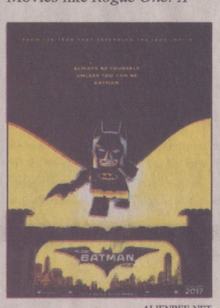

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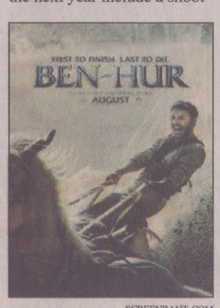

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Rock Bottom

The boys' basketball team continues on their path to the state tournament.

Sports 6 & 7

Scotus Central Catholic Volume 17 • Issue IV • February 7, 2017 Columbus, Nebraska 68601
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Scotus students march for the voiceless

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

"When I say, pro, you say, life! Pro! Life!" Chants like this could be heard from the 800,000 protestors at the March for Life this year.

Nearly forty Scotus students marched for the right to life in Washington D.C. at this year's annual March for Life.

"I marched this year because I wanted to give a voice to those who don't have one," senior Naomi Kosch said. "All life has value regardless of their social status, race, and lack of development."

The March for Life was powerful for many of the students that went.

"My favorite experience was seeing people on the March and witnessing their conversion of heart was a good experience," senior Tatem Vance said.

The students marched all the way to the Senate House in Washington D.C.

"During the March, there were people on the streets holding signs that said, 'I regret my abortion' and 'I regret my lost fatherhood'," senior Mallory O'Hearn said. "This hit me because it was incredibly brave of them to do that, and I think that speaks volumes for women who think pro-lifers don't understand."

Students left on Wednesday, January 25th and spent a week touring Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. However, the climax of the pilgrimage for many was praying in front of an open abortion clinic in Philadelphia.

"It is one thing to hear about abortions and Planned Parenthood, but it is another to actually see girls going into Planned Parenthood to get an abortion," O'Hearn said. "It makes it so much more real and makes us that much more passionate about being pro-life and standing up for life."

Students stayed at the abortion clinic for more than an hour.

"Praying for the women, workers, and babies at Planned Parenthood was very powerful," Kosch commented.

Some other stops the pilgrims made were the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the National Shrine of St. Katherine Drexel, the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, and Reading Terminal, which gave the students a short break from the pilgrimage.

"The Reading Terminal was awesome!" said senior Anthony Sprunk. "It was fascinating to see hundreds of people of different cultures and food in one place."

Although the students are on a bus ride for more than twenty hours going to the March, they traveled with their friends and students from other schools.

"The bus ride was really fun," senior Alison Zoucha said. "I was surrounded by my friends so we got to play games, talk, jam to music, and have fun."

The students attend the March in hopes that their protests will end abortion.

"I hope one day when abortion is illegal I can tell my children that I helped end this holocaust of over 54 million innocent children," Kosch said.

For anyone considering attending the March for Life next year, many students from Scotus will tell anyone wanting to go that it is completely worth it.

"I think that the March for Life is an once-in-a-lifetime experience and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity," senior Emerson Belitz said. "There's nothing like standing up for what you believe in."

KEATON KUDRON/YEARBOOK STAFF

A group of Scotus students marches along with other members of the Archdiocese of Omaha at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. There were 800,000 people in attendance at the March for Life this year.

Crisis team implements new safety protocol

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

Scotus has recently adopted a new protocol for emergency responses called SRP, which stands for Standard Response Protocol. This comes from the "I Love U Guys" Foundation that was started after Emily Keyes was held hostage and killed by a shooter who came into her high school on September 27th, 2006. While being held hostage with six other girls, she texted her parents "I love you guys" and "I love u guys. k?". The parents of Emily, Ellen and John-Michael Keyes, started this foundation in an attempt to help in any way possible.

The I love u guys foundation has a precise mission in place. According to their website, "The 'I Love U Guys' Foundation was created to restore and protect the joy of youth through educational programs and positive actions in collaboration with families, schools, communities, organizations and government entities."

See **SAFETY**, Page 2

Wilson competes for crown

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

Many students at Scotus participate in a variety of activities outside of school. One particular student is senior Alayna Wilson.

On January 13-15, 2017, Wilson competed in the Miss Nebraska Teen USA pageant.

"I wanted to try something new," Wilson said.

In order to participate in the pageant, all contestants had to send in an application and be approved by a selection committee. There were two separate pageants going on at the same time: Miss Nebraska Teen USA pageant and Miss Nebraska USA pageant.

"There were a total of 22 teen contestants and 18 miss contestants," Wilson said.

Contestants from all over Nebraska traveled to Omaha's Rose Theatre to compete for the crown.

"I prepared for the pageant by staying active, eating healthy, studying interview questions, and practicing my walk many times," Wilson said.

Each contestant of the Miss Teen Nebraska USA and Miss Nebraska USA had to walk on stage wearing a variety of outfits, so the judges could critique and eliminate some women the first night.

"The categories of the pageant were active wear, interviews, and evening gown. My favorite category was the evening gown portion because I loved my dress," Wilson said.

On the second day of the pageant, the contestants and audience found out who the ten contestants were that would compete again. After the ten contestants competed, five of them were chosen to be finalists.

"I was a semi-finalist and Miss Congeniality," Wilson said.

The five finalists then had to complete an interview on stage by answering one question from one of the contestants and another question from a judge.

"My favorite part about the pageant was meeting so many new people," Wilson said.

On both days of the pageant, the contestants had to do a variety of activities as a group until it was time to do their own hair and make-up for the competition.

"My least favorite part about the pageant days was having to wake up at 5:30 in the morning," Wilson said.

This was Wilson's first pageant, and she is planning to compete in the Miss Twin Rivers/Sandhills Pageant in North Platte on February 5, 2017.

"It was an experience I will never forget," Wilson said.

PHOTO COURTESY ALAYNA WILSON

Senior Alayna Wilson is awarded Miss Congeniality at the Miss Nebraska Teen USA pageant on January 14, 2017. Wilson was one of twenty-two contestants and advanced to the top ten.

SAFETY

The Nebraska State Department of Education introduced this protocol just this school year. In September, the crisis and safety committee chairperson Janet Tooley went to the training at the Educational Service Unit in Columbus.

Tooley commented, "We really were ahead of the curve. What we were doing in our building, we have been doing for over ten years now, and our original training came from John Dudley, who is renowned in this field and is nationally known."

Tooley brought her training back to the rest of the faculty, who were trained before Thanksgiving break. After the faculty was trained, the students were trained when they returned from Christmas break.

"Basically the only thing that has changed from what we were doing was it has made the emergency calls over the loud speaker consistent. So instead of saying, 'Intruder in the building, lockdown', which is what we used to say, to be consistent it would now be, 'Lockdown. Locks. Lights. Out of sight. Lockdown. Locks. Lights. Out of sight.'" Tooley said, "Probably one of the major changes is to train that if you are going to leave the building you need to make sure you're safe, and, once you leave the building, you need to make contact with your family and the police department so that we are accountable that you are not in the building and that you are safe."

Previously the students were trained by different teachers in individual classrooms, but this year, the crisis team took a different approach.

Tooley commented, "The PowerPoint training was really good for the students as well as the staff because everybody got the same message delivered in the same way, so I think everyone's on the same page."

On the first day of the second semester, two grades at a time gathered in the little theater for one class period to receive the PowerPoint training given by Tooley.

Senior Alyssa Kuta commented, "No school ever thinks it will happen to them. I think it's important for every school to address these kinds of things."

After the training, the students went through a practice teaching drill in mid-January and Scotus will be doing a practice drill in the spring to simulate what would be done in an emergency situation.

"We are just living in a society that has become more violent, and we can't live in bubble wrap. We still need to go out and live our lives, but I think that this not only helps increase our chances of being safe in an emergency situation at school, but also when we're out in public," Tooley said. "Some of the same things that we utilize in our building could also be utilized by the students when they're out in the work force someday."

For further information about SRP or the I love u guys foundation, there is a link to their website on Scotus' homepage.

HTTP://ILOVEUGUYS.ORG/SRP.HTML

Lockout, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter are the four actions that are taught in the standard response protocol. The crisis team adopted and trained staff in this new emergency response protocol this school year.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Mrs. Angie Rusher

Editor:
Tate VunCannon

Staff writers:
Kira Dreher
Haley Faust
Matt Hoenk
Eastyn Klink
Mallory O'Hearn
Amberly Parker
Kaylie Rocha
Emma Ruskamp
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Presidential protests prove to be pointless

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The American population has never been more divided than it is right now. Okay, besides the Civil War. That happened. Since the presidential election on November 8th of last year, there have been many protests against the results. I absolutely support free speech in the United States. However, what I do not support are the people who throw temper tantrums that create unproductive violence and go against the democratic election process which we are so lucky to have. And what came of all of this nonsense? Absolutely nothing. Donald Trump is officially the 45th President of the United States regardless if you support him or not.

This is not a defense of one candidate or the other, but rather a defense of common sense. Most of those who engaged in political discussion in the last election cycle were reasonable and productive. Unfortunately, from a media standpoint, that doesn't sell. Instead, what we saw was the people who by most, would be considered rather hateful and intolerant. These people exist in both major parties in the United States. Fortunately for all of us, they are a small percentage of Americans.

What do these people look like? Well, they're actually surprisingly easy to spot out. You can find them in metropolitan areas rioting, destroying private property, and physically attacking those who have different beliefs than their own. You may see them holding Mexican flags while screaming, "Not my president." Whether or not these people are actually aware what country they're in, I'm not really sure. One of the great traditions in the United States is the peaceful transfer of power, and it should be respected by both candidates and citizens.

Most of the rioters are Millennials, meaning that they were born between the years 1980 and 2000. As a Millennial, I feel like I know many of the flaws that my generation has. The problem is, when many Millennials don't get their way, they throw temper tantrums because they're used to getting what they want without having to work for it. They don't understand the value of a free election because they've never been alive during a World War when a dictatorship threatened their very way of life.

Aside from going against American values, the protests are also completely unproductive. Even in a dream scenario for those who were protesting, there was absolutely no potential for change whatsoever. What was done was already done, and no amount of destruction or violence could have changed the results of the election.

How these people don't see the amount of irony in their actions is beyond me. All year these same people denounced supporters of the winning candidate as "hateful" and "intolerant". So what's the first thing they do when they lose? They engage in rampant hateful intolerance. It is this very behavior that hurts the candidate that they support and their political party in the long run. Even if the candidate they support doesn't condone violence or destruction, undecided voters see the actions of their followers and directly associate it to the candidate or their political party.

It is great that our generation is involved in the political process. However, I feel that much of our energy is being aimed in the wrong direction. Protesting free elections does not fall in line with American values, and neither does punching someone in the face at a rally because you don't like the color of their skin. The problem is not Democrats versus Republicans, but rather intolerance versus common sense.

Instead of spending time creating mayhem, more people should focus on the issues at hand. The Middle East is destabilized, there is a shrinking middle class, unemployment figures are affecting families by the thousands, and a majority of citizens in the United States agree that race relations are at their worst in over a decade. We should be using our free speech in a more productive way than trying to undermine the will of the people, in this election and in every election to come in the future. Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or an Independent, you are an American first. All Americans should show respect for the leader of the free world despite their political affiliation.

Take a moment of silence

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

Do you hear that? It's the sound of sweet silence, although you may not be able to hear it most of the time. Our world is constantly filled with noise, and we can rarely get away from it.

People need to understand that silence is okay, contrary to the belief that it makes for awkward situations.

In this day and age, there is almost always some kind of noise around us, whether it be the sound of people talking, the sound of cars, or someone smacking their gum. We hardly ever get away from it all. Even the times that we do get away from the commotion, we tend to create sound for ourselves because silence is foreign to us. A perfect example of this is when people turn on the TV for background noise; it would've been quiet, but people feel like they need the background noise even when they aren't watching it. It does seem, though, that there are even more people who feel uncomfortable when there is silence in social situations.

Whenever there is even just a moment of quiet in a social situation, it tends to be labeled as an awkward silence, when, in reality, it doesn't have to be awkward. Now don't get me wrong, sometimes silence can be awkward, but it is really only awkward when the people make it awkward. People today cannot stand just being in silence with nothing to do. An example that many people can probably relate to is being in a waiting room, waiting for a friend to go to the bathroom at the mall, or a similar situation. In these instances, people often feel uncomfortable with the silence, so they go on their phone or do something to fill the time and silence.

Even when people are not literally talking to someone, they tend to be on social media talking to people, or interacting with peoples' posts. Social media brings us a different type of noise. This "noise" fills our brains even though it may actually be quiet around us. We do this because we may be uncomfortable with the absence of sound, and we fill it in a different way.

Although silence may seem uncomfortable sometimes, it can also be great in many ways. Many people think of silence as a necessity for studying or sleeping, but it can also be beneficial in situations that we don't often think of. When it is quiet and there is nothing for us to do, it can give us time to think. This year for Mrs. Zanardi's senior Accelerated English class, we had a media detox for a week. During this week, I could not fill the silence with TV, my phone, or music. This gave me quite a bit of time to think, pray, read, and do things that I normally wouldn't have done if I would have had the ability to fill the quiet.

People hate the stillness of silence and always try to fill it. There are definitely people who feel they always have to be talking or making noises to fill the quiet, which can be super irritating. It really is not necessary to always be talking or making noises.

Some people just don't like silence and would rather be talking or have background noise, which is okay, but I think that everyone needs at least some time to get away from all the noises and distractions and just have silence. There are plenty of times where we have noise, so when we finally get an opportunity for peace, we should take advantage of it and not try to fill it with noise.

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Don't be afraid to inspire

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

Inspiration comes in many forms and can come from a variety of places. Anymore, everyone walking this earth needs inspiration, a spark to make their lives worth something, that life is doable.

Everyone should have a person who motivates them; a person who will listen to their problems, and a person who can give helpful advice.

I believe you have to inspire and motivate someone, even if it is in the smallest way possible – it can make a huge difference in someone's day.

One way I inspire people is through Snapchat. It's a popular app among teens, and I quite enjoy seeing funny selfies or animal photos from people around the world. It's notorious for streaks, which is basically a day count of how many days another person and you have been snapping. How I do my steaks is: I send a positive message every morning. Whether it be a Monday or a bunch of tests on Thursday, and we would all just like Friday to be here, I tell everyone to just breathe and relax, reminding them that they can do it today, that someone believes in them. Every time I send those, I always receive feedback on how much I have inspired someone to do good today, or a quick thank you for believing in them, and this same message goes to them at night. I send them a quick snap saying: goodnight, sweet dreams; don't stress too much, get plenty of sleep for tomorrow, and make sure your homework is done to the best of your ability. Simple messages like these can improve somebody's mood or whole day.

Something else that I do is say hello to other people; most of the time it will be towards the teacher whose room I walk in. I like to let the staff and teachers know that what they are doing here is worth it all – the students not turning things in on time, the projects that make them stay up until two in the morning grading, and the constant commotion of a classroom. None of this goes unnoticed; I, for one, have seen what teachers and staff can do for us, without the student body knowing. Usually, I make my remarks about how lovely and caring teachers are in the art room, showing appreciation for everything they do for me and what I see they do for other students.

The last thing that I do is say hello and appreciate my classmates. As only one person in this school, I know that I do not know everyone's story in this building; this statement goes to everyone here. We do not know everyone and who they have become from their past. We have to grasp and understand that sentence because it opens up a whole new concept. This tells us that we have to appreciate what people can do for others, how other people carry themselves, and what they say. It is not something we just throw out of the window; we have to appreciate what their best is. That's what I learned from Scotus – what people can do to the best of their abilities.

My whole point to this is that, yes, we all will have bad days, but there are still people out there who will listen and care about you. Someone will inspire you to finish today, and the next day. Then this beautiful trend will happen: you'll end up feeling the need to inspire and motivate someone else, which will just continue to inspire and motivate more people. It is something I challenge all of you to do. This can change and improve someone; it just takes a quick message, a listen, advice, or even a distraction in that moment and it can be life changing.

Scotus celebrates

Statues and symbols show Scotus heritage

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The Catholic faith cannot be missed when looking around the walls of Scotus. Endless sights of crosses and religious figures can be seen throughout. Some have special meaning, and others are simple donations, but either way, they contribute to making the school what it is today.

One of the first statues that a visitor may see is the white Virgin Mary statue in the front of the east side of the building. Blessed John Duns Scotus was very persistent and accurate on his defense of the Immaculate Conception. Former Chaplain at Scotus, Fr. Andrew Roza, felt it appropriate to place a statue in honor of her and Blessed John Duns Scotus. The statue was purchased through a company from New Jersey using money from donations of the Knights of Columbus and local businesses and community members.

One can also notice several large white crosses on the outside of the building. These were donations from community members to show to people driving by that it is a Catholic school.

As people walk into the east office doors, they can see three different religious figures. The first one is the statue of Blessed John Duns Scotus hanging on the wall. The next one is another statue of the Virgin Mary, this one in color. Both of these statues are in honor of who the school is named after: Blessed John Duns Scotus and his defense of the Immaculate Conception. These statues were both purchased from donations. A statue of the all races' women and children with Jesus is hung on the wall outside the chapel. This figure was generously donated by a local banker.

The first room that one may enter in the building is the Immaculate Conception Chapel. This has significant stained glass windows in memory of John and Margaret Dischner, and donated by Jacob Weidner and Henry Hiebur. They were originally in the old St. Mary's hospital, which is now NPPD, and later given to Scotus. Also, in the center of the chapel on marble flooring, there is an image of Jesus and a Franciscan with the Stigmata. This represents Scotus' Franciscan heritage.

Stations of the Cross statues above the senior lockers are one of the most recent religious statues to be placed in Scotus. They were originally purchased from Munich, Germany for the St. Francis Academy, which was a previous name for Scotus. They were then relocated to the convent that was recently torn down near the St. Bonaventure grade school. When the convent closed, they were given back to Scotus and stored away. In 2011, they were brought out and restored. They were officially hung on the walls in January of 2013.

Icons can be seen on almost every wall of the school. These show images and names of important saints and followers of God. There are several images of the Apostles and a large circular image of Jesus outside of Mr. Ohnoutka's office. These were courtesy of the Catholicity committee at Scotus, a committee of teachers and board members who try to promote the Catholic faith and show it throughout the school. It was Fr. Steve Immanuel's idea to hang these around the school in 2001 or 2002.

One of the first things that is noticed outside in the courtyard is an altar. This has been there since the 70s and Masses were said out there on occasion. Fr. Wayne Pavela, a former Scotus Chaplain, was known for saying Mass on that altar often in the 80s-90s.

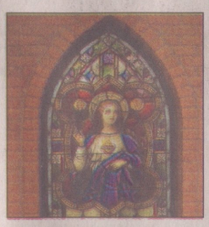
An abundance of statues and figures are housed in the courtyard. Many years ago, people thought that the courtyard was looking a little torn up and needed work. Parents of Scotus students took on the job to plant trees, flowers, and plants to tidy it up. With money left, they purchased statues to place in the courtyard for it to look nicer and have a more Catholic feel to it. Some were from memorials, but most were just purchased as decoration tying to the Franciscan theme of the school.

These statues and figures were not set up to be pointless. Many of them look back at the school's history and show what the school is founded upon. They are found all around the school and contribute to what it is today.

The statue of Mary is placed in front of the building, just south of Memorial Hall.

An image of Jesus' hand and the Stigmata is in the center of the Chapel floor.

An icon of Jesus is placed outside of Mr. Ohnoutka's office.



A stained glass window of Mary shines in the wall betwen the chapel and the hallway.

The statue of Jesus, the women, and children of all races is hung outside the walls of the chapel.

A statue of Mary with Jesus is placed outside in the courtyard.

Catholic schools attract teachers

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

There are 28 Catholic high schools in the state of Nebraska, and Scotus Central Catholic is one of them. Each year, the Catholic schools of the United States celebrate Catholic education from the last Sunday in January until the next Sunday. Each school celebrates differently, and Scotus celebrates by having Mass, listening to Catholic music between class periods, wearing Catholic t-shirts, and having a movie day.

The fact that the staff and students can discuss God openly is the main reason why parents send their children to a Catholic school and teachers come and teach at a Catholic school. Scotus Central Catholic has eight teachers who attended a Catholic high school themselves.

Math teacher Zach McPhillips graduated from Humphrey Saint Francis High School in 2011.

"Scotus offers students an environment in which to express their Catholic faith through charity, service, and gratitude. Scotus is surrounded by faith-based educators and dedicated community members," McPhillips said.

There is something about the quality of Catholic schools that brings past students back to pursue their teaching occupation. Religion teacher Kelly Koranda attended Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha.

"I really love the environment of Catholic schools. If education is about discovering the truth about reality, then I think that schools achieve a much truer form of education when you can include the most important truth about reality, which is our relationship with God," Koranda said.

Journalism advisor Angie Rusher is another teacher who is an alum of a Catholic high school; she graduated from Scotus Central Catholic 1995.

"After teaching in a large public high school at the beginning of my career, I knew teaching at a Catholic school would allow me to continue to grow in my faith, share that bond with my students, and watch my own children have faith experiences while in school," Rusher said.

The teachers at private schools are often not paid as much as teachers at the public schools, but this does not stop any of the teachers at Scotus from teaching at a private school.

"I chose to teach at a private school because I am not in education for the money. Private schools, specifically Catholic schools, are a true gem in education. It's not every day that you can talk about your faith and beliefs in a class room," speech and English teacher Melanie Mimick said.

Scotus Central Catholic offers Mass every morning, prayers before each class and at the beginning and end of each school day, adoration on some Fridays, and all-school Masses periodically throughout the year. Religion teacher Tyler Linder graduated from Archbishop Bergan Catholic High School in 2005.

"Scotus gives students an awesome opportunity to live out their faith life. Scotus offers students the opportunity to participate in retreats, pilgrimages, and prayer services. One very unique Catholic experience is the fact that we have an in school Chaplain, Father Capadano, right here in our building. But finally, we have strong support from our three vibrant parishes. All of these things make Scotus and the Columbus community a great place to be Catholic," Linder said.

Scotus has a total of 27 teachers that teach in 11 different departments. Business teacher Tyler Swanson also attended Archbishop Bergan Catholic High School in Fremont.

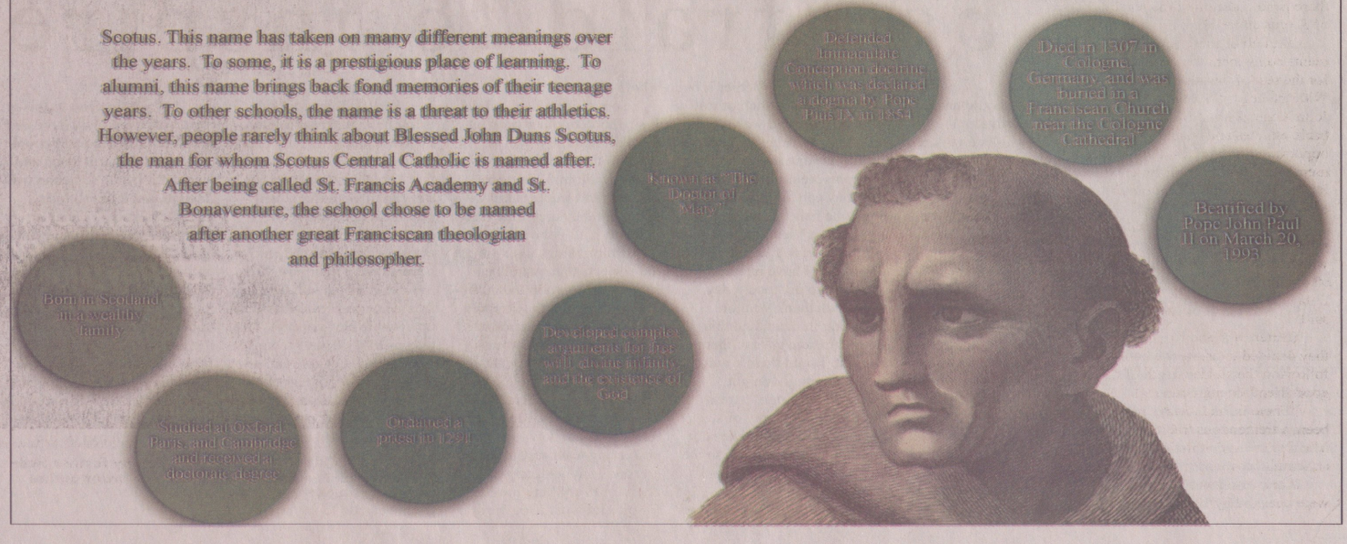
"My favorite part about teaching at Scotus is interacting with students and staff at school. I enjoy seeing students grow from the time they start school in seventh grade to when they graduate," Swanson said.

MITCHELL HALLIGAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

PE and math teacher Zach McPhillips sets dodgeballs out for a PE class. Like many other teachers at Scotus, he graduated from a Catholic high school, Humphrey St. Francis.

THE MAN BEHIND THE SCHOOL

Scotus. This name has taken on many different meanings over the years. To some, it is a prestigious place of learning. To alumni, this name brings back fond memories of their teenage years. To other schools, the name is a threat to their athletics. However, people rarely think about Blessed John Duns Scotus, the man for whom Scotus Central Catholic is named after. After being called St. Francis Academy and St. Bonaventure, the school chose to be named after another great Franciscan theologian and philosopher.

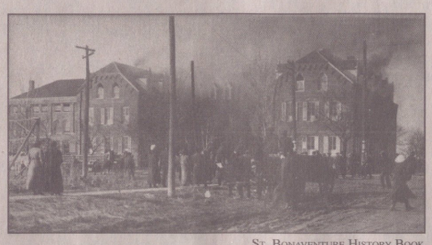


Catholic Schools Week

History of the Shamrocks

School name

Scotus Central Catholic wasn't always the SCC everyone knows. When the school first opened, it was St. Francis Academy. First starting out in 1878, the school only had up to the tenth grade, eventually evolving up to the traditional twelfth grade. In 1925, St. Bonaventure Parish purchased St. Francis Academy, changing the name to St. Bonaventure High School. For families that didn't belong to St. Bonaventure Parish, they didn't agree with that. The surrounding parishes, including St. Bonaventure, agreed to make the high school one for everyone. The new school became Scotus Central Catholic in 1965, being unchanged from that point to the present.



ST. BONAVENTURE HISTORY BOOK

A fire broke out at St. Francis in 1915. It burned most of the first floor and chapel.

School mascot

Scotus has many roots to the Irish culture. While the school was St. Bonaventure High School, the first sports team, a boys' basketball team, played at a league for the YMCA. Not having the money to buy their own uniforms, Tooley Drug offered to buy the uniforms. The uniforms were green and white, eventually becoming the school colors. From then and to the present, Tooley Drug has been a supporter of Scotus Central Catholic. Other schools and families started referring to the school as the "Bonnies", the "Irish", and at some point, the "Shamrocks"; since then Scotus has been referred to as the Shamrocks. The mascot at sports games is Tony the Leprechaun, but he is an unofficial mascot.

WWW.STFRANDS.ORG

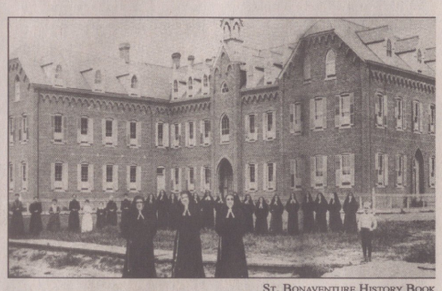
St. Francis (1878-1925)

CCIL.ORG

St. Bonaventure (1925-1965)

WWW.STFRANDS.ORG

Blessed John Duns Scotus (1965-current)



ST. BONAVENTURE HISTORY BOOK

St. Francis Academy opened in 1878. Photo was taken in 1886 with some of the staff and founding sisters.

What is your favorite part about going to a Catholic school?

"My favorite part about going to a catholic school is that it is smaller than most public schools."

-Shania Borchers, junior

"My favorite part about going to a Catholic school is being able to express my beliefs openly without being ashamed. "

-Michaela Kresha, eighth grader

"No school in Catholic Schools Week on Monday."

-Hunter Smith, senior

"My favorite part about going to a Catholic school is being able to go to an all school mass each month."

-Makenzie Enderlin, freshman

"My favorite part of going to a Catholic school is that we have permission to learn about our religion."

-Ben Merrill, eighth grader

"It's more challenging, and it prepares us for the future. We can also talk about our faith."

-Trenton Hamling, eighth grader

Coaches and athletes contribute to book

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

From the school's first state championship in the 1936-37 basketball season to the girls cross country team bringing home the state title this year and the countless championships in between, there is no question of the legacy of Scotus athletics.

With all of these accomplishments come memories that are held for the rest of the athletes' lives. With the help of Scotus alumni John Kopetzky and Mark Kurtenbach, athletes and coaches had the opportunity to manifest their sports memories and accomplishments into writing in the collaborative book *I Played for Scotus*.

"The authors asked coaches of state champion teams and athletes who had been two-time first team all-state to contribute," Merlin Lahm, Scotus activities director said.

Kurtenbach and Kopetzky said they decided to create the book following the sudden death of their good friend Gregg Grubaugh.

"There is, and always has been, a tremendous tradition of school pride and athletic excellence at Scotus," Kopetzky said.

Kurtenbach and Kopetzky were coached by Vern Younger, Frank Spenceri, both Jim and Gary Puetz and many others, who they referred to as legends.

"I feel blessed, fortunate, and extremely proud to be a Scotus graduate. I was taught by some great coaches who taught me how to play the game, how to lead, prepare, hard work, and how to execute what you were taught, also, how to have fun. It was an experience I will never forget. Scotus is a special place," Kurtenbach said.

PE teacher Janet Tooley, although not a Scotus grad, has had her fare share in the success of Scotus athletics. Along with being the head girls track coach, she also was an assistant volleyball coach alongside of 2012 National High School Volleyball Coach of the Year John Peterson.

"I think it will be neat to hear some of those stories that never made the newspaper: funny bus trips, locker room stories, what practices were like, the toughest drills. Whatever that might be we remember and share together due to special bonds between successful teams and their coaches," Tooley said.

Jon Brezenski, Scotus boys' soccer head coach and alumni said, "I wrote about my experiences as a player and as a coach. During my era as a player when our soccer program established itself as one of the top programs to the recent run of success we have experienced winning three consecutive championships, the experiences have been amazing. I am a proud Scotus alum, and it has been an honor to be able to coach at Scotus. I feel very blessed."

Proceeds for the book will be given to Scotus. *I Played for Scotus* is available many places online, but using the iUniverse website is highly suggested as the proceeds from the book will return to Scotus.

43 Shamrock State Champions

Volleyball '86, '90, '95, '96, '97, '98, '01, '02, '03, '05, '06, '08, '09, '11

Football '67, '84, '93, '15

Girls Basketball '96, '97, '98, '04

Girls Golf '81

Boys Track '64, '78, '79

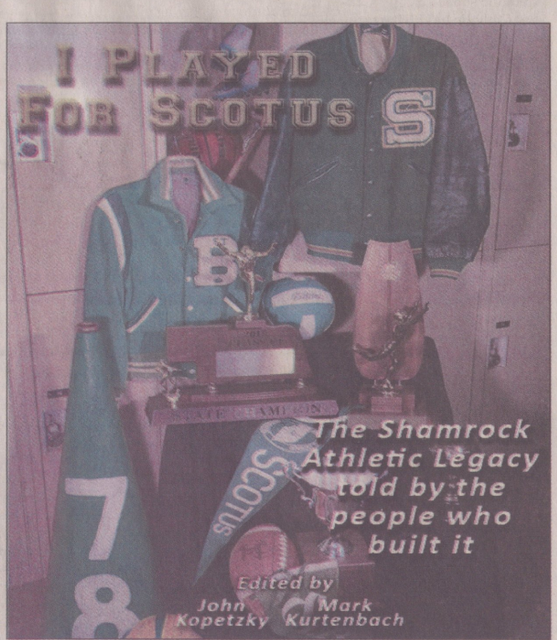
Girls Track '09

Boys Soccer '97, '01, '09, '14, '15, '16

Girls Soccer '98, '01, '02

Boys Cross Country '11

Girls Cross Country '00, '01, '02, '12, '13, '16



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

***I Played for Scotus* is a collaborative book written by former Scotus athletes and coaches. The book is available for order online using the iUniverse website for $24.95.**

Swimmers qualify for state

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The Scotus swimmers are in good shape for the state swim meet by receiving several qualifying and secondary times at recent meets.

The top thirty-two times per event get to compete at state, and they fill these spots with auto-qualifiers. A secondary time is if there are not enough times for auto-qualify, then they fill in the spots with secondary times. With several meets being cancelled, swimmers lose out on opportunities to compete and receive auto-qualifying and secondary times.

"The whole team has worked hard through practices," sophomore Callan Fuchser said. "People are constantly dropping time."

The team competed in a dual with Lincoln High on Jan. 5, both teams falling short of the win. The boys lost 87-75 and the girls lost 101-60. Regardless of the losses, both sides had a few event wins for Columbus.

Fuchser along with sophomore Julia Salerno, freshman Emily Miksch, and another CHS swimmer, Mia Jansen, competed in the 200 yard freestyle and auto-qualified for state with a time of 1:44.03 seconds. They also competed in and won the 200 medley relay, and Miksch won the 100 breaststroke.

Junior Chase Andresen earned secondary qualifying times in the 50 free and 100 free and won both events.

"My times have dropped a pretty crazy amount since the beginning of the season," Andresen said. "All of my placings have been very important because of how small our team is."

Andresen, along with junior Trey Dallman and CHS swimmers, Said Mendez and Hunter Hall, won the 200 and 400 freestyle relays and earned a secondary qualifying time in the 200 relay.

On Jan. 7, the team competed in a dual with South Sioux City High School, winning on both sides. The boys won 8 of 10 races, and the girls won 9 of 11 races.

"Our team has improved over the season," Dallman said. "Our JV has done an amazing job of showing up to practice, and we are all constantly dropping time."

Miksch earned a secondary qualifying time in the 50 yard freestyle, and Andresen earned another secondary qualifying time in the 100 yard freestyle. Andresen and Dallman were part of the 200 freestyle relay which earned a secondary qualifying time.

The teams competed in a dual with Norfolk on Jan. 10th, this time having a different end result, as neither of the teams won. The only two wins came from the girls' side.

Salerno had a hand in both of the wins for Columbus. She won the 200 freestyle and was part of the winning 200 medley relay along with Fuchser and Miksch.

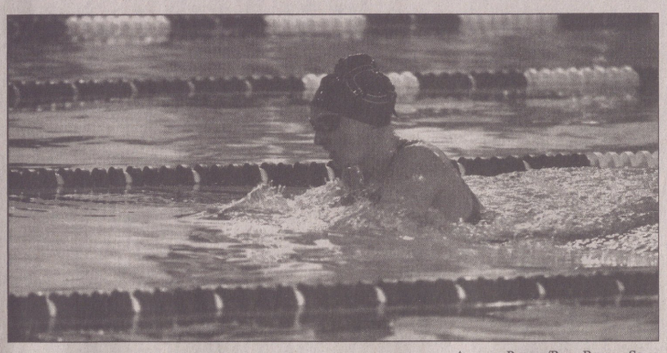
"I don't have many important placings, but dropping times is important to me, so if I do, it is great!" Salerno said.

On the boys' side, the 400 freestyle relay consisting of Dallman, Andresen, and CHS swimmers, Mendez and Hall, got a secondary qualifying time.

"Our hardest meet has been against Norfolk since they have fantastic swimmers throughout the team and have the best swimmers in the state," Dallman said.

The team had a three day competition at Millard North on Jan. 13, 14, and 15. There was a lot of tough competition at this meet, but many swimmers dropped times in their events.

"The most difficult meet was the Millard North Invite because of the really tough competition," Andresen said. "We also kind of had a shaky start to the day, but we ended with some pretty good times, so it was a good meet."



Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Freshman Emily Miksch swims the breaststroke at the Grand Island dual on February 2nd. She placed 2nd in the event.

The girls finished in 11 place, and the boys finished in 9th place. The girls' 200 medley relay received a secondary qualifying time for state.

On Jan. 19, the team faced Hastings in a dual. The boys won 104-87, and the girls lost 123-73. Andresen was one of the 4 individual wins for both teams. He won the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 51.87 seconds.

The team competed in a dual with Grand Island on February 3.

Andresen, Dallman, sophomore Konnor Kudron, and Hall earned a secondary time in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:48.74.

Andresen earned a secondary time of 22.96 seconds in the 50 free. The auto-qualifying time for state in this event is 22.86 seconds. He also earned a secondary time of 50.76 in the 100 free.

Kudron placed second in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:15.36.

Dallman placed second in the 100 butterfly and 3rd in the 100 breaststroke.

The 200 freestyle relay team consisting of Miksch, Fuchser, Jansen, and CHS' Macy Blaser, earned a secondary time of 1:49.34.

Miksch took 4th in the 50 free and Salerno took 5th in that event.

Fuchser was 3rd in the 100 backstroke and 6th in the 100 free.

The last home meet is tonight starting at 4:30 with the state meet being on February 23rd, 24th, and 25th.

Andresen concluded, "It would be much appreciated if people could come support us at our last home meet."

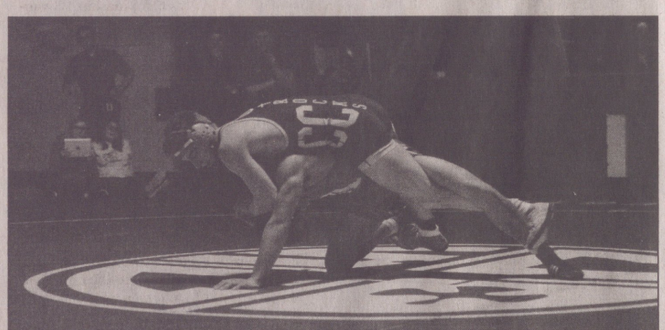
Wrestlers' eyes set on state

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

With the district and state meets closing in, the Scotus wrestlers have little time left in the 2016-2017 wrestling season.

The Shamrocks started out the month of January and the 2017 year strong with the team runner-up title at the Logan View Invite on January 2, 6th place at the High Plains Invite on January 6 and 7, and also three runner-up titles and a tie for first at the UNK duals on January 21. Unfortunately, the team also fell to Schuyler in a dual with the Warriors that came down to the last match on January 3.

"I think the season is going great," senior Chase Newman said. "I'm really satisfied with the team chemistry and how we are wrestling from 138 all the way up to our heavy weights."



Brady Miller/Media Staff

Senior River Liebig throws a move on his opponent from Aurora on January 24th at home. Liebig achieved his 100th career victory at the conference meet on January 21st.

The Shamrocks battled the powerful Centennial Conference teams on January 21 when the David City Aquinas Monarchs hosted the conference tournament. The Shamrocks walked away with six individual champions and a team championship title for the fifth straight year.

Scotus high school wrestling history was made at the conference tournament by one of the Shamrocks. Senior 145 pounder Layton Mullinix won his fourth consecutive conference title, becoming the first wrestler in Scotus history to do so. Mullinix walked away from the conference meet with a record of 31-2.

"My goals at the beginning of the season were to go undefeated, have the state takedown record, and win state," Mullinix said. "I gave up on the takedown record when my knees started to bruise up and get burns. Going undefeated, unfortunately, did not happen, but as far as being a state champion, I am still feeling confident with that."

Several other Shamrocks had a special day on Saturday, January 21. Sophomores Daniel Tworek (106) and Colby Gilson (120) and seniors Tyler Brandenburg (138), River Liebig (152), and Wyatt Gutzmer (220) all went undefeated to win individual conference championships.

Liebig was the team leader, scoring 25 points off of two pins and a 14-6 major decision in the championship match, which gave him his 100th career victory. Seniors Dillon Muchmore and Noah Tworek both reached their respective championship rounds, but came up short in the final matches. Juniors Wren Allen and Landon Sokol both took third place along with freshman Brock Clarke.

"I beat a kid from Bishop Neumann 8-4, but then got beat in the semi-finals, so I had to wrestle him again for third, and I pinned him," Allen said.

The Shamrocks have had several run-ins with some top ranked wrestlers in their weight classes. At the conference meet, Dillon Muchmore faced off against Aquinas' Kyle Petree, who is ranked second in class C, for the third time this year. Mullinix also faced off against a top ranked opponent.

"So far this year, my most memorable match has been during the dual against Millard South," Mullinix said. "I had to wrestle Zach Charity, who is ranked first in class A, and I ended up pinning him."

The Shamrocks have the district meet this Friday and Saturday then will travel to where high school wrestling dreams come true at the state meet at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha on February 16 through the 18.

Powerlifting pushes past expctations

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

With powerlifting in just its second year at Scotus, the team has achieved tremendous success having earned many medals by new and returning competitors. With the powerlifting club having success early, it has gained popularity from the students causing the size of the team to increase drastically from last year to this year.

"The two Powerlifting head coaches have power lifted professionally, so they can teach us the best technique and how to have the best lift possible," senior Will Sonderman said.

Sports at Scotus require their athletes to lift at least twice each week. This gives the powerlifters at Scotus some background in lifting which possibly is what helps them take up the sport so easily and be so successful.

"Powerlifting has given me a new perspective on lifting," Sophomore Zach Beiermann said.

Along with Powerlifting, Beiermann also participates on the Scotus football and soccer teams. Beiermann is not the only powerlifter who takes the skills he gained in the weight room to the soccer and football fields.

Sonderman, who was a part of the original powerlifting quad and state champion in powerlifting, is no stranger to success. Sonderman has a total of 5 gold state medals, three in soccer, and one in powerlifting and football.

"My goal this year is to break all of my personal records and for the team to bring home a state title," Sonderman said

Sonderman is one of only two seniors on the powerlifting team. The other senior leader, Abbie Perault, is in her first year of powerlifting and is already making a strong impression taking home a gold medal at the Creighton Prep Invite.

"I have learned that hard work truly does pay off and have gained a lot of confidence in myself all while meeting some great new people and awesome coaches," Perault said.

With the team approaching the final stretch of the powerlifting season, The athletes have some high set goals to finish out the year.

"I hope to become stronger and perfect my form, as a goal I hope to bring home the boys team state championship." Beiermann said.

Perault added, "We have all been improving tremendously. Personally, I hope to get first at the state competition and keep improving overall."

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Senior Will Sonderman deadlifts 405 lbs at the Omaha Central Invite. As the teams only returning state champ, he hopes to repeat and bring home another state medal along with many of his teammates on March 4th.

With the State meet less than a month away, the team is seeing the all-important meet fast approaching. They will continue their training up to March 4th, when the team will travel down to attempt to accomplish their goals of bringing home a state title.

Rocks rumble through midseason

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

As the Nebraska winter weather continues to change unpredictably, one thing remains constant: the Scotus girls' basketball team is playing in a close basketball game. The girls are currently 12-7 heading into tonight's matchup against Lakeview. Almost every game they have played in thus far has been tightly contested.

"Playing in nail biters consistently isn't necessarily a great thing, but we never hang our heads or stop fighting," junior guard Maggie Feehan said. "We need to be able to widen the scoring gap between us and the other team."

A few of those games where the Shamrocks struggled to widen that scoring gap was at the Holiday Tournament played at Lakeview High School on December 29th and 30th. In the first round, Scotus faced Twin River, a team ranked in Class C-2 at the time. The Shamrocks defeated the Titans 48-46 in overtime.

A crosstown rivalry game was set up for the following day after Lakeview defeated Schuyler in the other semifinal. Once again, the Shamrocks were able to take down a respected foe in overtime, 44-41.

"Winning the Holiday Tournament opened a door for us," sophomore forward Bailey Lehr stated. "It showed us that when we work hard and stay positive we can win."

The month of January proved to be one full of ups and downs for the girls' basketball team. They earned wins against ranked opponents in St. Paul and Howells-Dodge, and also gave up games against C-1 #1 and #2 Bishop Neumann and Lincoln Christian, 54-21 and 70-18, respectively. Feehan was able to gain perspective in the losses.

"We know Neumann and Christian are on a much higher level than most teams," Feehan stated. "In order to reach that level, we need to work harder so we can compete in games like that."

Going into the conference tournament with a record of 10-5, the Shamrocks faced a familiar foe, Grand Island Central Catholic, in the first round on January 24th. The game was a different story this time around, as the Lady Crusaders were able to pull out the win 53-46 in the Dowd Activity Center.

"That loss was as hard on the team as any other loss," junior post Jadyn Taylor said. "I think we will continue to work harder and harder to get better every day because of it."

In the second round of the Centennial Conference Tournament, the girls' basketball team was able to avenge a previous loss in their 46-38 victory over Archbishop Bergan.

Following another loss to a Class B team in the Crete Cardinals, the Shamrocks got back into action on February 2nd at home against Aquinas Catholic. A strong second-half performance from the Shamrock defense led the girls to a 40-30 victory.

"We all hate the feeling of losing, so it was good to get back on track against Aquinas," Bailey Lehr commented.

As the team looks forward to the quickly-approaching postseason, the young Shamrocks have a singular focus.

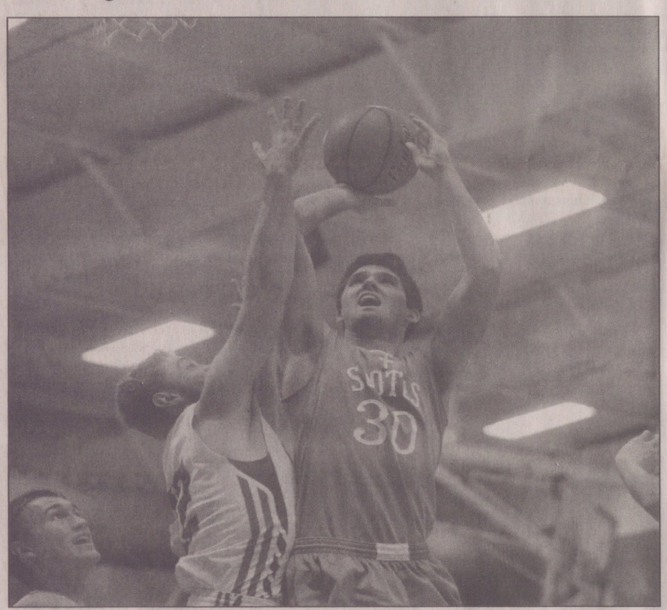
"We want to go to state," senior Emma Strecker stated. "That's everyone's goal on the team. I want us to keep working hard and competing at practice so we can accomplish our common goal."

The girls will play again tonight at home against Lakeview.

Tate VunCannon/Media Staff

Junior Grace Wickham drives to the basket against Grand Island Central Catholic on January 24th. Wickham scored four points in the Shamrocks' loss to the Crusaders.

Boys' basketball dominates competition



Kaylee Tonniges/Yearbook Staff

Senior center Dalton Taylor soars above three Lincoln Christian defenders as he aims to make a jumpshot. The Shamrocks beat Lincoln Christian with a final score of 74-64 en route to their 11th straight win.

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The Scotus boys' basketball team has not failed to impress so far this season. Scotus is currently 16-1 after defeating No. 1 Bishop Neumann at home on February 3rd in a final score of 53-37. The win avenged the previous loss to Neumann on January 27th, just a week earlier.

The Shamrocks are getting it done on both ends of the floor with an average margin of victory of 20 points. The boys are also holding opponents to 38.6 points on average.

Senior shooting guard Cody Mroczek, who has had a varsity jersey since his freshman year, may have some answers as to why the team has had success thus far.

"We have good chemistry and work ethic. We put a lot of work in over the summer and it showed when we went out to Denver and beat some of the defending state champions in Colorado," Mroczek said.

Some of the younger players on the team are playing an important role in the victories as well.

"It took the younger guys a while to adapt to the intensity and speed of our style of basketball, but they have really gotten used to it," Mroczek added.

Senior guard Tate Vuncannon has also played an important role in the Shamrocks' success.

"We play really solid team defense, and we don't care who scores the points every night. The only thing we are focused on is winning. This group of seniors that I'm a part of, we've played with each other since 5th grade," Vuncannon said.

Vuncannon is just one of the five seniors in the starting lineup for the Shamrocks.

"We have really good team chemistry, and we all want the same state title more than anything in the world. I don't think any other past team has had the level of chemistry we do, and that's what will push us over the top," Vuncannon added.

At 16-1, there is certainly no doubt that the Shamrocks can contend for a state championship. First year head coach Tyler Swanson is doing his best to help the Shamrocks achieve that ultimate goal.

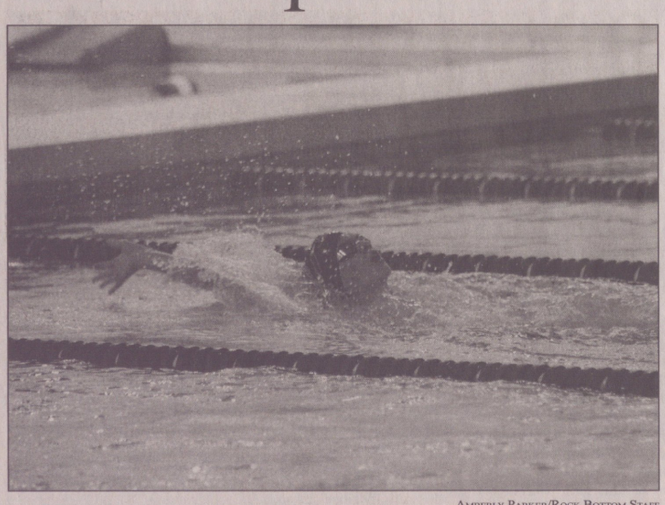
"This team has very high potential and could be the best in C-1, but we must play with better pace, and continue to improve at the little things. When you do the little things right, you are able to win a state championship," Swanson said.

Swanson was an assistant coach for four years before assuming the role of Head Coach for Scotus. In that span, the Scotus basketball team has played in two state semi-final games and one state championship.

"Our main goal for the rest of the season is to finish the regular season off strong. Winning the rest of the regular season will put us in position to go after our goal of winning a state championship," Swanson added.

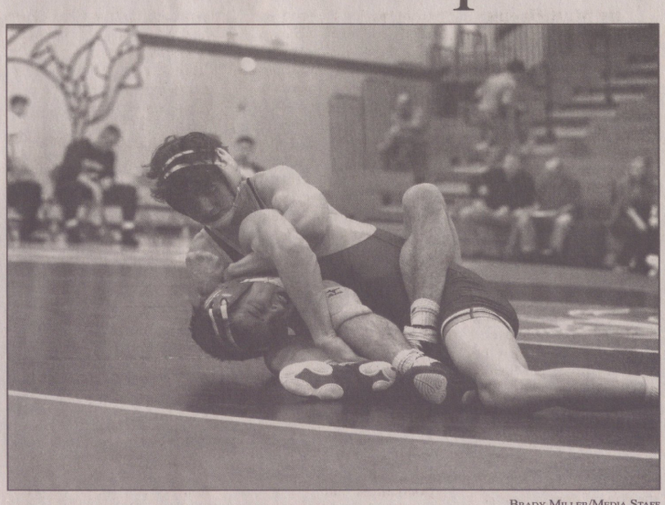
The Shamrocks will look to continue on their path of success on February 7th when they play Wahoo at home.

Bonus photos from winter sports



Amberly Parker/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Trey Dallman Swims the backstroke at the Grand Island dual on February 2nd. He placed 3rd in the event.



Brady Miller/Media Staff

Senior Tyler Brandenburg works his opponent to his back at the Lakeview Triangular. The Shamrocks beat the Boone Central Cardinals 68-6 and Lakeview 56-15.

Revolution hits home with students

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

Cursing, alcohol consumption, and sexual abuse are all very real and very serious topics. On January 18th, the Center for Survivors group, Revolution, gave a presentation in the Dowd Activity Center after a shortened day of school that included scenarios including all three of these situations.

Revolution brings awareness to domestic violence and sexual abuse to the people of the surrounding community. The group consists of about 45 teens, 18 of which attend Scotus, who meet once a month at the Center for Survivors and talk about the latest problems or topics that have come up involving sexual abuse or domestic violence.

"I love knowing that what I do can make a difference in someone's life, helping them to get out of harmful or abusive relationships or prevent it from happening to a friend," junior member Jenna Salerno said.

One of the main topics that Revolution pertains to is rape or sexual abuse. The group helps rape victims as well as brings awareness to the possibility of rape and abuse in all relationships, even teen dating.

"I believe that not all men are rapists, not all women lie about being raped, and that the public perception of these two need to be changed," senior member Tate VunCannon said. "I enjoy being a part of Revolution because it allows me to stand up for what I believe in."

The most recognizable portion of Revolution is the theatre group that travels to high schools all around the state to give presentations to high school students. These presentations simulate realistic experiences of teen dating violence, underage drinking, and several other everyday life situations that could affect the students watching.

"It is a great way to show people that dating violence is real and to help educate them on how to react if it happens to them or if they see it around them," Salerno said.

The presentation this year involves three teen couples, all with their own problems in the relationship. In the group that visited Scotus, seniors Mitchell Halligan and Maddie Sinovic portrayed a physically abusive boyfriend and a rape victim, respectively. Other members from Scotus involved in the theatre production include juniors Matt Strecker and Jenna Salerno, who portray the rapist and a verbally abusive girlfriend, and sophomore Drew Zaruba, who plays an innocent boyfriend.

"I play the role of Allie, the rape victim," Sinovic said. "I play this role so I can hopefully relate to victims of sexual abuse and better understand how to help them."

The production that is performed has been known to strike hard with people who have experienced sexual abuse or domestic violence in their lives prior to seeing the presentation. Those people are invited to speak with any of the actors or the theatre group director, Abbie Tessendorf, about their experience to receive help.

"My favorite part to theatre is definitely helping victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence," Sinovic said. "After each presentation, I will have at least one or two girls come up to me and tell me their story and ask for help."

Tessendorf takes the group all around the state to present this dramatization to several different schools, but also at schools closer to home.

"I always love the Scotus presentation," Tessendorf said. "I love when we get to present to the kids that we know and see every day. Now don't get me wrong, it makes me nervous, but I'm proud of the work that we've done in Columbus and the fact that when we present to schools in our community, they will have a basic understanding of dating violence and sexual assault."

Matt Hoenk/ Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Mitchell Halligan chokes his girlfriend in the Revolution presentation. Revolution presented their dramatization in the Dowd Activity Center on January 18th.

Matt Hoenk/ Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Maddie Sinovic fights off advances from CHS senior Miguel Torres during the Revolution dramatization. Sinovic portrayed the rape victim in the dramatization.

Speech grows with success

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

The speech team is well on its way with four meets under its belt. The invites have been Creighton, Ashland-Greenwood, the Scotus home meet, and Logan View.

This year there are 23 speech team members, a few returning and many new.

Junior Emily Carstens is on her third year of speech team. She competes in Entertainment and also in Duet with sophomore Elliott Thomazin.

"I love making people laugh and meeting new people who love speech as much as I do. Also I love our team this year," Carstens commented.

Carstens has placed third in three meets in Entertainment, and Thomazin and Carstens placed first for Duet at the Scotus home meet. The team placed second as a team at home.

Head speech coach Melanie Mimick is new to the world of speech and is impressed with how the team has been doing this year.

"I try to see the kids more often than I think they have had in previous years, and it has helped us out quite a bit so far this year," Mimick said.

With a new speech season also comes new speech members. Sophomore Isaac Ostdiek is in his first year of speech team. Ostdiek competes in Informative and Humorous Interpretation. He got fourth place for Informative at the Scotus Invite.

"My goals are to make it to state and get first," Ostdiek mentioned.

Freshman Debanhi Adame-Hernandez is also a first time speech member, who competes in Poetry and Duet with freshman Rachael Lam.

"I joined to get better at public speaking," Adame-Hernandez stated. She placed third in poetry at the Logan View Invite, and remains hopeful for the remainder of the season.

"I want to get better at staying and being in the time limit and to get at least a better place. Hopefully second in each round. Or maybe get best novice in Poetry."

Senior Cameron Swanson has competed in speech for three years. He competes in Extemporaneous Speaking and Dramatic Interpretation. Through the years, Swanson has seen many changes for this year.

"We are more of a family than last year, and I have taken up a bigger leadership role," Swanson said.

Something new coming for the Scotus community is the idea of a gala night.

"We will be doing a gala night so the students and parents who don't come to the meets can come and see what we've been working on," Mimick stated.

The speech team will compete at David City on February 11th.

Emma Ruskamp/ Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Emily Carstens and sophomore Elliott Thomazin perform their duet at the Scotus home meet where they earned first place. As a team, Scotus placed second.

Junior high hoops for hearts

Kaylie Rocha/ Rock Bottom Staff

Eighth grader Kamryn Chohon dribbles down the court with her classmates during this year's Catholic Schools Week. Seventh and eighth graders participated in Hoops for Heart.

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

It's that time again when all the junior high students at Scotus Central Catholic High School participate in a fundraising activity for the American Heart Association by shooting baskets.

During Hoops for Heart, 7th and 8th period students get together and grab a basketball to shoot some hoops. This is not any different than Jump Rope for Heart; the only difference is that the jump roping is for the younger kids and basketball is for the older kids. They both help raise money for heart disease research.

PE Instructor Janet Tooley organizes the activity for Scotus. In previous years, Hoops for Heart has raised quite a lot of money.

"In 2013, we raised 3,600 dollars, and in 2014, we raised 2,400. So we raise about 3,000 dollars each year," Tooley stated.

With each donation to the cause, the students can get prizes from the amount of dollars they raise. Most of the prizes are more childlike, but they still offer, at the higher amount of dollars raised, a t-shirt and a basketball.

"If our students do not want to keep their prizes, we donate them to Center for Survivors or the Rescue Mission," Tooley said.

Tooley has been doing this activity since she started her teaching at Scotus.

"I became aware of this when I was student teaching. Obviously, health and fitness are something I am committed to. It's my choice of curriculum," Tooley said.

Hoops for Hearts has a different theme for its fundraisers each year, and this year's theme is zoo crew. It is a one-time activity for Scotus students.

"I think it's a good service project for the students, and since we do so much fundraising here at Scotus, but this particular activity does coincide with our physical education mission as far as heart health. It definitely does correlate with what we are doing," she added.

This activity took place on January 31 and February 1 during Catholic Schools Week.

Students welcomed back with winter wonderland

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

The cafeteria and Memorial Hall were transformed into a winter wonderland on January 7th, 2016.

After only two days back at school after winter break, the Scotus sophomores put on the annual winter formal for the rest of the senior high school students. The sophomore class officers, along with their teacher sponsors, are in charge of planning and putting on the dance. Nathan Schumacher is one of these officers.

"To prepare for winter formal, I bought the flowers and bouquet for the girl candidates," Schumacher explained. "I also helped decorate before the dance."

This year's dance was weeks earlier than the normal date, so the sophomore class had to prepare for the dance much earlier than usual.

Schumacher continued, "Due to the early date, the class officers had to prepare for the dance before Christmas break, so we didn't have to do much after Christmas break."

However, after the Christmas break, the sophomore class was left with only a few days to make their final decisions with regards to the dance.

"We did the backdrop the day before and got most of the decorations the day of the dance," sophomore class officer Kendra Korger said.

When the night of the dance finally came, the sophomores' preparations were made evident when Scotus students, along with their dates, filled the bleachers of Memorial Hall to witness the coronation of the 2017 winter formal king and queen. The senior class nominated six male and six female candidates. Among these candidates was senior Courtney Flint.

"It was an honor to be nominated by my classmates," Flint said. "I was thankful and surprised."

Emily Hand was also nominated by her classmates.

"It was a really good feeling, and I was very excited but also a little nervous," Hand said.

Once all of the candidates were introduced, the names of the king and queen were announced. Emily Hand was announced as winter formal queen, and she was crowned by last year's winter formal queen, Courtney Labenz.

"I honestly did not know what to do when I heard my name announced," Hand explained. "I did not expect to win, so I was very shocked."

After the queen was crowned, Mitchell Halligan was announced as winter formal king and crowned by last year's king, Marcus Dodson.

"I was surprised, but extremely happy at the same time," Halligan said. "I see it as an honor to be selected by the other students."

Next, the students made their way down to the cafeteria to spend the night enjoying music and dancing with their friends.

Senior and winter formal royalty candidate Eastyn Klink said, "I had a blast at this year's winter formal. Nothing beats dancing the night away with my friends."

LANDRI SWETT/ MEDIA STAFF

Seniors Emily Hand and Mitchell Halligan pose for a picture after being crowned winter formal queen and king. The dance was held on the first Saturday after students returned from Christmas break.

LANDRI SWETT/ MEDIA STAFF

Seniors Alayna Wilson, Emma Strecker, and Eastyn Klink dance at the 2017 winter formal dance.

LANDRI SWETT/ MEDIA STAFF

Freshmen Rachel Lam and Makenzie Enderlin march around the dance floor at winter formal.

LANDRI SWETT/ MEDIA STAFF

Senior winter formal royalty candidates Hannah Mielak, Jessica Buhman, Eastyn Klink, Emily Hand, Courtney Flint, and Naomi Kosch gather together after coronation.

LANDRI SWETT/ MEDIA STAFF

Senior winter formal candidates Will Sonderman, Layton Mullinix, Chase Newman, Mitchell Halligan, Cody Mroczek, and Anthony Sprunk flash their smiles before heading down to the dance.

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Nijkamp fills *This Is Where It Ends* with suspense

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

When the baritone-playing senior Zachary Svehla lent me his book titled *This Is Where It Ends* by Marieke Nijkamp, I had no idea I was in for a rollercoaster of emotions.

This Is Where It Ends is a novel about a school shooting, which is something that is all too real in our world today. This book is a must read for students because it is a realistic story of what could happen anywhere. Zachary lent me this book in the morning, and by midnight that same day, I had already finished. You will not be able to put this suspenseful book down.

Marieke Nijkamp is a unique writer in the sense that she writes this story from the point of view of four students who are at the school at the time of the shooting. Claire, a star track athlete, used to date the shooter. Tomás, who often gets in fights with the shooter, is trying to break into the auditorium to save his sister Sylvia. Sylvia has a dark past with the shooter, and Autumn is a dancer who knows the shooter too well. Nijkamp uses the time of day as the title of her chapters. The story starts at 10:01 in the morning at Opportunity High School, and, by 10:04, shots are fired.

> ***"This book is a must read for students because it is a realistic story of what could happen anywhere."***
>
> **~Emma Ruskamp**

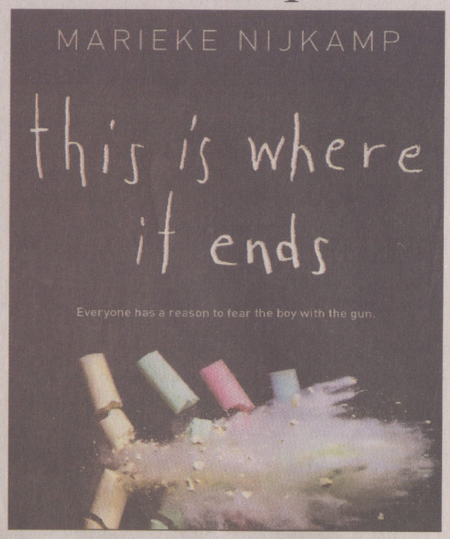
The students are trapped inside the school's auditorium because they had an assembly, but the shooter locked the doors so nobody can get out. Luckily there are two mischievous students breaking into the office during the assembly, and members of the track team practicing at the track. The students outside of the auditorium hear the gunshots and work toward getting the auditorium doors open and calling the authorities.

Like many intruders, the students know the shooter. The shooter was bullied at Opportunity High and thought that nobody saw him, so he made his presence known by bringing a gun to school. Without giving away too much, the shooter is after his sister, who he thinks is the reason he is lonely (twisted, I know).

All the characters in the book have an unfortunate past with the shooter that makes them clear targets. I could not stop reading to see if the characters I grew to love would die or not.

This book should not be read if you aren't yet aware of the language, emotions, and darkness that would come with a school shooting. There is some strong language, and the back stories of the characters are full of violence, gloom, and death. In my opinion, this is not an appropriate read for anyone who is younger than 14.

Marieke Nijkamp did a fantastic job capturing the emotions and responses that would most likely be present in an actual shooting. You will be done with this book in no time, and although you can't find a copy of it in the school library, Zachary Svehla would be happy to lend you his.



THISISWHEREITENDS1.COM

Sing disappoints on every level

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

It is the quintessential moviegoer's nightmare. A well-put-together trailer and positive peer reviews build up decent expectations for a popular movie. An unsuspecting person shells out the eight bucks necessary to gain admission to the movie. Then, halfway through said movie, the moviegoer is left pondering all of the things that their hard-earned cash could have been spent on instead of going to see the monstrosity on screen before them.

This was the unfortunate experience I had with the movie *Sing*. Forty five minutes into my viewing experience, I was left wondering how a movie could be so terribly awful.

It is my firm belief that no one should go see this horrible *Zootopia* rip-off of a movie.

Sing falls flat on so many levels, but its first crime is its most heinous. It is marketed as a family movie, yet portrays themes and characters entirely inappropriate for children. I took my ten-year-old sister, Quinn, to the movie, and often felt as if I needed to cover her eyes during some questionable scenes. This was especially true with scenes involving the sleazy, smooth-talking mouse named Mike, who gets involved with a Russian mob of grizzly bears throughout the movie. On top of this, one of the main characters, a gorilla named Johnny, portrays a dangerous racial stereotype in his backstory. If I was a parent, I would not want my kids going to see a movie that portrays a black gorilla as one who escapes his family's crime-filled lifestyle to go and make it in the "real world". Why make a children's movie at all if it is going to be charged with such decidedly adult themes?

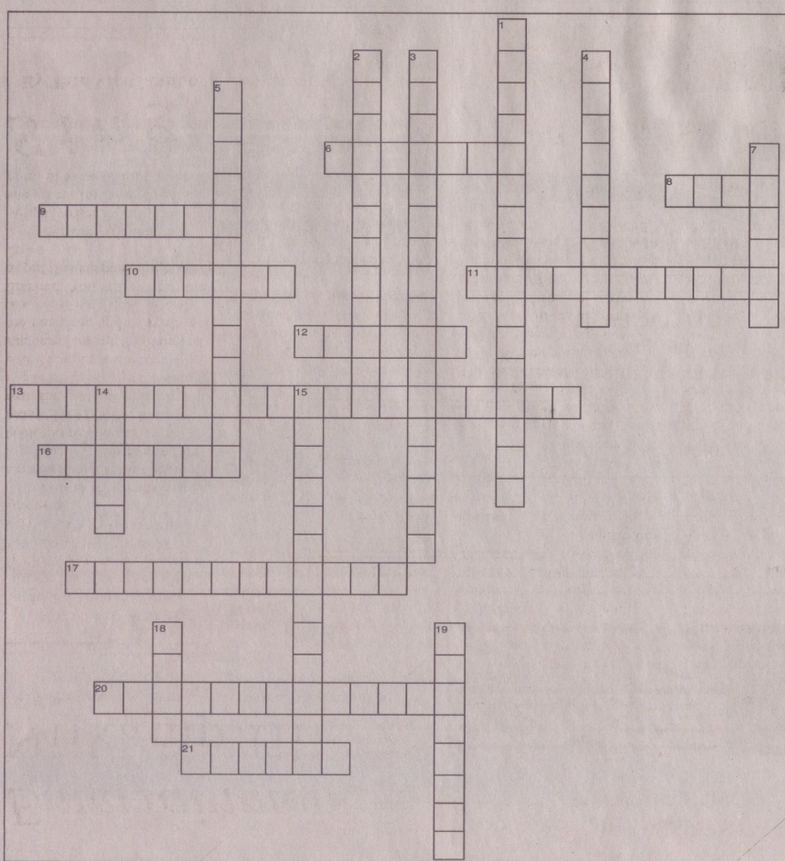
Another misstep Sing made was its boring and predictable plot. Every cliché in the book was haphazardly thrown into this movie. The main character, a koala named Buster Moon, inherits an entire theater from his hard-working parents who wanted the world for their son. He then squanders his opportunities until the theater is failing, and he needs a way to restore it to its former glory. He then puts together a singing competition with a grand prize of $100,000 (even though he only has $1,000 to his name). You can probably guess what happens next. No, really, you can actually guess what happens next. Quinn and I had a lot of fun predicting what was going to happen while we were still watching the movie. This was comical at first, but soon it became so glaring that we didn't really even care about the ending because we knew where the movie was headed from the very beginning.

The final reason why *Sing* was such an awful waste of my time was its idea of humor. Instead of inserting a few family-friendly jokes into the script to lighten the mood up, the movie relied solely on the animation to provide comic relief. For example, a solid fifteen minutes of the movie is dedicated to a recurring bit featuring Japanese rabbits who do not understand a word of English. Another example is in the audition montage of the show. It feels as if the writers literally said, "Here's some snakes dancing to 'Anaconda' by Nicki Minaj. Laugh now." It just feels like such a feeble and lazy attempt at humor when there were so many opportunities for wholesome comedy.

Two hours of my life were sufficiently wasted on January 7th, 2017 by the movie *Sing*. This poor excuse of a film fell flat on every level, especially in its inappropriate audience appeal, boring plot, and lazy attempts at comedy. Don't go see this movie. Avoid the moviegoer's nightmare and spend your money on something that deserves it.

COMINGSOON.NET

Illimuniation Studios released *Sing* to theaters on December 20th, 2016. Illumination was also responsible for hits such as *Despicable Me* and *Minions*.



Rock Bottom Crossword

Find the answers by reading the articles in the newspaper.

Across

6. Class that Mallory had a media detox in this year
8. Returning state powerlifting champion
9. Nickname given to St. Bonaventure student section
10. Former Chaplain at Scotus who had the idea to place a Mary statue in front of the school
11. Scotus' 170 pound wrestler
12. Teacher who went to Scotus Central Catholic
13. Blessed John Duns Scotus defended this doctrine
16. Name of Emily Carstens' duet partner
17. First year head coach for Scotus boys basketball
20. Will lend you *This Is Where It Ends*
21. Name of the gorilla in *Sing*

Down

1. Was named winter formal king
2. 2012 National High School Volleyball Coach of the Year
3. Keaton Kudron waited an hour for this at Reading Terminal
4. Month that Mrs. Tooley received her SRP training
5. What the 7th and 8th graders did during Catholic Schools Week
7. Was a semi-finalist in a pageant
14. Maddie Sinovic's character name in the Revolution presentation
15. Swimmer who earned secondary times in the 50 free and 100 free and won both events against Lincoln High
18. School that beat the girls' basketball team in the conference tournament
19. App that Kaylie uses to inspire people

STATE BOUND

BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS MAKE IT TO STATE FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1996.

SPORTS 6

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic Volume 17 • Issue V • March 7, 2017 Columbus, Nebraska 68601

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Hoops leaves her legacy

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

Scotus Central Catholic will be losing one of its staff members that students see every single day at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 school year. Cathy Hoops, who has served the school for forty-four years, will be retiring from her position as Nutrition Services Manager in July.

"I made up my mind about two years ago, actually," Hoops said of her retirement. "I knew my granddaughter Landri Swett was going to graduate this year, and I thought, 'I'm going to graduate with Landri.'"

Hoops began her career at Scotus as a baker and cook in 1973. She worked in the cafeteria for sixteen years, serving lunch to the students of Scotus and helping out with the occasional Thanksgiving dinner. In 1989, Mrs. Hoops stepped up to run the cafeteria as the Nutrition Services Manager after her supervisor, Clara Fletcher, passed away suddenly. Fletcher started the entire Scotus lunch program in 1958 and passed away at the age of 91.

"I worked in Clara's cafeteria, and she taught me a lot," Hoops said. "We still use a lot of her recipes in today's lunches, and we look in her booklet of menus for new ideas."

As Hoops transitioned into her new role in the Scotus cafeteria, she leaned on Fletcher's influence and focused on serving and feeding her students as well as she could.

"There's a lot of history here, and it's been very interesting for me. One thing that's never changed is that we tend to overserve a little.

See **HOOPS**, Page 2

Cheerleaders achieve first championship

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Since the beginning of the year, the cheerleading squad has been helping other teams achieve their goals, but on February 18th, the cheerleaders had the chance to finally achieve their own goals.

The cheerleading team walked away from the 2017 state cheerleading competition with a state championship and two other titles.

"We won class C-1 in Game Time, first runner-up in C-1 Sideline, and we also received the C-1 Spirit Award," junior Mattie Johnson recalled.

At the state competition, teams are divided into classes just as sports teams are. Cheerleading teams have the opportunity to compete in two categories: Game Day and Sideline.

"I was extremely nervous because we had to make a lot of changes to both of our cheers when we only had a couple weeks until state," junior McKenna Spenceri said.

After the squad competed, they had to wait several hours before the results of the competition were revealed.

Johnson said, "After our performance, I felt good, happy, and proud of all of the girls for giving it their all and working so hard as a team."

HALEY FAUST/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The cheer squad performs at the state cheerleading competition on February 18, 2017. The team won class C-1 Game Day and placed second in class C-1 Sideline.

After all teams have performed, the teams attend an awards ceremony where the rankings in each class and division are announced.

"When we heard our names announced, we were very shocked, but at the same time, extremely excited," senior captain Cassie Seckel said. "They announced first place, and I looked at Alayna [Wilson] and started crying. It still does not seem real to me."

The team's first-place victory marks Scotus' first state championship in cheerleading, something that the 2017 squad had been dreaming of for years.

Senior captain Alayna Wilson said, "I had been dreaming of that moment for so long, and it was everything I wanted and more. It was easily the best feeling in the world."

In order to achieve this goal, the cheerleaders began practicing for the state meet during Thanksgiving break.

"We practiced every single day at 6 or 6:45 a.m., and we would have weekend practices," Spenceri explained. "Anytime we found time that we could practice, we would use it."

After months of practice, the cheerleaders were able to put their hard work on display at the state competition held at the Heartland Evenis Center in Grand Island, Nebraska.

"I was very confident going into state cheer," Seckel recalled. "Our goal was to place in the top ten. I knew we could do it."

A championship in cheerleading is similar to a championship in other sports; however, cheerleading competitions differ from other sports in many ways.

"In other sports, you have subs, time-outs, and multiple games. If you lose one game, you still have the chance to win the next week," Wilson explained. "We get a total of four minutes to show what we have been working months for."

Sophomore Libbie Zeller has been on the cheer squad for two years.

"My team worked really hard for this, and we deserve it. I don't think I worked harder and loved a team more than I do mine," Zeller said.

The 2017 state cheer completion marks the end of the road for the seniors on the squad.

Wilson concluded, "I love this sport, and I hope SCC cheer will continue to bring home trophies year after year. I could not be more honored to be a captain of this squad."

Blood drive continues contributions

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, February 28th, the Activity Center filled with students and faculty for the 36th annual Scotus Blood Drive.

Chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt has put on the blood drive for thirteen years and encourages students to do it every year.

"It's a good way to get involved with the community to let them know that our students do take things like that seriously and want to be a part of that kind of growing need. Also, I think it's important so our students who donate for the first time that they are in an environment that they are familiar with and comfortable in. It's important for people to get that start in a comfortable environment, then maybe they will continue to do it even when it's not here," Dusel-Misfeldt said.

Students do continue to donate long after they graduate from high school because of the impact a school blood drive had on them.

"We have a lot of students who leave us and continue to be fairly regular donors. I'm asked how did the blood drive do every year, and I find out that they are a regular donor and give three times a year, or twice a year, or even once a year," Dusel-Misfeldt commented.

Dusel-Misfeldt is well known for running a smooth blood drive. Every year though, a little something is done differently to help it run smoother, whether it's seen or behind the scenes.

"The Red Cross changed the name of Double Reds to Power Reds. Their online drive that they have me use, they changed the amount of people per every fifteen minutes so we had to adjust to that, we don't have many Power Red donors as high school students or first time donors. Most of what changed was things I had to put online for the Red Cross. Most of what happened in our drive and our student involvement didn't change," Dusel-Misfeldt said.

Power Red donors are donors who donate not one unit of blood, but two units.

Running a blood drive involves more than just one teacher and the Red Cross volunteers. It also involves the full help and cooperation of the National Honors Society.

"Everyone in NHS ends up having some kind of job, be it small or large and they have choices of what they have to do. The putting together of the schedule itself, I do that along with whoever my student aids are," Dusel-Misfeldt stated.

NHS members bring the sandwiches used at the Canteen after the blood donation is complete. Seniors Tatem Vance and Abbie Perault helped Dusel-Misfeldt put the schedule together and post it on the Red Cross drive.

Dusel-Misfeldt continued, "They did a whole lot of things behind the scenes that nobody ever sees or knows about. The three of us were working together, but they

See **DONORS**, Page 2

MEGAN SCHUMACHER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Marika Spencer has her blood drawn at the Scotus Blood Drive. The event had over 115 people attempt to donate blood last Tuesday.

DONORS

did a lot of the leg work. They are both NHS members and my aids. So whoever my aid is, they do get put to work."

Almost 117 people donated blood, equaling up to roughly 105 units. The blood drive will continue for many years to come.

Dusel-Misfeldt concluded, "A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way. To Tatem and Abbie certainly were the biggest helpers I had as far as getting it coordinated, but all of my NHS members were very willing to do all of the jobs that needed to be done before school and after school, bringing things and helping during. Thank you to all the donors. Certainly if students don't say, yes, our drive isn't successful."

HOOPS

We want to make sure every kid has enough to eat and doesn't go hungry; that's the way Clara wanted it," Hoops explained.

Hoops' influence has actually extended outside of Scotus. In 2001, she was elected vice president of the board for the Nebraska School Nutrition Association. Four years later, she moved in to be president of the board.

"It's been great to be involved through the state programs and have a say in what goes on around the state," Hoops said. "I've also had the chance to go to national events and meet others around the country in the same business I am."

Hoops still serves on the board as newsletter chair for the NSNA, but will retire from the board as she retires from Scotus in July.

She has also seen the program go through many changes over her years at Scotus.

"Mrs. Obama got involved a few years back, and a lot of people complained, but for the most part I think they were good changes," Hoops stated. "Our bodies need fruits and vegetables."

As far as plans for her life after Scotus, Hoops wants to prioritize her family.

"My husband and I have nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and there's so many things I want to do with them! I would like to get into quilting and try to make a quilt for all of them," Hoops said.

She will also be staying active in the community around Columbus.

"I love to decorate, so I'll probably get a part-time job somewhere like Traditions Inn downtown," Hoops explained. "I would love to get involved with the museum in town since my family has so much history in Columbus."

Although she will be missed at Scotus, Hoops will be sticking around the school in case her services are needed.

"After I'm done in July, I won't be going anywhere. I may even be back as a substitute to help out or answer any questions the new staff may have," Hoops said.

Scotus has hired a to-be-named replacement for Hoops, who will assume her duties in July of this year.

"Scotus has been my second home for forty-four years," Hoops concluded. "I can't think of a more wonderful place to have worked."

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Nutrition Services Manager Cathy Hoops poses for a photo in the Scotus cafeteria. Hoops has served Scotus for the past forty-four years.

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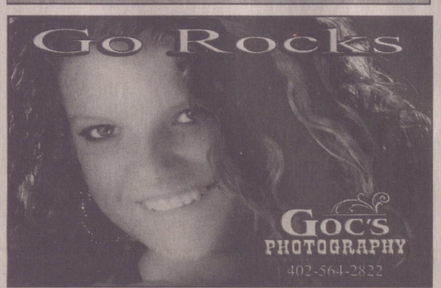

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RUNZA

Commit to your limits

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

Over the course of my six years at Scotus, my parents have compared me to a stick of butter countless times. This may seem strange at first, but there's a perfectly good reason for it: I "spread myself too thin" all too often. I have always found myself wanting to help out as many people as possible. I commit my time and efforts to anyone asking for them, and I usually find myself feeling run-down and weary because of it.

I believe commitments are an important part of young adulthood. That being said, young adults should know their limits and choose commitments carefully based on what they can handle.

Committing to eight thousand objectives or people all at once can actually harm the human body. I can remember a handful of times throughout high school when I would try so hard to accomplish everything for every group I was involved in that I drove my body into the ground. I would get so run-down that I would be sick. I'm talking projectile-vomiting, temperature of 104, and shaking with cold sweats under a mountain of blankets. That kind of sick. Trying to take part in too many activities at once is not a healthy practice. A singular student at Scotus, unfortunately, does not possess the time and energy required to effectively help everyone in the whole world.

Another reason that students should avoid overcommitting themselves is that it's not easy to succeed in one activity, let alone to succeed in multiple activities at the same time. If I were to try to play basketball, compete at speech meets on the weekends, and take on a big role in the musical, I probably would not do well at anything. Trying to shoot three-pointers while memorizing a speech and humming along to the opening number of the musical is not a recipe for success. My performance would suffer because my attention would be too greatly divided. Overcommitment is counterproductive; instead of succeeding in many endeavors, a student might not succeed in any.

Students also let many people down when they commit to an excess of projects all at once. Trying to juggle school assignments, sports practices, and other extracurriculars is a difficult task assigned to many high schoolers. Sometimes, things fall out of the juggle and authority figures are let down. I have definitely disappointed nearly every teacher at Scotus by forgetting to do homework at some point. It's also easy to let coaches down. When their players don't prepare as well as they should for games, it shows on the field or court. This is why it is important for students to only bite off as much as they can chew. Nobody wants to disappoint their teachers or coaches.

I'm not saying that students should just give up on everything. Being able to be involved in a variety of activities is what makes Scotus kids unique from other schools' students. Committing to nothing would also be a very boring lifestyle to live. Everyone needs something to occupy their time and passion. My point is that everyone needs to be aware of their limits when making commitments.

So, next time Mrs. Rusher is hounding you for a journalism interview or your friends keep badgering you to join their favorite activity, think about exactly what you are committing to. Figure out what you can handle, and plan your commitments accordingly.

Gifts do not define love

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

According to CNN, people spend 1.9 billion dollars on flowers and 4.4 billion dollars on diamonds, gold, and silver on February 14th. To me, Valentine's Day is a day that girls either dread or absolutely love.

The purpose of Valentine's Day is to show how much we appreciate and love the special people in our lives. People buy cards, flowers, candy, jewelry, etc. for their significant others and family members. While just looking at this purpose, Valentine's Day is a wonderful day to have. People need to be shown that they are enough and loved, but I think the purpose of Valentine's Day has changed drastically.

I think many people believe that Valentine's Day is just for romance. Many boyfriends or husbands feel obligated to spend money on gifts for their girlfriends or wives. But why?

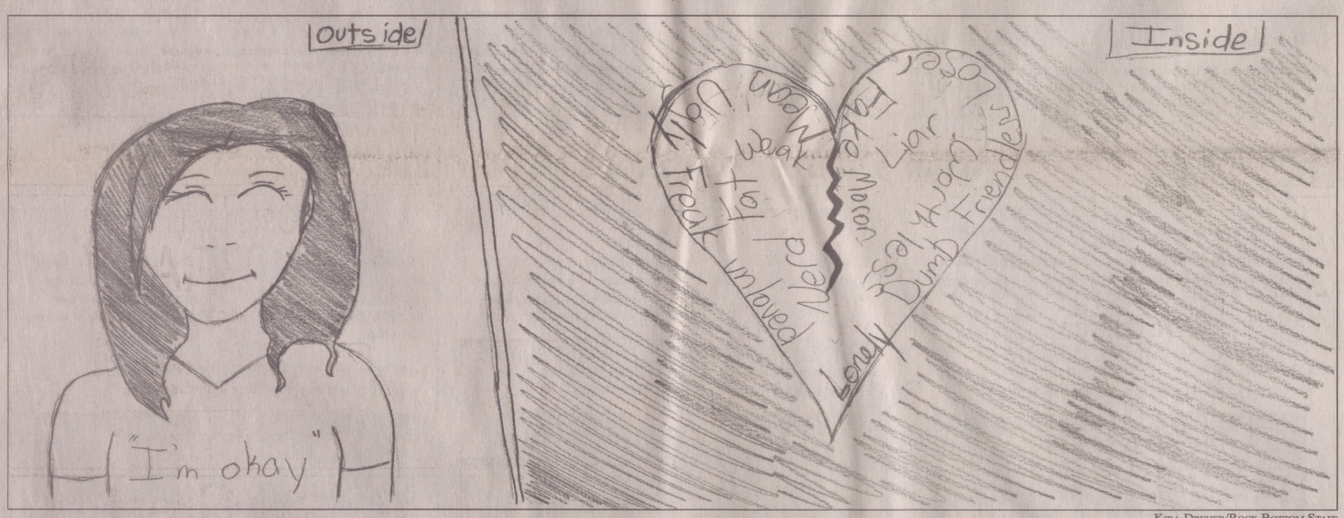
Many women today think their boyfriends or husbands need to spend hundreds of dollars on flowers or jewelry, but that shouldn't be the case. Women need to be more thankful and stop expecting so many gifts from their significant other. Girls in high school are now expecting their boyfriends to buy them gifts for every single holiday. Gifts do not define love.

I think many girls and boys in high school relationships would agree with me that gifts are not cheap. If a girl wants a gift for Christmas, her winter birthday, and Valentine's Day, that boyfriend is going to spend a couple hundred dollars in a short amount of time! What happens if they break up the week after? That money was a waste. If that boy would have just taken his girlfriend out to dinner or told her how much he appreciated her then that boy wouldn't be $300 poorer. Don't get me wrong, gifts now and then are a great way to make a girl's day, but it should be out of the boy's own will power. A man should not give a woman a gift just because he feels like he has to.

> ***"The purpose is not to spend money on the people we love, it is to show that we are thankful for the people we truly care about."***
>
> ***~Eastyn Klink***

I know girls who think they are worthless if they don't have a boyfriend on Valentine's Day. That needs to change. I believe the purpose of Valentine's Day needs to be thought about again. The purpose is not to spend money on the people we love, it is to show that we are thankful for the people we truly care about. We can use Valentine's Day to show our sister, brother, aunt, mother, father, or grandparents that we love them; it does not have to be a significant other.

I am a strong believer in showing our love for one another every day of the year, not just on February 14th. Yes, it's great to do something extra for the people we love to reassure them that we care for them, but we don't have to do it on Valentine's Day. I may be the only girl in the world to think this way, but I don't want to be showered with gifts on Valentine's Day. I would rather be appreciated every day of the year.



Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

The pain of words

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Words are something that people really don't think about anymore. People talk to talk and text to text and don't think about what they are saying. Some people aren't affected by the power of words, but some are.

I am one of those people who does get affected by words. It's hard to forget some words people tell me, whether good or bad.

Words do mean something, so people need to think about the effect their words have on other people, both written and vocal.

I have been hurt countless times by lies and side comments not meant for my ears to hear. I know I'm just one of many people that this happens to, but I realize that one day it will get better. Some say they are there for you, but, lately, I've learned that's not always the case.

Some say, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." I'm going to make a revision to this, for me and the others that words affect them like a wound. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words do more to hurt me."

> ***"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words do more to hurt me."***
>
> ***~Kira Dreher***

Alongside with these experiences, I've come to learn different ways of coping with the effects that remain.

I tend to hide my emotions, but when something like that is disturbing me, I write it down so it's off my mind for a period of time. Even with this though, I'm not hiding the inevitable, the words will still come back.

Another way to get around the effects and make them less harsh would be to find the positive in it. For example, if someone said, "You're not my friend," then you can think to yourself, "Hey! One less present I have to buy for Christmas!"

A simple way would be to just accept it with a grain of salt. You can't always be ready for something like that, but you shouldn't take everything seriously as it is. Unless it comes from an adult, it shouldn't be taken seriously. I know, I know, easier said than done. But if all else fails, just laugh in that person's face and don't let them see that they won.

Words hurt, even if one doesn't think so, they do. Some people don't realize that what they are saying hurts people; trust me, I get it. There is nothing to be done about the pain of words, but what you can do is take it and use it to get stronger mentally, and not let the next statement hurt you even worse.

To those who talk without thinking of what they are saying: stop. Just stop and think. That little side comment about the person you don't like, it gets around. It hurts and doesn't stop even if you think it doesn't make a difference.

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Students share obsessions

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

Everyone has some kind of obsession whether it be with a certain kind of animal, a famous person, or the internet, most people find themselves obsessing over something at some point.

Senior Anthony Sprunk is obsessed with music and Taylor Swift.

Sprunk said, "[My obsessions started] when I was in the fourth grade; I used to steal my sister's T-Swift CD and fall asleep to it at night."

Listening to Taylor Swift's CD led Sprunk to his interest in music, singing, and Taylor Swift.

"I wouldn't call it an obsession. I'm just an extremely dedicated soon to be future husband," Sprunk said.

Sprunk has been to many concerts, three of which have been Taylor Swift's.

Sprunk commented, "At her Red Tour we touched hands, and I hugged her mom. #winning."

Sprunk is a committed supporter of Swift, and even makes his friends join the fandom.

"When 1989 was released, I bought nine copies and gave them to my closest friends because I wanted to make sure they heard it right away, so they could somewhat understand what I was talking about," Sprunk said.

Senior Layne Schroeder is another student who has an obsession for a public figure.

Schroeder commented, "[My obsession for Donald Trump started] in August 2016 after his rally in Austin, Texas. [I am obsessed with Donald Trump for] his conservatism, his success in business, his haircut, the way he says 'yuge', and his ability to keep out 'bad dudes'."

Schroeder has taken to some extremes with his Donald Trump obsession.

"I built a wall around my house," Schroeder commented.

Sophomore Elliott Thomazin has a fascination with magic.

"I'm obsessed with magic. I'm always thinking of it. Sometimes I'll be sitting in class and my mind will wander to a trick I just learned," Thomazin commented.

Thomazin's passion started when he was thirteen years old.

"I've always been fascinated with magic. So when I stumbled across a video on YouTube that taught a simple trick, I had to learn it. I got a deck of cards and watched the video over and over. It just snowballed into what it is today," Thomazin said.

Since first learning magic, Thomazin started to perform magic shows for the public.

Thomazin said, "I started out just performing for my family and friends. Eventually word got out that I was a magician. People started to become interested, so I started getting asked to perform."

Thomazin performs magic shows almost every week, and sometimes multiple times in a weekend in towns around Nebraska including Columbus, Albion, Genoa, Norfolk, and Lincoln.

"Magic allows you to do the impossible. When you watch a piece of magic, you get a strong feeling of wonder. It's a way to spread happiness, and I think that's really awesome," Thomazin commented.

Other students have obsessions with certain animals and sports.

Senior Tatem Vance has an obsession for horses and hockey. Her obsession with horses started in kindergarten when she moved out of town and the house came with a horse.

"They are really smart animals, and they are fun to work with," Vance said.

Vance has had a total of eight horses throughout her life, and her obsession for horses has led to opportunities for her.

Vance said, "I always go horseback riding in Colorado, and I managed to get an internship on a horse ranch in Colorado for this summer."

Vance's hockey obsession started when her dad took their family to a game for her sister's 13th birthday, and she has been going to as many as possible ever since.

"Hockey is a very fast-paced sport, and rivalry fights make it even better. It's the most exciting and aggressive sport out there. The cute boys are a nice bonus, too," Vance commented.

Senior Alayna Wilson has a well-known obsession with turtles.

"[My turtle obsession started] at conception," Wilson stated.

Wilson has had countless turtles as pets throughout her life.

Wilson commented, "They are the strangest looking animals, yet they're cute. There are so many different types of turtles."

Wilson has made her obsession known to people in the various activities that she is in.

Wilson said, "I have people from cheer camp, pageants, and dance competitions who remember that I'm the one who likes turtles, rather than my own name."

For many students, including Wilson, their obsessions have become a part of their identity.

Wilson commented, "I honestly have no idea [how it started]; it is just a part of who I am."

Emma Ruskamp/Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Elliott Thomazin lights a card on fire for a magic trick as part of his informative speech at the speech meet on January 21st. Thomazin has been doing magic since he was thirteen and has become obsessed with it.

Photo Courtesy Alayna Wilson

Senior Alayna Wilson poses with a turtle for a senior picture. Wilson has had an obsession with turtles for as long as she can remember.

What strange obsessions do you have?

"I love cats. I love every kind of cat. I just want to hug them all, but I can't; I can't hug every cat."

-Abbie Perault, senior

"My strange obsession is with stretching throughout the day. I usually stretch my legs and arms. I hate feeling tight."

-Anna Ehlers, eighth grader

"I really love tacos. I wrote a poem about them once."

-Seth VunCannon, seventh grader

"Owls are one of my strange obsessions. I have absolutely no idea as to how this obsession came to develop."

-Kyle Hiemer, freshman

"I eat ice cream every night. If I don't, then I get really hungry and feel like I'm missing something."

-Alli Demuth, eighth grader

"I love smelling orange peels. I mostly just eat oranges so that I can smell the peels for a long time after."

-Eric Mustard, freshman

Students show style in shoes

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

As Marilyn Monroe said, "Give a girl the right pair of shoes and she can conquer the world." But, if you're a shoe obsessed girl like Caitlin Steiner, give her eighty!

The student handbook has little rules about what shoes students can wear to school. Summarized, open back shoes are allowed, they must be rigid and covered, and boots and Crocs are not allowed. This shoe rule gives students the opportunity to collect shoes and show them off at school.

"Having so many shoes gives you a chance to stand out from everybody, especially when you go to a school that requires a uniform," junior Brandon Huynh said.

Junior Matt Strecker has 25 pairs of shoes and has a unique reason for each pair.

"I refuse to wear colors that clash or look dumb together," Strecker said. "I can't wear a green Scotus shirt and have on a pair of red or blue shoes."

The sports that year-round senior athlete Cody Mroczek plays require new shoes for each season.

"I play three sports and used to play summer basketball so that's four pairs of athletic shoes right there in one year," Mroczek said.

The famous shoes and their obsessed owners have been years in the making .

"I got a pair of Jordan's for my birthday in 7th grade, and it all took off from there," Strecker said.

Shoes have also been a constant in the life of senior Eastyn Klink.

"I started buying shoes in 6th grade, so they have just piled up," Klink said. "But I love having a variety of athletic, warm, comfy, and casual shoes to wear throughout the year."

Caitlin Steiner leads the junior class owning the most pair of shoes.

"I'm running out of space for them!" Steiner said. "I recently moved bedrooms this past summer just so I could have a bigger closet."

Because of the wide variety of footwear, students like Mroczek are able to keep shoes for many years.

"I can wear different shoes, they don't wear out so quickly, and when they do, I have mowing shoes," Mroczek said.

While keeping shoes for a long time is important to some, for senior Megan Ohnoutka, having matching outfits is more important.

"You can always have a change in your wardrobe, and if you're feeling sporty, you can wear tennis shoes," Ohnoutka said. "But, if you want to dress up a bit, you can throw on a pair of Vans."

Although each pair of shoes is carefully selected, regret can happen when buying shoes.

"I bought a blue pair, and I didn't like the color of blue because of Lakeview," Mroczek said.

New shoes are a must in many students' lives, but the cost adds up quickly.

"If I were to be responsible and save up my money, I would get new shoes often, but, unfortunately, gas and food are my priority right now," Huynh said.

Steiner also borrows shoes from her family members.

"One of the best things about shoes is that I fit into my older sister's, younger sister, and my mom's shoes too," Steiner said. "If you feel like buying me shoes, I fit into sizes 7½ to 8½."

What students wear on their feet is important to them.

Huynh concluded, "Every pair of shoes I have is like a child of mine; I love every pair."

Emma Ruskamp/Rock Bottom Staff

From left to right, junior Matt Strecker and seniors Cody Mroczek and Eastyn Klink pose with their favorite pairs of shoes. Unique shoes give students a way to bring their personality to life through Scotus' dress code.

Video games entertain students

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Video games are an obsession that many people have. According *to Psychology Today*, there have been three deaths because of people who have an addiction to video games. One of them was a teenager who stabbed his parents for taking away his Halo 3 game, and another was a mother who left her child unattended while playing *World of Warcraft*.

According to *How Stuff Works Tech*, video games came out in the early 1970s, the first commercial gaming being Computer Space and following that, the next year, *Pong* on the Atari. *Pong* was the video game that sparked new ideas to bloom. In 1975, *Nintendo* introduced the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) to the family home. Even today, *Nintendo* has consumers hooked and continue to add to their collection of games. Some of their most classic games are: *Super Mario Bros, Legend of Zelda, Ninja Gaiden, Metroid, Kid Icarus* and many more.

Today, the world is still consumed by video games. In 2016, video game developers came out with some of the most exotic games. According to *The New Yorker*, the most popular games were: *The Last Guardian, The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt – Blood and Wine, Clash Royale, Titanfall 2, Rez Infinite, Hitman, Overwatch, Firewatch*, and *No Man's Sky*.

Many teenagers at Scotus Central Catholic are also obsessed with video games.

PHOTO COURTESY KEATON KUDRON

Senior Keaton Kudron stands with his video gaming consoles and video games. He's not the only student at Scotus who obsesses over video games.

Senior Nathan Hiemer is one of the gamers at Scotus.

"I would say I am not obsessed with video games because I play only when I have some free time and want to have fun with friends," Hiemer answered.

Yet, on the other hand, senior Keaton Kudron answered from the other side.

"Would you say you are obsessed with sports? I am just as obsessed about video games as someone who has to play three sports a school year or has to have their team win," Kudron stated.

People who are obsessed with video games tend to own quite a few video game items - this can range from gaming systems to over hundreds of video games.

Freshman gamer Tyler Vaught owns quite a few games.

"I have three gaming systems: an Xbox 360, Xbox One, and PS3. I have 33 games total. I have two games for PS3, 11 games for Xbox One, and 20 games for Xbox 360," Vaught said.

Gamers are not limited to boys.

Sophomore gamer girl Tara Kamrath told about her fantasy world.

"If I could be in a video game, it would probably be *The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim*. The world itself is phenomenally gorgeous from the colorful auroras in the night sky to a goat flying off a mountain from an Unrelenting Force shout. It is dangerous, of course, with the hundreds of bandits and dragons, but I'd just have my sneak and archery skills up to levels 100," she stated.

It is not all about fantasy worlds; it is also about being social with friends and sharing a common interest.

"It's about being with my friends. It's a great way to spend time with them when you're not able to go to each other's house or when it's too cold outside to do anything," Vaught added.

Cars carry crazy obsessions

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

One birthday that almost everyone can look forward to is their 16th birthday. The coming of this special day usually brings his or her first car. For some people a car is more than just a chunk of metal that brings them from one place to another, it can be their most prized possession.

"My favorite part about my car is that it is always a work in progress; my dad and I have been working on it for two years," junior Landon Sokol said.

Sokol drives a 1986 Red Chevrolet K10. This is his first and only vehicle that he drives. It is a bright red color with two doors and a short box.

"My truck is different from any other car because I have built the car to exactly what I wanted instead of simply buying one that is close," Sokol said.

Senior Jared Mulligan drives a white 1990 Jeep Wrangler. He bought his jeep from a previous owner in St. Paul, Nebraska, not from a dealership.

"My favorite thing about my Jeep is that is a manual. I knew when I was looking for a car that I didn't want an automatic," Mulligan said.

Since his original purchase of his car, Mulligan has added a lime green interior along with new wheels and a lift kit.

"My Jeep is different than any other car because I can go different places with it and not have to worry about it. I have a lot of fun in my Jeep and wouldn't be able to do as much with just a car," Mulligan said.

Sophomore Bailey Lehr drives a 2008 Chevy Silverado. She has named her truck Jenny, and she says her truck is one of a kind.

"My favorite thing about my truck is the giant dent all the way down the side from when I hit a mailbox," Lehr said.

Lehr, unlike many people is not worried about their precious car being totaled because if it is totaled, she says she will just buy a new car and will love it just as much.

"Jenny and I have our ups and downs, but in the end she is my car, and I love her." Lehr said.

Senior Matt Hoenk drives his 1996 Toyota Station wagon. He bought his car from his grandparents.

"I love my car because it is just so different. I knew I wanted a car that stood out but didn't want to spend a fortune on it. When people see it on the road, they know it is me," Hoenk said.Since he has obtained his vehicle, he has added a clothes hanger and duct tape to his antenna, broken his driver's door handle, his gas cap cover, lost two hub caps, and added numerous dents along the sides of the car.

Hoenk concluded, "The dents and missing parts don't bother me; they add character."

TATE VUNCANNON /ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seniors Matt Hoenk and Jared Mulligan, sophomore Bailey Lehr, and junior Landon Sokol show off their rides in the St. Bon's parking lot. Each one is known for the unique vehicles they drive.

Obsessions over the Decades

Over the years, obsessions have come and gone. Here are some of the most iconic obsessions of the past several decades.

1940s

Rosie the Riveter was created to encourage women to step up and fill the shoes of men who were overseas during World War II. As a result, more than 310,000 women joined the U.S. aircraft industry.

HISTORY.COM

1950s

After Juli Lynn Charlot made one poodle skirt for herself, the stylish skirt took the fashion world by storm.

LEAF.TV

WWW.50SPOODLESKIRTS.COM

1960s

The Beatles were one of the most popular bands of all times. The band sold over 2 billion albums and spent a record 1278 weeks on Billboard charts.

FACTS.RANDOMHISTORY.COM ROLLING STONE

1970s

Bell-bottom pants were a staple in the average 1970s wardrobe after Sonny and Cher began wearing the wide-leg pants.

LEAF.TV POLYVORE

1980s

Also known as the King of Pop, Michael Jackson was one of the most obsessed-over singers to ever live. Jackson was the first singer to win 8 Grammys in 1 night and sold over 75 million albums in the United States.

GRAMMY.COM FANS SHARE

1990s

In 1996, Tickle Me Elmo toys were at the top of every child's Christmas list. The company's sales soared to an astounding $350 million.

TIME.COM BUSINESSINSIDER.COM

2000s

Millions of viewers turned into each episode of American Idol. The show broke Guinness World Records and recorded 38.1 viewers on its most watched episode.

LOGOPEDIA TVBYTHENUMBERS.ZAP2IT.COM

Girls finish at state tournament

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' basketball team fought through three life or death games before making their dreams come true of going to the state tournament. This year's team was the tenth Scotus girls' basketball team that has ever played at state.

To begin the final stretch to Lincoln, Scotus beat Aquinas Catholic 50-29 on Tuesday, February 14th at Columbus High School, and moved on to play North Bend on Thursday.

"We practiced hard, were mentally focused, practiced with a lot of intensity, and went through North Bend's offense and defense like crazy," sophomore guard Bailey Lehr said.

The girls pulled away from North Bend and ended up beating the Tigers 39-32.

"After beating North Bend, it was exciting because I knew we were one game away from the state tournament," junior post Shania Borchers said.

The girls' basketball team then drove down to Fremont to win their way into the state tournament by defeating Fort Calhoun.

"The focus coming into the Fort Calhoun game was to play our game. We knew they wanted to speed up the game as fast as they could. We also knew exactly who their shooters were and who their not so great shooters were. I think we prepared very well," junior guard Maggie Feehan said.

The Scotus girls' basketball team beat Fort Calhoun 51-41, making it to the state tournament for the first time since 2012.

"I think I can speak for all of us and say we felt as if we were on top of the world. We were due for a trip to the state tournament; it's been awhile," junior guard Grace Wickham said.

After a season full of close games, the Scotus girls were in the gym every day getting ready to put up a fight at state. The Scotus girls also decided to spend time together outside of the gym by going to Pizza Ranch, making posters, designing shoes, and getting closer as a team.

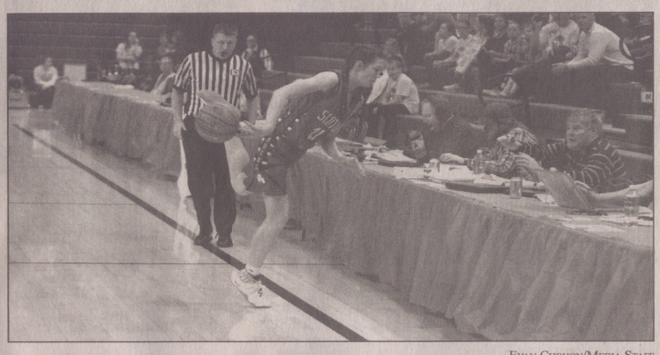
"We're working on keeping our players in front of us and working on handling pressure while successfully running through our offense," senior guard Emma Strecker said.

The basketball team played Lincoln Christian on Thursday, March 2nd, and were unable to outscore the Crusaders. The Scotus girls were defeated 28-62.

"We would have not made it to state without our 'white team.' They worked super hard, and they helped us become better players and become more prepared," Lehr said.

Evan Chohon/Media Staff

Senior Emma Strecker goes up for a lay-up against the Lincoln Christian defense. The student section gave her a "Thank you, Emma" chant to end her basketball season.



Evan Chohon/Media Staff

Sophomore Bailey Lehr saves the ball from going out of bounds in the first quarter at the state tournament. It was the first time the Scotus girls' basketball team has made it to state since 2012.

Shamrocks snag wildcard to state

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

After taking a disappointing loss to Winnebago in the district finals game last Monday, the Shamrocks continue their quest for the team's first state title with a 23-2 record. The team is currently ranked #3 in class C-1.

The senior lead team has only two losses on the year, one against rival Bishop Neumann who they came back to beat in a dominant fashion later and Winnebago. After the loss to Winnebago, the team was given the wild card and will be headed to state on March 9th.

"Going into the state tournament after a loss gives us extra motivation to come out on top," senior Dalton Taylor said.

With the Shamrocks entering the district tournament in their quest for the team's long awaited first state title, the pressure was on to put on a good performance in their first against local Lakeview High School. The Shamrocks dominated the game coming out with a final score of 56-16. This set the defensive record of least points allowed in a game.

"We prepare one game at a time; we can't worry about who we might play next," senior Cody Mroczek said.

Following the statement the Shamrocks made in their first game at districts, the team's next opponent was North Bend Central. The Shamrocks had played Central in the last regular season game and came out on top with a three point victory. From the beginning the Shamrocks took the lead and maintained this lead throughout the game leaving another statement with a 63-38 win. This took the team to their fourth consecutive district final, this time against Winnebago.

"The atmosphere at the district and state tournament is totally different than in our regular season games," Mroczek said.

The District final game against Winnebago was held at Norfolk High School. The gym was filled to its limit with fans from both schools pouring in to see who would come out on top. Before the game started, there were cheers being chanted. This did not stop throughout the game; the gym only became louder with both schools hoping to take home the district championship and obtain the number one seed for the state tournament.

"It was the loudest game I've played in for that size of gym," Mroczek said.

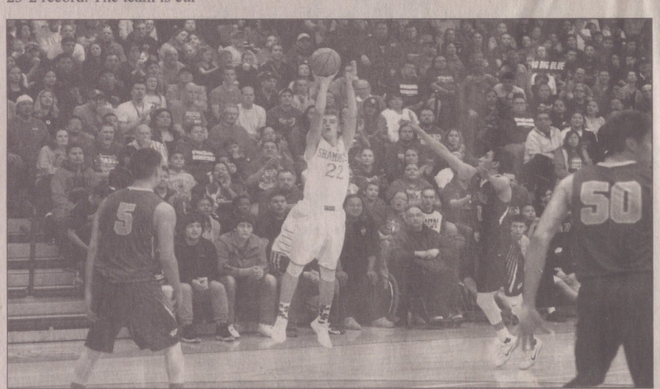
From the beginning, Winnebago took a lead which they held to close out the first quarter up seven. The second quarter was much different with the Shamrocks controlling the flow of play, cutting the lead to two points to close out the half. At this point in the game, the tension was strong between both teams and there were chants directed not at the game but at the opposing fans starting to pop up. As the second half got underway, Winnebago showed that they meant business extending the lead to thirteen by the end of the third quarter. The final quarter of the game was back and forth with Winnebago holding on to their commanding lead to the buzzer with a final score of 65-50.

"Playing in an atmosphere with 2,000 people in the district finals was a great experience," Taylor said.

The team's first game at the state tournament will be on March 9th at 3:45 against Boys Town. The Shamrocks have played Boys Town only once in the regular season taking a 54-45 win, which they will hope the recreate and move on to the second round of the state tournament against the winner of Bishop Neumann and O'Neill.

"We need to make teams play our style of basketball if we want to come home with the state title," Taylor said.

Mroczek concluded, "This will be our fourth straight year down at state and have yet to bring home the gold; we are hoping to change that this time around."



Mitchell Hallingan/Yearbook Staff

Senior Tate VunCannon puts up a 3 in the district finals game. The Shamrocks fell to Winnebago 65-50, giving them the three seed at the state tournament.

Swimmers set PRs at state

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The boys' and girls' swim teams competed at the state level in February and didn't fail to meet expectations. Among those expectations was beating previously set personal best times and placing in some events, both of which the boys and girls accomplished.

The boys' team swam in several different events, but most notably they finished seventh in the consolation finals of the 200m freestyle relay all while beating their personal best times.

Junior Chase Andresen led the charge on the relay with a time of 22.94 seconds in his leg of the race.

"Overall, I am pretty happy with how we did as a team. I was specifically happy with the 200m freestyle relay mostly because we made it to the finals with our best time," Andresen said.

Junior Trey Dallman has been swimming competitively for five years, and he clocked a time of 23.82 in his leg of the race.

"We have a lot of room for improvement, and I could see ourselves medaling next year,"

The girls also went into the event prepared. Freshman Emily Miksch was among the swimmers who qualified at state.

"I swam the 200 medley relay and the 200 free relay. In both relays we got a personal best, and personally I set my best time," Miksch said.

Sophomore Julia Salerno has been swimming for two years. This year was her first time qualifying for state.

"I swam in the 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle. I swam pretty close to my goal, so I would say I'm happy with how it went," Salerno said. "I'm proud of how we finished our season, and I'm proud to be part of such a successful team."

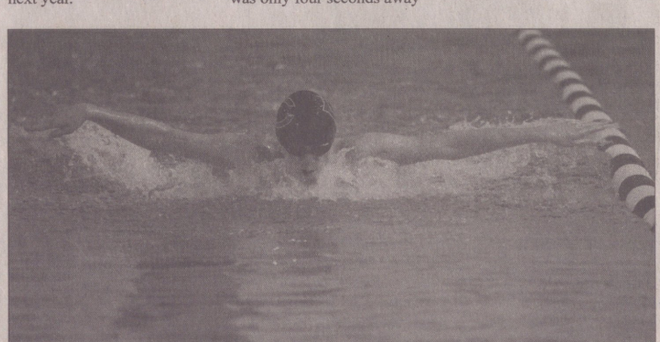
With such a young team, the swimmers could make a strong leap into success in coming years. Sophomore Callan Fuchser has been swimming competitively for seven years, and this is her second time qualifying for state.

"I'm satisfied with our result, but it was a new moment for everyone. Our goals are already set for next season," Fuchser said. "This year, the only event that I swam in was the 200 medley relay. We dropped time and didn't get last! That was the goal!"

Although the teams did not win every meet leading up to state, they saw improvement every time they would go out to compete. The boys set personal bests in the 200m free relay and the 200m medley relay, along with setting several individual goals. The entire team, except for two seniors, will be eligible to compete again next year.

Sohomore Konnor Kudron wrapped up the swimmers season.

"Although I haven't qualified for a race at state yet, I know that I tried my best. My 100m breaststroke was only four seconds away from a secondary," Kudron said. "My favorite part of the meet was being able to talk with teams from other schools, and I'm excited to go back next year."



Landri Swett/Media Staff

Sophomore Konner Kudron swims the butterfly in the Varsity relays at the Columbus Aquatic Center on December 10th.

Musical presents Modern Millie

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

The culture and lifestyle of the 1920s came alive at Scotus throughout the past couple months as the fine arts group prepared for their latest presentation, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

This musical incorporated singing, dancing, dramatic acting, and unthinkable plot twists.

With the help of director and music teacher, Laura Salyard, and assistant director and English teacher, Helen Schumacher, they performed four shows throughout the weekend beginning with a performance for the grade school on Thursday.

"The performance on Thursday went really well. It's funny how things always come together at the last minute," Salyard said.

The cast only performed the first act and the first scene of the second act for the grade schools, and they were able to perform the whole show beginning on Friday.

"We knew that they would do well, but during that first performance, Mrs. Schumacher and I would look at each other and our jaws would drop because what they brought during rehearsal was good, but what they brought to the performance was ten times more. It was just amazing," Salyard said.

The musical was about a girl named Millie Dillmount, played by junior Caitlin Steiner, who moves to New York with hopes to become thoroughly modern. Being on stage is nothing new to Steiner.

"This is my third musical, but I have been doing Missoula Children's Theatre every summer since I was 4 or 5," Steiner said.

Millie has several encounters with people throughout her journey in New York beginning with Jimmy Smith, played by senior Mitchell Halligan. At first, Millie is not interested in Jimmy, but they end up falling in love at the end.

"I liked playing the role of Jimmy because my character changed from a jerk to a pretty nice guy," Halligan said. This is Halligan's third year doing the musical.

Dorothy Brown, played by senior Naomi Kosch, pretends to be an orphan and stays at the Hotel Priscilla.

"I love acting, singing, dancing, and being around people who make me smile and laugh regardless of how late it is, hungry, or stressed I am." Kosch said. "I absolutely loved every minute of musical this year, and I'd do it all again in a heartbeat."

Muzzy Van Hossmere, played by junior Jenna Salerno, is rich and secretly the step-mother of Jimmy and Dorothy.

"This is the second musical in a row that I have ended up without a husband, but at least I didn't end up dead this year…" Salerno said.

The musical this year was different than last year's production of Fiddler on the Roof, especially the outfits and acting.

"With Fiddler last year, the characters were naturally a bit more reserved. But with this show everything had to be over the top and so exaggerated, and it was fun to coach the kids on how to do that," Salyard said. "I spent several hours looking for costumes that would fit their characters, and they would feel comfortable in. We had to find stuff that was kind of flashy and glittery, but that they could be comfortable in and dance in."

The musical was written as a comedy and there were some comic relief scenes included. The scenes included a wanted criminal who pretends to be Chinese, Ms. Meers, played by sophomore Maddie Sueper. She ran the Hotel Priscilla and took in orphans that came to the hotel and sold them into white slavery in Hong Kong. Also, her workers, Bun Foo, played by senior Zach Svehla, and Ching Ho, played by senior Anthony Sprunk, who both spoke in Chinese throughout the show were part of the comic relief.

"My favorite scene was every scene I got to share with Maddie Sueper; she is a natural!" Sprunk said.

Ching Ho falls in love with Dorothy Brown the first time he sees her, and they end up together at the end of the show.

"I would recommend the musical to anyone who is considering going out," Svehla said. "The more people that are involved, the more fun it is."

Angie Rusher/ Journalism Advisor

Sophomore Isaac McPhillips reads a letter in front of his employees at *Sincere Enterprises*. The cast performed their first full show on Friday, February 17th.

Matt Strecker/ Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Jenna Salerno sings to her guests as they chat amongst themselves.

Angie Rusher/ Journalism Advisor

Senior Mitchell Halligan sings while in jail after being arrested for drinking.

Mallory O'Hearn/ Rock Bottom Staff

Seniors Anthony Sprunk and Zach Svehla sing a song in Chinese. They spoke Chinese during the entire show.

Mallory O'Hearn/ Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Megan Schumacher, junior Caitlin Steiner, and sophomore Mattie Johnson dance in the opening scene.

Matt Strecker/ Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Isaac McPhillips falls in love with senior Naomi Kosch at *Sincere Enterprises* in front of the employees. McPhillips played the role of Trevor Greydon, the owner of *Sincere Enterprises*.

Angie Rusher/ Journalism Advisor

Senior Emerson Belitz, freshman Lauren Ostdiek, and senior Courtney Flint point their guns at sophomore Maddie Sueper as they realize her plan to sell orphans into white slavery.

La La Land 'starts a fire' in theatres

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

"Another Day" of Sun in Los Angeles sings and dances its way into the hearts of audiences everywhere with the new hit film *La La Land*, written and directed by Damien Chazelle. Starring Emma Stone as Mia, an aspiring actress working in a coffee shop, and Ryan Gosling as Sebastian, a dedicated classic jazz musician, *La La Land* fails to disappoint the musical and performing arts genre. With catchy music and mesmerizing dances scenes, this movie will have any audience member humming and tapping their toes for weeks.

Critics and movie goers alike have been raving about *La La Land* from the moment it hit the theatres on December 9th of last year. Since then, it has won 148 awards out of its 223 nominations. Nominations include Golden Globes, Oscars, and Screen Actors Guild Awards. After attending this movie multiple times, I agree with every award that it has received.

CURBED.COM

Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling dance the night away in the newest hit movie *La La Land*. The movie has been nominated for 223 awards.

The movie starts off with a large traffic jam, something to be expected with living in a big city like Los Angeles. All of a sudden, a huge flash mob breaks out with one of the catchiest songs you'll ever hear, "Another Day of Sun." It got me interested and extremely excited to see what the movie had to offer. After a clean four minutes of singing and dancing on cars, everyone calms down, and we meet our main characters. Stone is practicing her lines for a big audition, and Gosling is listening to a tape of jazz music, studying every note. Gosling then unleashes a prolonged honk directed at Stone (that will come up again later, several times) and passes her as they exchange some harsh emotions. Ah, love.

From the opening scene to the closing credits, this movie captures you with all brands of music. For being a musical, there are still several songs in this movie that stray from the status quo of musicals. Multiple times in this film, we find our lovebirds in jazz clubs listening to trumpets blasting glass shattering high notes or saxophones stealing the show with melodic tones and beautiful strings of notes. It was a fantastic blend of musical numbers and classic jazz music. Sebastian's passion for starting a club that only plays true jazz music had me cheering for him to succeed throughout the entire movie.

Another aspect of this movie that had this film blowing up the box office (to the tune of over nine million dollars on opening weekend) is the love story between Stone and Gosling. Starting with a less than friendly encounter on a freeway, the two meet several times at parties and at a restaurant from which Gosling gets fired from for playing his kind of music. The way these first couple meetings go, it had me feeling like these two would be sworn archenemies throughout the whole film. Then, after a party, a scene of them walking to their cars and stopping to sing and tap-dance to "A Lovely Night" changed my whole way of thinking. From there on, their love story is easy to follow and draws audience members in by making them wish they were in their relationship. With Gosling on piano, and Stone throwing some of her horribly awkward dance moves, they quickly turn into a power couple.

From its catchy songs, to its elaborate dance numbers, famous faces such as Stone, Gosling, and John Legend, and its addicting love story, *La La Land* was a late addition to the conversation of "best movie in 2016." Though it was only in Columbus for a week, I highly recommend purchasing a digital or physical copy when it comes out in mid-to-late April. It lives up to the high expectations, and you will get more than your money's worth.

A Dog's Purpose doesn't disappoint

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Some movies leave the audience dumbfounded, and others leave an audience sorry that they wasted their money and time on a piece of Hollywood garbage. For me, *A Dog's Purpose* found a spot right in the middle. Just as you would expect from a family friendly and heart-warming story that tugs on the viewer's heartstrings, the movie did not have an over-complicated plot; however, it was developed thoroughly enough to keep the viewer entertained.

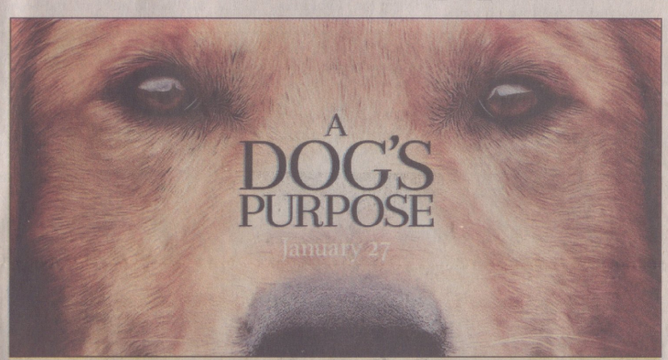
The movie is based on author Bruce Cameron's 2010 book *A Dog's Purpose*. It is a story about a dog who is reincarnated several times to discover his ultimate purpose in life. Voice actor Josh Gad voices Bailey, a golden retriever, Buddy, a black lab, Tino, a corgie, and Ellie, a German shephard on a journey with several different owners to discover what a dog's purpose truly is.

Anybody who has ever owned a furry friend will find this movie extremely relatable. The movie explores a dog's role whenever their owner is feeling a certain way – whether it be sadness, happiness, or angry venting. There were several moments throughout this movie that reminded me of my own experiences with my dog, and I have to admit, I did "aww" a couple times.

Pretty much every movie about pets ever has a pet die at some point in the movie. Spoiler alert, it happens in this movie, too. It is scenes like this that are especially memorable, and they are sure to make the viewer extremely emotional. If you're anything like me and have had to say goodbye to a pet, scenes like this are especially hard to watch. It is sure to leave anybody watching the movie who currently has a pet appreciating their own furry buddy.

My only real gripe with this movie, and what you'll read in almost any movie review about this movie, is how the animals were treated behind the scenes. Now by no means am I a member of PETA, but if you're like me then knowing about some of these incidents before watching the movie may make some of the sappy moments seem slightly less genuine.

Overall, I would recommend that you see this movie, especially if you have a pet. The underlying theme of this whole movie is that your pet may only be around for part of your life, but to them you are all that they have. This entire movie from start to finish does an excellent job of hitting that theme home. It teaches you that the next time your dog scratches at your door at midnight, you should let them in. When they drop their favorite toy in front of you as you sit down to watch Netflix after a long day, hopefully you will spend a few extra minutes playing with them. If there is one lesson that you will learn from this movie, it is that pets won't be around forever, so it is important to enjoy and appreciate them while you still have a chance.



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Rock Bottom

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Wrestling coaches cap off careers

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

After countless years of practices, meets, and all that goes along with being a wrestling coach, Scotus wrestling coaches Tracy Dodson, Gaylen Kamrath, and Gary Schlesinger have decided to pass on the torch and retire from their long and successful wrestling careers.

"I've missed a lot of family time and activities being a wrestling coach, and I am looking forward to making up for that," Dodson said.

Scotus Wrestling has only been a program for five years, but in those five years Dodson and Kamrath have coached numerous state medalists. Among these state medalists were two state champions, Marcus Dodson, Tracy Dodson's son, and Alec Foltz.

"Matches can last anywhere from 4 seconds to 8 minutes and 30 seconds, and at the state finals where there can be up to 14,000 people in attendance, there is a feeling of great magnitude," Dodson said.

Neither Dodson nor Kamrath started off their wrestling career at Scotus. Kamrath started his wrestling career at Columbus High. After that became a coach at Monroe and moved to David City High where he was inducted into the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1999.

"You have to be a tough individual to wrestle; it teaches work ethic. When you apply for a job, tell them you wrestled, you will get hired," Kamrath said.

Dodson started his wrestling career off at York High School and later became a coach at Columbus High. Schlesinger spent countless years coaching the younger wrestlers at the Duncan Wrestling program trying to make them into eventual state champions. All three coaches were very successful at these other programs and brought their coaching abilities to Scotus in 2011 where they have seen the program flourish under their direction.

"I have a passion for the sport, and one quote that I will take away from my coaching experience is, 'Wresting is a sacrifice; adversity, pressure, humility, and determination are all part of it; if you can get someone involved in this sport, it is a win,'" Dodson said.

With both Dodson and Kamrath having already coached at other schools in the past, the experience they had with the other programs helped to develop the Scotus wrestling program. Dodson had worked with Scotus students in the past when it was a co-op sport with Columbus High.

"When you are building a program there is a learning curve; this was different from when I coached at Columbus High with a wrestling program that was built in 1967," Dodson said.

Kamrath, who had previously coached at other schools, had no experience with Scotus students, and came into the program as an already respected coaching figure. He got to work immediately on teaching his, Dodson's, and Schlesinger's style of wrestling. Together the two coaches have enjoyed countless memories that they will take with them and have developed a strong friendship on and off the mat.

"One memory that comes to mind is when we used a wrestling

See **COACHES**, Page 2

CHASE NEWMAN/MEDIA STAFF

Senior Anthony Sprunk sings an original song, "Notes to Myself," for the talent portion of Mr. Shamrock. Sprunk was the winner of the 2017 Mr. Shamrock pageant.

Sprunk sings his way to Mr. Shamrock title

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

Nine senior boys braved the stage at the twelfth annual Mr. Shamrock pageant, answering questions, performing their talents, and showing off their catch your 'dream girl' outfits.

The pageant was held on Sunday, March 19th and admission was $2 or two cans of food, which was donated to the Simon House Food Pantry.

The contest consisted of three segments judged by a panel of teachers, Homecoming Queen Emma Strecker, and Winter Ball Queen Emily Hand.

"I wanted to have some fun because we only have a quarter left of high school," contestant Luke Jarecke said.

The competition started with the boys answering interview questions asked by senior girls in student council. Answering these questions quickly and with wit were key to winning the title of Mr. Shamrock.

While some contestants were being interviewed on stage, another contestant would be behind stage preparing for his talent. In between the interviews, the audience was wowed with the senior boys' talents.

The winner, Anthony Sprunk, sang his way to the Mr. Shamrock title.

"[My best area was] definitely singing an original song called "Notes to Myself" because it's a very personal song, and it gave the audience something to think about," Sprunk commented.

Matt Hoenk and Trevor Halligan went with a talent that was less traditional than singing. Hoenk shaved Halligan's head for his talent portion of the pageant.

"I cut his hair because I wanted to do the rest of the world a favor," Hoenk said.

Halligan called on the help of his dad to perform his talent. His dad held blocks of wood while Halligan punched through them. He even invited judge Emma Strecker to the stage to try it for herself.

"I broke boards because I have a taekwondo background," Halligan said.

While some of the contestants had a prepared and practiced talent, others did not.

"I did a parody of songs I 'wrote,'" Jarecke said. "I did it because I have no real, special talents."

Many of the contestants spent little time preparing for their talents.

"[My talent was] bad magic because I didn't have to practice anything," Will Sonderman said.

The next portion of the pageant was the catch your 'dream girl' outfit. The contestants had to work the runway with an outfit that they thought would be able to catch their dream girls' eyes.

"I was texting Naomi Kosch while eating a banana, and I was about to tell her I didn't know what to do but then it hit me," Sprunk said. "I decided to dress up as a banana with a light up shamrock because is it really 'Anthony' if it doesn't have lights on it?"

Halligan wore an outfit that was already popular with the student section.

"I saw that people liked my 80s theme outfit for a basketball game, so I just went with that," Halligan commented.

After the interview questions, the talent portion, and the catch your 'dream girl' outfit, the winner was crowned. Anthony Sprunk took home the Mr. Shamrock title with a standing ovation.

"Anthony sang really well, and he deserved the win," Hoenk said.

Every spring, student council recruits new contestants for next year's pageant.

"I recommend this to the senior boys next year because it is really fun and a good way to leave your mark," Jarecke concluded.

Boys battle for fourth at state

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

The Scotus boys' basketball team had their fair share of close games at the end of their season. At each of the three games at state, the boys battled back and forth with their opponents and kept the crowd on their feet, finishing with fourth place.

The first of the boys' three games at the state tournament was against Boys Town on Thursday, March 9th.

"We were just trying to focus on our game plan and the game ahead of us. We tried taking them one game at time and focused on what we had to do," junior guard Trevor Kaslon said.

The boys were able to outscore Boys Town 30-8 in the fourth quarter to make the final score 59-49.

"Once we realized the season would be over if we lost, we started to make a comeback. We knew we were going to win once we got a couple steals," sophomore guard Caden Pelan said.

After defeating Boys Town, the Scotus basketball team started preparing for their next game against Bishop Neumann on Friday, March 10th.

"We were feeling light and energized. We were ready to play that game. We were on a mission," senior guard Tate VunCannon said.

After a hard fought battle against Neumann for the third time, Neumann defeated Scotus 48-36. The Scotus boys then had to get ready to play for third place on Saturday, March 11th.

"It was the last basketball game ever. The seniors had been playing together since 5th grade, and it was the end of our journey. We wanted to play loose, fast, and have a ton of fun in our last game together," VunCannon said.

The Scotus and Winnebago teams battled point by point the entire game.

"I want to thank all the parents, coaches, students, fans, and cheerleaders for the incredible amount of support through my four years at Scotus. The environments we got to play in, especially at state, were amazing. Those are moments I'll never forget," VunCannon said.

At the end of the fourth quarter,

See **STATE**, Page 2

ALYSSA KUTA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Dalton Taylor shoots a lay-up against Boys Town's defense at the state tournament. The Scotus boys' basketball team placed fourth at state.

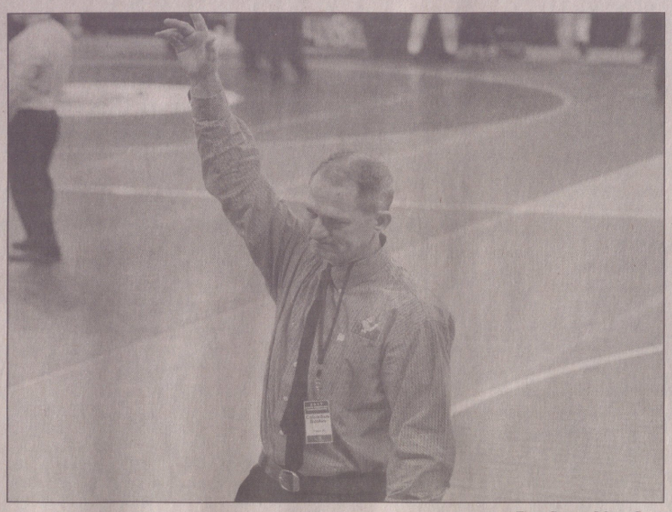
COACHES

mat on the Platte River for the Maine Exchange in 2016, something that you probably couldn't do at a lot of other schools," Dodson said.

"My best memory is helping coach teams that finished 32nd, 16th, 9th, 5th, and 12th in five years, along with coaching state qualifiers, placers, runner-ups, and state champions," Kamrath added.

With these three coaches having stepped out onto the mat to coach for the last time, their official high school coaching days have come to an end. This leaves them with their future plans. Kamrath plans to work with his nephew who wrestles for Skutt Catholic. Dodson hopes to spend more time with his family and work with the new STEM program at Columbus High School. Schlesinger plans to continue his work with the Duncan wrestling program.

"I have a lot of good memories coaching at Scotus and working with good athletes and being successful in a short amount of time. It was fun," Kamrath concluded.



Evan Chohon/Media Staff

Head wrestling coach Tracy Dodson waves to the crowd in his final state wrestling tournament. Dodson, along with assistant coaches Gaylen Kamrath and Gary Schlesinger, retired at the end of the season.

STATE

the game was still not in either team's control. With seconds left the Indians were winning 63-61, but senior Evan Chohon made a buzzer beater to tie the game at 63 and force an overtime.

"I was feeling confident and had a good feeling about the game that we could pull it out," Kaslon said.

After the four minutes of overtime, the Shamrocks and Indians were tied at 68. Winnebago had the final possession of the game and were able to make the second buzzer beater of the third place game. The Indians beat the Shamrocks 71-68.

"We made it to the final four every year since we were freshman. The program rose to an elite level over our careers," senior guard Nathan Ostdiek said.

The seniors of the Scotus basketball team were able to not only make it to state the past four years, but they also placed at state each of those years. The seniors helped the Shamrocks get third place their freshman year, second place their sophomore year, third place their junior year, and fourth place their senior year.

"I loved walking into the Devaney and Pinnacle Bank Arena and seeing all of the people there. It's the most beautiful time of the year," senior post Dalton Taylor said.

With the seniors leaving the Scotus basketball program, each senior has special moments they will never forget.

"Some of the greatest moments at the state tournament were the fourth quarter of the Boys Town game, Coach Swanson's technical foul in the Neumann game, and my first technical foul in the Winnebago game," senior guard Cody Mroczek said.

The Shamrocks overall record this year was 24-4.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Mrs. Angie Rusher

Editor:
Tate VunCannon

Staff writers:
Kira Dreher
Haley Faust
Matt Hoenk
Eastyn Klink
Mallory O'Hearn
Amberly Parker
Kaylie Rocha
Emma Ruskamp
Layne Schroeder
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RUNZA

Hard work and no play

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

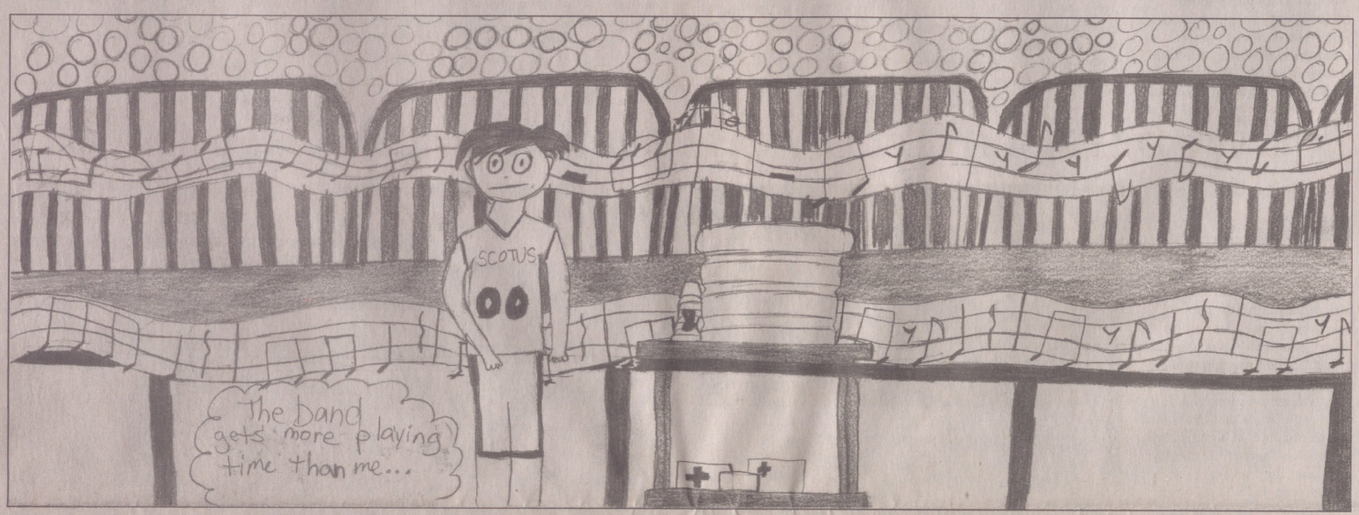
Looking towards the end of the bench during a varsity basketball game would result in seeing several players remaining in their warmup shirts, some who will never take them off. A well-known term for these players is "benchwarmers". Being one of these players, I don't have a problem with my lack of playing time. I don't think many players would be opposed to being on the roster of a 23-4 state qualifying team. However, I think that "benchwarmers" don't get enough credit for what they do.

Everyone in the gym for a state basketball game knows all about the top six or seven players for each team playing, and almost nothing about the next seven guys. However, the bottom few guys on the team have an unseen importance that usually gets forgotten. We (the last players on the team) have to run the different offenses and defenses of the teams that we play. When preparing for state basketball, we have to be better than Neumann, Boys Town, and Winnebago so that we can get a good look at what we as a team need to do to win the next game. I'd like to see a team win the state tournament with seven players practicing five-on-zero every day.

When people in the crowd or student sections look at the end of the bench and see benchwarmers sitting there, they think that they aren't that good at all. If we were good, obviously, we would be playing, right? Well, that's simply not the case. I have sat on the bench with some players that had the potential to start on varsity at any other school that they went to. There could be some solid, even extremely talented players that don't get in at all because they are behind three year starters or all-state players that dominate any game they play in. There are a lot of solid players that don't ever get playing time at schools like Scotus, Neumann, Norfolk, Gretna, and so many others because they are such great teams with tons of talented athletes on their roster.

If I am completely honest, I would much rather get to play than sit on the bench the whole game. Something as simple or small as one minute per quarter would be a lot better than 30 seconds at the end of games that we are winning by 25 points. However, I have learned how to have just as much fun on the bench as I could have playing in the game. When sitting on the bench, there are two ways to spend that time. You could be sad and pout about not playing, or you could get rowdy when your teammates do something on the court. There is really nothing better than doing wild, crazy celebratory actions reacting to Trevor Kaslon dunking over someone or Nathan Ostdiek hitting a three from way downtown. SportsCenter has had several clips of the bench players featured due to the players doing humorous things like fainting after a huge dunk, holding each other back when a defender gets crossed up, and many others. Sometimes looking at the end of the bench after something crazy happens will make you laugh harder than whatever caused it.

Even though we don't average 20 points per game, shoot the lights out, or pull every rebound that comes near us, that doesn't mean we are worthless. And, if you play a sport, chances are, you will have to deal with this at some point. The best way to get past a lack of playing time is to put a towel on your head, make up some cool handshakes with the other players on the team, and have the time of your life.



Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Family isn't just 'family'

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

Family is where everyone feels loved, cared and supported for; its where parents go to their kids' activities and cheer them on; it's when parents bring their kid a heating pad for cramps, and it's when their kid needs a long, warm hug from their mother or father.

Traditional families can be insufficient for some people, meaning that their families are not pulling the weight for what a family usually does, and they seek a functional one. Sometimes other people become their family.

Family isn't just the ones who brought you into this world; it's the ones you want to include in your world.

Friends are the people you are generally most close to and would do anything for, which makes them excellent people to be your family. They are the other people who love you, care, and support you. Friends want what's best for you and want to prove that you are something good in this world. They are the ones that you can go to for everything and anything, whether it be the exciting news of a new album that is coming out or the devastating news of a lost one; friends are there to catch the fallen pieces, and there to lift you up higher when you are happy. All the people that you have in your life that you call friends can become your supporting and loving family.

Teachers are another form of family you can have. The teachers here at Scotus are more than people who just teach us the basics we need to graduate high school; they are also here to teach us life lessons. Teachers are families and especially here at Scotus, I have never seen a more supportive staff group than the one here. They are here to be the support, love, and care you need to grow and learn from; they are adults who know and understand where you come from. Teachers are the other parents in your family who can help you with life questions or a shoulder to cry on.

The last example is where you work: the people that surround you while you work hard away at a mutual task, can make work more bearable. These are the people you can count on to share some funny or terrible memories, and make the work at hand, interesting. Coworkers and you can become friends, and be able to help support each other in time of need; for example, you are handling all the orders, but you need a table cleaned, your coworker has your back to make sure it gets done. These people are who you can count on, whether it be at the workplace or outside of work. They also should be people you trust and understand where they are coming from. They also can be family.

The traditional family isn't just the only family out there for people; I have a family here amongst Scotus and my friends, and I could never ask for a better group of family members. I encourage you to go out there today to grow your family and never let it stop growing.

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McPhillips surprised with multiples

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

First year teachers Mr. and Mrs. McPhillips have some big news to share with the Scotus community. At their last doctor's appointment, the doctor used an ultrasound to see the McPhillips' baby.

"I never would have guessed what I was going to see on that screen," science teacher Bridget McPhillips said.

The doctor looked at both of the McPhillips then back at the screen to make sure he was not seeing things. The doctor then told the McPhillips that they were not just having one baby, but three.

"I was beyond shocked. I just stared at the ultrasound screen thinking to myself what three babies at one time was going to be like," math teacher Zach McPhillips said.

The McPhillips do have family members with sets of twins, but no one in their immediate family has triplets.

"I knew I had a slight chance of having twins, but I really thought I would just have one. So, when I saw three little babies on the screen, I thought the doctor was trying to pull a prank on us," Mrs. McPhillips said.

Their babies are due on April 18, 2017.

"With the due date coming around the corner, we have a lot to do. Considering that we were only planning for one baby, we have to change a lot of our plans," Mr. McPhillips said.

The McPhillips have decided to move into a bigger house so they have enough room for three kids. They will be moving into the house at the end of March.

"We bought a two-story home with 5 bedrooms, so there will plenty of space for the babies and all the items babies need. We also have to buy a new van because our cars right now do not have enough room for three car seats," Mrs. McPhillips said.

With all these new expenses coming at the McPhillips, Mr. McPhillips decided to look for a side job.

"I knew we would be needing more money, so I applied at a couple of restaurants. I was hired as a waiter at Dusters in downtown Columbus. I work mostly every night, but I still find time to take care of the Misses," he added.

Even though this news was shocking, the McPhillips are doing everything they can to make sure it all works out.

"We know it is going to very stressful and tiring, but it will all be worth it. I cannot wait to hold three little babies and raise them in the Scotus community," Mrs. McPhillips said.

The McPhillips are also blessed to have some immediate family around Columbus that will help them with the three babies.

"I've heard that one baby is hard to handle, so I'm a little nervous on having to take care of three babies. I know a lot of Scotus students are going to be asked to babysit in the upcoming years," Mr. McPhillips said.

The Scotus community will be saying prayers for each baby's health and will be having a baby shower on April 8th. All students are welcome to come to the Scotus cafeteria at noon to celebrate this great news.

ALYSSA KUTA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Teachers Zach and Bridget McPhillips pose in a pre-baby photoshoot in Mrs. McPhillips' room. They are expecting triplets on April 18, 2017.

New bus improves safety and comfort

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

With the recent robbery, the continuously malfunctioning air conditioner, and the bumpy rides, the school board has decided to upgrade the school's transportation system.

The new buses will be bought from Navigator Motorcoaches in Norfolk and are ranked higher in security, meaning they will have security cameras and an alarm system, which the current buses lack.

"Charter buses for Scotus have actually been years in the making," activities director and assistant principal Merlin Lahm said. "With the recent robbery and vandalism to one of our buses, the school board, along with many of the parents and teachers, decided it would be in our best interest to bump up the purchase of a bus to the fall of the 2017 school year."

Charter buses range from $300,000 to $600,000, and Scotus has been saving up for a bus for nearly ten years.

"Saving and wisely spending money is a priority of mine," development director John Schueth said. "But, we didn't have the funds to buy a bus right away. We sent out an email to people who said they were willing to help improve our transportation, and had a few meetings about bumping up the purchase of a bus quicker and luckily, we worked everything out."

With the help of generous donators, the bus will be purchased in the summer and ready to use in the fall.

"The safety and well-being of the students has always been a major concern of mine, especially when they travel to out-of-town games," donator and supporter of Scotus athletics Don Mroczek said. "I was able to donate to the bus fund and hopefully the new charter bus will help ease some of the concern that parents have about the school taking their kids to those games that are further away."

Although many of the teachers and coaches are excited about the new bus, head football coach, Tyler Linder, would rather stick to the old buses.

"Who would want the stench of the football boys to seep into the fabric and interior of the bus? I will be using the old school, yellow buses to transport the football boys anywhere we go," Linder said.

Other coaches feel the exact opposite.

"There may only be a dozen or so golfers each year, but we are taking that new bus anywhere we can," new golf coach Tyler Swanson said. "We might even drive the team to practice each day!"

Even though Swanson is willing to take the new bus anywhere he can, he will not be able to because of the cost of gas. A two hour bus ride will average nearly $400 in gas. That being said, the bus will only be used for games that are more than 60 miles away.

"We may be getting a charter bus, but we are not getting any richer," Lahm said.

The new bus will include Scotus' logo on the side of it with three green stripes to symbolize the trinity.

"Bishop Robert Barron said that we should include the trinity in every aspect of our lives, even in sports and transportation," Linder said.

Scotus will not be able to afford more than one bus, so money will be saved for another new one to buy in years to come. The next bus purchase is predicted to be in 2025.

"Saving for this bus took a very long time, but luckily we have had generous donations to our project," Schueth said.

Buying a charter bus will improve Scotus' transportation system in many ways, including the comfort of students.

"The buses we have right now are terrible," junior Landon Sokol said. "It is so hard to get comfortable in them. Of course comfort isn't what matters on bus rides, but it will be so nice to have a bus that actually absorbs shock with a legit suspension system."

Purchasing a new bus will make students safer and give parents peace of mind when their kids travel.

"I just want to say thank you," Lahm commented. "We have many generous donators who prioritize the students' safety, and we would not be getting a charter bus without them."

WWW.NAVIGATORBUS.COM

The new Scotus charter bus sits at the Norfolk warehouse waiting to be delivered to Scotus. Scotus bought a new bus to improve the safety and comfort of bus rides.

Scotus recruits top golf prospect

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

The Scotus student section made a new friend at the first round of the girls' state basketball tournament. This student's name is a mystery, but he is known to all Scotus students as The Banana from girls' state basketball. Since The Banana's experience with the Scotus student section, he has made a decision that will change his life, and the life of Scotus, forever.

"I will be transferring to Scotus for my senior year of high school," The Banana said.

When asked what his real name was, The Banana said that his name will remain a mystery until he walks into the Scotus building next year to start off the new school year. The Banana's interesting answer leaves the entire Scotus student body waiting in suspense for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

"You will know me when you see me," The Banana said.

The Banana made this decision shortly after the girls' state basketball game between Scotus and Lincoln Christian and was seen taking pictures with many Scotus students who he referred to as his "future classmates and friends".

"I felt like I was really able to come out of my peel with the Scotus students; it was unlike anything I had experienced at Lincoln Christian," The Banana said.

The Banana is not only a mysterious man who wears a banana costume to basketball games, he is a top recruit in Nebraska for golf. The Banana has received offers from Stanford, Florida State, and UNL.

"I believe that the talents that I have can be fully recognized at Scotus," The Banana added.

After taking home the state golf title last year and with the whole state expecting him to bring home another title this year, a question that arose among many people was why he would chose to move to a new school and live with his grandparents.

"High school is supposed to be one of the best times of your life; the place for me to live my life to the fullest is at Scotus," The Banana said.

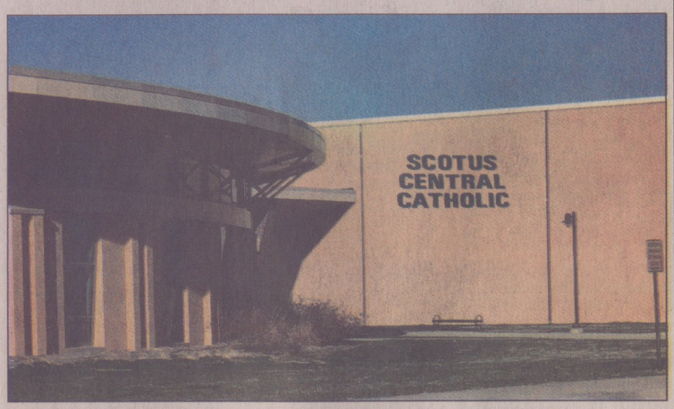
With the entire Scotus staff and student body enthusiastically awaiting the day of The Banana at the beginning of the next school year, there was just one more thing that needed to be said.

"GO ROCKS!" The Banana concluded.

EVAN CHOHON/MEDIA STAFF

The Scotus student section crowds around the newest Scotus recruit. The Banana will be transferring to Scotus on a half-tuition offer to play golf.

SCC to move to CHS building



AMBERLY PARKER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The front entrance of the old high school building now has Scotus Central Catholic posted on the exterior. The letters were finalized over the weekend.

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

It's official! The old Columbus High School has become the site for the new Scotus Central Catholic High School.

After several months of debate and discussion, Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka, and CHS superintendent Troy Loeffelholz, have come to an agreement on the terms of the high school transfer.

"We were ecstatic to hear of the offer from the Columbus High administrators to move into their old building, and I feel as if it would be a great fit for our faculty and students," Ohnoutka said. "It has more space, and we would get a lot of use out of it."

At CHS's closing assembly, Woodside gave the keys to CMS principal Amy Haynes to be used for next year's 5th-8th grade students. After spring break though, the decision for Scotus to move into the old CHS building was made.

"After really thinking about and discussing the situation with her staff, Amy [Haynes] thought we would benefit from the building more," Ohnoutka said. "The 5th-8th graders were not going to make use of all the parking, classrooms, or auditorium."

CHS students moved out of their old building into the new school during their spring break, the week of March 12th.

"Unfortunately, we were not able to move into the new building right away as they had some cleaning and rearranging to do," Scotus assistant principal Merlin Lahm said. "We will be working hard this summer to transition the building to better benefit the size of our student body and staff, and it should be ready to go for the next school year."

New factors that Scotus's current building does not accommodate are a suitable auditorium for theater productions and presentations, and larger gyms for sports and activities.

"The size of the new auditorium will be so beneficial for the theater program," music teacher Laura Salyard said. "The large seating area and stage will completely change the atmosphere of our performances, and we are looking forward to it."

With the extra classrooms and mechanic shops located in the building, Scotus will be offering more business, family and consumer science, and mechanical courses to their curriculum.

"We plan to hire more people to teach these classes, and we are excited to expose the students to new courses that were not offered in the past," said Ohnoutka.

The new site has more space behind the building for the athletic department use. There is a full size track surrounding a football field, pole vault pit, shot and discuss arena, and large fields that soccer could practice on.

"The space behind the new building would be so useful for the athletes," Lahm said. "It would provide the safety of not traveling to a farther destination for practice, and practices could start and end earlier."

All the new changes are going to make for a busy and fast year for the students and faculty of Scotus Central Catholic.

"We are excited to begin preparing the new Scotus building," Lahm said. "It is a rather sentimental time for us as we leave this building behind, but we are looking forward to starting a new Scotus chapter."

Brockhaus runs for office

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

Running for the United States Senate may seem like a daunting task, but some people, with the right drive and following, could do just that.

Senior Government teacher Pat Brockhaus has talked about running for president on multiple occasions during the 2016 presidential elections, mainly to just joke around with his students, but this time he is being serious. To get a good start, he is running against current Nebraska senator Deb Fischer in the 2018 election.

"I know many people will get behind me. I have a good sense of what people like, because I like them too!" Brockhaus stated.

He has chosen the campaign slogan "Heck of a Deal."

"[The slogan] is catchy and just speaks to everyone. I'm good at compromise so everyone will be happy! It'd be one heck of a deal," Brockhaus said.

Brockhaus wants to either fix or get rid of certain "hot topics" in today's society.

"I'm pro-life; there is no compromise for that. A life is a life. The whole fight about terrorists and immigration; everyone just needs to get along. Someone blew up a country and no one is happy after that. Countries hold grudges years and years after something big happens. Just free hugs people! Turn to your neighboring country and give them a big old hug! Same thing with war. There is no need for anything like that today if people would just get along and work things out," Brockhaus stated.

Most of modern society blames President Donald Trump for today's problems, but Brockhaus says otherwise.

"Trump only has so much power, same with Congress. The goal is for them to work together to get things done. But the wheels of justice turn very slow. Same with Congress. Very slow moving. If the president wants something made law, then Congress has to okay it with so many votes, but that rarely happens the first hundred times something is put to them," Brockhaus said.

Brockhaus has a strong drive to get things done if he is voted in as Nebraska senator. His wife and kids have said that they will support Brockhaus in any way possible. If voted in, Brockhaus said that he would keep teaching until duty calls, and he must leave for Washington D.C.

Brockhaus concluded, "Please people of Scotus and the Columbus community, vote for me and things will get done. Everyone will be happy, and things will be moving smoothly."

KAYLEE TONNIGES/YEARBOOK STAFF

Government teacher Pat Brockhaus tells his students about his plans if he gets elected to Senate in November 2018. He is running with the slogan "Heck of a Deal".

Schacher steps up at HyVee

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

Most people have a dream job that they envision for themselves: a doctor, a lawyer, or a teacher, but senior Sam Schacher has a different picture in mind. Schacher has worked at Hy-Vee for almost two years, and plans to continue stepping up the ladder at Hy-Vee for his lifetime career.

Although most high school students don't get the opportunity for a management spot, Schacher was offered one in February and has accepted the position.

Schacher commented, "I think that I got this position because I am obviously the best and most hardworking employee at Hy-Vee. I am not surprised that I was offered the position; I am only shocked that I was not offered it earlier."

Schacher made the jump from an employee into a manager position, skipping the assistant manager position.

"I skipped past the assistant manager spot and went right to the manger position because I am clearly manager worthy," Schacher stated.

When senior Keaton Kudron, who also works in the frozen department at Hy-Vee, heard the news of Schacher becoming the new manager, he wasn't pleased.

"I am outraged that I was not offered the manager position in the frozen department. I have worked here longer than Sam, and I even spoke to my boss about it. When I asked about the position, they told me I was too young; I am older than Sam," Kudron commented.

Kudron was denied the position as manager because of his age before he got the chance to show his skills and qualifications for the job.

Kudron said, "I dedicate a good chunk of my valuable time to Hy-Vee so it is unacceptable that I am not the new manager and Sam is. Not only am I angry that I didn't get the position, I am also angry that Sam got it considering he is the worst employee here."

Although others may be in shock over Schacher's new position at Hy-Vee, he is not.

Schacher commented, "I'm not sure why everyone is so surprised; I mean this has been coming since my first day on the job. I am highly qualified in the frozen department. I actually took a management and frozen class at CCC last summer in preparation for this job."

Schacher started his new position on March 6th after his training.

"Most new managers are trained for at least two months, but I was only trained for two weeks. I didn't need most of the training since I already knew everything there was to know. I told them I could start right away, but they just wanted to review things with me before I started," Schacher said.

Schacher has been the manager for less than a month, but he anticipates that his hard work will be recognized.

"Only managers get named employee of the month, but I'm confident that I will be the next one," Schacher commented.

Schacher has not shared the news with most people besides his family members.

Schacher commented, "I have sort of kept the news on the down low because I didn't want to sound too cocky, but I have told some people. I told my uncle about it on April Fool's Day by coincidence, and he asked me if it was an April Fool's joke. Let's just say I was offended."

Schacher plans to continue working at Hy-Vee and hopes to eventually take over the company.

LAYNE SCHRODER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Sam Schacher stocks a shelf at Hy-Vee while working on Wednesday, March 29th. Schacher recently started his management position at Hy-Vee.

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Boys soccer kicks off season

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

As the spring sports teams have all started off their seasons with a bang, one traditional Scotus powerhouse is looking to build on the success of the past three years. The boys' soccer team is off to a 4-2 start on the year. Senior Brady Miller is one of the only starters returning varsity experience this year.

"It's different not having all of the seniors from last year on the field," Miller commented. "We have practically a brand new team on the field, and we are having lots of new guys stepping up."

The Shamrocks opened up their season at the Scotus Invitational on March 17th and 18th. However, the team was hit with adversity before playing.

"It was hard to prepare for the first weekend of games because the basketball players were gone," sophomore Zack Beiermann said. "We didn't know exactly where we were needed until they were able to come back."

The team battled through their lack of experience to win their first game 1-0 over Crete on an own goal.

"I was very happy with our effort for our first game," head coach Jon Brezenski said. "We showed some resiliency and battled to earn our goal."

The Shamrocks' next opponent at their home invitational tournament was a top-5 team in Columbus High. With twenty minutes to play in the second half, the Discoverers held a slim 1-0 lead. Then, three quick counter-attacks left the Shamrocks with a 4-0 loss.

Senior forward Anthony Kosch has led the team in goal scoring this season.

"Their first goal was their only one that they really built up an attack for," Kosch said. "Our downfall against CHS was our exhaustion due to lack of depth, which allowed them to get easy counter-attack goals."

Following the tough loss on Saturday, the Shamrocks were able to get back on track with a 3-1 victory over crosstown rival Lakeview on Monday. A new formation propelled the Shamrocks to three goals, including one each from Kosch and Miller. The same strategy worked well three days later when the boys were able to defeat another quality opponent in York 2-0.

"We were still in the early stages of testing that new formation against Lakeview and York, so those games really showed us that we can use it well," Kosch stated.

The biggest test of the early season came in the following weekend for the Shamrocks, who played in the St. Ignatius Cup on March 25th. In the first game of the tournament, then-Class A #1 Creighton Prep was able to pick apart the Shamrocks for a 5-1 victory. In the second game, junior Carson Hottovy was able to score the lone goal for the Shamrocks in their 1-0 victory over the Thunderbolts of Lincoln Pius X.

"We have been playing better as a team and have communicated well in the past few games," Hottovy said. "We know we can be as good as those top-tier Class A teams as the year goes on."

The Shamrocks will get back in action tonight when they face Lincoln Lutheran.

"We have shown some tremendous character in the opening weeks of the season. I look forward to seeing where we go from here and look for great things in the second half of the season," Brezenski concluded.

Kira Dreher/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior midfielder Carson Hottovy looks to attack upfield against Lakeview on March 20th. The Shamrocks defeated the Vikings 3-1.

Girls' soccer shows strength

By Amberly Parker
Staff Reporter

After losing many seniors last year, the Shamrocks started their season off strong with a 4-1 record.

"Everyone has really improved and stepped up to their own role on the team," senior wing Alyssa Kuta said.

After three weeks of practice, the girls started out their season with the Scotus Invite. Their first game was on Friday, March 17th against Crete High School.

"Usually scoring is our problem, but we showed them that wasn't the case for our first game," senior sweeper Emma Strecker said.

The Rocks did not allow a single ball to enter the back of their own net and mercy ruled Crete with 30 minutes left in the second half.

"Since the beginning of the season, our passing is getting better, we are finding each other on the field, and we are putting the ball in the back of the net, and that really helped us seal our win against Crete," junior forward Grace Wickham said.

With the win against Crete, the team advanced to the Scotus Invitational Championship game against Columbus High School.

"The game against CHS has been the most challenging team we have played so far, and those are the type of teams we can and will beat," sophomore center-mid Courtney Kosch said.

Both teams put up a good fight, but CHS came out with the win 1-0.

"We knew CHS was going to come out with everything they had. They always do," Wickham said. "Playing us, they aren't afraid to get physical."

Despite the loss, the team came back the following Tuesday with a strong win against Lakeview 6-0.

"We bounced back from the CHS game and showed what we can do when we possess the ball and play our game," freshman forward Brea Lassek said.

The team showed no signs of weakness as they once again mercy ruled York on March 23.

"We were playing 'beautiful soccer' in Coach Brezenski's words," Wickham said. "We found our feet and moved the ball around well. Everything seemed to click. Mercy ruling them felt pretty good too!"

The team faced Pius X on March 30. After a rough battle between the two, and being down in the first half, the Rocks pulled ahead in the second half for a 2-1 win.

"It was great coming back from being down in the first half," Kuta said. "We fixed what we needed to and came back strong in the second half. Everyone played really well."

The Rocks' next game is against Lincoln Lutheran today at 5:00 p.m. in Lincoln.

"I'm looking forward to enjoying every game and moment for the last time with my team," Strecker concluded.

Kaylee Tonniges/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Emily Stutzman dribbles the ball past a York player. The Shamrocks played York on March 23, and mercy ruled them 10-0.

Shamrocks stride into season

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

The first few weeks of the 2017 track season have been full of record breaking performances, close races, and tight team battles for the Scotus Central Catholic Shamrocks.

The Shamrocks return several state medalists including sophomore Baily Lehr, juniors Grace Odbert and Marika Spencer, and senior Ashley Foreman for the girls. The boys return junior Matt Strecker and senior Cody Mroczek.

"We have a pretty good chance of bringing home a trophy this year," Mroczek said. "We are projected fourth based on last year's result by six points. I am scoring all of those points in that projection, so I'm confident that a couple guys can step up and score 15-20 points this year. It usually takes about 50 points to win."

Two of the returning medalists, however, sat out of the team's first competition at Wayne State College due to a new competition in the Nebraska Track and Field Festival. Spencer and Mroczek both qualified to compete being top state medalists, so they refrained from competition at the Wayne indoor meet.

At their first meet of the year, the Shamrocks competed with a young team on both sides of the gender spectrum and amassed several top placers.

In the jumps, sophomore Natalie Semin took first place in the long jump and senior Jessica Buhman got third. In the triple jump, Logan Zanardi took fourth place for the boys. In the pole vault, the boys swept the competition taking the top three places with junior Tyler Miksch and seniors Jeffrey Wheelock and Dillon Muchmore, respectively. Miksch won the event with a vault of 11'6. For the girls, Amberly Parker took first with a vault of 8'6 with Haley Faust following up in second with a fault of 8'0. Juniors Elley Beaver and Shania Borchers received second and fourth place medals in the girl's high jump.

On the track, both girls and boys took first place in the 55 meter hurdles in Beaver and sophomore Grant Shanle. Odbert brought home several pieces of hardware herself in the 200 meter dash (3rd place), the 400 meter dash (3rd place), and the 4x400 meter relay (6th place).

"I always look forward to racing anyone from Wayne," Odbert said. "Wayne always brings good competition to the track, and it feels so good to beat someone who has beaten you before."

Strecker started the day off with a fourth place effort in the shot put, which was then followed by a fifth place finish in the 4x160 meter relay and a gold medal in the 400 meter dash.

Senior Nathan Ostdiek found success in his first high school track meet by winning the 3200 meter run and anchoring the 4x800 meter relay for second place. Sophomores Elliott Thomazin and Nathan Schumacher also placed third and fifth in the 3200.

"I'm looking forward to competing against big class B schools racing faster people than I'm used to," Ostdiek said. "I'm also looking forward to improving my time to qualify for state."

The following Tuesday, the Shamrocks competed at a heavily stacked Nebraska Wesleyan Class B Invite with powerhouse schools like Gretna, Bishop Neumann, and Waverly.

The girl's only gold medal came from Spencer in the shot put, followed by senior Abbie Perault in sixth. Odbert had another day full of hardware bringing home a medal in the 200 (6th), the 400 (4th), and the 4x400 relay (6th) with teammates Beaver, Semin, and freshman Emily Miksch.

Two school records were broken at Wesleyan by Mroczek and Ostdiek. Mroczek long jumped a distance of 23'1.75" to win the event, and Ostdiek ran the two mile in 10:29.9 for third place in that event.

"I always have a goal of coming into every meet trying to set one or two meet records," Mroczek said.

The girls got third as a team at Wesleyan behind team champion Waverly and runner-up Fort Calhoun while the boys were the runner-up behind Gretna by 2.5 points and beating Neumann by 3.5 points.

On March 28th, the Shamrocks ran at Pawnee Park for the first time this season at the Scotus Relays. Facing a successful group of Class B teams, the Shamrocks battled hard attempting to pull out a win.

The first gold medal of the day came from the boys as the long jumpers outjumped Pius X by three inches to take first. Jumpers included Schumacher, Zanardi, Strecker, and Mroczek.

The first medal from the girls saw history being made as the girls shot put group of sophomore Rylie Olson, junior Alyssa Morton, Spencer, and Perault shattered the meet record in the event with Marika Spencer breaking her own school record with a new best mark of 44'5".

A tight boys' team race saw the boys take the 4th place team title. The girls amassed a 5th place finish in the girls' standings.

The Shamrocks compete at the Knights of Columbus Invite at home on Tuesday, April 11th.

Alison Zoucha/Yearbook Staff

Junior Chase Andresen leaps over a hurdle at the Scotus Relays on March 28th at Pawnee Park. The boys got 4th as a team.

Lifters medal thirteen at state

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Scotus Central Catholic has a long legacy of success in a variety of areas. This year, Scotus added a relatively new activity, powerlifting, to this list.

Scotus had three champions at the 2017 state powerlifting competition at Beatrice High School on February 18th. Senior Abbie Perault was one of these state champions in the 165 pound weight division.

"I was nervous and excited at the same time," Perault said. "I knew I had a pretty good chance at winning state, but I tried not to get my hopes up and to stay focused on my own goals."

Junior Brandon Huynh received a first place victory in the heavyweight division with a squat of 520 pounds.

"I was a little disappointed because I know I could have squatted more," Huynh explained.

The third state champion was junior Tyler Miksch, who also received the Outstanding Lifter Award.

Miksch said, "My only other state championship came from football, but I didn't even play, so this means so much more knowing that I was the one that got first."

In addition to these championships, Scotus also had ten other lifters medal at the state competition. Freshman Ava Newman placed fourth in the 165 pound division.

"I thought I did very well competing for my freshman year," Newman explained. "I just knew I had to do the best I could."

Sophomore Braden Labenz finished in fourth place in his weight category.

"I could have done better, and I missed more lifts than I completed," Labenz said.

In powerlifting, lifters are split into weight divisions, and each lifter is weighed when he or she arrives at the meet.

"I didn't eat so I could make weight," Labenz recalled.

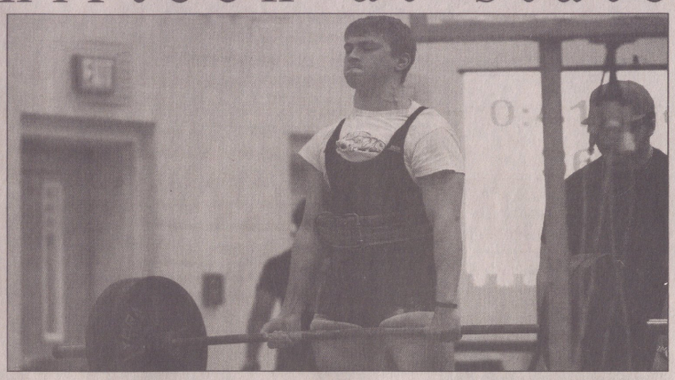
In addition, lifters spend countless hours preparing for the state meet.

"We practiced three times a week," Perault explained. "Our coach had a five week program to help prepare us for state. Overall, we just worked hard in practice."

Before the state competition, the lifters had to decide what weight they were going to attempt first at the state competition.

"The week before, on Sunday, we practiced our openers for bench and squat," senior runner-up Will Sonderman explained.

Powerlifting has only been an activity at Scotus for two years, so for many of the team members, such as Newman, this season marks their first year out for powerlifting.



Hannah Mielak/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Zack Beiermann deadlifts at the state powerlifting competition in Beatrice, Nebraska. Beiermann placed fifth in the 181 pound division.

"It is crazy how much stronger you get," Newman said. "Competing at meets are so fun, and I am looking forward to trying to get first next year."

This is Sonderman's second year of being involved in powerlifting, and he won first place last year at state.

"It has made me more confident in myself," Sonderman said.

Powerlifting will have a lasting effect on seniors, like Perault.

"It has showed me how much hard work really does pay off. I started out lifting weights not even close to what I ended the season lifting," Perault concluded. "I showed up for every practice and worked hard to accomplish all that I have this season."

Speech wraps up at state

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

On March 13th, the speech team was involved all day at Lakeview for district speech. The whole team went, but only four continued on to state, which was held March 23rd, wrapping up the speech season.

Freshman Morgan Littlefield placed second in Dramatic Interpretation at districts.

"I was terrified! This was my only shot at making state, and there was a lot of pressure. I knew my speech, but we had made some major changes so I was a bit stressed about that, too," Littlefield said.

All the speech team members put in hours of practice before or after school with speech coach Melanie Mimick and took time at home to practice on their own.

"I practice a lot. During the winter, I was in after school as often as I could be. I take speech very seriously because it takes as much dedication as a sport," freshman Lauren Ostdiek stated.

Ostdiek placed second in Entertainment and took her speech to state.

With the hours of practice put in, members of the speech team strive to place well at state. Junior Logan Zanardi placed third in Humorous Interpretation at districts.

Megan Ohnoutka/ Media Staff

Junior Bryan Littlefield, freshman Morgan Littlefield, junior Emily Carstens, freshman Lauren Ostdiek, and junior Logan Zanardi pose for a photo at the end of districts after breaking to finals. Four of the five continued on to state.

"I will do my best, compete for first and hope for the best, but will be happy with any outcome," Zanardi said.

Junior Bryan Littlefield placed second in Extemporaneous. All four speech team members are first time state competitors.

"I'm expecting to feel really nervous," Ostdiek continued. "The pressure is all on you for eight minutes; it's stressful."

Each member feels differently going into state for the first time as a new team member.

"I am hoping to at least place second to last. There are some really good speeches out there that are performed by some really talented people. As long as I don't get dead last, I'll be pretty happy," Littlefield said.

All four of the state competitors are planning on continuing speech next year.

"It's a lot of fun. Lots of friendships built and great life lessons learned," Zanardi said.

Ostdiek placed 15th at state, Bryan placed 12th, Morgan placed 16th, and Zanardi placed 14th.

"At the beginning of this year, I wasn't really sure where the team would land. Going into next year, however, I would really like to get more students involved. The more the merrier. Speech is hard to make a team sport, because all but two events are focused on a single student. This year, though, I felt that the more students who were involved ended up making a very individual activity into one that became more and more team focused," Mimick said.

Megan Ohnoutka/ Media Staff

Junior Bryan Littlefield performs his Extemporaneous speech at districts. He placed second at districts and went on to place 12th at state.

Zanardi concluded, "I would encourage everyone to at least think about trying speech. It is a lot of fun, not too hard, and not as boring as most people probably think."

Baseball looks to improve record

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

As the grass starts growing and the flowers start blooming, the Columbus Discoverers set their sights on a successful season. The boys plan on improving on their 7-21 record from last year. The team features six seniors, eleven juniors, one sophomore, and two freshmen.

After starting the season off strong with a 10-2 victory against Norfolk, the team has since not played up to their standards. After the win, the Discoverers would go on to lose their next 8 games.

Junior Trevor Kaslon had much to say about the Discoverers as they compete for wins this season.

"Individually, I just want to play the best I can. As a team, we just want to have a fun season and hopefully finish at .500," Kaslon said.

Kaslon has been on the team since his sophomore year and plays first base, third base, and pitches as well.

"We've done a lot to improve from last year. We have been having some two-a-days mid-season."

Kaslon along with Logan Mueller, Jake Novicki, and Jacob Morse make up the only juniors from Scotus on the team.

"Practice has really gone well, and we're a really fun team. We have a lot of juniors who start and we might be the goofiest looking team in the state," Kaslon added.

Although the Discoverers have taken some hard losses lately, the scores don't tell the whole story. The boys only lost by two runs to #3 ranked Omaha Skutt as well as falling to the #4 ranked Bellvue West Thunderbirds in a final score of 2-1.

For sophomore reserve Caden Pelan, it is his second year on the team.

"I want us to win districts this year and grow closer as a team. I also want to improve as a player and progress from where I left off last year," Pelan Said.

For senior Luke Jarecke, it is his first year wearing a CHS baseball jersey.

"My goal for the team is to win districts and go to state. I'm hoping to have a good season and keep a low ERA," Jarecke said.

Jarecke also played baseball for GICC his freshman and sophomore year.

"The team has a great bond and we love to have fun. The young players are doing a good job transitioning to the varsity level," Jarecke added.

With some lack of success thus far, Jarecke remains optimistic.

Jarecke concluded, "Even though we've played well, we have one of the toughest schedules in the state. It'll come around."

The Discoverers have a home game in Pawnee Park today after school at 4:30 against Waverly.

Megan Ohnoutka/Media Staff

Senior Luke Jarecke throws a fastball in the bottom of the sixth inning at home on March 16th against Norfolk. The Discoverers defeated the Panthers in a final score of 10-2.

Megan Ohnoutka/Media Staff

Junior Logan Mueller warms up as the Shamrocks prepare for another inning against Norfolk. Mueller plays the infield and pitcher.

The Shack lives up to hype

By Tate VunCannon
Editor

"Most people won't come close to believing my best friend Mack's story about how he spent a weekend with God in a shack." One of the opening lines of *The Shack* sets the tone perfectly for the rest of the film. This movie, which was based on a wildly popular fictional book published in 2007, is one of the more commercially successful religious movies of the past twenty years.

I would recommend this movie to absolutely everybody. The exact theology of how the Trinity is portrayed is up for discussion and debate, but the overall message of the film is quite inspiring and encouraging to people of all religious beliefs.

The Shack is centered around the life of Mack, a semi-religious father who lives in the southern United States. When his family is struck with an unbearably difficult tragedy, they are forever transformed. Mack drops his faith entirely because he blames God. It is then that Mack receives a mysterious letter asking him to return to the scene of the tragedy. When he arrives, Mack meets the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father (referred to as Papa), Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. He spends a weekend with them and is completely renewed in his faith life.

This movie contained a cast of extremely talented actors. Octavia Spencer, who many people know from *The Help*, does an extraordinary job of elegantly portraying Papa. The thought of God as a kindhearted black woman is strange at first, but Spencer pulls it off with gentleness and charisma. Another highlight was the personification of the Holy Spirit by Sumire Matsubara. She spoke with such eloquence and quiet confidence that it made me wonder whether or not this might be a way in which the Holy Spirit would actually manifest itself to people.

Another strength of the film was definitely the plot. The story asks a lot of difficult questions about faith, life, and the nature of God in general; in most cases, it leaves the answers up to the audience to decide. Mack spends the first two thirds of the movie questioning God and his motivations. This is profoundly relatable. Nearly every Christian has, at some point in his or her journey, wrestled with the question of why God allows evil to seep into the world. The story also attempts to confirm what millions of people already believe: that God is an all-powerful and all-loving being that wants to heal His hurting people.

One of the major controversies surrounding *The Shack* was the theology behind it all. It was condemned by some Southern Baptist churches as an abomination of the faith for implying that religion does not matter as long as one has a relationship with God. A disclaimer is necessary here, as Jesus does say something to this effect during the movie. However, it is one line in passing, and not the focus of the entire plot. The central message is that Jesus wants to comfort and grant forgiveness to those in pain. Another debate about *The Shack* is focused on the portrayal of the Trinity as manifestations of people. Some might argue this is blasphemous, but I would disagree. The movie never says this is how they actually are, but instead states that it is how Mack thinks they would appear. There's nothing more wrong with believing God is a kind black woman than with believing he is a giant in the clouds with a big white beard.

Overall, I had an extremely positive experience watching *The Shack*. It definitely strengthened my Catholic faith, and I would recommend it to anyone who needs a little spiritual pick-me-up.

IMPAWARDS.ORG

Cast members of *The Shack* look onward during the climax of the film. *The Shack* pulled in over 16 billion on opening weekend, making it one of the most successful religious films ever.

Beauty and the Beast goes beyond

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

Many years ago, a small girl with brown hair and big brown eyes sat in front of the television in a poofy yellow dress wanting to be a princess. She wondered how a beautiful young woman could fall in love with an ugly beast. More than a decade later, that little girl is all grown up and no longer dreams of being a princess or living in a castle. When I heard that there was going to be a new *Beauty and the Beast* movie, I thought a remake of a Disney princess movie was much too juvenile for an eighteen year old woman. However, I began to remember the little girl that used to be me and decided to go see the new movie. This turned out to be a good decision because *Beauty and the Beast* went above and beyond my expectations.

Beauty and the Beast is about an independent, young woman, Belle, who lives with her father in a small village. The other villagers think she is strange and call her funny, but not because of her humor. Belle's father is locked away by a beast, and Belle selflessly trades places with him. Eventually, Belle finds out the truth about the Beast and her opinion of him changes over the course of the movie.

What shocked me the most about *Beauty and the Beast* was the special effects. The graphics in this movie are absolutely outstanding. Unlike the original version, the new movie is not animated. The characters were played by real actors and actresses, and most of the scenes take place in real places. However, there is a lot of computer generated imagery and special effects thrown into the scenes. These images are so realistic that, at times, I found myself trying to decipher whether something was a computer generated image or not. The Beast is mostly computer generated, but the detail in his character is incredibly realistic.

The cast of *Beauty and the Beast* is not overly popular, but I thought they were great. I was only familiar with a couple of the actors. I thought Emma Watson, who plays Belle, did a phenomenal job playing her role. Her accent is extremely realistic, which makes setting of the story stand out to the audience. If you recall from the original movie, many of the characters are household objects like a clock, candle, and teacup. These objects are animated, but the actors that play the voices of them make them come to life for the audience.

The story behind *Beauty and the Beast* tugs at the heart-strings of everyone watching the movie. The plot of this remake follows the original movie very closely. I found myself falling in love with the beast as Belle did in the movie. Love is sometimes defined by money, good-looks, or status, but *Beauty and the Beast* is a story of true love. Belle is drawn to the Beast by what is inside of him, not what he looks like.

In my opinion, *Beauty and the Beast* is a must see. This movie completely blew my expectations. I would recommend this movie to anyone, young or old. This movie is a touching story, and it will surely take you back to your childhood as it did for me.

DISNEY.UK

Emma Watson, who plays Belle, and Dan Stevens, who plays the Beast, dance in *Beauty and the Beast*. This year, Disney made a remake of the original 1991 film, which made a record-breaking $200 million in the first five days in theatres.

Pop culture stupefies society

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

Throughout history, pop culture has been a means of uplifting and enlightening society. From the timeless tunes of Mozart to the awe-inspiring works of Picasso, people have been inspired by the millions. In modern day society, that isn't quite the case anymore. Now people by the masses are bombarded with rhythm-less garbage and narcissistic, talentless reality television stars.

> ***"This is the problem - the stars of 'reality television' are virtually always narcissitic, amoral, and borderline insane."***
>
> **~Layne Schroeder**

So how did we get to this point? What drove us to follow such mindless garbage? Well, that's a tricky question, but it does have an answer. Celebrities can only be celebrities if the people allow them to reach that level of popularity. All too often we watch a certain show or listen to a certain type of music because that's what our friends like. We force ourselves to digest this rotten culture because we want nothing more than to fit in with our peers. Often times when people digest media or tune into their favorite television series, they dive into another world and forget about their problems. This can lead to massive consequences. We dress, eat, and sometimes raise our children how the media tells us to.

People wait for hours in the cold outside just so that they can get the new Kylie lip kit or something of the like. They literally set up tents and bring food to get them through the wait. Others distance themselves socially from their friends. They cancel plans that they had already made so that they can clear their schedule to watch their favorite TV series. They literally throw actual life experience away so that they can live through a screen.

Some of this can help to explain why people by the masses turn into blubbering morons whenever a celebrity that they never even met died. Countless people called 2016 the worst year ever because more celebrities passed away than in years past. The flu pandemic of 1918 killed 50 million people and people today are bawling like it's a competitive crying contest because some people they never met died. In some cases, they never even heard about the celebrities until their death.

This is the problem – the stars of "reality television" are virtually always narcissistic, amoral, and borderline insane. They have little to no redeeming qualities and give us the impression that the life they live is actual reality. Being a celebrity used to mean that you had some sort of talent or desirable trait. Now, the amount of fame that a celebrity achieves is directly proportionate to the amount of tasteless trash they put into the world. You don't need talent anymore. There has always been manufactured, plastic waste in the music and media industry. But there were also alternatives. Now, there aren't any alternatives. The same songs are constantly playing on the radio and everyone is always talking about the same television series. MTV (Music Television) used to play alternative music videos. Now, they play some show about three people laughing maniacally at cat videos.

There is a solution to all this madness, but it isn't one that can be easily achieved. As long as there is a demand for the trash in pop culture, it will always be there. Hopefully as time progresses, generations start consuming more enriching content in the media in a lust for knowledge rather than giving fame to the lowest common denominator. The only way that true talent can return to pop culture is if the public stops consuming the meaningless content that is already out there. Ultimately if this was to happen, more people would start living more fulfilling and happier lives.

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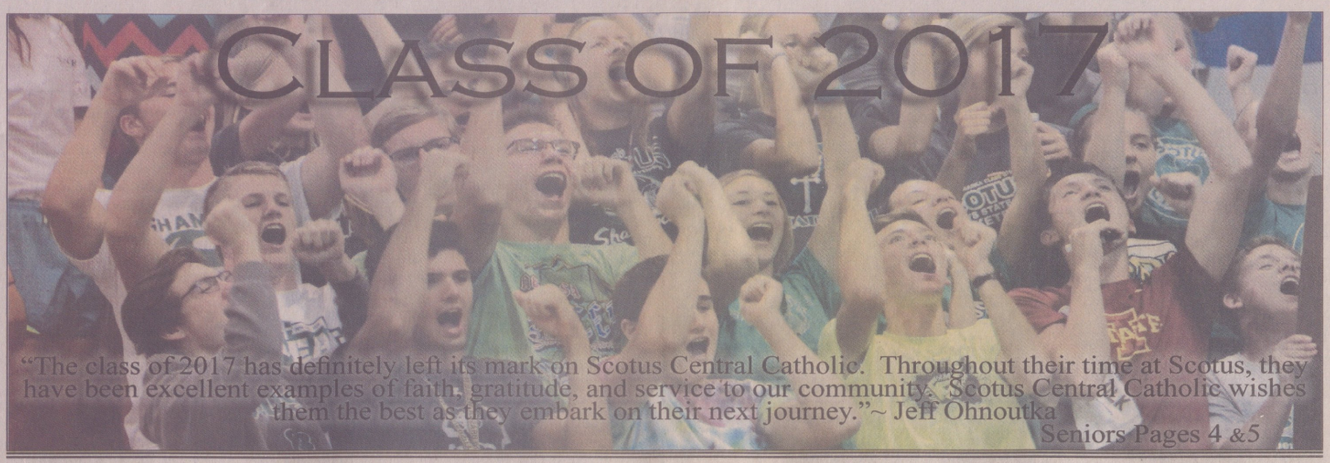

Seniors Pages 4 &5

Volume 17 • Issue VII • May 4, 2017

Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism Columbus, Nebraska 68601

State Champs

Eastyn Klink/Rock Bottom Staff

An NSAA respresentative presents the Scotus journalism team with their Class B State Champion trophy. The State Championship is the first fine arts state championship in Scotus history.

Journalism wins first fine arts championship

By Emma Ruskamp
Staff Reporter

Rapid typing and fast photo taking led the Shamrocks to a state championship in Journalism at the State Competition on Monday, April 24th.

The Scotus Journalism department took twenty students combined from the Newspaper, Media, and Yearbook classes to the state competition. Out of those students, seventeen competed in Norfolk with the remaining three traveling later to the award ceremony.

"I was super excited that so many kids qualified for state," senior Amberly Parker, who qualified in Newspaper Sports Feature and medaled fourth in Newspaper Layout, said. "I was hoping that we would all do well and just have fun."

The students competing were either sent to a room where they had an hour and fifteen minutes to write an article under their event, or they were sent with a camera to take pictures under their category, also with an hour and fifteen minute time limit.

"I am used to having more resources to use in my writing in the classroom," senior Emerson Belitz, who competed and medaled fourth in Yearbook Sports Feature, said. "It is also much less stressful without time limits or competition hanging over my head."

Junior Matt Strecker competed

See **STATE**, Page 2

Teachers add to Scotus family

By Mallory O'Hearn
Staff Reporter

Scotus has had a baby booming year within the staff. By the end of the summer, five teachers will have added to their families. Zach and Bridget McPhillips, Tyler Swanson, Jarrod Ridder, and Tyler Linder have met their new family members, and Kelly Koranda is due in early June.

Many people try to find ways to surprise family members with the news of a pregnancy, including Kelly Koranda.

Koranda explained, "I told my parents when they were driving, and they had a new speaker phone in their car, and so they said 'say something and test it out to see if it works' and I said 'uhhhh we're pregnant!' and they were like 'wait, what?!'"

Bridget and Zach McPhillips had their baby the most recently on April 14th. They named their baby boy Maverick John Paul McPhillips.

Mrs. McPhillips said, "No we didn't [find out the gender of the baby!] I love surprises. This was the ultimate surprise. Nine months of waiting was worth it!"

Tyler and Whitney Swanson had their second baby girl, Reagan Renae Swanson, on December 14th.

Mr. Swanson commented, "[The best part of having a new

See **BABIES**, Page 2

Scotus says goodbye to Dannelly

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

The art department will look a little different at the end of this year with the departure of art teacher of four years, Lindsay Dannelly.

For the upcoming school year, 2017-2018, Dannelly is undecided of where she will live but will drive to her new art position at Conestoga Elementary, located in Murray, Nebraska.

"I will miss my co-workers who turned into friends, who have helped me grow, learn, give advice and even better, helped me grow in my faith," she stated.

This is the first art position that Conestoga Elementary has had in their building.

"I will have a lot of work to do this summer to prepare for a whole new curriculum and designing my new art room," Dannelly said.

The last four years, Dannelly has also been the leader for Art Club. In the beginning, Art Club focused on working on individual projects and would also do any other project if an activity needed it.

"Art Club has been a fun adventure that has changed a lot every year. For the last two years, Kelly Koranda has joined me in our endeavors to focus on different ideas and projects being more involved with school," Dannelly said.

Recently, Art Club has worked on a Mosaic art piece, illustrating the different activities that surround Scotus. They also worked on the three charisms for Scotus: gratitude, faith, and service.

Dannelly has also been in charge of One Act the past two years.

"When you give theater kids some free time, they are very creative in making their own little skits. Sometimes my stomach hurt from laughing at their crazy improv and interesting accents," Dannelly said.

In Dannelly's first year, she co-directed with Laura Salyard, doing the 30 minute play, Imperfect Proposal. Her second year as head coach for One Act, she directed the plays Lockdown and Check Please.

Alongside One Act, Dannelly helped with the musical. In spring of 2016, she co-directed with Salyard for Fiddler on the Roof, helping with the show and anything that needed a brush stroke. This year, Dannelly painted the backdrop and props that were needed for Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Along with these activities, she has also been a coach for freshmen basketball and junior high track.

"What I love about these activities and coaching responsibilities is that you get the chance to get to know the students outside the four walls of your classroom. You get to see a new side of them," Dannelly added.

As Dannelly prepares to leave for Conestoga, she recalls some memories.

"I would have say that one [memory] that sticks out the most has occurred to me during my time here at Scotus was the Art 4 class this year. They were the dream team; they had the skill, the creativity, and an overall fun classroom atmosphere," Dannelly stated. "I have also enjoyed following my senior artists' growth as they were my first freshmen class."

Wayne State College graduate Clyde Erickson will replace Dannelly in the fall and also coach junior high basketball and track.

Kaylee Tonniges/Yearbook Staff

Art teacher Lindsay Dannelly helps junior Morgan Rinkol on her art project. Dannelly finishes her fourth year at Scotus and will be moving to Connestoga Elementary in Murray, Nebraska.

BABIES

ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Tyler Linder, Jarrod Ridder, Tyler Swanson, Kelly Koranda, and Bridget and Zach McPhillips pose with their babies. All of the babies were born during the school year except Koranda's, who is due in June.

baby] is watching her grow up and develop her own personality. She is starting to roll over now, so she will be on the move before long and then she will be able to interact more with us and her sister."

Archer Jarrod Ridder, Jarrod and Ashley Ridder's baby boy, was born on January 31st.

Mr. Ridder commented, "We did towns for all of our children, so that's why we picked Archer. Aurora was the only girls' name we could agree on, and then Pierce was the only boy name we could agree on, so at that point we had two towns, so we just owned it and started naming that way on purpose."

The Ridders were the only couple among the teachers who decided to find out the gender of the baby before the birth.

"We found out the sex of the baby so we had Aurora, Pierce, and Lincoln all spray silly string, so it would be blue if it was a boy, and pink if it was a girl; so we did that, and Aurora started crying because it was blue," Ridder said, "It was kind of funny because she was spraying silly string and crying, which are two things that don't really go together."

Tyler and Alysha Linder had their baby girl, Cecilia Lu, on March 13th.

Mr. Linder commented, "I like the fact that I belong to a community that is so excited about life and children and having lots of kids, so that's a really great place to be as a family."

With there being many births and pregnancies among the teachers this school year, there has been much excitement.

Mrs. McPhillips commented, "It's great! They can all grow up together."

STATE

and medaled first in Newspaper Sports Feature Writing and second in Sports News Coverage.

"I was pretty confident that both of my articles would place high," Strecker said. "I was fortunate enough to write about topics that I knew how to write well in so I was really happy about that."

Besides Strecker, four seniors took first place in their individual events, Emma Ruskamp in Entertainment Writing, Jessica Buhman in News Feature Photography, Haley Faust in Newspaper Layout, and Tate VunCannon in Sports News Coverage.

"I never thought that I would have the opportunity to be on a state championship team, let alone be an individual state champion," Faust said. "I am so grateful for everyone that has helped me and my team throughout my years in journalism."

This is journalism advisor Angie Rusher's first time winning a state championship in journalism.

"We have added areas to our journalism department in order to be able to score points in every event. We had students competing in eighteen of the twenty-one events," Rusher said. "The students at Scotus are in many activities; they care about all they do and know how to compete. I am happy to give them another opportunity to do so."

Scotus placed twenty-five times which led the team to a first place victory for Class B.

"We were all holding hands and had huge smiles on our faces," Belitz said. "We pretty much knew we had won, but we still screamed and ran up to the stage because we were so happy!"

The Journalism state championship is the first fine arts state championship in Scotus history.

"I know we deserved the place we got," senior Hannah Mielak, who medaled fourth in Yearbook Feature Writing and third in Yearbook Theme Development, said. "We all put in a lot of effort, and I am proud to see how much all of our hard work paid off."

Scotus beat runner-up Yutan by 88 points.

"Even though we knew it was possible, we still had to pull it off. I was mostly relieved knowing the students had met their goals. I don't think it has set in yet that we have done something for the first time in Scotus history," Rusher concluded.

The remaining students who medaled are junior Kaylie Rocha, and seniors Layne Schroeder, Kira Dreher, Eastyn Klink, Matt Hoenk, Abbie Perault, Megan Ohnoutka, Anthony Sprunk, River Liebig, and Megan Schumacher.

"It is so exciting to be the first fine arts state champions at Scotus," Parker said. "I can't wait to see the program continue to grow and do great things in the future."

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Advisor:
Mrs. Angie Rusher

Editor:
Tate VunCannon

Staff writers:
Kira Dreher
Haley Faust
Matt Hoenk
Eastyn Klink
Mallory O'Hearn
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Prom brings Hollywood close to home

By Haley Faust
Staff Reporter

From the moment they entered the building for prom, the juniors and seniors were surrounded by Hollywood glamour. They walked on the red carpet, took selfies in front of a Hollywood themed backdrop, and danced the night away under several small disco balls.

"For prom, the class officers chose three themes and let the class vote on them," junior class officer Caitlin Steiner said.

After the class vote, Hollywood was determined as the official theme, and the class officers got to work preparing for the dance.

"We worked on making decorations for at least a month and a half before prom and set it up Friday after school," Steiner recalled.

The class officers put in many hours setting up decorations and tables for prom. Junior class officer Grace Odbert played a large role in decorating.

Odbert explained, "We started setting up right after school Friday and didn't finish until about 8:30."

On Saturday, students first met at different venues to take pictures with their dates and classmates. After pictures, students went to Mass at St. Isidore and then went to Scotus to attend the dinner and dance. At the dinner, students were served a meal catered by Husker House. They were able to choose chicken or steak as their main entrée.

"At prom, I got the steak, and it was very good," senior Duncan Paczosa recalled.

After the meal, students were able to dance with their friends.

"I think prom had the opportunity to be great, but the music did not meet everyone's expectations, so two-thirds of the people left within the first hour of dancing," Steiner explained.

Overall, many students enjoyed the dance.

"I think [prom] went well. The DJ wasn't the best, but everything else was great!" Odbert said.

One hour after the conclusion of prom, the students returned to the school for post prom, which was put on by the parents of the junior class.

"Post prom was awesome," senior Cassie Seckel said. "There was so much food and several activities for everyone to be involved in. Also, the entertainment was funny."

At post prom, students had the option of doing many activities such as a blow-up obstacle course, human fooseball and pool, knocker ball, cards, and board games.

Junior Tadeu Antunes explained, "I was surprised by the variety of recreational things to do. It was just amazing."

In addition, a magician performed and many prizes were given out at the end of the night.

Prom marks the last school dance that the seniors will attend. Alison Zoucha is one of these seniors.

"I enjoyed dancing and making memories with my friends for my last Scotus dance," Zoucha said.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Juniors Tyler Miksch and Caitlin Steiner and senior Emerson Belitz show off their dance moves in a crowd of students.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Senior Jeffrey Wheelock and sophomore Bekah Hergott gaze into each other's eyes as they share a slow dance together.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Seniors Alison Zoucha, Naomi Kosch, Nikki Hiner, and Zach Svehla belt out the lyrics to a song at prom.

Angie Rusher/Journalism Advisor

Senior Kira Dreher and her date laugh during a slow dance.

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University of Nebraska Lincoln

Major: Equine Science

Memory: When I fell in a hurdle race during my junior year, and a picture of me laughing on the track became a meme.

Major:Speech-Language Pathology

Memory: Winning state cheer.

Major: Secondary Education

Fact: I am double-jointed in all my fingers, and my feet are different lengths.

Major: Education

Fact: I can do a pretty solid Kermit the Frog impersonation.

Major: Communications

Fact: I have lost more teeth than I have in my mouth currently (it's about 22-28).

Major: Pre-Health

Memory: Winning the first state journalism championship title.

Major:Pre-Health

Memory: Mr. Ohnoutka calling some big time snow days this year.

Major: Elementary Education

Memory: Finding a dead bird at track practice and burying it with the jump crew in the sand pits.

Major: Undecided

Fact: I randomly braid my hair at least four times a day.

Major: Undecided

Memory: I have been walking to school since 1st grade.

Major: Business & Spanish

Fact: I can solve a rubix cube in one minute and ten seconds.

Major: Marketing

Fact: I still have a mole dollar from Mrs. Dusel. Shhhh!

Major: Pre-Health

Memory: Playing spoons with Mrs. Zanardi.

Major: Agribusiness

Fact: Chase Newman is always right, even when he is wrong.

Major: Architecture

Fact: In 7th grade I fell over my desk with a broken collarbone in front of mostly upperclassmen and couldn't get up. Shout out to Mrs. Blaser for coming to the rescue.

Major: Business Administration

Memory: Not knowing what I was doing in Calculus all year.

Extracurriculars: Track

Major: Pre-Vet

Memory: One time Dalton nailed me with a golf club, and then I pushed him into the wall...making a hole in it.

Creighton University

Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Memory: I received top honors in religion class two of the last three years, and I'm not even Catholic.

Major: Pre-Pharmacy

Fact: I parked in a teacher parking spot on the west side of school for most of junior and senior year, and no one noticed.

Major: Biology

Memory: When we played spoons with Mrs. Zanardi in the cafeteria instead of reading *Canterbury Tales*.

Extracurriculars: Soccer

Doane College

Major: Computer Science

Fact: I was born with half a heart.

Extracurriculars: Speech Team

Washington University in St. Louis

Major: Mechanical Enginnering

Memory: I raced Mr. Salyard to Calculus class to avoid getting a tardy. It was close, but I won.

Extracurriculars: Cross Country and Track

Drake Bulldogs

Major: Business-Finance

Memory: One time Duncan tried to steal my golf club in Mr. Coulter's room and proceeded to shove me through a wall, leaving a massive hole.

Extracurriculars: Football

WSC

Major: Elementary Education

Memory: Winning State Cross Country with my team.

Major: Fashion Merchandising

Fact: I am ambidextrous.

Major: Music Education

Fact: When I was 3, I was in a no-budget film.

Extracurriculars: Marching band, drumline, and percussion ensemble

Major: Computer Information systems

Memory: When Coach Lahm got the bus stuck in the mud at the Aquinas meet during my junior year of XC.

Extracurriculars: Track and Cross Country

Major: Elementary Education

Memory: Megan O. and I would call the cafeteria and say that Mrs. Johnson wanted more food and then we would eat it. We always paid for it though.

Missouri Western

Major: Physical Therapy

Fact: I have NEVER slept with socks on.

Extracurriculars: Football

Iowa State University

Major: Chemical Engineering

Memory: Seamus O'Hearn hiding in the closet and pretending to be the Scotus ghost.

Major: Electrical Engineering

Fact: Mr. Swanson and I are actually BFF's.

University of Nebraska Omaha

Emma Ruskamp

Major: Environmental Science

Fact: All of you are going to regret not dating me in high school.

Alyssa Kuta

Major: Business

Fact: I have webbed toes.

Naomi Kosch

Major: Neuroscience and Spanish

Memory: Sophomore year I was eating an apple for breakfast, and Mr. Salyard stole it. He said to come get it at snack break. I never did.

Mallory O'Hearn

Major: Psychology

Fact: My "fun fact" is always that I'm a twin even though everyone already knows that.

Courtney Flint

Major: Undecided

Fact: I once had a pet turtle, but it "ran" away.

Alison Zoucha

Major: Nursing

Fact: I have never ridden on a roller coaster.

Crystal Rinkol

Major: Criminology

Memory: When all the backstage members ran on stage and danced for the last performance of *High School Musical*.

Keaton Kudron

Major: Software Engineering

Memory: My freshman year at the homecoming dance, I was asked by a senior girl to dance with her. I got scared, said no, and ran away.

Matthew Csukker

Major: Computer Science

Fact: I've torn both of my ACLs.

Central Community College

Bennett Frewing

Major: Meterorology

Fact: My hair brings good luck if you rub my head.

Jared Mulligan

Major: Advanced Manufacturing/ Programming

Memory: When I ran Dillon over during the 4x1 because he didn't start running.

Samuel Schacher

Major: Undecided

Fact: I'm on my third front end bumper for my car.

Riley Roddy

Major: Undecided

Fact: I've never driven to school.

Cassie Secket

Major: Elementary Education

Fact: I own 77 pairs of shoes and 35 waterbottles.

Extracurriculars: Volleyball manager

Brady Miller

Major: Finance

Fact: I have a '7' scarred on the side of my face.

Extracurriculars: Soccer

Trevor Halligan

Major: Psychology

Memory: The state soccer championship game against Elkhorn South last year.

Dillon Muehmore

Major: Advanced Manufacturing

Memory: Hanging out with everyone at the senior retreat.

Northeast community college

Layne Schroeder

Major: Business Administration

Fact: I memorized 118 digits of pi when I was 12.

Megan Ohnoutka

Major: Graphic Design

Memory: Being a part of the student sections.

Extracurriculars: Softball

Adam Foreman

Major: Drafting

Memory: The games in Mr. Coulter's class.

Layton Mullinex

Major: Physical Therapy

Memory: Winning four straight individual conference championships.

Matthew Hoenk

Major: Undecided

Memory: When I had to sign a contract in Ms. Perez's class not to use the word "vale".

Anthony Kosch

Major: Business

Memory: Hanging out with Brooke everyday after school.

UNK

Hunter Smith

Major: Computer Science

Fact: I broke my kneecap playing hide and seek my junior year.

Landri Swett

Major: Wildlife Biology

Fact: I wake up every morning and put my eyebrows on.

Wyatt Gutzmer

Major: Business Administration

Minor: Finance

Memory: The lunch conversations.

Southeast community college

Noah Tworek

Major: Auto tech and auto body

Memory: Dodgeball tournaments at the junior high lock-ins.

College of Saint Mary

Kaylee Tonniges

Major: Occupational Therapy

Memory: Getting a fist bump from Mr. Salyard.

Brooke Podolak

Major: Nursing

Fact: My favorite animals are sloths.

Extracurriculars: Competitive Dance

Chadron State College

Emily Hand

Major: Physical Therapy

Fact: I am blonde on the outside and the inside.

Jeffrey Wheelock

Major: Psychology/ Counseling

Memory: Our track and pole vault group.

Extracurriculars: Rodeo

Columbia College Chicago

Anthony Sprunk

Major: Music Technology

Fact: I'm only cool on Instagram.

Kira Dreher

Every day some student walks into the big brown, square, prison-like building that is Scotus Central Catholic and is ready to turn right back around and go home. Most days, I am that student.

Looking back at my time here, I realize that I don't have too many fond memories. Very few students know that they will not miss high school in the least, and I am that person.

Some seniors walk out of here after having the best time of their lives, others aren't so lucky. Those, with me included, are ready to be out of here and get on with our lives.

Whether you want to admit it or not, you know that there are students in your class that don't have any friends or anyone to turn to in their age group. High school is just like that. Friendships are formed, others broken and lost in time. Some students, like me, have people to talk to when no one else is around, but the moment we leave the school grounds we are forgotten. Going to college, I know I will meet plenty of people that will have the same interests as me, understand what has gone on in my life, and want to be my friend, so getting out of here as soon as possible is a good start.

However, with every down there is an up. Of course, I'll miss some things from high school, but not all of it. I'll miss the newspaper deadlines, State Journalism, going to parades with the band, District Music Contest, and the endless summer camps preparing for the upcoming season. Up until my junior year of high school, I was only involved in band. Summer was the time of my life where it was either staying at home and playing video games or going to band camp. Camp times were such fun to me. Surprisingly, good lessons are learned and laughs made when everyone is suffering the stuffy, unair-conditioned band room or outside in the blazing July Nebraska summer sun. When the opportunity came for juniors to sign up for a journalism class, I was stuck between Newspaper and Media. I thought the stuff Media did on the computers was really cool, but I enjoy writing, and Newspaper was a lot of that. I'm happy with the decision I made because who knew at the end of my junior year I would be at State Journalism for something I had only started that year.

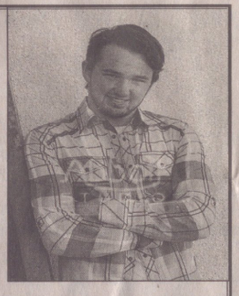
But all in all, I'm ready to get out of the monotonous life of high school. It's boring having the same nine classes every day. It's holding me back, and I know I'm not the only one who feels that way.

It's that time in our lives when we must say, "Goodbye, high school and hello, college." Some seniors will look back on high school in about a year or so and miss how easy it was for them with all their friends by their side. Others will have moved on way past that point and be happy with where they are, no matter how hard or stressful it is.

Some experiences will stay with me for the rest of my life, but college will open up a whole new world of experiences that will top the good or bad ones in my time here. It was fun while it lasted, Scotus, but until next time!

This is Kira Dreher, signing off.

Matt Hoenk



Scotus is a place that is respected for many reasons. Arguably the most commonly talked about reason is the legacy of Scotus.

Scotus has this respected legacy of success dating back to the school's beginning and will continue on for years to come. When people talk about our school's legacy, they are not referring to the building of Scotus, they are talking about all of the students, athletes, teachers, and coaches who shaped the success story that is this great school.

Many people who walk these halls everyday do not comprehend all of the greatness that has come out of these walls. Everyone hears the phrase, "In ten years it won't matter what you did in high school," but is that really true? In ten, fifteen, or even twenty years down the road when you come back and are walking down these once dreaded hallways hand in hand with your children, what do you want to tell them? Do you want to look them in the eye and say that you never took advantage of the many opportunities to leave your mark at Scotus? What kind of message does that send them?

Get involved, be part of the legacy of our great school. Go out for the sport that you could never see yourself doing. Go your hardest at every practice; do the hard work; don't waste the chances that you have now because the sad reality is that they will not be there forever. Eventually your hourglass will run out of sand, and as much as you would like to be able to flip it over, it does not work that way. Your high school career will end, and with that you will have left your legacy at Scotus. Your legacy here means a lot more than people give it credit for. Many of your now best friends who you won't be seeing on a daily basis will remember you based on the legacy you left on this school including the legacy you made alongside them.

When you do eventually come back with your future kids, you will be able to show them your picture on the wall that says, "State Champion." Give them something to be proud of. Show them that average isn't good enough; you are here for a reason. Go the extra mile and get involved in everything you can. Your time at Scotus is limited; the torch has been passed down from generation to generation and now you are holding it in your hand. It is your time, and you have two options: you can either sit there and let the torch go out, or make it blaze brighter than ever.

The legacy of Scotus involves every student who ever walks its halls. Make sure that the legacy you leave is one to be proud of because, in the end, you only have one chance, and your time here will fly by.

This is Matt Hoenk, signing off.

Tate VunCannon

I am not a person who likes to think positively. Since the time I became old enough to begin thinking for myself and forming my own opinions, I have been a pessimistic person. I like to expect the worst in order to avoid disappointment. I stuck to this philosophy for a good majority of my time at Scotus, and it worked out for the most part. However, that is not to say I don't have regrets.

I wish I would have tried to accomplish more and do more things outside of my comfort zone. I had a good intuition that high school was going to be 95% terrible anyway, so I regret not trying more stuff in spite of the whole ordeal. If I had to give the underclassmen at Scotus advice, it would boil down to this: do what you want to do in your adolescent years since they're going to mostly suck anyway.

Take the elective classes you want to take. One of my biggest regrets of my senior year is that I took elective classes that were so focused on my future. I took Physics and Anatomy because I absolutely had to for my prospective career in Pharmacy. As it turned out, I'll have to retake those classes when I get to college anyway. I've learned a ton in those classes, but I just wish I would have taken at least one class to explore some different interests of mine, like Accounting or Modern Technology. The requirements for graduation at Scotus are stressful and strenuous enough on their own, so don't feel bad if you find yourself wanting to take some fun electives.

Play the sports you want to play. The strange path that I took in my spring sports career is another source of regret for me. I went out for track freshman year and decided it wasn't for me. I wanted to play golf sophomore year, but was convinced that it would be better to take the season off and lift weights in preparation for football in the fall. Looking back, I should have golfed because it was what I wanted to do. My junior and senior years of golf have given me some of my fondest memories of playing sports in high school. Take part in whatever activities you want to, not what your parents or friends want you to do.

Try something new outside of your comfort zone. I was a member of Shamrock Singers my freshman and sophomore years, and even though it terrified me to sing on a stage, I enjoyed it. I wish I would have tried something else to broaden my musical horizons further. Vulnerability is a beautiful thing, especially as you're trying to discern your true identity throughout high school. What's the worst that can happen by trying something new? High school's going to be pretty awful anyway.

Understand this, though: there will be bright lights in the darkness that make it all worth it. I was privileged to be able to explore my passions while at Scotus. Playing basketball and achieving the success that we did was amazing beyond words. Being a part of this newspaper and expressing myself through the beauty of the written word was another huge highlight for me. To get the most out of the six years you spend here, you have to let the parts you enjoy carry you through the parts you don't.

The old adage about high school being some of the best years of your life is a bunch of bologna. That being said, make them <u>your</u> years. Explore the things that inspire you. Take part in activities that bring you joy. Do what you want to do.

This is Tate VunCannon, signing off.

Haley Faust

"Attitude is everything," Mr. Petersen told me. He said this at every volleyball camp I attended in elementary school. When I finally got to Scotus, I sat in his math class every day surrounded by posters about having a positive attitude and strong work ethic. "Attitude is everything," he would say more times than I can count. As I go through my final weeks of high school and look back on the past four years, I am beginning to realize how true this phrase is.

I walk past people in the hallways every day who don't care. Their hair is messed up, their shirt is untucked, and they look like they just rolled out of bed. It is clear to me how much they do not want to be at school. As we make eye contact, they quickly avert their eyes to the ground and sheepishly continue dragging their feet through the hallway. I cannot imagine a more awful way to spend four years of high school.

Everyone says high school flies by, and that is true. It does, but at the same time four years is a long time to go to the same building and be on the same schedule every day. Why would anyone want to spend those four years in absolute misery?

If there is one thing that I have learned during my years of high school, it is that a situation is what you make of it. Approaching a situation with a bad attitude is a recipe for disaster. The same goes for high school.

Each student's high school experience is determined by his or her attitude. I get that spending a whole day at school is no teenager's idea of the perfect day, but going to high school is inevitable. If you walk through the north doors dreading each school day, your four years in high school are going to be miserable.

My biggest piece of advice for underclassmen is to approach every situation, especially high school, with a good attitude. Keep your head up, and try to find the good in every situation and, more importantly, every person. Remember that your high school experience is completely up to you. It is never too late to change your perspective.

High school can be a really awesome time if you keep a good attitude. I have done my best to go into every situation with a positive attitude, and, believe it or not, I have really enjoyed high school. I will definitely miss these four years and the people who I have met and made relationships with along the way.

Sometimes it is hard to fathom that my life will be drastically different in a of couple months. I am ready for the change but uneasy to be leaving the life that I know and love so much. However, I have a positive outlook on all of the changes because I know that at the end of the day attitude really is everything.

This is Haley Faust, signing off.

Emma Ruskamp

As I sit down to write my final article for this newspaper, the only word that comes to my mind is wow.

Wow, I spent too much time being upset over petty things. Wow, I love the amazingly beautiful memories I have created. Wow, high school is over.

When a student enters high school, they have a beautiful golden orb that radiates around them with happiness and the chance for a new beginning. This was true for me, but I did not know that God designed a plan for me to show off my radiance in a unique way. I spent my days forcing myself into situations that would please other people. I can't say an exact moment when I started living for myself, rather than other people, but I can say that it was revolutionary. I realized that I could have all the drive in the world, but I still needed gas. I learned to love myself, and I was never lonely, because when someone is truly happy, they experience a type of euphoria that can't be found within human interaction.

One thing that helped me learn to love who I am was understanding that God's love for me is so immense, it is unimaginable. I realized that the way I am in every moment of every day is exactly how God wants me to be. If He wanted me to change, He would change me. He so beautifully designed me to be unique and irreplaceable. Why would I want to change any part of myself if God created me flawlessly? I realized that I am God's daughter, that I am a princess in His heavenly kingdom, and that He breathes every breath into my life with absolute perfection.

My advice to other people struggling with loving themselves is to surround yourself with people who can envision and deliver what everyone needs in a friendship, which is love, laughter, and freedom. You can be so free if you give yourself the chance to develop into the perfection that God intended you to be with friends who support you.

Another piece of advice I have is to learn to accept the flaws in other people. There have been too many moments that I have regretfully wasted on dramatizing the way other people live. Every morning when you open your eyes is a brand new chance to be in love with the world, so spread love like it is confetti. There are daily opportunities for us to brighten the lives of other people, so show off your kind heart.

Going to college in the fall is going to be life altering in so many remarkable ways, but I would not be as excited as I am without the love I have gotten from Scotus. I am going to miss the comfortableness of our school, the hard-working teachers who year after year deal with the sassiness and stench of high schoolers (bless them), and, most importantly, I am going to miss how absolutely wonderful our student body is. Whenever I am faced with tribulation and wondering where the love has gone in our world, I will turn to the foot of the cross and say, "Oh yeah, there it is." Remember to smile, remember to thank, and remember to love with all of your heart.

This is Emma Ruskamp, signing off.

Mallory O'Hearn

Growing up, some changes seem like the end of the world. You got a haircut that you hate and now you are saying, "My life is over!" Well, I hate to break it to you, but it's not, you will be okay, and your life is most definitely not over.

Throughout high school, we all go through events or changes that make us grow up. Whether good or bad, these events can change us for the better if we let them.

So many people seem to be afraid of change. I used to be that person, and I am sometimes still hesitant toward change, but I have gotten better. Some people even freak out over the smallest changes. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard people say, "Woah, what's going on?" if one person switches up the "seating arrangement" at lunch. How silly is that? If people can't even handle that adjustment, how are you going to deal with leaving high school and going to college?

Throughout junior high and high school, I have found myself changing and growing up. Young teenagers tend to be selfish and self-centered. Not to say that seniors aren't selfish anymore, but the hope is that we grow up and realize that the world doesn't revolve around us. I have found that, as I have gotten older, I have become more caring toward others, and I am not always concerned just about myself.

I also grew up and became more independent. Most teenagers become more autonomous once they are 16 and can drive themselves, but we continue to gain independence throughout high school. This is probably one of the most important changes I have encountered since I will soon be living on my own.

I also feel that I have changed in the sense of my personality. In grade school and the beginning of junior high, I was definitely more extroverted and sometimes obnoxiously outgoing. I am now more quiet and introverted for the most part. This is not necessarily a good or bad change, it is just a transformation that I have observed in myself.

High school has the ability to change us, depending on how we spend it. If you spend high school trying to avoid change, you cannot grow as a person. If you are never out of your comfort zone, you will be stuck in your bubble forever. In the beginning of high school, I never wanted to go outside of my comfort zone; I always hung out with the same few friends, and didn't really go outside of that bubble. Later in high school, I tried to make myself step outside of my comfort zone, and I made some really great new friends. So go out and do something that scares you because you never know how it will end; it could possibly be the best decision you have ever made. At first, you may have to force yourself into it, but it might just pay off.

There are definitely some things that I will miss about high school, mainly seeing my friends every day and the comfort of knowing what to expect, but it is time to move on. The next big change that is about to happen in my life definitely scares me, but I am ready and couldn't be more excited.

This is Mallory O'Hearn, signing off.

Eastyn Klink

Before you know it, you are going to be frantically visiting colleges, filling out applications, applying for scholarships, and deciding on a major.

Many of you have probably already heard that high school goes by fast, but I'm here to tell you that college comes out of nowhere. One day you'll be joking around about getting as far away from your family as possible, and the next day you'll be applying for colleges wishing you could live at home forever.

Senior year is a year full of the most important decisions of your life. You have to choose where you want to go to college and what you want to do with the rest of your life. It is not an overnight decision.

My dad always told me to keep an eye out on what I wanted to do when I was younger, but I was too stubborn to listen. Instead of starting to learn about different occupations, job shadowing multiple professions, and looking at different colleges starting my freshman year, I waited until my senior year.

I thought I always wanted to be a psychiatrist, but after visiting colleges and learning more about it, I learned that psychiatry was not the right path. I started freaking out and didn't know what I was going to do. I decided to job shadow any occupation that I had a slight interest in, and I finally felt at home when I was shadowing an occupational therapist. If I would have listened to my father, I could have made this decision months sooner.

Now that I know where I am going to school and what I am going to be, I can finally sit back and enjoy senior year. I am ecstatic for starting a new chapter and becoming the best version of myself. I get the chills every time I look on Pinterest and see college dorm rooms. I constantly talk about my goals and plans for the future. I am ready to move on and start a whole new adventure in college!

I am excited to meet new people, live in a different town, study subjects I will actually use in my profession, and take as many opportunities as possible. I want to make the best of college.

My advice to all of you, including junior high, is to start thinking about your future. You do not have to make any decisions, but you should find some occupations that you think you would enjoy. Then when the summer into senior year comes, you can know exactly what your major is going to be and start applying to colleges you think you'd enjoy. With those decisions made, your senior year will be a lot more relaxing.

Instead of being overly stressed about colleges, scholarships, and majors, you can enjoy every minute of senior year knowing that you're about to begin a new chapter!

This is Eastyn Klink, signing off.

Amberly Parker

Over my six year education at Scotus, I have participated in four sports, four different organizations, and numerous volunteer experiences. These opportunities have come and gone, but one thing that has helped me throughout and has always stayed with me is the concept of being a good person.

With whatever you do or are involved in at school, try to be a good person. Be the person who people want to see again after graduating high school.

I always hear of high school seniors wanting to get out of high school for multiple reasons. One reason that I often hear that disheartens me is wanting to graduate to meet new people and not see people at Scotus again. I understand that we have been with them for our whole lives, but that should be even more of a reason to want to keep seeing them. I have made too many memories to just forget them all after graduation. I have incredible amounts of memories with my friends that I never want to forget. I love being around my friends. It's always nice to make new friends and meet new people, but I will genuinely miss the people from Scotus. When I really think about it, this is the last time I will see a majority of the people here, and it is very sad. I have always tried my hardest to be a good person so that others still want to keep in touch in the future.

Be a good person because it affects the people around you. Having a good attitude about everything, caring about others, and thinking about the positive side of things has helped me to become a better person. Being a decent person makes you much easier to be around, and I have noticed through my peers that I like to be surrounded with these kinds of people.

Be a good person because it leaves an impact on those around you. "Everyone around you will remember some kind of action, attitude, or word that you said." This is something that I have always kept in mind when doing anything. My actions leave an impact on someone whether I want it to or not, and so does everyone else's. Being a good person has given me many opportunities thus far, and I am so grateful. I have been blessed with a family who loves me and friends who are always there for me who I would not trade for the world. I have been able to be involved in many extracurricular activities that I would not take back. I have met so many people through these activities, and they have all contributed to me being a better person. I want to thank everyone who has been involved in these groups with me and for encouraging me and making me a better person.

This is Amberly Parker, signing off.

Layne Schroeder

Everybody at some point in their life has had some sort of struggle. For some, it might be the struggle of being passionate about a thought or idea and nobody else understands. For others, it may be the loss of a loved one or a broken relationship. Maybe somebody right now is moving away to a new place or is going through family issues that nobody knows about.

Whatever your struggle might be, I have some advice that might help. If there is one thing that I have learned in high school, it is that you shouldn't ask questions. Don't ask why someone hurt you. Don't ask why something bad had to happen to *you*. Most of all, don't ever ask why God put you into this position. What I now know that I wish I would have known sooner is this – even if you get the answers to all of the questions you have, you won't be satisfied. Sometimes, it's okay to not understand.

I hope that for all of you reading, life is good and everything is okay. Don't ever live in fear of something bad happening to you, but, at the same time, you need to be prepared for hardships. High school is a time to make memories that you'll have for the rest of your life, but I promise you, things aren't always going to be easy. The fact is, life changes fast. I can only imagine the reaction on the face of my 14-year-old self if he knew everything that was about to happen in his life throughout high school.

Lastly, help others and get help if you ever need it. One thing that I wish I would have utilized more at Scotus was the amount of support from everybody. There were far too many times where I needed advice or guidance and instead of reaching out for help I just stayed quiet and told myself that everything always works itself out in the end. It took me until my senior year of high school to reach out to a teacher for advice. I promise you, they really do care. I have personally seen faculty members get emotional over the success of students.

My final message is this. Tell your family you love them. Enjoy late summer nights with your friends while you're still young. It's okay to want to be somewhere else, but enjoy where you're already at because things might not be as good on the other side as you think. Stay up until four in the morning facetiming your crush (be prepared to oversleep though). Sing at the top of your lungs in the car with your friends even if you sound like a dying seal. If you were wondering if you should do that certain extracurricular activity next year, do it. Enjoy everything that high school has to offer, but at the same time you need to be prepared for times when everything might not be so easy. If you are ever in a dark point in your life, don't be silent. Reach out to the people who care about you. Don't let the bad experiences ruin your time in high school because, in the end, these are the days you'll wish you still had.

This is Layne Schroeder, signing off.

Shamrocks' goal still in sight

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock girls' soccer team heads into the district and sub-state matches with determination to take yet another trip down to Morrison Stadium for the state tournament.

"This season has gone really well," junior Maggie Feehan said. "I think we are working well together on the field as a team, are finding each other's strengths, and are using them to our advantage."

The girls began the month of April on a scoring rampage, scoring 26 goals in their first 4 games of the month. After defeating Lincoln Lutheran 2-0, the Shamrocks downed Lutheran High NE 10-0, Grand Island Northwest 7-0, and Kearney Catholic 7-0.

"We are trying to improve our speed of play," Feehan said. "The great teams play quick so we just need to keep working on it. Our team is good at putting the ball in the net, which is something we have struggled with in previous years."

Before the four game stretch of a scoring outburst, the Shamrocks faced off against Class A Lincoln Pius X. With a slow start to the game, the girls found themselves in unfamiliar territory for this season, behind.

"The Pius X game was a test," senior Alyssa Kuta said. "We started the second half down 0-1 and kept fighting to come out with a 2-1 win."

The Shamrocks then squared off with a pair of Class B opponents in Omaha Duchesne and number 8 ranked Gretna.

"It gave us a good look at where we're at and what we need to improve on," Kuta commented.

The Shamrocks snuck past Duchesne 1-0 and followed that game by losing to Gretna 0-3. Although losses late in the season are difficult to swallow, the girls take their 11-2 record into the post season with confidence.

"We are all focused on making it to state and becoming the best team possible," Feehan said. "I'm looking forward to playing CHS again. I think we should have beat them, and we are all hungry for a rematch."

For the final two matches of the regular season, the Shamrocks battled against Schuyler and Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson. The girls started off the stretch strong, bouncing back from a loss by defeating the Warriors 10-0.

"It was easy for us to score because we possessed the ball well and found feet," junior Grace Wickham said. "We kept it to one or two touches."

The girls ended the regular season by defeating Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson 2-0. Wickham scored two goals in the contest. Her 10th and 11th goals in the match tie her for most on the team with sophomore Emily Stutzman and junior Kendra Wiese.

The Shamrocks will compete in the district tournament on May 1st-4th for a chance to play in the sub-state match to qualify for state in Omaha the week of May 15th.

"It doesn't matter who we play, we just have to play our best games, play together, and I know we can get the win," Wickham concluded.

Abbie Perault/Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Julia Salerno attempts to dribble past a Crete defender. The Scotus girls will head into districts with a regular season record of 11-2.

Shamrocks aim to four-peat

By Layne Schroeder
Staff Reporter

The Shamrock boys' soccer team has fared well so far throughout the 2017 season. The boys started off hot, winning four of their first five games of the season. They would then take a hard 0-5 loss against Creighton Prep, but soon rallied to win each of their next two games by one goal against Lincoln Pius X and Lincoln Christian. With eight of their games being decided by two or fewer goals, the Shamrock offense has gone stagnant at times. That wasn't the case, however, when the Shamrocks pummeled Grand Island Central Catholic in a 10-0 victory. The Shamrocks would go on to finish the regular season with a solid 10-6 record.

Mallory O'Hearn/Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Tadeu Antunes dribbles past a Schuyler defender on April 25th. The Shamrocks seek to win their 13th straight post-season game on May 2nd against Norfolk Catholic/Lutheran High.

As the boys aim to make the state tournament for the fourth straight year, the goal is clear – be the first boys soccer team in NSAA history to four-peat as state champions.

Senior sweeper River Liebig had much to say about that very goal.

"I think about it quite a bit. I remember what it felt like to get a three-peat, and it would be so much better if we upset a few teams to pull off the four-peat," Liebig said.

It is Liebig's fourth year being a part of the Scotus boys' soccer team.

"Our main goal for this year is to make it to state. Once we make it there, anything can happen." Liebig added.

Last year, Scotus became the first boys NSAA soccer team to ever three-peat. In order for the boys to have another chance at a state title and a four-peat, they must win their sub-state game on Tuesday against Norfolk Catholic.

Overcoming the odds is nothing new for the Shamrocks. In each of the past three years, two early losses sent the boys spiraling down the rankings. The boys would, of course, go on to win the state title in each of those seasons.

Junior striker Carson Hottovy has a different view on the expectations for the team.

"I don't think too much about the four-peat, I just think about winning the next game and everything will fall into place," Hottovy said.

It is Hottovy's first season as a starter for the Shamrocks.

"If we play like we know we can, there is nobody in the state that we can't beat." Hottovy added.

Senior left wing Brady Miller might have the key to what will push the Shamrocks over the edge.

"We have really good team chemistry. We might all be different grades, but we connect well," Miller said.

Of the eleven starters on the team, five of them are underclassmen.

"The younger guys have really stepped it up this year. Without them, we wouldn't be nearly as good." Miller added.

The lone returning starter for the Shamrocks is senior goalie Evan Chohon.

According to senior holder Matt Hoenk, although they may not have the best record in Class B, there is no doubt that Scotus has a leg up on the competition.

"We know what it's like to be on the big stage. We have been there multiple times, and we know that we can perform our best when the lights are brightest," Hoenk said.

In state championship games, the Shamrocks have outscored their opponents by eight goals in total.

Hoenk concluded, "It's definitely prestigious to be part of this team with all of our history. We've had guys on the team compete for starting positions all year, and that competition has just made us a better team."

Track strides toward state

By Eastyn Klink
Staff Reporter

The Scotus track and field team has been training in the cold and competing in the rain to prepare themselves for the final meets of 2017.

"The weather has not been in our favor. We have practiced in bad weather to prepare us for bad weather at our meets. We still don't compete as well, but neither do the other teams," sophomore sprinter/hurdler Bailey Lehr said.

Track athletes of all ages have been stepping up to place at the track meets. The track team competed at the Knights of Columbus Invitational on April 11, 2017. The girls won the meet, and the boys placed fourth.

After a week of training, the track and field team traveled to Schuyler on April 20th to compete at the Fred Arnold Invitational.

"The Schuyler meet was my favorite because I ran my best two mile time," sophomore distance runner Elliott Thomazin said.

The following day, a few of Scotus' track athletes traveled to Papillion, Nebraska to compete at the Nebraska Track and Field Festival. Junior Marika Spencer placed second in the shot put and discus events. Along with Spencer, seniors Nathan Ostdiek and Cody Mroczek also competed at the festival. Ostdiek placed 10th in the mile run and 12th in the two mile run. Mroczek was able to get first place in the 400 meter race with a time of 49.992 seconds after coming back from a hamstring injury.

"The Nebraska Track and Field Festival was my favorite meet because it was my first inaugural event. It was the best of the best, and I was able to get first," Mroczek said.

The entire team was back competing on April 24th at the city triangular. Many athletes tried to use the weather to their advantage by competing for their personal bests.

"The past two years my time in the 300 hurdles has been 50 seconds or higher, and my goal is to get below that time," junior sprinter/hurdler Elley Beaver said.

Unfortunately, the meet on Tuesday, May 2nd at Boone Central was cancelled.

Scotus will host the conference meet on Saturday, May 6th.

"I am looking forward to conference because there will be some really tough competition and schools that we haven't seen yet this season," sophomore distance runner Kelsey Faust said.

After conference, Scotus will compete at districts on May 11th to try to get as many competitors to the state meet.

"The team's goal should always be to win state," senior thrower Mitchell Halligan said.

The state qualifiers will travel down to Omaha Burke High School on May 19th and 20th to go for the gold.

"We are blessed with great, supportive coaches. They constantly push us to be our best and are happy when we succeed. I have made some of the best memories of my high school career during track, and I cannot wait to finish the season off strong," senior jumper Jessica Buhman said.

Nathan Hiemer/Media Staff

Junior thrower Marika Spencer winds up for her discus throw on April 21st at the Nebraska Track and Field Festival. This meet was hosted for the top track athletes in Nebraska; Spencer finished 2nd in both the shot and discus events.

Golfers swing through midseason

By Tate VunCannon
Staff Reporter

The Scotus boys' golf team has seen a lot of new faces contribute varsity scores this spring. With only one returning varsity starter, sophomore Bryce VunCannon, the Shamrocks have faced inexperience as their main challenge.

"I feel some leadership responsibility being the only returner," VunCannon commented. "The bottom line is I want our team to make it to state."

Two of the new varsity golfers include Bryce's brothers, senior Tate and freshman Drew VunCannon.

"I think it creates an interesting dynamic having three brothers on the team. There's definitely more friendly competition at practice, and I do feel like we are closer as a team," Tate VunCannon said.

The Shamrocks also have a new coach this year. Tyler Swanson, who is also the head boys' basketball coach, has not coached golf prior to this year.

"Coach Swanson is a special and unique leader," senior Layne Schroeder said. "He really knows how to motivate us to play well, and he knows how to help each player in a different way that best suits them."

Despite the inexperience and new coach, the team has been able to find some early season success. The Shamrocks have a dual record of 2-1, defeating Schuyler and Stanton and falling to Mount Michael Benedictine.

"We have been able to do well at smaller events because we can play with and motivate one another," junior Colson Kosch said. "You don't want to let the team down in those situations."

Unfortunately, the Shamrocks have also had their share of struggles throughout the season, especially in bigger invites. The team took a sixth place finish at the Pius Invitational at Firethorn Country Club on April 3rd, firing a 360. Bryce VunCannon lost his chance to medal in a scorecard playoff, finishing 16th individually.

"It was disappointing not to medal at Firethorn, but my goals are to medal in the remaining invites and get to state," VunCannon said.

Recently, the boys' golf team hosted their home invite at Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus. The team took fourth place overall behind GICC, York, and Lakeview. Bryce VunCannon was the lone bright spot for the Shamrocks, shooting a season-low 77 to take 2nd individually at the meet. Drew VunCannon shot 91, Layne Schroeder shot 93, and Tate VunCannon shot 99 to round out the scoring. Colson Kosch shot a 100 for the alternate score.

Emerson Belitz/Yearbok Staff

Junior Colson Kosch reads a putt in a dual against Stanton on April 11th. Scotus defeated Stanton to improve their dual record to 2-1.

"The season has been going really well, but we all can't seem to have a good day at the same time," Drew VunCannon commented. "It's a lot easier to think about your individual game and just take one shot at a time rather than think about how your teammates are doing."

The golf team plays at the Wayne Invitational today. They will conclude their season with the conference tournament on May 6th, a dual with Lakeview on May 8th, and the district tournament at Wayne on May 16th.

"My sole goal for the team is to finish in the top 3 at districts so we can make it to state. Our team is solid, we just all need to peak at the same time, on May 16th," Schroeder concluded.

The state golf tournament will be played on May 23rd and 24th at Highlands Golf Course.

Musicians compete at Districts

By Kira Dreher
Staff Reporter

On April 21st and 22nd, band and choral students alike gathered at Central Community College for the annual District Music Contest.

Interim band director Carol Nelson, a Scotus alum, came back to the Scotus family to take up the band and get them through Districts.

"The biggest challenge for me with coming to a new school was learning the names of all the students because I didn't know any of them and learning the schedules and routines here," Nelson said.

The band students had to adjust quickly to having a new director in the absence of band director Kristen Cox, whose husband was in a severe car accident.

"There's not too much difference [having a new director]. I have so much respect for Mrs. Nelson. She is doing such a great job for coming in unexpectedly," senior band member Cassie Seckel said.

Seckel performed with the band and a trumpet quartet, who received a one.

Mitchell Halligan/Yearbook Staff

Freshmen Amber Buhman, Katie Stachura, and sophomore Tara Kamrath perform their flute trio at the spring band concert. All three performed in band, which got a two at districts.

Performances are judged on a scale of one (superior) to five. The band earned a two, or excellent, and the Singers received a one.

"District Music Contest is a nerve- racking experience, playing for 3 judges in addition to an audience in a different venue. The Scotus Band had the added stress of having a different director than the one they are used to. They handled the situation very well," Nelson continued.

Chorus instructor Laura Salyard has been teaching at Scotus for two years and had plenty of experience going though Districts as a student.

"Performing in an environment like that only once a year is difficult, and the expectations from the judges are different each year. The Singers went in and did their absolute best, which is all I can ever ask for!" Salyard said.

Senior band member Tatem Vance performed with the band, as well as drumline and a duet, which received a superior.

"I was a little nervous because we had to adjust to having a different director, but we pulled it together and performed well," Vance said.

Senior Singers member Anthony Sprunk felt the opposite.

"Performing as a chorus was great because we sang over two songs. I was almost certain we got a one, and, by the grace of God, we did!" Sprunk said.

Sprunk performed with the Singers and a solo, which also earned a one.

As the year comes to a close, the music department has to depart with Nelson.

Nelson concluded, "The Scotus staff and students have been very welcoming. I have enjoyed my time here very much."

Tennis triumphs over tough foes

By Matt Hoenk
Staff Reporter

The girls' tennis team has a total of 26 players on the team this year with the Scotus and Columbus High athletes together. The varsity squad of six athletes has only one Scotus player this year but there are many other Scotus athletes competing in the junior varsity division.

"We compete against some tough class A schools but we have been improving a lot and working hard." junior Natalie Brutty said.

With Brutty being the lone Shamrock on the varsity team, she has the sole responsibility of representing Scotus out on the court at the varsity events. Brutty currently plays #2 singles for the Discoverers and has her eyes set on closing out the season strong.

"Our team goals are to keep improving as the season goes on," Brutty said.

Other Shamrocks who compete for the girls' tennis team play in the junior varsity division. With only 6 players on the varsity squad, this leaves the junior varsity team with 20 players. "The team has been improving a lot and working hard." Brutty said.

Tennis does not have a district format so every varsity player has their shot at the state tournament. The way this tournament works is players are seeded by a committee of coaches from around the state. The seeding committee only seeds the top 12 players from each division and the remaining players are cast into a pool and their first matches are randomly drawn. After the seeding is determined by the committee, the teams travel to the meet they have been preparing for all season to put it all out on the court in a single elimination, two out of three sets, tournament to crown the eventual state champions in each division.

"My individual goal this year is to perform well at state," Brutty said.

Brutty is planning on entering the conference and state tournaments in the #2 singles division. She has been playing singles in the tournaments this year and she says that she plays her best tennis in a singles match. She does say that she enjoys having a doubles partner out on the court with her. Brutty has put together a solid record in both singles and doubles this year coming from various duals and tournaments in which she has competed in.

"It has been a challenging year so far, but the team is getting better and we are hoping to finish out the year strong," Brutty concluded.

Landri Sweti/Media Staff

Junior Natalie Brutty takes a forehand at the Columbus tournament. Brutty is ranked #3 on the tennis team and plays #2 singles for tournaments.

Upcoming Movies: Finally or Finale?

By Matt Strecker
Staff Reporter

Too many movie series are either left alone without closure in the story, or are carried out till the bitter end with movies that pale in comparison to the original film. The upcoming years seem to have their share of both of these kinds of movies. A majority of 2017 and 2018 titles that have been confirmed are either sequels to movies that are ten years too late, or series that should really just be left alone.

A majority of these titles state, right off the bat, if they will be worth their time or not. Unfortunately, some of the titles coming to the big screen soon will repel a large number of people from the theatre. These titles include 2017 releases: *Captain Underpants* and *The Emoji Movie* and 2018 release: *Gnomeo and Juliet 2*. All of these movies should be avoided, but if you feel like you must put yourself through one of these movies, I would have to recommend *Captain Underpants*. Based on the beloved children's book series by Dav Pilkey, two imaginative pranksters (Kevin Hart, Thomas Middleditch) hypnotize their principal (Ed Helms) into thinking that he is a superhero named Captain Underpants. I would give this movie a chance based solely on the cast because Kevin Hart seems to either make or break a movie.

Many times, classic children's films or instant classics are ruined by horrid sequels. Two spot on examples would be *Caddyshack 2* and *Grease 2*. The upcoming close of the decade doesn't show any slow in the production of these movies. 2017 beats a dead horse with *Pirates of the Caribbean 5: Dead Men Tell No Tales* and yet another *Planet of the Apes*. 2018 is no different with the release of *Madagascar 4*, *Jurassic World 2*, and another rendition of *The Jungle Book*. I don't know if this is just me, but I'm tired of watching movie after movie of Apes trying to take over the world, and a group of people trying to make a theme park based around dinosaurs. There comes a time when there are so many installments in a movie series that one starts to realize that every movie seems to have the same plot. Both of these movie series are prime examples of such movies. Every dog has his day, and these dogs had their day over a decade ago.

While approaching years look to bring their sub-par movies to the big screen, they also bring some long awaited titles. The year 2017 brings beloved titles back to the big screen such as *Cars 3*, *Justice League*, and another installment to the *Star Wars* franchise. Though the *Star Wars* series could be considered long and drawn out, the 7th film holds the record from breaking $390 million dollars in its first week. 2018 follows suit with anticipated films with, the long awaited *Incredibles 2*, *Deadpool 2, and Avatar 2*. Next year, as listed, will see a large amount of classic movies that have long deserved sequels.

A small number of movies have been confirmed for a 2019 release. Although the list is small, it shows promise for the box office for the year, along with a mixture of both awaited movies and drawn out series that need to die. Confirmed titles include *the Avengers*, *Toy Story 4*, *Indiana Jones 5*, and *Star Wars 9*. I will let everyone decide for themselves which of those two categories these films will fit under.

IMDB.COM

Pixar's newest film, *The Incredibles 2* is coming in 2018. A sequel to the original *Incredibles* movie was one of the top awaited movies since the original was released.

Niven's novel brightens paths

By Kaylie Rocha
Staff Reporter

"I learned that there is good in this world, if you look hard enough for it. I learned that not everyone is disappointing, including me, and that a 1,257-foot bump in the ground can feel higher than a bell tower if you're standing next to the right person," (Niven 104).

All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven is a novel that I could not put down within the first hours of buying it at Walmart.

When I was done with it, I never wanted it to end, and I have continued to carry this book around with me in the back of my head.

All the Bright Places is a novel about two young adults surviving their last year in high school. When these two characters are introduced, Theodore Finch is standing on the ledge of his school building, ready to jump off the roof. All his classmates begin to jeer at him, but in horror, they point beside him. Violet Markey is standing on the edge too, terrified and ready for the countdown to be over.

In this book, the reader learns about the journey these two go through after meeting each other on the school rooftop. Theodore Finch is a mysterious character; he goes through these "phases" of being different people. The 80's Finch, the Hard Rock Finch, and the Cool Finch. He also undergoes this session called "Awake." The "Awake" is a period of time where Theodore tries to figure out ways to not be asleep, and he keeps a countdown of how long he has been awake.

The other character is Violet Markey. She and her sister Eleanor were in a car accident the spring before. Eleanor did not survive, leaving Violet alone. Violet cannot function as normal human being; she is being dragged down by grief and longing for her sister to come back.

All of that comes to an end when their history teacher assigns them to do a state wandering project. Finch chooses Violet to be his partner and it falls into Violet beginning to open up to new things and forgetting to count down to the last days of graduation. Finch tries to stay "Awake," despite his mental state.

I relate to this because of the character Theodore Finch. He has all these dark yet beautiful ideas piling into his head, fighting to win. I also understand everything he does and says as a person; he's a tragically beautiful person who helps others out when they need it.

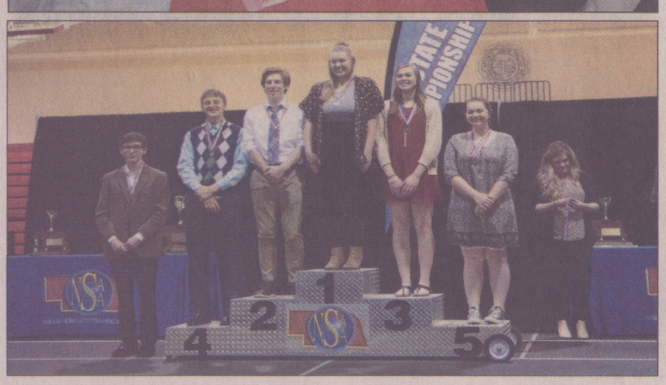
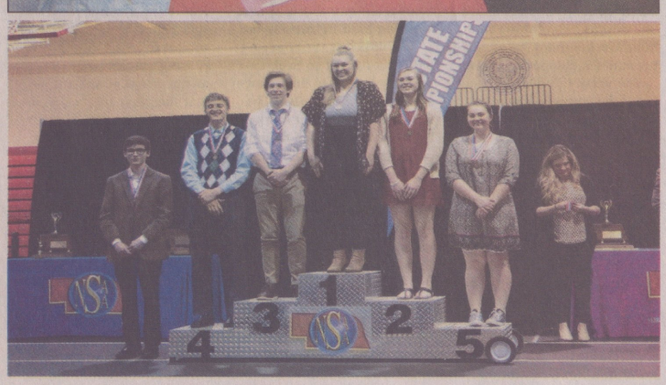
The only other main character in this book is Violet Markey. I understand her just as well, because I know what it is like to take on the blame of a lost one(physically or mentally). I understand wanting the days to go by, and only looking towards the future to run away.

Overall, I enjoy the lessons and.values I learned from this book; I enjoyed the story behind it, and how strong the characters were. It took the reader inside the person's head depending on which chapter the reader was on, and made the reader feel what the characters felt.

This book is a novel nobody should be allowed to pass up. It's a story that needs to be given a chance. If you ever want to read it, let me know; I have a copy to lend to those who are interested.

HTTP://BOOKNERD.CA/REVIEW-BRIGHT-PLACES-JENNIFER-NIVEN/

***All the Bright Places* came out two years ago on January 6, 2015. There is a possible movie coming out in 2018.**

Spot the difference

Find the 10 differences between these photos.